

Missouri State Archives: Finding Aid 5.1

Mormon War Papers, 1837-1841

[Full-text transcription of: Letter from General Samuel D. Lucas, 4th Division of Missouri Militia, Independence, MO to Governor Boggs, Jefferson City, MO]

Independence Mo 5th. Novr. 1838.

His Exc. L.W. Boggs.

Commd. In Chief

M. M.

Sir,

I returned on Yesterday with the troops of the 1st Brig. 4. Divis. M. M. We got to Goose Creek in the vicinity of Far West, on 30th Ult, and the next day, the Town surrendered to us under the following conditions and stipulations.—viz—
1st.— To give up their leaders to be tried & punished.

2nd.— To make an appropriation of their property all who have taken up arms to the payment of their debts, and indemnity for damage done by them.

3rd.— That the balance Should leave the State and be protected out by the Militia, but to be permitted to remain until further Orders from the Commander in Chief

4th— To give up their arms of every description, to be receipted for.

We took about 600 Prisoners and rec,d
Something like that number of arms.

In disbanding my command, I ordered Genl. Wilson to take charge of the leaders who I had demanded for trial. viz.—

Jo. Smith Jr. Sidney Rigdon, Lyman Wight, Amos Lyman, Geo. W. Robinson, Parley Pratt, Hiram Smith, together with the arms; and march them to my head Quarters at Independence to await your further Orders. On 3rd of Novr. when at Williams,s ferry, Missouri River, I received a letter from Major Genl. Clark by express ordering me to March the prisoners and arms to Richmond, to disband my forces, and repair myself with my staff to his camps where=ever I could find it between Richmond, and Daviess County. This order I did not comply with, as I could not under any circumstances, be comma=
=nded by a Junior Major Genl.—I was thrown in to the field by a Call from Brig. Genl Parks

there in the field. Which according to military etiquette and usage is equivalent to an order and from your Order to Genl Clark, he is only authorized to command Brigadier Generals, but can make a call on Major Genl,s for any force that he may think necessary. I received a copy of your Orders to him, and I intend to start the prisoners and arms to Richmond in the morning when the whole will be subject to his order.

Your Orders of 26th. & 27th. Ult. together with your letter to me of latter date was

only rec,d by express on 30th. Ult. within 6. or 7 miles of Far West, at this point Major Genl. Atchison left me and returned home to Liberty. I was then left in the sole comd. Of about 1,800 men which I marched that night to Goose Creek within one mile of Far West, by sun=down the next day my forces were increased to 2500 men, with an Army of this magnitude I could not think of lying idle and inactive.

I will make out a fair report and send it to you by next mail; we were looking for you every day, for the last 4 or 5 days, or I would have sent an express to You from Far West. A communication I received from Genl. Clark 1st. Novr. Stated that he had learned you was on your way up, and would arrive in a day or two. learning that Genl. Clark was on his march with an army of 2000. men I concluded that he would have force Sufficient to Operate in Daviess and Livingston Counties, and to make a final close without the co=operation of my troops, I deemed it proper in Order to Save the State an enormous expense, which each day was immensely heavy; to discharge my forces which was accordingly done, with the exception

of four companies left a Far West, and five companies under Genl. Parks sent to Daviess County. I left your aid Col Williams, Col. Burch and Major Reese of Regt. at Far West drawing up all the necessary papers, and Col. Hinkle and myself appointed 5th. Comd. viz: Wm Collins of Jackson, G. W. Woodward of Ray Judge Cameron of Clay and John Corrill and M. Phelps of Far West. The mormons are to convey their property in trust to those comds. for the benefit of creditors and for indemnifying those that have been damaged by them.

This arrangement gave Satisfaction to the whole Army and was the means, of saving a great many valuable lives, and the effusion of [~~“much”~~] immense blood shed.

I have the honor to be with
great respect

Saml. D. Lucas

Major Genl. 4th. Divis M.M.

P.S. I sent Genl. Clark a copy of my report to you, as soon as I had it made out