Salmon Brown to R. J. Hinton

From North Elba, New York, Salmon Brown writes R. J. Hinton regarding his father's (John Brown's) role in the Pottawatomie Creek killings of May 24, 1856. Reportedly, Gov. Charles Robinson had told James Redpath that John Brown had confessed to him that "he helped kill the Doyles" but "if Gov. R said so he lies." Brown would not have confided in Robinson, according to his son, since he had not "put any confidence in Robinson after that Lawrence treaty" (which ended the Wakarusa War in December, 1855). Salmon doesn't answer the question about his father's role in the killings. He portrays the killing of "those spies" as the heoric "first blow with the sword against Slavery in this county" and insists the killers "were life preservers and they saved Kansas."

Creator: Brown, Salmon, 1836-1919

Date: January 10, 1860

Callnumber: Richard Hinton Coll. #384 Box 1 Folder 11

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Salmon Brown to R. J. Hinton

Brown, Salmon
H-2-4

37906
KANSAS STATE
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North Elba Ny Jan 10th 1860

Mr R. J. Hinton

Dear Friend

We received your excellent letter which we were all very glad to get and to hear that Mrs Redpath got home safe and sound. The mail is behind two weeks for some cause and when we get it we have a time. I got some 25 letters and as many papers to night so you see we have something to divert our minds. We heard a report that John Brown Jr had been arrested in Ohio but we do not belive it. We received a letter from Mr Redpath in which he says that Gov Robinson said that he thought that Capt Brown confessed to him that he helped kill the Doyls if Gov R said so he lies. In the first place Father never put any confidence in Robinson after that Lawrence treaty in Dec 55 or 56. and in the next place he would not lie to make him or any other scoundrel & believe that he helped kill those Pro's for they believed it without. I never knew him to try to steal any

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bodies thunder. And surely the men that struck the first blow with the sword against Slavery in this county had ~~not~~ ought to be called murderers. in this case they were life preservers and they saved Kansas. I think now is the time to make another demonstration. It will not do to have any reaction.

We shall expect to see you here soon and Mr Redpath also

Please excuse this poor scratch for a letter for I have a number to write

Yours in haste with my respects to you and all anti slavery people

Salmon Brown

To R J Hinton

Salmon
Annie
Till &c