

Report of Deputy U.S. Marshal William H. Tebbs

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Lecompton
September 29th/56

To His Excellency J.W. Geary Gov[.] K.T.
Sir

Having been sent by the U.S. Marshal as his deputy to make certain arrests in the Town of Topeka and to search for property which had been charged to have been conveyed there, I have to report as follows[.]

After instituting a general search without entering a house I made the arrest of a person on a warrant who had been accidentally shot in the leg so that he could not be removed by such mode of conveyance as I could command and the proposition being made by his friends to give bond for his delivery here on Monday I felt bound to accept the proposition and while engaged in [MS. faded] the bond by trick and connivance [MS. faded] Mr[.] Nichols he was conveyed away from me so that he could not be found after the most diligent search[.] A number of persons collected about the house [MS. faded] to my mind for the purpose of inveigling my prisoner[.] After this I could not make no further arrests in the town from the fact that those for whom I had warrants were informed of my being there and secreted themselves [MS. torn]

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After this I was told by one or more persons that if I should meet with Capt. Cleaveland[,] Col. Ritchie or Mr[.] Moffitt for whom I had warrants I would be resisted[.] I nevertheless used every exertion to find them notwithstanding the impression was made on my mind from all I saw that the attempt to rescue them would be made[.]

I subsequently made the arrest of two persons in the country nearby & brought them safely to this place and delivered them to the Marshal[.] No violent resistance was offered me though some insulting and threatening language was used[.]

I conversed while in Topeka with one or two person[s] just arrived who told me that they had met Coln. Lane at the Nebraska line on his way east[.]

A Gentleman with whom you are acquainted told one of the persons with me that a hundred Sharps rifles and Colt revolvers were on that day distributed in Topeka[.]

Yours With Respect
Wm[.] H. Tebbs