

Missouri State Archives: Finding Aid 5.1

Mormon War Papers, 1837-1841

[Full-text transcription of: Letter from Joseph Dickson, Clerk of Circuit Court of Carroll County in Carrollton, MO to Governor Boggs, Jefferson City, MO]

Carrollton Missouri
Sept 6th 1838

Honr L W. Boggs
Governor of Missouri

Sir.

I am requested by the Committee of Safety appointed for Carroll County to forward to Your Honor a copy of an affidavit made by John N. Sapp the contents of which they have every reason to believe are true—they wish your Honor, if you should consider the same advisable to acquaint the Indian agents on our frontier with that part of said affidavit which relates to the Indians

I Have the Honor to be
With great Respect Your
Obdt Servant Joseph Dickson

State of Missouri)
County of Carroll)ss.

I, John N. Sapp, do solemnly swear that I resided in Daviess County, State aforesaid, for about the space of five months, and was a member of the Church of the people, styled Mormons, and that I quit them about fifteenth day of August last by stealth. When I left them they (said people, Styled mormons) were building Block Houses, and calculated this fall to build fortifications for the protection of themselves and families in time of war, for which they are making every arrangement and the understanding is, that each man is to Cultivate one acre of land and if the produce raised on said acre is not sufficient for their maintainance and that of their Family they are to take the balance

from the Missourians (thereby meaning people of other denominations) and I do further say there are betwixt Eight and Ten hundred men well armed and Equiped who have taken an oath to support Joseph Smith and Lyman Wight in opposition to the laws of the State of Missouri, or otherwise which said men are called Danites, and I was a member of said body of Danites and have taken the above oath – and I do further say, I have heard Sidney Rigdon and Lyman Wight say they had twelve men of their Church among the Indians and that their object was to induce the Indians to Join them (the said mormons) in making war upon the Missourians

and that they Expected to be fully prepared to commence war this fall or next spring at fartherest and I also Say the danites aforesaid are Sworn to cowhide any person or persons who may say aught against Joseph Smith, and Lyman Wight, and if that will not prevent them from speaking about said Smith and Wight then they are to assassinate them

his

John N x Sapp
mark

Subscribed and Sworn to before me Joseph Dickson, Clerk of the County Court within and for the County of Carroll , State of Missouri on the fourth day of September in the year 1838

(Seal) In Testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my private seal at office, there being no official seal yet procured, this fourth day of September 1838

Joseph Dickson—Clerk

I Joseph Dickson, Clerk of the County Court within and for the County of Carroll aforesaid do certify that the foregoing instrument of writing is a true and correct copy of the affidavit of John N Sapp filed with me for safe keeping on the fourth day of September 1838

I Testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my private seal at office there being no official seal yet procured this fourth day of September 1838

Joseph Dickson
Clerk

Affidavit of Jn.
Sapp
Sept 6, 1838
copied