

From Edward Hoogland and John A.W. Jones to John W. Geary

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Report of the commission dispatched to the southern
part of the Territory --

To His Ex[celency]. Hon. John W. Geary
Govr. Kansas T[erritor]y.

The undersigned respectfully Report. That pursuant to your directions they left
Lecompton Nov. 15 and joined Captain DeSaussure's command of 1st Cavalry at Paola
on Sunday evening Nov. 17. The 18th was spent in making inquiries & obtaining
information concerning the past and present condition of affairs in that vicinity. Nov. 19
passed through Osawatamie with the squadron and encamped near the residence of Judge
Davis, in Linn County, about 20 miles south of Osawatamie, came evening.
Nov. 20 - A large number of depositions were taken concerning outrages & felonies that
had been committed in that vicinity during the past summer & fall, and warrants were
issued for the arrest of a number of persons so charged. Nov. 21, Wm. Partridge was
arrested. Nov. 22, James Townsley, Carmi B. Vaughan, Wm. Kilburn, Samuel W.
Kilburn[,] Hugh Kilburn & Henry Kilburn were arrested. During the night Hugh Kilburn
made his escape. Nov. 23. - Sunday - Prisoners brought into main camp. Nov. 24 - James
Townsley examined & committed on a charge of murder, -- (participating in the massacre
of Wilkerson, Sherman & the three Doyles on Pottawatamie Creek in May last.) Wm.
Partridge examined & committed for felony, Carmi B. Vaughan examined & discharged -
- and the three Kilburns examined & committed for felony. During a search of three days
a considerable amount of stolen property was recovered, identified[,] proven & restored
to the owners, consisting of horses, cattle, clothing, bedding[,] fire arms and a wagon.
The undersigned had but fairly commenced the business with which they were charged,
in that section of the Territory when Captain DeSausure informed them that he had been
ordered into winter quarters at Fort Leavenworth with his command, and that no further
assistance could be rendered by him. Without a military escort no arrests could be made
with certainty & safety and further operations were therefore suspended.
On Tuesday Nov. 25 the five prisoners committed were placed

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under escort and taken to Tecumseh and committed to prison to await the action of the
Grand Jury for the Second Judicial District then in session.
Although but little was accomplished in comparison with the number of complaints made
and the amount of business brought to our notice in the vicinity of Pottawatamie & Sugar
Creeks, we are confident that the moral effect of the expedition will be beneficial. Good
citizens of both parties afforded us much assistance, and many vicious and suspicious

persons were taught a lesson that will have a tendency to restore public confidence in that section and secure unity of action hereafter for the public peace and welfare. The citizens in the South eastern portion of the Territory desire and we believe it would be advisable to have a few U.S. troops stationed in that vicinity. Their presence would aid in restoring confidence.

In conclusion we beg permission to return our thanks to Captains DeSausure & Walker 1st Cavalry for their courtesy and promptness; – to the family of Judge Davis & other citizens for assistance, and especially to Isaiah H. Jackson for his services as guide.

Resp[ectfull]y Your Servants

Edw.d Hoogland

U.S. Comm. K.T.

Jno. A.W. Jones

Deputy U.S. Marshall

Dated Lecompton K.T.

Nov. 29th 1856