

May 27, 1938

Mr. James Williamson Eddy
278 Cabot Street
Newtonville, Mass.

Dear Mr. Eddy:

I had occasion today to reread very thoroly the letters from a Mr. O. Wilmarth of Lawrence to Thomas Eddy. They are really remarkable letters, and in your letter of November 8, 1935 you indicated that you had other letters to Thomas Eddy written from Kansas.

Not long ago, Prof. John Ise of the Department of Economics in the University edited and published letters written by a young man who had settled in Kansas in the '70s. The book has proven attractive, altho to me the letters are less interesting than the Wilmarth letters. One point of the Ruede letters was that they depicted the everyday life and hardships of the time. The Wilmarth letters deal with the troublesome days in Kansas from the middle of '54 until 1861, and besides indicating the deprivations of the early settlers, they indicate unusual fidelity to ideals. While these letters will be preserved in our Historical Society, I think they are worth publishing in the Journal-World.

If you recall the contents of the Wilmarth letters, you will remember of his telling of the death of his wife Julia, who was buried on a hill near Lawrence. The hill to which he refers is about a mile from the campus of Kansas University and some ten or fifteen years ago was marked with a large boulder. Many of the bodies have been removed and many tombstones have fallen, but some twenty years ago I personally visited every marked grave in this cemetery--which was originally known as Oread Cemetery--but the name having been lost, the marker now carries the word "Pioneer Cemetery". My article, which was published in the Journal-World, mentioned the name of everyone whose grave was marked and whether it included that of Mrs. Wilmarth, or not, I cannot now recall.