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VOL. VIII.

JULY, 1914.

NO. 4.

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MISSOURI  
HISTORICAL  
REVIEW.



PUBLISHED BY  
THE STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
OF MISSOURI.

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F. A. SAMPSON, Secretary,  
Editor.

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SUBSCRIPTION PRICE \$1.00 PER YEAR.  
ISSUED QUARTERLY.

• COLUMBIA, MISSOURI.

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ENTERED AS SECOND CLASS MAIL MATTER AT COLUMBIA, MO., JULY 18, 1907.

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Committee on Publication:

JONAS VILES, ISIDOR LOEB, F. A. SAMPSON.

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## MORMON TROUBLES IN CARROLL COUNTY.

To the average citizen the name *Mormon* had a sinister sound, and made impressions very far from the truth. I remember during the winter of 1843-44, a Mormon elder on his way from Hydesburg sought shelter from a snow storm at my father's house in Ralls county, and great was the surprise and disappointment of the young folk to see that he was not equipped like Mephistopheles!

The Mormons had some peculiar views, especially as regards marriage. There had been disturbances in Jackson and Caldwell counties; so when the farmers of Carroll found these people buying land in the east end they were filled with alarm. There was the arrogant assumption of their name "Latter Day Saints," which tended towards unfavorable feeling. The sentiment became almost universal that the Mormons must go. A committee was appointed to confer with citizens of Ray, Clay, Howard, Saline and Chariton counties to ascertain what assistance could be had in case the expulsion of the Mormons should be formally determined upon.

Having received assurance of support, it was thought best to notify the Mormon leader at Dewitt of the course to be pursued by the people of Carroll and the other counties. When the ultimatum was communicated to him, Col. Hinkle threatened to exterminate any and all who should seek to disturb him and his people.

About this time the forces of Carroll county were required in Daviess county to aid in suppressing the Mormons there, and on their return they went into camp at Pleasant Park near Dewitt. This was on the 9th of September. The next morning Col. Hinkle was told that he would be given ten days in which to make up his mind to leave the county peaceably. At the end of that time hostilities would begin and he must take the consequences.

He coolly replied that he was ready to assume all responsibility. All this time, by boat and wagon, Mormon recruits were pouring into Dewitt, and the timber was full of their "soldiers." The 20th of September was decided upon as date of attack. The law and order forces were to move down the road to the main town, while skirmishers beat the brush. A volley was fired by the Mormon sharpshooters, and the settlers could hear and see a man encouraging the Mormons and telling them to "shoot low." A steady fire was kept up by both sides until a volunteer party sent a sharp volley into the Mormon works, when the man who had been so active was seen to press his hand to his side and disappear. Soon after the Mormons retired to some log houses where they were safe from attack. The Carroll "troops" also returned to their camp to await reinforcements from Ray, Howard and Clay counties, and the return of Hiram Wilcox, who had been sent to Jackson county for a cannon which was to be used to batter down the stockade.

In the interim every effort was made to cut off the Mormons who were trying to reinforce Dewitt. Guards were posted, pickets stationed to prevent the besieged from obtaining supplies sent them from Far West. Affairs began to look serious. Timber was cut for breast works, projectiles for the cannon fashioned of chains, scrap iron and nails. At this time the besiegers had increased to four or five hundred men. The troops were brigaded, military discipline enforced, war was on in earnest. The needs of the army were supplied by the patriotic farmers around Dewitt. The arrival of Mr. Wilcoxson with his cannon was hailed with satisfaction, and it was immediately mounted on a carriage previously prepared.

On the evening of the ninth day Judge Carickson and other citizens of Howard county reached the camp, seeking permission to try to settle the difference without bloodshed. They were allowed to make this proposition: The citizens of the county to purchase at first cost the lots in Dewitt,

and some tracts of land adjoining—the property of the Mormons—the Mormons to pay for all cattle killed by them, and belonging to the citizens. Their wagons to be loaded during the night, ready to move by ten o'clock next morning, and that no further attempt at settlement in Carroll county should be made by the Mormons.

To these stringent terms Col. Hinkle was loth to agree, but he soon became convinced that resistance was useless, and gave orders to load the wagons for departure.

If “the flight of the Tartars was a sight so grievous and piteous as to melt the stoutest heart,” the flight of the Mormons was none the less sorrowful.

The lesson of life is endurance—how much the heart may bear and not break, how much the body suffer and not die—sure the sad-eyed Mormon women have learned that lesson well!

SUSAN H. WHITEMAN.