OLPAN HTROWGOOM C. Welnten, Lelnes Oel, 10th 1898, Mr. Jay amos Bonnett Your letter of The 32 und was duly received. " I have not forgetten our Chance metung in Dualin, hor The berg pleasand time I had with you and your lady frend while waiting for the arrival of Eoldier boys. I had no thought of precenting my Early reperience as part of neb. State Vistory when a gave, you what I believe to be the facts of the introduction of the Sen Flower into your State. I must disclaim all personal knowledge Except of what I Raw and what was the Common report and belief at that time. The time was 1860, about The first of June, With two others as partners we were haveling with an of team to the Kockey Mits, for yold, In The perlance of The day "Bound for Like's Peak". The had a good wayyon and our quotice

We goked and pat in as leaders. The cows supplied us with mulk bream and butter, clowcling as we did and Campring out was merely a summer picnic. My pontners genteine & Parsons were respectively herder and teamster and I myself was Cook. Our herder Wilked the Cows and made The butter. This was Chaned in an old-factioned dash Chun from The Geam that orse on the milk set over night and The new mille of the morning that was not wanted for breakfast, Those of our supplier were in our wayor when we arrived at Conneil Bleeffo. But here we Completed what was lacking as from this time we were to pake from Civiligation or what was often, Eod's Country. Probably threefourth of the people at The Bluffs were thout Thomond - of The Eel Known as for Smith Mormone. Most of the Brigham Jonny Mormond had gone in to Sall Lake. 1850 Their Expoduce record between 1846 and 1830, Commenced in 1850,

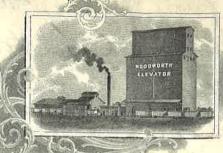
It was in The month of June of This year Their advance of the Emigrand Comprairies reached The Mussourie Peror, assess They gathered schilly here from different North and were Roon a large adod. a little distance above the Rottawalamie ayiney, the hills of the High Prairie Good in upon the moon and overhanging it appear an unuscul and Commanding Elevalion, These were Called Council Blaffs, The lange flat of bottom land weet and Evith of These hills was soon filled with one great Camp, " In the clear blue morning air, The Amoke streamed up from more Than a thousand Cooking firees. Herd boys were dozing on the sloped; Sheep, horses, Cows and Orten were feeding around Them, and four thousand head of Cattle were counted for one stand point! Where ever a Company of Mormond were hatted only for a short time ger dens were made, and The Conding, Ching and wearing of cloth from the word Clipped from The Sheip was Carried on, They were sheetly organized miler leader

Over Every ten wayons was a Capture of ten; over fifty a Captain of fifty and Ench hundred had a Captain of hundred. In addition to horses, Calle, and thep They had hogs, Chickens and geeker How Chicken feed They Camed Sunfower feed which had been preformed in quan = were dispersed after the burning of their Sempole at hanvoo in 1846, the Camp fine beds made a not Eail for the growthe of the Sunflower which Eforing up Every where in their path from seed accidetaly or purposely Ecattered at the where they had Camped. In 1860, we readily knew when we logge off the Mormon Trail by the lack of Sunglover. The bottom lands between Council Bluffe and The missourie which is king miles wide was put in Cullivation by the Mornious and Rucepive Camp's raised supplies for Their much acrops the plaint and Mls, No crops were growing here in 1860 Except the sunflower which was seen (Everywhere,

Omaha at this time was only a small billiage. The state Capitol stood in the hill where the High School building now Stands, a few scattering houses or huch hast of Omuha were The only Right of Civiligation where now the Country is so richly Cultivated and Thickly Eeteled, The Lone Tree you shake of was not on the missome but on the Platte siver, I think it was beyond the Elk Home It was on the north side of the Blatte I gudge about thirty yeards from that stream The trail was fruth of the tree but very Close up to it. It was a Cotton wood from three to four feel in diameter und the only her of any size in the region - hence Called the Love Tree. When I know it, it was truly a here of second. It was covered as high as me Could reach with my named and dates records of value to those for whom they were intended, We met with no trouble from The initiand although we keptquard like a Military Campr Doerghight. Thicking I have quite the ground affected I will Close, Your Tonly n. Wordworth



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MINNEAPOLIS-MINN.

NERPASKA STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Barret

Welaka, Fla. Oct. 10th 1898

Mr. Jay Amos Barrett, Lincoln Neb.

Dear Sir:

Your letter of the 3rd inst was duly received.

I have not forgotten our chance meeting in Omaha, nor the very pleasant time I had with you and your lady friend while waiting for the arrival of the Soldier boys.

. I had no thought of presenting my Early Experience as part of Neb. State History when I gave you what I believe to be the facts of the introduction of the Sun Flower except of what I saw and what was the common report and belief at that time.

The time was 1860, about the first of June. With two others as partners we were traveling with an ox team to the Rockey Mts. for gold. In the parlance of the day "Bound for Pike's Peak."

We had a good wagon and our motive power was two yoke of oxen.

We also had two cows which for convenience we yoked and put on as leaders.

The cows supplied us with milk, cream and butter. Traveling as we did and camping out was merely a summer pic-nic. My partners Junkins and Parsons were respectively leader and teamster and I myself was Cook. Our herder milked the Cows and made the butter. This was churned in an old-fashioned dash churn from the cream that rose on the milk set over night and the new milk of the morning that was not wanted for breakfast. Most of our supplies were in our wagon when we arrived at Council Bluffs.

But here we completed what was lacking as from this time we were to pop from civilization or what was often called God's country.

Probably three fourth of the people at the Bluffs were Mormons--of the Sect known as Joe Smith Mormons.

Most of the Brigham Young Mormons had gone on to Salt-Lake. Their Exodus commenced in 1850.

It was in the month of June of this year their advance of the emigrant companies reached the Missouri river.

They gathered rapidly here from different parts and were soon a large crowd

A little distance above the Rottawatamie ? agency, the hills of the High Prairie crowd in upon the river and overhanging it appear an unusual and commanding elevation. These were called Council Bluffs

The large flat of both on land west and south of these hills was soon filled with one great camp. "In the clear blue morning air, the smoke streamed up from more than Athousand cooking fires.

Herd boys were dozing on the slopes, sheep, horses, cows and oxen were feeding around them, and four thousand head of cattle were counted from one stand point."

Where ever a company of Mormons were halted only for a short time gardens were made, and the canning, spinning and weaving of cloth from the wool clipped from the sheep was carried on.

They were strictly organized under leaders over every ten wagons was a captain of ten; over fifty a captain of fifty

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and each hundred had a captain of hundred.

In addition to horses, cattle, and sheep they had hogs, chickens and geese.

For chicken feed they carried Sun Flower seed which had been prepared in quantities at the different post to which they were dispersed after the burning of their Temple at Manvoo / in 1846.

The camp fire-beds made a rich Soil for the growth of the Sunflower which sprang up everywhere in their path from seed accidently or purposely scattered where they had camped.

In 1860 we readily knew when we were off the Mormon Trail by the lack of the Sunflower.

The bottom lands between Council Bluffs and the Missouri which is six miles wide was put in cultivation by the Mormons and successive camps raised supplies for their march across the plains and mts.

No crops were growing here in 1860 except the Sunflower which was seen everywhere.

Omaha at this time was only a small village. The state Capitol stood on the hill where the High School building now stands. A few scattering houses or huts west of Omaha were the only signs of civilization where now the country is so richly cultivated and thickly settled.

The "Lone Tree" you spoke of was not on the Missouri but on the Platte river. I think it was beyond the Elkhorn.

It was on the north side of the Platte I judge about thirty yards from that stream.

The trail was south of the tree but very close up to it. It was a cotton-wood from three to four feet in diameter and

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the only tree of any size in the region hence called the "Lone Tree."

When I saw it, it was truly a tree of record. It was covered as high as one could reach with names and dates records of value to those for whom they were intended. We met with no trouble from the Indians although we kept guard like a military camp every night.

Thinking I have quite covered the ground expected I will close.

Yours Truly

N. Woodworth