

Daviess County, Mo.

October 21<sup>st</sup> - 1838.

To his Excellency the Governor of  
The State of Missouri -

Sir - I deem it my  
duty, made so not only from the law, as an  
officer, but also as an individual, to report  
and make known to your excellency, the  
unheard of, & unprecedented conduct and  
high handed proceedings of the Mormons  
of this & Calaveras Counties, towards the  
other Citizens of this County, being myself  
one of the sufferers - On Monday the 15<sup>th</sup>  
inst. we learned that the Mormons were  
collecting in Far West, for the purpose  
of driving, what they term the Mob from  
this County, by which we understand the  
Citizens that are not Mormons, and ac-  
:cordingly they have come, & their worst  
apprehensions have been already fulfilled.

They have plundered or robbed and burned  
every house in Gallatin, our County Seat, among  
the rest our Post office, have driven almost  
every individual from the County, who are  
now flying before them with their families,  
25 many of whom have been forced out, without  
necessary clothing - their wives & little children

wading, in many instances, through the snow  
without a shoe. When the miserable families  
are then forced out, their houses are plundered  
and then burned. They are making this univer-  
:sal throughout the County. They have burned  
for me two houses, and, Sir, think this  
not an exaggeration, for all is not told. and for  
the truth of all and every statement, here made,  
I pledge the honor of an officer & gentleman.

These facts are made known to you, Sir,  
hoping that your authority will be used to stop  
the of this banditti of Canadian refugees  
and restore us to our lost homes.

I neglected to state that  
among the rest our County Treasury office has  
been also burned. I will only ask, in Conclusion,  
can such proceedings be submitted to in a gov-  
:ernment of laws? I think not, & must answer  
my interrogatory No, notwithstanding the polit-  
:ical juggling of such men as David R. Atch-  
:ison & some others, whose reports & circulations  
setting the conduct & character of the Mormons  
favorably before the community, are believed  
by the people of this County to be prompted by the  
hope of interest or emolument. I am yours, Sir, with

25

(over)

due regard  
Wm: P. Periston. Col.  
60th. Reg. 2nd. Brig. 3rd. Div. M. M.

P.S. Since writing the above, I have procured  
the testimony, on oath, of some six or eight  
persons corroborating with my statement.

Wm. P. Peniston

*[Faint, illegible handwriting on the top flap of the envelope]*



Mr. P. Danforth  
to  
Comm. Chief  
N. 29  
adjuce  
Oct 21, 1836

*[Faint, illegible handwriting on the bottom flap of the envelope]*