

Did the Reality Match the Expectations for Kansas Homesteaders?

RS#01: Kansas Farmers: Evidence (Group 1)

Directions: Analyze the historical sources and complete the chart and questions found on the Kansas Farmers: Document Analysis Worksheet. Be specific and detailed in your answers.

Robert Burgin Homestead, Barber County, Kansas

The photograph depicts a homestead sometime between 1880 and 1890. The photograph was possibly taken to document the progress of the family's homestead. Nothing is known about the photographer.



Robert Burgin homestead, Barber County, Kansas. Between 1880-1890. Kansas Historical Society, Topeka, KS. Kansas Memory. Web. 28 June 2010.

Educational materials developed through the Baltimore County History Labs Program, a partnership between Baltimore County Public Schools and the UMBC Center for History Education.

Ada McColl gathering buffalo chips

Ada McColl was a prairie woman who enjoyed photography. She photographed herself doing a common chore on the prairie, gathering chips for fuel. Many places in Kansas and other prairie states lacked trees. The photo is taken in 1893, near the end of the settlement of Kansas.



McColl, Ada. *Ada McColl gathering buffalo chips*. 1893. Kansas Historical Society, Topeka, Kansas. *Kansas Memory*. Web. 29 June 2010.

Prairie Fire

The article, written in 1879, describes the impact of a prairie fire. The prairie fire was possible due to the dry conditions during the time period. The author is unknown, but the article was printed in Burrton Telephone.

Burrton Telephone.

A. C. BOWMAN,
Editor and Publisher.

\$1.50 per Year; 75 cts. Six Months.

SATURDAY, MARCH 22d, 1879.

Prairie Fire.

On last Thursday week, as usual, a number of prairie fires were set out in various parts of the country, the gale that arose about four o'clock that afternoon, from the north, hurling the flames in solid masses before it with almost lightning rapidity and putting it beyond human power to control it. There are reports from various parts of the country telling of damages done either in greater or less degrees. The neighborhood at Mt. Hope seems to have fared worse than any yet heard from. Here are a few of the losses of that neighborhood:

Mr. W. M. McCormick lost his harvester, his granary containing wheat, corn, oats, etc., his hogs and calves were killed by the flames, and stables burned, but fortunately his house was not reached by the fire.

Mr. Anderson's smoke house was burned with 16 dressed hogs in it.

Mr. Geo. Munger's little boy was burned to death.

Mr. W. Moore lost all of his feed and stables.

Mr. Schaffer suffered a heavy loss, losing all he had, including a threshing machine and other valuable machinery. His loss is estimated at \$2,000.

Several others were burned out, but we haven't the names or particulars of the losses.

It is reported that a young man was burned to death, but we have no facts yet to corroborate the story.

By one swoop, and the work of only a few minutes, the labor and money put in the farms, in fact the toil of six or seven years was swallowed up and leaves the farmer who was burned out just where he was when he first came here, without machinery, grain, or hedges. It is a hard blow, but after all adversity makes the man.

A prairie fire originating in the Sand Hills last Monday burned some straw stacks belonging to Mr. Hall, north of town, and came near burning his house, stables, etc.