

Kansas State Board of Agriculture history collection

Section 10, Pages 271 - 300

Assembled collection of correspondence from the State Board of Agriculture after they solicited information relating to pioneer families who have owned and occupied the same Kansas farms for seventy-five years or more. The request was related to the board's 75th anniversary of existence in 1946. The correspondence is organized alphabetically by surname, and there is one folder of printed material including newspaper articles and a copy of the Board's Diamond Jubilee meeting program with a chronological list of those families occupying the same farms.

Date: 1945 - 1947

Callnumber: State Board of Agriculture History Coll. #592B

KSHS Identifier: DaRT ID: 42156

Item Identifier: 42156

www.kansasmemory.org/item/42156

KANSAS
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY

Kansas State Board of Agriculture history collection

Morrill, Albert

Oxford Kansas
Dec. 1945

J. C. Mohler
Topeka Kans

Dear Sir:

I see where you have been making a study of early settlers of Kansas farms.

Of course parts of Kansas were settled before others so some have lived on their farms much longer than others who are also Pioneers.

I thought I'd tell you about my grandfather's farm. Albert Morrill, one of eight men settled on the west banks of the Arkansas River near what is now Oxford Kans; in 1870. He sent for his family in 1871. The widow of the son who helped drive the covered wagons, (Ernest) still owns the farm altho she is hospitalized - has been the last two years. Her name is Mrs Ernest Morrill. The farm is the first farm south of Oxford on the left side of the road.

Grandfather raised fourteen of his seventeen children here. The others died in infancy.

One Cousin, Mrs Walt Sleigh and myself are the only two of the third generation still living here at Oxford.

(Christine Morrill)

Sincerely

Mrs Jesse Hofinger

Kansas State Board of Agriculture history collection

1869

Samuel Morse
Wilson County

Not sure that family still lives on farm

Chanute, Kansas
November 2, 1945

J. C. Mohler
Secretary of the State Board of Agriculture
Topeka, Kansas

Dear Sir:

In answer to your search of a farm owned or operated by
the same family for the last seventy-five (75) years-

We own a farm which was home-steaded by our grandfather,
Samuel Morse, in 1869. The farm has been in the Morse family
since that time.

The farm is located in Guilford, Township, Wilson County,
Kansas.

If you would like further information write to;

Mrs. Nellie Morse Gunther
801 N. Forest Avenue
Chanute, Kansas

*Lynn F. Morse,
Nellie Morse Gunther.*

Kansas State Board of Agriculture history collection

1870

Thomas P. Murphy
Harvey County

Interesting.

City Schools

Y. SUPERINTENDENT

Oswego, Kansas

November 5, 1945

Mr. J.C. Mohler
Secretary, State Board of Agriculture
Topeka, Kansas

Dear Mr. Mohler:

I want to add to the list of farms that have been owned by the same family for seventy-five years, the Murphy farm located in Macon Township, Harvey County, Kansas, the NE $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 32.

My father, a Civil War veteran, homesteaded the place in 1870 and was the first settler to take up a claim in Macon Township. He had to haul all his lumber and supplies from Emporia, a distance of 90 miles by modern highways.

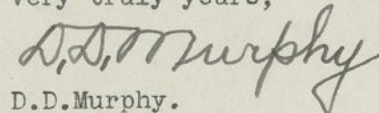
Surveys were incomplete and he constructed his dugout on a creek on the adjoining farm, thinking it was his own. The outlines of the excavation are still plainly visible in the bank of the creek.

In a letter written in 1880 he described the "Farmers Meetings" which were held once a month in Harvey County. The people would gather at some farm, go over some improved practice on that particular farm, eat dinner and have an afternoon meeting, where methods of farming and livestock handling were discussed. He might have been describing a modern county tour of today.

When my father, Thos. P. Murphy, died in 1915, he left the farm in trust during my mother's life. Three years ago, my brother, W.P. Murphy and I purchased the old homestead. The first home is now a tool shed. On the place is located an old elm, which required two men to span its trunk, with arms outstretched, even in 1870. It has grown but little since then. We have found numerous arrowheads and slugs from the old Sharps .44 rifle, which would indicate that both whites and Indians used the spot for a camping place.

We have had to rent out the place for thirty years but we are now operating the place and are starting a program of soil rehabilitation, to build it back up to its old fertility.

Very truly yours,



D.D. Murphy.

Kansas State Board of Agriculture history collection

1870

Oswego City Schools

D. D. MURPHY, SUPERINTENDENT

Oswego, Kansas

November 5, 1945

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Secretary, State Board of Agriculture
Topeka, Kansas

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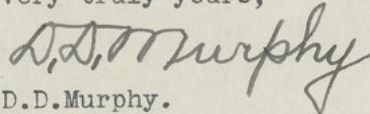
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Very truly yours,



D.D. Murphy.

Niccum

1856
1854
1854

December 6 - 1985

J. E. Mohler
Dodge, Kansas

Dear Sir:

I use your search for "farm families living on the same land for at least twenty-five years" - to quote the Dodge Daily Capital for December 5, I would inform you that:

Jonathan ("Buck") Miller ^{from Ohio} homesteaded Southeast of Niccum in 1856. I believe his son Fred Miller still lives on the same farm.

Eli Hopkins ^{from Kentucky} homesteaded East of Niccum in 1854. I believe one of his daughters still owns the original homestead - but does not live on it.

My grandfather Jeremiah Stilders Niccum came into the Territory in August - 1854. He stood for several hours ~~at~~ what is now 6th and Kansas Avenue, debating with two other men as to what next they should do. (Unfortunately I have no knowledge of whom the other two were.)

He had come all the way from Saybrook,
Illinois, via Springfield, Kansas.
He left "Arkansas" because he disliked
slavery.

He came on on the Niccum Homestead
in October - 1854, buying out the "Squatters
Rights" of a man named Walker.

Born November 13 - 1828 he lived
continuously on the Niccum Homestead
until his death in August - 1913.

His son, William Franklin Niccum
owned the major portion of the original
Homestead, until his death last October.
He now owns, and lives on it myself.

When Elder Hopkins built his barn
East of Tecumseh, he drilled holes with an
auger in the beams, and drove ~~oaken~~ oaken
pins in the beams to hold them in place.
This barn still stands.

Southwest of Newman, Kansas,
on the banks of the Kansas River
is a ramshackle frame house ^{with a fine place}.
So far as I could learn it was built
about 1857 or 1858. I photographed it
in 1940 or 1941.
yours
William Niccum
Tecumseh, Kansas



Kansas State Board of Agriculture history collection

1854

George Noe
Big Springs

good

mily.

Land grant signed by President Pierce

---, Kansas.
One

we think we have a very interesting farm in our family. My brother farms the farm and lives on a farm adjoining it which he owns. My brother is a prominent Douglas County Farmer and is a member of the A.A.A. Board and served as Chairman as long as for several years while my father was living and hired help was more plentiful.

The farm is located near Big Springs, Kansas and is



Farm 91 years in same family.
(Homestead)

Laurence, Kans.
Route One

Dear Sir:

We think we have a very interesting farm in our family. My brother farms the farm and lives on a farm adjoining it which he owns. My brother is a prominent Douglas County Farmer and is a member of the A.A.A. Board and served as Chairman ~~as~~ long as for several years while my father was living and hired help was more plentiful.

The farm is located near Big Springs, Kansas and is

80 acres. an Article was in
the Lawrence Journal several
years ago and I will write
a little of it. "The George and Hannah
Noe farm was purchased by a
land grant signed by President
Pierce in June 1854. Geo. Noe was
a Civil war veteran. The place
now is occupied by David Noe
a grandson of Geo. Noe. A. G.
Noe was the only child of George
and Hannah Noe." David Noe
is my brother I told you
about in the first part of
the letter. If you are interested
in this place we can give you
many details. Magdalena Noe Husted
Rt. 1 - Lawrence, Kans.

Kansas State Board of Agriculture history collection

1867 and 1870

Mr. and Mrs. W.C. Orr,
Winchester, Kansas.

Winchester Star

Printer and Publisher

Winchester, KANSAS

Mr. J. C. Mohler, Secy
State Board of Agriculture
Topeka, Kansas.

Dear Sir - Winchester has an old-timer, who we believe, is eligible to enter the contest of the diamond jubilee for land owners, sponsored by the State board of Agriculture.

W.C. Orr is living on the farm his father, the late Wm Orr, received a deed for October 15, 1867. W.C. Orr has always lived there and has been operating the farm since he was 17 years old. This farm has belonged to the Orrs 78 years and has never had a mortgage on it. W.C. Orr was born July 20, 1861, six months after Kansas was admitted as a State - January 29, 1861.

Mrs W.C. Orr, who was born April 20, 1870, and still owns the farm her father bought August 20, 1870. These farms are located near Winchester.

J. W. Byrum.

The Winchester Star

J. W. Byrn, Editor and Publisher

WINCHESTER, KANSAS

Mr. J. C. Mohler, Secy
State Board of Agriculture
Topeka, Kansas.

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Mrs W. C. Orr, who was born April 20, 1870, and still owns the farm her father bought August 20, 1870. These farms are located near Winchester.

J. W. Byrn.

Kansas State Board of Agriculture history collection

Owen

1870
several
farms
about the
same time
interesting
Jewell Co.
Owens

State Historical Society
Topeka, Kansas
Nov. 22. 1945.

Dear Mr. Mohler:

Jennie Owen speaking. Remember me?
This is to say I hope you will let my family under
the wire on the your "veteran" farm proposition,
which by the way is a honey. I only wish you could
have staggered the dates so western Kansas ranches
could qualify. Unofficially, may I say the Society
needs such data. But of course I know this is your
diamond anniversary.

My father, Thomas Hunter Owen, 1843-1915, home-
steaded the SW 1/4 of Sec. 5, ^{Town 1,} Rng 6, Jackson twp.,
Jewell county, Kansas in April 1871. He farmed it
continuously until his death, March 26, 1915. Then
his son-in-law, Ira E. Kleckner, took over. Now af-
ter 30 years of continuous farming, the Kleckners
are retiring; moving to town (Superior, Nebraska),
and their son-in-law, Raymond Leece, lately discharged
from the Army, will farm the homestead. The Leeces
daughter, 18 months old Gwen, will be the fourth gen-
eration to live on the land which my father loved to
describe as "the prettiest quarter section God ever
left out of doors."

Father came to Kansas Christmas week, 1870. Th

Kansas State Board of Agriculture history collection

There is a kind of legend among the old settlers that he had seen the "quarter" when he crossed Kansas in the sixties as a bullwhacker for Russell, Majors & Waddell, and had spotted it for his own. I have tried to verify this by looking at the old trail maps at the Historical Society, but cannot unless the wagon train was on a detour or cut-off, as no doubt they frequently were. I do know there was quite a well-known ford across the Republican which flows just to the north of the homestead, so I think the legend has some justification.

When Father returned to file on the claim, he found a squatter on it, but he was a patient man and decided to wait rather than to take land less preferable. He "holed in" in the bluffs along the Republican where it was comparatively easy to construct a dug-out and, cultivating the squatter's acquaintance, waited until he caught him in homesick mood, then traded him his high-topped boots and a \$10 gold piece for his rights.

The Spring of '71, Father went to the Republican and filled his knapsack with cottonwood switches which he pulled from the sandbars. He set out a grove and gave the "slips" remaining to his nearest neighbor and lifelong friend, Owen Crispin. Both groves stand today. Dale Crispin, youngest of the five sons of the homesteader, farms the land which has

Kansas State Board of Agriculture history collection

by the family
been tilled continuously/for 75 years. For 75 years
the two families have been good neighbors and close
friends, even unto the third generation. Father des-
lighted intelling Easterners how he had once car-
ried the two groves on his back.

At least two other neighbors have farmed their
homesteads continuously. Fred Kerbaugh is on the
homestead of his father, Lemuel Kerbaugh. Wal-
ter Rowley farms his grandfather, Abe Rowley's home-
stead.

Over on the White Rock, 10 miles sout^w of us, ~~to~~
there were a few settlers in 1868. Some of them were
killed by Indians. Among the '68 group, I recall the
Lovewells, Dahls, Tanners, and others which^s would
have to verify. I believe the Dahls are still farm-
ing their land. Miss Inga Dahl, Webber, Kansas, ~~co~~
could give you authentic information.

Sincerely,

Peck,

1858
same man
75 years /

Topeka Kan Nov 28/94

Mr Jacob Mohler. See State Board
Agriculture.

Dear Jake.

My grandfather
bought this farm in 1858.
My Father came out from
Troy Ohio in May 1867
and bought the farm.
I was born in August
1870. and have lived on
the same spot on the
same farm 75 years.
My Father died in 1876.
The farm was divided with
the other children when
I was 10 years old, I being
8 years younger than the
brothers & sisters. My wife and
I bought the land back
as time passed and we
have all of my fathers farm
and some beside.

Over.

11

Since I was an orphan
at 6 years old and without
a good Ohio farmers
training, My mother thought
best for me to get some
of the State Agricultural
training. So I began to
frequent your office
about the time you were
here. I will remember
your father as Secretary
of Agriculture, and I will
remember of seeing you
around his office when
you wore knee pants.

Some time ago Jake?

Your Friend John A. Beck.
P4 Topeka.

P.S. We have been married 5^{1/2} years
have 2 daughters / Son 6 grandchd
3-great-grand children.

Our son and his 2 small boys
help me run the farm & dairy.

Kansas State Board of Agriculture history collection

Jake you have been a good
friend of mine through
the years and I appreciate
it very much.
J. P.

Pender

1866

Cherokee Kans. 12-5-45

J. C. Mohler -
Sec. of State Board of Agriculture
Topeka Kans.

Dear Sir:-

I see in Pittsburg Head-
light, you wanted names of
Kansas Families, who had
lived on the same farm
for 75 years.

My grand-
father William C. Pender
moved on a farm 79 years
ago, in 1866 in Cherokee
County, near Hallowell Kans.

He recieved a "Treaty Right"
for the farm as the land
had not been surveyed by
the government. He had to
drive 60 miles to Fort Scott
Kansas to reach a Post office.

His Son, James C. Pender,
still lives on this farm.

Yours Resp.

Mrs. Mae Graves,
Cherokee
Kans.

Kansas State Board of Agriculture history collection

Mrs. Perry No dates

45-

J. C. Mohler's
Dear Sir :

This is to let you know the three family names I spoke of to you about are: Fred B. Maris, Son of Isaac Maris Nortonville, Kansas.

Dennis Stillman, Son of Melworth Stillman, Nortonville, Kansas.

Ernest Wheeler, Son of Charlie Wheeler, Grandson of Joshua Wheeler, Nortonville, Kansas.

Sincerely yours,

W. B. Berry

745 Wabasha
Topeka, Ks.

6581

Kansas State Board of Agriculture history collection

Topeka, Kans.

Nov. 1st '45.

J. C. Mohler's

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Dennis Stillman, Son of Melworth Stillman, Nortonville, Kansas.

Ernest Wheeler, Son of Charlie Wheeler, Grandson of Joshua Wheeler, Nortonville, Kansas.

Sincerely yours,

W. B. Berry

745 Wabash
Topeka, Ks.

1857

Kansas State Board of Agriculture history collection

1869

W. S. Purcell
Atchison County

hlin Realty Co.

Tonganoxie, Kansas

Farms and City Property
Rentals and Insurance

November 3 - 1945

Hon. J. C. Mohler
Sec. State Board of Agriculture
Topeka Kansas,

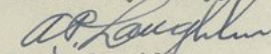
Dear Mr. Mohler,

I noticed an item in the Friday Kansas City Times, stating that you were looking for a farm in Kansas that had been in same family for 75 years,

My Grandfather W. S. Purcell, acquired a farm in Atchison County Being the Northeast Quarter of Section seven, (7) Township Seven (7) Range twenty one (21) in the year of 1869, He raised a large family on it, The two youngest still living on it and operating it. They were both born on this farm, It has been owned and operated by this family since 1869.

I believe this is a record.

Yours very truly,



A. P. Laughlin
Tonganoxie Kansas

Kansas State Board of Agriculture history collection

TELEPHONE NO. 94

A. P. Laughlin Realty Co.

Tonganoxie, Kansas

Farms and City Property
Rentals and Insurance

November 3 - 1945

Hon. J. C. Mohler
Sec. State Board of Agriculture
Topeka Kansas,

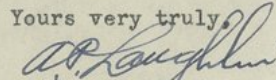
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Yours very truly,



A. P. Laughlin
Tonganoxie Kansas

Kansas State Board of Agriculture history collection

1870

William and Belle Queree,
RFD # 2,
Parsons, Kansas.

Wichita 9, Kansas
Nov. 12, 1945

J. C. Mohler
Secretary of State
Board of Agriculture
Topeka Kansas

Dear Sir:

I read in the Wichita Beacon
of your search for a Kansas Farm
owned and operated continuously
by the same Kansas Family for
the last Seventy Five years.

I would like to nominate
the Queree Farm and Family. Parsons
Kansas Rural Route # 2 Labette
County.

This farm was homesteaded
by John Queree and wife Elizabeth
Queree and is now being operated
by William Queree Son and Belle
Queree Daughter of the late John and
Elizabeth Queree.

Kansas State Board of Agriculture history collection

Wichita 9, Kansas
Nov. 12, 1945

J. C. Mohler
Secretary of State
Board of Agriculture
Topeka, Kansas

Dear Sir:

I read in the Wichita Beacon of your search for a Kansas Farm owned and operated continuously by the same Kansas Family for the last Seventy Five years.

I would like to nominate the Queree Farm and Family. Parsons Kansas Rural Route # 2 Labette County.

This farm was homesteaded by John Queree and wife Elizabeth Queree and is now being operated by William Queree Son and Belle Queree Daughter of the late John and Elizabeth Queree.

Kansas State Board of Agriculture history collection

This farm has never been rented and to the best of my knowledge, has been in the Queree family. Seventy Five years or longer. For further information please contact William W. Queree and Belle Queree. Parsons, Kansas Rural Route # 2.

Sincerely yours

Mrs. Walter J. Hammond

Kansas State Board of Agriculture history collection

1865

Clarence E. Reed,
Route 3,
Ottawa, Kansas.

Ottawa Kansas

Nov. 8 1945

? B. A.

Dear Sir:-

I saw in the paper you were looking for data concerning farms which had been in the same family for 75 or more years so thought I would tell you of the Reed farm -

Harrison Reed and his family came to Kans. in a covered wagon in 1865. He had bought 650 A. in Greenwood Twp. south of the Marais des Cygnes river from an Indian woman named Thorp. It took a year to get the deed. The Indian woman was of the Sac & Fox tribe although most of the Indian around here were of other tribes Muncie's Chippawas etc. There were no roads laid out on Section lines. they were just trails -

There was a post office at Greenwood (one of the Reed daughters was post mistress) an Indian trading post and a hotel or tavern both just west of the house Harrison Reed bought. He gave the land for the church and cemetery and the church stood facing the road (trail) when section line roads were made the church stands at angles to the road. - In the cemetery

Ottawa Kansas

Nov. 8 1945-

J. C. Mohler Sec. K. S. B. A.

Topeka Kansas

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Kansas State Board of Agriculture history collection

Harrison Reed his wife and five of their children are buried -

The school house also stands on what was part of this homestead.

Harrison Reed sold 173 A. to his son Wash Reed in 1870. the river being the north line - Wash Reed lived here until his death in 1933. He had seen this part of the country change from - No fences* cattle run out on the range - Indians in their wigwams or "wicks ups" hunting, fishing, etc the ground plowed with big ox teams sometimes six yoke of oxen! * corn fields were fenced

all of the Reed children were born here. Clarence Reed (a son) bought 80^{ac} from his Father in 1897. His house is but a stones throw from the house he was born in. and so 80 A. of the 650 has been in the Reed name for over 80 years. 80 more acres of Clarence Reeds farm was a part of the original Reed homestead but it had passed through other hands.

The Reeds have always taken part in church and school affairs. There has been a Reed on the school board & church board a good deal of the time
When the Reeds came to Kansas they

Kansas State Board of Agriculture history collection

~~they~~³ came to make a home. They were instrumental in organizing & building the Church. They brought with them a yellow rose bush which still lives and blooms by the kitchen door - of the house they moved into in 1865.

always interested in the betterment of their community and their neighbors -

This is one family that has been & will be known in the same community for more than 80 years -

Res'p

Clarence E. Reed

Ottawa

K. J.

Kans.

Kansas State Board of Agriculture history collection

1856

V. N. Reed
Franklin County

Drove 2 yoke of oxen from Ohio

connection
diamond jubilee anni-
versary of the state board at its
annual meeting here Jan. 9, 10,
and 11.

Rantoul / Kansas
Nov. 3 1945

Wm J. C. Mohler
Secretary of State Board of
Agriculture.
Topeka / Kansas -

Dear Sir:-
The attached clipping
was in the Ottawa Herald of Nov. 2.
My father took the farm
on which I now live as a claim in
the spring of 1856. The land passed
to myself & a sister on his death.
I bought the sisters part in settling
the estate and have lived on the farm
all my life. Was born in 1875. Am
living in the same house now.
The farm is the S.E. 1/4 sec. 28-17-21
Cutter Twp Franklin Co.

Father drove two yoke of oxen
from Upper Sandusky Ohio to Kans-
arriving Oct 18 1855 and built his
log cabin on this place the following
Spring.

Yours truly
V. N. Reed