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* OVERLAND TRIP TO CALIFORNIA IN 1849 *
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* ABEL FRANKLIN LEWIS, CAPTAIN. *
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DIARY OF ELISHA B. LEWIS, SON OF ABEL F. LEWIS

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to 3/4 Mile in width had the misfortune to day to break out our
reach in our waggon but having tools and a Man to use them that obstacle
was soon overcome we travelled to day 22 Miles passing but 2 or
3 houses and Camped on the prairie near by a Grove where wood and
water was a plenty turn out our cattle to graze fixed our waggon got
supper and went to bed well satisfied with our Days work

Tuesday May 1st

left our camping ground at 6 oclock passed through several groves and
crossed small prairie which was thinly settled the inhabitants in this
part of Missouri have a great chance to pick location without quarreling
We traveled 18 Miles to day and camped in a beautiful location where
wood grass and water were a plenty

Wednesday May 2 When we awoke up in the morning we found it raining
very hard it soon however heald up - we drove up our team got our
breakfast and started on our road found the roads very bad so much so
that we did not make much progress to day passed through a small
Town by the name of Kingston the county seat of Caldwell Co and Camped
7 Miles from that place Making our Travel to Day 15 Miles

James

Thursday May 3

left our camping ground at 6 oclock found the roads as yesterday
very muddy the country through which we passed to day more thickly
populated than any we had come through far 100 Miles previous
Passed by large improved farms to Day and through some beautiful
country divided about equal as to Timber and prairie Passed through a
small Town at evening by the name of Plattsburgh it being the County
Seat of Clinton County and situated on the opening of a large prairie

went one Mile from Town and Camped for the Night having Traveled to
day 16 Miles

Friday May 4. Got up this morning after a rainy night and drove up our
cattle got our breakfast and started at 6 oclock commenced raining
sone after starting drove 2 Miles and camped to wate for more favour-
able wether wated about 2 hours stoped raining and we got up our teams
and started. the roads to day were oncommon bad frequently being hub deep
in mud. Purchased 3 Bus. of corn for which we paid 2/ per Bus. Crossed
one pirarie on which we saw a number of carkeses on inquiring learned
they were Government propity and that nearly 1175 Mules had starved to
Death During the passed winter. We camped to day at half passed 3
oclock within 16 Miles of St Joseph. After traveling 12 Miles

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were* →
Satterday May 5. Had a wet unplezent Night arose this morning Early
got up our team and ate our breakfast and left our camping ground at
6 oclock for St Joseph found the roads very bad to day on account of
the fall of raing more or less for 3 or 4 Day and the great Emmergration
for California on the roads purchased some corn to Day for 20 cts per
Bus. We arived on the platt, ^{Traverse Platte or Little Platte} river about 12 oclock. Ferried our waggon
on a boat and swam our oxen through the river. After crossing continued
on and Camped within 5 Miles of St Joseph on a bautiful Pirarie where
we saw the smoke of the camp fires in all direction and it looked like
a number of small villages at a Distance.

Traveled to Day 11 Miles.

Sunday May 6. Got up this morning found our team got breakfast and
drove to St Joseph to join the man who went by the way of St Lewis.
found him camped about one mile from town and indeed it was to us a
sight to behold. we could compare the emmergration to nathin but a

traveling city. As near as we could learn there was near 1500 California teams in and about this place. There is 2 ferry boats constantly playing across the river and have been for several days yet the streets are literally jammed full of waggon so that there is no probability that we can cross for several days. We gazed on this picture of emigration until our eyes were satisfied and we retired to our waggon to rest. Traveled to day 5 Miles.

Monday 7. Arose after a comfortable nights rest got our breakfast then unloaded our waggon for the purpose of taking off the projection and make them narrow put them on with 5 inch projection. Went to Town to see what the prospect was for crossing found the street full of teams for 20 rods back from the ferry went to our camp and retired to rest.

Ashtree

Tuesday 8. To day E. B. Lewis made an Exalt and ironed it off. Shortened the reach got our waggon together and put on our load for the purpose of leaving the first opportunity we had to cross the river. on Wednesday we moved our team to the ferry but did not get across until Friday the 11th after crossing we traveled 6 Miles through timber land which constituted the Missouri bottom after crossing the bottom we came onto the Missouri plains we camped in company with about 50 waggons, and for the first time we looked back upon United States. we had now crossed the line of civilization and entered upon the country belonging to the Red men of the forest. our object was now to get in company with the Wisconsin team for the purpose of organizing to cross the wilderness of America.

Saturday May 12. We for the first time last night drove up our cattle tied them to stakes driven into the ground to guard them. H. Devendorf

May 11 Crossed

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took the first watch E B Lewis the second and B Grogg the third which
To day we remained in our camping place having the Misfortune to break
the king bolt to our waggon[□] last night H Devendorff went back to
St Joseph to get it mended returned about 3 o'clock we were joined
to day with 4 [?] Southport teams they camped near to us for the night

May 13 Got up this morning grazed our cattle and yoked them up and
started for the purpose of joining the Millwaukie Company which had
camped about 10 Miles distance. The contry through which we passed
to day was very uneven we arrived to the Millwaukie camping ground
about 12 o'clock turned out our team and camped for the day

Traveled to Day 10 Miles

May 14th Commenced raining about 4 o'clock and rained very hard until
9 o'clock at which time we got up our cattle and started in company with
the Millwaukie emigration the country through we passed to was prairie
very rolling crossed Wolf Creek and came to a Indian Mission field

5 Miles from that place To day for the first time we saw the Red Man
in his own country We camped to night near by the Mission field and on-
yoked our cattle and turned them loose to graze got supper and went
to bed 18 Miles to day

May 15 Left our camping ground about 7 o'clock before leaving a vote
of the Millwaukie company to receive us into their ranks was taken and
carried to a man We then proceeded on our days work Our travels
to day was intirely through prairie occationly coming in sight of a
small grove the land is beautifully situated for farming with rich
soil we was highly entertained through the day by the large amount
of emigration which was constantly heaving in sight as we traveled
on our way We had the curiosity to day to see a Wolf which some of

the men of our company went after but did not succeed in getting. We camped to night 1/2 Mile off of our road by a grove it being the only timber we could see in any direction

May 16. Left our camping place at 8 oclock and proceeded on our road our travels to day as yesterday was through prairie being so extensive as not to permit us to see the timber which surrounded it soil good and land slightly rolling we could see carivans to day more then a day travel ahead of us. A pay Master General passed us [sic] to day from which we drew some usefull instruction so far as regards *regro* our safty while traveling through the country of the Red men First in relation to the manner in which they made and attack Second the manner in which they were armed. This Man was an offenser in an army of solgers which was on there way to Oregon the number of solgers was about one thousand teems 680 — we were in advance of them about 50 Miles. We camped to Night on rise of ground Made a currell of our waggons, and picked our tents on the inside turned our cattle out to graze got our supper prepared our arms according to the Captains orders set the garde and retired to rest

May 17. left our camping ground about 7 oclock the rout to day as yesterday continued through open prairie occationly passing small groves of timber at a distance. Camped to night on a small stream called the Nimehang ~~the~~ *Nemahaw*

May 18. Concluded this morning to Cross the river and camp for the purpose of waiting for teems which were behind. did so. they came up with us about noon. we did not leave our camping place until morning

Nemahaw

on account of the Distance to water which was 20 Miles After the evening watch was set and the evening nearly spent by the merry sound of the viol and unusual alarm was given by the firing of a gun in the direction which the heard was grazing Every Man was ready immediately to proceed with arms in hand to meet what ever might make its appearance when the watch were hailed the cry was all is well. It turn out to be the reports of a gun from another camp not far from us in that direction

May 19 After getting our breakfast the teams were yoked and preparation made for starting We left our camping place at 6 o'clock this morning for the purpose of getting to water which we supposed was 20 Miles distant from us but we were disappointed when we found a plenty of water, and wood for fire Every 2 or 3 Miles our course continued to day as for several days before through prairie quite rolling with a rich soil very well watered and wood more plenty then for some distance back we camped to night on a small brook where we found excellent feed for our cattle got our suppers and talked over incidents that had transpired through the day and went to bed.

Sunday May 20 The Captain concluded that as we had spent Friday previous in resting we had better travel to day accordingly the teams were got in readiness and we left our camping place at 7 o'clock We passed through beautiful country to day the face of it was generally a little rolling mostly prairie occasionally passing a small grove and water quite frequently Our roads have for some

time been very good however to day it has been quite rainy which
made it some unpleasant we camped at half passed 5 oc on high ground
with wood and water plenty and the wind blowing like zeprie

Monday May 21

Left our camping ground this morning at 7 oclock after an ad-
vance of 5 Miles we came to the Big Blue river found the water so
deep that we were obliged to raise our waggon bed to prevent the
water from coming in contact with our provision the train got over
safe and was on their way in the course of half an hour this stream
is about 8 rods wide quick current Our travel to day was on
piraris passing occationly small groves with water concealed beneath
there shaid we camped to night about 1 Miles from our road where
wood and water was plenty Mr Grogg had been making a tente which
we raised to night for the first time to sleep in found it very
comfortable our travieles were on an everage from 16 to 18 Miles
per day

Tuesday May 22. Left our camping ground at 7 oclock found our roads
to day very good piraris generally with groves at a distance water
very scarce. this morning we headed a large train extending about
3 Miles it was a sight to be seen we crossed a small Brook and
camped about 1 Mild from it at 4 oclock on account of one of the
company who was taken with a severe atact of colory drew the
waggon up in form of a corell and had him in a tent the Doctor
maid every effort and got him more comfortable some set up to take
care of him through the night and the rest retired to rest We
camped near by the grave of a young man that had been killed by
being throne from a waggon

May 23. This morning we mourn the loss of Capt Bevins who was taken sick yesterday expired at 1 o'clock in the morning his loss will undoubtedly be felt throughout the company the spirit which he has manifested has been that of benevalence the services were as follows after the corps were carried to the grave a short discourse was read by the secretary of the company and prayer by A F Lewis he was then interred but not without tears shed over his grave that did witness our sorrow of his departure. The company then proceeded to get the teams in readiness to leave our camping ground started at 1/2 past 7 o'clock our road lead us through very uneven country which was prairie water and wood quite scarce however as much as we wanted for our use we crossed a small creek and camped about 3 Miles from it on the prairie having taken wood and water with us Our travel to day about 18 Miles

May 24. We left our camping ground at half past 7 o'clock our road continued through an open country soil not so good grass poor very poor water face of the country uneven had some rain to day. saw several buffalo skulls laying on the ground Elk horn quite frequently for some distance back. We entered to day into the country of the Pawnees Tribe and it was necessary for us to use great care to prevent them from stealing them (cattle) we shut them up in a corral made with our waggon we camped to night by a small creek found good grass but poor water. Traveled to Day 20 Miles

May 25. Left our camping ground at 1/2 past 7 o'clock the most part of the country through which we passed to day was beautifully situated on the banks of the Little Blue river the soil is rich the banks of

the stream are lined with timber consisting principally of Poplar and Oak. The bottoms are about $3/4$ Mile wide surrounded with high Bluffs. We traveled to day 20 Miles and camped on the bank of Little Blue where we found water plenty and grass quite good.

May 26 Left our camping ground at 7 o'clock in the midst of several large companies the train extended about 2 or 3 Miles we drove in company until noon when they stopped to graze and we passed them and turned out our teams and let them graze one hour and started. The country through which we passed to day was very rough some part and other parts good. We camped to night on the banks of the Little Blue.
Traveled to Day 20 Miles.

May 27 Sunday There seemed to be some dissatisfaction on the parts of the majority of our company as to the propriety of traveling to day we had been favoured with good roads all the week and had made upwards of a hundred Miles and it was but reasonable that our team should rest and the men also stood in need of rest but the majority ruled so there was no other way but to go in contradiction to the constitution by which we professed to be governed and also to transgress the laws of God which some of us hold as still more sacred. We left our camping ground at 8 o'clock and traveled the forenoon on the banks of the Little Blue and stopped to feed and rest then started and drove 5 Miles and camped at 4 o'clock near by a small creek (the most part of our travels to day was through level country good soil no timber).
Traveled to day 15 Miles to day had an opportunity to send a letter to our friends by some fur traders who were going to St Joseph being 250 Miles from that place.

Monday May 28 Left our camp this morning at 7 o'clock but made very