Correspondence [Eliphalet Price and N. Levering]

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LETTER OF HON. ELIPHALET PRICE.

The proposal, contained in the letter below, as Hon. E. Price may learn from the publication of his lengthy article on the "scalping Knife," in this number, meets with favor; and he is requested to complete his design and forward the papers revised.

—Editor.

GUTTENBERG, CLAYTON COUNTY, IOWA, 
March 31, 1863

DEAR SIR—In one of my late newspapers, which I have mislaid, I saw an article stating that the "State Historical Society," was about to publish a periodical, devoted to scenes and incidents in the early history of Iowa. I have thought that I would inquire if articles of that kind, which have already been published, would be acceptable.

About twelve years ago, I wrote a series of articles for the Du Buque papers, descriptive of scenes that passed under my observation in 1854-35, and down to the organizing of the State Government. Many of them I have lost, but I have a few of them yet, which, if they would be acceptable, I would revise and send to the paper. The trial and execution of Patrick O'Conner, at the Du Buque mines, in 1834, I gave an account of, with all of its details, which is the only full and accurate account of that scene that has ever been published, and it ought to have been preserved, which the publication contemplated, would be likely to do.

There are sketches of like character, which I wrote for the Du Buque papers, some of which I have, while others are lost, unless some person has preserved a file of the papers.

I do not know who the Secretary of the State Historical Society is, and I presume that he does not know me. I have some acquaintance with Governor Kirkwood, Folsom, Clark, Bowen and others at Iowa City. I should like very much to secure a copy of the publication designed. I have not a doubt, but in the course of a year there will be a great demand for its back numbers, and it ought to be issued in magazine form, so that they could be easily bound.

Very respectfully yours,

ELIPHALET PRICE.
Sioux City, Iowa, July 25th, 1863.

Rev. Sam'l Storrs Home, Librarian
of State Historical Society, Iowa City, Iowa:

Dear Sir—Yours of the 13th inst. came to hand in due time. To-day I express to the "State Historical Society," the kitten mentioned in my last. I send it as a present from Capt. J. M. White of this city, to the State Historical Society. I send it in a glass jar filled with alcohol, and placed in a small box packed with saw-dust. In the box you will find a small piece of Sergeant Floyd's coffin, orderly of Lewis and Clark's Company, the first white men that ever traveled in this upper country. Sergeant Floyd died and was buried near this town, about the 4th of August, 1804, if I mistake not. In March, 1857, his remains were about to be precipitated into the Missouri River from the bluff where they rested, which was sliding in. A meeting was called by the citizens of this town, and a committee appointed to repair to the grave, and secure his bones from the turbid waters of the Missouri. About half of them were saved. I had the honor of serving as Chairman of the said committee. I secured this piece of his coffin which I send you. I do not know that it will be of any interest to your Society, but if so, I should be happy to hear it. A few years since, I noticed in a public journal, that an English traveler, visiting this place, had taken a part of the Cedar post that stood at the head of Floyd's grave, and placed it in a museum in London. I am not certain, but think I can secure some family relics of the celebrated War Eagle, who died and was buried in this county. Some of his family reside here. Will you be so kind as to send Captain White the October number of the Annals of your Society. Any thing that I can do to forward the interest of your Society, I will most cheerfully do. Please write on receipt of the box expressed, and much oblige,

Yours truly,

N. Levering.