

Appraisals
of Buffalo
men

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and property holders from the said county of Johnson, and have

THE STATE OF WYOMING,)

) ss.

County of Laramie.)

organization has become so complete, and their disregard for Charles H. Burritt, Mayor of the City of Buffalo in the State of Wyoming; Horace R. Mann of the City of Buffalo in the State of Wyoming, and Thomas J. Bouton, editor and proprietor of the "Buffalo Echo," of the City of Buffalo in the State of Wyoming, each being first duly sworn, each for himself, doth depose and say that for several years last past the stealing of live stock has been very common and of frequent occurrence in the county of Johnson in the State of Wyoming, in the State of Wyoming (late Territory of Wyoming). That the number of persons in the said county of Johnson who make a business of unlawfully stealing and killing live stock in the said county has been constantly increasing, until at this time the said county of Johnson has within its limits a very large and organized band of stock-thieves and persons who have no respect for and openly and frequently violate the laws of the state. That the said band of stock-thieves have grown so bold that they have repeatedly and do continually threaten to do violence to the persons and property of all persons who oppose them. That the number of stock-thieves and all persons who are actually and constantly intimidated by them in the said county of Johnson, has grown to be so great that it has become difficult, and in fact almost impossible to find juries in the said county who will fearlessly convict these offenders against the law. That these stock-thieves and other persons who have so frequently violated the laws in the said county of Johnson have by threats and other means driven many respectable citizens

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and property holders from the said county of Johnson, and have notified others to leave. That their organization has become so complete, and their disregard for law so great, that they have selected over twenty of the most honorable, reliable, trustworthy and law-abiding citizens of the county as targets for their unlawful intentions, and have placed the names of these citizens upon what is called a "death list," and have threatened openly and frequently to assassinate them. That the situation in the said county of Johnson has become so threatening and so dangerous that it is wholly unsafe for any citizen of said county, who is not in sympathy with these stock-thieves, to travel unattended through the county. That by reason of the premises, the best and most reputable citizens of said county have found it necessary to provide themselves with fire-arms at their residences, offices and places of business; and further find it necessary to be constantly upon the alert for the threatened injury aforesaid.

That these stock-thieves have constantly and openly preyed upon and stolen live-stock in said county until they have almost ruined one of the most extensive industries of said county.

That many of these stock-thieves are men who go under assumed names, and are commonly reported to be fugitives from justice from other states.

That these stock-thieves, and the persons whom they have so intimidated, have become so numerous that by use of the ballot and by means of intimidation, they have largely obtained contro, of the civil government in the said county. That some

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of the county officers therein are largely known to be the friends
THE STATE OF WYOMING,)
of and in sympathy with these stock thieves, and others are so
County of Laramie)
intimidated and threatened that they are reluctant to attempt
Charles Carter, of the county of Johnson, in the State
any execution of the law in said county, and in fact it would be
of Wyoming, of lawfully...
dangerous for them to attempt to do so.

both depose and say that William Harris, of the county of Albany,
That the present sheriff of said county and his deputies
in the State of Wyoming, is the owner of a herd of neat cattle
are wholly in sympathy and in league with this band of law-
containing about 4000 head, located, ranging and ranging in the
breakers, and have failed and refused to furnish that protection
vicinity of what is known as the "T A Ranch," in the county of
to life and property to which all citizens in said county are
Johnson in the State of Wyoming; that in the early part of May,
entitled.

1892, said Harris employed this deponent as foreman to conduct,
manage and control the said herd of cattle for the said Harris;
purpose of informing the Governor of Wyoming of the true state of
that for that purpose and in pursuance of that employment this
affairs in the said county of Johnson, and for the further purpose
deponent prepared to go to Buffalo in the county of Johnson in
of stating and explaining the causes which have naturally and un-
the State of Wyoming, arriving there on the evening of the 11th
questionably brought about the present state of hostilities in
day of May, 1892; that on the same evening, and shortly after
said county.

this deponent's arrival at Buffalo, he was met by O. H. Flagg
CHARLES H. BURRITT,
(called "Jack Flagg"), Lou Webb, HORACE R. MANN, the said Lou Webb,
THOS. J. BOUTON.

"Billy" Burnett, Charlie Fox and Paul Compton, who requested this
Subscribed in my presence and sworn to before me this
deponent 11th day of April, A. D. 1892.

live in Johnson county, that RICHARD H. REPATH, Clerk Supreme Court of Wyoming.
(Seal)

to act as foreman for the said Harris, and would not be permitted
to conduct the cattle business of the said Harris, and that he
would have to leave the country; and said Lou Webb said that if
this deponent desired to live in that country, either this de-
ponent or the said Webb would have to die. And the said men
further stated to this deponent that they had no objection to him
personally, but that he was a friend to the owners of cattle in
that vicinity, and for that reason alone he would not be permitted

THE RIVER OF MAONING)
(2)

to stay in the country; that the said Lou Webb was the spokesman for the said men in addressing this deponent, and at the time was armed and had one of his hands upon his pistol. And this deponent further believes that all of the other men so addressing him were armed at the time. The men so addressing this deponent were all of them generally known and recognized either as rustlers; that is, as cattle thieves, or sympathizers, and men who follow the stealing of cattle as a vocation, and who intimidate all who oppose them in their nefarious undertaking. That the said men so addressing this deponent were dangerous men, who waited upon this deponent to express to them their actual intentions, and who meant what they said; that in the manner aforesaid, and in other ways, this deponent was given to fully understand that he must leave said ~~country~~ county of Johnson, and that if he did not do so he would suffer death, or some other violent injury to his person. And this deponent further says that he is well acquainted in the said county of Johnson and knows the true state of feeling there; that the said county is dominated and controlled by a number of bold, vicious and dangerous men who have no regard for law, safety, and who continually intimidate and subdue all who are opposed to them; that the stealing of live stock in the said county has become very common, and the amount of this and other crimes is not heeded by the civil authorities, and no real effort is made to secure the punishment of the offenders; that the men known as rustlers are a dangerous, bold and daring class of men who have no regard for the law nor for life or property, and are fully bent upon continuing in their nefarious calling, and who will resort to any means to subdue and dispose of all who oppose them;

June, 1892.
JOHN S. THOMAS,

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that this deponent firmly believes, from his knowledge of the condition of affairs in said county, that a reign of terrorism and entire disregard of law and order prevails in said county, which the civil authorities cannot put down, and do not undertake to put down. In fact this deponent believes and feels, from a personal knowledge of the situation, that the civil authorities of the said county are in sympathy with these outlaws, and are largely controlled and influenced by them. That by reason of the matters aforesaid, this deponent and the friends of this deponent in that vicinity, became convinced that it was entirely unsafe for this deponent to remain in that community, and that it would involve a certain sacrifice of his life for him to do so; that this deponent told the men who waited upon him as aforesaid that he was there upon a peaceful mission, namely, to manage, control and care for the cattle of the said Harris; that he was there for no other purpose; that he did not intend to harm anyone; but notwithstanding this the said men insisted that this deponent should leave the country under penalty of death, and for this reason, and for none other, this deponent was compelled to flee for safety, and did so.

CHARLES CARTER.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this tenth day of June, 1892.

(Seal)

JOHN E. THOMAS,
Notary Public.

are known as "rustlers," which JOHN E. THOMAS, believes; that they go about the country heavily armed, and in fact, closely patrol the country, and at all times exercise a supervision over the ingress and egress to the City of Buffalo; that they stop people entering that country, whether by stage or otherwise, and otherwise interfere with law-abiding and peaceable citizens travelling over

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the country; that they continually and habitually intimidate with THE STATE OF WYOMING,) threats of killing and) ss. g other violence, all who have opposed County of Laramie.) them; that so great has become the influence of these outlaws by reason of their number WILLIAM J. THOM, of lawful age, being first duly sworn, does solemnly swear that he has resided at Buffalo in the county of Johnson and State of Wyoming, since the year 1884, that he is now and has been for four years last past cashier of the First National Bank of Buffalo; that he is well acquainted with the people of Buffalo and the surrounding country, and knows the present state of excitement and disorder existing in the county of Johnson; that he is one of the persons who signed the telegraphic petition to the President of the United States in the month of April, 1892, relating to the custody and detention by the military authorities of what is known as the "Wolcott Party;" that this deponent signed the said telegraphic petition because he could not refuse to do so; that he believes that for him to have refused his would have caused certain and violent injury to this deponent and also to the said bank; that the same is true of others who signed the said telegraphic petition; that stealing has been a very common offense in said county for several years, and has been continually increasing; that there in said county a large number of desperate and violent men, better known as outlaws, who have no home and no visible means of obtaining a living; that these men are known as "rustlers," which means cattle thieves; that they go about the country heavily armed, and in fact, closely patrol the country, and at all times exercise a supervision over the ingress and egress to the City of Buffalo; that they stop people entering that country, whether by stage or otherwise, and otherwise interfere with law-abiding and peaceable citizens traveling over

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method is at once adopted to rescue the country and restore order the country; that they continually and habitually intimidate with and confidence in the administration of law and justice; that the threats of killing and doing other violence, all who have opposed laws of the state are wholly disregarded and openly defied, and them; that so great has become the influence of these outlaws by the state of excitement which exists, if continued will extend to reason of their number and by means of their intimidating methods, other portions of the state and demoralize the civil government; that juries in the said county of Johnson refuse to convict persons accused of crimes, without regard to the evidence of guilt, be declared and administered in the most extreme cases; that with and this deponent believes that a juror who would do his duty and this knowledge this deponent unhesitatingly says that the declaration and administration of martial law in the vicinity named is be exposed to certain danger as a result thereof; that these outlaws openly threaten to kill law-abiding citizens and to do violence to their property; that merchants and other people are compelled to let them have goods either upon their own terms or no terms at all; that law-abiding people living at Buffalo find it absolutely necessary to go about armed and to keep arms in a condition ready for use at their homes and place of business; that the county officers of said county do not attempt to suppress this violence and thieving; that George A. Wellman, an honorable and lawabiding citizen and a deputy United States Marshal, was recently murdered while on a public road leading to Buffalo, and no reasonable effort was made by the officers of said county to detect and arrest the murderers, and in fact, the conduct of the sheriff was such as to cause a well founded belief that he was intending to divert suspicion from the real murderers and direct it towards others, and the said deponent says that the present condition of affairs in the said county of Johnson is one of anarchy and a total disregard of law; that there are many loyal, honest and prosperous citizens in said town of Buffalo who have been grossly abused, threatened and intimidated, who will be compelled to leave the country and abandon their property and homes, unless some effective

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The State of Wyoming,
 County of Laramie.)
 method is at once adopted to rescue the country and restore order
 and confidence in the administration of law and justice; that the
 laws of the state are wholly disregarded and openly defied, and
 the state of excitement which exists, if continued will extend to
 other portions of the state and demoralize the civil government;
 that this deponent fully realizes that martial law should only
 be declared and administered in the most extreme cases; that with
 this knowledge this deponent unhesitatingly says that the declara-
 tion and administration of martial law in the vicinity named is
 the only method that can be adopted, which will restore order,
 prevent continued violence and place the civil government in a
 position to properly administer the affairs of that country.

WILLIAM J. THOM.

in the said county of Johnson
 in that vicinity
 lawless men

Subscribed in my presence and sworn to before me this
 11th day of June, A. D. 1892.

SAMUEL CORSON,
 Notary Public.

(Seal).

is a large number of desperate
 to be fugitives from justice from other states; that they have
 repeatedly threatened to take the lives of law-abiding citizens
 of that community and have, by threats of doing violence, in-
 timidated and grossly abused the law-abiding people of that vicinity
 that the entire country in that region is constantly patrolled
 by these desperate characters, who go about very heavily armed,
 and many of whom have no place of abode and no visible occupation.

That in the town of Buffalo, the shooting of guns in the
 streets, and threats of killing, have of late been so common that
 the law-abiding people there have been almost completely subdued
 and are in constant fear of great violence; that the merchants
 and other business men there are compelled to keep loaded fire-
 arms at their homes and places of business in a condition and at

and confidence in the administration of law and justice: that the
method is at once adopted to lessen the cruelty and restore order.

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The State of Wyoming,) ss.
County of Laramie.) and order exists in the said county of John-

son, and is constantly growing more formidable and overwhelming;
James T. Craig being first duly sworn,
That on the tenth day of May, 1892, George Wellman, an
does solemnly swear:

estimable citizen and United States Deputy Marshal, was fully
That he is twenty-nine years of age; that he has been a
murdered near Buffalo by some of these desperadoes, who were lying
resident of the county of Johnson, in the State of Wyoming, since
in wait for the said Wellman, who was passing along a public road;
the month of April, 1891; that during that time he has been the
that the civil authorities of said county have made no effort to
range foreman for the Wyoming Cattle Ranches Company, Limited;
stop these acts of violence and intimidation, and are largely in
that the range of the said company is principally located in the
sympathy with the element which is constantly and grossly ignoring
county of Sheridan, in the State of Wyoming, and is immediately
and violating the law and the rights of other people.
adjacent to the said county of Johnson:

James T. Craig.
That the stealing of live stock has been quite prevalent
Subscribed in my presence and sworn
in the said county of Johnson during the residence of this affiant
to before me this fifteenth day of
in that vicinity; that this stealing is done by a large number of
June, A. D. 1892.
lawless men known as "rustlers;" that among these ~~xx~~ "rustlers"
is a large number of desperate characters, who are commonly reputed
(Seal) 1892.
to be fugitives from justice from other states; that they have
John E. Thomas,
repeatedly threatened to take the lives of law-abiding citizens
of that community and have, by threats of doing violence, in-
timidated and grossly abused the law-abiding people of that vicinity
that the entire country in that region is constantly patrolled
by these desperate characters, who go about very heavily armed,
and many of whom have no place of abode and no visible occupation.

That in the town of Buffalo, the shooting of guns in the
streets, and threats of killing, have of late been so common that
the law-abiding people there have been almost completely subdued
and are in constant fear of great violence; that the merchants
and other business men there are compelled to keep loaded fire-
arms at their homes and places of business in a condition and at

COMMISSIONER OF PUBLIC LANDS)

THE STATE OF WYOMING)

(2)

places ready for immediate use; that a complete reign of terror and entire absence of law and order exists in the said county of Johnson, and is constantly growing more formidable and overwhelming;

STATE OF WYOMING,)

That on the tenth day of May, 1892, George Wellman, an estimable citizen and United States Deputy Marshal, was foully murdered near Buffalo by some of these desperadoes, who were lying in wait for the said Wellman, who was passing along a public road; that the civil authorities of said county have made no effort to stop these acts of violence and intimidation, and are largely in sympathy with the element which is constantly and grossly ignoring and violating the law and the rights of other people.

EXECUTIVE OFFICE)

Dated at Cheyenne, James T. Craig, June 4, 1892.

Subscribed in my presence and sworn to before me this fifteenth day of June, A. D. 1892.

My Commission expires November 21st, 1892.

(Seal)

John E. Thomas,
Notary Public.

