

Bypaths of Kansas History

A FEW REMARKS ABOUT TECUMSEH

From a copy of a letter from D. N. M. (not identified but probably a former employee of the Holladay Overland Mail & Express Co.) to Enoch Cummings, a division agent of the stageline, in the Manuscripts division of the Kansas State Historical Society:

Tecumpseh Sep the 8 1867

Friend Cumons

Dr Sir yours of the 27 of Last month Came to hand and I am glad to Learn that you all are well my health is good I have Ben in the hay Buisness for the Last to Weakes have got all of Our hay up and have a small Contract for one of our Neighbors and that wil finish the hay Buisness But that dont let me out of work the corn has to Be Cut up for the Calves and then the potatoes has to Be Dug to fead the Babies on Not mine But my good looken Nieces I have Not got aney land yet the Potawatime land has Not come in to market and I am waiting for it or I would have Bought long ago for I am Not Satisfied with this plase for it is no plase for Stock and I am going to leave here in the Spring the K[ansas] S[tagel] Co talked of opening a Road South But they are not aney Nearer the matter than they was this is a gay plase here there is 10 families in the plase and 7 of them is widowes and they have from thre to ten Children Each and want more So you Can se this is a good Stock Countrey Shawne County against the world for Babies if you want to Raise a large familey for god Sake Come to Shawne Co and if you dont dont come near But come down and se a fellow we are poor folkes But we Can give you a little grub and a Blanket to sleap on if you Can get me a pup a Rattarrier out of Jack I wil come up let me [k]now my Compliments to Miss Cumons

[Signed] D N M

From the Topeka *Weekly Leader*, May 14, 1868.

PROLIFIC.—If you eastern folks don't believe that Kansas is a fast country, you have but to visit our part of the state and become convinced. Even old bachelors and old maids do well in Kansas.

The population of Tecumseh was increased by the addition of eight persons on Sunday night last. Eight babies in one night and the families not farther than eighty feet apart. And more than this, every happy mother produced twins.

Four pairs of twins, in one town, in one night and the families residing within a stone's throw of each other. Four families and eight babies, four of the babies in the same house.

The town of Tecumseh lies six miles directly east of Topeka, in Shawnee County, State of Kansas.

Seven girls and one boy. Mr. Aye, more fortunate than the rest, was blessed with a boy and a girl. And as the gentleman remarked to us, "it wasn't a very good night for babies, at that." . . .