

# Missouri State Archives: Finding Aid 5.1

## Mormon War Papers, 1837-1841

[ Full-text transcription of: Letter from Governor Boggs, Jefferson City, MO to the House of Representatives, Jefferson City, MO ]

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To the Honorable

The House of Representatives

of The State of Missouri , Gentlemen,

In compliance

with a Resolution of The House of Representatives of the 22<sup>nd</sup> ultimo requesting the Governor to communicate to the House “(all information in his possession in relation to the recent difficulties, between the people called Mormons and a portion of the people of this state, copies of all orders issued by the Executive calling into Service Volunteers and militia and for the government thereof and for the conduct of the military operations, with copies of all correspondence in relation to said difficulties, and the military operations authorized by the Governor”) I have now the honor herewith to transmit the information required including Major General Clarks report [ ] of the testimony taken upon the examination of the Mormon prisoners before the Hon: Austin A. King Judge of the fifth Judicial Circuit at Richmond in Ray County. It will be seen from the report of Genl. Clark , that he has made arrangements to procure the residue of the testimony which when received will be transmitted to the house.

As formidable as the insurgents were represented and as they are now known to have been – still the number of Troops ordered on this service may appear large.

In detaching So many the Executive was influenced solely by a desire to prevent the effusion of blood – It appeared to me every way best to send such a force as would awe them into Submission – a Smaller number could undoubtedly have conquered and subdued the

disaffected in combat but many valuable lives would have been lost and I did not consider that I should truly reflect the wishes and opinions of the people, had I Stopped to weigh the expenditure of a few thousands against the best blood of the land.

I received information of the partial interruption of the peace in Dewitt Carroll County , whilst absent from the Seat of Government but took no order on the subject, knowing that the officer in command of the militia of that division was fully authorised under

the law and had ample force to preserve the peace –  
It will be Seen from the report of Major Genl. Atcheson  
that measures were promptly adopted by him to  
meet the emergency.

Immediately upon receiving intelligence of the  
last Mormon outrages Generals Atcheson & Lucas  
repaired to the Scene of difficulty with [ ]  
force. Although this movement was not directed  
by the Executive and was unknown to him, it was  
justified by the Circumstances and meets his fullest  
approbation; much injustice, I have reason to  
believe has been done to this part of the command  
by the public press, which it is hoped a thorough  
investigation will make manifest to the world.  
The conduct of Major General Clark has fully  
justified the high expectations entertained of him by the  
Executive, when he was assigned to this delicate and  
important command; Among the papers submitted, I am  
happy to lay before the house a voluntary tribute from  
the principal men amongst the Mormons to the humanity  
and kindness with which he executed this disagreeable  
duty and to the good conduct of his Troops.

The information herewith transmitted under  
the Call of the House of Representative Supercedes the

necessity of a Special communication to both houses  
of the legislature which it was my intention to have made  
as announced in my message at the opening of this session  
and will it is hoped be taken as a redemption of  
that pledge. The undersigned therefore respectfully  
requests that the House of Representatives at such  
time as they may deem convenient and proper will  
Cause this communication and the documents submitted  
to be laid before the Senate for the Consideration  
of that body.

I have the honor to be  
Most respectfully  
Yr Obe St .  
Lilburn W Boggs

City of Jefferson  
December 5<sup>th</sup> 1838

The House of Representatives  
Dec., 1838