

Kansas Memory



Kansas State Board of Agriculture history collection

Section 12, Pages 331 - 360

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.

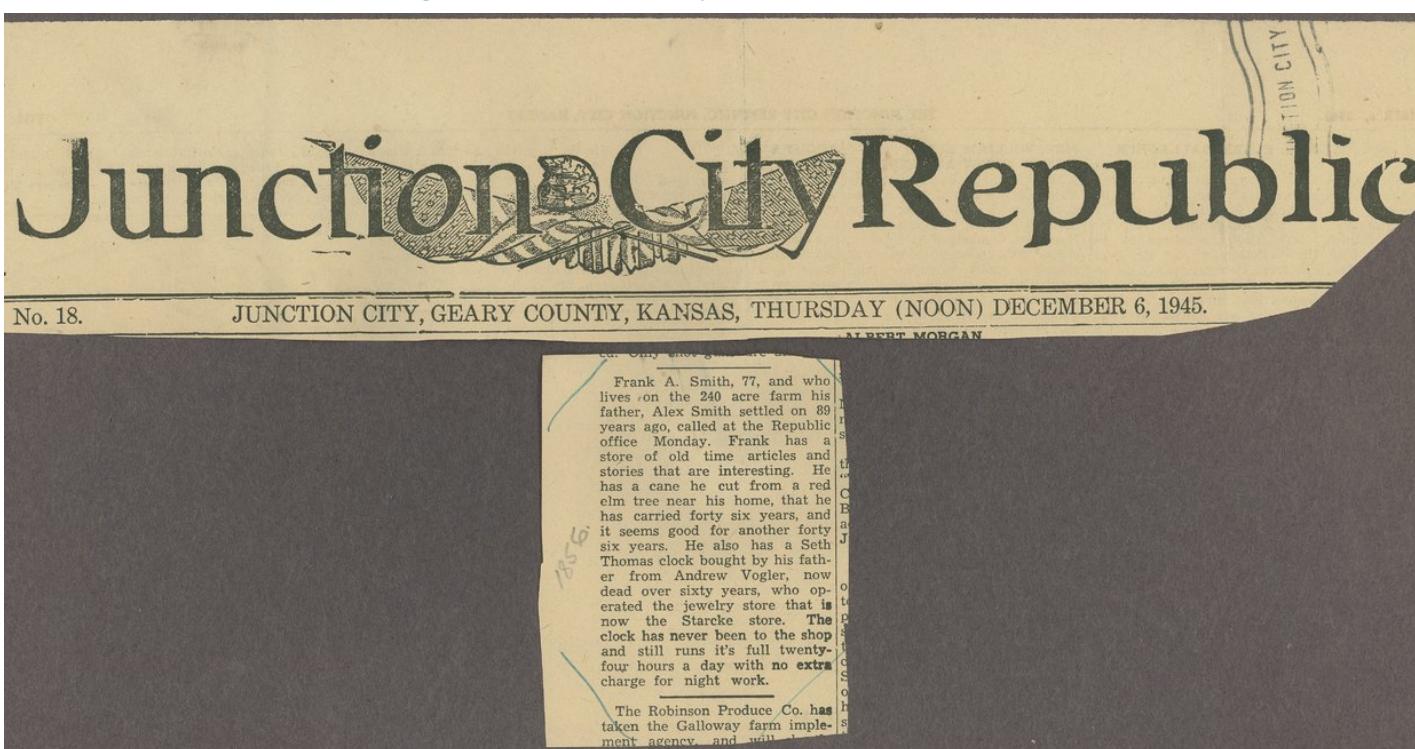
Date: 1945 - 1947

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

KSHS Identifier: DaRT ID: 42156

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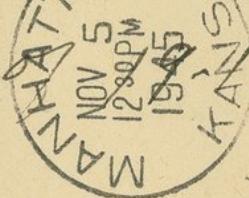
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1857

The Smith family
Linn County

owned this place
since 1857
and operated it
since 1867

Description N-E- $\frac{1}{4}$
79-23 Scott Town



N. A. Smith

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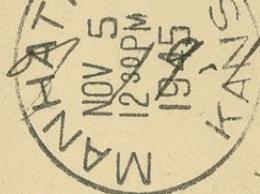
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Fontana, Kans.
Nov 3/45-

is another.

The Smiths have
owned this place in
Linco since 1857
and operated it
since 1867

Description N-E-^{1/4}
19-23 Scott Town

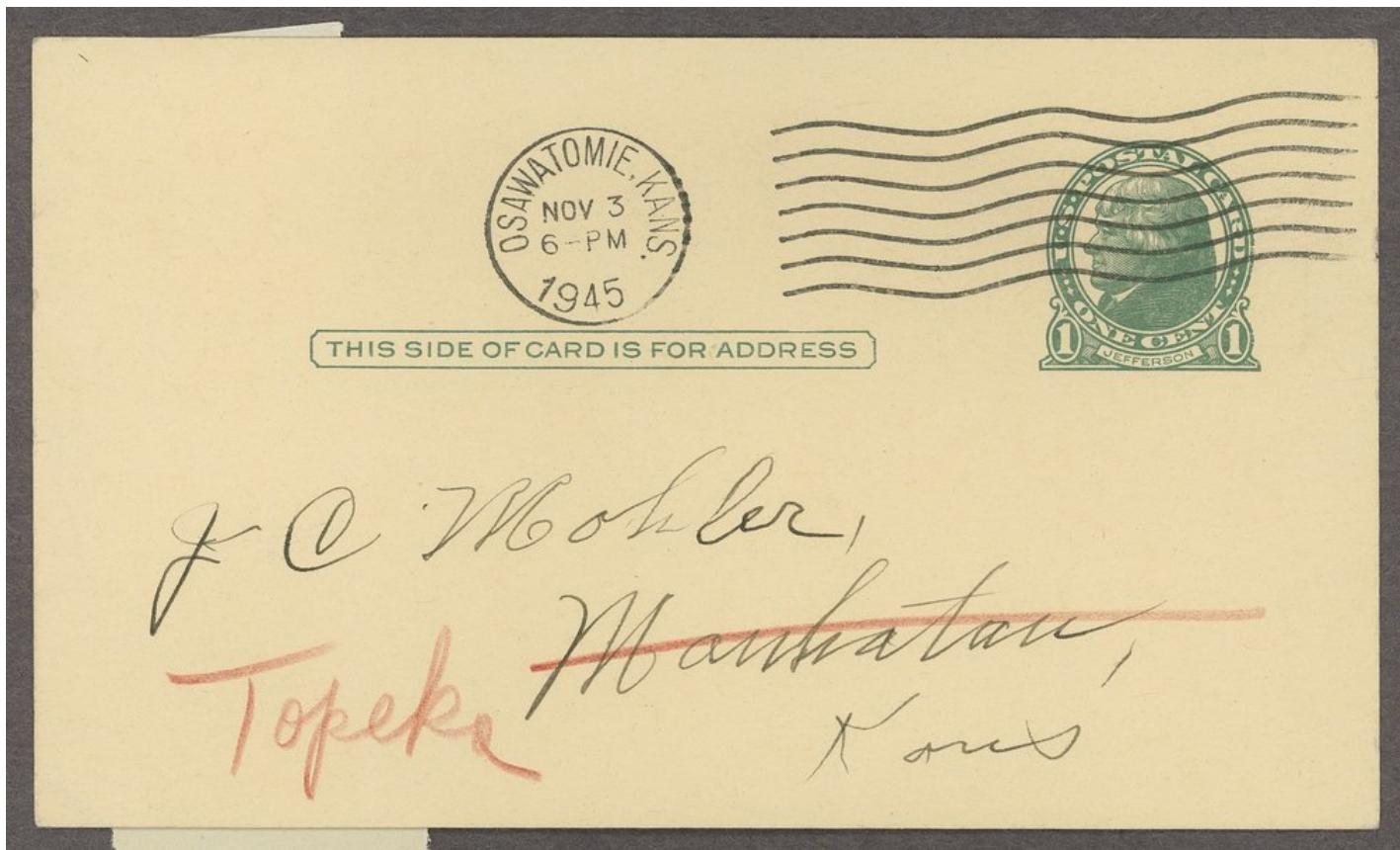


N. A. Smith

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1870

Wm. Stacy
Industry, Kansas

Abilene Kansas

Nov 4 1945

Mrs J C Mohler
Secty State Board Agric
Topeka Kansas

Dear Sir,, Noticed an article where you wanted to locate some family
who had farmed the same land for past 75 years...

Wm Stacy home staded in Kansas in 1870 and when he
retired from the farm his son Dick stacey took up the farming and
he retired from active farming just a few years ago and now his
son Harold stacey has taken over the farming.

Mr William A Stacey who is assistant Supt of public
instructions at Topeka Kans can give you all the dates and facts
relative to this case. He is the son of Wm Stacey who homesteaded
this place close to Industry Kans in 1870

Yours truly

Ed Steinbruck
418 N W 4th Street
Abilene kans

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1857 Charles Spencer
Douglas County

Patent signed by President Buchanan

L.W.HOWE 1877

DAILY GLOBE

BUREAU OF CIRCULATION
EASED WIRE REPORTS

ATCHISON, KANSAS

November 2, 1945

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

Dear Mr. Mohler:

I noticed through the Associated Press that you are looking for farms that have been owned continuously by the same family for 75 years.

Our farm, about 10 miles north of Atchison, in Doniphan county, has never been farmed except by members of our family. My grandfather took it as a claim, about 1857. Somewhere we have a patent signed by President James Buchanan.

Since my grandfather's death years ago, my father and uncle have farmed the place, and now that they are getting up in years, my brother and I help them in operating the farm.

No one has ever lived on this place except members of our family and the Indians.

Yours truly,

Charles Spencer
Charles Spencer

Editorial Dept.

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The ATCHISON DAILY GLOBE

FOUNDED BY E.W.HOWE 1877

CHARTER MEMBER AUDIT BUREAU OF CIRCULATION
ASSOCIATED PRESS LEASED WIRE REPORTS

ATCHISON, KANSAS

November 2, 1945

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Secretary State Board of Agriculture
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Since my grandfather's death years ago, my father and uncle have farmed the place, and now that they are getting up in years, my brother and I help them in operating the farm.

No one has ever lived on this place except members of our family and the Indians.

Yours truly,

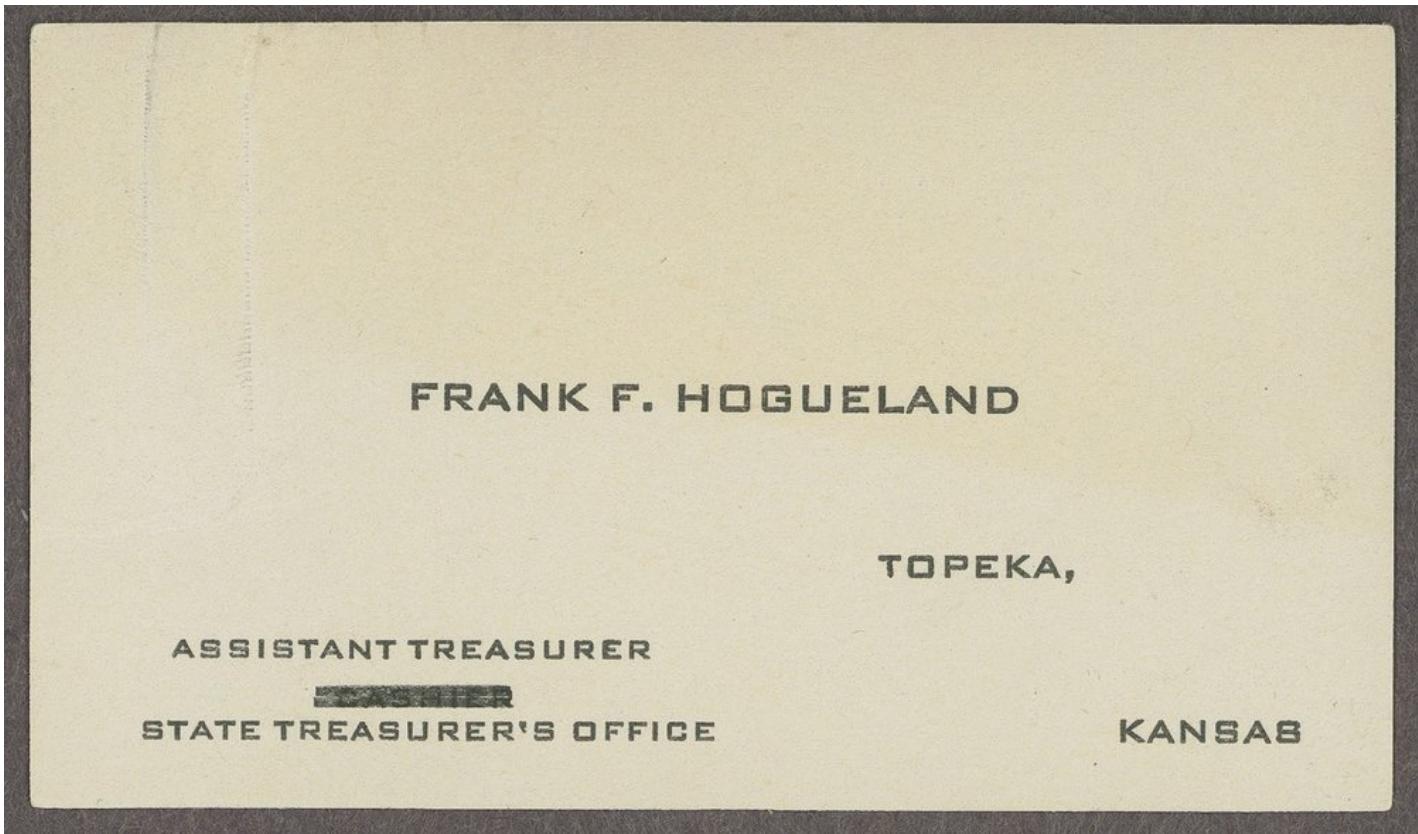
Charles Spencer
Charles Spencer

Editorial Dept.

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J. L. Steffen

Ms. Center

L. F. Steffin
Yates Center

Farm in family for 75 years.

RD #,

In farm in the family
name for 75 years.

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J. L. Steffen

Mates Center

Kansas

RD #,

On farm in the family
name for 75 years.

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1856
Wm. E. Steward,
Muscotah, Kansas.

Muscotah Ks
Nov 12 1945-

I would like to have the chance to defend my title to being a member of the family that has operated the same farm longer than any other in Kans. My grand father came to this farm in 1856 as soon as my father was old enough he began operating this farm and in 1902 I married on the place and last yr I took my son in partnership and we are still farming land that my grand father broke out of God in the spring of 1856.

I'd like to bring my wife to see you again

Yours very Respy

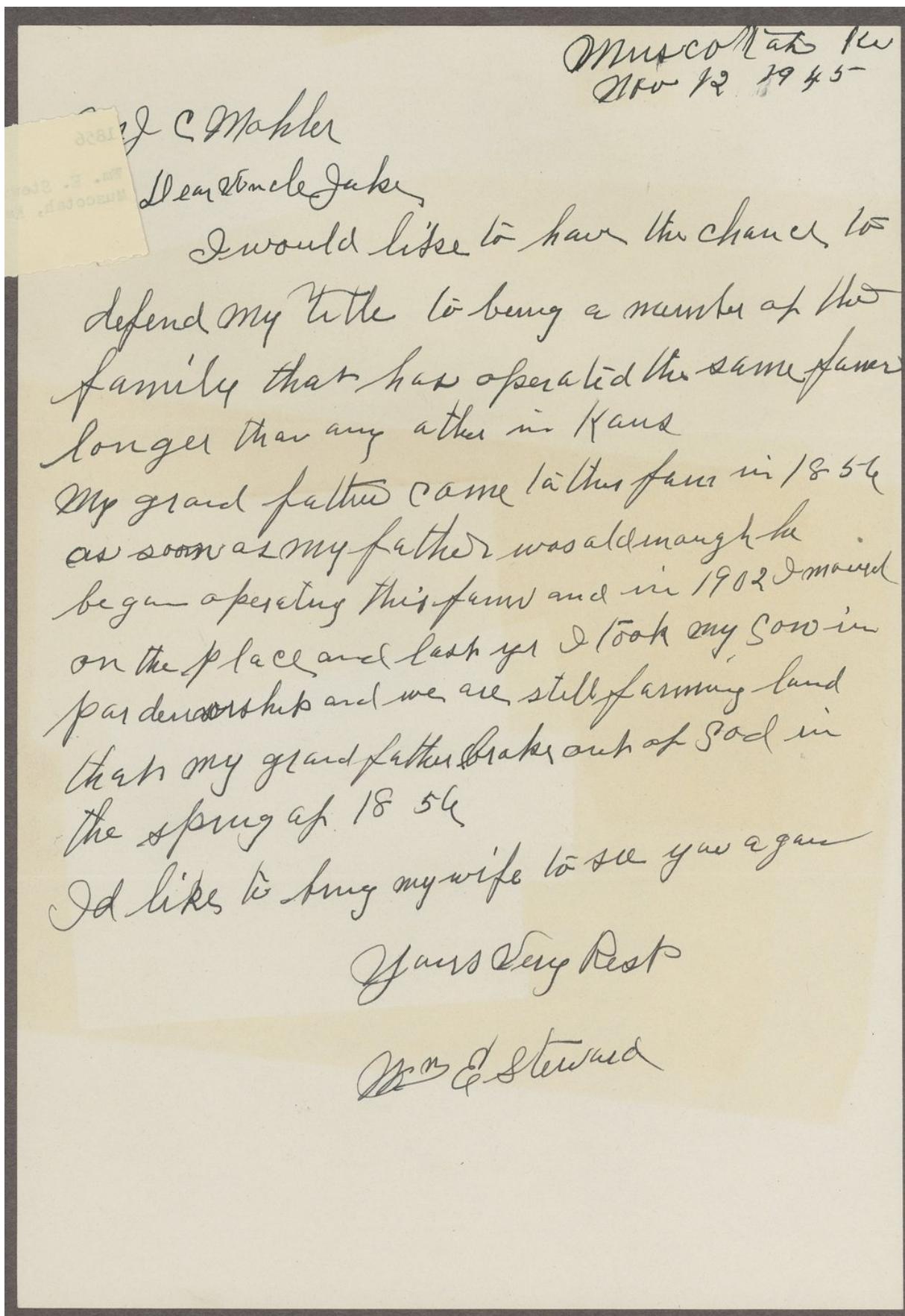
Wm E Steward

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1863

John Stoehener
Douglas County

Three generations

Lawrence Kans

Nov 2-45

Mr J. C. Wholer Secy state Board
of Agriculture

Dear Sir

Your add; of Nov 1st Lawrence
Journal World. Hunts a Kans Farm. John
Stoehener. Purchased purchased. A 1/4 section
of land in Willow Springs Township. Co
of Douglas. State of Kans. In 1863. Now
Occupied by a Grand Son Arnold Stoehener
and still the Estate of John Stoehener
continously farmed by Owner and son Henry
and Grand Son Arnold. Being a total of

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1869 James B. Swart
Labette County

Larryvale Kansas
Nov. 3. 1945-

Kansas

Dear Sir: In answer to your search
for a Kansas farm owned or operated
continuously by the same Kansas
family for the past seventy five
years I submit mine, however
mine is seventy six years.

My parents Mr & Mrs James B. Swart
came to Kansas from La Grange Co.
Indiana via covered wagon
in 1869 and settled in the west
part of Labette Co. Kansas on the
 $SW \frac{1}{4}$ - 35 - 31 - 17

My father operated and lived on the
farm until his death in 1889
and my mother lived on and operated
the farm until her death in 1930
since that time my husband
H. C. Finley and I have lived
on and are operating it at present.

Very truly
Mrs. Anna Smart Finley.

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Cherryvale Kansas
Nov. 3. 1945-

Mr. J. C. Mohler
Topeka, Kansas

Dear Sir: In answer to your search
for a Kansas farm owned or operated
continuously by the same Kansas
family for the past seventy five
years I submit mine, however
mine is seventy six years.

My parents Mr. & Mrs. James D. Swart
came to Kansas from La Grange Co.
Indiana via covered wagon
in 1869 and settled in the west
part of Linn Co. Kansas on the
N.W. $\frac{1}{4}$ - 35 - 31 - 17

My father operated and lived on the
farm until his death in 1889
and my mother lived on and operated
the farm until her death in 1930
since that time my husband
H. C. Finley and I have lived
on and are operating it at present.

Very truly
Mrs. Anna Smart Finley.

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1857

Joseph F. Thomann
Marshall County

years.

Deed signed by President Buchanan, Oregon
trail crossed the farm. (Mrs. Yost's grandfa-
ther)

Joseph F. Thomann farm $\frac{1}{2}$ miles
north of Beattie, Marshall Co., owned
and operated by same family since
1857. Jao. Thomann, native of France,
was father of Rose Thomann Chase,
whose son, Joseph Chase, now operates
the 320 acre farm. Mrs. Chase holds
the original deed signed by Pres.
Buchanan. The Oregon trail crossed
this farm. My mother, Mrs. Chase,
is 84 years old, and lives with my
sister in Indiana.

Sara Chase Yost
(Mrs. J. F. Yost)

(over)

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rm in same family 88 years.

Joseph F. Hornmann farm $\frac{1}{2}$ miles north of Beattie, Marshall Co., owned and operated by same family since 1857. Jas. Hornmann, native of France, was father of Rose Hornmann Chase, whose son, Joseph Chase, now operates the 320 acre farm. Mrs. Chase holds the original deed signed by Pres. Buchanan. The Oregon trail crossed this farm. My mother, Mrs. Chase, is 84 years old, and lives with my sister in Indiana.

Sara Chase Yost
(Mrs. J. F. Yost)

(over)

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Mr. Thormann, the original owner, operated this farm until he died in 1904. His son-in-law E.S. Chase & Rose Thormann Chase then operated this farm until 1913, when their son took over the operation and management. He still lives on the place.

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Thornburrow

1853
Family farm
Loring

Marysville, Kansas
Dec. 14, 1945

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

Dear Mr. Mohler:

I noticed in the Topeka paper your report of the oldest farm still in the same family name.

My grandfather, John Thornburrow, homesteaded his farm in 1853 and built a log house which, at the present time, we are still occupying. Of course the house has been sided over, but the walls and stringers are the same native logs which he cut in the timber on the farm.

The farm is still in the Thornburrow name, although we are not living there at the present time. We have our furniture there and the house is in good repair. This farm is located one mile east of Wetmore, Kansas in Jackson County.

I wondered how many old farm homes still have the original houses on them and are being used as living quarters.

Yours very truly,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "S. Raymond Thornburrow".

S. Raymond Thornburrow

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Thurber

Topeka, Kansas
Dec. 14, 1945

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

Dear Sir:

RE: 75 Year Ownership and Operation of
Kansas Land by Citizens.

While our family can not be said to be one of the first in ownership,
yet I wish to present records which place us within the 75 year mark, and over.

My father, Whitford Thurber purchased property in the vicinity of Twin Mound,
Douglas County, in 1868, per records, living there until time of his death in 1905;
since then, my brother, Roy Thurber, born on farm, still owns and operates a part
of original farm. I also have had part ownership but have not lived continuously on
place, as may also be said of my sister, Mrs. Harriet D. Patton.

And, on our mother's side of the family, records show that her father, James
S. Tussey, purchased the adjoining tract in 1859, and that 40 acres of this tract
became the property of my mother, Mrs. Alice Tussey Thurber. This 40 acres of
160 acre tract has also been owned by members of family continuously since death
of my mother; first by my brother George Thurber; later by myself, who have leased
it to members of family, and now operated by Roy Thurber, brother.

I had thought of bringing this record to your office, personally, but
think this may take less of your time. Should you wish verification, however, will
be glad to bring said records to your office. My phone No. is ~~221-22~~ 23180

Believing that you have instituted a review of valuable records, I wish to
thank you.

Very truly yours,

Elie Thurber
519 Washburn

P.S. The Twin Mound post office having been
discontinued, my brother, Roy Thurber, is addressed
at Richland, RR #2.

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Van Orsdol

1870

T. P. VAN ORSDOL

FRUIT GROWER

SILVER LAKE, KANSAS

Nov 19 - 1945

Mr J. C. Mohler
Topeka, Kans.

Dear Sir:

The farm on which Mr Thomas P. Van Orsdol ^{lives} was settled on by his father in the spring of 1870. Thomas P. Van Orsdol was born on this farm in 1874 and has lived on this farm continuously all of his life. It is located in Menoken Township, Shawnee County, 3 miles north-east of Silver Lake.

Yours truly
(Mrs) T. P. Van Orsdol.

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1854 A. B. Wade
 Lawrence, Kansas

Farm sold last year, not now in family

J. C. Mohler,

Dear Sir:

I read in the Journal World of your search for a Kansas farm.

I am the daughter of A. B. Wade who took up a claim two miles N.W. of Lawrence Ks in 1854.

That farm has been in our family continuously operated until last spring when it was sold by the Grand children of said A. B. Wade

Should you care for a brief history of the farm I'll gladly give it to you.

yours truly

Mrs J. F. Swadley

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MRS. J. F. SWADLEY
2145 R. I. ST.
LAWRENCE, KANSAS

J. C. Mohler,

Dear Sir:

I read in the Journal World of your search for a Kansas farm.

I am the daughter of A. B. Wade who took up a claim two miles N.W. of Lawrence Ks in 1854.

That farm has been in our family continuously operated until last spring when it was sold by the Grand children of said A. B. Wade

Should you care for a brief history of the farm I'll gladly give it to you.

yours truly

Mrs J. F. Swadley

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1867

L. P. Weatherman
Colony, Kansas

Colony, Kans
Nov. 2, 1945

O Topeka, Kans:—

Dear Mr. Maher:—

I just noticed in the paper
that you were interested in
farms owned and operated by
the same family for 75 years.

Our farm has been owned
and operated by one family
since 1867. My grandfather
bought part of it in 1867 and
homesteaded the rest of it.

I would like a little more
information about the
requirements for entering
it in your Diamond Jubilee
celebration.

Sincerely yours
L. P. Weatherman.
Colony.
R#1 Kans.

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Colony, Kans
Nov. 2, 1945

Mr. J. C. Mohler,
Topeka, Kans:-

Dear Mr. Mohler:-

I just noticed in the paper
that you were interested in
farms owned and operated by
the same family for 75 years.

Our farm has been owned
and operated by one family
since 1867. My grandfather
bought part of it in 1869 and
homesteaded the rest of it.

I would like a little more
information about the
requirements for entering
it in your Diamond Jubilee
celebration.

Sincerely yours
L. P. Weathermon.
Colony
R#1 Kans.

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Welchhans
on same
farm 75 yrs

Pickland Kan Dec 22 1945
Mr J. C. Mohler

Dear Sir

As you are making a list
of those who have been
on the same farm 75 years
or more.

I have been on the same farm
since Oct 26th 1870 & -10
part of section 26. Monmouth
Township

My father Joe Welchhans
moved to the farm at that
time

I was born in Topeka Kan
August 14. 1869

I have lived on the farm
more than 75 years

Frank Welchhans

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Welter, Edward
1854
5 diffrent post
5 diffrent post

Westmoreland Kas

11 - 25 - 45

Dear Mr Mohler:

I was very pleased to read the account in the Capital where you was trying to dictate the Kansas Pioneers who had lived the longest on one farm. My father homesteaded this farm in Bott Co in 1854 and lived on it continuously until he died in 1884 and I have been on it since I was the youngest boy in the family consisting of 5 boys and 4 girls born and raised in a log cabin the foundation of which still remains and in that time we have gotten our mail from five different post

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ffices. If you are interested
any farther I will gladly
furnish whatever you should
be interested in
Sincerely yours

Edward Weller.
Westmoreland, Ks.

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More than W. H. Welton
75 years R. R. #5, Topeka

Indefinite

A Mrs. Welton (not closely connected with the family) called in to say that Walter Welton R. R #5, Topeka, is living on the farm that his father W. H. Welton preempted more than 75 years ago. She did not know the date or details.

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11-9-45

A Mrs. Welton (not closely connected with the family) called in to say that Walter Welton R.R #5, Zephira, is living on the farm that his father W.H. Welton preempted more than 75 years ago. She did not know the date or details.