

Did the Reality Match the Expectations for Kansas Homesteaders?

RS#04: Kansas Farmers: Evidence (Group 4)

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.

Mead family dugout, Ford County, Kansas

The photograph, taken between 1875 and 1889, is of the L.A. Mead family and their home. The dugout is typical of a Kansas prairie home settlers built due to lack of wood and other natural resources. This family was very fortunate to have glass windows, wood siding, and a stove pipe.



Mead family dugout, Ford County, Kansas. Between 1875-1889. Kansas Historical Society Topeka, Kansas. Kansas Memory. Web. 29 June 2010.

Interior view of dugout near Bloom, Ford County, Kansas

The photograph, taken between 1870 and 1890, is of the L.A. Mead family home. The cramped living conditions are typical of a family living in a dugout. These were small homes cut into the side of a hill. While not intended as a permanent shelter, dugouts were built owing to the lack of wood and other building materials in Kansas. Many of the household items would be considered luxuries by historical standards.



Interior view of dugout near Bloom, Ford County, Kansas. .Between 1870-1890. Kansas Historical Society Topeka, Kansas. Kansas Memory. Web. 29 June 2010.

Anderson Sod House, Logan County, Kansas

The photograph was taken between 1885 and 1890. The house in the photograph is made of sod. The sod was cut from the prairie and used to make houses, due to the lack of wood and other natural resources. It appears as though the people are of Eastern European descent and may have immigrated to the United States and then settled in Kansas.



Anderson Sod House, Logan County, Kansas. Between 1885-1890. Kansas Historical Society Topeka, Kansas. Kansas Memory. Web. 29 June 2010.

Abraham Eitzen farm, Marion County, Kansas

The photograph was taken in 1904. The farmhouse, barn and other outbuildings were built of wood. The photograph shows a windmill, which was used to draw up water from a well, livestock and teams of horses. The photo was taken at the end of settlement era, when many farmers had established nice farms for themselves and their families.



Abraham Eitzen farm, Marion County, Kansas. 1904. Kansas Historical Society Topeka, Kansas. Kansas Memory. Web. 29 June 2010.