

Excerpts from Giles S. Thomas' Letter to his Family, July 23, 1876

Turkey Creek Fillmore Co. Neb.

July 23 1876

Dear and affectionate friends

After so long awhile I avail myself the present opportunity to pen you a few lines to let you know something about times in Nebraska. Times -- (Financially) are very close in fact it seems there is no money in Neb. and I may say how we "apparently" get along without or at best but very little is more than I can solve. Crops -- Wheat don't look very promising at present in fact it is too far gone for redemption although the rain we had the last week has helped the looks of it 50 per cent it is thin, short, and weedy. Barley -- most of it looks splendid. Oats generally looks well but thin on the ground.

Flax looks splendid where the weeds did not get the Start of it. Corn — looks promising for a good crop -- has a splendid color and generally a good stand. Potatoes -- good, where the bugs did not hurt them. Garden truck of all kinds good -- especially vines. Prairie grass very good for Grazing. Timber is making a fine growth -- consequently looks fine. Horses -- have never seen look better since I have been in Neb. -- Cattle -- in the herds are fat. Work cattle -- where they have not been worked to hard look well. Hogs -- (what few there is) is good. The crops on my place look very well except the wheat of which I only have out 21 As. and that rented I have 5 1/2 As. barley very good. Oats 4 1/2 As -- is good. Flax -- 17 As of which two thirds is nice. corn 11 As is very good -- and very clean. Potatoes good plenty to use if we would dig them -- but as we have plenty of old ones -- we will make use of them and let the new ones grow larger. Have earley corn in tassel and in silk so we think will soon have roasting ears. Plenty of Peas (ain't I glad) and other garden truck. I have, also 19 As of corn rented which looks very nice...

I see I must close. hoping to hear from some of you soon

G. S. S. W. Thomas