



DUDLEY LEAVITT, CIRCA 1890

Massacre participant Leavitt told his granddaughter, Juanita Brooks, that he witnessed Brigham Young order the destruction of the 1859 U.S. Army cairn marking a mass grave at Mountain Meadows.

Courtesy of the Utah State Historical Society.

FRANCIS M. LYMAN, DIARY EXCERPT, 19, 21 SEPTEMBER 1895,

FIRST PRESIDENCY VAULT, LDS CHURCH.

19 September 1895, St. Joseph, Nevada: After meeting bro George Adair told me all about the Mountain Meadow affair. There were but few White men who shed blood. John M. Higby and Joseph [Joel] White were the worst, having killed a dozen each. Haight did no killing. [William C.] Stewart was not there. Lee also did much killing. White fired on the camp.

21 September 1895, Bunkerville, Nevada: Bros Dudly Leavitt and Nephi Johnson were in the meeting. I talked with those two about the Mountain Meadows Massacre. The first gave me but little information. Bro. Johnson was the man who gave the word to the Indians to fire at the last general killing. He denies that Higby and White did the killing that Adair tells of. He says white men did most of the killing. He says Higby deserves mercy.⁸

Johnson's admission that "white men did most of the killing" completely undercuts the Mormon accounts claiming that "the Indians made us do it," making it the single most significant piece of new evidence about the massacre to appear since Juanita Brooks's groundbreaking work appeared in 1950.

⁸Since the original journal is unavailable to researchers at LDS Archives, this section relies on Edward Leo Lyman's transcription available in Lyman, "Diary Excerpt," *New Mormon Studies CD-ROM*. We have corrected "Kirby" to "Higby."