

April 14, 1944

Mr. J. B. Eakin
Box 306
Santa Rosa, New Mexico

Dear Jess:

I think you are a better letter writer than I am in that you give more news. I was glad to read your letter of March 13th.

Mamma, Grandfather Cowdy, Julia, Etoile, and Louis are all buried in Oak Hill Cemetery here at Lawrence. Pappa who had died in Minneapolis was moved here many years ago, and Julia's daughter Vera and Vera's daughter Sally are also buried here, so that Lawrence is really the place for their homecoming.

It was 52 years ago the 14th of last December since we arrived in Lawrence.

In speaking of others who are buried here, I might also mention that a good many years ago the remains of Grandmother Cowdy, which had been buried near their home in Hodgeman were brought here and placed near her husband.

The spring has been late, with many snows in March and continued rainfall. For a time we had a deficiency in moisture and now we have quite a surplus above the average for the year so far. Wheat which had a bad start is coming out better than expected. Pastures will be lush. The oats crop will be short because of late planting. The low price of chickens and eggs may cause a decrease in production this year and the same may be true in beef cattle. Last year many tried to raise some beef and the market broke in the fall so that they not only failed to make a profit, but lost on their cash investment.

I don't care how wise the people in Washington are, I think it is impossible for chaps 2,000 miles away to successfully tell a Kansas farmer what he must sow on his south 40 or how many pigs he can raise, etc., etc. The farmer right on the ground who has made a study of these things for years often finds it hard to know what to do, but these wise guys in Washington would give God a vacation and attempt to run the universe if they had the opportunity.

I do not believe that I shall ever make another visit to Hodgeman after having been away for about 56 years because I would return as a stranger. Write me again when the spirit moves you. With very best wishes to you and yours, I am

Sincerely

WCS:df

W. C. Simons