

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 the Missouri Militia in Boonville, MO to Governor Boggs, Jefferson City, MO]

Genl Lucas
to
Govr
Oct 4, 1838
[Exe:]
copied

Boonville Mo : 4 Oct. 1838 .

Dear Sir-

As we passed down the Missouri River on Monday last, we saw a large force of Mormons at De Witt in Carroll County, under arms. Their Commander Col: Hinckle, formerly of Caldwell County , informed me that there were 200, and that they were hourly expecting an attack from the Citizens of Carroll County , who, he said were then encamped only 6 miles from there – waiting for a re-inforcement from Saline County. Hinckle said they had determined to fight. News has just been received at this place through Dr. Scott of Fayette, that a fight took place on yesterday, and that several persons were killed. Dr. Scott informed me that he got his information from a gentleman of respectability who had heard the firing of their guns, as he passed down. If a fight has actually taken place, which I have no doubt, it will create great excitement, in the whole upper Missouri , & those base and degraded beings will be exterminated from the face of the earth. If one of the Citizens of Carroll should be killed, before 5 days I believe that

there will be from 4 to 5 thousand volunteers in the field against the Mormons, & nothing but their blood will satisfy them. It is an unpleasant state of affairs – The remedy I do not pretend to suggest to your Excellency.

My troops of the 4th. Div: were only dismissed, subject to further orders. I can be called into the field, at an hour's warning.

In haste I have the honor

to be yr. mo: obt: sert:

Sam~~l~~ D. Lucas –

[the following paragraph has three x's crossing it out]

P.S. We get on slowly with the Courts
Martial – Neither Powell, Smith, nor any
of the witnesses have arrived – I would be
pleased to hear from your Excellency by
return mail.