

## PREFACE

In the Interest of Humanity I have Taken Great Pains and trouble to Inquire into the Tragedy that happened at M.M. in 1857. How & by whom it Hapened and the Causes that brought it about and who was responsible for the Same. I Propose Proving by as Honorable men as there is west of Missouri river when Truth and justice Takes the Place of Prejudice.

All the Mormons Especialley their Leaders were accused of the great Crime of being accesory before or after the Fact.

Were the Mormons guilty or accessory and responsible for that Matter. Let us look the Ground over.

I will Review the Matter as a Whole and the Exciteing times it Hapened under to the End that truth and justice May Some day be vindicated.

Snort.



In 1857 the Buchannen army were Marching against Mormons. Martial Law was Proclaimed and the People all Mustered Into Service Drilling and Standing guard was the Order of the day Scouting Parties were Organized and Marched Hundreds of Miles Each way to Prevent any Portion of the army from approaching the Territory at any Point. The further from Salt Lake the Greater the Excitement. The Indians all through the Country Partook of the Same Spirit in a twofold degree. As a Peopel we had to bee good Friends with Indians at all Hazards. Their talk was generally about helping the Mormons when the army came. About this time the doomed Company came Traveling through the Country and the Indians began gathering in a threatening Manner and after Some of their Number had Eaten the animals Poisoned by Company and had died the Indians began Swearing vengeance and by the time Said Company **got** to the rim of the Basin with their threats & Hostile Attitude to reds the Savages were Angry and thirsting for blood & the further they followed company the more their numbers Increased and the more saucy they got till People of the Settlements began to fear for their own Safety. Excitement was at fever Heat. About this time Indian Farmer Lee was heard of as being with Savages who reported to him that they had Killed all the Emigrant Company and if Mormons wanted to bury them they could.

Accordingly Lee Sent an Express to Cedar City Asking for help to Come and burry the dead. The bell was rung the People came together the Express was read from Lee In regard to Emigrant Company. After which a dozen or More of as Honorable good Citizens as lived in the Country volunteered and Started at once to go and burry the dead.

After we got out there we came to the Conclusion that Sending the Express to us was onley a ruse to get More whites out there because Lee was afraid of Indians. At any rate when we got out there we found we were in bedlam or hell. Lees camp with two or three Whites Painted like Indians were Camped a little way



from Savages who were Camped about one mile East over Hill from the doomed Company who had fortified themselves close by a Spring of water & were Protecting themselves as best they could.

Upon our arrival a terrible picture met our gaze the valley was strewn with carcasses of cattle and horses which the Indians had shot down through revenge. Indians were painted like devils. as though they had just arrived from the infernal regions & howling with rage over some of their braves being wounded all tending to make everything as hideous and demon like as could be imagined. Lee was trying to pacify them and have them scatter and go away and let the emigrants go so he said to us.

The savages then came to Lee and said if he and the Mormons did not help them to kill the merry cats they would join the soldiers and fight the Mormons. The number of Indians there were variously estimated at anywhere from three to six hundred all determined it seemed to accomplish the destruction of the company if they had to fight all the Mormons in the southern country. J. D. Lee being a major in the Nauvoo Legion and commander over Kane County where we were then said we dare not make war with Indians. He then ordered all men present to join his command for self-preservation.

Lee being Indian farmer and Clingensmith being bishop where some of Indians often went to get something to eat when hungry it seemed that these two men would have more influence with Indians than anybody in the southern country but even these seemed to have lost their influence at this particular time when it was so much needed.

The men that had just come from Cedar held a council and decided after a good deal of deliberation what should be done.

It was agreed to send Higbee to inform Col. Wm. H. Dame commander of Iron Military



District The Condition of things at M. M. Higbee Proceeded at once to Cedar about thirty five miles and reported to Major Haight that Emmigrant Company were not killed as Lee Express had Stated the day before.

But were fortified and were under a State of Siege Surrounded night and day by Savages who were blood thirsty and crazy because Some of their number had been Wounded.

To all appearances and attitude of Indians there were not Men enough in Southern Utah to Protect the Company with force against the Savages.

Under these Circumstances Col. W. H. Dame was asked to Say what Sould be done. I. C. Haight went to Parowan in the night and Made the report to Col. Dame and returned next Morning with orders which Higbee Caried Same day to Lee.

Those from Cedar Stoped there till he returned Thinking to hold Some restraint on Indians. When Mesenger returned he Said Col. Dames Orders given to Haight for Higbee to Carry to Major J.D. Lee were Compromise with Indians If Possible by letting them take all the Stock and go to their Homes and let Company alone but on no Conditions you are not to Precipitate a war with Indians while there is an army Marching Against our People.

As Indian Farmer and a Major in the Legion I trust you will have Influence enough to restrain Indians and Save the Company. If not Possible Save Wimen and Children at all Hazards. Hoping you will be able to give a good account of the Important duty Entrusted to your Charge. I call uppon all good Citizens In that Part of the District to help you Cary out the above Orders. In helping to Make Peace between the two Parties. by Wm. H. Dame Col. Commanding Iron Military District.

About this time a council was called of the Leading Men in Cedar the nearest Point of any Importance to the Excitement. The Council decided to





Send an Express to the Comander of the District Col. Wm. H. Dame which he forwarded to Governor Young Stateing the Excitement that was going on and the attitude and number of Indians and General outlook. Lee was notified to do all that was Posible to Persuade Indians to let Company alone till Express returned from Governor Young.

The next Morning after Lee told this to Indians Several of the Chiefs Came to Lee and he Came over to where whites were Camped and SAid the Chiefs had Come over verry Much Excited over one of their big Chiefs being wounded and they wanted to talk with him and Clinghensmith They Said if we offered to befriend the Merry Cats they would fight us right away and if we did not help them get the Emigrants out of their Fort today they would burn them out and Kill men wimen and children and then Fight the Mormons.

After a great deal of big talk and Threatening about a half day with Savages Hawling with rage and geting More Excited all the time.

Lee said he and Clinhensmith had desided there was onley one way to Stop having an Indian war and Save wimen and Children. After all this Talk we have agreed with Indians Chiefs that we would Get the Men of the Company out where they could get at them without their Loosing any More of their Men on the following Conditions that they would let the Wimen and Children go to Cedar City unmolested and they take all the Stock and other Property. Indians agreeing to Perform there Part of Compact. Lee Said then to whites as Major In Command of this County I Call on all of you in the Interest of Humanity and the liberty of the Scatering and Helpless condition of our Settlements to help Me to Carry out our Part of this agreement.

Major Higbee you will asist I trust Higbee Said I have no Comand and am not an officer in this County You Older Men KNow what is best to do. is there no other way.



Clingensmith Said No we are almost In an Indian war now. In our helpless condition we must obey Major Lee.

I think most of the whites from Cedar were where they heard what Lee Said though the Savages were yelling like demons.

The Whites I think Generally felt quite Timed and enough to Mak them or the heart of a Stone Cry out against what Seemed to bee Enevetible scording to all apearances. Major Lee ordered all whites to get into line Single file about Six or Eight feet apart and March down on Plain in Sight of the doomed and he and another would go down to Emigrant Camp and disarm them and load arms and helpless into waggons and Send them up the road Towards Cedar when they Pased by Clingensmiths Co. one fourth of a mile Women & Children were Sent up the Same road. after they had Past Same Point about a half Mile. Men from Emigrant Camp Came Marching up the Same road and when oposite to Clingensmiths Company both Companies Marched along on Each Side of the road as they were then about twenty feet apart. the doomed Company on west and Clingensmiths on East till they Came to a Smooth open Space on the west Side of the road and a Patch of oak brush Clost by on East Side of road then the word halt was given it is not Known Positiveley who by Some say White -- others Say him & two others were back at Camp over the hill.

Some say Clingensmith gave Order who was at head of Company. One thing is Known by all Persons out there It was Major Lees Orders who Ever gave them. That was the Signal for guns to fire. Lee Said those that art to big Cowards to help the Indians can Shoot in the air then Squat down so Indians Can rush Past them and finish up their Savage work begun Many days Since. It was Said Most of our Company were nervious and afraid of Indian Treachery and Kept their guns Loaded for their Own Protection no dout Each Individual Knows More about that than any other Person Living and How they felt at that Particular Moment when Some Guns were fired and the Men Aquated down and



Indians Seemed to be there the Same Moment as they jumped out of the Brush. and rushed like a Howling tornado apast us. And the Hideous Deamon like yells of the Savages as they thirsting for blood rushed Past to Slay their helpless victems it Seemed to chill the Blood in our veins.

Apart of the doomed Men fleeing from the yelling demons ran up amongst the women and Children.

The Indians Say that was the reason they Could not Keep their young wariors from Killing all but a few little Children that Some of the old Indians Saved and they Wanted Pay for Saving them.

It did not Seem five Minutes from the time the Indians rushed Past us until all was Still in death.

Before it had been Known that there had been any Treachery the Women and Children were all Killed but the few Small ones.

Soon after this had all Hapened Col. Wm. H. Dame Came with a Squad of Men having Received an Express from Governor Young to help the Company get out of the Power of Savages and let them go. Haslams ride 6 Hundred Miles in 6 days. You can judge of his Consternation when he arived and found all Still in death. Then all they could do was to give them burial and mak the best of a Terrible Calamity. As Indian Farmer the Indians allowed Lee to take Charge of all Property for their use. Report Says Lee went and reported all this Matter to Governor Young and the governor took Steps to have this Matter Investigated and befor it could be acomplished he was Superceeded as Governor of Utah. that Ended his Responsibility.

For the next Eighteen years there was a great Many Blood Kirdling Stories Told about Some of those that had been out to help burry those that had been Killed. These Men Generally Seeing the growing Prejudice and feeling bad and ashamed



of the Cowardley Part they were Compelled to Take In that Tragedy. realizing they Could not Prove a negative they Kept verry STILL over the Matter their reticence was Taken for Guilt by their neighbors. The Presure brought against them & their Famileys was hard to bear. Many on this account Moved to Other Parts of the Territory & Some to other Territories and States. Hunt them up then or now and you will find them. Generaley Law loving & Law abiding Leading Honorable Citizens. Farmers Stock Raisers Merchants Miller and Lawyers. The Prejudice was So Great and a fresh Invoice of U.S. Officials it is not to be Wondered at that Several Inditelements were found almost Invariably through Prejudice Heresay Common Gosip & It was Generaley understood the Men Idited dare not Stand trial for Prejudice run So high and the jury Law was So Elastice that Men would be Convicted Easy if Caught by Packed juries and a Prejudiced Court.

The Mormon Church with its Leaders were accused of this Offence & declared guilty and they new nothing of it till twas all over. At this Critical Moment it took all the Efforts that the Mormon People Could Put fourth in the Lee Trial to vindicate the Leaders of the Church by helping the Court all that was Possible to Convict Lee who tried to Purger his Soul by laying it to Brigham and leaders of Mormon Church.

Question were Mormons Responsible for that Tragedy. (To be read: Question. Were the Mormons responsible for that tragedy?) Acording to the best Information to be Obtained Laying Prejudice aside Is. The Trouble grew out of the news of Buchannens army Marching against Mormons which was the Cause of Martial Law being Proclaimed through the Teritory of Utah by Governor Brigham Young.

This Seemed to be the Cause of all the Trouble and Excitement in the Country.





If So the Marching of Buchannens Army against Utah was the Cause of the Excitement and this was the Soul Cause of all this Trouble and the Cause of this Tragedy.

This being Conceded then President Buchannens General Amnesty Isued in 1857 Covered the Whole Ground.

The Strained relations and vindictive Feeling through Prejudice caused by this Tragedy being wickedley Laid to and Makeing the Mormons responsible for Made it Possible for and gave Political Birth to the Liberal Party and their untiring Zeal and Persiverence against Mormons has been Proverbialley vindictive and worthley of a better cause.

It is a well known fact that In the days of Judge McKean and other Federal Officials with x-Bishop Warren of Parowan for a Tool Clinghensmith was Scared So near to death that he Purgered his Soul to try to Save his own neck. as though that Matter was not Wicked and bad enough without So Much determined Zeal to Make a whole People Responsible for it. That Knew nothing about the Matter. till it was all Over Northen Either for whenever the truth has been told it has been So Exagerated it was worse than a Lie.

Them that Knew the Truth did not dare tell if for fear of being brought in as accesories. So it has been left for gossip to tell what it Pleased or amagined.

Why has this Tragedy never been ventilated and Shown up In its true light. the Same reason that the Men Indicted has not Stood Trial to much Prejudice Everywhere.

Mostley in U.S. Officials who Come here full of Zeal anxious to Make a record. The first People they get acquainted with Generaley are the Exciting disaffected ones always having fault to find with Something or Somebody.



A great and Powerful Nation Could Afford to be just and be as Zealous to Show up the Plain Truth as to Convict Some one if it did happen to be a Mormon. What I have Writen here Can be verified by Men that today are Living in Two Nations and three Territories who will tell the Truth that it May be vindicated and justice Satisfied and the Blame rest where it belongs.

If the Publick Ever get a true Historical Account of that Tragedy it will read almost as I have Writen it here. (The word almost appearing in last sentence was marked thru with pencil several times as if author did not intend for it to be read.) And the Men that volentered from Cedar to go and bury the dead are the Men that will verify this Statement. When Ever they Can Speak without being held as accesory to the Tradgedy. If the time Ever Comes when Officers of the Law are as anxious to free the Innosent as to Condem the Guilty.

A good Many of them Cedar volenters are Still living and Can tell how unjustley Federal Officers have with Prejudice tried to rule and ruin utah and how they have Succeeded as far as Some Men are Concerned is well Known. Who is Responsible for driving into Exile as a fellow a Man like Higbee onley about Thirty years old at the time that Matter Hapened. You would Say if he was not guilty he would Stand his trial Perhaps not lets weigh the Matter and See. Because he went out there in the Interest of Humanity His friends are Satisfied that with an Elastick Court and jury they would Convict him as an Axceseory upon the Same Principle as he was Indited by and through Prejudice it Shows on the face of the Inditement and also on its Back the Grand jury onley Eleven of them Concurring and yet it is Said they were got for the Ocasion Then the Witnessesses against him Must of been on the Elastick Principle also.

The jury Knew as well as the Witnesseses themselves or me that not one of them were within thirty miles of that Tragedy when it hapened and two of them was



In Callifornia. This all Proves that these ten Witnesseses were Willing tools to Swear away a Mans life to Please and Incur favor with Federal Authority. History Says an Imported jury is about the Same as an Exported Fellon. Not Emblems of justice or Peace.

It is high time that State Hood Came and Corected the Elastick Part of our jury Law So the acused Can be tried by their Peers Instead of Trancient Iresponsible Hobos that Can be bought and Sold all along the line where Ever and when Ever wanted to Create and Manufacture Newspaper Excitement.

Here is a Man Spoken of above has been driven from the face of Man and called a Fellon for a third of a Sentuary. Financialey Socialey and Politicaley Damed his Familey Scatered Some dead others grown up and Strangers to him. the heritage left them & their Children is Grandfather & Father was a Fellon a Fugitive from justice.

It Seems Somebody has Contracted a Great Debt.

The Man is Either Guilty or Innocent Our Great and Magnanamous Government ought to be Generous enough to Inshure him a Speedy and fair Trial by his Peers will they Echo says we will See

yours Truly Bull Valley Nort

Salt Lake February 1894



This is a copy of the account of the Mountain Meadow Massacre written in the hand of John M. Higbee, a participant, dated 1894, thirty-seven years after the event. It was written for his family only, in order that they might know the truth. It has been carefully guarded and never shown outside the family circle until it was loaned to Juanita Brooks October 11, 1936 by Myron F. Higbee, Cedar City, Utah. Mr. Higbee is a son of Myron D. Higbee who is a son of John M. Higbee, the author.

The original occupies 17 pages of an ordinary red backed note book. The handwriting is clear and distinct, and the ink well preserved. It has been reproduced here with spelling, capitalization, and punctuation as nearly as possible like the author's.

Although signed "Snort" after the preface and "Bull Valley Snort" at the close, there can be no question as to its authorship because it has been so carefully kept in the hands of the family.

