

Missouri State Archives: Finding Aid 5.1

Mormon War Papers, 1837-1841

[Full-text transcription of: Letter from General John B. Clark, 1st Division of Missouri Militia in Boonville, MO to Governor Boggs, Jefferson City, MO]

State [] of Adam
C. Wm for –
Oct 7th 1838
Belongs to letter S

Genl Clark
to
Govr enclosing memo
sent to citizens of How
ard cty
Oct 9, 1838
copied

Boonville 9th. Oct,r [sic] 1838.

His Excellency L. W. Boggs,

Sir, since I wrote to you

I have received the inclosed information in relation to the Mormon difficulty. The names subscribed to the inclosed paper are worthy prudent & patriotic citizens of Howard County , and I am persuaded = nothing but a case of absolute necessity to protect their friend would induce them to engage as they have done.

I regret exceedingly that your Excellency received information making it necessary to discharge the troops you had on the march.

Nothing but some such step in my opinion will ever settle the affair. –

I hope your Excellency will write to me on the receipt of this.

I have the honor to be
Your Obt. Serv,t
John B. Clark.

Camp Near De Witt
7th Oct. 1838 .

To the Citizens of Howard County.
Gentlemen,

This county is the theatre of a civil war, and will soon be one of desolation, unless the citizens of the adjoining counties lend immediate

assistance. The infatuated Mormons have assembled in large numbers in De Witt, prepared for war, and are continually pouring in from all quarters where these detestable fanatics reside.

The war is commenced: blood has been shed they shed it; they waylaid and fired upon a body of the Citizens of Carroll County, & wounded some. They are the aggressors, they have been guilty of high treason; they have violated the laws, and shed the blood of our citizens, and we think this one of the cases of emergency in which the people ought to take the execution of justice in their own hands. Speedy action is necessary, the progress of their imposition, insult and oppression [~~“opposition”~~] Ought to be checked in the beginning. The people must act & together, they must act energetically.

It is now twelve O,Clock at night, the Mormons

are lurking round our camp, and making preparations to attack us before day. Our number is much less than theirs, and we will have to act on the defensive until we procure more assistance.

About two hours ago the Mormons were re=inforced by 62 mounted men well armed from Far West . they are arriving every night; two nights ago it is thought one hundred came to De wit, for the purpose of making war upon the people of this County. Under such circumstances, you cannot fail to come forward immediately, can you not be here by Sunday or Monday at farthest? Come by fives and tens, if you cannot come in companies, bring all you can; this is no false excitement, or idle rumor; it is the cold reality too real. We will anticipate you immediately, and shall expect your co=operation & assistance in expelling the fanatics, who are mostly aliens by birth and aliens in principle from the county we must be enemies to the common enemies of our laws, religion & country.

Your friends & fellow Citizens,

P.S.

Our guard was just now fired upon by the Mormons, they have become emboldened by their recent re=inforcements, and we will

have to act on the defensive; until assistance arrives

Yr,s &c

Congrave Jackson,
Larkin K. Woods,

Thomas Jackson,
Rollo M. Davis,
James Jackson Junr,
Johnson Jackson,
John L. Tomlin,
Sidney S. Woods,
George [Crigler],
William L. Banks,
Whitfield Dickens.

[1838]
[Belongs to letter S]

I the undersigned Adam C. Woods a Citizen of Howard County , do certify, that on the 6th . day of October 1838. In company with Captain Congrave Jackson, and Others of Howard County, hearing of the Mormon difficulty at De wit, concluded to go up there, and did go to interpose our good Officer and make peace between them and the Citizens, when we reached there on last evening we found under arms in a mile or thereabouts of De wit, about two hundred Citizens encamped and Sentinels out, I did not go into De wit. I was advised not to go in, fearing that I would be injured I was informed and believe the information to be true, that the Mormons at De wit, are between five and six hundred well armed. I remained on last night in the Camp of the Citizens, intending on this morning to go in Town, and indeavor to make peace; but about midnight the Mormons commenced firing on the Sentinels placed out by the Citizens, which was returned, there was occasional firing at a distance until day.

From the above occurences we were deterred from making any attempt with the Mormons

for peace, and I left on this day about 10. O,clock in the morning.

A.C. Woods.

Octr 7th. 1838