

Kansas State Board of Agriculture history collection

Section 9, Pages 241 - 270

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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KANSAS
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY

Kansas State Board of Agriculture history collection

853
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FARM SECURITY ADMINISTRATION
Room X-2, Federal Building
Topeka, Kansas
November 16, 1945

IN REPLY REFER TO

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

Dear Mr. Mohler:

In complying with my promise to you this morning, I am submitting to you some information which, in the main, is positively correct regarding my residence in Kansas on the land that my father's and mother's people settled in the early '50's. To go just a little farther back, I will state that on my mother's side of the family they were all from some place in northern Missouri.

My mother's father was in the group of '49ers that went to the California gold fields, and he was gone three years without a word of information from him back to his family; however, he returned with \$10,000 in gold nuggets, but his health was impaired through hardships he endured. He died soon after his return to Missouri.

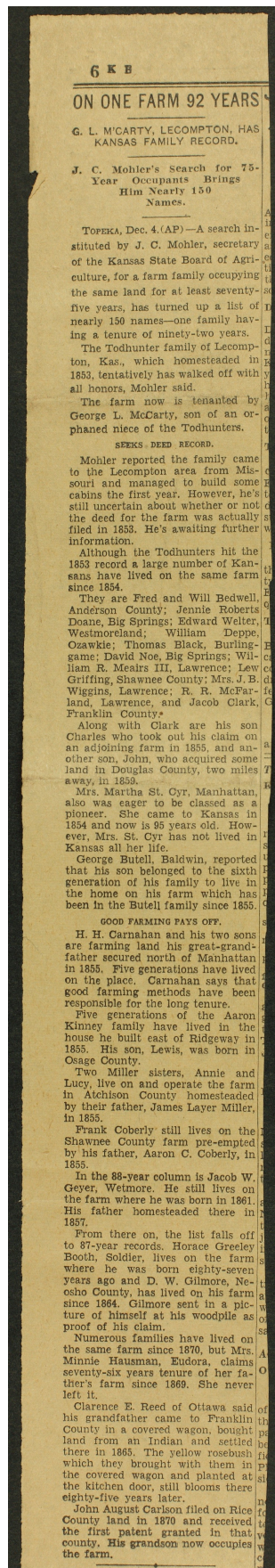
My mother's mother died shortly afterwards, leaving her an orphan at the age of thirteen years. She was mothered by an aunt of the name of Todhunter. She had two brothers and one sister, who were orphaned and came with the group to Kansas.

In 1853 the men folks of this family came to Douglas County, Kansas and filed on land approximately two miles south of Lecompton. They built several cabins and dug a well, which never has failed in 90 years, at the side of one of the cabins on a quarter of land which my mother pre-empted from the Government in the Territory of Kansas. The men folks returned to Missouri in the fall and brought the entire family with fine saddle horses, peach seeds, tobacco, ammunition, corn meal, and other farm seed for planting the following spring. They brought their wives and relation with them in the early spring of 1854 by ox team back to the cabins.

My mother lived on this quarter section of land her entire life, and I have lived on this same quarter of land and live there today. It has always been in the possession of myself and my ancestors. The title today shows only the transfer to myself from my father and mother and their heirs.

My father came to Kansas following the Civil War, after serving four years in the Union Army - nine months of which was in a Confederate Prison in the South. He attended Lane University in Lecompton, Kansas, which is probably next to the oldest University in the State of Kansas, if not the oldest.





Kansas State Board of Agriculture history collection

Mr. J. C. Mohler - Page 2

My father met my mother in the University and married her during his attendance there.

I could relate many, many interesting instances I heard at my mother's knees that occurred in Kansas when the question of pro-slavery and free-state were the big issue around Lecompton, which was the Territorial Capitol. It developed to the point that any new immigrants took sides on the question and it was necessary that the President of the United States send in Union soldiers and march in between the two factions to maintain order.

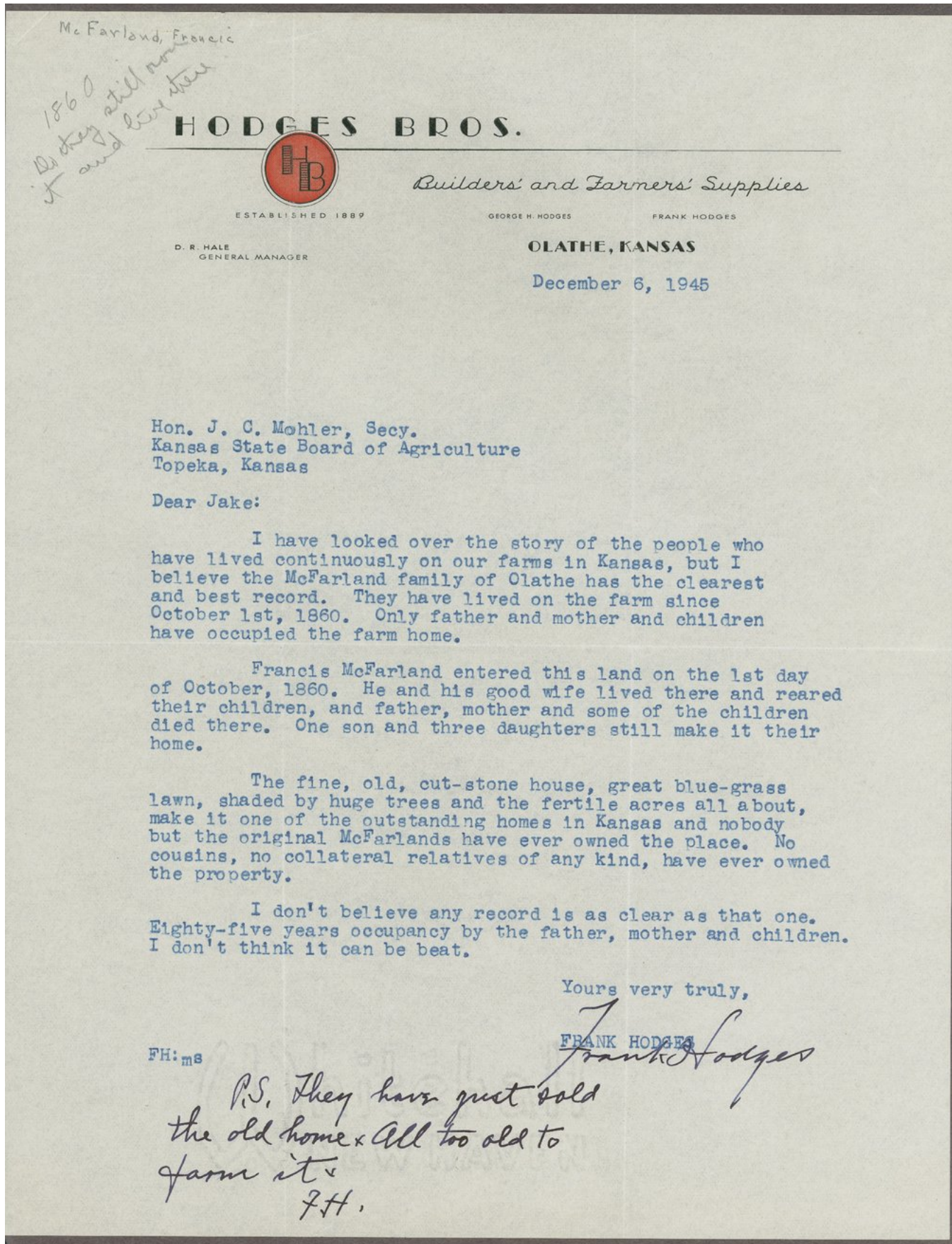
I will be glad to furnish additional information and proof of my statements, if you so desire.

Yours very sincerely,

Geo. L. McCarty

George L. McCarty

Kansas State Board of Agriculture history collection



Kansas State Board of Agriculture history collection

Mr. Robert R. McFarland
Eudora Road
Lawrence, Kansas

Nov 11 - 1945

J.C. Mohler.
Secretary of Agriculture
Topeka - Kansas.

Dear Sir:

We notice in the papers where you are getting a list of farms that have been in the same family for over seventy five years.

In the Spring of '54 a prairie schooner set sail from Northern Iowa for Texas, passing thru what was then Lawrence and camping at what is now Pleasant Grove. They decided that the Kaw Valley was the promised land. The next day they returned to the Valley where S. J. Sperry - my step father - had a claim three miles east of Lawrence. Mr Sperry died Dec 25th 1900. He married my mother in 1887 and I have been on the farm since that time and have farmed it since his death. So this farm has been in the same family for 91 years and is still producing good crops.

Kansas State Board of Agriculture history collection

~~M.~~ Robert B. McFarland

Ludora Road

Lawrence, Kansas

This was the 90th wheat crop raised
on this farm, from a small patch
the beginning to as much as 140 acres.

These crops have been harvested by
cylinder-cradle-dropper-reaper-
wire binder, twine binder and
combine. Hand-horse power-
steam engines and tractors have
been used to harvest crops.

Very truly yours

R. B. McFarland.

Route 2.

Lawrence Kans.

1854

Robt. R. McFarland,
Route 2,
Lawrence, Kansas.

Old farming methods, 90th wheat crop.

Kansas State Board of Agriculture history collection

1859
Alice E. McLindon,
Williamsburg, Kansas.

Williamsburg Kansas
Nov 8 1945

Mr J C Mohler
Topeka Kansas

Having read in paper
of your wanting to know about
a farm that has been continou-
sly operated and owned by same
family.

I am owner of a farm my
Grandfather Edward Reddington
purchased June 20. 1859.

It passed to a son Michael Reddington
then a grand son William Doolin
another grand son Daniel Doolin
and a grand daughter Alice E
Doolin McLindon and I still
own and operate it. This farm
is 1 mile north of Harris Kansas
Anderson Co.

Yours resp
Alice E McLindon

Williamsburg Kans
Nov 8 1945

Mr J C Mohler
Topeka Kans

Having read in paper
of your wanting to know about
a farm that has been continou-
sly operated and owned by same
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Doolin M Lindon and I still
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is 1 mile north of Harris Kansas
Anderson Co.

Yours resp

Alice E M Lindon

Kansas State Board of Agriculture history collection

Mahannah, Elsie

send subject

Sedgwick, Kansas
January 7, 1946

Kansas State Board of Agriculture
Topeka.

Dear Sir:

In January 5 issue of Kansas Farmer I read about your Diamond Jubilee Meeting to be held Jan. 9, 10, 11. Do you put out any seals or stickers in honor of this event or for any other occasion? I collect seals and stickers of all kinds and would be very glad to add any you may have to my collection. Can use several. I thank you most kindly for this favor.

Yours truly

Elsie Mahannah

Sedgwick, Kansas.

Mannen

1859

Paola Kansas
Dec 14, 1945

Mr. J. C. Mohler

Topeka Kansas

Dear Mr. Mohler,

In regard to your search for farms where members of the same family have resided for more than 75 years I would like to offer the following:

S.W. 1/4 12-17-21 Stanton Township Miami County. We have no record of the date this farm was homesteaded but we understand it was 1854. It was deeded from Johnson Clark to a man and his wife named Fard in January 1859 and then from them to W. E. Mannen in August 1859. W. E. Mannen died in 1903, his wife in 1910 and later the place was sold to one of their sons, William Wad Mannen who sold it in 1917 to his brother, Robert Irvin Mannen. Irvin Mannen died in 1934 but his wife Maud E. Mannen and myself, her son, still reside on and operate the farm. This makes a period from 1859 to 1945 or 86 years that the Mannen family has owned and operated this quarter section of ground.

Kansas State Board of Agriculture history collection

An old house still stands on this farm where my father, Irvin Mannen, was born. It has walnut siding, also hand split hickory lath. One board still has scraps of "New York Weekly Tribune", dated June 21, 1861 pasted where they were originally covered with regular wall paper.

I have operated this farm as a partnership with my mother since my father died in 1934. I am 31 years old, married and have one daughter.

Although I know you have records going back farther than ours, I hope the information will prove useful to you.

Sincerely

Howard Mannen
Route 3
Paola Kansas



Kansas State Board of Agriculture history collection

1857

F. B. Maris,
Nortonville, Kansas.

Patent signed by Pres. James Buchanan

Nortonville, Kansas
Nov 14/1945

Mr Mohler Secretary of Agriculture
Topeka, Kansas

Dear Sir

I noticed by the Atchison Globe
you wanted names of those whose
farms had been in family for
75 years. My father Isaac Maris
filed on 160 acres in Aug 1857. Now,
Atchison Co Center Mo 5-7-19.
and year or two later filed on 80 acre
5-7-19.

The patent was signed by James
Buchanan President of U.S.A.

The east half of the 160 and also
the 80 has always been in the family

Yours truly
Fred B Maris

Kansas State Board of Agriculture history collection

Mathews, C.E.

1857
80 yrs on same farm
Dear Sir

Seneca Kans Dec 21th 1943-

In your search for a family that has been on the same farm for the longest time. Would like to list my family. My mother homesteaded this farm in 1857 and I was born Oct 7, 1868 and have lived here ever since. My father was a stage driver and my mother became acquainted with him at the station here in Seneca Kans. My record would over 80 yrs.

From

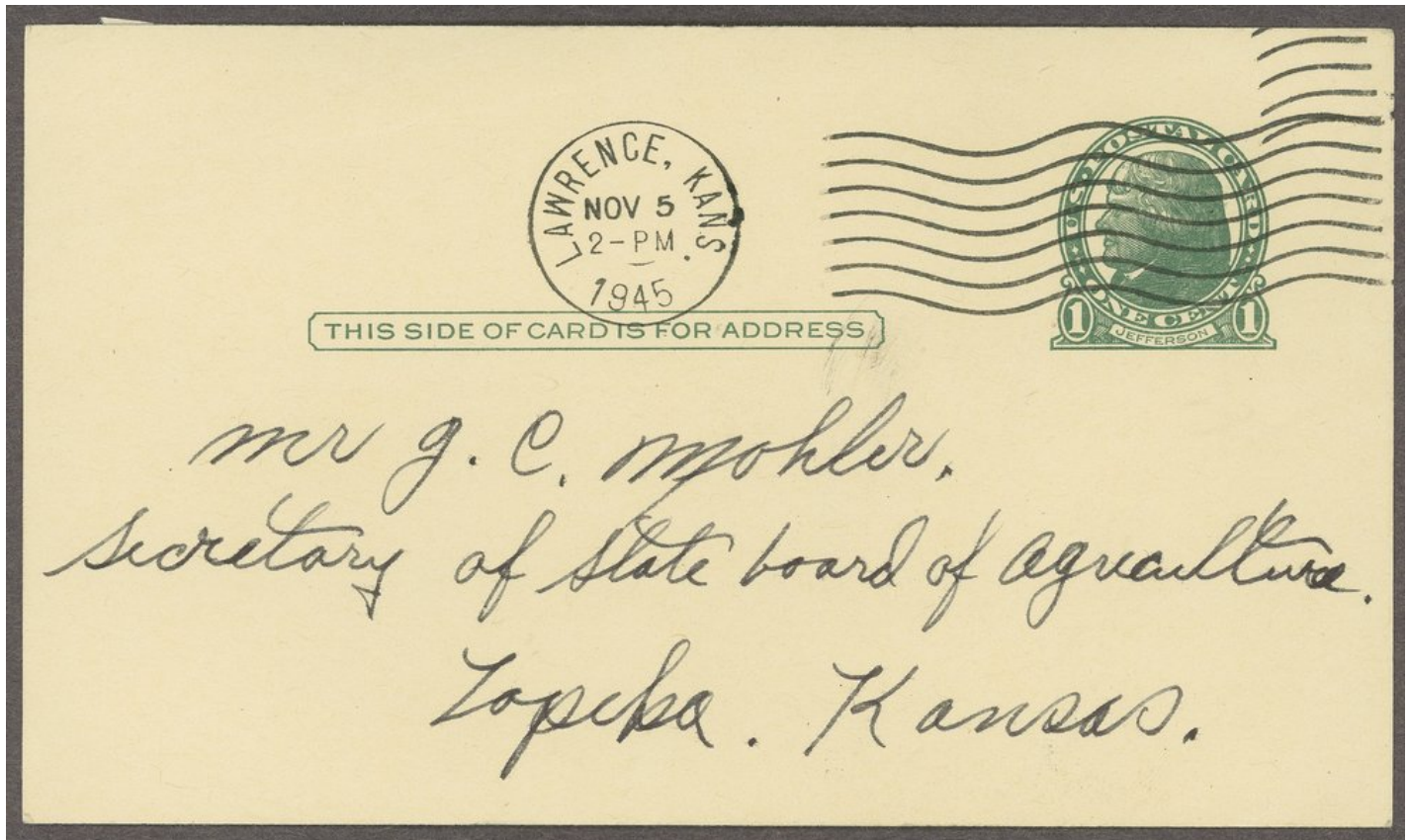
C. E. Mathews

Seneca

Kansas

11-2-45
 Mr J. C. Mohler
 1854 Topeka, Kansas.
 Dear Mr Mohler
 I notice in the Lawrence
 paper, that you are
 looking for a farm
 owned and operated
 by the same family for
 at least 75 years.
 W. G. Meairs, R. 2,
 Lawrence, Mo. owns &
 operates a farm his
 grand father Homesteaded
 in 1854 He took it over
 from his dad.
 Sincerely yours.
 A. W. Shoberg, R. 2. Lawrence, Mo.

Kansas State Board of Agriculture history collection



Kansas State Board of Agriculture history collection

1854

^{Meairs}
W. R. Merairs
Lawrence, Kansas

0 + day

Three generations

ion here

on the meairs home~~own~~, he home
stead was started in "1854."

It is located 2 miles south of
the "Kansas University" and we believe
this was one of the first around
here in Kansas. 160 A. farm.

yours truly

William R. Meairs III

Lawrence, Kansas

P. 2

Saturday

Dear Sir:

We are the third generation here on the "Meairs Homestead," the homestead was started in "1854."

It is located 2 miles south of the "Kansas University" and we believe this was one of the first around here in Kansas. 160 A. farm.

yours truly

William R. Meairs III

Lawrence, Kansas

P. 2

Kansas State Board of Agriculture history collection

Melville

Endora, Kans.
Jan. 25, 1946

Mr. J. C. Mohler,
Topeka, Kansas
Dear Sir:-

Thomas W. Warren
came to Kansas in 1857 and
settled on the Northeast $\frac{1}{4}$ of
section 7, Tp. 14, Rg. 21 but didn't
get a title to the property till
Dec. 10, 1869. My mother Mary ~~W.~~ S.
Whitney ^(Melville) was his niece & lived
with Mr. & Mrs. Warren. She was
willed the place and lived on
it 73 years. At her death the
place became mine in 1941.

I remember hearing my mother
tell that the early settlers had
some trouble getting titles and
that my Grandfather W. G. Melville
of Lawrence was sent to
Washington to get the trouble
straightened out.

The place has been in the
family 89 years.

Yours truly
(Miss) Ellen F. Melville



Kansas State Board of Agriculture history collection

Melville

1864

1531 W. Lonia St
Lansing Mich.
Dec. 17, 1945

Mr. J. C. Mohler Sec. of State
Topeka, Kansas

Dear Sir:

I have just read in
the Lawrence Journal world
that you are listing farms that
have been in the family
for 75 or more years.

My sister, Miss Ellen
F. Melville, Eudora, Kansas
lives on our old home place
which our family took up from
the Indians - my mother

lived there 75 years previous
to her death in 1941. Her uncle
Thomas Warren homesteaded
the place.

my fathers and mothers
people, the melvilles, warrens
and whitneys took up a number
of claims in that section south
of Eudora. all the families have
sold and left but ours.

my sister, miss melville,
could give the dates and details.

Respectfully yours
Marguerite Melville Barlow
(Mrs. Robert H. Barlow)



Kansas State Board of Agriculture history collection

Eucha Kaus.
March 18, 1946

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

I notice a mistake
has been made in the date my
Uncle Thomas W. Warren settled
on this farm. You have it 1866?
it should be 1857.

Yours truly
Ellen F. Melville



Kansas State Board of Agriculture history collection

1855 J. L. Miller
Atchison County

good

Muscatine, Kans.
Nov. 8th, 1945.

Mr. J. C. Mohler.
Sec. of Kans State Board of Agriculture
Topeka Kansas.

Dear Mr. Mohler.

I read in The Atchison
Globe you asked if there was a farm
in Kansas owned or and operated
continuously for 75 years.

My father the late James Laver Miller
and wife Eliza Jane Miller, came
to what is now Kansas in 1855.

They homesteaded a farm in
Kapiorna Township, Atchison Co.
which farm was owned and operated
by him until 1913.

After his death my
sister Lucy Miller and myself became
owners of the farm which is in
a high state of production.

This farm has never had a
mortgage on it. We are proud to
say our farm has been farmed for
90 years.

Sincerely Yours
Annie Miller
Per (Miller Sisters)

Kansas State Board of Agriculture history collection

Muscatine, Kans.
Nov. 8th, 1945.

Mr. J. C. Mohler.

Sec. of Kans State Board of Agriculture
Topeka Kansas.

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Per (Miller Sisters)

Kansas State Board of Agriculture history collection

1861 C. F. Miller
Ft. Scott, Kansas

Interesting personality

MILLER

IMPLEMENTS

1000 Bank Building - Main Street & National Ave. - Phone 41

FORT SCOTT, KANSAS

Nov. 6, 1945.

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

Dear Mr. Mohler:-

The C. F. Miller Farms, (three quarter sections) can qualify in your quest for "A Kansas Farm owned or operated continuously, by the same Kansas Family for the last 75 years". The C. F. Miller Farms, 3 miles North of Fort Scott, have been in the Miller Family 84 years. - The Original Patents for these three Quarter Sections, were issued to Jonathan G. Miller, (Father of C. F.) in 1861, and are signed:- "Abraham Lincoln, President of the United States, by W. C. Stoddard, Secretary". Jonathan G. Miller served in the Kansas Legislature in 1864.

C. F. Miller, the son, recalls a past acquaintance with you. For many years "C. F." as he is called, was in the Implement Business in Fort Scott, and in this way, contacted the Farmers of Bourbon County. He helped Organize the Farmer's Institute, and was its Secretary for seven years. This was the forerunner of the Farm Bureau. He was interested in producing better corn, and in developing Sweet Clover as a feed for cattle, and in this way contacted your Department. You dubbed him "The Father of Sweet Clover in Kansas". Test plots were operated on this land, under supervision of the Agricultural Department of the College at Manhattan.

One of the things in which he was most interested, was the development of Good Roads, in Bourbon County and South Eastern Kansas. This led to the Movement for the First Good Roads Association, for the State of Kansas. Mr. Miller was elected and served two terms as its First President.

Mr. Miller retired from active business in 1925, but he still gets enthusiastic over Good Roads, Good Dairy Cattle, Good Corn, and enjoys telling about his correspondence with Luther Burbank and Jake Mohler, in regard to the value of Sweet Clover

May you two fine men meet again, sometime in the future.

Cordially,

Mr. C. F.) Rose B. Miller (for C. F. M.)
524 Osburn St.
Ft. Scott, Kansas

Kansas State Board of Agriculture history collection

1861

C. F. MILLER

INVESTMENTS

Milrose Building :: Wall Street & National Ave. :: Phone 41

FORT SCOTT, KANSAS

Nov. 6, 1945.

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

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Cordially,

Mr. C. F.) Ron B. Miller (for C. F. M.)
524 Osburn St.
Fort Scott, Kansas



1858

Lawrence Kansas

Nov. 22, 1945

Mr J.C. Mohler

Secy. State Board of Agric.,
Topeka. Kansas.

My dear Mr Mohler:

I see by the papers that you are getting
up a list of farms in Kansas that have been in
possession of same family for 75 yrs or more -

Our farm a mile south east of Lawrence, Kansas
(Sec 6. Tn. 13 R20) has been owned and farmed
by three generations of the Miller family since
1858 { First by my grandfather Robert H Miller; then by my
father Wm Miller; & since his death in 1919 by myself -

My grandfather Robert H Miller purchased
this land in the Spring of 1858 - That summer
he built a barn of native lumber which is
still in use, and also built a two-story
brick house which has been occupied
continuously by the Miller family for the
past 87 years - I am still living on this
farm -

Trusting that this information will
be of some help to you, I am

Most Sincerely yours

Vanroy W. Miller.
RR 5, Lawrence Kansas



Kansas State Board of Agriculture history collection

No date-- More than 75 years.

George Minns
McPherson

McPherson Kansas
Nov. 2 1945

Mr. J. C. Mohler
Dear Sir.

I read in the Hutchinson Herald that you were searching for a farm owned and occupied by the same family for seventy five years.

George Minns of Conway occupies such a one. He was born on the farm where he lives and his father Homesteaded it before he was born.

The Minns farm was Homesteaded more than seventy years ago and no one has ever occupied it but the father and now the son who is seventy three years old.

The farm is located in McPherson County, Kansas.

Sincerely yours

Mrs L. O. Minns
McPherson
Kansas

1305 S. Walnut.

Kansas State Board of Agriculture history collection

Moore

MOORE HOMESTEAD.

William H. Moore came from Marlinton West Virginia and settled at Fredonia, Kansas, where he was a photographer, at which place he met the Samuel Fry family from Watseka Ill.

He sold his property at Fredonia and homesteaded land near Arkansas City, Kansas, in the year 1870. This land is described as Lots 10 and 11 in Sect. 5, Twp. 35 Range 4 E. containing 89 acres and lying south of the Arkansas river. The deed to this land was from the Government and signed by Pres. U.S. Grant.

In exchange of land he acquired an adjacent 17 acres in Sec. 6 Twp. 35 R. 4 E. making a total of 106 acres.

After building a house on his claim, he returned to Fredonia in 1871 where he married Miss Lovicy Fry, and they came directly to his homestead.

In 1879 the family consisting of father, mother and three children, went to Silver Cliff, Colorado, at which place William H. Moore died Dec. 15 1879. His Widow with the children, a son and two daughters, returned to the homestead where she remained until her death Dec. 14 1893. The three young people continued to reside at the farm home.

In 1903 the son acquired full ownership of the farm where he and his wife resided for a number of years, and at this time, it is owned by Mr. and Mrs. Albert F. (Bert) Moore.

This farm has, at times, been in the hands of tenants. And continuously so for the past 25 years. The first tenant was in 1879, when William H. Moore's brother-in-law, Walter Fry had charge until 1882. Mr. Fry then went to Calif., where in later years he was in Gov. Service in Sequoia and Gen. Grant National Parks. He became the first civilian Supt. following the last military Supt., Gen. Hugh S. Johnson.

Judge Fry is co-author of a book, "BIG TREES".

Kansas State Board of Agriculture history collection

2

The present tenant is the O.G. Stockton family, well known in Rodeo circles.

This farm obtained much public notice in July 1929 when a 7 in rain enlarged the ditch along the driveway leading from public road to the house, exposing the bones of a pre-historic elephant.

The Late T.H. Martin, Paleontologist, at K.U. with three K.U. students, ~~wixxx~~ one of whom was Claude W. Hibbard now

Dr. Hibbard Curator of K.U. Museum spent two weeks excavating and preparing the fossil for shipment.

A part of the specimen is on display at the museum.

Winfield, Kansas.
Dec. 23, 1945.

By - Bert Moore

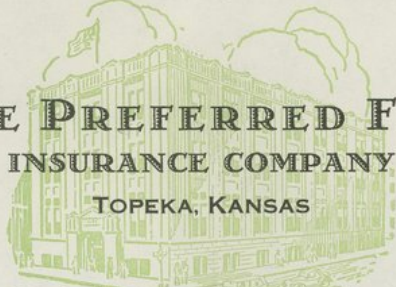
Kansas State Board of Agriculture history collection

L. B. BURT, Vice President
HENRY OTTO, Vice President
W. H. ROBBINS, Vice President

O. G. COLWELL, President

E. M. O'CALLAGHAN, Treasurer
MARIE SHEAFOR LAKE, Secretary
WM. HURNTHAL MILLER, Asst. Secretary

THE PREFERRED FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY TOPEKA, KANSAS



R. E. MORGAN
Kimball, Kansas

Kimball Kan. Nov. 1-45

Mr J.C. Mohler

Dear Sir

I saw in the Chanute Tribune that you were
looking for a family that owned or operated a farm
in Kansas for 75 years. My father moved on a farm in
this county Oct. 10-1869 His two sons still own the farm.
That is myself and my brother Dr G.W. Morgan of Savonburg.
SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of Sec 35x27x20 Neosho county
Yours.

R E Morgan

My wifes father took a claim the spring of 1869 SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of 1-28-20
She owns 60 acres of that farm.

1869 R. E. Morgan
Neosho County

Land owned by family, but not sure they
live there.