

From William Murphy to John W. Geary

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Leavenworth City K. Sept. 23<sup>rd</sup> 1856

To Hon. John H. Geary

Gov. of Kansas Territory

Respected Sir,

Your favour of the 19<sup>th</sup> inst has been duly received and I hasten to reply thereto. The petitioners referred to in your letter, it is true [MS. torn] Citizens of this City and it is equally as true that they were opposed in principal and sentiment to the Statute Laws of this Territory and on all and evry occasion were found in opposition to the Law and Order party of this City. At the time they left this City there existed a very high state of excitement, the pro Slavery or law and Order party were hourly expecting an attack to be made on them, from a portion of the notorious Col[.] James Party. large numbers of them had removed their wives and children away from the Town. Others were on guard at the edge of Town and engaged in erecting barricades to defend their persons and property against attack from a body of men whom they looked upon as enemies to the laws of Kansas Territory, and as out laws, and traitors to the Constitution of our common Country. For two or three days previous to the times that those men state to your Excellency that they were forced to leave, appeals had been made to evry Citizen of Leavenworth City, who was in favour of sustaining the Kansas laws, and resisting an attack from Lanes men, to shoulder their gun and come

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to the defence of the City. Those men put a deaf ear to any such appeals, and on Tuesday the 2<sup>nd</sup> inst the leading military men of the City, requested Capt[.] Emory to detail a guard from his Company, go around the City, and notify all persons who were not in favour of the laws, and unwilling to fight in defence of the City, that they had better leave. I cannot state to you as a fact that the petitions alluded to in your letter recd. any orders from Capt[.] Emory, but if they did, I am convinced that they were as above stated. Your Excellency is aware of the fact that at the time spoken of the Civil arm of the Law was completely paralyzed. How that peace is restored, and the officers of the law here, determined to act strictly in accordance with your Proclamation, I believe those men have nothing to fear in returning here. If they will act as law abiding citizens, [*text stricken through*] they shall receive from me that protection which the law demands. I hope Sir you will permit me to add, that I have as Major of this City, endeavoured on all occasions to prevent bloodshed, and have the City Ordinances, and Laws of the Territory obeyed and respected, and when it was out of my power to enforce them, as in the last excitement, I went around and by persuasive language allayed excitement as far as possible. I am Respectfully your Obedient Servant  
William E. Murphy

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William E. Murphy Major of Leavenworth

Sept. [*text stricken through*] 1856

Wm E. Murphy, Major Leavenworth on expulsion of Dr[.] Norton & others by Emory

Sep 23, 1856