

**JOURNAL EXCERPT OF JOSEPH HOLBROOK  
FAR WEST, MISSOURI  
1835**

October, 1835, Farr West, Missouri:

About this time word came that the mob had siezed the public arms deposited in Richmond, Ray County and were taking them to Davis County to the mob. Ten men of us volunteered to go in search of them. After riding about sixteen miles we struck the Richmond road and found that they had passed. We continued on said road some three miles on the open prairie and found a broken wagon and down a ravine of high grass we found two large boxes containing United States rifles with their other accouterments. In the course of an hour we found three men with their wagon on their way for these guns. We took the men and the stolen guns to Farr West where they were found guilty of aiding and assisting the mob contrary to all law, after this I again went into the south part of the county with Brother Judith.

Before we got far on our journey we heard the mob calling themselves militia were in that part of the county, but did not know their whereabouts. We continued on to near the county line and eight of the mob near by in hostile array. They stopped at a Brother Pinkham's took his son and two other young men as they said, prisoners, shot at and hit one of his cows, took his arms and told the old man he must leave before morning or they would kill him and his family. Upon hearing this and that they had disarmed all the other brethren in that section threatened with instant death if they did not leave that night for Far West as they should come again the next day. Therefore I in company with Judith started for Far West where we arrived about midnight.

We informed our brethren of the danger there was in that quarter. About sixty men volunteered to go down and see what the mob was about. As we got near Shoal Creek, one of our men was fired at in the main road, before day, by the name of O. Bennion and died in a few hours afterwards, the 25th of October 1838, in Missouri.

As we still wished it possible to learn their object of coming into Caldwell County in the form of a mob to disturb the quiet citizens and disarming them, etc. The first we knew they commenced a brisk fire upon our whole body,

shooting down many of our best brothers all around us and howling so that we had no other course to take but defend ourselves the best way we could which soon gave us the ground with the spoils of the camp. Among the dead and wounded was David W. Patten, one of the Twelve, shot through the chest and died about the same time, Gideon Carter left on the ground through mistake, Hendrix shot through the cord of the neck and was entirely helpless, Sealey, one of the young men they took prisoner at Brother Pinkham's the evening before, shot through the shoulder. One Hodges shot through the hip and one Elija Chase shot in the knee, with a number wounded. I was wounded in my left elbow with a sword after cutting through five thicknesses of cloth so fractured the bone that after the doctor had placed back the bone that it was very lame for some four months and so stiff that I couldn't feed myself with that hand.

The battle of Crooked River, Oct. 25, 1838. About day break the whole county was now in motion against the Saints and all were equally threatened with death without regard to sex, age, or any other belief except those that would abandon their religious faith and unite with the mob in persecuting the Saints.

The brethren had gathered into Farr West as much as they could for safety as the whole county was filled with the mob when they arrived in the sight of Farr West, Oct, 1838, 5000 Missouri militia ordered out by the governor Boggs. The next day they sent in a flag of truce south of the town when Col. Hinkle went out to meet them and a conference ensued when Col. Hinkle agreed to deliver Joseph Smith Jr. with the heads of the Church into their hands by strategy. So that evening Joseph Smith Jr., the prophet, Sidney Rigdon, Lyman Wight, Hyrum Smith and others went out with a flag of truce to meet another from our enemies when Col. Hinkle commanding the militia of Caldwell County said to our enemy who were approaching

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This excerpt is taken from the Journal of Joseph Holbrook, typed and edited in 1977 by Mabel F. Holbrook and Ward C. Holbrook of Bountiful, UT.

in lines all around our flag of truce and Joseph Smith Jr. and those that were with him: "Gentlemen, I now deliver you, Joseph Smith, the Mormon Prophet. He is now in your hands as your prisoner." At this moment all the line of our enemies began to ring with most hideous yells that the Saints ever heard. They could be heard for some miles around of their achieved and treacherous victory. It was with the greatest trouble that they could keep their enemies from shooting them down as wild beasts.

In their camps there was a court marshal held in which they condemned the prisoners to be shot on the public square in Farr West. They still continued to take prisoners and threatened all who came in their way that they might torture them and force them to leave their religion.

November 1, 1838, the brethren laid down their arms where they were and all the town of Farr West put under guard. The troops, some 5000, all mounted on horseback, marched through the town in principal streets abusing the Saints when they could meet with them. About the 2nd day our enemies carried away Joseph Smith, his brother Hyrum, Sidney Rigdon, Lyman Wight, and others from Jackson County, under the guard of their numerous army which was one of the greatest trials. I had expected to see them pull away by main strength when their wives and children, fathers and friends clinging to them crying and taking, as many supposed, their last farewell look upon their prophet, fathers, their children, their wives, their husbands, all calculated to draw tears from the stoutest hearts but our enemies only continued to swear that we need not even suppose we ever should see them alive again or hear their voices in our midst for they should die.

All the brethren were then drawn up on the hollow square on the public square in Farr West for about this time General Clark arrived with some 6000 Militia and still threatened the brethren with further violence making them sign away their rights in a deed of trust for the defraying of the expenses of the mob or army, of all they possessed in real or personal estate and leave the State the coming winter or spring and no further limit would be granted them. At the

same time they called out some seventy-five of our best men and took them to Richmond jail and putting them under guard so that no one was at liberty to go for wood or other things without a strong guard. They continued to take all kinds of property a common plunder-taking prisoners whenever they could find any that they had any grudge against because they believed in the revelations of God.

The mob or militia burnt my house, stole a valuable horse from me, killed my fat hogs, drove off my stock. I had some 300 bushels of the best corn in the crib taken out of the crib. They fed our oats in the sack, destroyed my hay, and left everything in a state of desolation from one end of the county to the other, abusing the sisters whenever they thought it best to suit their brutal and hellish desires.



November 4, 1838, a severe snow storm and very cold weather for some three weeks, which drove the troupes from out of our county except some few companies who said they were left to see that the Mormons left the State and also to continue to take the brethren prisoners. Thus my freedom and life for three months was in constant danger as one old deserter by the name of Snodgrass came with eight soldiers at one time to the house where I had been stopping a few days and made diligent search for me in every house in the neighborhood from top to bottom and swore they would take me to the battleground on Crooked River and there shoot me because I was unable to defend myself at that battle against my foes.

My wife had very poor health during the winter and fall by being exposed much to the inclement weather by having to remove from place to place as our house had been burned and we were yet left to seek a home whenever our friends could accomodate us and for my safety but as I cannot write a hundredth part of the suffering and destruction of this people who were in a flourishing condition but a few months before are now destitute. I could have commanded some \$2000 but now I had only one yoke of old oxen and two cows left.