

To His Excellency Silburn W. Boggs,
Governor of the State of Missouri

Your petitioner William Dryden
an acting Justice of the peace within and for
Daviess County, would respectfully represent:
That the Counties of Daviess, Caldwell and
Livingston are settled by in part a denomination
of people called Mormons. These Mormons to
the number of about fifteen hundred men have
associated themselves together, and have resisted
and do resist with force and arms legal process
against persons belonging to their denomination.
Your petitioner further states that on the 29th day
of August last past, Adam Black appeared be-
fore me and made oath, that Andrew Ripley,
George Smith and others, had been guilty of a
crime as follows, to wit, that on or about the 5th day of
August 1838 in Daviess County, there came an
armed force to his Blacks house in said County
among whom the said Ripley and Smith and other
persons named in said affidavit were a part, and
then and there with deadly weapons made an assault
upon him the said Black, and then and there
threatened him Black (who was then an acting
Justice of the peace within and for Daviess County

aforsaid) with instant death if he did not sign a certain instrument of writing binding himself as a Justice of the peace of said County of Daviess not to molest the people called Mormons, and threatened the lives of himself the said Black & others, and said they intended to make every citizen of said County sign such obligation &c.

Your petitioner farther states that he immediately issued a writ pursuant to law, for the arrest of the said Andrew Ripley, George Smith & others, commanding ~~it to be executed with the assistance of a constable~~ after the arrest, to bring the bodies of the persons therein named forthwith before your petitioner, to answer the complaint, and farther to be dealt with according to law. There being no Constable within the Township of which I am Justice, he having been driven from the County by and through fear of the Mormons, and your petitioner believing that said writ would not be executed, unless a special Deputy was made for that purpose. Your petitioner then and there appointed Nathaniel H. Blakely a special Deputy, to serve said writ, and said appointment was endorsed on said writ, and signed by me ~~in person~~ officially, and then and there delivered to the said Blakely. Your petitioner farther states that the said Blakely took said writ and summoned a guard consisting of ten men, who went in search of the persons named in said writ for the purpose of executing the said writ, but the said Constable returned that the persons named in said writ, were

not found in said County by reason of himself and
Guard having been driven by force from the Town in
said County in which the offenders were supposed then
to be. The said affidavit, writ, and return are herewith
respectfully submitted to your Excellency.

Your petitioner further believes and represents,
that the Mormons are so numerous, and so well arm-
ed within the limits of the Counties of Caldwell and
Davies, that the power of the County is wholly
unable to execute any Civil or Criminal process
within the limits of either of said Counties against
a Mormon or mormons as they each and every one of
act in concert and out number the other Citizens.
They also declare that they are independent, and your
petitioner verily believes, that the said mormons hold
in utter contempt the institutions of the Country in
which they live.

Your petitioner further represents that some
time about the 8th Sept Inst, that three individuals
were arrested by the said mormons in Caldwell County
and held in custody, and your petitioner represents, that
he believes they are still in confinement without any
warrant of law. Your petitioner further represents
that he verily believes, that no Civil officer of the
State could cause to be executed any legal process
within either of said Counties of Caldwell or Davies.

Your petitioner would therefore respectfully
pray your Excellency to furnish the Civil officers

within and for the Counties of Davie & Caldwell, a
sufficient number of troops to enable them to execute
the law of the land and bring the offenders aforesaid
to Justice. To this end your petitioner will ever pray. &c.

15th September 1838

William Dryden
Justice of the Peace
Davie County

Executive Dept - City of Jefferson
Sept 15th 1838

The Adjutant-Gen^l
Sir

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You will issue an order directed to
Major Gen^l Atchison Commanding the 3rd Division of the
Militia of the State, and direct him to cause a sufficient
force of the Troops under his Command to aid the Civil officers
within the County of Davie in executing such writs or
process as may be legally within the province of their re-
spective duties. And especially to furnish the officers charged
with the service of the writ-mentioned in the foregoing pe-
tition of William Dryden Justice of the Peace of Davie
County with a force sufficient to enable him to execute
said process and bring the offenders to Justice.

L. N. Rapp
Commander in Chief