

A group of trouble makers who called themselves the “Missouri Wildcats” joined the peaceful emigrant party as they crossed through Utah. The Missouri Wildcats became angry when the Mormons would not sell or trade supplies. They trampled Mormons’ gardens, broke down fences, hurt Mormon women, killed their chickens, and put poison in their water. They made fun of the Mormons, threatened them, and told them that they helped kill the Mormon prophet, Joseph Smith. They left behind a poisoned ox, hoping that Native Americans would eat it and die. They said they would come back from California with an army and help in the war against the Mormons. When some Paiutes died after eating the ox, other Paiutes decided to attack the emigrants. They asked the Mormons to help them. The Mormons had no choice. They needed the Paiutes’ help in the fight against the US Army. They were afraid of the emigrants’ threats to help the army. The Mormon militia helped the Paiutes by tricking the emigrants and leading them out of a fort the emigrants built from their wagons. Mormon men killed the emigrant men and Paiute warriors killed the emigrant women and almost all of the children. (**Missouri Wildcat Theory**)