

Lawrence, Kansas  
December 11, 1939

Dear Dr. Allen:

When I received your letter of November 13th, I was on the point of writing a reply offhand but, suspecting that there was more in your inquiry than appeared on its face, I decided to look into the matter somewhat more carefully, because I knew from my own experience how leaky the memory is. I first turned to the record as printed in an article on "Student Life" by Professor A. G. Canfield, in the Quarter-Centennial History of the University of Kansas, published in 1891. This record gives the authoritative statement of the McCook bequest. I quote Professor Canfield's language.

"Another attempt was made in December, 1889, and the association then formed is still in existence. Besides supplying a central management for the various sports, it set itself to the task of raising money to procure and fit up suitable grounds for an athletic field. The need of such a field entirely under the control of the University has long been felt by the students and frequently been pointed out by the college papers. A subscription was begun among the students and faculty, and about \$200 raised. Colonel McCook, of New York, interested himself in the plans of the association and gave \$1,500 towards its object, with the promise of doubling whatever it should raise up to \$10,000. The association has prosecuted its work during the present year and raised about \$800, and has received a further gift from Col. McCook of \$1,000, so that there is available for its purpose about \$3,500."

The Quivira, the senior yearbook of 1893, repeats this history in the following language:

"This athletic board has also, from the beginning, endeavored to collect money to provide a suitable athletic field and eventually a gymnasium. It found an unexpected benefactor in Col. McCook, of New York, who gave \$1,500 for a field, and afterwards increased his gift to nearly twice that sum. Governor Charles Robinson also came to the rescue of the association, when it