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WINTER QUARTERS: TRAGEDY OR TRIUMPH? 12/19/81 G Holmes

Reflect for a minute on the aura of tragedy surrounding the historic name of Winter Quarters. Here in the Missouri

Valley 135 years ago, historians say, 'hundreds of Saints

sickened and died. While thousands lived in drafty little

log cabins, some survived in tents through the winter of

1846-47. Food was scarce and of dangerously limited variety. Corn and wheat were cracked by some with primitive

mortar and pestle for food, meal after dreary meal.

While

the hard-pressed Saints cooperated to pull together enough

supplies and equipment for the 1000-mile trek from here

to the Salt Lake Valley, Indians scattered and killed some

of the oxen needed to pull the heavily loaded covered

wagons of the migrating Saints.