

# Missouri State Archives: Finding Aid 5.1

## Mormon War Papers, 1837-1841

[ *Full-text transcription of:* Letter from General Alexander W. Doniphan, at Headquarters of the 1st Brigade, 3rd Division of the Missouri Militia at Camp at Grand River, MO to General David R. Atchison of the 3rd Division of Missouri Militia at Richmond, MO. ]

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Camp on Grand River Sept 15

Head Quarters 1 Brig 3 Div. M. M.

Major General David R. Atchison Commanding

3<sup>rd</sup> Div. M. M.

Sir

In pursuance of your orders

dated 11<sup>th</sup> Inst. Issued orders to Colo William A. Dunn, commanding the 28<sup>th</sup> Regiment, to raise four companies of mounted Riflemen, consisting of fifty men each, also to Colo John Bowlware, Commanding the 70<sup>th</sup> Regiment, to raise two companies of mounted riflemen, consisting each of a like number, to start forth with for service, in the Counties of Caldwell and Daviess, on the Same day Colo Dunn obtained the four companies of Volunteers required from the 28th Reg. on the morning of the 12.<sup>th</sup> I took the Command in person, & marched to the line of Caldwell , at which point I ordered the Colo to march the regiment to the timber on Crooked River. I then started For Far west, the County seat of Caldwell , accompanied by my aid alone on arriving at that place I found Comer, Miller & McHany, the prisoners mentioned in your order- I demanded of the Guard, who had them in confine-ment, to deliver them over to me, which was promptly done. I also found that the guns that had been Captured by the sheriff & Citizens of Caldwell , had been distributed & placed in the hands of the soldiery & Scattered over the County. I ordered them to be immediately Collected & delivered up to me

I then sent an express to Colonel Dunn to march the Regt by day light for that place - where he arrived about Seven A.M. making forty miles since 10 A.M. on the previous day- when my Command arrived the guns were delivered up amounting to 42 Stand, three Stand could not be produced, as the had probably gone to Daviess County- I sent these guns under a guard to your Command in Ray County, together with with the prisoners, Comer- the other two prisoners being Citizens of Daviess. I retained

& brought with me to this County, & released them on  
parol of honor, as I conceived their detention illegal-  
At 8 A.M. we took up the line of March & proceeded  
through Millport in Daviess County , thirty seven miles from  
our former encampment, and arrived at the camp  
of the Citizens of Daviess & other adjoining Counties. they  
amounted to between 200 & 300 as their Commander, Dr.  
Austin of Carroll, informed us. your order requiring  
them to disperse which had been forwarded in  
advance of my Command by your aid, James  
M. Hughes, was read to them and they were required  
to disperse they professed that their object for  
arming & Collecting was solely for defence, but  
they were marching and Counter marching guards  
out, & myself & others who approached the camp  
were taken to task & required to wait the approach  
of the seargeant of the guard. I had an interview  
with Dr. Austin and his professions were all pacific-  
but they still continue in arms, marching & counter  
marching. I then proceeded with your aid

J. M. Hughes & my aid, Benj. Holliday, to the Mormon  
encampment, commanded by Colo Lyman Wight  
we held a conference with him and he professed  
entire willingness to disband and surrender up to me  
every one of the Mormons, accused of Crime, & required  
in return, that the hostile force, collected by the other  
citizens of the County should also disband. At the  
camp commanded by Dr. Austin I demanded the  
prisoner demanded in your order, who had been re-  
leased in the evening after my arrival in their  
vicinity. I took up the line of march & encamped  
on the direct road between the two hostile encamp-  
-ments where I have remained since within about  
two & a half miles of Wight's encampment, & some  
times the other camp is nearer and some times further  
from me – I intend to occupy this position until  
your arrival, as I deem it best to preserve peace  
& prevent an engagement between the parties, & if [Rept]  
so for[word crossed out] a few days they will doubtless disband  
without coercion.

I have the honor to be yours with respect  
[A.M. Douiphan]

Brg. Genl. 1 Brig: 3<sup>rd</sup> Div.

A. M. Doniphan  
Genl. Atchison  
Sept 15, 1838

Grand River 17.<sup>th</sup> Sept. 1838

Head Quarters 3 Div: M. M.

To His Excellency, The Commander in Chief -

Sir – I arrived at the County seat of this County, Daviess, on the evening of the 15<sup>th</sup> inst. with the troops raised from the militia of Ray County, where I was joined by the troops from Clay County, under the Command of General Doniphan – In the same neighborhood, I joined from two to three hundred men in arms, principally from the County of Livingston, Carroll & Saline & these men were embodied under pretext of defending the Citizens of Daviess County against the Mormons, and were operating under the orders of a Doctor Austin from Carroll County. The Citizens of Daviess County, or a large portion of them residing on the East side of Grand River, had left their farms, & removed their families, either to the adjoining Counties, or collected them together at a place called the Camp ground – the whole County, on the East side of Grand river, appear to be deserted, with the exception of a few who are not so timid as their neighbors –

The Mormons of Daviess County have also left their farms, and have encamped for safety, at a place immediately on the East Bank of