

# Kansas Memory



## Letters and maps pertaining to the Abbie Bright diary

### Section 3, Pages 61 - 86

These documents comprise the fourth series in the Abbie Bright Papers. The series includes letters and maps pertaining to the Abbie Bright diary (record unit 223662). These materials were generated in preparation for the publication of Abbie Bright's diary in The Kansas Historical Quarterly, autumn and winter 1971, to which a link is provided below.

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# Kansas Memory



## Letters and maps pertaining to the Abbie Bright diary

April 14, 1971

Mr. and Mrs. Donald G. Fairchild  
Gladbrook, Iowa 50635

Dear Don and Janette:

I'm sending copies of the introduction and epilogue which I've written for Abbie Bright's diary in the hopes that you will read them and let me know if I've made any mistakes about family, etc.

I would appreciate if you would do this in addition to the earlier questions I posed for the answers to them will be used in some of my footnotes. If you would prefer, just mark on these copies and return them. I have the originals here.

Could you, also, copy the article about Philip's death from the Phoenix paper you had when you were here and send it to us along with the name of the paper and the date it was published? We could use it for a footnote in the epilogue.

I plan to visit the area of Clearwater on May 2 just to get an idea of the lay of the land. I'll see Mrs. Chambers I hope but the doctor is apparently in a rest home so I won't bother him.

Thanks for all your help.

Sincerely,

Joseph W. Snell  
Assistant State Archivist

JWS:bl  
Enclosure

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### IV. Epilogue

#### Postscript

Abbie Bright married William M. Achenback in 1873 and spent the remainder of her life in Gladbrook, Iowa. She died in

Philip Bright moved on to Prescott, Arizona territory and was there murdered for his money by unknown parties about June 30, 1873. Abbie apparently inherited Philip's Kansas land which she rented for the next 30 years or so. Her own Kansas land had been disposed of soon after her return east.

No member of the Bright family <sup>has lived</sup> lives in Kansas now and apparently none has since Abbie and Philip left in ~~the~~ late 1871.

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## Letters and maps pertaining to the Abbie Bright diary

April 29, 1971

Mr. and Mrs. Donald G. Fairchild  
Gladbrook, Iowa 50635

Dear Don and Janette:

I was just about to sign a letter I had written to you when your second note arrived. I'll destroy that first letter and tell you again, in this letter, how much we appreciate your helping us with the Bright family information. You have given us exactly what we need and the material will help my footnotes and the little epilogue immensely. It was kind of you to go to so much trouble and expense. I'm sorry you are out some change.

I talked to the head of our newspaper section and he said that if the Lincoln assassination newspaper is something besides the New York Herald he would like to have it but the rest of the papers you mentioned, since they are not Kansas papers, he would have to decline. We appreciate your offering them at any rate.

I am sure our library staff, particularly Mrs. Hawley, could answer any questions you have about genealogy. I don't know much about it myself so I wish you would get in touch with her.

We are having the unknown Clearwater family group copied and Nyle thinks we should offer a copy to the Clearwater editor when the second installment of Abbie's diary comes out. I surely hope it is the Ross family; maybe we'll find out. I'll send the original back to you when the copy work is finished.

Nyle and I are sorry you had a run-in with Bert Fireman. We didn't mean for you to go to so much trouble getting a copy of the Phoenix paper. When the copy of the article does arrive we'll appreciate it doubly because of the trouble you've been to.

We will give you 10 copies of each issue of the Quarterly that has the diary in it (the fall and winter issues) and we can sell the other 20 to you at a 40% discount which would make them \$.75 each. This will include the cost

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Mr. and Mrs. Donald G. Fairchild

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April 29, 1971

of mailing wherever you wish them to go. The sooner you can send us the names and addresses the easier it will be on our girls to get the labels made and ready for use. Don't send any money now, we'll bill you after mailing.

Since the extra pictures you mention are of people and places not really prominent in Abbie's diary I think we'll pass them by. We have a four page picture section planned and a special map of the area will also be included. So we are in good shape for illustrations. Thanks so much for offering them anyway.

We certainly appreciate all your help. I hope you enjoy the diary when it is published.

Sincerely,

Joseph W. Snell  
Assistant State Archivist

JWS:bl

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Donald and Jannette Fairchild

Gladbrook - Iowa - April 27- 1971

Dear Joe Snel - This is a second answer to your letter concerning Abbie Bright's family. There is a relative in Indiana, telephoning to the family, who is also interested in the records - and when her reply to our letter came - and stated 11- children, we could hardly believe it, as the Bright family history printed about 1898 - only listed 7 children even my grandmother, or my mother had never mentioned any children except the seven that lived, - but on going to another box of family records and history, we found photo static copies from an old note book, of family births, marriages and death records.

We are enclosing written copies of the four other children who died in infancy with the dates, you can use or leave out as you please.

This is the list

Name	Born-	Died
Abner	Sept 21- 1830	Feb. 14- 1833
David	Aug. 25- 1832	Mar. 7- 1833
Evans	Jan. 24- 1837	May 7- 1838
Albert	Dec. 2- 1841	Feb. 22- 1843

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Donald and Jannette Fairchild

On Friday - Apr. 23<sup>d</sup> I <sup>Donald.</sup> talked to Mr. Foreman at Tempe, ariz., by long distance, to the time of \$4<sup>00</sup>. - plus, only to be told, that he was a very busy man, and did not have time to fool around with having the newspaper article copied and sent to you. I got mad and told him off, he finally promised to look for the article, have it copied in a few days and send it to you - then he hung up on me.

We have found some old pictures of the father, mother and a couple of others Penna, Rebecca and husband, Mary, and a picture of the family home. we will send these to you at once, if you want them, o.k - if not o.k.

We will need 30 copies of this magazine so to be mailed direct, if you will and for which we will furnish mail labels, the other ten we will hand out from here - How much will all of the above cost, we will send you a check for same also hope we are not too late with this information -

Sincerely  
Donald & Jannette Fairchild.  
(Over)

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The newspaper article we speak about is the Tucson paper, with the story of Phillips deals, and the home picture is <sup>in</sup> the country in Pa.,

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Mr. Snell:- Do you suppose  
that this could be a picture  
of the Ross family - of  
Clearwater?

~~Mrs~~ Mrs Ross, wrote to Abbie Bright  
several times after she had left  
Clearwater.

Ronald & Jannette

P.S. Do you suppose the Clearwater  
paper could run a print of this picture  
in the paper, and see if any body  
would know them.

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Gladbrook. April 22- 1971.

To Mr. Joseph Sneed  
Assistant State Archivist

Topeka - Kansas -

Please Mr. Sneed: - In response to your letter of Apr 12  
concerning family names, dates etc.

We are sorry for the delay, but Hiram's record came  
just a few days ago - after two personal long distance  
calls to Indiana.

We have tried to find all of the dates etc - and to  
answer questions as nearly as we could, and hope  
this will give the information needed.

Abbie Bright. Born Dec. 17-1848 - Died May 6 - 1926.

Married June 24- 1873.

Husband name William M. Achenbach - no middle name.  
He graduated from Keyston State Normal School, 1864.  
and taught higher Mathematics there - 5 years.

Names of the children

Mary B. Born July 26-1874 married Wm Fairchild.  
Died Nov. 3- 1948.

Naomi. Born Aug. 19- 1878. married Jesse N. Benson  
Died June 6. 1966

~~Elizabeth~~ (.

E. Elizabeth (called Beth) married John Branch  
Born Mar 22- 1881, - Died Dec 29- 1968.

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Children of Mary and Peter Bright in order of Birth

Rebecca B. born 1828 - married Emmanuel Sidler  
Died 1908

Hiram Born 1834 married Rhoda Bickler - Mar. 1857  
Died 1925.

Dennis Born 1839 - Died Sept. 1910

Penina Born 1844 unmarried  
Died 1912

Philip Born 1846 - unmarried  
Died 1873.

Abbie Born 1848 married William Achenbach - 1873  
Died May 6- 1926.

Mary. born 1852 unmarried.  
died 1891

As near as we could find there are no middle  
names nor initials

Peter Bright born 1801- died 1882

Mary Evans Bright born 1807 died 1894

Hiram's family record is enclosed. -

Natura was a nick name for Rhoda.

Bess Bee just a name to tease Belle Bickler

The Robert West, the Norths and the Summers families  
were called Jumpy Settlers because they jumped from  
one settlement to another

over

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We hope this will give you enough to complete the story - and I too am fascinated with her story - also - we live in the house they occupied in their late years here in town, it too is filled !! with things they made and used, over the years - and we hope there is enough here to finish your story.

Later - your letter dated Apr. 14., in which you requested a copy of Phillips death from the Tucson paper. This paper is in the hands of Mr. Bert Fireman, curator of Arizona State University Library at Tempe Ariz -

We also want to thank you for the picture of Clearwater in 1877. also that your trip to Clearwater was worth while

Donald too says he thinks the introduction is O.K..

We do not have any pictures of the family that are marked.

Could you use some original Historical Newspapers telling about the assassination of Lincoln, and another The Chicago Times 1882, A Saturday Evening Post of 1826, a New York Tribune 1863, and parts of several other papers - condition fair - and Donald would be glad to give them to you, if you could use them.

Would you happen to know of anyone who works on Genealogy - there is about 4 lines here that go back pretty far, and would probably be worth working on;

Sincerely. Donald & Jamette Farahell,

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Hiram Bright (my grandfather) was born near Danville, Montour Co., Penn., November 1, 1834, and is one of ~~\_\_\_\_\_~~ children of Peter and Mary Bright, natives of Penn. Seven

Hiram Bright was married in Montour Co., Penn., March 10, 1857 to Rhoda A., daughter of Robert and Sarah Butler, with an issue of Five children. Mary Ellen, Frank, Butler, Oakley and Carl. In the spring of 1858 Mr. Bright moved to Warren Co., Indiana, where he owned 788 acres of land.

1 Hiram Bright married Rhoda A. Butler in 1857  
1834-1925 Children 1938-1889

1 Mary Ellen Bright (never married)  
1858-1936

2 Frank B. Bright married Eliza Knaur January 1, 1891  
1860-1929 1861-1922 (was gored to death by cow)  
(no children)

3 Butler C. Bright married Alice M. Morris June 24, 1896  
1864-1942 1872-1960

one daughter  
Kathryn B. Traylor married Lester E. Traylor Sept. 9, 1933  
1907 - 1905-  
no children

4 Oakley Bright married Nancy L. Rhode Dec. 25, 1889  
1868-1929 Died in 1902

Two children

1 Asher L. Bright  
1902-1904

2 Agnes Bright married Arval M. Smiley (?)  
1898-1922 one daughter from this union  
Betty Jane Smiley- married John Hern  
4 children, all living in and around Boswell

4 Oakley Bright married Floy Freeman August 1905  
1883-1954 Two children

1 Helen Bright married Russel Beazell  
1906-1956 One Daughter

Barbara Bright (is married and lives in Fort  
Myers Florida)

(over)

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Hiram Asher Bright  
1908-  
married Mary(?) and lives out  
west of Chicago.  
(Several children)

Carl R. Bright  
1876-1953  
married Lulu Knaur  
1878-1958

One Daughter

Rhoda Esther Bright  
1913-  
married Delmar Hill  
1905-1966

One Daughter

Betty Hill (2 children) married Wayne McKinnis

Rhoda Esther Bright Hill married Roland Dammick in 1966

2 step children

(Stepchildren of)

Stepchildren of Maria Beltramini (Stepchildren of)

(Stepchildren of)

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What about this  
page between  
35 & 36

# Kansas Memory

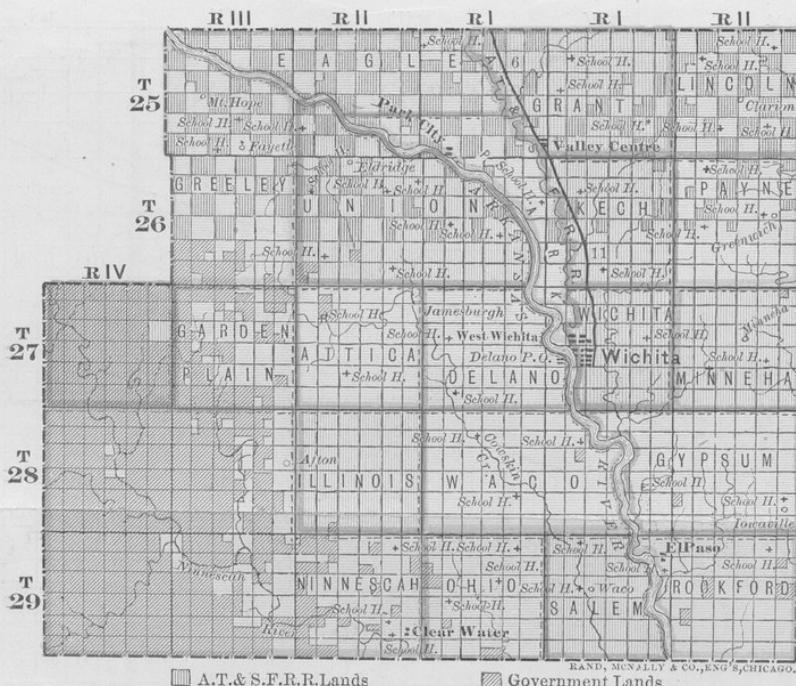


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MAP OF SEDGWICK COUNTY, KANSAS.



SHOWING THE

GOVERNMENT AND RAILROAD LANDS, WATER COURSES,

LOCATION OF SCHOOL HOUSES, ETC.

(For corrections, see Table on page 75.)

# Kansas Memory

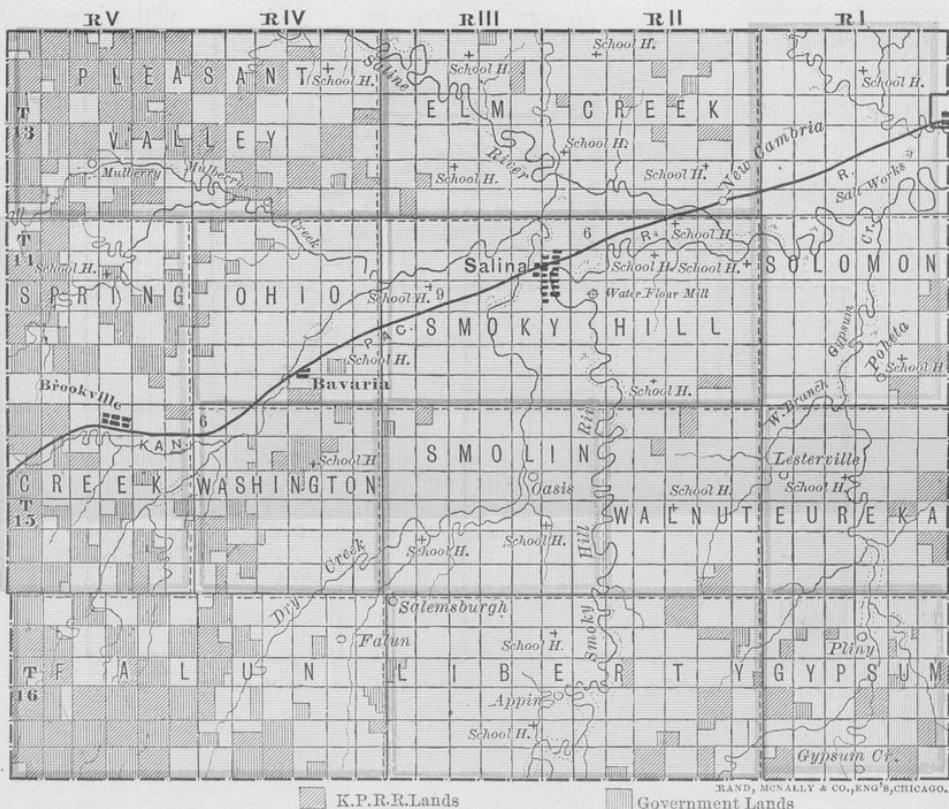


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MAP OF SALINE COUNTY, KANSAS.



(For corrections, see Table on page 75.)

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Railroad footnotes p. 58?

Mrs. Lane was W.H. Stafford's  
sister

Mrs. Elsworth and Mrs.

Soulesey were sisters  
Their maiden name was Newcomer

Mrs. Ross and Tom Macredil  
were brother and sister

p. 59 for sketch

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## Letters and maps pertaining to the Abbie Bright diary

Nyle,

Until I hear from the Fairchilds and learn the date  
the locomotive tumbled into the Ninnescah there's not  
much else I can do with these. So maybe it would be  
best to keep them with your other Quarterly material,  
if you agree.

Joe

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Donald and Jannette Fairchild  
Islandbrook Ia - May 6-1971.

Kansas State Historical Society

10th and Jackson Sts.

Topeka - Kansas - 66612.

Dear Mr. Snell: In response to yours of Apr. 29.  
The old newspapers, I do not have to hand  
at this moment, but will look them up,  
as they date over a good many years and  
down thru the 1900s.

Your people can look them over, then  
destroy those they feel are of no value.

We are enclosing a letter to Mrs. Hawley  
that you mentioned as being very good  
on genealogy, read it over, then give it to  
her, she then can answer direct.

also - we are enclosing names and  
addresses of the people, we wish the books  
to be mailed direct -

Sincerely  
Donald & Jannette F.

P.S. Donald says - Send the balance  
of books to us here - we will distribute  
them to those who should have one.

J

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C, K & W to Clearwater from Mulvane

Wed. July 9, 1886. CL. July 10, 1886

Temporary bridge over Minnisah  
completed at noon, Sept. 14, 1886.

Clearwater Leader, 9/18/86

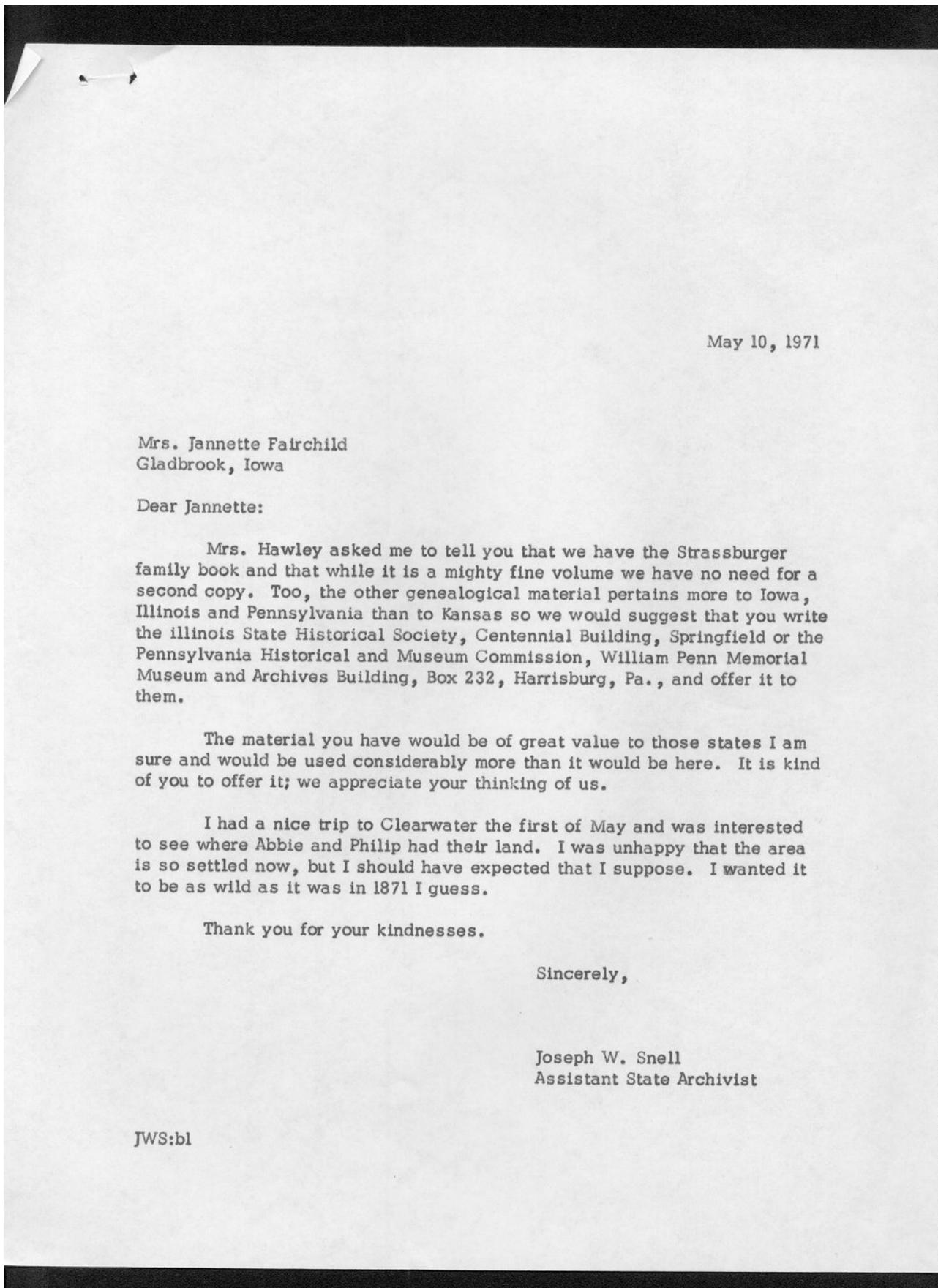
Laying track to Norwich

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May 10, 1971

Mrs. Jannette Fairchild  
Gladbrook, Iowa

Dear Jannette:

Mrs. Hawley asked me to tell you that we have the Strassburger family book and that while it is a mighty fine volume we have no need for a second copy. Too, the other genealogical material pertains more to Iowa, Illinois and Pennsylvania than to Kansas so we would suggest that you write the Illinois State Historical Society, Centennial Building, Springfield or the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, William Penn Memorial Museum and Archives Building, Box 232, Harrisburg, Pa., and offer it to them.

The material you have would be of great value to those states I am sure and would be used considerably more than it would be here. It is kind of you to offer it; we appreciate your thinking of us.

I had a nice trip to Clearwater the first of May and was interested to see where Abbie and Philip had their land. I was unhappy that the area is so settled now, but I should have expected that I suppose. I wanted it to be as wild as it was in 1871 I guess.

Thank you for your kindnesses.

Sincerely,

Joseph W. Snell  
Assistant State Archivist

JWS:bl

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Donald and Jannette Fairchild

Gladbrook - Iowa, May 6-1971.

My dear Mrs Hawley & Mr Snell, has recommended you, as a very good genealogy expert - I - Jannette Foster Fairchild was born at Illinois, Ills, Sangamon County but I do not have any information concerning the Foster family.

I do have some history on the Buckles side which was my mother's family - her father's name was Henry Freeman and there is no information there.

The Buckles family were resident of Logan County. The Foster family, Sangamon Co. Concerning Donald's father - Fairchild we have only 2 letters, telling about three Fairchild brothers who came from England and scattered thru the states -

We do have the following books on family history, some of which we can give you to keep, if you would care to have them.

The reason we are offering these books to you, is that we took several books and manuscripts to the State Historical Society - at Iowa City, and when we needed them, were told we had not sent them.

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Donald and Jannette Fairchild

any such things, but after a lawyer was hired, and he went in with a court subpoena they were able to find about  $\frac{1}{2}$  of those taken in.

The history department in Des Moines also has some of our things which they will not return or display, these were from the old home in Pennsylvania - these things are stacked away in a basement or somewhere -

Below is a list of books, that might be of interest<sup>to</sup> you. We have made extra pages of these books -

Later. If you will write and give us some dates, when you feel that you would be free to go over these books briefly with us we will come to Topeka and meet with you. -

Sincerely,

Donald & Jannette Fairchild

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**RED BRAND®**

The Strassburger Family  
and  
Allied Families of Pennsylvania.  
Printed 1922 - 520 pages.  
History starts in the year 357.

Historical sketch of the Bright family  
Nov 13 - 1900 and the earliest date  
I find is 1706.  
Then a lot of additions etc - after 1900  
paper articles and charts.  
also a note book, hand written about the  
Bright families.

John P. Achenbach & descendants,  
The first date I find is 1665 and the  
last about 1896, and part was written  
by a Mrs H.R. Achenbach of Topeka, Kansas  
and some additions, hand written

**KEystone STEEL AND WIRE COMPANY, PEORIA, ILL. 61607**

**R. F. (Ron) JACKSON**

1695 Country Club Drive • Marion, Iowa 52302  
Area Code: 319 Phone: 377-5128

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John Breckles -  
written - 1892 - goes back - 1772.

Isilbert family history  
goes back to 1600's from England  
and is complete to present time

Fairchild family, all we have is a  
couple of letters telling about the  
brothers - and no dates.

also - 2 large scrap books, filled  
with newspaper clippings etc, going back  
into the early 1800's - to about 1910.

also packs of letters, very old.

Gars - Graybill & Heffley families  
and

Peffley, Peffley - Peffley families  
Supplement by

May M. and Earl C. Frost - 1940.

**KEYSTONE STEEL AND WIRE COMPANY, PEORIA, ILL. 61607**

**R. F. (Ron) JACKSON**

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Area Code: 319 Phone: 377-5128

# Kansas Memory



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This small book lists People  
back to 1676 - 144 pages.

The reason we would like to get  
these things into good hands - we  
have no one who is interested or  
has the time to care and continue  
these histories -

**KEYSTONE STEEL AND WIRE COMPANY, PEORIA, ILL. 61607**

**R. F. (Ron) JACKSON**

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