

Kansas State Board of Agriculture history collection

Section 13, Pages 361 - 387

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

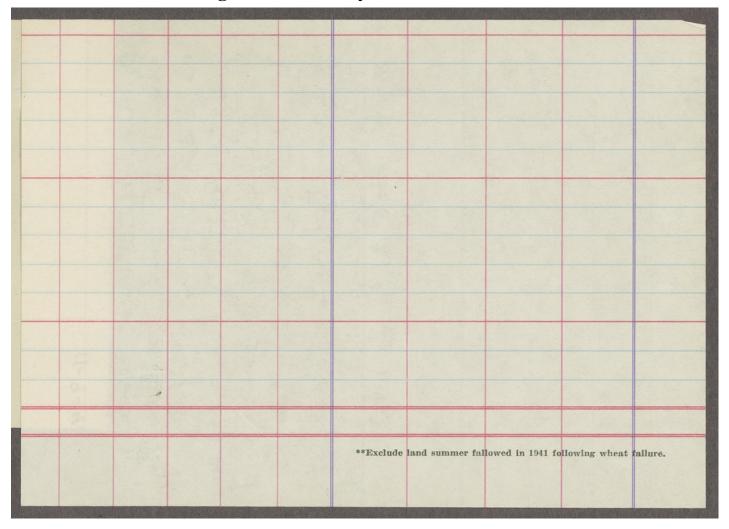
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www.kansasmemory.org/item/42156

KANSAS HISTORICAL SOCIETY







1870 Harry Werts Eudora, Kansas
Seudora Kans. Orov 2th 1945
I am living on and own
the farm that my father bought Jan 17-1870
He operated it as long as he was able,
Then I took over and have operated it ever since
I am 6/years old was born
and raised on this farm.
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Kans,



1868 Fred H. Westermann, Kans Vol. 15-1945
Fred H. Westermann, Kans. Wood. 15-1945
Bremen, Kansas.
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1860 Alfred Koeneke,
Bremen, Kansas.
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my son is now runing it. The has two children which are the
of the fifth generation. Thisface is in Heckiner Inf. Marshall Co.
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P. 1. Box 64 Brennew, Harris.



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written by done glober
mrs D.F. mealistir
1581 Gage Block
Topeka /18



Kansas State Board of Agriculture history collection

1859 Frank Williams, Marysville, Kans R # 3 November 17, 1945 Marysville, Kansas. Moehler, State Board of Agriculture Topeka, Kans Bear Sir : I have been interested in your search of farms in Kans. which have been farmed by the same family for more than seventy five years. I wish to enter the farm known as the "Emery Homestead" in this contest. The farm is located in Oketo Twp. Marshall Co and is now owned by Frank Williams, Marysville, Kans R # 3 , whit is a grandson of Albert Gallatin Emery who brought his family from Perry, New Hampshire to Kansas in 1858 and had settled on this farm sometime early in the year 1859. The farm has been farmed by the family since that time. The Land Patent is signed by Abraham Lincoln , July I, 1861. Very truly yours, Francia R. Williams Frances R. Williams (Mrs. Frank) R # 3 Marysville, Kans



Kansas State Board of Agriculture history collection

Mrs. Fleanor A. Wilson, 1855 904 Armstrong, Kansas City, Kansas. (puoled on crop share basis) . White Cloud

Lowell G. Kellev Ben E. Garlock Frank M. Munson Flavel C. Nuzum

Councilmen:

Firth M. Dodd

DONIPHAN COUNTY, KANSAS ON HIGHWAY No. 7

(The Missouri River Scenic Road)

Mhite Cloud, Kansas

Nov. 14, 1945

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

Dear Mr. Mohler:

I read in a recent issue of the Kansas City Star that you are making an effort to learn the location of farms that have been longest owned by one family. May I bring to your attention a quarter section of land which was homesteaded by Dawson Arnold in 1855, and which has never passed out of possession of some member of the family up to the present time. Several children have held interest in the farm following the death of their father but today the sole owner is Mrs. Eleanor A. Wilson who resides at 904 Armstrong, Kansas City, Kansas, one of his daughters. This farm is located in the northwest quarter of Section (29) Twentynine, Town 1, Range 19, Doniphan County, Kansas. A few years ago Mrs. Wilson and her now deceas ed husband, were for a number of years on the faculty of the State School for the Plind. If interested you may contact Mrs. Wilson at the address above named.

E. L. marken.

I might add that this farm is still operated on a crop share basis



Councilmen: Firth M. Dodd

Lowell G. Kelley

Ben E. Garlock Frank M. Munson

Flavel C. Nuzum

Kansas State Board of Agriculture history collection

Geo. H. Osgood, Mayor Emil L. Marker, Clerk

City of White Cloud

Incorporated 1856

DONIPHAN COUNTY, KANSAS ON HIGHWAY No. 7 (The Missouri River Scenic Road)

White Cloud, Kansas

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Very respectfully

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Kansas State Board of Agriculture history collection



KANSAS STATE BOARD OF AGRICULTURE

J. C. Mohler · Secretary State House · Topeka

January 28, 1946

Mr. Floyd M. Wolf Augusta Kansas

Dear Friend:

One of the most gratifying things in my experience as Secretary of this Board has been receiving the letters from you fine Kansans about your forbears who came here in the early days to make their homes and who with their descendents paved the way for the Kansas that is and is to be.

We have had several hundred letters. They will become a part of the permanent records of the state, as the State Historical Society has requested the letters which will be transferred to its files.

The enclosed leaflet was printed in connection with our Annual Meeting dinner at which Mr. and Mrs. McCarty and Mr. and Mrs. Gilmore were our special guests. I am sorry that some of the names of our correspondents do not appear on the back page, but copy had to go to the printer some time in advance of the meeting and the names of those who wrote us later than that could not be included.

It is with a feeling of sincere gratitude that I thank you for the interest you have shown and for the contribution you have made to the historical records of the farm homes of our state.

With best wishes for continued enjoyment of the home established so long ago by your valiant pioneer ancestors, and with deep appreciation of what your family has wrought for the State of Kansas. I am

Sincerely,

Secretary

jem:d



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Continuously since fathers death.
I hope this will be your desired information
Vand L. V.
Your Truly
Tyell Wolf
606 no. Terrace dr.
Wichita Kans.
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pacorded vol 2 page 2/9
P. S. The certificale no. is 1168 Perconded Vol 2 page 219 Signed for President W. S. Frant



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Kansas State Board of Agriculture history collection

1870

G. L. Woner, Rock, Kansas.

> Rock, Kansas, November 14, 1945.

J. C. Mohler,

Sec'y: State Board of Agriculture,

Topeka, Kansas.

Dear Sir:

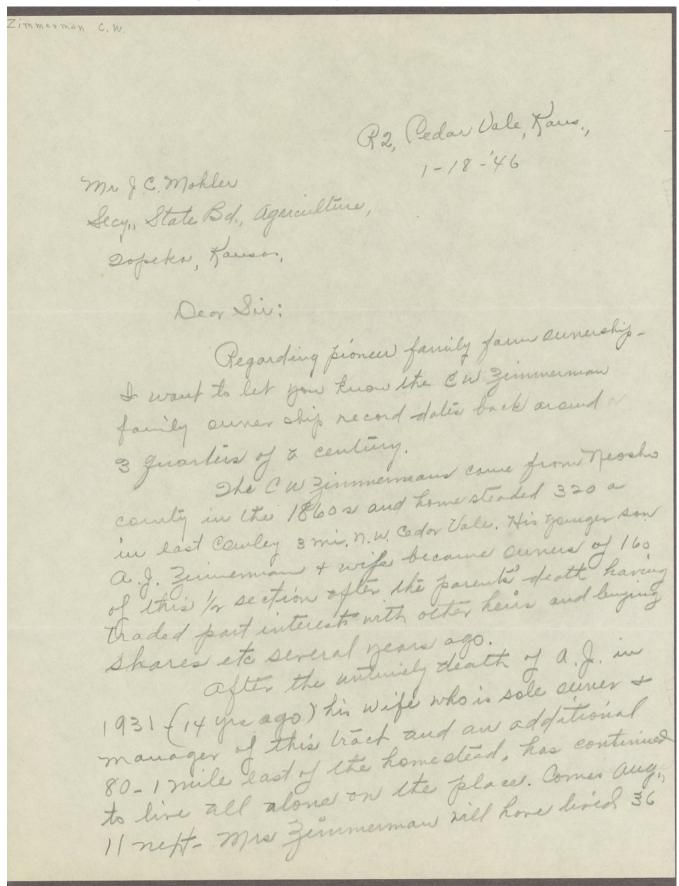
We read an article in the Wichita Sunday Beacon asking for information concerning any farm which has been owned and operated by members of the same family for seventy five years. I am submitting this information.

On April 2nd, 1870, Mr. George Woner, who with his family had come from Kentucky, arrived in the southern part of Kansas. His son, Lazarus, was then eight years old. Mr. Woner settled in the Walnut river valley. At the time of his death, his son Lazarus, inherited the farm which he owned and operated until about a year ago. At that time, his son, G. L. Woner bought it. His father, who is now eighty three, is still living on the farm. He lives with his son and family. This farm is located near Rock and is thirteen miles north of Winfield.

Respectfully,

Mrs. G. L. Woner

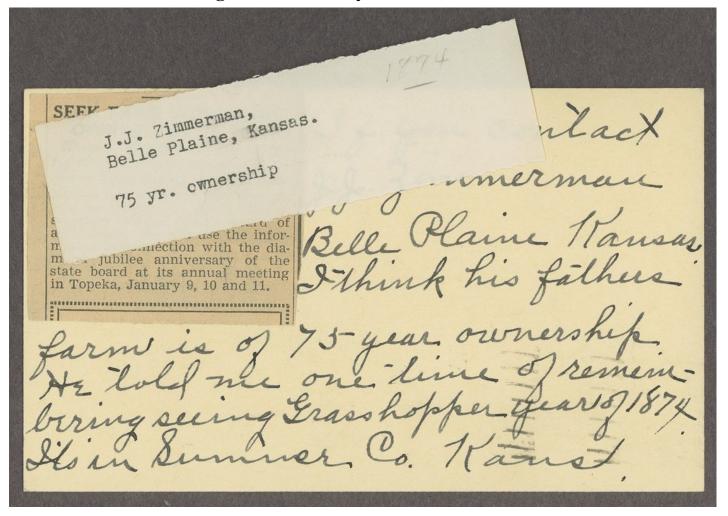




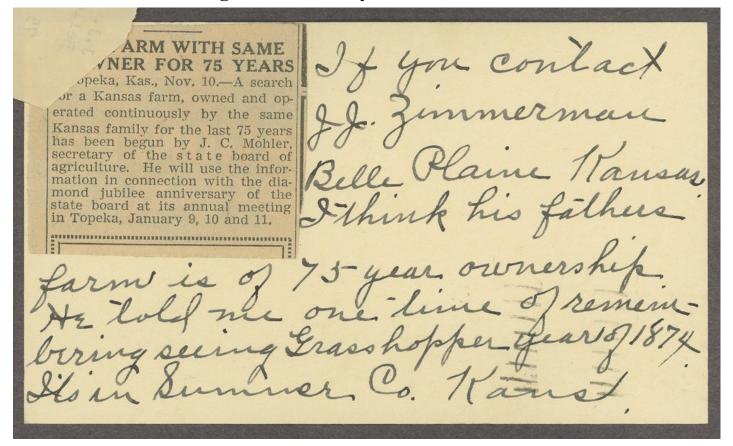


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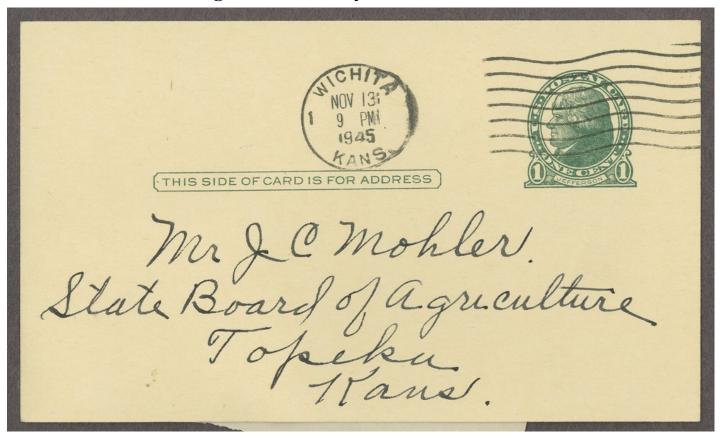








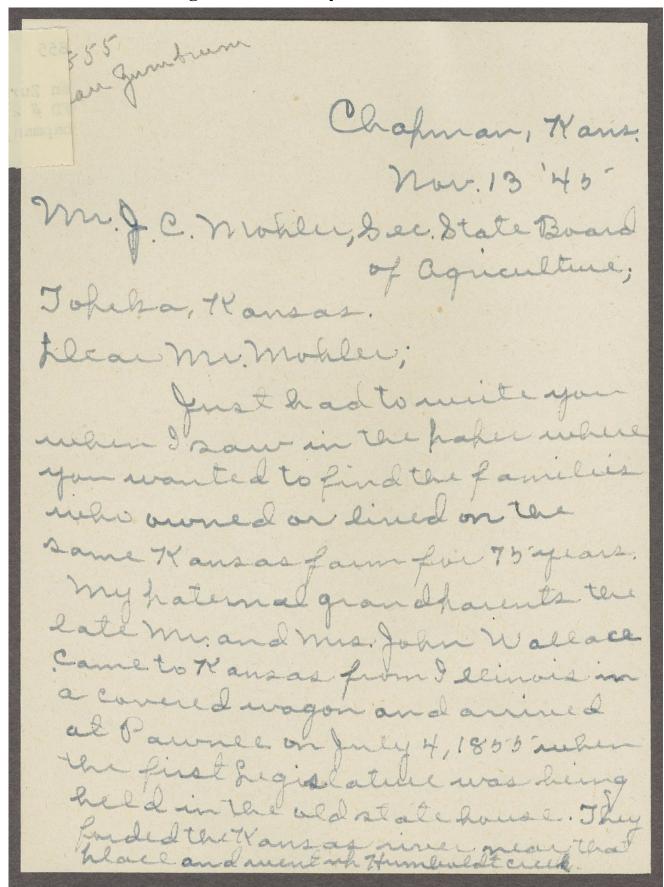






1855	
Dan Zummbrum, RFD # 2, Chapman, Kansas.	(Farmed by 4-H Clubber) -, Wans.
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Kansas State Board of Agriculture history collection

Clamoring Phone Brings Early Rush in Hunt for Pioneer Family 75 Years on Same Kansas Farm

Veteran Kansas farm owners are certain to stage a red hot contest in the race for the old-timer award at the diamend jubilee of the state board of agriculture in January. Friday, J. C. Mohler, secretary of the board, was being swamped with telephone cals, telegrams and letters from

> children and grandchildren of farmers who settled on Kansas soil in early days and clamor for recognition. SIX-6-SIX SIX-6-SIX

With Mr. Mohler's request for farm ownership and operation rec-ords a bare 24 hours old, the de-partment has already received reports from a number of com-munities in the state where lands

munities in the state where lands of early settlers still is in the family.

D. W. Gilmore wired from route 3, Chanute, saying a farm there has been family-operated since 1864. Will R. Black sent a telegram from Garnett saying he could furnish the name of a farm operator whose land has been in

gram from Garnett saying he could furnish the name of a farm operator whose land has been in family possession 86 years.

The Junction City Union sent word the farm of Ex-Gov. James M. Harvey of Fort Riley has been family-owned and operated since 1859, another 86 years record.

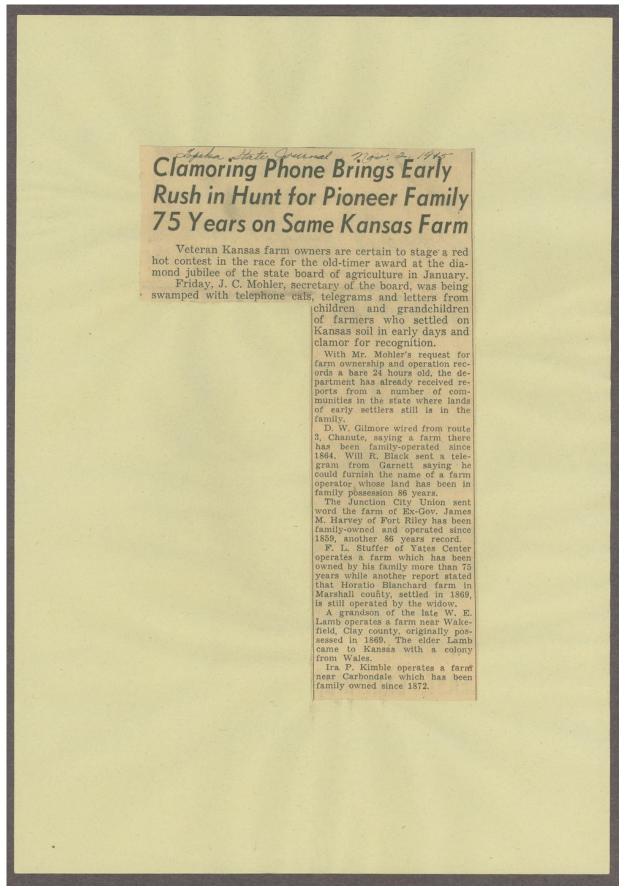
F. L. Stuffer of Yates Center operates a farm which has been owned by his family more than 75 years while another report stated that Horatio Blanchard farm in Marshall county, settled in 1869, is still operated by the widow.

A grandson of the late W. E. Lamb operates a farm near Wakefield, Clay county, originally possessed in 1869. The elder Lamb came to Kansas with a colony from Wales.

Ira P. Kimble operates a farm near Carbondale which has been family owned since 1872.

Speka State Journal, Bovember 2, 1945







Kansas State Board of Agriculture history collection

Jake Mohler Starts Something He Has Difficulty in Handling

TOPEKA, Nov. 2.(AP)—J. C. (Jake) Mohler, veteran secretary of the Kansas State board of agriculture, was swamped today—and flabbergasted.

Yesterday he began a search for a Kansas farm that had been owned or operated continuously the last seventy-five years by the same family. He wanted the information for use in connection with the board's Diamond jubilee meeting next January.

Today his desk was littered with letters and telegrams telling of such farms. His telephone at the office was jingling and he said, "my phone at home rang so much last night that my wife got right down provoked at me."

Mohler explained that with his right hand in a cast, as a result of a fall (Mohler is an official in the state farm safety council), he was unable to write down information offered by telephone.

But of the many calls, Jake said, Lee Rich, managing editor of the Junction City Union, was first under the wire. He told Jake of the ex-Gov. James M. Harvey farm near

2.(AP)—J. C. Ft. Riley, operated since 1859.

Veteran secrestate board of amped today—

State board of that meet his requirements in the state—included:

F. L. Stuffer farm, Yates Center, seventy-five years; Hortatio Blanchard farm in Marshall County, in the family since 1869; Ira P. Kimble farm, Carbondale, owned since 1872 (doesn't quite qualify), and the W. E. Lamb farm near Wakefield, owned since 1869.



Kansas State Board of Agriculture history collection

75th Diamond Jubilee Meeting

January, 1946

To the courageous Pioneers whose heritage was success over difficulties in laying the foundation for our agricultural supremacy and the social excellence that is and is to be; to their worthy descendants in adherence to traditions that have made of Kansas the commonwealth enviable.

We cross the prairies as of old
The Pilgrims crossed the sea,
To make the West as they the East
The homestead of the free.

—John G. Whittier

MORE colorful and more heart-gripping than fiction are the fascinating accounts of Kansas pioneer days. They were vital days in the state's development—days of red-blooded bravery and rugged perseverance—days when strength of body, strength of character and strength of will combined with shrewd logic and foresight to cut the pattern for an ever-progressive and ever-expanding commonwealth.

With quiet humility we realize that thoughts and deeds of the early pioneers formed a firm foundation for the prosperous, industrious Kansas of today. Because of this fact, and because they and their descendants have worked hand in hand with the State Board of Agriculture over the years, this organization pays tribute to the pioneers of Kansas.

An appropriate occasion for special tribute appeared, in form of the Diamond Jubilee Celebration, during the 75th Annual Meeting of the State Board of Agriculture, at Topeka, January 9-11, 1946. In response to a brief newspaper article, nearly 200 persons sent an account of their family having owned and occupied the same Kansas farm for 75 years or more. The letters provide a wealth of historic pioneer lore, and this printed tribute carries names of some who figured so prominently in that lore. Long may their spirit reign to inspire and guide the generations of Kansas people.



Kansas State Board of Agriculture history collection

Longest Family Ownership and Residence on Same Farm

Of some 200 farms reported to the State Board of Agriculture, the one with longest ownership and residence by one family, through the generations, is a farm two miles south of Lecompton, in Douglas County, owned by George L. McCarty, who now lives on the place. Mr. McCarty gives a vibrant account of this farm which has been in the family since 1853. Claim was filed that year in the name of Todhunter, family name of Mr. McCarty's mother. As men of the Todhunter family filed this claim, they built several cabins and dug a well. That fall the Todhunter men returned to Missouri for their families. Men, women, children and supplies traveled to Kansas by ox team, early in the spring of 1854. They brought fine saddle horses, peach seeds, tobacco, ammunition, corn meal, and other necessary items. Mr. McCarty's mother, a 13-year-old orphan, was a member of this expedition. The quarter of land which fell to her has never been out of the family. Its present title shows only one transfer—the one to Mr. McCarty, from his father and mother.



Scene on the George McCarty farm which has been owned and lived on by the same family since 1853. Inset shows Rachel Jane McCarty, mother of the present owner.



Kansas State Board of Agriculture history collection

Longest Record for One Person on the Same Kansas Farm

D. W. Gilmore, of Neosho county, holds the longest record reported for one person on the same Kansas farm. Mr. Gilmore has lived 81 years on his present place east of Chanute, on Big Creek, where he and Mrs. Gilmore reside in a comfortable farm home. Now 89, Mr. Gilmore tells of interesting changes since he moved to that farm with his parents, at the age of eight.

In 1864, he says, there was only prairie grass and an Indian trail; no trees except along the creek. Indians were friendly, and the government signed a treaty with them in 1886. Only 10 or 12 families lived along Big Creek. Nothing but prairie grass was to be seen in the area that is now Chanute, and the nearest trading post was a place called Osage City, near the bend in the Neosho River northeast of there.

Corn was the first crop. Plowing was done with ox teams, at the rate of about an acre a day. Mr. Gilmore says the ax is about the only implement still used on the farm, that was used 81 years ago. "I got my start in Kansas chopping wood, and I'm still at it," he declares. Mrs. Gilmore's maiden name was Sarah Brown. She was born in Allen county, and as a girl moved with her parents to a farm on Big Creek, just across from the Gilmores.



Still living on the same farm he occupied 81 years ago is D. W. Gilmore, Neosho county, who is still a good wood-chopper. With him in the picture is Mrs. Gilmore, native of Allen county.



Kansas State Board of Agriculture history collection

DIAMOND JUBILEE FARMS

Following is a list of those owning Kansas farms now lived on by members of the same family that has owned and resided on the place for 75 years or more, as reported to the State Board of Agriculture:

1853

McCarty, Geo. L.; Lecompton

1854

Bedwell, Fred and Will;
Miami Co.
Billard, Robert; Topeka
Black, Thomas; Burlingame
Carter, John R.; Wakarusa
Clark, Jacob; Franklin Co.
Deppe, Wm.; Ozawkie
Dixon, Mamie H.; Milford
Doane, Jennie Roberts;
Big Springs
Griffing, Lew; Shawnee Cou

Big Springs Griffing, Lew; Shawnee County McFarland, Robt. R.; Lawrence Meairs, W. G.; Lawrence Niccum, Norman; Tecumseh Noe, David; Douglas Co. Welter, Edward; Westmoreland Wiggins, Mrs. J. B.; Lawrence

1855

Butell, Geo.; Baldwin
Carnahan, H. H.; Garrison
Clark, Charles; Franklin
Coberly, Frank; Shawnee Co.
Colman, Ralph; Douglas Co.
Kinney, Scott; Osage Co.
Miller, Annie; Muscotah
Strahan, Geo.; Douglas Co.
Topping, Chas.; Douglas Co.
Zumbrunn, Dan; Chapman

1856

Bell, Mrs. Jim; Wetmore Dickens, Mrs. Albert; Manhattan Ferguson, E. E.; Valley Falls Fix, Pearl; Volland Kimball, John; Manhattan Miller, Fred; Tecumseh Reed, V. M.; Franklin Co. Ryan, Mrs. Jennie; Burlington Smith, Frank A.; Junction City Steward, Wm. E.; Muscotah

1857

Chase, Joseph; Marshall Co.
Connole, M. D.; Richland
Everett, John; Miami Co.
Henderson, Mary Dickson;
Auburn
Howard, Fred; Lawrence
Hughes, Mrs. Francis G.;
Lawrence
Maris, F. B.; Nortonville
Schmidt, J. Fred; Iola
Shaffer, Martha Spencer;
Lecompton
Smith, W. A.; Linn Co.
Spencer, Charles; Atchison

979

Booth, H. G.; Soldier Hiatt, Clyde; Richland Miller, Vanroy W.; Lawrence Peck, John A.; Topeka Romigh, W.; Cottonwood Falls Smith, Frank A.; Woodbine

1859

Black, Will R.; Garnett Callahan, Geo.; Abilene Clark, John; Douglas Co. Colman, Ralph L.; Lawrence Davis, Charles D.; Winchester Fiehler, John F.; LeLoup Harvey family; Geary County McLindon, Alice E.; Williamsburg

Mannen, Howard; Miami Co. Rogler, Henry; Matfield Green Roller, Chas. G.; Lecompton Sauble family; Cedar Point Williams, Frank; Marysville

1860

Dietrick, Mrs. F. W.; Junction City Galentine, Mrs. Lula; Bazaar Graham, Finley V.; Wellsville Halling, August; Doniphan Co. Koeneke, Alfred; Bremen McFarland; Olathe Reh, Henry; Homewood White, Marshall; Willis

186

Fetherngill, Anna; Iola Miller, C. F.; Ft. Scott Ruckle, Elba E.; Sedgwick Co.

1863

Stoehener, Arnold; Douglas Co.

1864

Gilmore, D. W.; Neosho Co. Herring, Bruce; Sparks Lohotte farm; Bremen Taber, Lou; Wabaunsee Co.

1865

Keith, Herman; Ottawa Reed, Clarence E.; Ottawa

1866

Kratz, Raymond W.; Pomona Melville, Ellen F.; Eudora Pender, James C.; Cherokee Co. White, D. E.; Cherokee Co.

1867

Briggs, Wm. E.; Scranton Grover, Ernest; Lawrence Kounts, I. N.; Crawford Co. Orr, W. C.; Winchester

21-1869

Smith, Victor; Crawford Co. Weatherman, L. P.; Colony

1868

Belden, H. R.; Atchison Co. Black, A. N.; Attica Fauerbach, Frank; Wabaunsee Co. Kelsey, Scott E.; Topeka Thurber, Roy; Douglas Co. Westermann, Fred; Bremen

1869

Blanchard, Florence;
Marshall Co.
Buckman, Mabel; Rt. 8, Topeka
Edmiston, Code; Butler Co.
Finley, H. C.; Cherryvale
Hausman, Minnie; Eudora
Howell, Tom; Emporia
Keith, C. E.; Ottawa
Livers, D. Linn;
Washington Co.
Lumb, W. E.; Clay Co.
Purcell farm; Atchison Co.
Siders; Marion F.; Butler Co.

870

Burden, J. H.; Chautauqua Burling, James; Arlington Carlson, Edwin; Rice Co. Coburn, E. P.; Silverdale Dunlap, A. M.; Iola Durfey, Jef; Osborne Co. Elliott, Ernest A.; Linn Fuller, Elmer; Clyde Gregg farm; Willis Hall, Mrs. Joe; Atlanta Hyde, H. T.; Augusta Jones, John B.; Abilene Knapp, E. L.; Maple Hill Leece, Raymond: Jewell Co. Minns, Geo.; Conway Murphy, D. D.; Oswego Queree, Wm.; Parsons Sheets, Clyde; Topeka Simms, Clarence; Republic Stacey, Harold; Industry Steffen, L. F.; Yates Center Toburen, Aug.; Cleburne VanOrsdol, T. P.; Silver Lake Velen, Frank A.; Cleburne Welton, Walter; Rt. 5, Topeka Werts, Harry; Eudora Wolf, Floyd M.; Augusta Woner, Lazarus; Rock

1871

Bacon, D. E.; Lyons Baird, F. C.; Mt. Hope Davidson farm; Jewell Co. Riley, Russell; Piedmont Schmidt, John H.; Goddard