

From E.S. Lowman to Charles Robinson

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Paoli

Aug[.] 13th 1861

To His Excellency Cha' Robinson

Gov[.] of Kansas

D[ea]r Sir,

We found at Olathe the utmost confusion and alarm, the apprehension of invasion from Missouri was almost entirely absorbed by the fear of marauding parties in the state. Our arrival was opportune; a secret organization had been formed for the purpose of plundering the people; ostensibly to operate against those who are reputed as lukewarm on the [MS. illegible] question[,] but really [*text stricken through*] to rob every man of property, the place was disclosed by a man who had gone into [*text stricken through*] the organization, for the purpose of finding out its object and the parties concerned in it. A meeting was held on Sat[.] night at which the disclosures were made, and the parties named who belonged to the band.

The Sheriff was prompt in his offer to execute the law, & I gave him assurances that he could have any assistance he needed[.] He went to work [*text stricken through*] & up to the time we left (yesterday 10 am) he had arrested and imprisoned seven and was still in search of more.

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These vigorous measures have given the people confidence and I think there will be but little trouble in restoring to that neighborhood to a condition of comparative quiet. I directed the sheriff if [*text stricken through*] the jail at Olathe was insecure or insufficient in any respect [*text stricken through*] to take the prisoners to Lawrence. Twenty muskets were delivered to Capt[.] Craig for the use of the Olathe posse.

Lieut[.] Searle with four men yesterday delivered to the Capt[.] of the Aubrey Company 15 muskets[.] this is a settlement within two miles of the line & east of Gardner, the people as I ascertained are in danger of being plundered and robbed by these "jay hawkers" from both sides of the line - I left for Capt. [Greece?] of Gardner 15 Guns.

Mr[.] Morgan[,], a brother in law of the man Allen whose cattle and horses were taken from him a few days ago[,], called on me at Olathe and stated that he believed that the cattle had been taken by [*text stricken through*] parties there in the neighborhood of Paoli. At my suggestion he sent a messenger to Mr[.] Roberts [*text stricken through*][,], another victim asking him to come to Olathe. Mr[.] R[.] [MS. illegible] to come himself but sent his son[,], a [Lad] of 12 or 14 year's[,], who with Mr[.] Morgan & a Mr[.] Peat, [MS. illegible] brought with us yesterday to identify the property -- 11 head of cattle and two horses have been found -- and the Sheriff here is now

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busy searching for more.

The theives arrested here have all given bail for their appearance at the next term of the Dist[.] Court. Shannon is surely for two or three[.] I have not examined the proceedings to ascertain whether regular or not[.]

The jay hawkers were getting imprudent[,] so it is stated to us[,] after being released on bail, but since our arrival they [*text stricken through*] have been quiet and are quite busy[,] some of them in returning to the Sheriff the possession of stolen property.

Wagstaff & others are gathering up a posse, expressly to aid the Sheriff - & I have determined to deliver the 20 muskets now rema[i]ning to the Capt[.] of this posse.

This afternoon with Lieut[.] Earle I intend to start for Mound City[.] From information received from parties who have been down in that neighborhood there will be some trouble in breaking up the gang in that & adjoining County,

Very Truly Your,
E.S. Lowman