

*'Letter from the Citizens of DeWitt, Carroll County, Missouri to Governor Boggs.
Missouri Historical Review*

“De Witt, Carroll County, State of Missouri, September 22, 1838.

To His Excellency, Lilburn W. Boggs, Governor of the State of Missouri:

“Your petitioners, citizens of the County of Carroll, do hereby petition your Excellency, praying for relief; That whereas, your petitioners have on the 20th inst. Been sorely aggrieved by being beset by a lawless mob of certain inhabitants of this and other counties, to the injury of the good citizens of this and adjacent places; that on the aforesaid day came from one hundred to one hundred and fifty armed men, and threatened with force and violence to drive certain peaceable citizens from their homes in defiance of all law, and threatened then to drive said citizens out of the county, but on deliberation concluded to give them, said citizens, till the first of October next to leave said county; and threatened if not gone by that time, to exterminate them, without regard to age or sex, and destroy their chattels by throwing them in the river.

“We therefore pray you to take such steps as shall put a stop to all lawless proceeding, and we, your petitioners, will ever pray, etc.”

ii Letter from General Parks to General Atchison sent immediately following his arrival to the besieged Mormon community of DeWitt

October 6, 1838

“On arriving in the vicinity of DeWitt I found a body of armed men under command of Dr. Austin ,encamped near Dewitt, besieging that place, to the number of two or three hundred, with a piece of artillery ready to attack the town of DeWitt. On the other side Hinkle has in that place three or four hundred Mormons to defend it, and says he will die before he is driving from thence.

“On the 4th instant they had a skirmish – fifteen or thirty guns fired on both sides, one man from Saline wounded in the hip.

“The Mormons are at this time too strong, and no attack is expected before Wednesday or Thursday next, at which time Dr. Austin hopes his forces will amount to five hundred men, when he will make a second attempt on the town of DeWitt, with small arms and cannon. In this posture of affairs, I can do nothing but negotiate between the parties until further aid is sent me.

“I received your friendly letter on the 5th inst., by Mr. Wardon, authorizing me to call on General Doniphan, which call I have made on him for five companies from Platte, Clay and Clinton, with two companies I ordered from Livingston, of which I doubt whether these last will come. If they do, I think I will have a force sufficient to manage these belligerents.

“Should these troops arrive here in time, I hope to be able to prevent bloodshed. Nothing seems so much in demand here (to hear the Carrol County men talk) Mormon scalps; as yet they are scarce. I believe Hinkle with the present force ad position will beat Austin with five hundred of his troops. The Mormons say they will die before they will be driven out, etc.. As yet they have acted on the defensive as far as I can learn. It is my settled opinion the Mormons will have no rest until they leave; whether they will or not, time only can tell.

H.C. Parks”

ⁱⁱⁱCamp near DeWitt

7th Oct 1838

To the Citizens of Howard County

Gentlemen:

This county is the theatre of a civil war, and will soon be one of desolation, unless the citizens of the adjoining counties lend immediate assistance. The infatuated Mormons have assembled in large numbers in DeWitt, prepared for war, and are continually pouring in from all quarters where these detestable fanatics reside.

The war is commenced; blood has been shed. They shed it. They waylaid and fired upon a body of the citizens of Carroll County and wounded some. They are the aggressors. They have been guilty of high treason, they have violated the laws and shed the blood of our citizens, and we think this one of the cases of emergency in which people ought to take the execution of justice in their own hands. Speedy action is necessary. The progress of their imposition, insult and oppression ought to be checked in the beginning. The people must act together. They must act energetically.

It is now twelve O'Clock at night. The Mormons are lurking around our camp, and making preparations to attack us before day. Our number is much less than theirs, and we will have to act on the defensive until we procure more assistance.

About two hours ago the Mormons were re-enforced by 62 mounted men well-armed from Far West. They are arriving every night. Two nights ago it is thought one hundred came to DeWitt for the purpose of making war upon the people of this county. Under such circumstance, you cannot fail to come forward immediately. Can you not be here by Sunday or Monday at farthest? Come by fives and tens if you cannot come in companies. Bring all you can. This is no false excitement or idle rumor, it is the cold reality too real. We will anticipate you immediately, and shall expect your cooperation and assistance in expelling the fanatics, who are mostly aliens by birth and aliens in principle from the country. We must be enemies to the common enemies of our laws religion & country.

Your friends & fellow citizens.

P.S. Our guard was just now fired upon by the Mormons. They have become emboldened by their recent re-enforcements, and we will have to act on the defensive until assistance arrives.

Yrs & C (Yours and Company)

Congrave Jackson

Larkin K. Woods

Thomas Jackson

Rollo M. Davis

James Jackson Junr

John L. Tomin

Sidney S. Woods

George Crigler

William L. Banks

Whitfield Dickens

^{iv}Letter from General Atchison sent to Governor Boggs

Boonville October 9th 1838

To the Commander in Chief

Sir, enclosed you will receive a communication from Genl Parks, which I deem my duty to forward to Your Excellency. I have required Genl Doniphan with troops from Clay, Clinton and the Platte to co-operate with Genl Parks. I have also instructed Parks to prevent armed Mormons from marching to DeWitt, and also to send back or take into custody all the Mormons from Caldwell county who may be found in arms in Carroll County. Also to disburse all armed bands of citizens from other counties found in Carroll.

I have also suggested to Parks to urge it upon the Mormons in Carroll County to sell out and remove elsewhere, and also to urge the citizens to make the proposition to buy. I have no doubt but your Excellency, if you should deem it your duty to proceed to Carroll County, could restore peace... If you deem it necessary to proceed to Carroll County, I would respectfully suggest that it should be done as quick as possible. I have the honor to be etc.

D.R. Atchison

P.S. If your Excellency should deem it necessary to proceed to Carroll County, Boonville will be in your route, where it would give me great please to see your Excellency, at which time I will be prepared to give all information to the difficulties between the Mormons and citizens, as far as it could be obtained.

D.R. Atchison

Missouri Executive Order Number 44, read as follows:

Headquarters of the Militia, City of Jefferson, Oct. 27, 1838.

Gen. John B. Clark:

Sir: Since the order of this morning to you, directing you to cause four hundred mounted men to be raised within your division, I have received by Amos Reese, Esq., of Ray county, and Wiley C. Williams, Esq., one of my aids...information of the most appalling character, which entirely changes the face of things, and places the Mormons in the attitude of an open and avowed defiance of the laws, and of having made war upon the people of this state. Your orders are, therefore, to hasten your operation with all possible speed. The Mormons must be treated as enemies, and must be exterminated or driven from the state if necessary for the public peace--their outrages are beyond all description. If you can increase your force, you are authorized to do so to any extent you may consider necessary. I have just issued orders to Maj. Gen. Willock, of Marion county, to raise five hundred men, and to march them to the northern part of Daviess, and there unite with Gen. Doniphan, of Clay, who has been ordered with five hundred men to proceed to the same point for the purpose of intercepting the retreat of the Mormons to the north. They have been directed to communicate with you by express, you can also communicate with them if you find it necessary. Instead therefore of proceeding as at first directed to reinstate the citizens of Daviess in their homes, you will proceed immediately to Richmond and then operate against the Mormons. Brig. Gen. Parks of Ray, has been ordered to have four hundred of his brigade in readiness to join you at Richmond. The whole force will be placed under your command.

I am very respectfully, yr obt st [your obedient servant],

L. W. Boggs, Commander-in-Chief.

Sources

ⁱ Edt. Francis Asbury Sampson, Floyd Calvin Shoemaker; Missouri Historical Review, Vol. 13, pg. 287
https://books.google.com/books?id=jGhIAAAAYAAJ&pg=PA296&lpg=PA296&dq=General+Atchison+letter+to+Boggs&source=bl&ots=k-s8u13D1r&sig=b9Qlh_h7-FLNMq8ra47DoBXsZRo&hl=en&sa=X&ved=0CDQQ6AEwB2oVChMIwbmysbLUyAIVCPBjCh0nywit#v=onepage&q=General%20Atchison%20letter%20to%20Boggs&f=false

ⁱⁱ Edt. Francis Asbury Sampson, Floyd Calvin Shoemaker; Missouri Historical Review, Vol. 13, pg. 290
https://books.google.com/books?id=jGhIAAAAYAAJ&pg=PA296&lpg=PA296&dq=General+Atchison+letter+to+Boggs&source=bl&ots=k-s8u13D1r&sig=b9Qlh_h7-FLNMq8ra47DoBXsZRo&hl=en&sa=X&ved=0CDQQ6AEwB2oVChMIwbmysbLUyAIVCPBjCh0nywit#v=onepage&q=General%20Atchison%20letter%20to%20Boggs&f=false

ⁱⁱⁱ <http://homepages.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~livcomo/letters/mormon.html>

^{iv} <http://homepages.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~livcomo/letters/mormon.html>