

Missouri State Archives: Finding Aid 5.1

Mormon War Papers, 1837-1841

[Full-text transcription of: Letter from General H. G. Parks, 2nd Brigade, 3rd Division of the Missouri Militia, 5 miles from DeWitt, MO to General David R. Atchison, 3rd Division of the Missouri Militia in Boonville, MO]

Brigade Head Quarters, 5 miles from De wit, in
Carroll County October 7th. 1838.

Major Genl D. R. Atcheson
Sir

Immediately after my express to you by Mr. Warder was sent, I proceeded to this place which I reached Yesterday, with two companies of mounted men from Ray. I ordered Col Jones to call out 3 companies from this county to hold themselves in readiness to join me at Carrollton on the 5th Inst. which order has not been carried into effect, none of the Carroll Regiment is with me. – On arriving at the vicinity of De wit, I found a body of armed men under the command of Doctor Austin , encamped near De wit, besieging that place to the number of 200 or 300. with a piece of Artillery, ready to attack the town of De wit. On the other side Hinkle has in that place 3, or 400 Mormons to defend it, and says he will die, before he is drove from thence.

On the 4th Inst. they have a [] 15 or 30 [“20” crossed out] guns fired on both sides, one man from Saline wounded in the lip, the Mormons, are at this time too strong, and no attack is expected before Wednesday or Thursday next

at which time Dr. Austin hopes his forces will amount to 500 men, when he will make a second attempt on the Town of De wit, with small arms & cannon.

In this posture of affirs, I can do nothing but negotiate between the parties until further aid, is sent me; - I received your friendly letter of the 5th. Inst. by Mr. Warder authorizing me to call on Genl Donephant, which call I have made on him for 5 companies from Platte, Clay, and Clinton , with two companies I ordered, from Livingston , of which I doubt whether these last will come, if they do, I think I will have a force sufficient to manage these Billigerents. Should these troops arrive [“in” crossed out] here in time, I hope to be able to prevent Bloodshed nothing seems so much in demand here (to hear

the Carroll County men talk) as Morman scalps, as yet they are scared, I believe Hinkle with his present force and position, will beat Austin with 500 of his troops, the Mormons say they will die before they will be drove out &c. As yet they have acted on the defensive, as far as I can learn. It is my settled opinion, the Mormons will have no rest until they leave; whether they will or not, time only can tell: I assure you I never felt more rejoiced than when I received your letter, to call on General Donaphant's Brigade, for this mark of your confidence and friendly approval

of my action, I do feel under renewed obligations to you, and hope to shew the necessity of making the call on D's Brigade. I have also sent an express to Doniphant to come in person if he can, I want his aid & advice, I will keep you advised from time to time of the state of affairs here, it would relieve me much if you would request the Governor to make his appearance here among the Carroll boyes he need not order out any forces, those already ordered by me, I deem sufficient, you know a word from his Excellency would have more power to quell this affair than a Regiment; should he come which I hope he will for this is no little affair, he will be able to take such steps as may be deemed by him right and necessary to Settle this matter.

I have the honor to remain

Your Obt. Servt
H.G. Parks Brig,d Genl
Commanding