

Missouri State Archives: Finding Aid 3.7

Thomas Reynolds, 1840-1844

[Full-text transcription of: Letter from L. B. Fleak, Iowa to Governor Reynolds, Jefferson City, Mo.]

L. B. Fleak
Keokuck
Free L. B. Fleak P.M.

Keokuk IT
Dec 5

His Excellency Thos Reynolds
Jefferson City
Mo

1842

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Keokuk I.T. Dec 4/42

Gov Reynolds

Dear Sir

All of our efforts to seize the renegade Smith have proved fruitless and we have been compelled though with reluctance to abandon the project. He keeps constantly around him as body guard some 12 to 14 enthusiastic fanaticks which renders a secret approach impossible, and with the River frozen over as it now is, even if we were to get him it would be impossible to get away with him for one haloo from him call a thousand men to his rescue.

The only possible way to get him is through the newly elected Governor He may do something but Carlin never would if he were to continue Gov 20 years, he is about half Mormon himself His house has been Smith's Hotel when in Quincy for the past two years

Depend upon it, those fanaticks will one day give your State a great deal of trouble, their whole thoughts is how they they shall injure or destroy Missouri & the first thing taught their new members is to despise Missouri. They have now purchased the principal part of Keokuk & are coming into it very fast which puts a body of them within 3 miles of the Missouri line. I shall leave here in March for Missouri.

Yours Respectfully
L B Fleak