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## HISTORY OF JOSEPH SMITH.

JULY, 1843.

Here on the bank of the Missouri river were eight families, exiled from plebeian homes without one particle of provisions, or any other means under the heavens to get any only by hunting in the forest.

I here built a camp twelve feet square, against a sycamore log, in which my wife bore me a fine son on the 27th of December. The camp having neither chimney nor floor, nor covering sufficient to shield them from the inclemency of the weather, rendered it intolerable.

In this doleful condition, I left my family for the express purpose of making an appeal to the American people to know something of the toleration of such vile and inhuman conduct, and travelled one thousand and three hundred miles through the interior of the United States, and was frequently answered, "That such conduct was not justifiable in a republican government; yet we feel to say that we fear that Joe Smith is a very bad man, and circumstances alter cases. We would not wish to prejudge a man, but in some circumstances, the voice of the people ought to rule."

The most of these expressions were from professors of religion; and in the aforesaid persecution, I saw one hundred and ninety women and children driven thirty miles across the prairie, with three decrepit men only in their company, in the month of November, the ground thinly crusted with sleet, and I could easily follow on their trail by the blood that flowed from their lacerated feet!! on the stubble of the burnt prairie.

This company not knowing the situation of the country, nor the extent of Jackson county, built quite a number of cabins, that proved to be in the borders of Jackson county. The mob, infuriated at this, rushed on them in the month of January 1834, burned these scanty cabins, and scattered the inhabitants to the four winds, from which cause many were taken suddenly ill, and of this illness died. In the meantime, they burned two hundred and three houses and one grist mill, these being the only residences of the saints in Jackson county.

The most part of one thousand and two hundred saints, who resided in Jackson county, made their escape to Clay county. I would here remark that among one of the companies that went to Clay county, was a woman named Sarah Ann Higbee who had been sick of chills and fever for many months; and another of the name of Keziah Higbee, who was under the most delicate circumstances, lay on the bank of the river, without shelter, during one of the most stormy nights I ever witnessed, while torrents of rain poured down during the whole night, and streams of the smallest size were magnified into rivers. The former was carried across the river, apparently a lifeless corpse. The latter was delivered of a fine son, on the bank, within twenty minutes after being carried across the river, under the open canopy of heaven, and from which cause, I have every reason to believe she died a premature death.

The only consolation they received from the mob, under these circumstances, was "God damn you, do you believe in Joe Smith now?" During this whole time, the said Joseph Smith, senior, lived in Ohio, in the town of Kirtland, according to the best of my knowledge and belief, a distance of eleven hundred miles from Jackson county, and thinks that the Church in Missouri had but little correspondence with him during that time.

We now mostly found ourselves in Clay county—some in negro cabins—some in gentlemen's kitchens—some in old cabins that had been out of use for years—and others in the open air, without anything to shelter them from the dreary storms of a cold and stormy winter.

Thus like men of servitude we went to work to obtain a scanty living among the inhabitants of Clay county. Every advantage which could be taken of a people under these circumstances was not neglected by the people of Clay county. A great degree of friendship prevailed between the Saints and this people, under these circumstances, for the space of two years; when the Saints commenced purchasing some small possessions for themselves; this, together with the emigration created a jealousy on the part of the old citizens—that we were to be their servants no longer.

This raised an apparent indignation and the first thing expressed in this excitement was: "you believe too much in Joe Smith," consequently they commenced catching the Saints in the streets, whipping some of them until their bowels gushed out, and leaving others for dead in the streets.

This so exasperated the Saints that they mutually agreed with the citizens of Clay county that they would purchase an entire new county north of Ray and cornering on Clay. Their being not more than forty or fifty inhabitants in this new county, they frankly sold out their possessions to the Saints, who immediately set in to enter the entire county from the general government.

The county having been settled, the Governor issued an order for the organization of the county, and of a regiment of militia, and an election being called for a Colonel of said regiment—I was elected unanimously, receiving 236 votes, in August 1837. Then organized with subaltern officers according to the statutes of the State, and received legal and lawful commissions from Governor Boggs for the same.

I think, sometime in the latter part of the winter said Joseph Smith moved to the district of country the Saints had purchased, and he settled down like other citizens of a new county, and was appointed the first Elder in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, holding no office in the county, either civil or military. I declare that I never knew said Joseph Smith to dictate by his influence or otherwise any of the officers either civil or military, he himself being exempt from military duty from the amputation, from his leg, of a part of the bone, on account of a fever sore.

I removed from Caldwell to Daviess county, purchased a pre-emption right for which I gave seven hundred and fifty dollars, gained another by the side thereof, put in a large crop and became acquainted with the citizens of Daviess, who appeared very friendly.

In the month of June or July there was a town laid off, partly on my pre-emption, and partly on lands belonging to government, the emigration commenced flowing to this newly laid off town very rapidly. This excited a prejudice in the minds of some of the old citizens who were an ignorant set, and not very far advanced before the aborigines of the country in civilization or cultivated minds, fearing lest this rapid tide of emigration should deprive them of office, of which they were dear lovers. This was more plainly exhibited at the August election in the year 1838. The old settlers then swore that not one Mormon should vote at that election; accordingly they commenced operations by fist and skull, this terminated in the loss of some teeth, some flesh, and some blood. The combat being very strongly contested on both sides—many Mormons were deprived of their votes; and I was followed to the polls by three ruffians with stones in their hands, swearing they would kill me if I voted.

A false rumor was immediately sent to Far West, such as two or three Mormons were killed and were not suffered to be buried. The next day a considerable number of the Saints came out to my house—said Joseph Smith came with them—he enquired of me concerning the difficulty—the answer was political difficulties—he then asked if there was anything serious—the answer was, no, I think not—we then all mounted our horses and rode up on to the prairie a short distance from my house to a cool spring near the house of Esq. Black, where the greater number stopped for refreshment, whilst a few waited on Esq. Black—he was interrogated to know whether he justified the course of conduct at the late election or not—he said he did not, and was willing to give his protest in writing, which he did, and also desired that there should be a public meeting called, which I think was done on the next day.

Said Joseph Smith was not addressed on the subject, but I was, who, in behalf of the Saints, entered into an agreement with the other citizens of the county that we would live in peace, enjoying those blessings fought for by our forefathers, but while some of their leading men were entering into this contract, others were rising mobs, and in a short time the mob increased to two hundred and five rank and file, and they encamped within six miles of Adam-ondi-ahman.

In the meantime, Joseph Smith and those who came with him from Far West returned to their homes in peace, suspecting nothing—but I seeing the rage of the mob and their full determination to drive the Church from Daviess county, sent to General Atchison (Major General of the Division in which we lived,) he immediately sent Brigadier General Doniphan, with between two and three hundred men. General Doniphan moved his troops near the mob force, and came up and conversed with me on the subject—after conversing some time on the subject, Major Hughes came and informed General Doniphan that his men were mutinizing, and the mob were determined to fall on the Saints in Adam-ondi-ahman. I having a Colonel's commission under Doniphan, was commanded to call out my troops forthwith, and to use Doniphan's own language, "kill every God damned mobocrat you can find in the county, or make them prisoners, and if they come upon you give them hell!"—he then returned to his troops and gave them an address, stating the interview he had with me, and he also said to the mob, that if they were so disposed they could go on with their measures—that he considered that Col. Wight with the militia under his command all-sufficient to quell every God damned mobocrat

in the county, and if they did not feel disposed so to do, to go home or God damn them he would kill every one of them. The mob then dispersed.

During these movements, neither Joseph Smith nor any of those of Far West were at Adam-ondi-ahman, only those who were settlers and legal citizens of the place.

The mob again assembled and went to De Witt, Carroll county, there being a small branch of the Church at that place, but of the transactions at this place I have no personal knowledge. They succeeded in driving the Church from that place, some to the east and some to the west. &c. This increased their ardor, and with redoubled forces from several counties of the State, they returned to Daviess county to renew the attack, many wanton attacks and violations of the rights of citizens took place at this time from the hands of this hellish band.

I, believing forbearance no longer to be a virtue, again sent to the Major General for military aid, who ordered out Brigadier General Parks. Parks came part of the way, but fearing his men would mutinize and join the mob, he came on a head and conversed with me a considerable time.

The night previous to his arrival the wife of Don Carlos Smith was driven from her house by this ruthless mob, and came into Adam-ondi-ahman, a distance of three miles, carrying two children on her hips, one of which was then rising of two years old, the other six or eight months old, the snow being over shoe mouth deep, and she having to wade Grand river which was at this time waist deep, and the mob burnt the house and every thing they had in it—and General Parks, passing the ruins thereof, seemed fired with indignation at their hellish conduct, and said he had hitherto thought it imprudent to call upon the militia under my command in consequence of popular opinion, but he now considered it no more than justice that I should have command of my own troops, and said to me, "I therefore command you forthwith to raise your companies immediately, and take such course as you may deem best in order to disperse the mob from this county."

I then called out sixty men, and placed them under the command of Captain David W. Patten, and I also took about the same number. Capt. Patten was ordered to Gallatin, where a party of the mob were located, and I to Millport, where another party was located. I and Captain Patten formed the troops under our command, and General Parks addressed them as follows:—

"Gentlemen, I deplore your situation, I regret that transactions of this nature should have transpired in our once happy State—your condition is certainly not an enviable one—surrounded by mobs on one side, and popular opinion and prejudice against you on the other; gladly would I fly to your relief with my troops, but I fear it would be worse for you—most of them have relations living in this county, and will not fight against them."

One of my principal captains, namely Samuel Bogard, and his men have already mutinized, and have refused to obey my command.

I can only say to you, gentlemen, follow the command of Colonel Wight, whom I have commanded to disperse all mobs found in Daviess county, or to make them prisoners and bring them before the civil authorities forthwith.

I wish to be distinctly understood that Colonel Wight is vested with power and authority from me to disperse from your midst all who may be found on the side of mobocracy in the county of Daviess.

I deeply regret, gentlemen, (knowing as I do the vigilance and perseverance of Colonel Wight in the cause of freedom and rights of man) that I could not even be a soldier under his command in quelling the hellish outrages I have witnessed.

In conclusion, gentlemen, be vigilant and persevere, and allay every excitement of mobocracy. I have visited your place frequently—find you to be an industrious and thriving people, willing to abide the laws of the land. And I deeply regret that you could not live in peace and enjoy the privileges of freedom. I shall now, gentlemen, return and dismiss my troops, and put Captain Bogard under arrest—leave the sole charge with Colonel Wight, who I deem sufficiently qualified to perform according to law in all military operations necessary."

Captain Patten then went to Gallatin. When coming in sight of Gallatin, he discovered about 100 of the mob holding some of the Saints in bondage, and tantalizing others in the most scandalous manner. At the sight of Captain Patten and company, the mob took fright; and such was their hurry to get away, some cut their bridle reins, and some pulled the bridles from their horses' heads, and went off with all speed.

I went to Millport, and on my way discovered that the inhabitants had become enraged at the orders of Generals Doniphan and Parks, and that they had sworn vengeance, not only against the church, but also against the two generals, together with General Atchison, and to carry out their plans; they entered into one of the most diabolical schemes ever entered into by man, and these hellish schemes were ingeniously carried out.

Firstly, by loading their families and goods in covered wagons, setting fire to their houses, moving into the midst of the mob, and crying out, "the Mormons have driven us and burnt our houses." In this situation I found the country between my house and Millport, and also found Millport evacuated and burnt.

Rangers were immediately sent to the Govern-

or, with the news that the Mormons were killing and burning everything before them, and that great fears were entertained that they would reach Jefferson city before the runners could bring the news.

This was not known by the Church of Latter Day Saints, until 2200 of the militia had arrived within half a mile of Far West, and they then supposed the militia to be a mob.

I was sent for from Adam-ondi-ahman to Far West; reached there the sun about one hour high in the morning of the 29th of October, 1838, called upon Joseph Smith, inquired the cause of the great uproar; he declared he did not know, but feared the mob had increased their numbers, and was endeavoring to destroy us.

I inquired of him if he had had any conversation with any one concerning the matter; he said he had not, as he was only a private citizen of the county; that he did not interfere with any such matters.

He told me there had been an order either from General Atchison, or Doniphan to the sheriff to call out the militia, in order to quell the riots, and to go to him, he could give me any information on this subject; on inquiring for the sheriff, I found him not. That between 3 and 4 o'clock, p.m., George M. Hinkle, colonel of the militia in that place, called on me in company with Joseph Smith, and said Hinkle said he had been in the camp in order to learn the intention of the same. He said they greatly desired to see Joseph Smith, Lyman Wight, Sidney Rigdon, P. P. Pratt, and George W. Robinson.

Joseph Smith first inquired why they should desire to see him, as he held no office, either civil or military. I next inquired why it was they should desire to see a man out of his own country.

Colonel Hinkle here observed there is no time for controversy; if you are not into the camp immediately, they are determined to come upon Far West before the setting of the sun, and said they did not consider us as military leaders, but religious leaders. He said that if the aforesaid persons went into the camp, they would be liberated that night or very early next morning, that there should be no harm done.

We consulted together and agreed to go down; on going about half the distance from the camp, I observed it would be well for Generals Lucas, Doniphan, and others, to meet us, and not have us go in so large a crowd of soldiers; accordingly the generals moved onwards, followed by fifty artillery men with a four pounder. The whole 2200 moved in steady pace on the right and left, keeping about even with the former.

General Lucas approached the aforesaid designated persons with a vile, base and treacherous look in his countenance. I shook hands with him, and saluted him thus: "we understand, General, you wish to confer with us a few moments; will not to-morrow morning do as well."

At this moment George M. Hinkle spake and said, "here, General, are the prisoners I agreed to deliver to you." General Lucas then brandished his sword with a most hideous look, and said, "you are my prisoners, and there is no time for talking at the present, you will march into the camp."

At this moment I believe that there were 500 guns cocked, and not less than twenty caps burst, and more hideous yells were never heard, even if the description of the yells of the damned in hell is true, as given by the modern sects of the day.

The aforesaid designated persons were then introduced into the midst of 2200 mob militia. They then called out a guard of 90 men, placing 30 around the prisoners, who were on duty two hours and four off; the prisoners were placed on the ground with nothing to cover but the heavens, and they were overshadowed by clouds that moistened them before morning.

Sidney Rigdon who was of a delicate constitution, received a slight shock of apoplectic fits, which excited great laughter and much ridicule in the guard and mob militia. Thus the prisoners spent a doleful night in the midst of a prejudiced and diabolical community.

Next day Hyrum Smith and Amasa Lyman were dragged from their families, and brought prisoners into the camp; they alleging no other reason for taking Hyrum Smith than that he was brother to Joe Smith, the Prophet, and one of his Counselors as President of the Church.

The prisoners spent this day as comfortably as could be expected under the existing circumstances. Night came on, and under the dark shadows of the night, General Wilson, subaltern of General Lucas, took me one side, and said, "we do not wish to hurt you nor kill you, neither shall you be, by God; but we have one thing against you, and that is, you are too friendly to Joe Smith, and we believe him to be a God-damn rascal; and, Wight, you know all about his character." I said, "I do, sir."

"Will you swear all you know concerning him?" said Wilson. "I will, sir," was the answer I gave. "Give us the outlines," said Wilson. I then told said Wilson I believed said Joseph Smith to be the most philanthropic man he ever saw, and possessed of the most pure and republican principles, a friend to mankind, a maker of peace; and, sir, had it not been that I had given heed to his counsel, I would have given you hell before this time, with all your mob forces."

He then observed, "Wight, I fear your life is in danger, for there is no end to the prejudice against Joe Smith." "Kill him and be damned," I said, was my answer. He answered and said, "there is to be a court martial held this night, and will you attend, sir?" "I will not, unless compelled by force," was my reply.