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### 1849 October 13: A. Wood, Adjutant General, Yellville, Arkansas, to Governor John Selden Roane, Report on Marion County War [Tutt-Everett War]

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immediately on the receipt of this such orders as may appear to your Excellency best in this affair—

You will send a commission to Captain William G Mitchell, and Lieutenant Hampton Faucher

You will be careful to send all communications to me at this point by Batesville—

The Everett party are using all and every means in the reach of mal and infamated party to poison the minds of the people and strangers against the opposite party— They are styling themselves the honest party, and that they can not get justice— The opposite party are asking for the laws to be administered, and appearing willing to abide the consequences of impartial law— They are acting as far as I can learn on the defensive— I learn that some of the Everett party will be down to see you, and no doubt will make many statements, contradicting to my communications— But sir, I have been careful in nothing how matters are arranged and have given you a statement from facts—

I will you this for your own special information and not by way of report— I have kept copies of all orders and communications, and as soon as I can leave here, I will make you a full and detailed report—

Yours Respectfully

A. Moore  
Adj. General of Arkansas

Head quarters Yellville Marion county, Arkansas

Oct 13 1865

To His Excellency John Seldar Gov. of the state of Arkansas  
Sir;

The circuit court at this place adjourned this evening untill court in course; And I learn from Mr John H Rogers the attorney for the state that the prisoners who, I informed you I had arrested, were indicted for the murder of the kings— The prisoners are Nelson Stratton, Jesse N Everett, Robert Adams, and Alexander Cowin: They are all indicted for the murder of William V King sen, William V King jr and Lorenis V King— Separate indictments for each individual murdered— This evening I received a written request from John Hargrave the sheriff of this county, requesting me to assist him in aiding the civil authorities in supporting the laws, and maintaining the peace in the county; The sheriff also represents to me, that he does not believe he can find twentyfive men in this county who is not highly prejudiced on one side or the other— and that it will be utterly impossible for him to keep the prisoners himself in this county; and also that he does not believe that he could safely take them out of this county—

Now Sir, I am of opinion that nothing but my arrival at this point, with ~~captains~~ <sup>with my command</sup> ~~command~~ saved the county from one of the bloodiest scenes witnessed in a civilized land— The members of the bar have expressed their opinion that had I not arrived at Lebanon, no court would have been holden at that point— Nor at this place

L. A. Moore  
Nov

and it appears a general impression that a general battle would have ensued between the parties. It is very difficult to inform you fully the state of excitement here. And there are many persons here who I think are in danger of being shot down. The excitement reaches all classes, and conditions of life, and the fire of a gun is noticed by all with apparent anxiety. I am clearly of opinion that bloody deeds will be perpetrated here if I remove my troops from here. The company consisted originally, and does now consist of seventy five men, a Captain one Lieutenant. My box is my aid, and also serjeant in case of sickness amongst the troops. I have given express orders to Captain Mitchell, to be as saving and prudent in the disbursement of money as possible. and I am of opinion that he will act with much prudence in the matter.

Now with respect to my position here I have this to say; one party is unanimous in requesting me to remain here with my company. and all that portion who appear anxious to see the laws executed are anxious for me to remain. But from all I can see and learn, my presence here is gauling to the friends of the prisoners. It is true many of the friends of the prisoners appear to be quite friendly and express themselves in favour of my remaining here; but it is evident that but few of them are sincere. and it will take a strong guard to keep them all in check. Place the prisoners in the hands or under the contrall of one party, and it is literally setting them at liberty. place them under the contrall of the other party and a war

must ensue. such sir is as near as I can represent to you the condition of affairs here. and I am sorry to say that if there is any difference as to the peace of Sevier, or Marion County, it is in favor of Marion. I think I will send some of the troops into sevier, in a few days. The prisoners have many friends there, and they appear to be resolved in taking the law into their own hands and go in armed parties threatening and ordering whomsoever they please to leave the country.

There are six others whose names and personal descriptions I give you below, who are equally guilty with the prisoners and were present aiding and abetting in the murder of the Kings, but who have not been arrested.

William H Everett about 40 years of age of moderate size weighs about 140 pounds. rather freckled face, and dark hair Jesse Everett about 23 years old. weighs about 150 pounds fair complexion and light hair. Archabald Everett about 25 years old weighs about 135 or 40 pounds. low heavy set. Roman nose. sandy hair, and a bad countenance. John Everett Jr about 19 years old. small and boyish in appearance. fair complexion, and light hair. weighs about 120 pounds. Thomas F Stephens about 30 years of age. rather tall. Native and plausible. yellow or fair hair. Roman nose, and of middle stature. was raised in East Tennessee. George Hamblitt about 25 years of age. dark skin and dark hair weighs about 130 pounds. heavy built under middle stature. I remain mad for your consideration, the propriety of offering such a reward as will induce persons to bring these desperadoes to Justice. Now sir I will remain at this point untill further orders from you. and I wish you to give me