

## Moses C. Sessions to "Dear Sir"

Sessions settled in Centerville, Linn County, on October 17, 1857. In this letter, he describes the country around Centerville, including the prairie, and the lack of timber and water except in creeks and ravines. He lists the kinds of trees found, describes the area's wildlife, and describes how those who raise hogs let them roam freely to feed as they are able.

Creator: Sessions, Moses C.

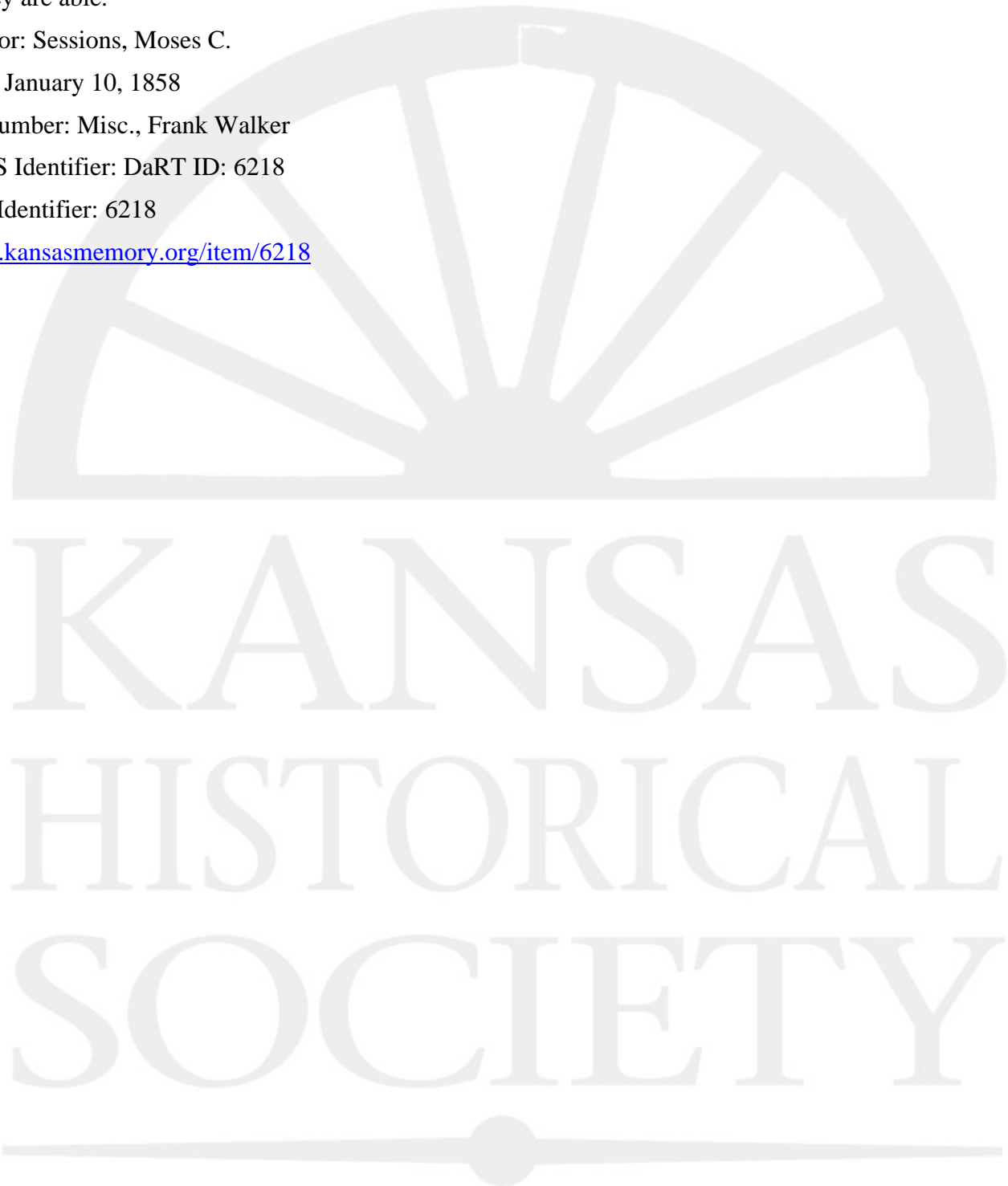
Date: January 10, 1858

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## Moses C. Sessions to "Dear Sir"

1857

Centerwill Lin County Kansas Territory Jan 10th

Dear Sir I take my pen this morning to  
let you know that we are yet a live and ~~and~~ where  
we are we left Union the 17th of Sept. 1857 and  
arrived at Centerwill Lin Co. on the 17th of October  
where we now are we are all well except Chas and  
-ler he has bin rather down with a bad cold and  
I think troubled some with worms but I think is on  
the mend we have a fine country here to all appear-  
ances the prary is smooth and rich rather rolling  
with frequent reverses. on the sides of those reverses it  
is filled with lime rock at the heads of many of them  
thair is Springs of water but not all of them  
durable on the bottom thair many places of water  
to water stock & some scrubby timber grows in some  
-e of them but water is rather scarce & wood and tim-  
-ber is verry scarce on the cricks there is plenty  
of timber perhaps from one to two miles wide  
and verry good it consists of black wornut Oak  
of all kinds maple hackberry Sycamore Elm &c. &c. we  
have high prary and low prary the high prary is thou-  
ght to be helthy and best for inglish grain the low  
prary not so helthy but better for corn and  
grass the Timber land on the cricks is called bottoms  
which is verry rich and is an excellent place for ~~hogs~~

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KANSAS STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

hogs to run those that keep hogs here keep from ten  
to five hundred they run on the bottoms and are  
not fed at all they are all ear marked or ment to be if not  
eny one clame them and shoots them down in the summer they  
live well on rattle snakes in the fall they live on Shads  
in the winter they git a plenty of wild artichokes  
when they want to kill ~~they~~ they take their rifles and  
team and go down into the bottoms and shoot a load  
or more and cart them home and <sup>partly</sup> dress them and salt them  
up in one corner of the room without any barrel or  
box thear let them be till next spring or summer  
then take them up and smooke them then they are  
fit for use or sale we have got the first and only met  
barrel that I have seen or heard of in the place &c  
tell Frank & Milla that there is plenty of deer wild turk  
-eys perary hens wild gees here the gees cum in to our  
corn fields they lite on the perary near the house by hun  
dreds wools are verry plenty they cum round the the  
house some nights and make such a yelling that it wake  
us all up I got up one night and went out in my shirt  
and drove them a way &c I must leave the rest to write  
in uncle Kuss letter and you can see it there I expect  
you will wright me as soon as you git this and tell  
me all that has bin and what is goin on in old union  
this makes thirteen letters I have rote back and have not  
had one from union  
Respectfully yours Moses C. Sessions