Carrollton,Mo.64633
Dec.24,I980

Dear Cousin Ray and family,
Merry Christmas to All,and the Happiness Of All New Years.

How are all of you? I stopped at your Store in Paola last fall on my way down home from the West Coast in my Trawel Trailor, one of the girls at the store told me that you were at home resting.

That you wasnt feeling to good and was resting,so I didnt come to your house and I wanted to make it on down home that night. Thought that I would make it back up to Paola but didnt, as I went on to the East Coast, stopping in Elizebethton,Tenn. Visiting Uncle Miles Mettler family (mother,s brother) whom I had not seen since I923 when they sold out at Drexel and was on their way to Texas Oil Fields, when they got trapped in a ragging blizzard at out place for a month, and I had never seen them since.

-- He had been dead 3 yrs, also his oldest son; aunt Ethel was in a Rest Home, barely alive and knew no one. Did get to visit a week with my cousins. Doris, the only girl was two yrs old when they left Drexel, now an old grandma.

Oh, how time flies by! You were just a young man when I sold out in I936, and went to the West Coast. Seem that we both should still be just young men. I am going on to 74 yrs; it dont seem possible! Ever where I went down home, I found all my old neighbors and even theit kids & their familes in the Cemeteries, and their homes rotted down and everthing grown up in trees. Our house that Papa built New in the spring of I913 after the fire;the roof was caved in and all the other buildings completly gone and everthing grown up with a thicket of trees.

Our Grandma Russell came to visit us the winter of I9I2 or I9I2, we moved there in the spring of I9II; and I can remember the day we moved --as if it was only yesterday.

I know that she was very ill at the time! Then went back to Uncle Erve,s at Harrisonville I belive; and died shortly thereafter. I,ve been trying to trace down the Russell,s Family,s History ,and when they came to this country from Kentucky after the Cival War.

You are the only one left that might be able to tell me anything! Do You know where they lived in Kentucky, --and where Grandpa Russell was burried, also Grandma Russell; and, their first names? He was a doctor ---is all that I know,during the Cival War.

Where was Uncle John and Uncle Erwin burried? Mamma and I came by Uncle Erve,s as we came home from K.C., when I bought my New Ford Pickup in I936,before leaving for the West Coast. It was the only time I was ever in that part of the country,so I was lost coming in from the north. He was plowing corn that day,and came to the house. Do you know what Cemetary?

I wrote to Cass County Library and got Maps of Bates and Cass Counties; and names of Russells burried at Freman Cemetary; Orient Cemetary at Harrisonvile; and Sharron that gave Papa,s ,Mother,s graves and my baby sister; Uncle Steve,s and one unmarked grave,no name, and Geo Russell ---all with out stones."I think that is terriable! after laboring all their lives. Uncle Jim,s and Aunt Sara, and Clarks are in LaCygne Cemetaries. I suppose Clyde,s and Eva,s are in Osawatomie. Could Grandma Russell and Uncle Erve be burried at Cemetary, at Lone Tree? Who was Aunt Maggie, was that the one that lived at Fort Scott,Kans,and wasnt his name Tom-something? I met them once. What was Hattie Kirts mothers name Alice?
Think deep and see if you cant come up with some names that will help me. Where is Claude and Burt Russell and all of your family?

over

Bring me up to date with all of your family(up to date with both of our families)as much as youcan before we bothe are in the grave too. I am now alone here on the ranch, Retired last year.

Cousin Vone.

P.S.

Take care of your self, and I wish All of You Merry Christmas,

Did Grandma Russell's family come from Kentucky in Covered Wagon?

(1) I don't know whether this letter has anything in it that you will be interested in but I'm sending it to you because it is so dim I can't read it. This man was ~~~~ over here and got all the information that I had.

I'm quite sure they would have had to come to Lone Tree in a covered wagon as I think it was about the only way they would ~~~~ to come. Charlie used to tease Myrtle by telling her he thought they rode to Lone Tree on a mule.

In my Dad's geanology his grand father's family came to Northern Missouri

~~Came~~ in a covered wagon and it took three months to get to Mo. I have a letter written by the grandfather to his brother where he said he had sold everything in Indianna for $500.00 and they would start from Indiana on their way and it would be in three months in North Mo. You would think, he had a

(4) a fortune because he said he had plenty ~~of~~ to pay all of his family expenses. The letter I was written in 1875. 3 months on the road and $500.00. This was probably the way the family (Russell) traveled. How times have changed and we have to. I'm kind of ashamed of this writing, I should write it over, but I

The person who wrote this letter was thru here once and wanted to get all the information we had and wrote this letter later to us; I think we gave him what we had at that time. But I can't read this letter at all but am sending it in case there might be some thing in it you might want; I know it was with my "Russell's" pack.