

Kansas Historical Society Press Kit – F. M. Steele Exhibit
Photo descriptions

Mr. and Mrs. Gant, Kiowa County, Kansas

Date: Between 1891 and 1903

View of pioneer couple, Mr. and Mrs. Gant, who settled in Kiowa County, Kansas, in 1870. The couple, who were among the county's early settlers, is shown seated before an entrance to their home. Mrs. Gant is reading a letter, and Mr. Gant is smoking a pipe.

"Three Block" cowboys going on cattle watch at night

Date: Between 1891 and 1903

View of Three Block ranch cowboys preparing to go on the second guard duty to watch cattle at night. Visible in the photograph, taken with a flash, are cowboys getting ready for guard duty, and others going to bed next to a chuck wagon.

Francis Marion Steele self-portrait

Date: 1900

Steele was born in Stanton, Illinois, on September 14, 1866, and died January 2, 1936, in Dodge City, Kansas. During 1890-1905, he traveled in southwest Kansas, Oklahoma Territory, Texas, New Mexico, and Colorado photographing cattle drives, railroads, ranching, and farming operations. Steele documented a time of westward development and expansion. In Kansas, he photographed cattle on the range, round ups, ranches, harvests, settlers, towns, and events in Finney, Clark, Seward, Comanche, and Haskell Counties.

St. Jacob's Well, Clark County, Kansas

Date: Between 1891 and 1903

View of St. Jacob's Well, which is a pool of water about 84 feet in diameter and 58 feet deep that has never been known to go dry. It is part of the Little Basin, which is about 280 yards in diameter and 35 feet from rim to floor. Little Basin and St. Jacob's Well were formed in the recent geological past by a process known as solution-subsidence. This process occurs when surface water gains access and dissolves underground deposits of salt, gypsum, or limestone. The overlying layers of rock and minerals subside to fill the volume vacated by the water-soluble deposits.