

Simplified Text

Document 9. A part of an article called “The Late Horrible Massacre” published in the California newspaper, *Los Angeles Star* on October 10, 1857. This article quoted an emigrant, George Powers, who passed through Utah with a small party a few days behind the emigrants that were massacred. (Some of the words have been changed from the original article to make it easier to read).

Mr. George Powers, of Little Rock, left Arkansas, and with his train [emigrant group] arrived in Salt Lake in August. He says:

We found that the Mormons were firmly preparing to fight the United States troops, whenever they arrived. On our way in [to Salt Lake], we met three militia groups of 100 men each, with guns and moving towards the pass above Fort Bridger [South Pass]. . . . The Mormons told us that no U.S. troops would ever cross the mountains; and they talked and acted as if they were ready to fight Uncle Sam [the U.S troops].

We stayed in Salt Lake five days, and then pushed on, hoping to catch up with a larger train, which had left Salt Lake ten days before us, and which was the train that was massacred. We arrived at Buttermilk Fort by the lone cedar, 175 miles, and found the people there very mad at the train which had just passed, saying that they had hurt the Mormon women, calling them bad names, and bullying the men. The people would not sell that train any supplies, and told us they were sorry they had not killed them there; but, they knew someone would kill them before they made it to California. They also told us that they were holding back the Indians from attacking them until their chief got there. Then he would follow the train and cut it in pieces.

We tried to buy some butter there. The women gave it to us but as we were taking it the men came running and yelling and said we could not have it or anything else because we had hurt them. They seemed to be very angry and would hardly speak to us. We couldn't get anything we needed. We only camped at this place one night.

At Corn Creek the many Indians were all peaceful and friendly. We didn't learn anything about the train in front of us, except that it had passed that place several days before us. We were happy to find out that we had gained on them. The next place where we heard about the train was when we got to Beaver [a town], 230 miles from Salt Lake. Here we found out that when the train ahead of us was camped at Corn Creek, which was thirty-five miles back, the place we found the Indians so friendly, an ox died, and the Indians asked for it. Before it was given to them, a Mormon said that he saw an emigrant go to the dead ox and cut it with his knife, and poured some liquid into the cut from a small bottle. The meat was eaten by the Indians, and three of them died, and several more were sick and would die. The people of Beaver seemed to be angry at the train, for the same reason as I said before. I asked an Indian, at Beaver, if the poisoned meat story was true. He replied in English, that he did not know, that several of the Indians had died and several were sick. He said their water melons made them all sick, and he thought that the Mormons had poisoned them.

We stayed at Beaver several days, because the Bishop told us it was dangerous for a small company like ours to go on. Our train had only three wagons, and we were hurrying on to join the larger train.

While we waited at Beaver, the train of William Mathews and Sidney Tanner of San Bernardino arrived, and I made plans to go with them. We arrived at Parowan where we learned that the train ahead of us had been attacked by the Indians at the Mountain Meadows fifty miles from Parowan. They had gone back up the road five miles to a spring, and built a fort [out of their wagons]. We then left Parowan and went five or six miles, and camped at a place that is called the Summit.

Original Text

Document 9. Excerpt from an article called “The Late Horrible Massacre” published in the California newspaper, *Los Angeles Star* on October 10, 1857. This article quoted an emigrant, George Powers, who passed through Utah with a small emigrant party a few days behind the emigrants that were massacred.

Mr. George Powers, of Little Rock, left Arkansas, and with his train arrived at Salt Lake in August. He says:

We found the Mormons making very determined preparations to fight the United States troops, whenever they may arrive. On our way in, we met three companies of 100 men each, armed and on the road towards the pass above Fort Bridger. I was told at Fort Bridger, that at Fort Supply, twelve miles this side of Fort Bridger, there were 400 armed Indians awaiting orders; they also said that there were 60,000 pounds of flour stored at Fort Bridger for the use of their army. We found companies drilling every evening in the city. The Mormons declared to us that no U.S. troops should ever cross the mountains; and they talked and acted as if they were willing to take a brush with Uncle Sam.

We remained in Salt Lake five days, and then pushed on, hoping we might overtake a larger train, which had started ten days ahead of us, and which proved to be the train that was massacred. We came on to Buttermilk Fort near the lone cedar, 175 miles, and found the inhabitants greatly enraged at the train which had just passed, declaring that they had abused the Mormon women, calling them whores, &c, and letting on about the men. The people had refused to sell that train any provisions, and told us they were sorry they had not killed them there; but, they knew it would be done before they got in. They stated further, that they were holding the Indians in check until the arrival of their chief, when he would follow the train and cut it in pieces.

We attempted to purchase some butter here; the women set it out to us, and as we were taking it away, the men came running and charging, and swore we should not have it, nor anything else, as we had misused

them. They appeared to be bitterly hostile, and would hardly speak to us. We were unable to get anything we stood in need of. We camped at this place but one night.

At Corn Creek, we found plenty of Indians, who were all peaceable and friendly. We learned nothing of the train, except that it had passed that place several days before, and we were glad to find we had gained so much on them. The next place where we heard of the Train was on our arrival at Beaver, 230 miles from Salt Lake. Here we learned, that when the train ahead were camped at Corn Creek, which was thirty-five miles back, and at which place we found the Indians so friendly, an ox died, and the Indians asked for it. Before it was given to them, a Mormon reported that he saw an emigrant go to the carcass and cut it with his knife, and as he did so, would pour some liquid into the cut from a phial. The meat was eaten by the Indians, and three of them died, and several more were sick and would die. The people of Beaver seemed also to be incensed against the train, for the same reason as before reported. I asked an Indian, at Beaver, if there was any truth in the poisoned meat story; he replied in English, that he did not know, that several of the Indians had died and several were sick; he said their water melons made them all sick, and he believed that the Mormons had poisoned them.

We laid by at Beaver several days, as the Bishop told us it was dangerous for so small a company as ours to go on. Our train consisted of only three wagons, and we were hurrying on to join the larger one.

While waiting here, the train of Wm. Mathews and Sidney Tanner of San Bernardino came up, and I made arrangements to come on with them. We came on to Parowan, and here we learned that the train ahead had been attacked by the Indians, at the Mountain Meadows, fifty miles from Parowan, and had returned upon the road five miles to a spring, and fortified themselves. We then drove out of Parowan five or six miles, and camped at what is called the Summit.