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Cowdery, Oliver, 1806-1850

Diary 1836 Jan.-Mar.

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[title page:]

Oliver Cowdery's

Sketch Book

January 1, 1836

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January 1, 1836.

This year came in on Friday:
the Lord having spared me another year, and my
family also enjoying health, I pray that I may be
spared from the temptations of the adversary, and that
I and my family may have health.

The man that keeps the commandments of the
Lord will never be forsaken: his Soul shall be
filled with the Holy Spirit, his days shall be many,
and his Seed Shall inherit the earth.

Saturday, the 2nd.

Presided with Presidents F. G. Williams
and David Whitmer in a high council, in the
case of elder Wm. Smith, was was brought be=
=fore the same for unchristianlike conduct.
He acknowledged the charges to be correct, and
was forgiven.

Sunday the 3rd

This morning I left for Columbus, the cap=
=ital of this State, to attend a Convention to
nominate a candidate for Governor, in
company with Benj. Adams, Lyman Root
and Simeon Wright. I did not like to

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start a Journey on Sunday, but was ob=
=liged to do so, or go in the Stage: this I could
not do for want of means. From
the 3rd to the morning of the 8th I was on
the road, a part of the way being very
muddy. My company used me with per
=fect respect, and spoke favorably of the

cause of truth.

Friday & Saturday, the 8th & 9th.
 Sat in Convention in the Theatre:
 a great many men assembled from dif= =ferent parts of the State. Here the del= from this section
 =egation ^ treated me with deference, and ap= =pointed me on an important committee in preference to others.

While in Columbus I had several in= =terviews with Mr. John A. B[r]yan, the Au= =ditor of State, from whom I received expres= =sions of the most perfect friendship and confi= =dence. My only wish in forming acquaintances with the great men of the nation, is, that I may be of service to my fellow beings and benefit the cause of truth and righteousness. I would that all

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these were men of God, walking in the path of holiness.
 While in Columbus I also visited the house of Cyprian Rudd, a member of the Church of Christ: his wife was very low of a fever.

Sunday the 10th.

Left for home in Company with Mr. Root and Wright. On my way I called on Silas Austin, the son of my present mother: he received me with a smile, and wished me to remember him.

Monday the 11th.

Left Newark, Licking Co. and left Mr. Wright, who is to come home another way. Nothing of importance occurred from this till I arrived home of importance.

Wednesday the Thursday the 14th.

Arrived home this evening, and found my family all alive, though my child was some unwell. My heart was truly great= ful to God for extending his mercy, and suf= fering me to behold them once more, after fa= =teaguing my body so long. My soul also rejoiced to meet my brethren of the Church, with whom I have lived since the organization of the same.

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Friday the 15th..

The several quorams of the authorities of the Church met today, and transacted important business preparatory to the endowment. The Spirit of the Lord was in our midst.

Saturday the 16th.

Wrote a letter to my brother Warren on the subject of a difficulty which exists between him and the Twelve. Wrote another to John A. Bryan, of Columbus, Auditor of State, on the subject of the Post Office.

See Post Script below.

Sabbath the 17th.

The quorums of the Church were organized in the presence of the Church, and commenced confessing their faults and asking forgiveness. The Holy Spirit rested upon us. O may we be prepared for the endowment, - being sanctified and cleansed from all sin.

Post Script to Saturday the 16th.

Met in the evening with bro. Joseph Smith, jr. at his house, in company with bro. John Corrill, and after pure water was prepared, called upon the Lord

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and proceeded to wash each other's bodies, and bathe the same with whiskey, perfumed with cinnamon. This we did that we might be clean before the Lord for the Sabbath, confessing our sins and covenanting to be faithful to God. While performing this washing unto the Lord with solemnity, our minds were filled with many reflections upon the propriety of the same, and how the priests anciently used to wash always before ministering before the Lord. As we had nearly finished this purification, bro. Martin Harris came in and was also washed.

Monday the 18th.

Recorded blessings until evening, when a man came in by the name of Lee Reed, and said he had been sued for an assault, and that his opponent had sought thus to destroy him: he urged me to go before the court and plead his cause. On examining the same before the court, I saw the man was

guilty of a misdemeanor, and could not say but little in his behalf. He was finally bound over to await his trial before the court of common Pleas: this descission was just, for he was guilty of throwing a stick against a little child.

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Tuesday the 19th.

Wrote blessings: this day I felt more like dedicating my self to the Lord than usual. O my God, my soul desires to see thee as thy favored ones in days of old. Received a letter from Joel Sweetland, of East Evans, Erie County, N.Y. and answered the same. Peace be to my soul forever.

Wednesday the 20th.

Copied blessings until evening, at which time I went, in company with my wife, to Elder John F. Boynton's wedding: a large company assembled, and after the services we were treated with wine and cake very sumptuously. While these things were passing, and joy filled each heart, I reflected back to the seasons in my life when I, like a stranger, was cast out of the society of men, without the common blessings of nature; and also did I think upon the afflictions of the Saints, in being driven from their homes; and further, upon the time when the righteous will enjoy peace and plenty, aside from the society of the Gentiles. Then, as when Israel walked in favor with God, will our sons and daughters be united in marriage, and joy will possess each bosom, there being nothing to molest or make afraid. O m[ay] the Lord my God roll on the day of peace and rest!

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Thursday, the 21st.

This morning, at 15 minutes past nine, my little daughter is 5 months old. O Lord, I thank thee that thou hast thus been merciful and spared my only child. At about three O'clock P.M. I assembled in our office garret, having all things prepared for the occasion, with presidents Joseph Smith, jr. F. G. Williams, Sidney Rigdon Hyrum Smith, David Whitmer, John Whitmer and elder John Corrill, and washed our bodies with pure water before the Lord, preparatory to the anointing with the holy oil. After we were washed, our bodies were perfumed with a sweet smelling oderous wash. At evening the

presidents of the Church, with the two bishop and their counsellors, and elder Warren Parrish, met in the presidents' room, the high councils of Kirtland and Zion in their rooms. Those named in the first room were anointed with the same kind of oil and in the man[ner] that were Moses and Aaron, and those who stood before the Lord in ancient days, and those in the other rooms with anointing oil prepared for them. The glorious scene is too great to be described in this book, therefore, I only say, that the heavens were opened to many, and great and marvelous things were shown.

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Friday, the 22nd.

Copied blessings. At evening met in the president's room where were the presidents, the twelve, the presidents of the 70, the high councils of Kirtland and Zion, and the bishops and their counsellors. The presidents proceeded and anointed Thomas B. Marsh, the president of the twelve, and he anointed the other eleven. The twelve then proceeded, president Marsh taking the lead, and anointed the presidents of the Seventy. Elder Don Carlos Smith was ordained and anointed president of the high priesthood of the Melchisedek priesthood, by the presidents of the Church Church. Near the Close of the meeting, 2 O'clock in the morning, almost all present broke out in tongues and songs of Zion.

Saturday, the 23rd.

Was, most of the time, in the office, though I did not write much. Conversed considerable [-] time with president Rigdon on the subject of his vision concerning the return of the Ten Tribes. In the evening Elder Marsh called at my house: we talked much upon the subject of visions: he greatly desired to see the Lord. Brother Marsh is a good man, and I pray that his faith may be strengthened to behold the heavens open.

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Sunday, the 24th.

The quorums met today: we had a good season. At evening met the presidency in the upper room in the printing office, and conversed upon the time of, and preparation and sanctification for the endowment.

Monday the 25th. Wrote a little: settled with James M. Carrel, who left the office. I gave him a reproof for urging himself into the society of a young female while he yet had a wife living, but he disliked my admonition: he however confessed his impropriety.

Tuesday, the 26th. This day commenced the Hebrews language under the tuition of Mr. J. Seixas, besides making selecti[on]s for the Northern Times. My family are well.

P. S. To Monday: In the evening the high priests and elders, all who did not belong to the quorums, met in the Lord's house, and also the Lesser priesthood, with the bishops at their head, to receive instructions relative to washing and anointing a large number of elders convened; more than I had supposed resided in Kirtland.

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January, 1836 & February

Wednesday, the 27th. Attended the Hebrews School.

Thursday, the 28th. Attended Hebrews School: at evening met many brethren in the Lord's house, who assembled to receive anointing.

Friday, the 29th. Attended Hebrews School.

Saturday, 30. Attended Hebrews School: at evening met in the upper rooms with the 70, elders & priests, who were anointing.

Sunday, 31. Attended meeting in the forenoon: the quorums met as before. In the afternoon went, but the house being full did not go in.

Monday, February 1. Met with the remaining committee of the School and assisted to make up the other Hebrews class of 30, or 31.

Tuesday, 2. Attended Hebrews school. At 11 O'clock the new class of 31 members took their first lesson. In the evening I finished the selections for this week's Times, and wrote a short article on the present agitating question of Slavery and antislavery. There is a hostile spirit exhibited between the North and South, and ere

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long must make disturbances of a serious nature. If

the North says that slavery is unjust the South says, you are endangering our lives, and we will not endure it.

Wednesday, 3. Attended school. At evening went to a wedding at bishop Whitney's: elder Joseph C Kingsbury was married to Caroline Whitney, sister of bishop Whitney. This day a man arrived, as he said, from Jackson County, Mo. and wished to Join the Church: Suspicions are entertained that he is not an honest man. Time will tell.

Thursday, 4. Attended school. After our class had recited the committee selected a new class of 15 who are to receive lessons in the Hebrews. In the evening wrote two editorial articles for the Times, one on the subject of our difficulties with France and another upon the subject of Slavery. Our country is agitated, & many look with anxious eyes for coming events. May the Lord preserve his people. Amen.

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February, 1836

Friday, 5. Attended Hebrews School.

Saturday, 6. Attended Hebrews School. In the afternoon wrote a letter in the name of the committee containing a request of Professor Seixa's wife, for a valuable Lexicon.

In the evening met with the presidency any [and] quorums in the Lord's house, when their anointing blessings were sealed by uplifted bands and praises to God. Many saw visions, many prophesied, and many spoke in tongues. Closed a little before 12 O'clock.

Sunday, 7. Copied the committee's letter to Mrs. Seixas, as her husband was urging for it. The quorums met in the room below the printing office and proceeded as previous. In the afternoon assisted Pres. Phelps in keeping the door, seating the congregation, and keeping order out at the door. Met the presidency and presidents of the 70 soon after meeting

in No. 2 printing office, blessed one of the sons of Zion, and also selected an other

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quorum of 70 from among the elders. Previously to the close of the afternoon services I asked for a letter from the Church for bro. James M. Carrel, now absent: - the church directed me to send him one.

Monday, 8. Att. Hebrews School. In the evening visited Profess. Seixas in company with Pres. J. Smith, jr. & S. Rigdon.

Tuesday, 9. Att. Heb. School. Also wrote a letter to my mother, now in Ellery, Chautauque County, N.Y. Received a letter from my brother Stephen F. Cowdery, of Buffalo, N.Y. Also wrote a letter to James M. Carrel, informing him that I could not send him a certificate of fellowship, as I heard that he had been intoxicated since he left. Wrote another letter to Gen. John Thompson, now a member of Congress, for the Congressional Globe, and also upon the Post Office business.

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Wednesday, 10. Attended Heb. School. In the evening took supper, in company with pres. Phelps, at my father's table, with my wife. My sister Lucy was also there.

Thursday, 11. Received a letter from my bro. Warren, from Freedom, N.Y. accompanying a letter to the High Council, and one to the Twelve. Read them to pres Rigdon, who thought that they would be satisfactory — I hope they may. In the evening met bro. Phelps and J. Whitmer in the upper room of the office and studied our Heb. lessons.

Friday, 12. Att. Heb. School. Met the quorums in the presidents' room in the evening to transact some church business. – Regulating the manner and power to ordain.

Saturday, 13. Att. Heb. School. Engaged a cutter for pro. Seixas to go to Hudson in the afternoon.

Sunday, 14. At home - the weather cold & house crowded, was the reason why I did not go ^ to meeting.

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Monday, 15. Att. Heb. School. The profess. being absent, our class appointed myself to look over them for the time. After, assisted pres. Smith to overlook the 11 O'clock. In the afternoon met

John Whitmer

pres's. J. Smith, Jr. S. Rigdon, W.W Phelps ^ and elder S. James in the office study and united in prayer for Professor Seixas and his family, pres. Smith taking the lead: The items asked for were in substance as follows: That the Lord will have mercy upon the man whom we have employed to teach us the Hebrews language; that all evil prejudice may be taken from his heart, and that the Spirit of God may visit him continually by night and by day, that he may be lead to embrace the gospel and believe the book of Mormon; that he will give him the spirit of humility and meekness that we may become his teachers in the things of salvation, that he may come forth and be baptized into the Church of Christ, that we may be benefitted with the knowledge he has of languages: and that the Lord will have mercy upon his family, and visit them with his Holy Spirit and cause them to embrace the fulness of the gospel, that they may be saved with him. We do not ask to become his

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teachers only that he may become our brother in the faith of the gospel, that his soul may be saved: all of which are asked in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

Tuesday, 16. Att. Heb. School.

Wed. 17 Att. Heb. School.

Thursday, 18 Att. Heb. School.

Friday, 19. Att. Heb. School. Visited profess. Seixas in the evening, with pres. J. Smith, jr. & S. Rigdon. We found him weary with his labors in teaching the school.

Saturday, 20. Att. Heb. School. Received a letter from James M. Carrel, and also wrote him an answer - in which I enclosed a certificate from the Church, having learned that the accusation was untrue charging him with intoxication since he left this place. Received another letter from my brother Lyman Cowdery, of Manchester, N.Y. Wrote a letter to Mr. S. Burnett, of Orange Ohio, on the subject of the Post Office in this place.

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Sunday, 21. Attended meeting in the afternoon.

Monday, 22. At the School (Heb.)

Tuesday, 23. At school. (Heb.)

Wednesday, 24. Attended Heb. School.

In the evening met the quorums of the Church in the Lord's house, and heard the petitions of several brethren, who wished to be ordained. Was appointed by the council, in company with pres. Orson Hyde and Sylvester Smith, to draft resolutions to be adopted as a rule of Church, regulating the recording of licenses - and conference minutes. My brother Warren's

Thursday, 25. with his family,
arrived this morning from Freedom, NY

Thursday, 25. My brother Warren and family arrived this morning from Freedom, N.Y. I was glad to see them - they were well. Att. Heb. School. This evening conversed with a brother-in-law of mine, upon the subject of religion, and found him very stubborn, and

my sister Olive.

Friday, 26. Attended Hebrews School

Saturday, 27. Professor Seixas left this morning to visit his family at Hudson, Ohio. I was called to lay hands upon pres. T. B. Marsh, in company with pres. J. Smith, Jr. and also upon my brother-in-law, Peter Whitmer, Jr. the latter was very sick of a Typhus fever, and was immediately heal[e]d and arose from his bed. I heard the other was better.

In the afternoon and evening met pres.

Orson Hyde and Sylvester Smith in committee and dictated resolutions to be introduced Thursday evening for the consideration of the quorums.

Sunday, 28. Attended meeting on the flats, and preached in the forenoon. In the afternoon broke bread and administered the Sacrament.

Monday, 29. Professor Seixas not being in town my class met and Studied together.

March, 1836. 18 [19]

March, 1836.

Tuesday, 1. Attended Heb. School.

Wednesday, 2. Att. Heb. School.

Thursday, 3. Att. Heb. School –

met the quorums in the evening in the Lord's house, and read the committee's report previously drawn, which was adopted with out amendment, except a small addition in the last article, extending the power of certain conference further, in signing licenses. I confess the hand of God in this matter, in giving me his Holy Spirit, to indite this valuable article, as by it the elders will enjoy their privileges as citizens, and the Churches be freed from imposition.

Friday 4. Attended Heb. School.

Saturday, 5. Attended Heb. School. In the evening met the Twelve, pres. J. Smith, Jr. & S. Rigdon, and my brother Warren, in the upper room of the printing office.

The Twelve had prefered a charge against

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 my brother for a letter he wrote last
 summer upon the subject of their
 teaching while at the Freedom con= =ference. My brother confessed his
 mistake, upon the testimony of the
 Twelve, and said he was willing
 to publish that they were not
 in the fault, but that he was satis= =fied they delivered those instructions
 which he had supposed they had not.

Sunday, 6. Did not attend meeting
 in consequence of there not being
 sufficient room for so many in
 the Small houses occupied for
 meetings.

Monday, 7. Attended Heb. School.
 Tuesday 8. Attended Heb School.
 Wednesday 9. Attended Heb. School.
 Thursday 10. Attended Heb School.
 Friday 11. Attended Heb. School.

From this time to Saturday
 the 19th attended Hebrew School,
 without any thing of note's transpiring.

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From Saturday 19th attended Heb. School,
 up to Saturday the 26. Nothing of note's trans= =piring. This day our School did not keep,
 we prepared for the dedication of the
 Lord's house. I met in the president's
 room, pres. J. Smith, jr. S. Rigdon,
 my brother W. A. Cowdery & Elder
 W Parrish, and assisted to in wri= =ting a prayer for the dedication
 of the house.

Sunday, the 27th attended on the
 dedication of the Lord's house. For the
 particulars of this great event see
 my account written by myself,
 and printed in the March No. of
 The Messenger and Advocate,

Signed C. In the evening I
met with the officers of the Church
was
in the Lord's house. The Spirit was
poured out — I saw the glory of God,
like a great cloud, come down and
rest upon the house, and fill the same
like a mighty rushing wind. I also saw

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cloven tongues, like as of fire rest
upon many, (for there were 316 pres=
=ent,) while they spake with other tongues
and prophesied.