

Chap^r 20 State of the Climate in Kansas Territory

The winters in the territory are exceedingly short, but very severe generally commencing in Jan^y & ending by the first of April. Snow very frequently commences in Jan^y & continues more or less during the 3 Months with a most tremendous wind which drifts the snow from the hills & various points of elevation with immense force down into the Valley below frequently 7 or 8 feet in depth with most intense & bitter frost - until April when the weather assumes a milder & more comfortable appearance in the wet season in the territory when the river banks frequently overflow to a very great extent the rain descends not in gentle light & fulminating showers but in most tremendous driving showers which to those who are not initiated into the nature of such rain would feel very alarming & dreadful & not unfrequently there is a large quantity of hail of a most gigantic size falling with the rain that beats down on the shingles of the cabin with such force & fierce & frightful impetuosity that it will appear as though the roof was coming in or falling through the hailstorm will last perhaps for an hour - while the Rain will continue for a week or two sometimes

these violent storms are frequently succeeded by warm weather June July & August which is generally the hottest