

"Bleeding Kansas" and the Pottawatomie Massacre, 1856

Image

Chattanooga Tennessee
20th November 1859.

John Brown
Sir

altho vengeance is not mine, I
confess, that I do feel gratified to hear that you
were stoppt in your frenidish career at Harper's Ferry,
with the loss of your two sons, you can now appreciate
my distress, in Kansas, when you then and there entered
my houses at midnight and arrested my husband
and two boys and took them out of the yard and
in cold blood shot them dead in my hearing, you
cant say you done it to free our slaves, we had
none and never expected to own one, but has only
made me a poor disconsolate widow with helpless
children while I feel for your folly. I do hope &
trust that you will meet your just reward.
O how it pained my Heart to hear the dying
groans of my husband and children if this
scrawl give you any consolation you are welcome
to it

Mahala Doyle

Mahala Doyle to John Brown, November 20, 1859, page 1. (Gilder Lehrman Institute, GLC07590)

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N³ my son John Doyle whose life I begged
of (you) is now grown up and is very desirous
to be at Charlestown on the day of your execution
would certainly be there if his means would
permit it, that he might adjust the rope
around your neck if Gov. Wise would permit it
M Doyle

Mahala Doyle to John Brown, November 20, 1859, page 2. (Gilder Lehrman Collection, GLC07590)