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**D-329 2:46: Transcription of Letter from William Bodwell to John B. Lewis and Elizabeth Lewis,
March 8, 1848**

This transcription contains language contemporaneous of the time and is being presented as part of a historical record. Please note that the transcription has not been reviewed for final editing.

Wm Bodwell to Libby Lewis at Victory N.Y

Farmington March 8,1848

Dear Brother & Sister

We received yours this evening and are happy to hear that you enjoy good health and comfort. Hope that your anticipations of doing good, may be fully realized and of getting good also, you will not however expect fair sailing everyday. If you do you will be disappointed. No one is exempt from trouble. It is often to be expected, and just as often we ought to be on our watch to meet whatever difficulties come in our way. To care for the body maybe the soul of care, if we make a right use of the "good things" which Providence has instructed to our disposal. If we care for nothing, we shall be sure to have nothing to care for us. But if we can take care, our cares will certainly bring us many blessings. Thus far my letter may appear to advisory and give a history of what you maybe as much sensible of as myself, and lest your time should be occupied about matters of no interest to yourselves, Perhaps the subject could be changed to advantage as well as our interest.

The cold and dreary winter may too often be my dread, but who can think of the ever-ginial sun of tropic regions & the earth in constant wonder unfolding its rich harvest to millions already to receive them or bring them to the use for which nature has designed, then we should not be envious. Tis sure "the sun shines upon the soil & the good & the rain descends upon the unjust & the just" So it is decreed.

With us spring months are come. Herbage soon appears. Let us be diligent, then contented, then satisfied. Or my own part it would have been more pleasant for me if you have remained with us, But you may be better suited, better pleased, hope that you are. Happy to know that you find so many good friends. Believe you know how to prize friendship. No doubt the coming season will add greatly to the number of your diversions.

Place in the vicinity of where you live and is much visited as they have been, my sister may you enjoy all earthly good and Greater good that has no end. Let us hear from you often & much oblige your affectionate brother Wm

Father wished me to write for him. But it is difficult to express the sentiments of others without they have been communicated, on the last page the custom which he usually follows, has been written. He says he feels the cares of business with his daily labours quite as much as he ought to do. He does not take the plans into account alone, but chooses to plan and do the work too.

Which makes it much harder for him at his time of life, than it would to only see the work done. He talked with me yesterday of increasing his dairy herd, but said he had no one who was able to make butter & churn. He laments the absence of his children if they were all under his daily notice. He manifests frequent dislikes and is frequently fretful & ill-natured. But is almost always forgiving & kind. He seems many times to exercise more patience than would be expected of him, For he undoubtedly has many trials which no one else knows. His health is not the most firm. Though he bears his fatigue better than most people of his age by prudent care he may last for many long years. Mr Ezekial Coles is in his hundredth year it is said and walks to the post office regularly for his weekly paper, an age with us which is remarkable. Aunt Wadworth is now in good health, though for one or two days last week she was quite sick, with a hard cold & severe headache. Mr James Cowles & family are well as far as I am informed. Mrs Gad Cowles died suddenly about 3 weeks since, it is believed of apoplexy, John Whitman died quite unexpectedly of consumption though he had been feeble all winter. Myself and family in good health as usual. Believe they are all well at Hartford have not heard to the contrary, though my business has not called me there recently. We shall expect to have spring weather soon. It has been raining hard since 3 o'clock this morning. Now 9 evening 9th As soon as it comes, we shall have more garden than we can plant, more hay than we can make, and more work in the shop (house) than we can do.

Brother

It is gratifying to know of your safe arrival at your home and that you have an agreeable location for business. Hope your expectations will be realized and an abundant success the reward of your anxious labors. the part of the state is no doubt favorable for trade, and will eventually increase with the increase of inhabitants as also by the facility for transportation, which is constantly growing better. It is possibly better with you than with us as far as trade is concerned, although we have business here sufficient to keep us on the move but it does not always go to the best advantage. But a good deal depends upon taking the advantage of what we have to do to make it the most profitable. We have but few hands to do what needs to be done, besides other disadvantages, which other have of a want of interest on the part of many whom we employ. My father has to neglect his farm for the shop, or the shop for the farm. As he wants the care of both, one of the other must go, more of less to a disadvantage. He may think best to give up the shop to me. If he thought me capable to manage it, as good as he does, he no doubt would. As it is now is his farm is quite neglected, and perhaps it would not be much better if he was to devote more time to it. It would not be apt to Diminish in real value, but the actual profits would not be likely to be greatly increased. He bestows a great deal of labour for small income. He works for those who come after him "and for his own benefit (he says). The business of the shop probably will not diminish if it is kept up. But he does not like to be kept so close, and does not think best to relieve himself by hiring suitable help to go ahead. The railroad may increase trade in town but it is not yet decided which way it will go. It is already much better at Plainville & will continue to be if it comes through town.

respectfully your affectionate Brother

Wm Bodwell