

# Missouri State Archives: Finding Aid 5.1

## Mormon War Papers, 1837-1841

[ *Full-text transcription of:* Letter from Colonel William P. Peniston, 60th Regiment of the 2nd Brigade of the 3rd Division of the Missouri Militia in Daviess County, MO to Governor Briggs, Jefferson City, MO ]

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Daviess County , Mo.

October 21<sup>st</sup> . 1838.

To his Excellency the Governor of  
The State of Missouri –

Sir – I deem it my duty, made so not only from the law, as an officer, but also as an individual, to report and make known, to your excellency, its unheard of, & unprecedented conduct and high handed proceedings of the Mormons of this & Caldwell Counties, towards the other Citizen's of this County, being myself one of the sufferers. On Monday the 15<sup>th</sup> inst: we learned that the Mormons were collecting in Far West , for the purpose of driving, what they term the mob from this County, by which we understand the Citizens that were not Mormons, and accordingly they have come, & their worst apprehensions have been already fulfilled.

They have plundered or robbed and burned every house in Gallatin , our County seat, among the rest our Post Office, have driven almost every individual from the County, who are now flying before them with their families, many of whom have been forced out, without necessary clothing - their wives & little children

wading, in many instances, through the snow without a shoe. When the miserable families are then forced out, their houses are plundered and then burned. They are making this universal throughout the County – They have burned for me two houses, and, sir, think this not exaggeration, for all is not told – and for the truth of all and every statement, here made, I pledged the honor of an officer & gentleman.

These facts are made known to you, sir, hoping that your authority will be used to stop the of this banditt: of Canadian refugees and restore us to our lost homes.

I neglected to state that among the rest our County Treasury office has been also burned. I will only ask, in conclusion, can such proceedings be submitted to in a government of laws! I think not, I must answer my interrogatory no – notwithstanding the political juggling of such men as David R. Atchison & some others, whose reports & circulations setting the conduct & character of the Mormons favorably before the Community, are believed by the people of this county to be prompted by the hope of interest or emolument. I am yours, sir, with

due regard

Wm: P. Peniston. Col.

60<sup>th</sup> Reg: 2<sup>nd</sup>. Brig. 3<sup>rd</sup>. Div. m. m.

(over)

P.S. Since writing the above, I have procured the testimony, on oath, of some six or eight persons corroborating with my statement, which accompany this

Wm P. Penniston

Wm. P. Penniston  
to  
Com in Chief  
Oct 21, 1838  
copied