

## Letter to Major General John B. Clark

October 25, 1838

During the early morning hours of October 25, 1838, the Caldwell County militia engaged the Ray County militia in a skirmish at Crooked River. Killed in this incident were three Caldwell County militia; Apostle David W. Patten, Gideon Carter and Patrick O'Banion, a non-Mormon, and one Ray County militia, Moses Rowland. Soon exaggerated reports were sent to Major General John B. Clark.

The following letter is signed by attorneys Amos Rees and Wiley C. Williams. Rees was one of four attorneys hired by the Saints in 1833, following their expulsion from Jackson County. By 1838, Rees had moved from Clay County to Ray County and was serving as a Major in the Ray County Militia. The last portion of the letter is signed by Sashel Woods, a Presbyterian minister and by Joseph Dickson, Clerk of the Carroll County Circuit Court. Sashel Woods had participated with a mob that had driven the Saints from DeWitt just weeks earlier.

After the Saints were driven from Daviess County, all of these men would rush to Daviess County to purchase improved land with cabins and barns for \$1.25 per acre. (Note: [Missouri Land Rights.pdf](#) for more information.)

A longtime resident of Independence, Boggs had supported the Saints' expulsion from Jackson County in 1833. As Governor, he had failed to protect the Saints as they were forced from DeWitt, October 1838. It was obvious that Boggs had no desire to protect the Saints rights. This letter and the following affidavit signed by LDS Church Apostles Thomas B. Marsh and Orson Hyde, gave all the cause Governor Boggs needed to issue his infamous Extermination Order, October 27, 1838.

On November 1, 1838, Governor Boggs follows up with a second letter of extermination instructing Major General Clark that if he needs artillery, he may request it from Fort Leavenworth.

Davioses Midnight

25th Oct. 1838

Maj. Genl John B Clark

We write you a hasty letter from the point to give you Authentic information as to the appalling Situation of the Country in the Neighborhood of the Mormons. We use on our way as expresus the Governor conveying the following information that these wretched fanatics have thrown off all restraint and are destroying all before them they have burned Galatin the County Seat of Daviess taken the goods from J. Stallings Store and burned the house they have burned the Village of Millport in Daviess and have burned almost every house from Galatin and Millport north with many others in other parts of the County and plundered the whole County of the property of the inhabitants they say themselves that they have taken \$30,000 worth of property We have this moment received an express informing us that they this morning at day light attacked Capt Bogards Company of fifty men with 300 Mormons and defeated him Killing some ten men wounding many others and taken the most of the remainder prisoners Many of the Mormons having been killed in the fight as is supposed We have but little hope from these wretched Desperadoes but that they will kill all these prisoners This attack was made in Ray County Capt Bogard had been Stationed on the Northern line of the County to patrol and Guard it the Mor mons having threatened to invade that

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October 24, 1838

County They have determined to attack and burn Richmond to night And we have but little doubt but that they will attempt it The women and children have all left Richmond and are leaving the County flying for protection to Livingston and elsewhere These creatures will never stop until they are stoped by the Strong hand of force. And Something must be done and that Speedily There is no kind of doubt but that all the Alarm with much more that I have not time to write is true and you may act accordingly

Yours Respectfully  
Wiley C. Williams  
Amos Rees

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Sir

We were informed last night by an Express from Clay County that Capt Bogard and all his company amounting to between fifty and sixty were massacred by the Mormons at Buckhorn twelve miles north of Richmond except three. This statement you may rely on as being true and last night they expected Richmond to be laid in ashes this morning we could distinctly hear Cannon and we know the Mormons have one in their possession Richmond is about twenty five miles west of this place on a straight line we know not the hour or minute we will be laid in ashes Our Country is ruined for God sake give us assistance as quick as possible  
Carrolton Mo } 9  
Oct 24 1838 } Sashel Woods Joseph Dickson

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Carrolton Mo  
Oct. 24, 1838

Yours &c  
Sashel Woods Joseph Dickson

# Affidavit of Thomas B. Marsh

October 24, 1838

1.

At the request of a committee of the Citizens of Ray county I make the following statement in relation to the recent movements, plans & intentions of the mormons in the Counties of Caldwell & Daviess

Shortly after the settlement of the difficulties at De-witt in Carroll County, a call was made by the Mormons at Far West, in Caldwell County for volunteers to go to Daviess 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 Mormons, who refused to take up arms, if necessary, in difficulties with the citizens, 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, as the driver- We marched to Adamondeomon, and found no troops or mob in Daviess County. Scouting parties frequently went out & brought in intelligence that they had seen from three to five men. We got to Diamon on tuesday evening, & 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 afterwards

2.

learned from the mormons, that they had burned Gallatin, and that it was done by the aforesaid company that marched there. The mormons 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 Wyght 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, clo'es, & other household furniture. The same night, I think, about three wagons were despatched for about forty bee quins, & the next day saw several quins, where they were splitting them up & taking the

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honey & burning the gums, 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 Wyght 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, & Wyght replied no. Upon which some one laughed and said to Smith, you have lost your negroes then. 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, buffaloe. They brought in at one time seven cattle, & at another time four or five belonging to the people of Daviess - 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 are considered true mormons, called the Danites, who have taken an oath to support the heads 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 incendiaries. 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. Avard & other mormons, said Avard proposed to start a pestilence among the gentiles as he called them, by poisoning their corn, fruit &c. and saying it was the work of the Lord and said Avard 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 professes 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 plans & intentions -

It is my opinion that no man 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 Smith's prophesies 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 second Noah to this generation & that he would make it

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See page 5

5.

it one gore of blood, from the Rocky mountains to the Atlantic ocean. That like Mahamet, 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.

Oct. the 24th 1838

Sworn to & subscribed before me  
the day herein written

Henry Jacobs. J. P. Ray County Mo.

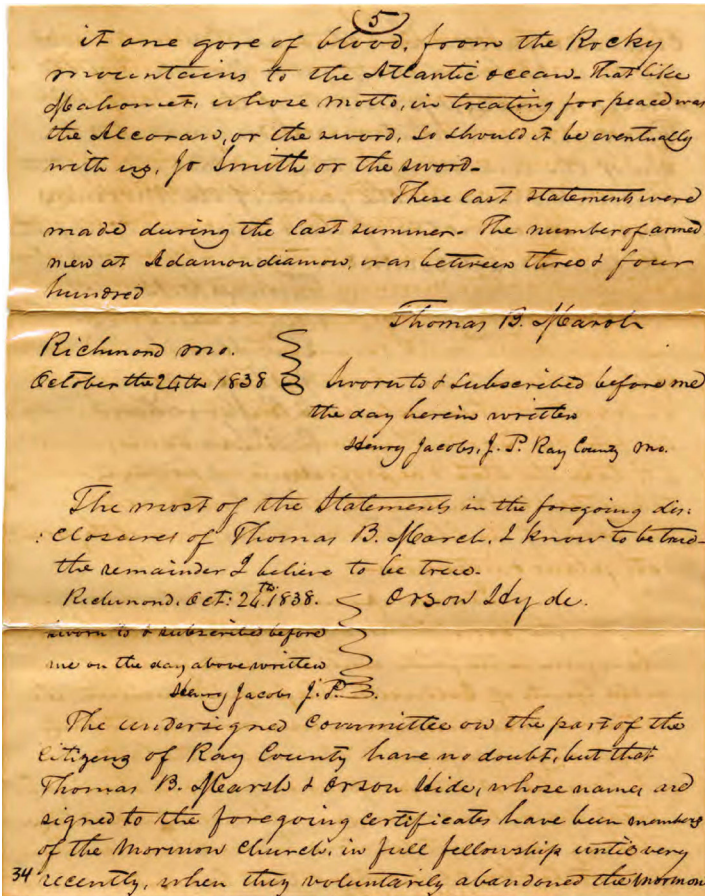
The most of the Statements in the foregoing disclosures of Thomas B. March, I know to be true the remainder I believe to be true.

Richmond . Oct: 24th. 1838 Orson Hyde sworn to and subscribed before me on the day above written

Henry Jacobs J. P.

Orson Hyde

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



# Extermination Order

October 27, 1838

Head Quarters of the Militia  
City of Jefferson

Octbr 27 1838

Head Quarters of the Militia  
City of Jefferson  
Octbr 27 1838

Sir

Since the order of this morning to you directing you to cause 400 mounted men to be raised within your division I have received by Amos Rees Esqr of Ray & Wiley C. Williams Esqr 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 armed 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 Majr Genl Willock of Marion Co to raise 500 men and to march them to the Northern part of Daviess and there unite with Genl Donphaon of Clay who has been ordered with 500 men to proceed to the Same front 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 Davis in their homes you will proceede immedeatly to Richmond and there operate against the Mormons Brig Genl Parks of Ray has been ordered to have four hundred of his Brigade

I am very respectfully  
Yr Obt St  
Lilburn W Boggs  
Com in Chief

To  
Genl John B Clark  
Fayette Ho. Co.

52  
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Com in Chief

To  
Genl John B Clark  
Fayette Ho. Co.

# Extermination Letter

November 1, 1838

Executive Department

City of Jefferson Ist. Nov. 1838

To Major Genl. Jno. B. Clark

Sir,

Your communication by express of Oct. 30th. enclosing one from Major Generals Atchison and Lucas of the 28th. Oct. has been recd.. It is impossible for me to leave here, the near approach of the meeting of the Legislature renders it necessary that every moment of my time be employed in preparation to meet them. It was considered by me that full and ample powers were vested in you to carry into effect my former orders, the case is now a very plain one, the Mormons must be subdued and peace restored to the community; you will therefore proceed without delay to execute the former orders, full confidence is reposed in your ability to do so, your force will be amply sufficient to accomplish the object; Should you need the aid of artillery I would suggest that an application be made to the Commanding Officer of Ft. Leavenworth for such as you may need, you are Authorized to request the loan of it in the name of the State of Missouri. My presence there could effect nothing, I therefore again repeat that you are authorized and full power is given you to take whatever steps you deem necessary and such as the circumstances of the case may seem to demand to subdue the insurgents and give peace and quit to the country. 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.

In order that no difficulty may arise in relation to the command, I must inform you that neither Generals Atchison or Lucas have been called into Service under this late order ( except Genl Lucas was directed to raise 400 in his division and to place them under the command of a Brigadier General. The privilege was offered him of commanding the troops from his own division, though subject to your orders—All the troops now under orders and those that may arrive at the seat of War are placed under your command.

You will report to me by express and keep me regularly informed of any thing of importance which may occur. The near approach of winter requires that your operations may should be hastened. After having restored, quiet you will cause the people of Davis County who have been driven from their homes to be reinstated

I am respectfully  
your obdt. svt.

L W Boggs  
Com. In Chief

Executive Department  
City of Jefferson 1<sup>st</sup> Nov. 1838.

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Com. In Chief

Recinding Executive Order

June 25, 1976

Executive Office  
State of Missouri  
Jefferson City

EXECUTIVE ORDER

WHEREAS, on October 27, 1838, the Governor of the State of Missouri, Lilburn W. Boggs, issued an order calling for the extermination or expulsion of Mormons from the State of Missouri; and

WHEREAS, Governor Boggs' order clearly contravened the rights to life, liberty, property and religious freedom as guaranteed by the Constitution of the United States, as well as the Constitution of the State of Missouri; and

WHEREAS, in this Bicentennial year as we reflect on our nation's heritage, the exercise of religious freedoms without question one of the basic tenets of our free democratic republic;

NOW, THEREFORE, I CHRISTOPHER S. BOND, Governor of the State of Missouri, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the State of Missouri, do hereby order as follows:

Expressing on behalf of all Missourians our deep regret for the injustice and undue suffering which was caused by this 1838 order, I hereby rescind Executive Order Number 44 dated October 27, 1838, issued by Governor Lilburn W. Boggs.

Page 2

IN WITNESS WHEREOF: I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the great seal of the State of Missouri in the City of Jefferson on this 25th day of June, 1976.

Christopher S. Bond  
GOVERNOR

ATTEST  
James Kirkpatrick  
SECRETARY OF STATE

CHRISTOPHER S. BOND  
GOVERNOR

EXECUTIVE OFFICE  
STATE OF MISSOURI  
JEFFERSON CITY

FILED  
JUN 25 1976

James Kirkpatrick  
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