

Keytewille Nov 25<sup>th</sup> 1838

Genl Clark

In pursuance of your order dated at Far West Nov 7<sup>th</sup> I marched with the troops under my command for Adam Ende Ahman in the County of Daviess where I arrived on the 8<sup>th</sup> I immediately after my arrival I had called together all the Mormons then residing in Daviess County and distinctly informed them of the nature of the order of the Commandant in Chief and that you had transpered the same to the undersigned to be executed in the County of Daviess I also informed them that they would be permitted to remain in Daviess County during the winter or that they at their option should be permitted peaceably to remove themselves and property to Caldwell County if they desired so to do that I would remain ten days with a sufficient force for their protection and that I would give to such as desired it a written permit to remove to Caldwell or out of the State So soon as this was made known to them they unanimously made application and received the permit above alluded to and in the course of ten days all the Mormons residing at that point with a few exceptions had removed in peace and safety I would here give it as my opinion that owing to the hostility these people had produced against themselves by their excesses and depredations upon the property and lives of the Citizens would not have been permitted to remain here

in safety and of this the Mormons seemed to be well satisfied

I found the greater portion of these people to be late emigrants to this place from Canada and the northern parts of the United States encamped mostly in tents unprovided for with provisions for the winter I was told upon enquiry that the prisoners had not been guarded since their surrender and that such as knew they could be identified by the Citizens had mostly absconded such of the Mormons as could be identified were placed on trial before a justice of the peace

The Mormons have done immense injury to the Citizens of this County first by robbing them of all their movable property and then burning their houses apart of this <sup>property</sup> was found at Adam Ondi Ahman but the greater portion is still missing The people of Daviess County during my stay among them conducted themselves towards the Mormons with great propriety and even generosity I am fully satisfied for myself that no people having any claims to honesty would permit such a band of robbers as these Mormons have proved themselves to be to reside among them it is useless for me here to recapitulate the evidence upon which this opinion is founded as you as you must be fully in possession of the same from the enquiry now going <sup>on</sup> forward at Richmond I have great pleasure in being able

To testify to you of the good <sup>conduct</sup> ~~behavior~~  
of the troops under my command both  
officers and privates discharged their  
duty to my entire satisfaction and without  
a murmur so far as I am informed  
no Mormon was injured in person or  
property by any person under my com-

finding the civil authorities of ~~Stavess~~  
County in a situation to discharge <sup>all</sup> the  
duties required of them by law I referred  
~~to their decision~~ all matters in  
dispute in relation to property between  
Citizens and Mormons under the belief  
that an exercise of Military authority  
under the circumstances would have  
been improper

The extent of the injury sustained  
by the Citizens would not be fully ascer-  
tained but so far as my observation  
and information extended the whole  
County is laid waste and I fear many  
will suffer during the winter. It is  
impossible witness these scenes of  
distress without feeling the deepest  
indignation against the leaders  
of these people who under the sacred  
name of Religion have caused their  
followers to commit the most horrid  
crimes ever perpetrated in any County  
and that too as they alledge for the ad-  
vancement of the Kingdom of Christ  
The troops under my command have  
all returned home and I am this far on  
the point subject to your further order  
I have the Honor to be

with great respect  
Yours obt. servt  
Robert Wilson Brg Genl  
2<sup>nd</sup> Breg 1<sup>st</sup> Le. Mch

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Nov. 25, 1838

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