

Indictment Against Andrew Reeder et al.

[page 1]

United States of America

Territory of Kansas

County of Douglas

In the first district Court of the first Judicial district of the Territory of Kansas.

April Term. A.D. 1856

The grand Jurors of the United States of America within and for the first Judicial district Douglas County[,] Territory of Kansas[,] sworn to enquire upon their oath present, that Andrew H. Reeder, Charles Robinson, James H. Lane, George W. Brown, George W. Deitzler, George W. Smith, Samuel N. Wood, and Gais Jenkins late of the County of Douglas[,] first Judicial district of the Territory of Kansas[,] owing allegiance to the United States of America[,] wickedly devising and intending the peace and tranquility of the said United States to disturb and to prevent the execution of the law thereof within the same, to-wit.

A law of said United States entitled an act to organize the Territories of Nebraska and Kansas, approved May the 30th 1854[.] On the first day of May [*text stricken through*] in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and fifty six; in the County, District and Territory aforesaid and within the jurisdiction of this Court; wickedly and traitorously did intend to levy war; against the said United States, within the same; and to fulfill, and being to effect the, said traitorous intention of him the said Andrew H. Reeder, Charles Robinson, James H. Lane, George W. Brown, George W. Deitzler, George W. Smith, Samuel N. Wood, and Gais Jenkins

[page 2]

afterwards that is to say on the seventeenth day of May in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and fifty six; in the said Territory District and County, aforesaid and within the Jurisdiction of this Court, with a great multitude of persons whose names are to the said Grand Jurors unknown to a great number, to wit, the number of one hundred persons and upwards, armed and arrayed in a warlike manner; that is to say, with guns, swords, pistols[,] artillery and other warlike weapons as well offensive as defensive; being then and there unlawfully and traitorously assembled did traitorously assemble and combine against the said United States; and then and there with force and arms wickedly and traitorously; and with the wicked and traitorous intention; to oppose and prevent by means of intimidation and violence the execution of said Law of the said United States; within the same did array and dispose themselves in a warlike and hostile manner against the said United States and then and there with force and in pursuance of such their traitorous intentions: they the said Andrew H. Reeder, Charles Robinson, James H. Lane, George W. Brown, George W. Deitzler, George W. Smith[,] Samuel N. Wood and Gais Jenkins with the said persons; so as aforesaid traitorously assembled[,] armed and arrayed in manner aforesaid wickedly and traitorously did levy war against the said United States; and

further to fulfill and bring to effect the said traitorous Intentions of him the said

[page 3]

Andrew H. Reeder, Charles Robinson, James H. Lane, George W. Brown, George W. Deitzler, George W. Smith, Samuel N. Wood, and Gais Jenkins and in pursuance and in execution of the said wicked intention and traitorous combination to oppose resist and prevent: the said law of the said United States, from being carried into execution in in the Territory and district aforesaid; they the said Andrew H. Reeder, Charles Robinson, James H. Lane, George W. Brown, George W. Deitzler, George W. Smith[,] Samuel N. Wood, and Gais Jenkins afterward to wit on the twentieth day of May A.D. 1856, in the Territory[,] District and County aforesaid and within the Jurisdiction of this Court with the said persons whose names to the Grand Jurors aforesaid are unknown. did wickedly [*text stricken through*] and traitorously assemble against the said United States: with the avowed intentions by force of arms and intimidation to prevent the execution of said Law, of the said United States within the same; and with the intention: then and there and thereby to subvert the Government and law of the said United States: in the said Territory of Kansas, and in pursuance and execution of such their wicked and traitorous combination and intention, they the said Andrew H. Reeder, Charles Robinson, James H. Lane, George W. Brown, George W. Deitzler, George W. Smith[,] Samuel N. Wood, and Gais Jenkins, then and there with force and arms, with the said persons to a great number; to wit the number of one hundred and upwards, armed and arrayed in a warlike manner;

[page 4]

that is to say with guns, swords, pistols, artillery and other warlike weapons as well offensive as defensive, did then and there unlawfully and traitorously assemble for the purpose, and design of overthrowing and subverting by force and violence the Government of the said United States in the Territory of Kansas aforesaid contrary to the duty of their said allegiance, and contrary to the form of the Statute in such case, made and provided and also against the peace and dignity of the United States of America.

A.J. Isaaks

United States Attorney for the Territory of Kansas

A true bill found

Owen C[.] Stuart

Foreman

Territory of Kansas

County of Douglas

In testimony that the above and foregoing Indictment to correctly copied from the original on file in this office[,] I[,] Jas. R. Whitehead[,] Clerk of the first District Court of the United States for the first Judicial District of Kansas Territory have hereunto subscribed my name and affixed the seal of said Court at office in Lecompton this the fourth day of October Anno Domini one thousand eight hundred and fifty six[.] (seal)

Jas. R. Whitehead[,] Clerk

By R.C. Bishop[,] Deputy Clerk