

Missouri Mormon War Timeline of Events

Sunday, June 17, 1838

Sidney Rigdon's Salt Speech

Sidney Rigdon used Matthew 5:13 as the theme for his discourse: "Ye are the salt of the earth: but if the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall it be salted? It is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men." Rigdon used the spiritual metaphor to encourage the Saints to cast out the dissenters from the Latter-day Saint communities.

Wednesday, July 4, 1838

Sidney Rigdon's 4th of July Speech

Speaking of the Constitution of the United States, Rigdon proclaimed the Church's rights and freedom from its enemies. The sentiment expressed in the sermon was indicative of a new attitude some of the members of the Church were taking toward their enemies – that they were justified in taking up arms against persecutors.

Monday, August 6, 1838

Election Day Battle at Gallatin

William P. Peniston, a candidate for state legislator and a staunch foe of the Saints, mounted a barrel at the polling site of the Gallatin Election stating, "The Mormon leaders are a set of horse thieves, liars, counterfeiters, and you know they profess to heal the sick, and cast out devils, and you also know that is a lie." This action led to an all-out brawl between the Gentiles and the Saints. Several men are severely injured.

Wednesday, August 8, 1838

Agreement of Peace

Joseph Smith and other members ride to Gallatin following exaggerated reports of the death of several Saints during the Gallatin Election Day fight. Arriving at Lyman Wight's home at Adam-ondi-Ahman they learn the truth – that nobody was killed. They ride to Justice of the Peace Adam Black and demand that he sign an "agreement of peace." Black refuses and later issues a complaint against Joseph Smith, Lyman Wight and others.

Tuesday, August 28, 1838

Arrest Warrant Issued

Daviess County Justice of the Peace Adam Black issues a sworn statement before Justice of the Peace William Dryden stating that Joseph Smith and others

threaten him on August 8, 1838, if he did not sign a petition not to molest the people called Mormons.. Warrants of arrest are issued for Joseph Smith and Lyman Wight.

Thursday, August 30, 1838

B. M. Lisle, Adjutant General Jefferson City, letter to Major General David R. Atchison 3d Div. Missouri Militia, Richmond, MO

Adjutant General B. M. Lisle dispatches orders from the Commander-in-Chief, Governor Lilburn W. Boggs to Major General Atchison to raise immediately, in his division, four hundred men, mounted and equipped. This is to be done because of the indications of Indian disturbances on "our immediate frontier" and recent civil disturbances of Caldwell, Daviess and Carroll Counties. Note: Similar letters to Generals John B. Clark, Samuel D. Lucas, David Willock, Lewis Bolton, Henry W. Crowther and Thomas D. Grant.

Saturday, September 1, 1838

Indian Scheme Letter

Daniel Ashby, James Keyle, and Sterling Price of Brunswick, Missouri send a letter to Governor Boggs concerned over a scheme of the Mormons to use the Indians to "work general destruction of all that is not Mormon," and contains a statement by an ex-Mormon, Nathan Marsh, confirming their fears of this plan. The signers suggest issuing orders of the Militia in case of emergency.

Sunday, September 2, 1838

Letters by Joseph Smith

Joseph Smith writes two letters: one to Major General David R. Atchison and one to Circuit Judge Austin A. King. Smith requests legal assistance from Atchison. Smith prays that Judge King will assist in putting down "the mob" then collecting in Daviess County.

Tuesday, September 4, 1838

Joseph Smith and Lyman Wight surrender to authorities

Upon learning of the complaint filed by Adam Black and a warrant of arrest issued by Judge Dryden, Joseph Smith and Lyman Wight surrender to authorities on September 4, 1838. They request a hearing before Circuit Court Judge Austin A. King.

Missouri Mormon War Timeline of Events

Wednesday, September 5, 1838

Joseph Smith Jr. Affidavit

Joseph Smith executes an affidavit before Caldwell County Justice of the Peace, Elias Higbee, explaining how he had met with Justice of the Peace Adam Black August 8, 1838, in an attempt to stop the violent actions toward the Saints. He states that Black has been “engaged in endeavoring to drive” the Saints from Daviess County.

Thursday, September 6, 1838

Clerk of Circuit Court of Carroll County, Carrollton, MO letter to Governor Boggs

Affidavit of John N. Sapp relative to the Mormons in Daviess County. Swears that he was a member of the Sect but left Aug. 15 last, by stealth; tells of the building of block-houses and the arming of groups of men designated as Danites and of their object of inducing the Indians to help them in making war on the Missourians. Sworn before Clerk of County Court, Joseph Dickson.

Thursday, September 6, 1838

Preliminary Hearing Delayed Daviess County, MO

Circuit Court Judge Austin King opens a preliminary hearing of Joseph Smith and Lyman Wight, at the residence of a Mr. Littlefield. A mob attends and disrupted the hearing. No testimony is taken and the hearing is continued until 10 o'clock the next morning at the residence of a Mr. Raglin, eight miles further south and within a half-mile of the Caldwell county line.

Friday, September 7, 1838

Preliminary Hearing before Circuit Judge Austin A. King Daviess County, MO

The preliminary hearing is reconvened, September 7, 1838. William P. Peniston is the prosecutor. Adam Black is the sole witness for the State. The defendants, Joseph Smith Jr. and Lyman Wight are represented by David R. Atchison and Alexander Doniphan. The defense introduces testimony by Dimick B. Huntington, Gideon Carter, Adam Lightner, and George W. Robinson. The defendants are bound over for trial at the Daviess County circuit court and released on a \$500 bond each. Trial is set for November.

Sunday, September 9, 1838

Stockpile of Weapons Seized

Church members seize a stockpile of weapons they had found. These weapons were illegally obtained by the mob and were being sent to assist vigilante forces in Daviess County. Three men are arrested that were guarding the weapons. The men are taken to Far West. Upon hearing this report General Atchison ordered that the three prisoners and the weapons be turned over to him, and the Saints complied.

Monday, September 10, 1838

Hon. Austin A. King Judge 5th Judicial Circuit, Richmond, MO letter to Major General David R. Atchison 3d Div. Missouri Militia

Judge King states, “I do not know of any authority I have to direct your movement in the matter, but I will advise you and hope you may deem it your duty to act in the matter to send a force Say of 200 men... (to) dispel the forces in Daviess and all the assembled armed forces in Caldwell, and while there cause those Mormons who refuse to give up, to surrender and be recognized for it will not do to compromise the law with them.” He encloses the petition from citizens of Ray County to General Atchison requesting “aid to suppress this insurrection.”

Tuesday, September 11, 1838

Major General David R. Atchison orders to

Brigadier General Alexander Doniphan

Major General Atchison, orders Brigadier General Doniphan to Daviess and Caldwell Counties to put down any insurrection.

Wednesday, September 12, 1838

Citizens of Daviess and Livingston Counties, letter to Governor Boggs, Jefferson City

Letter requests protection from the Mormons and recounts attack on Adam Black and the capture of guns, ammunition and prisoners by the Mormons. They ask protection and support from the State. Signed by George F. Prichard before Clerk of Court, R. Wilson.

Missouri Mormon War Timeline of Events

Wednesday, September 12, 1838

**Major General David R. Atchison,
Headquarters, 3d Div. Missouri Militia,
Richmond, MO
letter to Governor Boggs,
Jefferson City, MO**

General Atchison advised that from information received from counties of Daviess and Caldwell, he is convinced an insurrection does exist. Actions to put down the insurrection are listed by him, including assistance to civil officers and citizens of Daviess and Caldwell Counties. Acknowledged assistance of Col. Wiley C. Williams, his aide.

Saturday, September 15, 1838

**William Dryden, Justice of the Peace,
Daviess County**

letter to Governor Boggs, Jefferson City, MO

Petition regarding Dryden's actions taken as a result of Adam Black's affidavit and the appointment of Nathaniel H. Blakely as special deputy to serve writ issued by Dryden for the arrest of the parties listed in the affidavit. He reports that arrest of the men and requests the Governor to furnish civil officers for the counties of Daviess and Caldwell to execute the laws of the land.

Saturday, September 15, 1838

**Governor Boggs, Jefferson City, MO
letter to B. M. Lisle,**

Attorney General, Jefferson City, MO

Governor Boggs directs Lisle to issue an order to Major General David R. Atchison to use his troops to aid the civil officers of Daviess County in executing their duties.

Saturday, September 15, 1838

**B. M. Lisle, Attorney General, Jefferson City, MO
letter to Major General Samuel D. Lucas,
4th Div. Missouri Militia, Independence, MO**

Governor Boggs orders General Lucas to march immediately, with the 400 mounted men he was ordered to raise August 30th, to the scene of the difficulties and cooperate with General Atchison. NOTE: Similar letter addressed to Major Generals Lewis Bolton, John B. Clark and Thomas D. Grant.

Saturday, September 15, 1838

**Brig. Gen. Alexander W. Doniphan, Headquarters,
1st Brig., 3d Div. Missouri Militia, Camp at Grand
River, MO. letter to Major Gen. David R. Atchison,
3d Div. Missouri Militia., Richmond, MO**

Letter concerns movements of militia into Caldwell and Daviess Counties in order to confiscate guns from Mormons and non-Mormons. Doniphan arrives at Far West and collects weapons then goes on to Millport where he negotiates between Mormons and non-Mormons.

Monday, September 17, 1838

**Major Gen. David R. Atchison, Headquarters, 3d
Div. Missouri Militia, Grand River, MO**

letter to Governor Boggs, Jefferson City, MO

Letter relates to the movement of Atchison's Division from their headquarters at Grand River in Daviess County and the discovery of two to three hundred armed citizens of Livingston, Carroll and Saline Counties. The Mormons have gathered at Adam-on-di-Ahman and are acting on the defensive. Orders all armed men to their homes. Wants to discharge troops leaving only fifty men in each county. General Atchison includes a report from General Doniphan.

Tuesday, September 18, 1838

**orders from Governor Boggs
to Major General Samuel D. Lucas**

Governor Boggs, undoubtedly considering the force under Major General Atchison too small, or perhaps considering Atchison too pacific in his actions, orders the 4th Division of the Militia, under Major General Samuel D. Lucas, to the scene of trouble, and to cooperate with the forces under General Atchison.

Saturday, September 22, 1838

**Petition from certain Mormons, DeWitt, MO
letter to Governor Boggs, Jefferson City, MO**

Petition from Mormons at DeWitt, Carroll County asking for protection from lawless mob of one hundred and fifty armed men.

Missouri Mormon War Timeline of Events

Sunday, September 23, 1838

**Gen. David R. Atchison, Headquarters,
3d Div. Missouri Militia, Liberty, MO**

letter to Governor Boggs, Jefferson City, Mo.

Letter on the situation in Daviess and Caldwell Counties. Brigadier General Parks assigned to pacify the area, states that the Mormons, although quiet, are well armed “and their fanaticism, and their unalterable determination not to be driven, much blood will be spilt, and much suffering, if a blow is once struck, without the interposition of your Excellency.”

Sunday, September 23, 1838

**Maj. Gen. David R. Atchison, Headquarters,
3d Div. Missouri Militia, Liberty, MO**

letter to Governor Boggs, Jefferson City, MO

General Atchison states that problems in Caldwell and Daviess Counties have been put down by Brigadier General Parks and law-breakers brought to justice.

Sunday, September 23, 1838

**Peter G. Glover, Secretary of State, Jefferson City,
MO letter to Governor Boggs, Jefferson City, MO**

Secretary of State Peter G. Glover informs the Governor that he is sending Jesse B. Barber with important documents. They show no need to raise a certain Division of troops.

September 1838

**B. M. Lisle, Attorney General,
Headquarters of Missouri, Jonesborough, MO
letter to Maj. Gen. John B. Clark,
1st Div. Missouri Militia**

Lisle informs General John Clark that “the troops under your command destined for that service be immediately discharged.” NOTE: Similar letter sent to Generals H. W. Crowther, Samuel D. Lucas and Lewis Bolton.

September 1838

**Brig. Gen. H. G. Parks, Headquarters,
2d Brig., 3d Div. Missouri Militia, Millport, MO
letter to Governor Boggs, Jefferson City, MO**

General Parks states that he has calmed Daviess and Caldwell Counties. A trial of Mormon lawbreakers would take place on Friday the 18th and he states “I am happy to say that my exertions as those of Major General Atchison and the officers and men under my command have been crowned with success.”

September 20 – October 11, 1838

The Siege of DeWitt

On Thursday, September 20, 1838, a mob marched into DeWitt, a town settled predominantly by Saints, and ordered them to gather their property and leave within 10 days. The Saints sent please to government officials, including Governor Boggs, for assistance.

On Monday, October 1, 1838, the mob began harassing the Saints and later laid siege against the town.

Colonel George M. Hinkle, Caldwell County Militia is sent to DeWitt.

On Saturday, October 6, 1838, the Prophet Joseph Smith arrives at DeWitt.

Thursday, October 11, 1838, outnumbered and low on food the Saints left Carroll County for Far West.

Tuesday, September 25, 1838

**Brig. Gen. H. G. Parks, Headquarters,
2nd Brig., 3d Div. Missouri Militia, Millport, MO
letter to Maj. Gen. David R. Atchison,
3d Div. Missouri Militia, Liberty, MO**

General Parks advises the Governor that no more troops will be needed against the Mormons, but he fears some men will attempt to attack the Mormons. He states, “Whatever may have been the disposition of the people called Mormons, before our arrival here, since we have made our appearance they have shown no disposition to resist the laws, or of hostile intentions.” He concludes, “There has been so much prejudice and exaggeration concerned in this matter, that I found things entirely different from what I was prepared to expect. 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 Mormons, without being called out by the proper authorities.” The letter ends with, “The determination of the Daviess County men is to drive the Mormons with powder and lead.”

Thursday, September 27, 1838

**Maj. Gen. David R. Atchison,
3d Div. Missouri Militia, Liberty, MO
letter to Governor Boggs, Jefferson City, MO**

General Atchison informs the Governor that things in Daviess County are going well and that any talk to the contrary are “exaggerated statements of designing or half crazy men.”

Missouri Mormon War Timeline of Events

Thursday, October 4, 1838

**Maj. Gen. Samuel D. Lucas, 4th Div.
Missouri Militia, Boonville, MO**

letter to Governor Boggs, Jefferson City, MO

General Lucas relates that he has confronted a force of 200 Mormons who claimed the non-Mormons were moving on them. He is afraid that the citizens of Carroll County will attack Mormons if any non-Mormon is killed.

Friday, October 5, 1838

**Maj. Gen. David R. Atchison, 3d Div.
Missouri Militia, Boonville, MO**

letter to Governor Boggs, Jefferson City, MO

General Atchison reports to Boggs that situations have changed. Included is copy of a letter from Brigadier General Parks stating that citizens of Carroll County were trying to drive Mormons out. Daviess County still quiet.

Friday, October 5, 1838

**Report of the Committee of Chariton County
signed by John W. Price and William K. Logan**

Meeting with non-Mormons near DeWitt. Plans to force Mormons out of DeWitt. Request for intervention by civil authorities.

Saturday, October 6, 1838

Joseph Smith arrives at DeWitt

Sunday, October 7, 1838

Brig. Gen. H. G. Parks, 2d Brig., 3d Div.

Missouri Militia, 5 miles from DeWitt, MO

letter to Maj. Gen. David R. Atchison, 3d Div.

Missouri Militia, Boonville, MO

General Parks reports he has need for more troops. He calls on General Alexander Doniphan for aid. States that Carroll County men are violent and want Mormons out. Asks for visit by Governor.

Tuesday, October 9, 1838

**Maj. Gen. David R. Atchison, 3d Div.
Missouri Militia, Boonville, MO**

letter to Governor Boggs, Jefferson City, MO

General Atchison outlines problems of General Parks. Wants to get Mormons to sell land. Will forward communications from Parks to Governor. Feels Governor should meet him at Boonville.

Tuesday, October 9, 1838

**Maj. Gen. John B. Clark, 1st Div.
Missouri Militia, Boonville, MO**

letter to Governor Boggs, Jefferson City, MO

Cover letter from General Clark and documents. Citizens of Carroll County petition Howard County citizens for aid against Mormons, statement of Adam Woods, citizens on the actions of Mormons in DeWitt, Carroll County.

Saturday, October 13, 1838

**Capt. Bogart, Elk Horn, Ray County, MO
letter to Governor Boggs, Jefferson City, MO**

Captain Bogart describes how General Parks prevented him from moving against Mormons. States that Mormons will overrun Daviess County. Asks for help from Governor before "our Country is ruined."

Tuesday, October 16, 1838

**Maj. Gen. David R. Atchison, 3d Div.
Missouri Militia, Boonville, MO**

letter to Governor Boggs, Jefferson City, MO

General Atchison informs the Governor that Mormons of Carroll County have sold out and left. Atchison states, "Nothing in my opinion but the strongest measures within the power of the Executive will put down this spirit of mobocracy." He further described the actions of the mob to the point as "ruinous to the people and disgraceful to the State." Governor Boggs does nothing.

Sunday, October 21, 1838

**William Morgan, Sheriff, Daviess County, MO
letter to Governor Boggs, Jefferson City, MO**

Affidavit of Sheriff Morgan states that he saw Mormons burn store and house of Jacob Stollings. Daviess County is in a state of terror. Includes a September 22, 1838 Affidavit of Philip Covington, Justice of Peace. Covington states he saw Mormons burn Gallatin, rob a store and post office. Burning of local dwellings.

Missouri Mormon War Timeline of Events

Sunday, October 21, 1838

**Col. William P. Pension, 60th Reg., 2d Brig., 3d Div.
Missouri Militia, Daviess County, MO
letter to Governor Boggs, Jefferson City, MO**

Correspondence with affidavits from several individuals regarding the action of the Mormons burning Gallatin in Millport. He asks the government for aid against “this banditti of Canadian refugees.”

**Monday, October 22, 1838
Affidavit of Samuel Venable**

Reports that he was with refugees from Mormons burning of Gallatin and that they included several women who were pregnant and had been forced out.

**Monday, October 22, 1838
Affidavit of Jonathan J. Dryden**

Taken prisoner by Mormons and then released. Relates the Mormons told him they had to take up arms because they believed the Governor “to be as big a mob man as any of them.”

**Monday, October 22, 1838
Affidavit of James Stone**

Testifies that Mormons forced him from his house at 10 o'clock at night. Saw Mormons stealing cattle.

**Monday, October 22, 1838
Affidavit of Thomas J. Martin**

Tells of Mormons capturing him and demanding that he tell them all he knows of the militia or he would be “laid on the sod and let the birds eat me.”

**Monday, October 22, 1838
Maj. Gen. David R. Atchison, 3d Div.
Missouri Militia, Liberty, MO**

letter to Governor Boggs, Jefferson City, MO

General Atchison tells the Governor that nothing short of driving the Mormons from the county will satisfy the non-Mormons. Atchison considers it a disgrace to himself and to the state for the soldiers under his command to act the part of a mob and drive the Mormons from the county. He awaits governor's orders. Includes letters from Generals Parks and Captain Bogart.

Monday, October 21, 1838

**Brig. Gen. H. B. Parks, 2d Brig., 3d Div.
Missouri Militia, Richmond, MO
letter to Maj. Gen. David R. Atchison, 3d Div.
Missouri Militia, Liberty, MO**

(This letter was included with Gen. Atchison's report of October 22nd.) General Parks reports that a snow-storm prevented him from joining General Doniphan. Saw at Adam-on-di-Ahman 500 Mormons under arms. They said “they had been driven from DeWitt and other places and here they were determined to stand and die rather than be driven from that place.” He awaits orders.

Tuesday, October 23, 1838

**Capt. Samuel Bogart, Elk Horn, Ray County, MO
letter to Maj. Gen. David R. Atchison, 3d Div.
Missouri Militia, Liberty, MO**

(This letter was included with Gen. Atchison's report of October 22nd.) Captain Bogart reports that Mormons have destroyed Gallatin and Millport and devastated Daviess County. He is moving his troops to the Ray-Caldwell County border. Awaits orders.

Tuesday, October 23, 1838

**Citizens of Ray County, Richmond MO
letter to Governor Boggs, Jefferson City, MO**

Describes Mormon attacks on citizens of the county. Loss of \$2,000 worth of property belonging to George Worthington. Says Mormons will destroy them if troops do not arrive to protect them.

Tuesday, October 23, 1838

**Thomas C. Burch, Richmond, MO
letter to Governor Boggs, Jefferson City, MO**

Ray County Circuit Attorney Thomas S. Burch writes that Mormon dissenters, opposed to the Danites, are testifying that the Danites are taking part in the raids on non-Mormons. States that Smith wants to revolutionize the United States and that Smith “is as lawless and consummate a scoundrel as ever was the veiled prophet Chovassin.”

Burch will later prosecute the Saints during the Richmond Court of Inquiry, November 12-29, 1838.

Burch will then be appointed Judge of the Eleventh Judicial Circuit and will be the Judge that hears the case at Gallatin, April 10-14, 1839.

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Wednesday, October 24, 1838 Proceedings of a Public Meeting Ray County, Richmond, MO

A series of resolutions by local people requesting that Mormons be forced from the county with the aid of the militia by raising local volunteers.

Wednesday, October 24, 1838 Report of Messrs. C. R. Morehead, Wm. Thornton and Jacob Gudgel, Richmond, MO

Reports that Daviess County is destroyed and deserted by non-Mormons. Reports of cattle being stolen by Mormons and a slave being taken.

Wednesday, October 24, 1838 Hon. Austin A. King, Richmond, MO letter to Governor Boggs, Jefferson City, MO

Judge King states that Joseph Smith made a speech to excite the people. Claims that Smith led three to four hundred men to burn Gallatin and Millport. States that there is a group of twelve called the "Destructives," whose duty it is to watch the movements of men and of committees and to avenge themselves for supposed wrongful movement against them by privately burning houses, property and even laying in ashes, towns, etc.

Wednesday, October 24, 1838

Affidavit of Henry Marks, Ray County, MO

The son of Mormons, not one himself, heard Mormons say they hauled off goods from Gallatin. Losses in Jackson County to be avenged from Daviess County.

Wednesday, October 24, 1838

Affidavit of Adam Black, Daviess County, MO

Justice of the Peace Adam Black claims he saw Daviess County plundered by Mormons. Witnessed burning of houses including his own. Capture of prisoners, cattle stolen from Mr. Osburn, no civil officers left in Daviess County.

Wednesday, October 24, 1838

Affidavit of Thomas B. Marsh and Orson Hyde Ray County, MO

Apostles Thomas B. Marsh and Orson Hyde apostatized from the Church and on October 24th sign an affidavit stating that the Saints intended to "make it one gore of blood, from the Rocky Mountains to the Atlan-

tic Ocean." Quotes Joseph Smith as saying he would convert the world to Mormonism as to choose between "Joseph Smith or the Sword." Marsh was the President of the Quorum of the Twelve.

Orson Hyde testifies that statements of Thomas March and himself are true, and supported by former Mormons and are convinced of their immorality and impiety.

October 1838

Ray County Militia

Seizes prisoners in Caldwell County

Led by Captain Samuel Bogart, the Ray County militia cross into Caldwell County, harass several families and take three men prisoners.

Wednesday, October 24, 1838

Caldwell County Militia

prepares to retrieve prisoners

On October 24th, word that three Saints had been captured reached Church leaders in Far West. Elias Higbee, a judge in Caldwell County, authorized the Caldwell County militia to retrieve the prisoners and quell what they thought was a mob.

Thursday, October 25, 1838

Battle of Crooked River

Captain David W. Patten leads the Caldwell Militia into Ray County. At dawn the two militia engage in a brief but violent fight. Caldwell Militia casualties include 3 killed and 7 wounded. Ray County Militia casualties include 1 killed and 6 wounded. Captain Patten of the Quorum of the Twelve in one of the fatalities. The Ray County Militia flees into the woods, which leads to rumors that all the men were killed.

Thursday, October 25, 1838

Wiley C. Williams and Amos Rees, Sachel Woods and Joseph Dickson, deposes to Maj. Gen John B. Clark 1st Div. Missouri Militia

Deposition states the Saints "have determined to attack and burn Richmond to night."

Wiley C. Williams and Amos Rees are attorneys living at Richmond. While living in Clay County, Rees had served as an attorney for the Saints following their expulsion from Jackson County in 1833.

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The lower portion of the deposition states “that Capt Bogard and all his company amounting to between fifty and sixty were massacred by the Mormons...” This portion of the letter is signed by Sachel Woods, a Presbyterian minister and Joseph Dickson, Clerk of the Carroll County Circuit Court.

Thursday October 25, 1838 Hawn’s Mill Weapons Seized

Militia from Livingston, Daviess and Carroll Counties enter Hawn’s Mill and order the men to surrender their weapons. Some men comply - others do not.

Friday, October 26, 1838

B. M. Lisle, Adjutant General, Jefferson City, MO letter to Maj. Gen. John B. Clark, 1st Div. Missouri Militia

Release of Maj. Gen. David R. Atchison

Governor orders 1st, 4th, 5th, 6th, and 12th Divisions of militia called up to put down the Mormons.

Major General David R. Atchison (3rd Division) was marching his troops toward Richmond; however, he is released by Governor Boggs as Commander of the State Militia in Northern Missouri. Major General John B. Clark (1st Division) replaces Atchison.

Major General Atchison and his law partner, Brigadier General Alexander Doniphan, had served as the Saints’ attorneys following their expulsion from Jackson County in 1833.

Saturday, October 27, 1838 Extermination Order

Governor Lilburn W. Boggs issues the Extermination Order. Address to Major General John B. Clark, Commanding Officer of the Northern Missouri Militia, Boggs states, “The Mormons must be treated as enemies and must be exterminated or driven from the State if necessary...”

Sunday, October 28, 1838

Major General David R. Atchison, 3d Div. Missouri Militia, Richmond, MO letter to Governor Boggs, Jefferson City, MO

General Atchison informs the Governor that they have raised 2,000 troops to put down Mormons. Atchison asks the Governor to come to the “seat of war.”

(It is obvious by this correspondence that Atchison has not learn that he was removed from command two days earlier.)

Monday, October 29, 1838, Captain Nehemiah Comstock Confiscates Weapons at Hawn’s Mill

On October 29, 1838, Captain Nehemiah Comstock, Livingston Militia assures the Saints at Hawn’s Mill of their safety if they would but surrender their arms – many surrendered their muskets while others did not. The following afternoon the Saints were attacked.

Tuesday, October 30, 1838 Hawn’s Mill Massacre

Led by Colonel Thomas Jennings, militia from Livingston, Daviess and Carroll counties attack the Saints at Hawn’s Mill. 17 Saints were killed, including 2 small boys, while another 14 were injured. The militia searched the bodies stealing coats, boots, guns and money. The militia then ransacked the cabins and tents stealing bedding, food and livestock. The looting continued for 10 days.

Tuesday, October 30, 1838

Major Gen. Samuel D. Lucas Assumes Command

Major General Lucas learns that Major General John B. Clark is sick. Not wanting to wait for General Clark, General Lucas assumed command of the Missouri Militia and marches toward Far West.

Tuesday, October 30, 1838

Major Gen. John B. Clark, 1st Div. Missouri Militia Camp at Chariton, MO letter to Generals. Samuel D. Lucas, 4th Div. and David R. Atchison, 3d Div.

Militia is on road to Richmond. Will send orders. Will wait to hear if Governor will meet him, if not will go to Richmond.

Wednesday, October 31, 1838 Major General Samuel D. Lucas arrests Mormon leaders Far West, MO

Colonel George H. Hinkle, Commanding Officers Caldwell Militia, leads Mormon leaders to Major General Lucas at Far West, Missouri. The Mormons believe they are meeting to negotiate peace terms. General Lucas arrests Joseph Smith, Sidney Rigdon, Parley P. Pratt, George W. Robinson and Lyman Wight. Hinkle would later claim that he surrendered the Prophet to avoid further bloodshed.

Missouri Mormon War Timeline of Events

Thursday, November 1, 1838

**Far West under Siege
Court Martial**

Hyrum Smith and Amasa Lyman are arrested. All Saints ordered to surrender their arms, homes are searched, much looting and criminal acts committed by the Missouri Militia during this time and the days to follow. Major General Lucas holds a one-hour court martial and orders the men shot the next morning at 9 o'clock. Brigadier General Doniphan refuses to carry out this order.

Thursday, November 1, 1838

**Governor Boggs, Jefferson City, MO
letter to Gen. John B. Clark, 1st Div.
Missouri Militia, Chariton, MO**

Governor gives Clark authority to do what he needs to put down Mormons. "The ringleaders of this rebellion should be made an example of; and if it should become necessary for the public peace, the Mormons should be exterminated or expelled from the state."

This second letter of extermination also reads, "you will therefore proceed without delay to execute the former orders..." and directing General Clark, "Should you need the aid of artillery I would suggest that an application be made to the Commanding Officer at Ft. Leavenworth for such as you many need..."

Thursday, November 1, 1838

Gen. John B. Clark, 1st Div. Missouri Militia, Camp near Carrollton, MO to Gens. Samuel D. Lucas, 4th Div. and David R. Atchison, 3d Div.

Arrival of Lucas and Atchison at Far West. They should protect Non-Mormons. Hold all prisoners until Clark arrives. Block Mormon attempts to leave Far West by the north. Hopes Governor will join him tomorrow.

Friday, November 2, 1838

**Maj. Gen. Samuel D. Lucas, 4th Div.
Missouri Militia,
Camp near Far West, MO**

letter to Governor Boggs, Jefferson City, MO

General Lucas explains the arrival of troops at Far West. Term struck with Colonel Hinkel. Mormon Commander marching units of troops. Actions of militia to Mormon surrender. (No mention that he held a Court Martial and ordered the men to be shot.)

Friday, November 2, 1838

Prisoners sent to Independence

Brigadier General Wilson is ordered by Major General Lucas to take the seven prisoners to Independence (transported in a large heavy wagon) and guarded by 300 soldiers. (This order is in direct violation of orders from Major General Clark to take all prisoners to Richmond. Lucas remained at Far West and then left the next day and caught up with General Wilson.

Saturday, November 3, 1838

**Maj. Gen. John B. Clark, 1st Div. Missouri Militia,
Richmond, MO to Maj. Gen. Samuel D. Lucas, 4th
Div. Missouri Militia**

General Clark wants to know of General Lucas' movements. Angry he has not been kept informed. "I have heretofore directed you to report to me of your movements in your operations against the Mormons, but you have not done so or ever sent me a line except a pencil scrawl accidentally found in a bar room of the tavern at Richmond." Issues orders on holding prisoners and collecting arms.

Saturday, November 3, 1838

Joseph Smith prophecy

Parley P. Pratt wrote, "As we arose and commenced our march on the morning of the 3d of November, Joseph Smith spoke to me and the other prisoners, in a low, but cheerful and confidential tone; said he: "Be of good cheer, brethren; the word of the Lord came to me last night that our lives should be given us, and that whatever we may suffer during this captivity, not one of our lives should be taken."

Saturday, November 3, 1838

**Major General Lucas and Brigadier General Moses
En route to Independence, MO**

General Lucas has caught up with General Moses, transporting the 7 prisoners to Independence. They arrive at the Missouri River. The men must cross via a ferry. Both Lucas and Moses and some of the soldiers cross the Missouri River – travel a short distance and camp. Not all the 300 soldiers are able to cross before night.

Missouri Mormon War Timeline of Events

Sunday, November 4, 1838

**Gen. John B. Clark, Headquarters
Missouri Militia, Far West, MO**

**letter to Gen. H. G. Parks, 2d Brig., 3d Div.
Missouri Militia**

General Clark instructs General Parks that it is all right to obey Lucas' orders. Parks is instructed to take all male Mormons prisoners. Protect property "as far as possible." Will settle property disputes when he gets there.

**Sunday, November 4, 1838
Independence, MO**

The remainder of the soldiers cross the Missouri River. The prisoners arrive at Independence at about 3:00 p.m. General Lucas parades his prisoners before the citizens of Independence.

Joseph Smith is able to teach a lady the principles of the Church, thus fulfilling a prophecy that an Elder of the Church shall yet teach in Jackson County this year. The prisoners are housed in a vacant log house just north of and across the street from Independence' public square. A day or two after their arrival the prisoners are moved to the Noland Hotel – corner of Main and Maple.

**Sunday, November 4, 1838
Far West, MO**

Major General Clark arrives at Far West. He learns that Major General Lucas took 7 prisoners to Independence – not Richmond. He sends a detachment to Independence to take the prisoners to Richmond

Monday, November 5, 1838

General Clark interrogated Latter-day Saint Colonel George M. Hinkle and arrests 46 more Saints.

Monday, November 5, 1838

**Major Gen. Samuel D. Lucas, 4th Div.
Missouri Militia, Independence, MO**

letter to Governor Boggs, Jefferson City, MO

General Lucas reports to the Governor that he has received the surrender of the Mormons. Outlines conditions. Explains problems with Major General Clark. Awaits Governor's orders.

November 1838

**Independence prisoners dine with
General Moses and his wife.**

General Moses invites Joseph Smith and the other prisoners to dinner at his home. Smith tells of the atrocities committed against the Saints. General Moses' wife is moved to tears. (General Moses' son was killed during the expulsion of the Saints from Jackson County in 1833.)

Tuesday, November 6, 1838

**Governor Boggs, Jefferson City, MO
letter to Major Gen. John B. Clark, 1st Div.
Missouri Militia**

Governor Boggs explains the conflict over role of General Lucas and General Atchison in latter part of Mormon War. Lucas and Atchison both acting out of order. Clark is to take command and do what is necessary.

Tuesday, November 6, 1838

General Clark leaves Far West for Richmond with 46 prisoners

Wednesday, November 7, 1838

**Gen. John B. Clark, Headquarters Missouri Militia,
Far West, MO letter to Gen. Robert Wilson,
2d Brig., 1st Div. Missouri Militia**

Wilson will march to Adam-ondi-Ahman. Restore citizens to property and bring criminals in. Take them to Keytesville; may do all that is necessary.

Wednesday, November 7, 1838

Clark's detachment arrives in Independence to take prisoners to Richmond.

Thursday, November 8, 1838

Independence prisoners head to Richmond

Independence prisoners are transported to Missouri River – travel a short distance and lodge in an old frame house.

Friday, November 9, 1838

**Prisoners arrive at Richmond, MO
more arrests at Far West**

A strong guard commanded by Colonel Price meets the Independence prisoners and escorts them to Richmond, arriving later that evening.

General Clark arrives at Richmond with his 46 prisoners.

Missouri Mormon War Timeline of Events

In the mean time - Captain Samuel Bogart (Ray County Militia) arrests 12 more Saints, bringing the total number of Saints arrested to 65.

November 12-29, 1838

**Court of Inquiry
Judge Austin King
5th Judicial Circuit
Richmond, MO**

The prisoners are taken before Circuit Judge Austin King at Richmond. Ray County Circuit Attorney Thomas S. Burch prosecutes this case. The key witness against the Saints is Samuel Avard, leader of the Danites.

Following more than 2 weeks of testimony, Judge King ordered indictments against 60 defendants including 43 counts of treason, 35 counts of arson, 17 counts of burglary, 15 counts of riot, 4 counts of larceny, 5 counts of murder, 2 counts of obstruction, and 1 count of receiving stolen property for a total of 112 indictments.

Monday, November 12, 1838

**Sale of Public Lands
Daviss County**

The preemptive date of sale for public lands in Daviss County was scheduled for November 12, 1838. Whoever is squatting on the property on that date has first right of purchase. On this date, 64 Saints are incarcerated at Richmond, thus preventing them from purchasing the land they had cleared, farmed and built homes on. Thus members of the mob are able to purchase the land the Saints had developed and profit from the acquisition. The land sells for \$100 per 80 acres. Justice of the Peace Adam Black is able to purchase land that he had sold to Lyman Wight for \$750 just a year earlier. Black's cost for Wights' 80 acre farm and framed 2 story home is \$100.

Monday, November 19, 1838

**Governor Boggs, Jefferson City, MO
letter to Gen. John B. Clark, 1st Div.
Missouri Militia, Richmond, MO**

Prisoners should be turned over to civil authority to be tried, no court martial. "One thing however is certain, that as soon as an insurrection is quelled and peace restored, the military authority ceases."

Thursday, November 29, 1838

**Murder Indictments
Ray County Jail**

Following the November 1838 Court of Inquiry at Richmond, Missouri, Parley P. Pratt, Morris Phelps, Darwin Chase, Norman Shearer, and Luman Gibbs were charged with murder and ordered held at the Richmond, Ray County Jail. This charge was for the death of Moses Rowland, Ray County Militia during the Battle of Crooked River. The prisoners are later transferred to Columbia, Boone County to await trial.

Saturday, December 1, 1838

Liberty Jail

Charged with riot, burglary, receiving stolen property, arson and treason, Joseph Smith Jr., Hyrum Smith, Alexander McRae, Lyman Wight and Caleb Baldwin are ordered held at the Clay County Jail, common referred to as the Liberty Jail. They arrive in a large heavy box, surrounded by a heavy guard, December 1, 1838.

January 24, 1839

Request for Change of Venue

James H. Hughes Esqr., petitions the Missouri Legislature and asks for a change of venue, stating biases of Judge Austin King.

January 24, 1839

**Brigham Young and Heber C. Kimball
visit Liberty Jail**

Brigham Young and Heber C. Kimball visit Joseph Smith and the other prisoners at Liberty Jail and advise that appeals to the Missouri Legislature and the Missouri Supreme Court have failed. It is clear that the Saints will have to exit the state.

Joseph instructs Brigham to hold a conference at Far West and ask for volunteers to assist the poor and widows out-of-the-state.

January 29, 1839

Conference, Far West

At a conference at Far West, Brigham Young asks for volunteers to assist the poor and the widows as they flee Missouri. Seven men volunteer. The following day four more men come forward, one of which is Stephen Markham. Stephen is assigned to assist Emma and her children.

Missouri Mormon War Timeline of Events

Wednesday, March 20, 1839

Letter to the Church D&C 121-123

Joseph Smith dictates a 17 page letter to the Church as Alexander McRae scribes (80%) and Caleb Baldwin scribes (20%), parts of which are later canonized as D&C 121-123.

Thursday, March 21, 1839

Letter to Emma and the Church

Joseph Smith asks that member of the Church compile a “bill of damages” that they may appeal to the United States Court. He says he feels like “Joseph in Egypt” being “cast into prison by the mob.”

April 6-8, 1839

Prisoners are Transported to Gallatin

The Liberty Jail prisoners are transported to Gallatin for a grand jury hearing. Upon arriving they learn that the presiding judge is none other than Thomas C. Burch, the same individual that had prosecuted these men during the Richmond Court of Inquiry before Judge Austin King.

Attorneys for the defense, Peter H. Burnett and Amos Rees request a change of venue citing conflict of interest since Judge Burch had previously prosecuted this case.

April 9-11, 1839

Gallatin Hearing Judge Thomas C. Burch Eleventh Judicial Circuit Gallatin, MO

The grand jury hearing begins Tuesday, April 9, 1839 and continues until April 11th. The jury members are also assigned guard duty at night. Members of the jury/guard included Nathaniel Blakely, John Brown, and Jacob S. Rogers. All of these men had taken part in the vigilante force that attacked the Saints at Hawn’s Mill. The guards stay up most of the night partying and drinking, which causes a number to be incoherent when the court is in session. At times, some jurors are so drunk they are lifeless and have to be carried out of the room.

Tuesday, April 9, 1839

Change of Venue

Stephen Markham arrives with a change of venue to Columbia, Boone County, issued by the state legislature. This action is a direct result of the petition filed by James H. Hughes, January 24, 1839. Stephen Markham is not allowed to testify that day.

Wednesday, April 10, 1839

Stephen Markham Incident

On April 10th, following his testimony for the defense, Stephen Markham exits the courtroom and is threaten by Nathaniel Blakely and other members of the jury/guard. Blakely attempts to strike Markham with a club. Markham disarms him and throws the club over a fence. That evening Markham is told by the Prophet to leave the state - as his life is in danger.

Thursday, April 11, 1839

Unsigned Mittimus

April 11, 1839, Judge Burch issues an unsigned mittimus to Daviess County Sheriff William Morgan, and four deputies; William Bowman, John Brassfield, John Pope and Wilson McKinney. The men are instructed to transport the prisoners out of the county and turn them loose.

Tuesday, April 16, 1839

Prisoners Released and Promissory Note

The prisoners are released after purchasing two horses from the guard. Unable to pay, Brassfield accepts a promissory note for \$150. The prisoners are also required to purchase a jug of whiskey and a quart of honey for the guard. In addition, the prisoners are required to surrender their new boots. A member of the Church, who labored as a cobbler, gave the boots to the prisoners while in Liberty Jail. While Sheriff Morgan and other deputies drink whiskey sweetened with honey, Brassfield helps the prisoners saddle the two horses.

In 1841, Brassfield arrives at Nauvoo requesting payment on the note and Joseph Smith willingly pays.

When the guard arrives back at Gallatin, members of the mob realize that the prisoners were never taken to Columbia. In retaliation, they single out William Bowman, the first sheriff of Daviess County, tie him to a steel rod and drag him through the streets. This ordeal led to his death a short time later.

Missouri Mormon War Timeline of Events

Monday, April 22, 1839

Arrival at Quincy, Illinois

While crossing Missouri, the prisoners stay together, taking turns riding the two horses. One night, Caleb Baldwin becomes separated for several hours. They are fearful that the release is a plan to execute the prisoners as they attempt to leave the state, so they take less-traveled roads. The prisoners arrive at the Mississippi River and cross at Quincy, Illinois, April 22, 1838, nine days short of six months since they were first arrested.

Monday, April 26, 1839

Far West Temple Lot

Fulfillment of Prophecy, D&C 118

Members of the Quorum of the Twelve arrive at the Far West temple site just before midnight (April 25th) to hold a conference on the 26th and prepare to leave for their missions to England. Thus fulfilling the prophecy made in July 1838. (Note: D&C 118:4-5)

July 4, 1839

Escape for Boone County Jail

The five prisoners charged with murder and held at the Richmond, Ray County Jail: Parley P. Pratt, Morris Phelps, Luman Gibbs, Darwin Chase and Norman Shearer are later transferred to Columbia, Boone County for trial. Gibbs turns state evidence and charges against him are dropped in exchange for his testimony. Charges against Chase and Shearer are also dropped "being boys scarcely out of their teens."

Although initially released following the Richmond Hearing, November 1838, King Follett was re-arrested and charged with robbery and transported with Pratt and Phelps to the Boone County Jail.

On July 4, 1839, Pratt, Phelps and Follett escape from jail. Follett is again re-arrested.

October 1839

King Follett trial

After spending nearly a year in jail, King Follett was brought to trial for robbery. Following a jury trial, he was acquitted and released from custody. Follett had taken a keg of black powder from a mob, planning to use the powder to bring destruction upon the Saints. Apparently, the jury felt this act was more of a case of self-defense than robbery.

1838-1839

Expulsion from Missouri

According to Mormon Redress Petitions, Documents of the 1833-1838 Missouri Conflict, edited by Clark V. Johnson, between 12,000 - 15,000 members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, nicknamed Mormons, fled from Missouri following Governor Lilburn W. Boggs' infamous Extermination Order, which required all Mormons to leave the state or be killed.

Johnson adds, "The Mormon expulsion from Missouri is one of the most violent stories of religious persecution in U.S. frontier history."

Joseph Smith requests that all expelled Saints file petitions of redress with the State of Missouri and with the United States Congress. During the ensuing years the Saints made at least three and probably four separate attempts to obtain redress from Congress.

November 28, 1839

Joseph Smith arrives at Washington D. C.

Joseph Smith, Elias Higbee, Sidney Rigdon, and Orrin Porter Rockwell arrive at Washington D. C. on November 28, 1839. The following day they met with President Martin VanBuren. The purpose of the meeting is to seek redress for the injustices suffered by the Saints in Missouri. President VanBuren shows some sympathy, but offers no assistance.

The delegate then appeals to the U. S. Congress and presents 491 individual signed affidavits. This was the first of four appeals to Congress.

Clark Johnson has documented 773 petitions written by 678 petitioners (121 people wrote two or more petitions). These petitions seek redress for property losses totaling \$2,381,984.51 (1840 dollars). These petitions are obviously not the total loss by the 12,000 to 15,000 Saints driven from Missouri. The Saints are never reimbursed for any of their losses.

1846

Nauvoo Expulsion

Over the next seven years, the Saints will build the largest city in Illinois, construct a new temple, their Prophet and Patriarch will be murdered and they will again be expelled from their homes. Again, their Constitutional rights shall be violated with no redress.