

## **U.S. District Court Indictment of Orville Chester Brown, John Brown, Sr., John Brown, Jr. et al.**

During the "May Term" of the U.S. District Court for Lykins, now Miami County, a grand jury issued this indictment covering the April 16, 1856, actions (among others) of this group of "persons of evil minds and dispositions." These men, according to the indictment, "did unlawfully and wickedly conspire, combine, confederate and agree together mutually to aid and support one another in a forcible resistance to the enactments of the laws passed by the Legislature of said Territory of Kansas. . . ." Specifically, they had conspired "forcibly to resist and oppose the collector of taxes in and for the county and Territory aforesaid . . ."

Creator: United States. District Court (Kansas Territory : 2nd Judicial District : Lykins County)

Date: May 1856

Callnumber: John Brown Coll. #299 Box 1 Folder 16

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## U.S. District Court Indictment of Orville Chester Brown, John Brown, Sr., John Brown, Jr. et al.

Coll.  
Brown, J.  
1.16

May 1856

United States of America,  
Territory of Kansas,  
County of Lykens. } Ss.

In the United States Court, of the Second Judicial District, sitting in and for the county of Lykens and Territory of Kansas.

May term, A.D. 1856, one thousand-eight hundred, and fifty-six.

The grand jurors summoned, empanelled, and sworn to enquire in and for the body of Lykens County, in the Territory of Kansas, on their oath present that O.C. Brown, John Brown, Sr., John Brown, Jr., O.V. Dayton, Alexander ~~Garner~~ Gardner, Richard Mendenhall, Chas. A. Foster, Chas. H. Crane, William Partridge, and William Chestnut, late of said County, being persons of evil minds and dispositions, on the (16) sixteenth day of April, 1856, eighteen hundred and fifty-six, and on divers other days and times, both before and after that day, in the County of Lykens, and Territory aforesaid, did unlawfully and wickedly conspire, combine, confederate and agree together mutually to aid and support one another in a forcible resistance to the enactments of the laws passed by the Legislature of said Territory of Kansas, let the attempt to enforce such enactments come from whatever source it may.

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And the grand jurors aforesaid do further present on their oaths aforesaid that the said O.C. Brown, John Brown, Sr., John Brown, Jr., O.V. Dayton, Alexander Gardner, Richard Mendenhall, Charles A. Foster, William Partridge and William Chestnut, of said county on said 16th day of April, 1856, and on divers other days and times, both before and after that day, in the county aforesaid, unlawfully and wickedly did conspire, combine, confederate, and agree together forcibly to resist and oppose the collector of taxes in and for the county and Territory aforesaid, and to use all the means and force necessary to prevent the execution of the laws of said Territory authorizing the assessment and collection of taxes to the evil example of all others and against the peace and dignity of the Territory of Kansas.

William Barber<sup>e</sup>,

Attorney pro ter.

Indorsed as follows:

May Term, 1856, No. 4 Court, Criminal Conspiracy.

Kansas Territory vs. O.C. Brown, John Brown, Sr., John Brown, Jr., O.V. Dayton, Alexander Gardner, Richard Mendenhall, Charles A. Foster, Charles H. Crane, William Partridge, William Chestnut. A true bill.

J. T. Bradford, Foreman.

Chas. P. Bullock, Clerk.

Filed 30<sup>th</sup> May, 1856.

J.

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*Copy of doc. see Lyman Co. re.*

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*( A true copy. )*

*I, L. McArthur, Clerk of the District Court of the U. S., and Territory of Kansas, in 2d judicial district of said Territory, certify that I have compared the above with the original and certify the same to be a true copy thereof.*

*In testimony whereof I have set my hand and affixed the seal of said Court at Office in Leecompton this 7th day of August, A.D. 1867.*

*L. McArthur, Clerk.*