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Capt James Allen, who had recruited the Mormon Battalion

for Col. Stephen W. Kearny, had arranged a two year

agreement between the Mormons and the Omaha Indians

for the right to remain on Indian lands for two years. Later

the Oto-Missouri Indians, also living in the vicinity of

Bellevue, said the land did not belong to the Omaha

Indians, who had come to the vicinity just a year before

the Mormons -- that it was, in fact, Oto land. When the

Omaha Indians demanded, about two months after the treaty,

rent for the land the Mormons were using, the Oto quickly

sent a delegation of their own demanding preferential

treatment. Church leaders offered to build a strong house for the Omaha Indians on high land where they could

see from afar off the approach of their traditional enemies,

The Dakota Sioux. Little is known about that building, but there is some evidence to suggest it was built about