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Prairie Neighbors

It's hard to believe that we've been here in Kansas over a year already. This autumn will be our second harvest and Pa's amazed at how fertile the soil is. It gave us a nice crop of wheat this year.

I wish we had a mill near us because grinding the corn and wheat is such a chore. The land here is so flat that our little stream doesn't run fast enough to drive a mill wheel. I'll bet that eventually we'll figure out an easier way to make flour. Maybe we can make a windmill. We've certainly got enough wind!

The people around here have big plans for the settlement. They say that all kinds of possibilities will open up if the railroads ever reach this far.

Mr. Armstrong says that if he could get cloth from the East, he'd take up tailoring again. If we could send our crops to be sold in the cities, we'd have money to build good roads.

We're doing a lot of building as it is. We're putting up a church and a
schoolhouse. Six new families have moved into the settlement since we got
here. Pa takes charge at each new house-raising and my friends show the
girls the local square dance steps.

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Last week, all the settlers went to the Hendersons for a husking bee. Each family tried to beat the others by husking the most corn.

If we keep on making improvements, more families will come and soon we'll have enough people to make a town. People are already thinking of names for it. I like the name *Harmony* because, in spite of a few tiffs, we all get along.

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