

Statement of the Citizens of Bates Co. Concerning Border Troubles

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At a meeting of [*text stricken through*] a portion of the citizens of Bates County Mo. at the town of West Point June 5th 1858 it was determined that Joseph Clymer be requested to make out a detailed account of the invasion of Missouri and other outrages committed upon her citizens by the outlaws of Kansas Territory, and that the same be submitted to the Governor of our State or other officer [*text stricken through*] acting under his authority; and in furtherance of the above request I now proceed to condense the facts so far as I have been able to glean them from reliable sources, stating nothing but what I know to be facts and what I have from men of honor and reputation--

I will pass over those stirring events that took place in Linn County K.T.--upon our immediate border--that drive out from that county all proslavery men and such honest free state men as would not swear to support the extreme [ultra?] veiws of the extreme Black Republicans of Kansas,--and merely notice what occurred in the State of Missouri in this vicinity:

About the first of May, our border towns and settlements were crowded with persons from Kansas, who had, in many instances been robbed of their property, and driven from the Territory and that too under the threat of the penalty of death, in case they did not leave or in case they should ever return; after many enquiries and frequent conversations with men altogether [*text stricken through*] reliable, we ascertain that one James Montgomery, of Sugar Mound headed the company

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the company that was thus driving out good and peaceable citizens and then robbing their houses of everything valuable, stealing their horses &c &c[.]

We also learned that said outlaws never marked or spotted a man but what they drove him off[.] they never threatened an individual, town or neighborhood but they executed if; if they went to robb or drive from his home they took five or ten men, if neighborhood they took 20, if a town 75 or 100, they always had men enough for the emergency, under this state of affairs the honest free State men of the territory, together with those who had been driven out, sought shelter in Missouri, and Missourians[,] whilst they afforded them all the accommodations in their power[,] abstained from all interference whatever in the affair, but still there were messages received every day telling us that so save us Montgomery and his men drove out all men from the Territory whom they did not like[,] they would attack Missouri--the towns of Butler and West Point were mentioned as the first victims, whilst we were dispose[d] to believe it.

From the number of small companies of spies that were seen prowling about our border, we did not regard it farther to guard our Towns, and the citizens of the border guard their property, but still they sent them threats until about the 14th of May a company of Montgomery's men crossed the line in this county and took two horses from the Rev. George W. [Gryer?][,] one saddle from Dr[.] A.[N?]. Brown, and we have heard of other like deeds were committed until the 20th

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of May, when they sent us word that they would attack West Point that evening, and we had the most reliable information that there were about four Hundred in two and half miles of the line.

about 4 o'clock P.M. of that day Col[.] Mooney rode out of the town some half mile when he saw a large body, in the state, marching up towards West Point, they fired upon with their Sharps Rifles, he ran back to town, they marched up something near half mile from Town and after a halt[,] they from 75 to 100 and there were many others near Town who did not come in town[,]come charging in town at the top of their speed, marched through the town in military style, used all manner of defiance to the town and individuals and in our opinion were only restrained, doubtless, from plundering and

destroying the Town from fear of our citizens (some 30 in number) who were stationed in houses, as a shelter, in case a fight should ensue. after making enquiry for certain individuals, and drinking and eating what they wanted they marched out of Town in the same defiant manner in which they marched in.

on leaving they went south inside the State and about 2 miles from West Point they went to the house of Mr[.] Jack Clark, in the state, robbed him of his money[,], took everything valuable about his house, even his and his wife's [MS. illegible] apparel and then destroyed his [text stricken through] entire furniture[.] they met him and his wife in the Road returning from a visited and there stopped and searched them[,], taking everything valuable that they had about there persons[.]

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by this time all our citizens near the border took fright, not being in a condition to defend themselves and have left their houses[.] in fact such is the alarm produced that that some of our oldest best neighborhoods have become nearly or entirely depopulated. their farms, their stock and in many instances their household furniture and clothing have been left at the mercy of these outlaws. those who from necessity have ventured back to their homes, have found their farms thrown open &c and have seen spies placed around them watching their movements &c.

on or about the 21st or 22nd of May some 20 or 25 crossed into this county, south of the Marias-des-Cygnés and chased some of our citizens several miles and doubtless would have gotten-- but for the timber in which they sought shelter--about the 6th of May [text stricken through] Rockwell, a citizen of our place while attending professional calls [text stricken through] just over the line in the Territory, was attacked by Eight armed men[,], robbed of some 350\$, his horse taken from his Buggy and taken from him, his pistols &c. taken [text stricken through] and watch; it is proper to state here that they [MS. illegible] Dr[.] R. out into the Territory[,], shot at him, and stood with two guns cocked over his head whilst he was robbed; and since all these occurrences mentioned above a large number (182) of armed men have been seen prowling about in our state near West Point, and in fact bodies of armed [men] from the Territory have been seen at

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different times and places in our state, almost every day we here of them sending in word by some of their men that they intend to come over into Missouri, destroy West Point[,], Butler, Papinsville &c. There are a number of other outrages not mentioned in the above but may be included in after statements[.]

Whether they will attack us we know not. They have threatened us, they have invaded our state, they have marched into one of our Towns and insulted its citizens. They robbed, plundered[,], destroyed the property and insulted peaceable and unoffending citizens. they have chased and shot at men who were tending to their own business. they have driven a large number of our citizens from their homes, stolen their property and in fact have [MS. illegible] many of them, (they are still at these things)[.] they have disregarded the dignity of our state, trampled under foot all the respect that is due from one sovereign state to another, they have forced us to stand guard day and night, to go armed about our daily avocations and all of this we have been compelled to submit to all this from our defenseless condition and we now appeal and we think have a right to appeal to our state Government for protection[.] ask it and we hope it will not be refused us.

Respectfully Yours &c

Jos. Clymer

Gen[.] G.A. Parsons Adj[.] General

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We the undersigned citizens of Bates County Missouri, being familiar with the facts[,] endorse the above statement of Hon[.] Jos[.] Clymer as being substantially true[.] June 5th 1868[.]

Thos. N. Starnes

T.W.B. Rockwell

Nathan Sears

J[.]A[.] Pigg

J[.]R[.] Simpon

A.H. Spencer

Vincent Johnson

James McHenry

Alexander Heely

J.S. Pigg

James A[.] Marshall