

Head Quarters 3rd Division
Mo. Militia
Liberty 20th Sept 1838.

To His Excellency, The Commander in Chief of the Mo. Mi
Sir The troops ordered out for the purpose
of putting down the insurrection supposed to exist in
the Counties of Laviess and Leadwell, were discharged
on the 20th Inst. with the exception of two Companies
of the Ray Militia, now stationed in the County
of Laviess under the command of Brigadier
Genl. Parks, it was deemed necessary in the
state of excitement in that County that those
Companies should remain there for a short
period longer. say some twenty days. until
confidence and tranquility should be restored.
The reason that an Officer of Genl. Parks
rank was left in command were 1st that if
necessary he might call to his assistance upon
the shortest notice the whole force of his Brigade
2nd The moral influence of an Officer of his
rank would be greater than an Officer of less
grade, 3rd I could not find an Officer of less grade
in my Division to manage affairs of so much

delicacy and importance. All The Offenders against
The law in That County against whom process was
taken-out, were arrested and brought before a Court
of enquiry, and recognized to appear at The Circuit
Court. Mr. Thomas C. Burch attended to The prosecutions
on The part of The State. The Citizens of Other Counties
who came in armed to The assistance of The Citizens
of Daviess County have dispersed, and returned to
Their respective homes, and The Mormons have also
returned to Their homes; so That I consider The
insurrection for The present, at least to be at an end
but from The state of feeling in The County of Daviess
and The adjoining Counties it is very much to be
feared, that it will break out again, and if so
without The interposition of The Commander in Chief
The consequences will be awful. From The best
information I can get, there are about two hundred
and fifty Mormon families in Daviess County,
nearly one half of The population, and The whole of
The Mormon forces in Daviess Caldwell, and The
adjoining Counties, are estimated at from thirteen
to fifteen hundred men Capable of bearing arms

If an attack is made upon The Mormons
in Daviess County for The purpose of driving Them
8 from That County it is very much to be feared

that the Mormons to a man will assist the Mormons of that County, this will be the case I have no doubt.

I will further inform your excellency that the Mormons are well armed most of them being equipped with a good Rifle or Musket, a brace of large belt-pistols, and a broad sword; so that from their position, their fanaticism and their unalterable determination not to be driven, much blood will be spilt, and much suffering endured, if a blow is once struck without the interposition of your excellency.

Major Rogers I presume has given your excellency a history of the immediate cause of the disturbance in Daviess County, and also Judge King has given a detail of facts as far as he could learn them. I send you Copies of Judge King's Communication to me upon the subject of ordering out a Military force; also a petition from the Citizens of Ray County I was also urged to take that step by Citizens of the most respectable class in the County of Clay; and I was urged to it by Citizens of Daviess County, also of Caldwell County from all which representations, I deemed it my duty to order out the Military forces. And I have now no doubt of the propriety of the measure & it has prevented blood being shed for the

present, and I am in hopes for the future, it has convinced the Mormons, that the law will be enforced, and other citizens that it can be enforced, and is ample to redress all grievances.

The Mormons of Daviess County, as I stated in a former report were encamped in a town called Adam Se amun, and are headed by Lyman Wight, a bold, brave skillful, and I may add desperate man. They appeared to be acting on the defensive, and I must further add gave up the offenders with a great deal of promptness; The arms taken by the Mormons and prisoners were also given up upon demand with seeming cheerfulness. Your order in relation to raising five hundred mounted men will be attended to with promptness.

I have the honor to be &c

David R. Atchison,
Major Genl. 3^d Division
Mo. Mi.