

# Missouri State Archives: Finding Aid 5.1

## Mormon War Papers, 1837-1841

[ Full-text transcription of: Letter from S. M. Smith, Kirtland, Ohio to Governor Boggs, Jefferson City, Mo. ]

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Smith mormon  
Kirtland Ohio  
Kirtland Mills, O  
Ma 23  
His Excellency  
L. W. Boggs  
Jefferson City , MO.

They have to present to your excellency a petition praying your assistance in a matter of vital importance to me and to my friends. I have received by letter from the widow & others the following facts respecting the murder of a brother in your state by the name of Warren Smith. He was a mormon (the only one of the connection) He set out for Far West Mo. last summer because he believed it as he said to do his duty to go. This was a misfortune to be pitied not a crime to be punished. [ Warren began a journey with] 3 or 4 other families had arrived to within a short distance of the end of their toilsome journey they were informed that the roads were strictly guarded & to proceede farther was to be disastrous, they consequently halted at shoal creek and encamp=  
=ed in the edge of a prairie, when they were attacked on the 6<sup>th</sup> Nov. by an armed force of 2 or 300. The women & children fled to the woods, the men & boys to a log block Smith shop. The ruffians instantly surrounded the latter & in a few minutes massacred about 20. After the roar of death had ceased & the inhuman banditti retired, the women crept silently from their hiding places & selected each her own husband from among the mingled & mangled slain, wiped the warm flowing life blood from their [ ] cheeks, snatched a hasty kiss & buried their lifeless [many] in a deep narrow tomb together ([niz a null]) & fled again to the thick [circling] shade of the gloomy forest to escape a like, or a worse fate, & now wander friendless & pitiless without money or means in a strange land, a land of enemies They perished my brother & a little son of his of about 10 years, who begged hard for life, but was shot

through the head in cold blood after the excitement of battle was over, If there is philanthropy in Mo. let it be exercised in relieving the suffering of these widows and orphans, if there is power in the law

or energy in the executives of Mo. let them be put in  
requisition to bring to [\_andign] punishment the perpetra  
=tors of this barbarous deed, This is my petition!  
will it be heard? Will the Governor of Missouri  
see that the laws of his state are executed, & the suffer  
ing of innocent widows and orphans assuaged.  
I have not sought to procure the signatures for any  
but I to present my petition singly in the  
name of the suffering, I appeal to your humanity as a man, & to  
your authority as Gov. of Mo. hoping that it  
will not be in vain, It is said and believed by many  
that your Proclamation authorized the extermination  
of the mormons, I can hardly believe this possible  
I think it would go to legalize murder & robbers & be  
incompatible with your constitutional processes

In your [ ] address W. M. Smith Williams  
[Mills \_\_\_\_\_Ohio].

I have the honor to subscribe myself  
your obedient, humble servant

His Excellency

L. W. Boggs

SM Smith

Kirtland, March 31. 1839