

From Henry E. W. McDearmon
Council Bluffs, Iowa, December 16, 1866
To: John K. McDearmon

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Dear Nephew,

Yours of the 19th Ultimo came to hand in due time, and on last Sunday I received one from William and my wife. The one from her was dated Nov. 19th and postmarked Leavenworth. She says I can come home whenever I wish, that she has called on Mr. Adams attorney at Boonville, an old and able lawyer, and he says I must go direct to Jefferson City and give myself up to the governor. Things have transpired since, and are now transpiring in Missouri, which I am not sufficiently advised of to thoroughly understand the purpose. The Gov. proclamations, the ordering out the militia. This looks as if Missouri was again going to have a military substitute for civil government at least wherever the troops are national. I have no desire to fall into their hands, and I do not see how I could escape it if I were to return.

I have no fears of a jury, but I have of a mob. I do not feel safe here. The material here is for almost anything. I had concluded to leave here about the first of Jan'y for Jefferson City direct until I saw the proclamation, but I must defer it until further advised. I would like to have your views. I am fearful that you are to have a troublesome time in Missouri. There seems to be no way to circumvent the governor. His government is absolute.

Whenever I return for trial, I shall demand a change of venue, and unless Judge Miller has changed entirely, the case would be sent to Howard, where I would have no fears. But I know you cannot always rely on him. He is always for Judge Miller, that you may rely on and apart from that, and he is uncertain. I could write you a great deal in regard to this matter, but I am not certain that it would be prudent. I am expecting a letter from Thomas every day, and when I do get one I am in hopes that he will give me a full statement on the condition of things in Boonville. Write me when you receive this and give me your views in full in regard to myself and also the objects of the Gov.

The Missouri River has been frozen over for five or six days, and the snow is some eight or ten inches deep here. Until six or eight days ago we have had pleasant weather. Give my love to your Ma and the rest of my relations. I am fearful that you will not be able to read this letter it is so badly written. I am so nervous I can scarcely write.
Your ever affectionate Uncle

H. E. W. McDearmon

[“Written while Henry E.W. McDearmon was a fugitive from the Union troops after having killed a Union soldiers. John K. McDearmon, H.E.W.'s nephew was a Clerk and

recorder of deeds for the City and County of St. Charles.”] Submitted by Elizabeth Werner.

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