

Dist. of Utah 7.

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE.

Received Oct 2, 1876.

Dated Sept 23, 1876.

From Wm Nelson, Attorney
General, Nevada.

SUBJECT.

Rel to popular feeling
as to the conviction of
John D. Lee

ACTION.

Filed Oct 2. 1876

UNITED STATES MARSHAL'S OFFICE.

WM. NELSON, U. S. Marshal.

DISTRICT of UTAH.



Beaver City, Utah, Sep 28th 1876

Hon Alphonso Taft, Attorney General
Washington City D.C.

Sir The trial
of John D. Lee indicted for murder com-
mitted at the Mountain Meadows in Sep-
tember 1857, has just been held at this
place and the result is a verdict of
"guilty of Murder in the first degree".
The result seems to be displeasing to
certain factionists here who have hereto-
fore conducted this case and those con-
nected with the "Mountain Meadow Mas-
sacre" with reference more to outside mat-
ters than to the cause at bar. It has been
their public boast that the former trial
of John D. Lee in July 1875 was not for
the purpose of convicting the prisoner, but
to fix the odium of the Mountain Meadows
butchery upon the Mormon Church. The result

UNITED STATES MARSHAL'S OFFICE,

WM. NELSON, U. S. Marshal.

DISTRICT of UTAH.

Beaver City, Utah, _____ 187

sows the call for a large amount of public money, and no result except the advancement of certain schemes and aspirations of local politicians whose attitude is that of uniform condemnation of the administration and its appointees. In the trial just concluded, the case of John D. Lee, and that alone was tried. It became apparent early in the investigation, that there is no evidence whatever to connect the chief authorities of the Mormon Church with the massacre, on the contrary those authorities produced documents and other evidence showing clearly that not only was that great crime solely an individual offense on the part of those who committed it, but that the orders, letters proclamations etc, which issued from the central Mormon authority which was also at that time the Territorial authority were directly and positively contrary to all shedding of blood, not only of

UNITED STATES MARSHAL'S OFFICE,

W.M. NELSON, U. S. Marshal.

DISTRICT of UTAH.

Beaver City, Utah, _____ 187

emigrants passing through the Territory, but also forbade the killing of the Soldiers of Johnsons Army which was marching on Utah. Being put in place of this the prosecution laid the case before the Mormon leaders and ask their aid in unravelling the mystery of this foul crime. That aid was given and the hurried testimony is public from the mouths of eye witnesses, convicting the prisoner without the shadow of a doubt. Those whose thunder is stolen by this conviction and the fixing of the crime when the evidence places it, and who fail in the same prosecution before, are exclaiming angry, and are making to the public such misrepresentations as their Malice suggests and are said to be also forwarding certain of their statements to Washington.

It seems marvellous that any set of men should regret the conviction of the Chief butcher of

UNITED STATES MARSHAL'S OFFICE,

W.M. NELSON, U. S. Marshal.

DISTRICT of UTAH.

Beaver City, Utah, _____ 187

Mountain Meadows, but disappointment and
envy, together with the loss of political capital,
will drive men into strange positions.

The outline of the case is reported to you herein
with the assurance that nothing has been
done in the management of the prosecution
of which any officer of the government
high or low, need be ashamed

William Nelson,

U. S. Marshal

Samuel Howard

U. S. Dist Attorney