

From: Dale Bills
To: Michael Otterson
Date: 1/16/01 9:45AM
Subject: Mountain Meadows: Archaeologists' reports on uncovered remains

Mike,

I met with Glen Leonard last Friday to discuss plans to minimize sensational coverage of the forthcoming reports from both BYU and U. of U. archaeologists who studied the human remains accidentally unearthed during construction of the new gravesite memorial.

We had hoped to work closely with Shane Baker at BYU and with Mountain Meadows Association wagon train descendants to release these reports first through them, then to Arkansas media before anything got to our friends at the Trib.

Unfortunately, the Tribune has somehow obtained a copy of the the U. of U. draft report by Dr. Shannon Novak and, according to a phone call I just got from Shane Baker, plans to use it as the basis for an article to be published in the near future. To our knowledge, the copy obtained by the Trib has no photos of the remains but almost certainly contains forensic drawings showing bullet entry points and trajectories.

Given our past experience coupled with the current climate at the Trib, I expect them to make the most of every opportunity the report draft may provide to recount in gruesome detail how victims died at Mountain Meadows.

CC: [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]