

Missouri State Archives: Finding Aid 5.1

Mormon War Papers, 1837-1841

[Full-text transcription of: Affidavit of Thomas B. March, Richmond, Ray County, MO]

Evidence of
March
copied
Oct 24th 1838

At the request of a committee of the Citizenz of Ray county I make the following statement in relation to the recent movements, plans & intentionz of the mormonz in the Countiez of Caldwell & Daviesz –

Shortly after the settlement of the difficultiez at Dewitt in Carroll County , a call was made by the Mormons at Far West, in Caldwell County for volunteers to go to Daviesz County , to disperse the mob, as they said. on the day before this Joseph Smith the prophet, had preached in which he said, that all the Mormonz, who refused to take up armz, if necessary, in difficulties with the citizenz, should be shot, or otherwise put to death; and as I was there with my family, I thought it most prudent to go, and did go with my wagon, and as the driver-

We marched to Adamondeomon, and found no troops or mob in Daviesz County- Scouting parties frequently went out & brought in intelligence that they had seen from three to five men- We got to Diamon on tuesday even: :ing, & on the next day a company of about eighty of the mormons, commanded by a man, fictitiously name Captain Fearnot, marched to Gallatin -They returned and said they had run off from Gallatin twenty or thirty men and had taken Gallatin - had taken on prisoner and another had joined the company. I afterwardz

learned from the mormonz, that they had burned Gallatin, and that it was done by the aforesaid company that marched there. The mormonz informed me that they had hauled away all the goods from the store in Gallatin ; and deposited them at the Bishop's store houses. at Adam on diahmon- On the same day Lyman Wight marched about eighty horsemen for Mills- -Port- He returned before night and called for

Joseph Smith & Hiram Smith, to report to them (said Hiram being counsellor of said Joseph the prophet) and Said Wight reported that he had been in sight of Millport- saw no one to fight, but that the people generally had gone & left their houses and property- The prophet on hearing the property was left, commenced a reply & said "We had better see to it", When Wight stopped him by saying never mind, we will have a private counsel, and Smith replied very well. The private counsel. I did not hear- The men were dismissed to go to their camps- The same evening a number of footmen came up from the direction of Millport, laden with property, which, I was informed, consisted of beds, clocks, & other household furniture- The same night, I think, about three wagons were despatched for about forty beehives, & the next day saw several hives, where they were splitting them up & taking the

honey & burning the hives, in which business of taking out the honey, but few were engaged, for fear, as they said, they would be called on as witnesses against them. When Wight returned from Millport & informed Smith that the people were gone & the property left, Smith asked him if they had left any of the negroes for them & Wight replied no. Upon which some one laughed and said to Smith, you have lost your negro []- During the same time a company, called the fur company, were sent out to bring in fat hogs & cattle-calling the hogs, bears & the cattle, buffaloes. They brought in at one time seven cattle, & at another time four or five belonging to the people of Davies- 2 hogs were brought in dead, but I know not how many, I saw only two-

They have among them a company consisting of all that and considered true mormons, called the Danites, who have taken an oath to support the leader of the Church in all things, that they say or do, whether right or wrong, many however of this band are much dissatisfied with this oath, as being against moral and religious principles. On Saturday last I am informed by the mormons, that they had a meeting at Far West at which they appointed a company of twelve by the name of the destruction company, for the purpose of burning & destroying & that if the people of Buncombe came to do mischief upon the people of Caldwell. & committed depredations on the mormons.

they were to burn Buncombe & if the people of Clay

& Ray made any movements against them, this destroying company were to burn Liberty & Richmond . This burning was to be done secretly by going as incendiariz. At the same meeting I was informed they passed a decree that no mormon dissenter should leave Caldwell county alive & that such as attempted to do it should be shot down & sent to tell their tale in eternity. In a conversation between Doct. Avar & other mormonz, said Avar proposed to start a pestilence among the gentiles as he called them by poisoning their corns, fruit &c. and saying it was the work of the Lord- and said Avar advocated lying for the support of their religion, & said it was no harm to lie for the Lord. The plan of said Smith, the prophet, is to take this State, & he professez to his people to intend taking the U.S. & ultimately the whole world- This is the belief of the Church & my own opinion of the prophet's plan & intentions-

It is my opinion that neither said Joseph Smith the prophet nor any one of the principal men who is firm in the faith, could be indicted for any offence in the County of Caldwell . The prophet inculcates the notion, & it is believed by every true mormon, that Smithz prophecies are superior to the law of the land.

I have heard the prophet say that he should yet tread down his enemies & walk over their dead bodies- That if he was not let alone he would be a Mahomet to this generation, & that he would make it
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it one gore of blood, from the Rocky mountains to the Atlantic ocean . That like Mahomet, whose motto, in treating for peace was the Alcoran, or the sword. So should it be eventually with us. Jo Smith or the sword-

These last statements were made during the last summer. The number of armed men at Adamondiamon, was between three & four hundred

Thomas B. Marsh

Richmond mo.

October the 24th 1838

Sworn to & subscribed before me
the day herein written

Henry Jacobs. J. P. Ray County Mo.

The most of the Statements in the foregoing descriptions of Thomas B. March, I know to be true- the remainder I believe to be true.

Richmond . Oct: 24th . 1838

Orson Hyde

sworn to and subscribed before
me on the day above written

Henry Jacobs J. P.

The undersigned committee on the part of the
Citizens of Ray County have no doubt, but that
Thomas B. Marsh & Orson Hide, whose names are
signed to the foregoing certificates have been members
of the Mormon church, in full fellowship until very
recently, when they voluntarily abandoned the mormon