

Missouri State Archives: Finding Aid 5.1

Mormon War Papers, 1837-1841

[Full-text transcription of: Report of the Joint Committee to examine the documents in relation to the Mormon Disturbances]

City of Jefferson Mo. Feby. 17. 1841

The Joint Committee of the General Assembly appointed to examine the documents, orders, evidence and correspondence in the office of the secretary of state, in relation to the causes, origin, history and termination of the Mormon disturbances, have done so and are of opinion that all such documents ought to be published under the resolution of the general Assembly, without suppressing any past thereof.

These documents would consist of the following parts.

1. The entire evidence taken before Judge King sitting as an examining Court, together with the written statement (or sentence) of Judge King appended thereto.

2. All communications to the Governor from Public meetings, or from citizens complaining of the conduct of the Mormons & asking for military aid

3. All [~~“complaints &”~~] communications to the Governor from the mormons complaining of the conduct of the citizens of the country and asking for protection.

4. All the military orders of the Commander in chief & other military officers & the correspondence in relation to the military operations against the Mormons.

5. The Report of General Clarke with the documents accompanying the same and all the letters on file from Messrs

Ryland, King, Ashby, Rees, Bogart & other citizens of this state.

6. All papers in relation to the armed or other property taken from the mormons

7. All papers on file in relation to the indictment, escape & demand for the surrender of the mormon leaders.

The indictments need not be copied –

8. The resolution to raise a Joint Committee at the former session of the General Assembly, the report of that committee, the resolutions adopted

directing a bill to be reported, to provide for the investigation of the mormon disturbances a copy of that bill, the fact of its passage by the senate and its final rejection by the House of Representatives.

9. It is also the opinion that the secretary of state should procure from the Clerks of the Circuit Courts of Ray, Caldwell [~~“and”~~], Daviess, & Boone, [~~“against any further mormon & procure from such clerks”~~] a general certificate as to who of the mormons were indicted, for what crimes and what was the final disposition of such indictments, whether they were disposed of by trial, or dismissal, or whether in any case a trial was prevented by the escape of the prisoner or the forfeiture of his recognizance, or from any other cause, And the information thus obtained should be published.

The Committee believe that the whole amount of matter to be published should be arranged by the secretary of state in the manner that he in his