

## 1839 MORMON REDRESS PETITIONS

Because of the losses suffered by the Latter-day Saints in MO, due to persecution from mobs, Joseph SMITH initiated an appeal for redress from the federal government. During 1839, affidavits were collected from the men and women who had experienced these losses. These petitions, along with the First Memorial to Congress were then taken to Washington, D.C. in an attempt to get either Congress or President Martin VAN BUREN to recognize the seriousness of the Saint's conditions and get recompense. This first petition failed to bring relieve, however. The original petitions are located in the LDS Historical Department in Salt Lake City, UT. They are also compiled in *Mormon Redress Petitions: Documents of the 1833-1838 Missouri Conflict*, edited by Clark V. Johnson. Following are a few of the petitions written by those who have previously been identified in the 1892 issue of *The Nauvoo Journal*, and who were members of the Nauvoo first civil ward:

### CINTHIA BAGGS

6 May 1839

Cinthia Baggs left Washington Illinois ~~and~~ April the 12 1836 Movd out May the 6 1839 She has 6 children

the expense for being mooveing to Mo	\$50.00
i was driven fro Clay to Calwell Count	
damage Sustained	500.00
Drereven from crooked rivr to far west 200.00	
and then drevn from the State and Damage	
and expenses to Ill	400.00
	\$1,150.00

[sworn to before C. M. Woods, C.C.C., Adams Co., IL, 7 May 1839]

*Mormon Redress Petitions: 129-130*

### STEPHEN BLACKMAN

State of Missouri Dr. to Stephen Blackman

For damage and loss of property by burning and being driven from the State \$150.00

For damage by loss of Sun there is no earthly consideration can compensate

[Sworn to before C. M. Woods, C.C.C., Adams Co., IL, 6 May 1839]

*Mormon Redress Petitions: 143*

## HARVEY OMSTED

13 May 1839

An account That I Hervy omsted have against the state of Missouri in Consequence of Mobocracy firt the expences and time for moveing from Illinois to Jackson County State of Missouri	\$50.00
For improvements in Jackson County Made on Congress Land	25.00
Lost 2 hundred Bushels of Corn at 25 cents pr Bushel	50.00
To fodder of 5 acres	10.00
To Ten bushels of Potatoes at 25 cets pr bushel	2.50
To one Calf	3.00
To 32 acres of Deeded Land at 5 Dollars pr acre	160.00
To expences of Crossing the River into Clay county	2.50
To Time taken to hunt a house and fencing it and moveing into it in Clay County	16.00
Expences of moveing from Clay to Ray County Mo	3.50
Expences of Moveing from Ray County to Davis Co makeing 5 trips Takeing 210 Days at 3 1/2 Dollars pr Day	70.00
To improvement & Claim on Congress land in Davis Co	250.00
To Six hundred Bushels of Corn at 25 cents pr Bushel	150.00
To 15 bushel of potatoes at 50 cents pr Bushel	7.50
To 8 hundred Bundles of fodder at \$1.25 cents per Hundred	10.00
To seven Tons of hay at 3 Dollars pr ton	21.00
To three Calves taken from me out of the field worth	11.00
Two ploughs taken out of the field worth	12.00
one horse	40.00
Eight head of hogs worth eight Dollars a piece	64.00
thirteen shoats worth 2 Dollars a piece	26.00
Building a house in Diahman worth	30.00
2 axes 1 Bedsted grubbing hoe and three hoes worth	9.00
2 sheep worth 4 Dollars a piece	8.00
Moveing from Davis to Caldwell County	7.00
Expence of Building a house in Caldwell County	20.00
Expence of Moveing from caldwel County to the state of Illinois and the time it took to move	97.50
To 4 acres of wheat at 10 Dollars pr acre	40.00
	<u>\$1,294.50</u>

I Shall not attempt to put any amount on my sufferings as it is out of my power to Describe my feelings and I am inadaquate to the task but will Just Relate that I was one with my family that was Drove from Jackson County inthe time that the mob Broke out against the people of god there and myself wife & Children were driven out in the Cold winter from our homes & possessions into Clay County where we had to hunt a Covering to keep us from the blasts of winter again we were Driven with our Children from Davis County out of the State of Missouri and in consequence of So long an exposure to the inclement weather it proved Almost to intolerable a burthen to be borne but after a long and serious fit of sickness in the State of Illinois She through the Mercy of god I hope will Recover but our Sufferings we cannot Relate in full therefore I shall leave it with your honorable Body to Determene what I Should have or whether I should have any thing or not.

[Sworn to before A. Smith, J.P., Hancock Co., IL, 14 May 1839]  
*Missouri Redress Petitions:298-300*

**MATTHEW MANSFIELD**

Adams Co., IL, 10 May 1839

This may Certify that I Matthew Mansfield removed to the State of Missouri in the month of August went as far as Chariton County where I purchased Corn potatoes and cut hay for my cattle about the last of October I had Orders from Thomas Watson Col to leave that County in six days or we should have our house burned down over our head in three days they came to the house at night eight or ten of the mob and demanded the guns they took one from me and one from another man then went off after saying they would give us a buffalo receipt for then several of them known to some in the house names Jams Parkes Bdiott Gentrey Young Watson I went in four days leaving the whole of my corn potatoes and hay with loss of time five hundred dollars when we were on the road we met another company who stopped us and said they would take care of us they let us pass after searching our wagons and taken some books and papers and several articles from us and given us a pass for a Buse and Suffering self and family five hundred dollars is but little Compensation.

[Sworn to before C. M. Woods, C.C.C., Adams Co., IL, 11 May 1839]

*Mormon Redress Petitions: 285***JOEL DRURY**

Quincy IL, 6 May 1839

Debtor from the State of Missouri to Joel Drury for losses injury and abuse I was driven in Davis County [\_\_\_\_\_] with my wife and three children when they were sick with the chill fever and ague and myself both blind and lame from place to place in the cold weather of last November and from thence we had to flee for our lives 25 miles to Cauldwell County and from thence about 2 hundred miles to the State of Illinois where we are now encamped on a prairie with a scanty allowance of bed clothes to shelter us from the storm and rain one hundred and 50 dollars for trouble damage and expence.

[Sworn to before C. M. Woods, C.C.C., Adams Co, IL, 7 May 1839]

*Mormon Redress Petitions:190-191***JOSEPH DUDLEY**

Quincy IL, 11 May 1839

First for moving to the State	\$25.00
Loss on Land	200.00
Loss on property	100.00
Expences of moving away	25.00

[Sworn to before C. M. Woods, C.C.C., Adams Co., IL, 11 May 1839]

*Mormon Redress Petitions:191*

### SCHOOL DOCUMENT, 1840, COMMERCE, ILLINOIS

Whereas Horace K. Whitney of Commerce, in the county of Hancock, and state of Illinois, intends opening a school in the township of Commerce, near Granger's Landing, as soon as he may procure a sufficient number of scholars to authorize the undertaking, to teach the following branches, and for the following set prices; Viz: Reading, for two dollars and fifty cents; Writing, Arithmetic, Geography, and English Grammar, for three dollars per quarter of twelve weeks. Now therefore, we the undersigned do hereby agree to send the number of scholars, and to pay the amount set opposite to our names, respectfully to the said Horace K. Whitney, at the termination of the said term, or quarter's schooling of twelve weeks. As witness our hands hereunto affixed. It is further understood, that the said Whitney is to furnish a school room, and fuel.

Commerce Nov 22 1840

	Number of scholars	Amount
K. Whitney	3	8.00
Harriet Carter	1	3.00
J. P. Green	1	3.00
Wm. Felshaw	1	2.50
Dimick B. Huntington	1	2.50

*This document, handwritten on a piece of paper, is located at Utah State University, Special Collections.*

Most autobiographical sketches from the early Mormon period concentrate on the trials of faith or the day to day events surrounding the Saints. Less often are accounts written of fun and amusements. The following excerpt is one of these humorous incidents:

"Adam-Ondi-Ahman was visited a number of times by the Prophet Joseph Smith and I became still better acquainted with him being now 14 years old, I could comprehend and appreciate all or nearly all he would say. He was very kind and sociable with both young and old. We often bathed in the limped waters of Grand River, altho but a boy I was invited to bath with them. At one time we had a jolly time--yes and at other times. There was Joseph the Prophet, my Father [Lyman Wight], Sidney Rigdon, and several others, our amusement consisted in part seeing Bro. Rigdon swim. He was so corpulent that he was forced to lay on his back to swim, he would swim in that way until his shoulders would strike the sand bar then he could turn but would flop back in the deep water."

*From "Recollections of Orange Lysander Wight," written at Bunkerville, Nevada, 4 May 7 1903, located at Brigham Young University.*