

Finding Aid for Ms. Coll. 862

Dickinson, Saline & Ottawa Rural Electric Cooperative: Papers, annual reports, and correspondence of Timothy F. Kelley 1936-1954

Cite as: Dickinson, Saline & Ottawa (DS&O) Rural Electric Cooperative papers, etc., 1936-1954, Ms. Coll. 862, Kansas Historical Society.

Introduction

Timothy Francis Kelley was born August 8, 1887 on the Kelley family farm just south of Solomon, Kansas. After a short career in the banking business, Mr. Kelley returned to the family farm, after his marriage in 1918, and farmed there for the remainder of his life. In 1936, he organized his farm neighbors into forming the Dickinson, Saline & Ottawa Rural Electric Cooperative to bring the benefits of electricity to farm families in the tri-county area. Under the guidance of John M. Carmody, director of the federal Rural Electrification Administration and a Kelley family friend, the DS&O was the first rural electric cooperative in Kansas to receive a federal start-up loan. Mr. Kelley was elected president of the DS&O Board of Directors at their organizational meeting on April 8, 1937 and served in that capacity continuously until his death on December 28, 1954.

Scope and Content

This collection of annual reports, audit and evaluation reports, correspondence, and notes regarding the first years of the DS&O and early efforts to encourage farmers in the tri-county area to subscribe to rural electrification were found among the personal papers of T.F. Kelley.

Additional information on the Kelley family of Saline County, Kansas and on the history of the DS&O Rural Electric Cooperative can be found in the collections of the Kansas Historical Society.

Abbreviations used: JMC=John M. Carmody; TFK=Timothy F. Kelley; FBA=Fred B. Atkins

PLEASE USE PHOTOCOPIES FOR RESEARCH AND PHOTOCOPYING PURPOSES.

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Folder 1: DS&O annual reports, 1954 and 1955

Folder 2: DS&O audit reports and examination reports, 1938-1954

Report on accounts, Dec. 31, 1938
Balance sheet audit, Dec. 31, 1939
Examination report for the period Sept. 1, 1951 to Apr. 30, 1953
Audit report, Sept. 1, 1951 to Aug. 31, 1953
Examination report for the period May 1, 1953 to Jan. 31, 1954

Folder 3: DS&O correspondence, undated

“Specifications for wiring,” carbon copy. 3 leaves.

Order form, with prices, for plumbing fixtures to install running water to Kelley farm home, from Solomon Plumbing Shop, 193-; [The farmhouse plumbing was installed summer 1938]. 2 leaves.

Delinquent accounts. 1 leaf.

Handwritten notes re: monthly cost of electricity for lights, washer, ironing, ice, radio. 1 leaf.

Handwritten text of speech to stockholders at first meeting after the first lines were energized [summer 1938?]. 3 leaves + transcription.

Hand drawn map of the T.F. Kelley farm, Sec. 24, T13S, R1W, Saline County, Kan. 1 leaf.

Folder 4: DS&O correspondence, 1936

Subscription form for shares of stock and application for membership [c.1], with handwritten notes on back. 1 leaf.

Subscription form for shares of stock and application for membership [c.2], with handwritten notes regarding meetings scheduled and map of farms. 1 leaf.

Letter from JMC to TFK, May 13, 1936: family greetings. 1 leaf.

Rural Electrification Administration project survey form, Oct. 28, 1936. 1 leaf.

Daily index of REA news, no. 247, Oct. 30, 1936. 1 leaf.

Swift & Henry Livestock Commission Co., Kansas City, Missouri, [news sheet],
“Needed—Rain or Snow,” Dec. 3, 1936. 1 leaf.

Letter from Robert W. Fort, Saline County agricultural extension agent, Dec. 5, 1936.
1 leaf.

Letter from JMC to TFK, Dec. 24, 1936. 1 leaf.

Folder 5: DS&O correspondence, 1937

Mimeographed Saline County township map, with handwritten assignments to township
committeemen for canvassing area farmers. 1 leaf.

Township survey committeemen list. 1 leaf.

Handwritten notes for talking points to encourage farmers to sign on to the cooperative,
includes hand drawn township map and assignments. 1 leaf.

“General farm wiring contract” form, with needs for Kelley farm noted; handwritten
wiring cost estimates on verso. 1 leaf.

[REA instructions to local organizers and talking points for conducting informational
meetings], by J. Warner Pyles, typed carbon copy. 6 leaves.

[REA instructions to local organizers and talking points for conducting informational
meetings], by J. Warner Pyles, mimeographed, 35 cm. 7 leaves.

Telegram, dated Apr. 7, 1937, from TFK to JMC, reporting on successful organizational
meeting in Solomon. [The DS&O was formally incorporated the next day]. 1 leaf.

Saline County township representatives to the DS&O, plus handwritten notes for text of
the official notice of organization.

REA progress bulletin, general no. 14, Oct. 12, 1937. 2 p.

REA progress bulletin, general no. 17, Oct. 16, 1937. 2 p.

“To the members and prospective customers,” from FBA, project supervisor, [Oct. 18,
1937]. 1 leaf.

REA progress bulletin, Kansas 7 Jewell, Oct. 20, 1937. 1 leaf.

REA, “To members of new REA project,” Oct. 21, 1937. 1 leaf, 28 cm.

REA, “To members of new REA project,” Oct. 21, 1937. 1 leaf, 35 cm. (2 c.)

REA progress bulletin, Kansas no.2, Oct. 25, 1937. 1 leaf.

Form letter from JMC, warning against overbuilding on projects, Oct. 28, 1937. 1 leaf.

Handwritten draft of letter to JMC from TFK, to clarify some difficulties with the plans for the Ottawa County part of the tri-county electrification process, Dec. 11, 1937. 3 p. + transcription.

Folder 6: DS&O correspondence, 1938

Clipping, *Solomon Valley Tribune*, Jan. 27, 1938, letter from JMC to T.T. Riordan [DS&O treasurer and director of the Solomon State Bank] and the community, speaking about his links to the Solomon community. Identifies Tim Kelley as the original sponsor of the rural electrification project.

Typed text copy of the above letter, addressed to T.T. Riordan, Jan. 19, 1938. Letter read at ceremony for setting the first electric pole, on Jan. 22, 1938. 1 leaf.

Typed text of Tim Kelley's remarks at the pole setting ceremony, Jan. 22, 1938. 1 leaf.

REA progress bulletin, Kansas 18 Sedgwick, Feb. 4, 1938. 1 leaf.

Letter to TFK from W. Wendell Elliott, program director, KSAL radio station, requesting him to come on air and talk about the DS&O project and rural electrification, Feb. 24, 1938. 1 leaf.

Handwritten text of KSAL radio speech, [Mar. 10, 1938]. 4 p.

Typed copy of text of KSAL radio speech, [Mar. 10, 1938]. 3 p.

Letter from Boyd Fisher, national REA Division of Operations Supervision director, to FBA, advising that they cannot hire Miss Aylward as office typist because she is related to a member of the Board of Directors [T.F. Kelley was married to Agnes Aylward], Mar. 3, 1938. 2 leaves.

Form letter from JMC to TFK, inviting him to a meeting with some REA officials in Junction City, Kan., dated July 25, 1938. 2 leaves.

Announcement from FBA of "big all-electric show" at the Ban Scott farm northwest of Solomon, Kan., [Oct. 1938]. 1 leaf.

Folder 7: DS&O correspondence, 1939

Handwritten draft of letter from TFK to JMC, [Feb. 1939?] + transcription. 2 p.

Letter from JMC to TFK, "My dear Tim," Feb. 18, 1939. 1 leaf.

Letter from JMC to TFK, "My dear Tim," regarding issues with Kansas state government intervening adversely in the work of expanding rural electrification, Mar. 16, 1939. 2 leaves.

Letter from JMC to TFK, regretting he cannot attend the annual meeting, Mar. 20, 1939. 3 leaves.

Letter from JMC to TFK, regretting he cannot attend the annual meeting, Mar. 20, 1939, carbon copy copied to Mr. Chester Lake, local REA coordinator from the D.C. office. 3 leaves.

Letter from C.A. Winder, director, REA Division of Operations supervision, to FBA regarding their failure to approve FBA's salary increase request, Mar. 22, 1939. 2 leaves.

TFK, miscellaneous handwritten notes. 2 p.

Letter to cooperative members from DS&O board secretary Charles L. Taylor, [April 1939]. 1 leaf.

Letter from JMC to TFK, "My dear Mr. Kelly [sic]," June 22, 1939. 2 leaves.

Form letter from JMC "to all REA project directors and personnel, and the REA field people," June 30, 1939. 2 p.

Handwritten draft of letter from TFK to JMC, possibly July 1939, in response to the June 30, 1939 letter from JMC. 5 leaves + transcription.

Letter from Margaret R. McKim, secretary to JMC, to TFK, alerting him that further communications will be handled by the new acting administrator of the REA, Robert B. Craig, July 11, 1939. 1 leaf.

Letter from C.A. Winder to TFK, admonishing him re: monetary compensation to the Board of Directors, July 28, 1939. 2 leaves.

Form letter from JMC, forbidding officers from being paid and from participating in the actual day-to-day management of the cooperative, Feb. 27, 1939, which accompanied the July 28, 1939 letter. 2 leaves.

Accounts summary for month of August 1939. 1 leaf.

Statement of assets, liabilities, etc. for the DS&O Rural Electric Cooperative Association, Inc., Sept. 30, 1939. 5 leaves, 35 cm.

Letter from William F. Moffatt, United States Fidelity & Guaranty Co, Kansas City, Mo., to TFK, Oct. 3, 1939, regarding payments to Chapin Contracting Co. 1 leaf.

Carbon copy of letter from Harry Slattery, administrator, REA, to Board of Directors, DS&O, Oct. 25, 1939. 2 leaves.

Accounts summary for month of December 1939. 1 leaf.

REA progress bulletin, Kansas 27 Morris; Kansas 15 Dickinson, Dec. 6, 1939. 1 leaf.

Folder 8: DS&O correspondence, 1940-1954

Accounts summary and list of delinquent accounts for month of Feb. 1940. 2 leaves.

Notice of annual meeting of members, Feb. 16, 1940. 1 leaf.

Handwritten text of talk by TFK to DS&O annual meeting, Mar. 1940 [?] + transcript.
2 p.

“All roads lead to the DS&O Rural Electric Coop Assn. Inc. annual meeting” notice, Mar. 18, 1940. Handwritten notes about program participants by TFK. 1 leaf.

Slate of officers for Directors of the DS&O for Mar. 18, 1940 annual meeting. 1 leaf.

Letter from William C. Wise, REA assistant counsel, to TFK regarding payment for DS&O attorney Mathew Guilfoyle, Mar. 19, 1940. 1 leaf.

Statement of profit or loss and list of delinquent accounts, DS&O, Aug. 31, 1940. 2 leaves.

Letter from Kansas Rep. Milton E. Rohrer to TFK, accepting invitation to REA banquet, Feb. 18, 1953. 1 leaf.

Letter from Kansas Sen. J.H. Moore, Jr. to TFK, accepting invitation to REA banquet, Feb. 18, 1953. 1 leaf.

Letter from Kansas Sen. Gorden Mark to TFK, accepting invitation to REA banquet, Feb. 19, 1953. 1 leaf.

Letter from Kansas Rep. Sid Jagger to TFK, accepting invitation to REA banquet, Feb. 19, 1953. 1 leaf.

Statement of operations and list of delinquent accounts, Mar. 1954. 2 leaves.

Comparative operating statistics, Mar. 1954. 7 leaves.

“Business analysis and suggestions” following audit by W.G. Schmidt, as of Jan. 31, 1954. 9 leaves.

Letter from R.R. Chesley, REA head of accounting, Western Area Office, to TFK, commending DS&O on the way they keep their books, Apr. 9, 1954. 2 leaves.

Words to songs sung at annual meeting. 1 leaf.

Notice of meeting, dated Jan. 26, 1954, signed by Board secretary T.T. Riordan, regarding retention or dismissal of manager and other company employees. 1 leaf.

Printed, signed, and witnessed votes by M.E. Rohrer, Baltz Altmann, and R.E. Anderson to ask for immediate resignation of F.B. Atkins. 1 leaf.

“Remedial operations plan for the DS&O Rural Electric Cooperative Association, Inc. of Solomon, Kansas,” carbon copy of report from the REA, regarding the F.B. Atkins situation, [1953?]. 21 leaves.

Solomon Valley Tribune, June 17, 1954, with front page article on the resignation of DS&O General Manager F.B. Atkins.

Undated, un-sourced clipping stating that the DS&O Board of Directors has accepted the resignation of General Manager F.B. Atkins and bookkeeper Fred Bott.

Folder 9: Rural electrification, miscellaneous publications

“REA: Helping you to help yourself—Wiring.” No date.

Public no. 198, 74th Congress, S. 1958, “An act to diminish the causes of labor disputes ... to create a National Labor Relations Board ...,” July 5, 1935 [N.b.: John M. Carmody was a member of the National Labor Relations Board before being chosen to head the Rural Electrification Administration].

“Get this better satisfaction from electric light ...,” [1937].

Kansas Country Living, September 1977 (vol. 26, no. 9): article about the history of the Brown-Atchison REC.

“Summary of Kansas Corporation Laws,” issued by Frank J. Ryan, Secretary of State, Oct. 1935.

“Government encouragement and financing of rural electrification,” by John M. Carmody. [Presented at Weltkraftkonferenz (World Power Conference), Vienna, 1938].

Kansas Country Living, November 1977 (vol. 26, no. 11): article about the history of the DS&O REC.

Kansas Country Living, January 1978 (vol. 27, no. 1): article about the history of the Jewell-Mitchell REC.

The DS&O Headliner, vol. 2, no. 38, Mar. 28, 1953 (2 c.)

The DS&O Headliner, vol. 2, no. 44, Oct., 1953—Pres. Tim Kelley in St. John's Hospital, p. 1.

The DS&O Headliner, vol. 2, no. 45, Nov., 1953—Pres. Tim Kelley back home, p. 1.

“1954 directory, Kansas rural electric systems,” published by Kansas Electric Cooperatives Inc. [lists officer personnel, annual and board meeting times, and officers and trustees]. 48 p.