

Missouri State Archives: Finding Aid 5.1

Mormon War Papers, 1837-1841

[Full-text transcription of: Letter from Captain Bogart of Elk Horn in Ray County, MO to Governor Boggs, Jefferson City, MO]

Elk Horn Ray Co, Mo. 13th Oct. 1838 .

To his Excellency L. W. Boggs

Dr. Sir,

I avail myself of this opportunity to inform you of the present deplorable condition of our country. I arrived home last night of the 2nd . tour of duty to suppress insurrection, when the first campaign closed on Grand River and the public was informed that peace was restored the Citizens who – lived in Daviess and the adjoining counties knew and expressed themselves that the Mormons were determined to drive the Citizens from Daviess Co - which the Mormons have since expressed - The lives of the people of Daviess have been threatened many of them have fled for safety to the adjoining counties whenever we meet a Mormon he is armed in best manner, and continually throwing out his threats. Next we were ordered to De Witt in Carroll County under Genl H. G. Parks, when we arrived at Carrollton we were informed that the people of Carroll and the Mormons who were mostly Canadians, were assembled in a mile of each other, ready for battle; we were also told the Mormons of Caldwell were on their way to

De Witt 100 more expected to pass down that night. I went to Genl Parks and requested him to permit me to move my company on that Road and prevent their passing, but he refused and we lay there that day and till midnight at which time W. C. Williams came to the camp and told us the Mormons were passing from Caldwell , I ordered my company and marched – to the Mormon roads leaving Parks in Carrollton [] incapable of knowing what was going on. The Mormons passed before I reached the road, the next day Parks overtook us with the balance of the troops we moved down near De Witt - & encamped two days without making one effort to disperse either party – I visited De Witt in company with Parks, Dr. Ellis, Mc’Gee, and several others and on

the public highway some [7 a] mile from the town we were met by a Mormon from Far West , who cock,d his gun, presented it at me, and commanded us to stop – this is a common thing with them; in this country, the publick highways are guarded. Genl Parks returned home with his command leaving over 200 Mormons well armed in Carroll Co. who came from Caldwell after being expressly orderd by Major Genl Atchison to disperce

them at all hazard's. The people of Carroll and the Mormons have made a compromise = The Mormons are moving west, it is supposed they intend pushing the Citizens out of Daviess, that county is in a state of great agitation, great excitement prevails here. The Daviess & Livingston Co. people and many from others, are on their way to Daviess County with one field piece, with the determination to prevent there settling in that County at all hazards – if there is not some effective means taken to settle to settle this difficulty much blood will be spilt soon. It will require a strong force. Tow many of our officers are seeking popularity with the Mormons supposing their votes in time will be of some service to them.

You may rest assurd times grow worse & worse here; the Mormons emboddy themselves keep out gards, and refuse to let any person see their forces, had you proceeded on to Daviess Co you could easely have convue,d yourself the state of things which are desperate in the extreme, you will no doubt be calld – on I hope you will take steps to make a final settlement of this matter, if it is not soon done, our country is ruind

Your Obt Serv,t
Samuel Bogart
Capt. in the late volunteers.

Capt [S.] Bogart
to
Governor
Oct. 13. 1838
[Ex'y]
copied