

ST. GEORGE, UTAH
January 17, 1988

For many years, since the death of my grandmother Mary Francis Calloway McArthur December 30, 1928, my father Wilford Woodruff McArthur had in his possession a letter from President Daniel H. Wells addressed to Daniel Duncan (D. D.) McArthur instructing D. D. McArthur to "hunt up as far as possible your command and have them in readiness to repair at a moments notice to G. S. L. City for the purpose of irrigating their crops and taking care of their property, and be prepared otherwise to perform such duties as may be required of them. Let those who can, go immediately as the grain in many places now needs watering." The letter was dated June 7th 1858. to me it did not seem realistic to move a batallion of men fom Provo to Salt Lake City to water grain. During the summer of 1985 my curiosity concerning the letter got the best of me and I decided to check out the histoy of the letter to determine what the true meaning of the message concerned.

My search for information led me into church history and I discovered that Johnsons Army was about to be moved from Emigration Canyon to a location across the Jordon River south-west of Salt Lake City. The letter from President Daniel H. Wells to Major D. D. McArthur was a directive for him to take his command of troops from Provo to Salt Lake and be prepared for any military action that might be appropriate. The people had been moved from Salt Lake Valley south into Utah County and the command of D. D. McArthur was called into Salt Lake City to carry out the instructions of the Prophet concerning the buildings remaining in Salt Lake City in the event that Johnsons Army attempted to occupy or possess anything left by the fleeing saints.

The letter was taken to the Church Historians Office in Salt Lake and Brother Barney asked for permission to borrow the letter and have its background and authenticity verified. Sometime later I returned to Brother Barney's office in the Church Office Building and again gained possession of the letter and a note to the effect that the letter was indeed a letter in code calling for the assistance of Daniel D. McArthur and his command in protecting the property of the saints in Salt Lake City while the Federal Army was moved through the city.

The letter is still in my possession. Some day perhaps it will be given to the Church Historian as part of the Documented History of the Church.

RUDGER M. McARTHUR

Prove City June 7th 1858,

Major D. D. McArthur

Dear Brother

Owing to the scattered condition of the forces of G. S. Lake Military District and to aid Gen'l Grant in the distribution of orders in accordance with instructions this day forwarded to him, you are here by required to hunt up as far as possible your command and have them in readiness to repair at a moments notice to G.S.L.City for the purpose of irrigating their crops and taking care of their property, and be prepared otherwise to perform such duties as may be required of them, Let those who can, go immediately as the grain in many places now needs watering. As you arrive in the City you will report yourself and number of your command on duty to Bro. G. D. Grant who will proceed to assign you, your portien and scene of duties, and from whom you will receive further instructions pertaining to this subject. This movement must be made without any fuss, parade, noise or disorder, but operate quietly, firmly and determidly in regard to this whole business: in a particular manner, should there be no drinking of liquor and carousing or disorderly conduct of any kind. Let the brethren when they arrive at the scene of their duties, remain patiently and quietly until they are released by their proper Officer.

As ever, your brother in Christ

Daniel H. Wells

Provo City June 7th 1858,

Major W. D. M. Arthur

Dear Brother

Owing to the scattered condition of the forces of G. S. Lake Military District and to aid Gen. G. Grant in the distribution of orders in accordance with instructions this day forwarded to him, you are hereby required to hunt up as far as possible your command and have them in readiness to repair at a moments notice to G. S. L. City for the purpose of irrigating their crops and taking care of their property, and be prepared otherwise to perform such duties as may be required of them, Let those who can, go immediately, as the grain in many places now needs watering. As you arrive in the City, you will report yourself and number of your command on duty to Bro. G. D. Grant, who will proceed to assign you, your portion and scale of duties, and from whom you will receive further instructions pertaining to this subject. This movement must be made without any fuss, parade, noise or disorder, but operate quietly, firmly and determinedly in regard to this whole business: in a particular manner, should there be no drinking of liquor and carousing or disorderly conduct of any kind. Let the brethren when they arrive at the scene of their duties, remain patiently and quietly until they are released by their proper Officer

As ever, your brother in Christ
Daniel W. Wells