

Excerpts from Patty Sessions Diary in Woman's Exponent

Missouri

1838

7 Jan. 1838 Elder Lyman Wight and Father Morley preached, and in the evening there was a blessing meeting, and her husband, herself, Peregrine, Julia and Sylvia, her children, received a patriarchal blessing under the hands of Father Morley.

4 Feb. [43 years old] "Father Morley came down and held a blessing meeting at Bro. Daniel's last night, preaches here today." "I rejoice that I live in a day when the gifts and blessings are restored and ordinances attended to as in days of old."

25 [March] To-day we go to the city to hear Joseph the Prophet preach.

6 April go to the city to the anniversary meeting

14 April make a visit to Joseph Smith

21 April Sylvia was married to Windsor P. Lyon, Joseph Smith performed the ceremony. David W. Patten was here when Sylvia was married and preached, while here, at Peregrine's. The next day [22 April] the Prophet was there and a good time it was. Last Sunday we went to hear Brigham Young, it being the 29th day of April."

16 July Peregrine started for the East, a journey of about two thousand miles, left us all well

middle of August we all were taken sick with fever and ague

1 Nov. Far West surrendered and we were ordered by the government to leave the State of Missouri

29 Nov. Peregrine returned home from the East.

1839

15 Feb. 1839 we leave our home and calculate to leave the State, get to Branch Creek the first night in company with Bros. Burnham, York, Pack, and all our families.

16 Feb. go to Tinney's Grove

17 Feb. get on to go the 20 miles prairie

18 Feb get to Thomas' tent

19 Feb. get to Henry Ashley's, go into the house and get some coverlets

20 Feb. go through Keatsville, tent at night

21 Feb. go through Huntsville, tent again

22 Feb. go to Mr. Grimin's, stay in the house

23 Feb. go to Rayland's stay in a house, it rains and we stay over Sunday

24 Feb. find the folks very accomodating

25 Feb. go on and find very muddy roads, tent out

26 Feb. still muddy, and we have to tent out, cold, wet and inclement, no shelter but a tent, a sick babe and no comforts. Trust in God and pray for courage and endurance

27 Feb. ["]roads very bad, but we reach the banks of the river and find many of our brethren and sisters encamped on the bank that cannot get across. Have got a very good place for tenting, but the wind blows hard; it is cold and there is some snow falling. There is no crossing with a ferry boat now, the river is full of ice."

5 March the Saints began to cross over to the other side

6 March ice almost out of the river

7 March the wind blew fiercely, making it difficult to cross

8 March Windsor and Sylvia cross the river; Julia was taken sick

Illinois

9 March 1839 go over and stay all night at Quincy

10 March Julia being very sick; Elders administer to her

14 March arrive at Carthage

27 June Peregrine started east on a mission in company with Bro. McArthur and Bro. Jackson

1840

2 May 1840 move to Nauvoo

2 June Peregrine returns from his mission

1842

11 June 1842 Bro. Sessions started for the State of Maine with Bro. Pack. "He left me alone, and I am very lonesome."

[She speaks of visits from Bro. Joseph and Bro. Willard Richards]

18 June Joseph spoke concerning Dr. Bennett and cut him off the Church

23 June [attending] the Female Relief Society

24 June went to see the Masons and hear an oration

25 June visit Mother Smith

26 June went to meeting and heard Brigham Young preach in the morning and Bro. Cahoon in the afternoon.

4 July the parade

7 July went to the Relief Society

10 July went to meeting and Bro. Woodruff preached

23 July "Mother Smith was here to visit me"

24 July went to the Relief Society and signed a petition to send to the governor of the state

1 Aug. attended the funeral of Bishop Knight

4 Aug. went to Relief Society; had a very good meeting, and afterwards attended a prayer meeting

6 Aug. went with Sister Chase to the Prophet Joseph's and had a good visit; Free Masons went over the river

7 Aug. Lyman Wight preached, and called for a contribution to help Bro. George Miller to go to the pine country

8 Aug. Bro. Joseph and Porter Rockwell were made prisoners by the Missourians on suspicion; they leave them in the hands of the city marshall and have gone back to Quincy

9 Aug. see the Prophet Joseph and he appears cheerful

- 10 Aug. "Bro. Joseph and Porter missing; the sheriffs return."
- 12 Aug. "Sheriffs here yet." making shirts for Bro. Joseph
- 13 Aug. receives a letter from her husband, dated July 12th, from the State of Maine
- 16 Aug. the sheriffs have gone home
- 29 Aug. rode out with son David to see the pottery and steam mill; saw the Prophet ride by, going to attend a special conference [her heart rejoiced to see him]
- 31 Aug. visit from Sisters Hyde and Johnson
- 1 Sept. going to Mr. Marks' and finding Martha and her babe both very sick
- 4 Sept. attending meeting, and a letter was read from Bro. Joseph, who had gone away again because the sheriffs were after him
- 8 Sept. went to the funeral of a child, where Sidney Rigdon preached
- 11 Sept. went to meeting, heard two letters read from Bro. Joseph Smith
- 14 Sept. attended the Relief Society and afterwards went to a meeting at Sister Leonards'; Sister Dotty and other sisters were there, and they had a blessed time
- 24 Sept. training day, Sister Buel was at her house
- 3 Oct. went to meeting and Sidney Rigdon preached
- 5 Oct. went to see Sister Emma Smith and found her very sick
- 6 Oct. Sister Mileken and Perry had been visiting; received a letter from husband
- 9 Oct. Windsor Lyon went to St. Louis to purchase goods
- 23 Oct. went to see a sick woman, Dr. Brisle was there; "In my opinion he officiated contrary to nature, or right, or reason."
- 31 Oct. going to the Temple to meeting; going to Bro. Miliken's and finding Lucy, his wife, very sick
- 16 Nov. Bro. Sessions returned from his mission