



Major Alphonso Wetmore's Diary of a Journey from Boonslick, Missouri, to SANTA FE in 1828 (1914)

MAJOR ALPHONSO WETMORE

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Alphonso Wetmore, like several other of Missouri's noteworthy early settlers, first became interested in the Territory of Missouri as an official of the National Government, and when he later resigned his office he remained in the new State and became one of its influential citizens.

Born in 1793, he was not yet twenty years of age when the second war with England commenced. He entered the national service at that time and lost his right arm in one of the northern frontier campaigns. He was retained in the service of the United States Army, however, after the war, and was stationed in the Territory of Missouri, being paymaster in the Sixth Regiment, United States Infantry. After leaving the army service some years later, he settled on the extreme frontier, in the Boone's Lick country, where he became a merchant, lawyer, and author. He was one of the original trustees of New Franklin when it was incorporated in 1833, (the former town of Franklin having been destroyed by the Missouri river.)

Soon after 1833, he seems to have moved to St. Louis, where in 1837 he compiled and published the first Gazeteer of Missouri. For the next twelve years, Wetmore was engaged in the practice of law, and in writing for various periodicals. In the summer of 1849, a terrible visitation of the cholera spread over the Mississippi Valley, and claimed Wetmore as one of its victims, June 13, 1849.

While stationed in Missouri he became interested in the Santa Fe trade, in which he later engaged. The account is in the form of a diary and gives details of the trip from day to day.

Originally published in 1914; reformatted for the Kindle; may contain occasional imperfection; original spellings have been kept in place.

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