

# Missouri State Archives: Finding Aid 5.1

## Mormon War Papers, 1837-1841

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

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To  
Major Genl  
Jno B. Clark  
Commanding the forces)  
against the Mormons )  
Sir,

Executive Department  
City of Jefferson  
6. Nov 1838

I have the honour to acknowledge, the receipt of your communication under the date of the 3<sup>d</sup> Inst dated at Richmond by the Express Mr. G. D. Maupin. I regret very much to hear that Genl. Lucas has been guilty of disobedience of orders, on the subject however I shall cause in due time an enquiry to be made. I thought I had been so very explicit in my orders that it was not possible to misunderstand them, you have placed the proper construction upon them, which was that the whole force to be employed in this service was to be placed under your command. General Lucas was not ordered out at all except in the way I mentioned to you in my last communication. he was directed to cause Four hundred men of his division, to be raised and place them under the command of a Brigdier Genl, with the privilege if he thought proper to waive his rank as Major Genl and take Brigadier General's command. General Atchison was not ordered out in this last affair for two reasons, one was that I was aware as a member of the Legislature he would have other duties to attend to, and another was that there was much dissatisfaction manifested towards him by the people opposed to the Mormons, he though under no militia law has a right within the limits of his command to order out his his troops to quell insurrection or repel invasion, Genl Lucas though could not exercise any command within Genl. Atchison's division only so far as he may

have been [“commanded” crossed out] directed by the Commander in Chief and that only extended to the Command. of a Brigadier in pursuance of the orders which I forwarded by Mr. Black the Express from Daviess County whose companion Mr. Dryden bore my first orders to you. I therefore approve of the course you

have taken in demanding the prisoners of Genl Lucas as well as the arms, and shall send to him instructions to deliver them over to your order in the way you have directed him. You will see that they are securely confined within the limits of some prison and strongly guarded. The course you have proposed taking in relation to the other prisoners, that is to hold an Examining Court, and cause all those deemed guilty to be confined and guarded is the correct one.

You will proceed to Diamon and there disperse all the persons you may find embodied and under arms without authority of law, in the mean time a detachment from your command can if it is deemed necessary be employed to reinstate the people of Daviss in their homes—It will also be necessary that you hold a Military Court of inquiry in Daviess County and arrest the Mormons who have been guilty of the late outrages committed towards the inhabitants of Said County, my instructions to you are to settle this whole matter completely if possible before you disband your forces, if the Mormons are disposed voluntarily to leave the State of course it would be advisable in you to promote that object in any way deemed proper The ring leaders of this rebellion though ought by no means permitted to escape the punishment they merit.

The troops from Colo. Gasconade and Franklin are directed to report to you, you had perhaps better return them in service and discharge them who from fatigue or otherwise may be disposed to return.

I should be pleased to have from you of the final result of this matter previous to the meeting of the Legislature. I [~~“should”~~] shall forward to Genl. Lucas by Express the necessary orders and instructions to obey the order you have directed to him, under date of the 3d inst: in relation to the arms & prisoners [~~“and shall also forward to him a copy of this letter to you”~~]

I have to request of you to embody all the facts you can collect in relation to the commencement of progress and termination of the recent difficulties with the Mormons in order that I may communicate the same to the Legislature

I am respectfully  
Yr Ob St.

L W Boggs

Com. in chief

The prisoners will of course be delivered over to the civil authority, when you may deem it prudent to do so

L. W B.

Copy to Genl  
Clark from Gov.  
Nov. 6, 1838  
Document No. 23  
Letter

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