

The event portrayed in this vignette occurred during the history of the church. The setting is Missouri during the 1830's. The characters in each vignette are real people, except for the Missourians, Rath and Vern. These characters are fictional. The Narrator, Elijah Andrews (a reporter), is also fictional and used in telling the story. The remaining characters are portrayed in the correct historical setting. Actual names are used, with quotes in **boldface type**.

## **Mormon Missouri Vignette Number Four**

Historical Synopsis: Tension between the Mormons and Missourians increases to the point Governor Boggs of Missouri calls out militias to patrol the Mormons. Rumors reach Far West that Mormon prisoners have been taken by a mob of vigilantes from Ray County. An armed party quickly assembles to rescue these prisoners. When the Mormons arrive on the scene, the state militia unit is camped along Crooked River. The Mormons divide into three columns led by David W. Patten (an apostle), Charles C. Rich and James Durphee. The Missourians have the advantage of position and fire, but the Mormons continue to advance. This causes the state militia to break ranks and flee across the river. Although Mormons win the battle, they take heavier casualties than the Missourians. The Mormons lose one during the battle and nine are wounded, one mortally. Apostle, David W. Patten is wounded and soon after the battle dies from his wounds. Tensions continue to increase between the Mormons and Missourians resulting in an executive order being issued on October 27, 1838 by Missouri governor Lilburn Boggs. The order is in response to what Boggs terms "open and avowed defiance of the laws". This order is an order of extermination. The order remains on the law books of Missouri until formally rescinded in 1976.

Cast of Characters: (actual historical persons are italicized).

- Elijah Andrews (reporter) dressed "stylish 1830's".
- Mormon "militia" man- dressed " frontier style 1830's" with rifles.
- **Charles C. Rich** (*Mormon*)- dressed "*frontier style 1830's*" with rifle.
- Group of bedraggled Mormon "militiamen", one is carried on a litter.
- Mormon man (rushes in to read extermination order –dressed "pioneer style 1830's".

(A group of Mormon men walk by the youth group. They are bloodied and bandaged. They are carrying weapons and look very weary. Two are carrying a litter on which lies a wounded man.)

Eli (runs to the group and states): My name is Elijah Andrews. I am a reporter for an Eastern Newspaper. Can you tell me what has happened? What's going on?

Mormon "militia" man: We were in a battle down by the Crooked River.

Eli: Are you a Mormon?

Mormon "militia" man: Yes.

Eli: Was anyone hurt?

Mormon "militia" man: We lost three men and I think one Missourian was killed. However, we rescued three of our men they were holding hostage and threatening to kill.

Eli: Who was your commander? May I speak to him?

Mormon "militia" man: We were not a real militia, just a group of volunteers. But, we were divided into companies. Charles Rich led my company. That's him over there.

(The Mormon man points to a man that is checking the wounded man lying on the litter.)

Eli: (Eli walks over to the group around the litter) Mr. Rich, my name is Elijah Andrews. I am a reporter for the newspaper The Washington's National Intelligencer. I understand that you have just returned from a battle that occurred on the Crooked River just south of here. May I ask you a few questions?

**Charles C. Rich:** Certainly, young man.

Eli: Could you tell me what happened in your own words?

**Charles C. Rich:** *News came to Far West that the Rev. Samuel Bogart, with a mob of 75 men, were committing depredations on Log Creek, destroying property and taking prisoners...A call to arms was sounded about 10 o'clock at night. Capt. [David] W. Patten and myself with about forty others volunteered...I proposed to go and raise some more men and meet Captain Patten about six miles from Far West: which was agreed to.*

Eli: Were you able to get more volunteers?

**Charles C. Rich:** *I rode through the settlements on Goose and Log creeks, and rallied the brethren as I went along. When we met we numbered about seventy-five, and were divided into companies of ten, and then proceeded by the main road, four miles...near Crooked river...*

Eli: So you had untrained men, who were volunteers with no experience and none of them had ever practiced or done drills together. So how did you proceed in any orderly manner?

**Charles C. Rich:** *Captain Patten divided the party into three companies, taking command of the first himself, I commanded the second company, and James Durfee the third. Apprehending that the mob was encamped...Captain Patten made a short speech, exhorted the brethren to trust on the Lord for victory, then ordered a march to the ford, along the road.*

Eli: How did you know where the Missourians were hiding?

**Charles C. Rich:** *Near the top of the hill, the words, 'Who comes there,' were heard, and at the same instant the report of a gun; young Pat O'Banion reeled out of the ranks and fell mortally wounded; whereupon Captain Patten ordered a charge, and rushed down the hill... we formed a line...The mob...fired upon us [with] all their guns, brother James Hendricks fell wounded near me on my left,*

*and brother Hodges fell wounded on my right. Captain Patten ordered the company to fire...I commenced calling our watch-word, 'God and liberty.' in which all the companies joined. Captain Patten ordered us to charge—the enemy fired a few shots and fled, two lingered behind, Brother Patten pursued one, and I the other; the man that he pursued wheeled and shot him. Brother Patten wore a white blanket coat which made him a conspicuous mark...we gathered up Captain Patten and the others who were wounded and put them in a wagon, and left for Far West; the sun was not yet risen. After travelling a few miles, brother Patten's sufferings became so great he wished to be left; he and Brother Seeley were then placed upon litters and carried by the brethren. When we arrived near Log creek, we met President Joseph Smith, Hyrum Smith, H. C. Kimball and others. At this place Brother [David] Patten became so ill, he was not able to be borne any further, we rested a short time." Brother Patten died a few hours later. We have made our way slowly back here.*

Eli: What do you think will happen next?

**Charles C. Rich:** I think we need prepare for the worst.

(A Mormon man rides in on a horse shouting for attention and waving a paper over his head. He jumps off the horse.)

Mormon man: (that just rode in): Prophet Smith has asked that everyone remove themselves from their farms and gather in Far West for safety. Governor Boggs has issued the following: (reads aloud for all to hear):

**"Headquarters of the Militia,"  
City of Jefferson, Oct. 27, 1838.**

**General John B. Clark:**

*Sir Since the order of this morning to you, directing you to cause four hundred mounted men to be raised within your division, I have received by Amos Reese, Esq., of Ray county, and Wiley C. Williams, Esq., one of my aids, information of the most appalling character, which entirely changes the face of things, and places the Mormons in the attitude of an open and avowed defiance of the laws... Your orders are, therefore, to hasten your operation with all possible speed. **The Mormons must be treated as enemies, and must be exterminated or driven from the state if necessary for the public peace--their outrages are beyond all description. If you can increase your force, you are authorized to do so to any extent you may consider necessary. I have just issued orders to Maj. Gen. Willock, of Marion county to raise five hundred men, and to march them to the northern part of Daviess, and there unite with Gen. Doniphan, of Clay, who has been ordered with five hundred men to proceed to the same point for the purpose of intercepting the retreat of the Mormons to the north. ...Brig. Gen. Parks of Ray, has been ordered to have four hundred of his brigade in readiness...The whole force will be placed under your command.**  
I am very respectfully,  
your ob't serv't,*

***"L. W. Boggs,  
Commander in Chief."***

Eli: (in disbelief turns toward the youth group) But this is the United States of America.  
How can a governor order the extermination of his own citizens?