

DEPOSITIONS OF PRESIDENTS  
BRIGHAM YOUNG AND GEO.  
A. SMITH CONCERNING  
THE MOUNTAIN MEAD-  
DOW MASSACRE.

Territory of Utah, } s.s.  
Beaver Co. }

In the Second Judicial District  
Court of the Territory of Utah,  
Beaver County.

The People &c , }  
vs. } Indictment  
John D. Lee, Wm. } for murder,  
H. Dame, Isaac C. } Sept. 16,  
Haight, et al. } 1857.

Questions to be propounded to  
Brigham Young, on his examina-  
tion as a witness in the case of John  
D. Lee and others on trial at Beaver  
City, this 30th of July, 1875.

1. State your age, the present  
condition of your health, and  
whether in its condition you could  
travel to attend, in person at Bea-  
ver, the court now sitting there? If  
not, state why not?

2. What offices, either ecclesias-  
tical, civil or military, did you  
hold in the year 1857?

3. State the condition of affairs  
between the Territory of Utah and  
the Federal Government in the  
summer and fall of 1857.

4. Were there any United States  
judges here during the summer and  
fall of 1857?

5. State what you know about  
trains of emigrants passing through  
the Territory to the West, and par-  
ticularly about a company from Ar-  
kansas *en route* for California, pass-  
ing through this city in the sum-  
mer or fall of 1857?

6. Was this Arkansas company of  
emigrants ordered away from Salt  
Lake City by yourself, or any one  
in authority under you?

7. Was any counsel or instruc-  
tions given by any person to the  
citizens of Utah not to sell grain to  
or trade with the emigrant trains  
passing through Utah at that time;  
if so, what were those instructions  
and counsel?

8. When did your first hear of  
the attack and destruction of this  
Arkansas company at Mountain  
Meadows in September, 1857?

9. Did John D. Lee report to you  
at any time after this massacre  
what had been done at that massa-  
cre, and if so, what did you reply  
to him in reference thereto?

10. Did Philip Klingens Smith  
call at your office with John D.  
Lee, at the time of Lee making his  
report; and did you at that time  
order Smith to turn over the stock  
to Lee and order them not to talk  
about the massacre?

11. Did you ever give any direc-  
tion concerning the property taken  
from the emigrants at the Mountain  
Meadow massacre, or know any-  
thing as to its disposition?

12. Why did you not as Governor  
institute proceedings forthwith to  
investigate that massacre and bring  
the guilty authors thereof to jus-  
tice?

13. Did you, about the 10th of  
September, 1857, receive a commu-  
nication from Isaac C. Haight or  
any other person of Cedar City,  
concerning a company of emigrants  
called the Arkansas company?

14. Have you that communica-  
tion?

15. Did you answer this commu-  
nication?

16. Will you state the substance  
of your letter to him?

The answers of Brigham Young to  
the interrogatories, hereto append-  
ed, were reduced to writing and  
were given after the said Brigham  
Young had been duly sworn to  
testify the truth in the above en-  
titled cause and are as follows—

1. To the first interrogatory, he  
saith—

I am in my seventy-fifth year. It  
would be a great risk, both to my  
health and life, for me to travel to  
Beaver at this present time. I am  
and have been for sometime an in-  
valid.

2. He saith—

I was the Governor of this Terri-  
tory and ex-officio Superintendent  
of Indian affairs, and the President  
of the Church of Jesus Christ of  
Latter-day Saints during the year  
1857.

3. He saith—

In May or June, 1857, the United  
States mails for Utah were stopped  
by the Government, all communi-  
cation by mail was cut off. An  
army of the United States was *en*

*route* for Utah with the ostensible  
design of destroying the Latter-day  
Saints, according to the reports  
that reached us from the East.

4. He saith—

To the best of my recollection  
there was no United States Judge  
here in the latter part of 1857.

5. He saith—

As usual emigrant trains were  
passing through our Territory for  
the West. I heard it rumored that  
a company from Arkansas, *en route*  
to California, had passed through  
the city.

6. He saith—

No, not that I know of—I never  
heard of any such thing, and cer-  
tainly no such order was given by  
the then Acting Governor.

7. He saith—

Yes. Counsel and advice was  
given to the citizens not to sell  
grain to the emigrants to feed  
their stock, but to let them  
have sufficient for themselves,  
if they were out. The simple  
reason for this was that for sev-  
eral years our crops had been  
short, and the prospect was at that  
time that we might have trouble  
with the United States army, then  
*en-route* for this place, and we  
wanted to preserve the grain for  
food. The citizens of the Territory  
were counselled not to feed grain  
to their own stock. No person was  
ever punished or called in question  
for furnishing supplies to the emi-  
grants, within my knowledge.

8. He saith—

I did not learn anything of the  
attack or destruction of the Arkan-  
sas company until sometime after  
it had occurred, then only by float-  
ing rumors.

9. He saith—

Within some two or three months  
after the massacre he called at my  
office and had much to say with  
regard to the Indians, their being  
stirred up to anger and threatening  
the settlements of the whites, and  
then commenced giving an account  
of the massacre. I told him to  
stop, as, from what I had already  
learned by rumor, I did not wish  
my feelings harrowed up with a  
recital of details.

10. He saith—

No. He did not call with John  
D. Lee, and I have no recollection  
of his ever speaking to me, nor I to  
him, concerning the massacre or  
anything pertaining to the proper-  
ty.

11. He saith—

No. I never gave any directions  
concerning the property taken from  
the company of emigrants at the  
Mountain Meadow massacre; nor  
did I know anything of that prop-  
erty or its disposal, and I do not  
to this day, except from public  
rumor.

12. He saith—

Because another governor had  
been appointed by the President of  
the United States, and was then on  
the way here to take my place, and  
I did not know how soon he might  
arrive; and because the United  
States judges were not in the Ter-  
ritory. Soon after Governor Cum-  
ming arrived I asked him to  
take Judge Cralebaugh, who  
belonged to the Southern District,  
with him and I would accompany  
them with sufficient aid to investi-  
gate the matter and bring the of-  
fenders to justice.

13. He saith—

I did receive a communica-  
tion from Isaac C. Haight or John  
D. Lee, who was then a farmer for  
the Indians.

14. He saith—

I have not. I have made dili-  
gent search for it, but cannot find  
it.

15. He saith—

I did, to Isaac C. Haight, who was  
then the acting President at Cedar  
City.

16. He saith—

Yes. It was to let this company  
of emigrants and all companies of  
emigrants pass through the country  
unmolested, and to allay the angry

feelings of the Indians as much as  
possible. (Signed)