

Missouri State Archives: Finding Aid 5.1

Mormon War Papers, 1837-1841

[Full-text transcription of: Letter from the Honorable Austin A. King, Judge of the 5th Judicial Circuit in Richmond, MO to General David R. Atchison, of the 3rd Division of the Missouri Militia]

Richmond 10th. Sept. 1838.

Dear Sir,

Since my letter to you on yesterday, I have received divers & Sundry communications from grand river, all going to shew that the people in that quarter on both sidez need protection, and nothing but an armed force can do it.

The Mormons named in the warrant issued by Esqr. Dryden, will not be taken, and I send you a letter from Smith and Rigdon which may be of service to me hereafter, and I hope you will preserve it. From that you can learn somewhat the state of affairz. I do not know of any authority I have to direct your movements in the matter, but I will advise you and hope you may deem it your duty to act in the matter to send a force Say of 200 men, or more if necessary, and from the circumstances more may be necessary. Dispel the force in Daviesz and all the assembled armed forcez in Caldwell and while there to cause those Mormonz who refused to give up, to surrender and be recognized for it will not do to compromise the law with them. I shall inform the Governor of what I have [~~“done”~~] advised, and I have no doubt but he will approve of it to take time before hand to Send to him will be useless, for the mischief will be done before he could act. Please advise me of your determination by the bearer, I will cordially cooperate with you, when you may require it.

Respectfully
Austin A. King.

Genl. David R. Atchison,

Dear Sir, The undersigned are fully impressed with a belief that there is an insurrection on foot in the countiez of Caldwell and Daviefz in this State between the Mormons and other Citizenz of this State. The Citizens of Daviesz have a Mormon in custody az a prisoner who they took as a Spy, and the Mormons in Caldwell have three men to wit, John Comer, William McHaney, and Allen Miller, taken and confined as prisoners. They

were taken in passing from Ray through Caldwell
to Davis County . The undersigned therefore earnestly
request you to order out the militia to suppress
this insurrection, and to save effusion of