

K Thomas Clement Fletcher (1827-1899) Letter, 1866
0220 0.01 cubic feet

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INTRODUCTION

The collection contains a letter, written by Missouri Governor Thomas Clement Fletcher to an unnamed colonel regarding the need to capture or kill Jim Anderson, a former member of William Clark Quantrill's bushwhackers, who was in Howard County, Missouri.

DONOR INFORMATION

The letter was from the General Library of the University of Missouri-Kansas City on October 24, 1980 (KA0054).

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BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Thomas Clement Fletcher was born January 22, 1827, in Herculaneum, Missouri, to Clement B. and Margaret (Byrd) Fletcher. After receiving his education in Herculaneum, he began working at the age of seventeen in the circuit clerk's office. A few years later, after an appointment as deputy clerk, he was elected to the office of circuit clerk. In 1856, Fletcher was admitted to the Missouri Bar.

With the outbreak of the Civil War, General Nathaniel Lyons appointed Fletcher, a strong opponent of slavery, to the post of assistant provost marshal general with headquarters at St. Louis. Fletcher participated in a number of important battles during the war, receiving recognition and a promotion to brevet brigadier general by President Lincoln. He was the Republican gubernatorial nominee in 1864 and was elected by a large majority. He served one additional term, serving as governor during the difficult period of Reconstruction when the state was confronted by numerous economic and social problems, including amnesty for those who fought against the United States, the reorganization of public education, and the distribution of railroad company lands which came to the state through foreclosure.

After his term as Missouri governor, Fletcher returned to St. Louis to practice law. He later moved to Washington, D.C., where he continued practicing law until his death on March 25, 1899.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The collection consists of a one-page letter, written on the Governor's letterhead, dated March 19, 1866, and addressed to an unnamed colonel. In the letter, Fletcher introduces Mr. M. N. Lone (or Love), "a good union man and a clever gentleman." His major concern is the need to capture or kill Jim Anderson, a former member of William Clark Quantrill's bushwhackers, who was located near Franklin in Howard County, Missouri. Governor Fletcher authorizes a platoon of men to be called to active service, asserting that if Anderson is captured or killed "it would be the best thing for the state I know of."

PREFERRED CITATION

Specific item; box number; folder number; *Thomas Clement Fletcher (1827-1899) Letter, 1866 (K0220)*; The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-Kansas City [after first mention may be abbreviated to SHSMO-KC].

FOLDER LIST

f. 1 Letter, March 19, 1866

LOCATION NOTE

This collection is stored onsite.

SUBJECT TERMS

Governors – Missouri
Missouri – Politics and government
Snyder Collection of Americana

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