Territory of Utah. }
Beaver County. } S.S.
In the Second Judicial District Court of the Territory of Utah.

The People, &c.
vs.
John D. Lee Wm. H. Dame, Isaac C. Haight, et al.
Salt Lake County S.S.

Indictment for murder, committed September 16th 1857.

George A. Smith, having been first duly sworn, deposes and says, that he is aged fifty-eight years; that he is now, and has been for several months suffering from a severe and dangerous illness of the head and lungs; and that to attend the Court at Beaver, in the present condition of his health, would in all probability end his life.

Deponent further saith that he had no military command during the year 1857, nor any other official position, except that of one of the Twelve Apostles of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter day Saints.

Deponent further saith that he never, in the year 1857, at Parowan or else were, attended a council where Wm. H. Dame, Isaac C. Haight or others were present to discuss any measures for attacking, or any manner injuring, an emigrant train from Arkansas, or any other place, which is alledged to have been destroyed at the Mountain Meadows in September 1857.

Deponent further saith that he

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never heard or knew anything of a train of emigrants, which he learned afterwards by rumor was from Arkansas, until he met said emigrant train at Corn Creek on his way north to Salt Lake City, on or about the 25th day of August 1857, at Corn Creek deponent further saith, that he encamped with Jacob Hamblin, Philo T. Farnsworth, Silas S. Smith and Elisha Hoops, and there for the first time he learned of the existance of said emigrant train and their intended journey to California

Deponent further saith that having been absent from the Territory for a year previous he returned in the Summer of 1857. and went south to visit his family at Parowan & to look after some property he had there, and also visit his friends, and for no other purpose, and that on leaving Salt Lake City he had no knowledge whatsoever of the existence of said emigrant train nor did he acquire any until as before stated.

Deponent further saith that as an Elder in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter day Saints he preached several times on his way south and also on his return and tried to impress upon the minds of the people the necessity of great care as to their grain crops as all the crops had been short for several years previous to 1857 and many of the people were reduced to actual want and

were suffering for the necessaries of life.

Deponent further saith that he advised the people to furnish all emigrant companies passing through the Territory with what they might actually need for breadstuffs for the support of themselves and families while passing through the Territory, and also advised the people not to feed their grain to their own stock, nor sell it to the emigrants for that purpose.

Deponent further saith that he never heard of or knew of any attack upon said emigrant train until some time after his return to Salt Lake City, and that while near Fort Bridger he heard for the first time that the Indians had massacred an emigrant company at Mountain Meadows.

Deponent further saith that he never at any time, either before or after that massacre was accessory thereto; that he never directly or indirectly aided, abetted, or assisted in its perpetration, or had any knowledge thereof, except by hearsay; that he never knew anything of the distribution of the property taken there, except by hearsay as aforesaid.

Deponent further saith that all charges and statements as pertaining to him contrary to the foregoing are false and untrue.

(signed) Geo. A. Smith

Subscribed and sworn to before me, this 30th day of July, A.D. 1875.

(signed) Wm Clayton,
Notary Public.

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