

Missouri State Archives: Finding Aid 5.1

Mormon War Papers, 1837-1841

[Full-text transcription of: Letter from General H. G. Parks, Headquarters, 2nd Brigade, of the 3rd Division of Missouri Militia at Millport, MO to Governor Boggs, Jefferson City, MO]

Head Quarterz 2nd Brigade 3rd. Division
Millport September 25 1838

His Excellency L. W. Boggz
Commander in Chief.

Sir-I received this morning, after my return from a tour in the upper part of this County, with a detail of the troopz under my command, in assisting the constable in bringing offenderz against the lawz to justice, your despatches to Major Genl Atchison, which I took the liberty to open. The Major General left here with the troopz from Clay and Ray, except 2 Companiez from Ray, ordered to remain under my command, as the 18th inst. Since that time I have been employed in assisting the peace officerz to execute the lawz, & in bringing offenderz to justice.

I am happy to inform you that there is not any necessity to use a larger force here at present-That now under my command. I deem amply sufficient for the present [purent] purpose. Should occasion require it. I have thought I could detail a sufficient force from the Brigade under my command. Whatever may have been the desposition of the people, called Mormonz,

before our arrival here, since we have made our appearance, they have shown no disposition to resist the lawz, or of hostile intentionz-.

I deemed it my duty to visit their towns in this County, and az soon az they saw the militia interpose between them and the people of this and some of the adjoining Countiez, who had assembled in armz, they went to work, abandoned their hostile attitude. & at this time peace and tranquility have every appearance of being restored. How long things may maintain their present attitude I know not-but if the Major Genl: had not taken the field with a sufficient force, as promptly as he did there is every reason to fear

a dreadful conflict would have ensued. On next Saturday there will be brought to trial some 15 or 20 individuals of the mormonz before a Justice of the peace- A committee has been appointed on behalf of the Citizens of Daviesz County to meet the Mormonz on tomorrow for the purpose of proposing to buy or sell out to them. They will meet at Adam-ondi-Ahmon, where I will attend with a force to ensure tranquility. There has been so much prejudice & exaggeration concerned in this matter, that I found things on my arrival here, totally different from what I was prepared to expect-

It is time that a great excitement did prevail between the parties, & I am happy

to say that my exertions, as well as that of Major Genl Atchison, & the officers & men under my command have been crowned with success.

When we arrived here we found a large body of men from the Counties adjoining; armed and in the field, for the purpose, as I learned of assisting the people of this County against the Mormonz, without being called out by the proper authorities- These forces the Major General very promptly prevailed on to return to their homes. & left directions with me to see that they had done so- I have the honor to say to you that duty has been promptly attended to. all of which I have advised Genl A. thereof- I have thought it necessary to be this minute in detailing to you our operations since we took the field- for further particulars I beg your Excellency may refer to the Major Genl, who I doubt not will communicate to you all the information in his possession- In the mean time I assure you that any orders given by you or the Major Genl: relative to this matter, shall be promptly attended to.- I have the honor to remain

your obedient servt:

H. G. Park, Brig. Genl
Commanding
over

P.S. Since writing the above, I recd. information that if the committee do not agree the determination of the Daviesz County men, is to drive the Mormonz with powder and lead. Should any further measures take

place of importance. I will immediately
advise the Major General of the Division thereof

I remain yourz
H. G. P. B. Genl.

H. G. Parks
to
Commander in Chief
Sept. 28 1838