

Missouri State Archives: Finding Aid 5.1

Mormon War Papers, 1837-1841

[Full-text transcription of: Letter from General David R. Atchison, 3rd Division of the Missouri Militia in Liberty, MO to Governor Boggs, Jefferson City, MO]

Maj'r General
D R Atchison
to
Govr
Oct 22. 1838
copied

Liberty Oct. 22nd. 1838.

To his Excellency the Commander in Chief
Sir, Almost every hour I receive information
of outrage and violence; of burning, and
plundering in the county of Daviess ; it seems
that the Mormons have become desperate
and act like mad = men, they have burned a
store in Gallatin , they have burnt Millport,
they have it is said plundered several houses
and have taken away the arms from Diverse
Citizens of that county. A cannon that was
employed in the siege of De Witt in Carroll County ,
and taken for a like purpose to Daviess County ,
has fallen into the hands of the Mormons,
it is also reported that the anti Mormons
have when opportunity offered disarmed the
Mormons, and burnt several of their houses.

The great difficulty in settling this matter
seems to be in not being able Identify the
offenders; I am convinced that nothing short
of driving the Mormons from Daviess County
will satisfy the party opposed to them, and this
I have not the power to do as I conceive
legally. There are no troops at this time in Daviess
County; nor do I deem it expedient to send any

there. ___ for I am well convinced that it would
but make matters worse, for Sir I do not feel
disposed to disgrace myself, or permit the troops
under my command to disgrace the State, and
themselves, by acting the part of a mob. If the
Mormons are to be drove from their homez
let it be done without any color of law, and
in open defiance thereof; let it be done by
volunteerz acting upon their own responsibilitiez.

However I deem it my duty to Submit these matters to the commander in chief, and will conclude by Saying it will be my greatest pleasure to execute any order your Excellency Should think proper to give in this matter with promptnesz and to the very letter.

I have the honor to be your
Excellenceys Most Obt. Servt.
David R. Atchison
Major Genl. 3rd. Dvis M. M.

N. B.

I herewith inclose to you a report from Genl. Parks, also one from Capt Bogart

D. R. A.