

Missouri State Archives: Finding Aid 5.1

Mormon War Papers, 1837-1841

[*Full-text transcription of:* Letter from General David R. Atchison from Headquarters, 3rd Division of Missouri Militia in Richmond, MO to GOVERNOR Boggs, Jefferson City, MO]

Presumed from
Genl. Atchison
to
Govr.
Sept. 12, 1838
copied

Richmond Sept 12 1838

Headquarters 3rd Div M.M.

Sir

from information received from the Counties of Daviess and Caldwell within the bounds of this division I am well convinced that an insurrection does actually exist and upon the urgent solicitations of Citizens of both counties and also upon the petition of Citizens of the adjoining counties I have deemed it my duty to order out an armed force to put down such insurrection and to assist the Civil officers in the execution of the laws also to prevent as far as possible the effusion of blood and to restore quiet if possible to the community this I have done by the advice of the Judge of this Circuit I have ordered four companies of fifty men each from the militia of Clay County and a like number from the militia of Ray County I have also ordered four hundred men in addition to hold themselves in Readiness if required the troops ordered out are mounted Riflemen with the exception of one company of infantry who are also mounted those troops will proceed immediately to the scene of excitement and insurrection The Citizens of Daviess County and of Caldwell County are under arms so that it is deemed dangerous for peaceable citizens to pass through said Counties Citizens of other counties are flocking in to the Citizens of Daviess County and the Mormons are flocking to the assistance of the Mormons in those counties so

that from the best Information I can attain there cannot be less than two thousand men in arms without any legal authority or [pretext] whatever, and it is very much feared that if a blow is once struck there will be a general conflict the termination of which God only Knows—so soon as I arrive at

the scene of insurrection or excitement, I will report
to you forthwith by express—

I would have been more explicit but you have been
informed of the particulars by Judge King. I will
await your orders

I have the Honor to be your [most]

Obdt Servt

P.S. I have also required the servises of Col Wiley
C Williams, your aid, and much is expected
from his influence & efficiency