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Mesquite Clark Co Nevada

March

1900

President A H Lund

Dear Brother,

Enclosed you will find My Statement
In Relation to The Mountain Meadow Massacre
I will say by the way of Introduction to the
Affidavit Enclosed That I came with my
Father Joel H Johnson to Salt Lake Valley
in the year 1848 We Arrived where Salt Lake
City Now Stands Oct 19 of that year

And when the wards were organized My
Father was appointed Bishop of the Mill Creek
Ward He claimed a piece of Land South of
Mill Creek Near Big Cottonwood where
we lived until the Fall of 1850 when My
Father was called to go with President
George A Smith to help make a settlement
at Little Salt Lake (or Jean Co Utah) My Father
Not being able to settle up His Business in time
to go with the company so he fitted up
two Teams & sent My Oldest Brother and
Myself with the company and we arrived
where (Paramon) (Jean Co Utah) Now stands Jan 13
1851 My Father came on in the Spring bringing
His Family with Him and in the Fall of
1851 My Father ^{took} all of the Surplus Stock of

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o The 2 settlements Joannos led us City to Heek
We Moved them to some Springs six Miles
North of Cedar City Now known as Enock
When I had to take care of them I hired 2
Young Indians to help me And keeping them
Near me most of the time I soon learned
their Language so I could converse with them
on all common subjects I was the first white
man who learned the Uinte Language And
for this reason I was called to go out with
Exploring parties And others who had business
with the Indians, I was always kind to them And
when I was present was successful in settling
difficulties with them without killing them
And I was known throughout Southern Utah As
a friend to the Indians And in the Fall of
1853 was called by Speer's party snow as a ^{missionary}
to the Uinte Indians, Indians of Southern Utah
And I often went with emigrant trains as far as
the Muddy And Los Vegas to pilot them safely
By the Indians who lived along the Road
In 1854-55 Joel Hamlin And other men were
sent as missionaries to the Indians they located
at Harmony where John D Lee & others had a few
Indians farming on Ash Creek In 1856 the
missionaries left Harmony & settled at Pinto Creek
25 miles West of Harmony

from there they visited the Indians on the Santa Clara
 the river and muddy rivers
 In 1857 the US Army started for Utah which made
 considerable excitement among the people of Utah
 and sometime in September of that year a company
 of emigrants came south from Salt Lake City
 going the southern route to California which could
 be traveled during winter without danger of snow
 or cold this company were defiant and aggressive
 and took delight in telling the people that the Army
 was coming to hang Brigham Young & the leading
 Mormons and they said many things to excite the
 people at Cedar City (I was surprised of this by people
 that lived at Cedar City)

A few days after they had passed through
 President Isaac C. Haight who resided over Cedar
 City and the settlements in Washington County
 sent a boy out to the ranch where I was living
 six miles north of Cedar City he said that Haight
 wanted me to come to Cedar to talk with the Indians
 as the squaws were stealing wheat out of the
 the field - when I arrived at Cedar he saddled
 his horse and rode with me to the Indian camp
 about 4 miles distant and while riding to the camp
 he told me that John D. Lee had been up from
 Harmony the day before and that Lee had proposed
 to him to gather up the Indians and destroy the
 train of emigrants who had passed through
 Cedar two days before

And said He Had told^d Him to go Ahead & Do So
But Haight said He Had sent A man to President
Young to know what to Do About it Then He Asked
Me what I thought About it I said to Him it
Would Be a fearful Responsibility for a Man to take
upon Himself to Destroy that train of Emigrants
And that I Would wait until I Rec^d Word from
President Young He Replied that Lee Had Already
gone to Raise the Indians I said in Reply that I
Would send A Man to tell Him to wait if I was
On His place I Also told Him that there was a Much
Better place on the Santa Clara to Attack the train
I was in Hope He Would get off the Distraction of
the train until He Rec^d Word from President Young
for I was satisfied what His Answer Would Be
I then went Home to the Ranch And a Day or two After
An Indian Runner Came from the Mountain Meadows
And stated that they Had Made An Attack on
the Emigrant train the Night Before & Had Been Repulsed
He Also said that the Indians wanted me to Come Out
there for they were tired of Lees Indian Bay Interpreter
He Lied to them So Much I said to the Indian that I
Did Not want Anything to Do with Killing the ^{emigrants}
For I was Determined in My own Mind that I would Keep
Away from them But when the Men Came after me at
the Ranch they said to me that Haight said to them
that I Must Come whether I wanted to or Not
that He would tell me what He wanted when I Arrived at ^{the}
(See over)

Brother I have written the foregoing statement in
A rather rough style but it is the best I can
do for I am not educated but the statement is true
As I saw it

With Sincere Regards

I Am as ever yours

Nephi Johnson