



The Story Of Hallam

**Artist:
Larry Roots**

The Nebraska Village of Hallam was ravaged by an F4 tornado on May 22, 2004. Only a few “landmarks” remained.

Hallam inhabitants suffered, persevered and will endure . . . still they are healing and remembering their loss . . . as others forget.

The Story of Hallam and the subject of my sculpture is a tree derived from human forms . . . a tree which is both a landmark and a metaphor for the “twisted” human experience. It is my intent that this work be experienced on several levels visually, notwithstanding the environment of sound and personal testimony.

I have learned that one never ultimately knows another’s anguish . . . but we can witness universally the ability of the human spirit to overcome adversity.

I have chosen brick-fired endacott clay for its natural - direct formability and for permanence in an interior or exterior siting. The sound track is remastered interviews documented by fellow artist Julia Lauer-Cheenne.

Thank you, Hallam.

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Family: Community of Hallam

Artist: Larry Roots

Hallam resident, Laura Edmonds, remembers May 22, 2004. That is the day 95 percent of her community was destroyed by tornados, leaving her and her neighbors homeless and displaced. Along with the material devastation, the community lost valuable members. But many, including a 92-year-old woman, have returned to rebuild. The community has even attracted several new residents. Mrs. Edmonds says the tragedy her community experienced brought the people of Hallam together, building a close-knit family.

Photo: Laura Edmonds, Larry Roots, Paul Frerichs, Tim Edmonds

Photo Credit: Regina O'Rear

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