

The freight we changed cars at Belthap, a small town, here we took the Wabash train for Bloomfield where we had to lay over until 4 P.M. however my cousins found out while on the train that their father was in Bloomfield attending the District Court - acting as Janitor after going to a Restaurant and leaving our grips we went to the Court house my two Cousins went up to the Court room and after I saw them talking with their father. I waited a little while and the girls went and set down. I stepped up to the old Gentleman and told him I was looking for a man by the name of Elias Hoffelater he said

I am the man so I guess you have the right one. Well Sir, I am a stranger to you but I was looking for some of my relatives that used to live here. I was told to come to you, also I told him my name and who my mother and father was he said. you are my nephews then. he shook hands with me, and then turning to the two girls he introduced me to them telling me they were two of his daughters that just came there to visit with them he never asked me any questions as to my identity but took me at my word. After talking with the girls awhile, they said to me, why you must have come out the same

train as my daughters but after waiting for the old Gentle to ask me any more questions we told him the truth well at 4 o'clock we again took another train and it was also on another R.R. and went to Pulaski where my uncle lives although he could not leave to come home as he was Califf to the grand jury, and there was a man being tried for killing another. when we left Bloomfield it was still very cold. we stopped at Pulaski and found where my uncle lived and was very glad to get there out of the cold as we had been all day traveling a distance of 130 miles and had changed cars 3 times

Jan. 27. 1899.

After spending one night at my uncles house, and enjoying our selves very much we took the 10 o'clock train and went back as far as Bloomfield and again went to the court room and heard the lawyers making their plea in the Springer Murder trial while there we saw some of the most long haired looking men I ever saw they looked as though there was no barbers in that country, so the folks call Davis County the hairy nation and I remained at the land of Esau, after spending 5 hours there in Bloomfield we took stage for Belnap and after a cold ride of 3 miles we again took the train and

went to Floris a small city -
 here lives one of my cousins
 also, here my conversation
 in first and about 10 minutes
 after I came up stairs
 and rapped on the door
 he came to the door
 and asked me in and
 gave me a seat. I took
 a seat - and then I began
 asking him questions and
 he was the most astonished
 man I ever saw and the
 two girls and his wife
 were in the other room and
 they were so much pleased
 that they came out and
 spoiled the rest of the
 fun. and as he was
 trying to introduce me to
 them they were laughing and
 trying to introduce me
 to him so after it was

all over and he understood
 how it came about he just
 laughed for an hour or more.
 so thus ends our surprises on
 my relatives for the present
 Jan 28 1899.

to day is Saturday and we
 remained all day and had
 a fine visit - but owing to
 the way the trains run we
 had to go home to night
 or wait until Monday
 so about 5⁰⁰ we took the train
 again for Eldon and went
 to the home of my cousin
 Elvira. after having a good
 visit with my cousins.
 when we got back to Eldon
 we found cousin Elvira's
 2 daughters that accompanied
 had come to visit - alas
 and you just know we
 are having a good time

Jan 29, 1899

To day is Sunday still it is very cold. We went to day (out in town) to visit another relative a daughter of one of my cousins who is dead. We had a nice visit and spent the most of the day and in the evening returned again to cousin Elvira and spent the evening very pleasantly the folks I bring and having music.

Jan 30 1899

To day is still cold Cousin Sadies and Elvira's girls are all going home today so at noon I went to the train to see them of after I returned home they all made me promise to come and visit them

which I shall try to carry out as soon as I can so I may be prepared to take up my labors again and I can say I have had a fine visit - and it has done me such a lot of good to come here and hurt up my relatives

Jan 31, 1899.

To day has been rather quiet after all the folks have gone away but I have been trying to write up my journal for I have been so much engaged lately that I could hardly keep it written up. The days are getting a little cold every day.

Feb 1, 1899.

To day has been as usual and spent visiting with

my relatives also we have been taking some kodak pictures for all of the folks this evening I went down on the DeMoine River and took a snap shot at the Rail road Bridge.

Feb. 2. 1899

To day is ground hog day but this morning it is storming quite hard but its over night it cleared and the sun came out and there nothing to day unusual so will only write a little in my journal

Feb. 3. 1899.

To day is clear and cold doing nothing to day out of the ordinary life the day is awful cold look like we are going to have

colder weather.

Feb. 4 1899

To day is still cold Mr Jordan took out his horse and Buggy and we had a drive down the river and a beautiful ride it was, though cold I enjoyed it very much along the river Desmoine there is large beautiful trees, such as Elm, Hickory and Lots of other kinds and in the summer it is a beautiful drive when we came home it was awful cold

Feb. 5. 1899.

To day is Sunday and it is very cold have been at home all day. in the evening we went to church and had a nice time

listening to an Evangelist-
 he advocated belief in Christ
 was sufficient to save a man
 and he told them to join any
 Church it made no difference
 which one, he said even the
 Catholic, that is the kind of
 gospel the people of the world
 like it is not so hard for
 them to get saved

Feb. 6, 1899

This morning I got up and
 packed my things for I am
 going to Ottumwa to see
 my Cousin and her family
 Mrs. Sadie Jones. at Eleven
 thirty I went up and got
 my ticket and boarded
 the train and after a 12
 miles ride I arrived at
 Ottumwa and soon
 found my way to my

Cousins found them home
 and pleased to meet me
 After dinner I went down
 town and had a shave
 this is quite a nice City
 of about 20,000 Pop. built
 along the Bank of the De Moine
 River, extending back on to
 the steep Bluffs. After the
 girls came home I've had
 some music and singing
 they are both nice singers
 I spent a very pleasant evening

Feb 7 1899

To day is getting quite cold
 nothing worth drifting today
 the weather is too cold to go
 out, around the City very
 much.

Feb 8 1899

To day is still getting colder
 I have done nothing but

Sit in the house.
 but I am enjoying myself
 awful well. I wish my folks
 treat me just as nice and
 kind as I can be. in the evening
 we had a long chat on
 the Divinity of the Book of Mos.

Feb 9 1899.

the weather is still getting
 colder every night - last
 night it registered 18 degrees
 below zero and the papers
 state there is a cold wave
 coming. it seems colder
 weather than I ever saw
 out home.

Feb. 10, 1899.

This morning some of the
 Thermometers registered 28
 degrees below zero how
 is that. too cold for me
 and the papers state worse

Cold in other places than
 here. but I don't care about
 it being any colder. Edna
 says this is cold enough for
 her and if I will take her
 home with me she will
 sure go. she has said that
 ever from the first-time
 I came here

Feb. 11, 1899.

Last night was not quite
 so cold, only below ²⁰ 20 degrees
 but that is enough. people
 seem to think the worst is
 over. but I want to say it
 is the coldest weather that
 I ever saw in this kind of
 a climate and the oldest
 settlers say it is the coldest
 weather they have ever saw
 There has been several
 deaths reported in ~~the~~

country from freezing to death. One place there was a woman and her three little children frozen to death. the husband being away to hunt work. they had nothing to keep them warm and not a thing to eat what ever there is thousands of poor people in these eastern cities that are very poor

Feb. 12. 1899.

This morning it still registers down to 20. to day is Sunday but it is so cold that we are not going to church or at least my folks are not going. There is not much news to write as it is so cold those days I cant get out to do any sight-seeing but I have taken some Kodak Pictures of the folks

Feb. 13. 1899.

This morning it is still cold but the weather is moderating some so it is not so cold. I received a letter to day from Elder Nielsen he is not going to stay in Omaha but he is going to Lincoln City Neb. nothing unusual to day so there is not much to record

Feb. 14. 1899.

To day is Valentines day but it feels so cold it would make me almost wish Valentines day to come one month later. I have scarcely been out of the house all day