

Missouri State Archives: Finding Aid 5.1

Mormon War Papers, 1837-1841

[Full-text transcription of: Affidavit of Adam Black, Daviess County, MO]

I. Adam Black Citizen of Daviesz county do State as follows. To wit, That on the 11th . day of October 1838. that Mr. Henry Lee. were driven from his house in said County, he Stated that the Mormons came to his house and ordered him to leave immediately, or he would Suffer, that he were in danger, that there were a general insurrection a ware going to take place, and he had better get a way, and Mr. Lee left home on the 15th. Instant. The Post rider Stated to the Citizens of Said County, the Citizens of Caldwell were paraded in Far West , for the purpose of Marching to Daviesz County to drive all of the Citizens out of that County that were not friendly towards them.

on the 16th the mormons marched into Said county, from too [sic] to five hundred Supposed to be on the 17th. they went to Several of the Citizens of Said county and took their arms and ammuniton, and Said they intended to drive all of the Mob out of the County, on the 18th. they marched about one hundred or more men well armed to Galitin, and drove the Citizens of Said town, and robbed the Store, and Post Office, and burned the

Said Store=House, and office, they went to G. W. Thorton Post Master of Said office and drive out of his house, and robbed it, and burned it, the went to several other citizens on the Same day, and ordered them to leave the county against the next day, or they would take their livez.

on the 19th they marched threw the county and drive a number of the citizens from Said county and robbed their house and burnt them.

My house ware one amongst the rest.. About 12 O.Clock the Same (“day” crossed out) night, they were Seen burning down 5. Housez in Gallitin, the County Seat in Davisz County , on the 20th, they were Seen marching 300 men threw the county all well armed, driving the citizens before them,

robbing their houses thretning thare lives if they did not leve the Smoke ware Seen riseing from Several bldings, by the citizens of Daviesz County 21st. They marched about 400 to one Mr. William Osbers' in Daviesz County , Mr. Osbern not being at home, they threatened the life of his wife, ordered her out of her house putting the muzzles of their Guns against her, and punching her with them, and Shoved her out of her house, and told here to leve thare, and plundered and robbed her house; they then marched a cross Grand River to the North Side to Esquire Drydens, and took two

Saddles, and one pare of Saddle bagz, took his Son and nefew prisoners, marched to Mr. White in Livinston County thretning in the presents of Mrs. White, if her husband war at home they would take his life, Plundered her house took a quantity of their clothing, Several log chainz and draw chainz, took and destroyed about 50 bushels of Oats. Throde down the fences, rode threw his field of corn, and destroyed quantity of corn, took five bee=stands: they plundered two other houses in Livinston County , and took two prisoners, a Mr. Driden, and a Mr. Martin as they were returning from preeching: they then marched for thare Citey in Daviesz County , Adam on deamon, and on thare way, they took five other men prisoners in marching a Short distance they discharged three of thares prisoners, the carried 6 others on about 12 miles, where they passed threw a large company of footmen there they discharged others of their prisoners, and one of the prisoners State when he returned thare ware a company came with him to Millport, to burn Said place the lite of the fire ware seen, and next morning the Smoke ware seen rising from 5 housez next morning by Mr. Osbern it is also Stated by Col. Peniston it is burnt into ashes. 21st. it is Stated by Mr. Stone and two other men, that they Saw the mormonz

driving a large drove of Cattle from Daviesz county towards Caldwell County . Mr. Osborn States he has lost 41 or 42 head of Cattle, they have taken Several Horses from the Citizens, the amount not known, they have also taken a quantity of Pork hogs, the amount unknown, it is Supposed from the best information, there is about 800 or upwardez well armed, imbodyed in Said County , and near

about all of the Citizens of Said County have left thare houses moved thare famleys to Livingston County . thare are not a Single officer left in Said County , to execute the laws of our land. And in behalf of the citizens of Said County, and in my own behalf, ask of the Executive of the State, to be rein=Stated in Our homez. and the necessary and legal Steps to be taken to recover our property, and bring the offenders to Justice.

Adam Black