

## James Hanway's account of the Pottawatomie Massacre

This is a five-page account of the May 24, 1856, killings on Pottawatomie Creek, apparently written by James Hanway shortly after the incident. Hanway identified the five pro-slavery victims by name and wrote: "The settlement is plunged into a perfect commotion. A meeting of the settlers was held on the 26th and they mutually agreed to protect each other from foreign or internal foes. All men of real good sense, condemned these midnight assassinations and also the killing of men who are attending to their concerns." This was a somewhat different perspective of the situation than expressed by Hanway in his 1860 letter to James Redpath. Nevertheless, Hanway wrote, the responsibility for "all such blood tragedies" lay with the pro-slavery men.

Creator: Hanway, James

Date: 1856

Callnumber: James Hanway Coll. #372 Manuscript Volume 1856

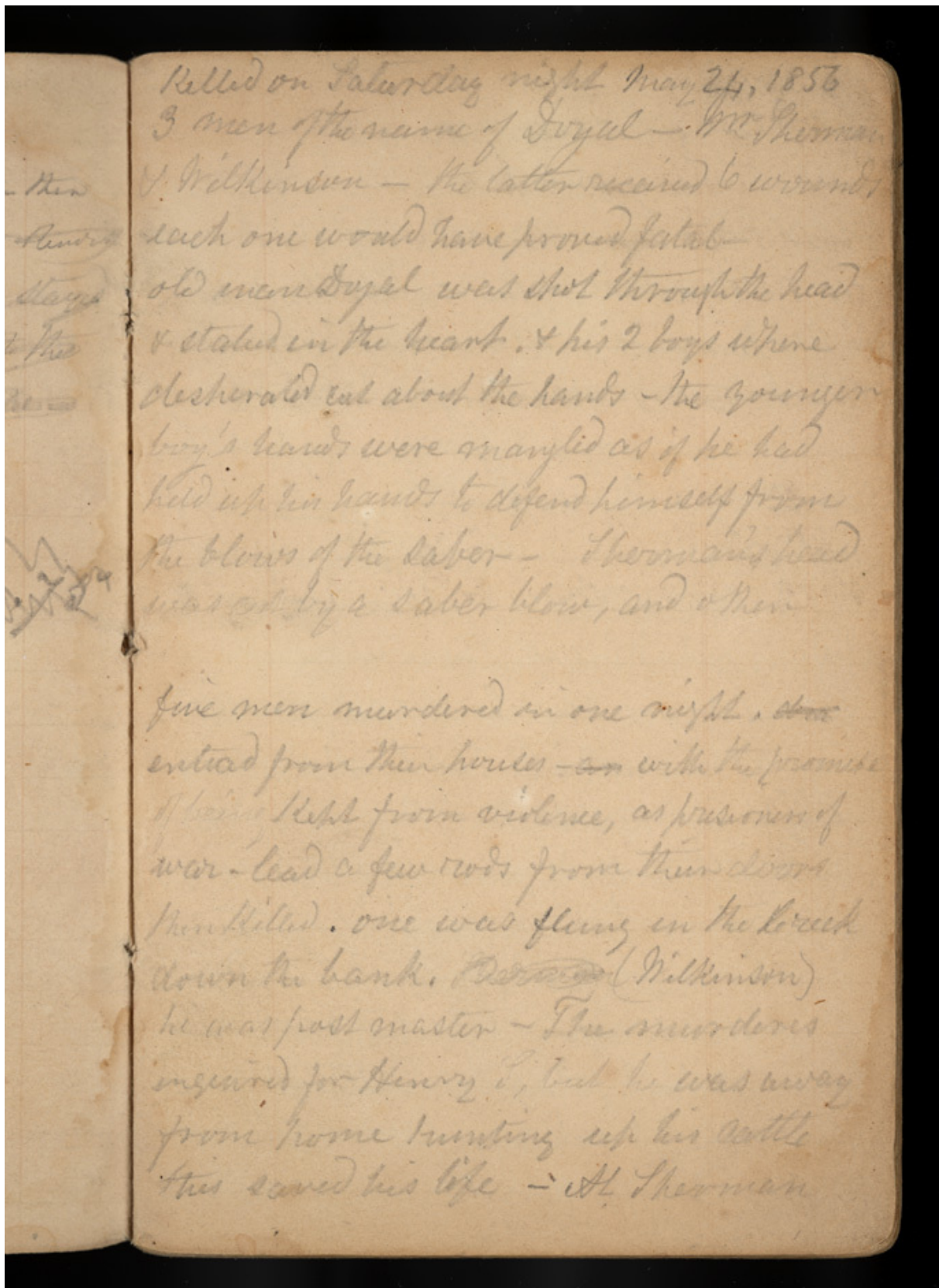
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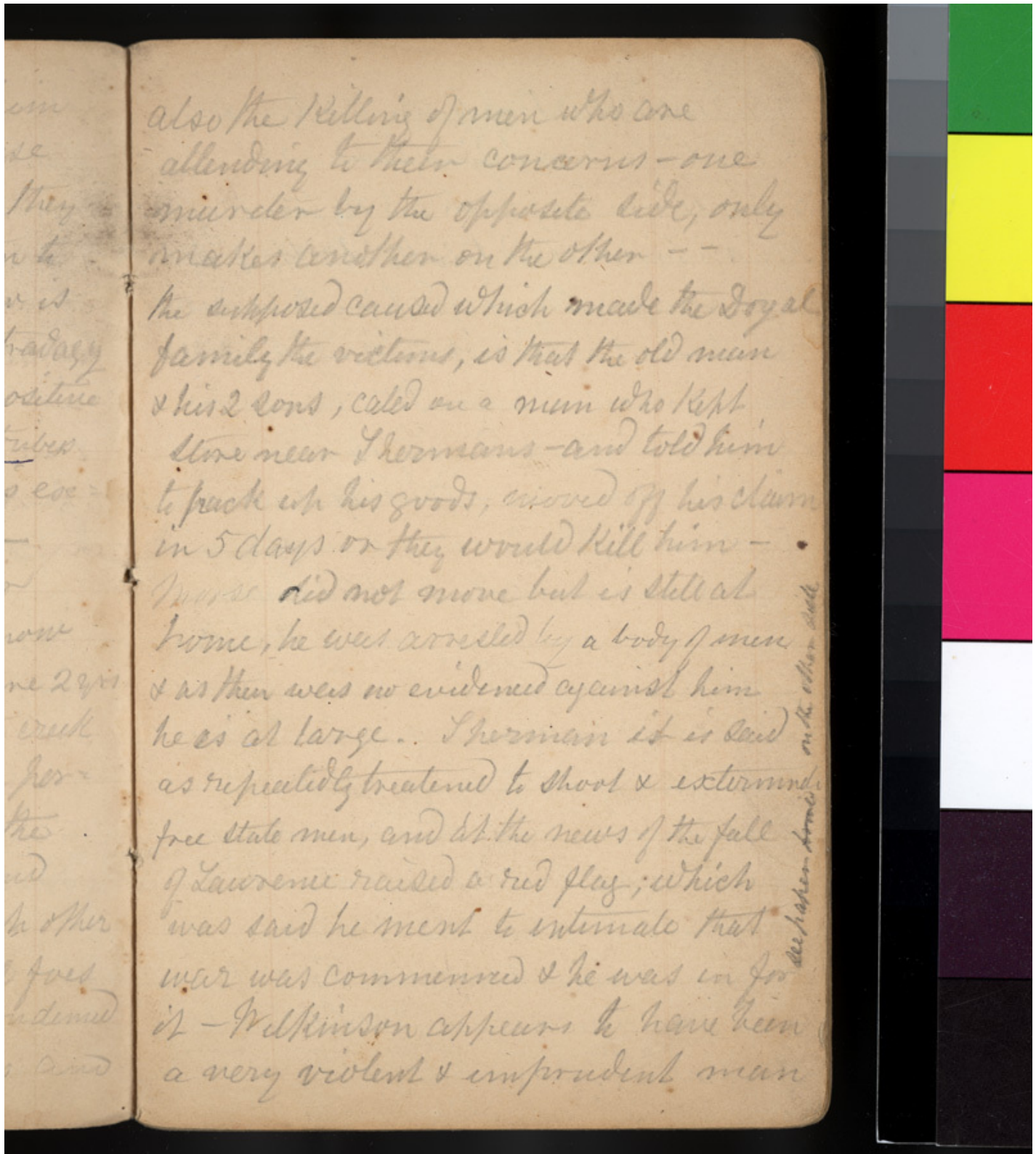


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They seized 3 other men with him  
took them all out from the house  
asked them their names, and as they  
had no knowledge of them, told them to  
go back again. The question now is  
who has performed this frightful tragedy  
men names are whispered - no positive  
knowledge - Mrs. ~~Boyal~~ Boyal describes  
2 of the men, which description is ex-  
actly that of Mrs. Wilkinson -  
a man who lives at Thermans for  
several years says he did not know  
any of them - altho he has lived here 2 yrs  
and knows most people on the creek.  
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making threat of killing & burning  
 & his wife ~~has a fine~~ and is a  
 fine woman, sick at the time of  
 the murder and told the Dr that she  
 has frequently urged him to be more  
 quiet - but could not do it - it appears  
 from general opinion that they were  
 extreme men, and very obnoxious to  
 the free state men - thus violence breeds  
 violence. Again: Do sooner the news  
 of the destruction of the Hotel at Lawrence  
 and the other printing presses, than the  
 "Border Times" a violent paper  
 published at Neelport, after given a short  
 statement of the pillage & destruction of  
 Lawrence, comments thus - it says -  
 "this is right, nuisances should be  
 suppressed" and then recommends  
 the pro-slavery party of the Tg to drive  
 and exterminate every "black headed  
 abolitionist, <sup>drive them</sup> from out of the Tg."

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