

Utah Territory, Probate Court Records, Salt Lake County, Series 1621, Reel 1, Box 1, Folder 41, UDARS.

Judge Elias Smith to George Alley and E. P. Duzette, November 6, 1855, Utah Territory, Probate Court Records, Salt Lake County, Series 1621, Reel 1, Box 1, Folder 41, UDARS.

Schedule of Property of David Lewis, deceased, Utah Territory, Probate Court Records, Salt Lake County, Series 1621, Reel 1, Box 1, Folder 41, UDARS.

Duritha Lewis, Slave Registration, Utah Territory, Third District, Probate Court Records, Series 373, Reel 6, Box 5, Folder 11, UDARS.

Brigham Young to Duritha Lewis, January 3, 1860, Brigham Young Office Files, CR 1234 1, Reel 27, Box 19, Folder 1, CHL. We are indebted to Ardis E. Parshall for this letter.

Brigham Young to Duritha Lewis, March 31, 1860, Brigham Young Office Files, CR 1234 1, Reel 27, Box 19, Folder 5, CHL. We are indebted to Ardis E. Parshall for this letter.

“Drowned,” *Deseret News* (Salt Lake City, Utah), June 19, 1861, 8.

**3. The settlement of the estate of David Lewis which included three enslaved people and two “Indian boys” and his widow Duritha Trail Lewis’s effort to sale an enslaved man named Jerry and Brigham Young’s response, 1855-1861.**

**Documents**

**a. In the Matter of the Estate of David Lewis, Deceased, Duritha Lewis appointed Administratrix of her husband’s estate.<sup>1</sup>**

Territory of Utah

County of Great Salt Lake

SS

Whereas it has been made to appear, that on or about the second day of September AD 1855, one David Lewis, late of the aforesaid county, departed this life in the City of Parowan, Iron County, Utah Territory, without having made any legal Will, leaving property within the jurisdiction of

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<sup>1</sup> Utah Territory, Probate Court Records, Salt Lake County, Series 1621, Reel 1, Box 1, Folder 41, UDARS.

the Probate Court within and for the County of Great Salt Lake, aforesaid that should be administered upon and preserved for those to whom it may rightfully belong, and

Whereas Duritha Lewis, widow of the said deceased, has applied to the undersigned, Judge of the Probate Court, within and for the County of Great Salt Lake, for Letters of Administration on the estate of her said husband, and having executed and filed in the Office of the said Court, bonds, in the penal sum of two thousand dollars, conditioned for the faithful performance of the duties required of her by the laws of Utah Territory, as the Administratrix of the estate of her said husband David Lewis dec'd.

Therefore I Elias Smith, Judge of the Probate Court within and for the County of Great Salt Lake, have appointed the said Duritha Lewis, the Administratrix of the estate of her husband, David Lewis deceased, and grant unto her full power and authority, to collect and administer upon the property belonging to the estate of the said David Lewis in accordance with the laws of the Territory of Utah in such case made and provided, under the direction of the Probate Court for Great Salt Lake County, or the Judge thereof

In testimony whereof, I have hereunto set my hand, and caused the seal of the court to [be] affixed, this 3d day of November AD 1855

E Smith

Probate Judge G.S.L. County U.T.

(Seal)

**b. Judge Elias Smith appoints George Alley and E. P. Duzette appraisers of the David Lewis estate.<sup>2</sup>**

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<sup>2</sup> Judge Elias Smith to George Alley and E. P. Duzette, November 6, 1855, Utah Territory, Probate Court Records, Salt Lake County, Series 1621, Reel 1, Box 1, Folder 41, UDARS.

Territory of Utah

Great Salt Lake County

SS

To Misters George Alley and E. P. Duzette,

By virtue of the authority vested me by the laws of the Territory of Utah as the Judge of the Probate Court within and for the County of Great Salt Lake Territory aforesaid I have appointed you the appraisers of the property of David Lewis late of said county deceased. You will therefore proceed to value the property belonging to said estate, at a fair cash value, after having taken and subscribed the oath hereunto annexed, and make out a list thereof with the price of each article set opposite thereto and return the same to my office at an early day

Given under my hand at Office in Great Salt Lake City this 6<sup>th</sup> day of November AD 1855.

E Smith

Judge of Probate

**c. Partial inventory of David Lewis Estate.<sup>3</sup>**

Cr.

By 2 Indian boys	\$95.00
By Com. on // 20%	78.00
By Goods returned	341.86
By cash	68.00
By Rifle & pistol	2.00

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<sup>3</sup> Schedule of Property of David Lewis, deceased, Utah Territory, Probate Court Records, Salt Lake County, Series 1621, Reel 1, Box 1, Folder 41, UDARS.

By Buck Skins 30.00

612.92

Schedule of property of David Lewis decd

Viz. —	1 coloured man (35 yrs old).....	\$700.--
	1 " woman (16 " " ).....	500.--
	1 " girl (11 " " ).....	300. --
	1 yoke Oxen 90. 1 Cow 30.....	120. --
	4 Swine 40. 2 horses 75. & 80. #.....	195. --
	# 1 Colt (3 mos old) 20. 1 waggon 35.....	55. --
	1 plough 15. Corn & fodder 18.....	33. --
	Hay 15. 2 setts old badly worn harness 6.....	21. --
	2 Chains & 2 parts of Chains 6.....	6. --
	1 Spade & hoe 2.50.....	2.50
	1 City Lot 150. 1 City Lot & house 250.....	400.—
	1—10 Acre Lot (very poor).....	<u>50.—</u>
		\$2382.50

# Brought from Parowan

Appraisers

George Alley

Edward P Duzette

G.S.L. City

Nov. 15<sup>th</sup> 1855

**d. Registration of Duritha Lewis's Slaves, August 4, 1858.<sup>4</sup>**

Territory of Utah

Great Salt Lake County SP

Personally appeared before <sup>me</sup> James W Cummings clerk of the Third Judicial District Court for said Territory. Duritha Lewis who being duly sworn states an oath that she is the true and Lawful owner of three persons of African blood, whose names and ages are <sup>as</sup> follows, to wit Jerry, Caroline, & Tampian, aged 38, 18, and 14. That she the said Duritha Lewis inherited them from her father Soloman Trail according to the Laws of the state of Kentucky, that by virtue of such inheritance, she is entitled to the services of the said Jerry, Caroline, and Tampian during their lives according <sup>to</sup> the Laws of the said Territory, ~~and [indecipherable] with not.~~ That she makes ~~for~~ this affidavit that they may be registered as Slaves according to the requirements of the Laws of said Territory for life

Duritha Lewis

Sworn and subscribed to before

Me this 4<sup>th</sup> day of Aug. AD 1858

J. W. Cummings Clerk U.S. 3<sup>rd</sup>

Dist. Court, Utah Territory

& John G. Lynch Depy

**e. Brigham Young to Duritha Lewis, January 3, 1860.<sup>5</sup>**

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<sup>4</sup> Duritha Lewis, Slave Registration, Utah Territory, Third District, Probate Court Records, Series 373, Reel 6, Box 5, Folder 11, UDARS.

<sup>5</sup> Brigham Young to Duritha Lewis, January 3, 1860, Brigham Young Office Files, CR 1234 1, Reel 27, Box 19, Folder 1, CHL. We are indebted to Ardis E. Parshall for this letter.

G.S.L. City, Jan. 3, 1860

Mrs David Lewis

3d Ward, City,

Dear Sister:

I understand that you are frequently importuned to sell your negro man Jerry, but that he is industrious and faithful, and desires to remain in this Territory. Under these circumstances I should certainly deem it most advisable for you to keep him, but should you at any time conclude otherwise and determine to sell him, ordinary kindness would require that you should sell him to some kind, faithful member of the Church, that he may have a fair opportunity for doing all the good he desires to do or is capable of doing. I have been told that he is about forty years old, if so, it is not presumable that you will, in case of sale, ask so high a price as you might expect for a younger person. If the price is sufficiently made, I may conclude to purchase him and set him at liberty.

Your Bro. in the Gospel

B.Y.

**f. Brigham Young to Duritha Lewis, March 31, 1860.<sup>6</sup>**

G.S.L. City, March 31, 1860.

Mr's Lewis, wife of the late David Lewis,

3<sup>d</sup> Ward, City,

Dear Sister:

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<sup>6</sup> Brigham Young to Duritha Lewis, March 31, 1860, Brigham Young Office Files, CR 1234 1, Reel 27, Box 19, Folder 5, CHL. We are indebted to Ardis E. Parshall for this letter.

Since I last saw you I have been informed that Jerry claims that he is free, and that you have no papers or other evidence to prove that he is your slave. Still he told me that he is willing and much prefers to live with and serve you, but it is very uncertain whether he will stay long with any one else. I know of no one, under these circumstances, that would deem it a safe investment to buy him. For these reasons I think it much the best for you to retain him in your service.

Your Brother in the Gospel,

B.Y.

**g. News of Jerry's drowning published in the Salt Lake *Deseret News*, June 19, 1861, 8.<sup>7</sup>**

Drowned.—On Saturday last, a colored man in the service of Mayor Smoot, was drowned while bathing in one of the sloughs between the city and the Jordan, which are now filled with water, as the river is at full banks. The body was found and recovered that evening.

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<sup>7</sup> "Drowned," *Deseret News* (Salt Lake City, Utah), June 19, 1861, 8.