

# Missouri State Archives: Finding Aid 5.1

## Mormon War Papers, 1837-1841

[ Full-text transcription of: Letter from General Samuel D. Lucas, 4th Division of Missouri Militia, at Camp near Far West, MO to Governor Boggs, Jefferson City, MO ]

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Genl Lucas  
to  
Governor  
Nov 2, 1838  
Copied

Head Quarters  
Camp near Far West  
Nov: 2<sup>nd</sup>: 1838—

His Ex: L. W. Boggs  
Comr—in Chief. M. M.

Sir—On Monday 29<sup>th</sup>

Oct: the troops ordered out by Maj: Genl: Atch:  
:ison & myself (as per our report to you of  
said date) took up their line of march from  
camp near Richmond for Far West. We  
encamped the night of the 29<sup>th</sup> at Lin:  
ville's Creek. (a short distance from the road)  
about sixteen miles from Far West, at which  
point we received an express from Brig:  
Genl: Doniphan, informing us that he was  
then encamped on Log Creek, with a force  
of 500 men, and that he would join us  
at the crossing of said creek on the road  
from Richmond to Far West, by 10 o'clock. A.M.  
the next morning. On 30<sup>th</sup> Oct: the troops  
got together at the late named point, when  
we mustered about 1800 men. Whilst at  
this place we received your orders of 26<sup>th</sup>.  
ult. and I received an order of 27<sup>th</sup>.. ult. & a  
letter from you of the same date. At this  
point Maj. Genl: Atchison left me for Liberty—

when I was left in sole command. Before  
leaving Log Creek, I received information  
that a band of Mormons, 200 in number,  
called Danites, had been seen about two hours  
previous, near the rout that we had passed.  
Upon receiving this intelligence, I ordered a de:  
:achment of two companies from the respec:  
:tive commands of Brig: Genls: Wilson, Doniphan,

Parks, & Graham, to go on pursuit of said band, which I placed under the command of Genl: Wilson, with instructions to intercept, & if possible, to cut off their retreat to Far West. I then took up my line of march for Goose Creek, one mile south of Far West, which Point we reached about one hour by sun in the evening. Just as the troops were encamping, I received intelligence from Genl: Doniphan, from his position on the right, that he had discovered a party of mounted Mormons approaching Far West from the east—and requested permission to intercept them if possible. Leave was granted, & his Brigade started off at nearly full speed to accomplish the order, but the mormons succeeded in reaching the fort. Genl: Doniphan approached within 200 yards of their fortress, when they displayed

a force of about 800 men. At this juncture I ordered Genl: Graham Brigade (holding Genl Parks & part of Genl: Wilson's mounted, in reserve) to march at full speed to the relief of the 1st Brigade 3<sup>rd</sup> div—but from the inequality of the force of the first detachment (being only 250 strong at that time) & the Mormons, it was considered provident to withdraw the troops, & march against them in the morning. Which was accordingly done, and they all returned, as dark set in, to camp—At this place I established my Head Quarters, & continued there during the expedition against the mormons—The detachment under Genl. Wilson returned about 9 o'clock P.M. The next morning 31<sup>st</sup> October, I received a message from Col: Hinckle, the commander of the Mormon forces, requesting an interview with me, on an eminence near Far West, which he would designate, by hoisting a white flag—I sent him word that I would meet him at 2 o'clock P.M. being so much engaged in receiving & encamping of fresh troops, who were hourly coming in, that I could not attend before. Accordingly at that time I started with my staff officers and Brigade: Genls: Wilson, Doniphan & Graham, Genl: Parks being left in command. We

We met him and some other mormons at the point before mentioned. He stated that

his object in asking me to meet him there was to know if there could not be some compromise or settlement of the difficulty without a resort to arms. After giving him to understand the nature of your orders, I made him the following propositions, which I furnished him a copy of—Also a copy of your order: viz—

1st: To give up their leaders to be tried & punished.

2<sup>nd</sup>. To make an appropriation of their property, all who had taken up arms to its payment of their debts and indemnity for damage done by them—

3<sup>rd</sup>. That the balance should leave the State, & be protected out by the militia, but to be permitted to remain under protection, until further orders were received from the Commander in Chief—

4<sup>th</sup>. To give up their arms of every description, to be receipted for.

Col: Hinckle agreed to the proposition readily, but wished to postpone the matter until morning. I then told him that I would require Jos. Smith jr., Sidney Rigdon, Lyman Wight,

Parley Pratt and Geo: W. Robinson as hostages for his faithful compliance with the terms, and would pledge myself and each one of the officers present, that in case he, after reflecting and consulting upon the propositions during the night, declined acceding to them, that the hostages should be returned to him in the morning, at the same point they were received—but it was understood, that in case they did comply, they were to be held for trial, as part of the leaders, called for by 1st. Stipulation—I then gave him until one hour by sun in the evening, to produce and deliver them. We then returned to camp, & I directed the troops to make preparations to march to Far West by an hour & a half by sun, with a determination, in case the hostages were not produced, to make an attack upon the town forthwith. I directed Genl. Parks' brigade to be mounted, & to form on the right of the Division, to act as flankers, if necessary, and, if required to pass entirely around the town and form on the north side, with instructions to make the attack,

at the report of the cannon, which was to be the signal for the general attack. Genl: Graham's brigade was mounted & formed on the extreme left to act as flankers, and if required

to form the line on the west side, with similar instructions as to the commencement of the attack. Genl: Doniphans Brig: was ordered to parade on foot and to form on the left of Genl: Parks, with instructions to form on the East side, with similar orders relative to attack. Genl: Wilsons Brig: was ordered to parade on foot and to form on the left of Genl. Doniphan, with instructions to form the line of battle, on the South side, with Same instructions, as to commencement of attack. The artillery company, with one piece of ordnance, was placed at the head of Genl: Doniphan & Genl: Wilson's Brigades, with instructions to occupy an eminence within 300 yards of the Town. The army being disposed of in this manner, at the appointed time, I took up the line of march in the direction of Far West. when the troops got within about 600 yards I discovered the flag, and the hostages advancing. I immediately halted the army, and rode out and met them, received the hostages and placed a guard over them for their safety and protection, and ordered the forces back to our encampment. I cannot forbear at this point expressing my gratification and approbation of the good conduct & gallant bravery evinced by all the officers and men

under my command. They marched up with as much determination and deliberation, as old veterans, not knowing but that the charge would be sounded every moment for surrounding the Town. There was no noise nor confusion—nothing but an eager anxiety upon the countenance of every man to get at the work. When the hostages were received, the troops with some slight exceptions marched back in profound silence. 1<sup>st</sup>. Novr I ordered the whole forces amounting to 2500 men to parade at 9 o'clock A.M. & to take up the line of march for Far West, and ½ past 9 o'clock to receive the prisoners & their arms. The troops marched out & formed in the Prairie about 200 yards south east of the town. Genl: Wilson's Brig: formed

the West line. Genl: Doniphan's the east line, Genl: Graham's & Genl' Parks' the South line with the artillery company and the cannon in the center of the two latter, leaving one side of the square open. The mormon army reduced to about 600 men by desertion and otherwise, under their commander Col. Hinckle marched out of their town, through the space into our square, formed a hollow square and grounded their arms. Col. Hinckle then rode forward & delivered up to me his sword & pistols. I then directed a company from

the respective Brigades to form a front, rear, and right & left flank guards, & to march the prisoners back to Far West, & protect and take charge of them, until the next morning. I then detailed a company from Genl: Doniphan's command to take charge of the arms. Then in order to gratify the army, & to let the mormons see our forces, marched around the Town, & through the principal streets, & back to Head quarters. Considering the war at an end in this place, I issued orders for Gen: Doniphan's brigade, with the exception of one company & Genl: Graham's Brig: to take up their line of march for their respective Head Quarters, & dismiss their men—and directed Gen: Wilson to take charge of the prisoners (demanded for trial) & arms & march them to my head Quarters at Independence, to await further orders, & to dismiss all except a guard for the prisoners & arms. 2<sup>nd</sup>. Nov: I relieved the guard placed over the prisoners at Far West by 4 companies of Gen: Parks' Brig: and placed them under the command of Col: Thompson 2<sup>nd</sup> Brig: 3<sup>rd</sup>: Div: with instructions to report to Gen: Clark.

The balance of Gen: Parks' Brigade with Capt: Gilliam's company of Genl Doniphan's Brigade

Under the command of Genl: Parks, I ordered to Adam on Diamon, a mormon town in Daviess County, with instructions to disarm the mormon forces at that place, and to leave a guard of 50 men for the protection of prisoners, & to report to Genl: Clark. In order to carry the treaty & stipulations into effect, I have requested your Aid:

-de-Camp Col: Williams, together with Col:  
Burch & Maj: A. Reese of Ray to attend to  
drawing up all the papers legally, and  
directed Col: Thompson to wait on them  
with a portion of his command, & to cause  
all their orders and requirements consist:  
ent with the stiulations to be carried  
into effect. This day about 12 O'Clock  
there was a Battalion of 100 men from  
Platte arrived at Far West, which I or:  
dered back, having understood that Major Genl:  
Clark would be on in a day or two, with a suffi:  
icient force to operate in Daviess and Livings:  
ton, & for any service that may be requi:  
red.

I have the honor to be  
most respectfully—  
Saml. D. Lucas  
Maj. Genl:  
Commanding—