

Kansas State Board of Agriculture history collection

Section 7, Pages 181 - 210

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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KANSAS
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY

Richland Kans

Nov 3 - 1945

Mr J C Mohler

Topeka Kans

Dear Mr. Mohler.

The enclosed

clipping was taken from
Nov. 1st edition of Lawrence
Journal-World. My father
settled on land in sec. 2 -
14-17 - in 1858 and has been
farmed by himself and
sons to this day.

Respectfully yours
Clyde Stratt.

reports of vandalism are received,
the curfew will remain suspended.

HUNTS A KANSAS FARM

Mohler Wants to Find One Held By Same Family 75 Years

Topeka, Nov. 1. (AP)—A search for a Kansas farm, owned or operated continuously by the same Kansas family for the last 75 years, was opened today by J. C. Mohler, secretary of the state board of agriculture.

Mohler said he intended to use the information in connection with the diamond jubilee anniversary of the state board at its annual meeting here January 9, 10, and 11.

Trainloads of livestock and used farm implements have been sold

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Kansas State Board of Agriculture history collection

1857

Chas., Chester, and Fred Howard,
Lawrence, Kansas.

Family came overland from Michigan.

has been in the Howard
Name since 1857.

On June 1857 L. D. Howard came to Kansas with his parents one Brother and 2 sisters from Michigan making the trip overland with Horses and wagons, settling on the farm 1 mile west of the little town of Sibleyville. as a boy, he helped bury the dead after Quantrill's raid After his death in March 1933 The farm became ownership of his three sons Charles, Chester and Fred who still own and farm the old Homestead.

The Farm home of the late L. D. Howard located 5 miles South of Lawrence, Douglas County, Wakarusa Township has been in the Howard Name since 1857.

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Kansas State Board of Agriculture history collection

1869
71 years on
same farm

RR. #1

Emporia, Kansas,
Nov 27, 1945

J. C. Mohler,
Sec'y State Board of Agriculture,
Topeka, Kan.

Dear Sir:

A clipping came to hand which stated that you wanted information concerning farms owned and operated continuously for 75 years by the same family.

The farm on which I was born was bought by my father in 1869. I was born on the place in 1874.

After the death of my mother in 1898 I bought the farm and have lived here since.

John Howell

Kansas State Board of Agriculture history collection

1857 William Hughes
Lawrence, Kansas

Three generations. Present house built in
1868

Wm. J. C. Mohler

Dear Sir:—

Saw a statement recently in a local paper stating that you were in search of a farm that had been owned or operated continuously for the last 75 years.

I was interested and think you will have no trouble finding many. However the farm on which we live has been in possession of the Hughes' family for more than 85 years.

The first owner was William Hughes who purchased it in 1857 or there about. The second owner Mr. Thomas L. Hughes a son of William Hughes. The present owner Francis G. Hughes a son of T. L. Hughes.

The house which we live in was built in 1868. Still in good condition. Original plaster. Only structural changes

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Mrs. Francis G. Hughes
Rural Route Two
Lawrence, Kansas

were the addition of a bath room. Of course
a furnace - running water and electric lights
were additions -

Sincerely

Mrs. Francis G. Hughes
Route 2
Lawrence.

Kansas State Board of Agriculture history collection

1857

Independence Kansas

Jan. 7, 1946

Mr. J. C. Mahler,
Sec. State Board of Agriculture
Topeka Kansas.

Dear Mr. Mahler: Of course the enclosed story
of the long tenure of 88 years on the same
farm, is coming in, literally at the last moment.

My mother, Mrs. O. L. Hunt, Osawatomie Kans.
has been very anxious that our story be in-
cluded in the Seventy-five Year Jubilee.

I'm very sorry this material is late coming
in. The reason, lack of time.

Why not a State organization of "Seventy-
Fivers" honoring these pioneer families?

Very truly yours,

Donna O. Hunt

Home Demonstration Agent
Independence Kans.

near the quiet village of Friesland, North Carolina, lived Asahel Hunt with his parents, brothers and sisters on the family plantation. This quaker family had lived in the vicinity for several generations, but the clamor and excitement of the gold rush of '49 so stirred the ambitions of Asahel, that this tall, slender lad set his face Westward, joined the wagon-trains, and made the long, tedious trek to the gold fields of California.

Asahel Hunt did not linger long in the camps of the gold prospectors. He sensed the need of the supplies of food, and made repeated trips as far South as Mexico where he dealt for cattle, and drove them on foot to California where he found a ready market.

There came the time in the very early fifties when he had accumulated a tidy sum. He wanted to invest his money in land in some of the new territory being homesteaded. Asahel had heard much of Kansas and when at last, on his return trip, he came to Lykins (Miami) County, to the free-state town, Osawatomie, he decided he had found the location he was searching for. Soon he brought in goods by ox train from Leavenworth and Westport, setting up an outpost store in Indianapolis, a village which was some four miles west, on the trail from Osawatomie. Then he returned to his old home

Kansas State Board of Agriculture history collection

married the girl who had been waiting for him, brought her back to Kansas, and settled down to the business of keeping store.

Young Asahel Hunt was deeply concerned many times over the growing agitation between the two factions - the Pro-slavery and the anti-slavery. John Brown and his brother-in-law, the Congregational preacher, Father A. Linn, were quite near neighbors. But Asahel and his family were unmolested and the details of his business occupied his time.

The appointment giving him the rank of major, vested in Asahel much authority as a mediator over controversies on the border, between Kansas and Missouri.

With his thoughts and energies turning more toward farming, he already owned several farms and tracts when in 1857 he purchased fifty acres of heavily timbered land on the Pottawatomie river. This land now cleared, is still owned and operated by members of the Hunt family. However in 1858, he obtained two quarters sections, by a military bounty land warrant from Jordan J. Whitehead, an Easterner who had acquired the land only a few months previously. Here it was that major Hunt made his home and raised his family of six children. A third quarter was added. The timber land proved of great use in improving the farm. He made the framework of the barn of 6x6" walnut timbers, hand grooved together and held by stout smoothly whittled, walnut pegs. The framework still stands today.

Kansas State Board of Agriculture history collection

Asahel (or Asail) Hunt died in Jan. 1882, still a comparatively young man. His widow, Mrs. Mary Jane Hunt (with the exception of one quarter which she sold) continued to own and operate the estate until her eldest son William and his wife, Osee L., came in 1888 to make their home on the farmstead. The other heirs were bought out in 1896.

Four children were born, and upon the death of William Hunt in Jan. 1927, the widow, Mrs. O. L. Hunt continued to make her home there, as well as to finish the education of the two youngest children.

At this time Jan 1, 1946, the farmstead is still the home of Mrs. Hunt and her son Carroll V., who continue to operate the land. The highway, leading past the farm, is now known as the John Brown Highway, leading west from Osawatomie. Other members of the present family, are Asahel (Asail) Hunt who lives on a farm in the vicinity of Osawatomie; William who was recently discharged from service and who now lives in Boston and Miss Donna Hunt of Independence Kansas, home demonstration agent of Montgomery County.

Thus have three generations lived on the same farm — over a span of eighty-eight years.

Kansas State Board of Agriculture history collection

1854

(Mrs. L. T. Hussey)
Anderson Bedwell, Miami County

BEDWELL FAMILY

In 1854 Anderson & Elizabeth Bedwell came to Kansas and settled in Miami County (then known as Lykins County) on land bought from the Shawnee Indians, known as the "Five Tribes Land". They built a large stone house and reared a family of ten children.

After the death of Mr. & Mrs. Anderson Bedwell the oldest son, Jonathan and his wife took over the farm and lived there until their death. Jonathan was 89 years old at the time of his death, since which time two of his sons, Fred and Will Bedwell have lived on the same farm, in the stone house which is in a fair state of preservation.

(Mrs. L. T.) Elizabeth Hussey

Granddaughter of Anderson Bedwell

Kansas State Board of Agriculture history collection

HISTORY OF THE BEDWELL FAMILY

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(Mrs. L. T.) Elizabeth Hussey

Granddaughter of Anderson Bedwell

Kansas State Board of Agriculture history collection

Augusta Nov. 11.

1870

H. T. Hyde,
RFD # 3,
Augusta, Kansas.

culture.
a Gazette

Your inquiry concerning farms
operated by the same family
for 75 yrs. My husband, H. T. Hyde
owns and operates, with the
help of his son, the land
he inherited by his father
in 1870 or 1871. This land has
been owned and operated
by the Hydes for at least
75 years.

Yours Very Truly
Mrs. H. T. Hyde
Augusta
Kans.
R. F. D. 3.

Augusta Nov. 11.
C. Mohler. Secretary.
State Board of Agriculture.
w. I. saw in the Augusta Gazette
your inquiry concerning farms
operated by the same family
for 75 yrs. My husband, H. T. Hyde
owns and operates, with the
help of his son, the land
he inherited by his father
in 1870 or 1871. This land has
been owned and operated
by the Hydes for at least
75 years.
Yours Very Truly
Mrs. H. T. Hyde
Augusta
Kans.
R. F. D. 3.

Kansas State Board of Agriculture history collection

1871 John Ise

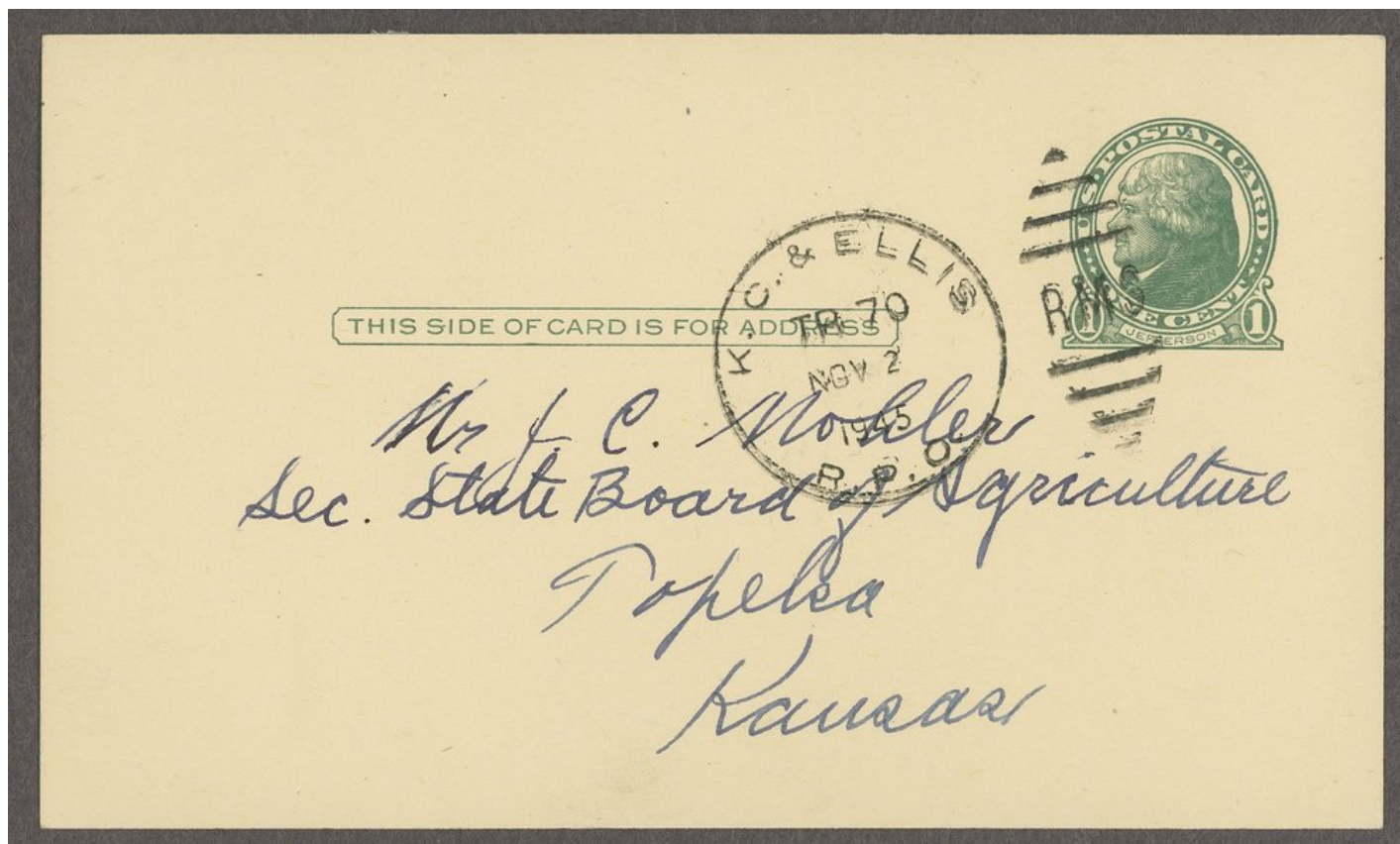
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quity
be a
till owns

the farm father homesteaded in 1871-
75 years next spring but I should
think there would be quite a few.

Very sincerely
John Ise

Mr. Mohler: I note your search for
farm held in the same family
75 years. There ought to be a
few of them. My mother still owns
the farm father homesteaded in 1871-
75 years next spring but I should
think there would be quite a few.
Very sincerely
John Lee

Kansas State Board of Agriculture history collection





Kansas State Board of Agriculture history collection

1856

1856

N. Johnson,
Randolph, Kansas

1870

Frank A Velen,
Cleburne, Kansas.

Mr J. B. Mahler
Topeka

Dear Sir

I enclose a

Mercury-Chronicle of the 14th of Nov.

I am over 72 years old and own and live on the farm I was born, and my father settled here more than 3 years before I was born. My neighbor, Aug. Toburen, is over 71 years old and owns and live on the place he was born and his father settled there more than 4 years before he was born.

N. P. Johnson of near Randolph settled there in 1856 and his daughter, Mrs Chas. Miller, now owns the place and has lived there all her life

Yours Truly
Frank A. Velen
Cleburne
Ks.

Kansas State Board of Agriculture history collection

Leburne 1st Nov. 1874

Dear Sir,

I enclose a clipping from the Manhattan Mercury-Chronicle of the 14th of Nov.

I am over 72 years old and own and live on the farm I was born, and my father settled here more than 3 years before I was born. My neighbor, Aug. Toburen, is over 71 years old and owns and live on the place he was born and his father settled there more than 4 years before he was born.

M. P. Johnson of near Randolph settled there in 1856 and his daughter, Mrs. Chas. Miller, now owns the place and has lived there all her life.

Yours Truly

Frank A. Velen

Leburne
Ks.

Kansas State Board of Agriculture history collection

1870

John B. Jones
Abilene, Kansas

Ssme man on same farm 75 years.

Nov 6 1945

J C Mohler
Topeka Kans

Dear Sir:

I saw recently in the paper, you were looking for a farmer who had owned or operated the same farm for 75 years.

My father, John B Jones, Abilene - box 407 has lived on the same farm 75 yrs.

107
10A
1291292
1161101
-man
Jones.
Abilene Kansas

Nov 6 1945

J C Mohler
Topeka Kans

Dear Sir:

I saw recently in the paper, you were looking for a farmer who had owned or operated the same farm for 75 years.

My father, John B Jones, Abilene - box 407 has lived on the same farm 75 yrs.

Kansas State Board of Agriculture history collection

He came to Kansas from Ohio in Feb. 1870 and his father bought the farm where he now lives then and father has operated & owned the farm since then. He was married in 1886 and he & mother still live on the farm, but rent out the land as they are too old to farm.

He is 92 and mother 85, both able to be about and well though he is rather feeble with age.

I am their daughter and only child, they had a girl older and a boy younger than I who both died in the diphtheria epidemic of 1895.

Sincerely

Mrs Ira Emig
Abilene Kans

R3

This farm is 1 mi south ^{1/4} on highway 15
and 1/4 west.



Kansas State Board of Agriculture history collection

1870

James Keefe
Leavenworth County

St. Louis, Mo. Nov 5, 1945.

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

I note from news item of November 1st, 1945, from Topeka, that you are seeking names of either onership or continuous operation by the same family for 75 years of Kansas farming lands.

On February 5, 1870, my father (James Keefe, later became known as James O'Keefe) purchased from George Partridge and Clarence C. Partridge, his wife, of the City and County of St. Louis, Missouri, a tract of land situated in Leavenworth County, towit-,

The East half (1/2) of the Southeast quarter (1/4) of
Section 19, Township 11, Range 22, East of the 6th P.M.,
containing 80 acres more or less;

which land came to my sisters and myself after the death of our mother, and has and is still owned and held by direct heirs.

My father also purchased on October 31, 1881, from Lucian Eaton and Hannah Eaton his wife, of St. Louis, Missouri, an adjoining 80 acres, and on November 3, 1884, he purchased from the same parties an additional 79 acres, one acre having been set aside for the public school in this quarter, all of which lands have and are still in the names of the remaining living direct heirs. These lands are a part of lands which according to certain terms and conditions from the United States Government, to Alexander Caldwell assignee of Missouri River Railroad Co., Patent dated October 26, 1867, made by said company with the Secretary of the Interior for the purchase of the Delaware Diminished Reserve in Kansas, concluded with the Delaware Indians July 4, 1866, towit; the whole of Section 20 twp. 11 R. 22, containing 640 acres etc.

I believe these later purchases have no bearing upon the information you may desire but thought it might be of interest from an historical angle.

If there should be any other information you may desire I will be glad to co-operate with you in so far as any information I have.

Respectfully yours,

1211 North Grand Blvd.
St. Louis 6, Missouri

(Miss) Margaret O'Keefe



Kansas State Board of Agriculture history collection

1869

C. E. Keith
Ottawa, Kansas

Four generations

AS

Nov. 5

Ours is another of those farms
owned and operated by the same family
continuously for over 75 years.

Our farm was taken from the govt
in 1869. My father, myself and my sister,
and my two boys have been born here.

We are located 2 miles north and
 $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles east of Ottawa, Kansas
and consists of 234 acres. We
engage principally in dairying.

Yours very truly

C. E. Keith

Ottawa

Kansas

Kansas State Board of Agriculture history collection

69
C. E. KEITH
R. R. 2
OTTAWA, KANSAS

Nov. 5

Dear Mr. Mohler,

Ours is another of those farms owned and operated by the same family continuously for over 75 years.

Our farm was taken from the govt in 1869. My father, myself and my sister, and my two boys have been born here.

We are located 2 miles north and $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles east of Ottawa, Kansas and consists of 234 acres. We engage principally in dairying.

Yours very truly

C. E. Keith

Ottawa

Kansas



Kansas State Board of Agriculture history collection

1865

Herman Keith
Franklin County

2.45

Dear Sir

I read in the Kan City Times
that you were looking for
a Kan farm that has been
owned and operated
continuously by the same Kan
family for the last 75
years, My father came to
Kan in the fall of 1865
and settled on a farm
three miles northeast of Ottawa
Kan. bought it from the
Indian Agents for \$2.50 an
acre, near the Old Gang Jones
farm. This farm has been owned
and operated continuously by
father & sons for 80 years.



Kansas State Board of Agriculture history collection

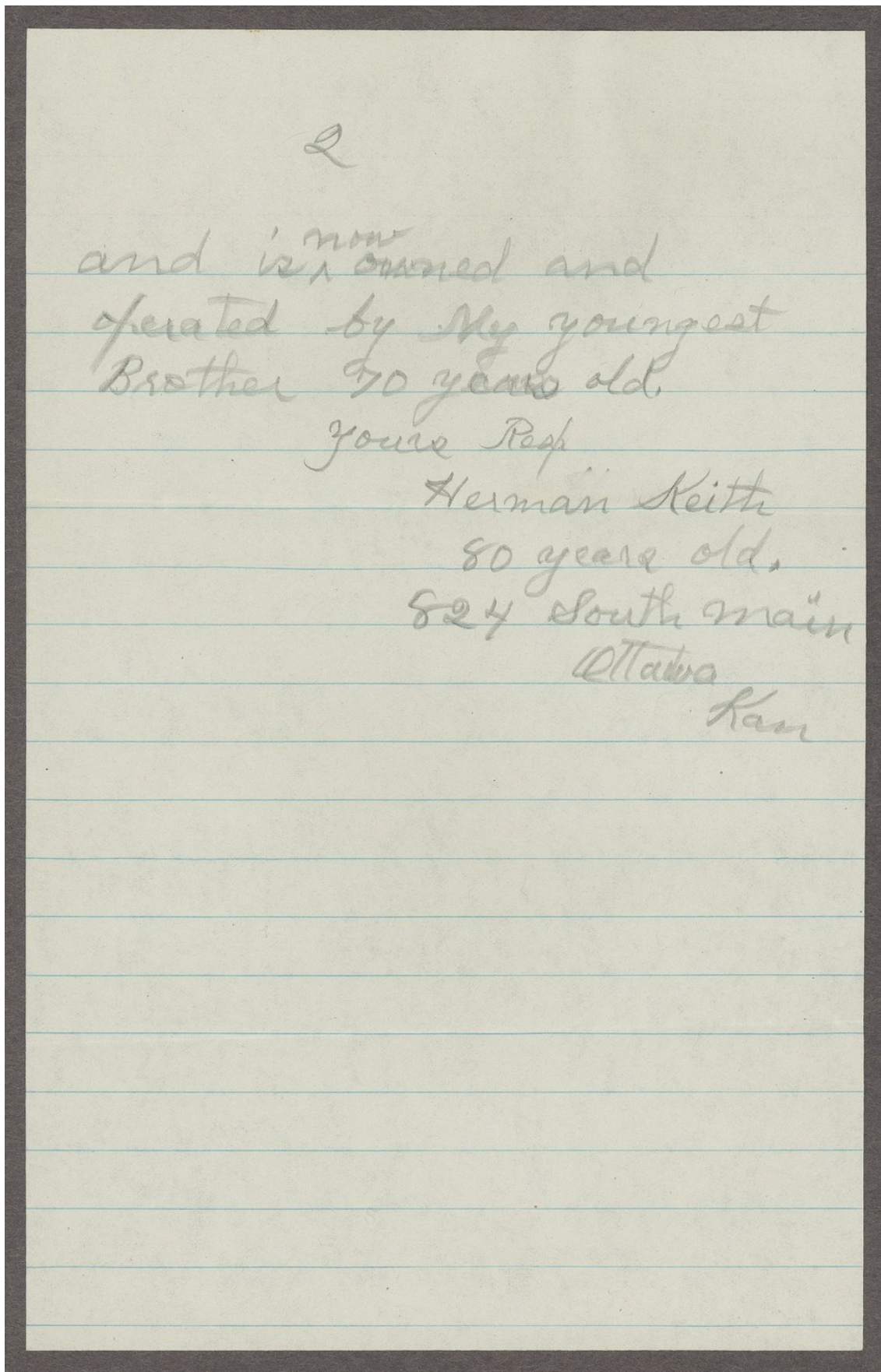
Ottawa Kan. Nov 2. 45.

Mr. J. E. Mohler

Dear Sir

I read in the Kan City Times that you were looking for a Kan. farm that has been owned and operated continuously by the same Kan. family for the last 75 years. My father came to Kan. in the fall of 1865 and settled on a farm three miles northeast of Ottawa Kan. bought it from the Indian Agents for \$2.50 an acre, near the Old Gary Jones farm. This farm has been owned and operated continuously by father & sons for 80 years.

Kansas State Board of Agriculture history collection



Kansas State Board of Agriculture history collection

