

Survival Frame of Mind



Survival on the prairie involved adapting mentally, emotionally, and physically.

The combination of the hard labor, harsh climate and isolation made it difficult for some homesteaders to adapt to life on the prairie.

Sixty percent of them abandoned their claims within the first five years. Their written accounts indicate a mixture of attitudes and feelings.

“It might seem a cheerless life, but there were many compensations: the thrill of conquering new country; the wonderful atmosphere; the attraction of the prairie, . . . the low-lying hills and unobstructed view of the horizon. . . .”

Kansas Pioneer Woman

“Imagine. . . these pioneer women so suddenly transplanted from homes of comforts in eastern states to these bare, treeless, wind-swept, sun-scorched prairies with no comforts, not even a familiar face.”

Lizzie Anthony Opdyke, Kansas Pioneer