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# Frederic Remington: Kansas Days

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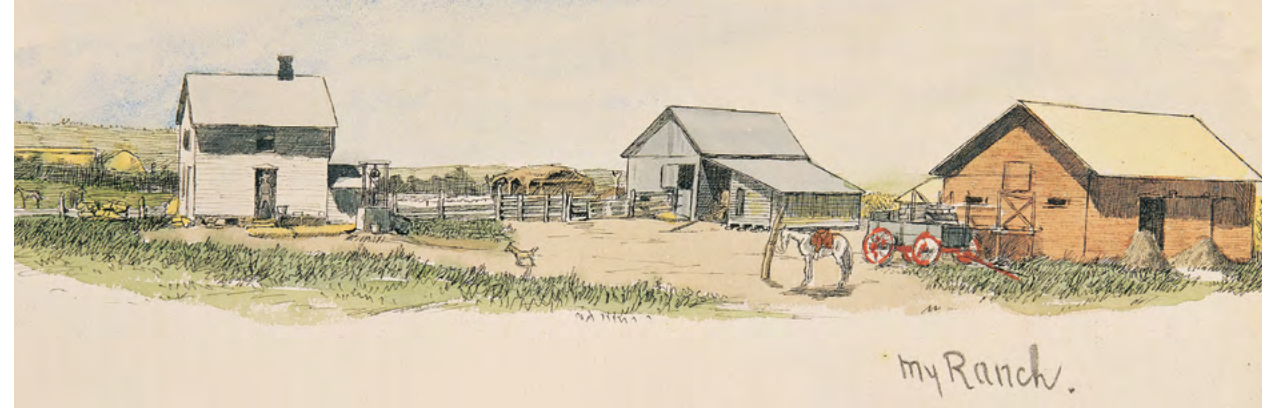
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ABOVE: AN EPISODE OF THE BUFFALO HUNT  
Frederic Remington  
From the collection of Gilcrease Museum, Tulsa, Oklahoma

OPPOSITE PAGE: MY RANCH  
Frederic Remington  
Courtesy Frederic Remington Art Museum, Ogdensburg, New York (Public Library Collection)



## *Frederic Remington: Kansas Days*

In April of 1883 a young Frederic Remington bought a 160-acre sheep ranch in Butler County near the tiny settlement of Plum Grove, close to today's Whitewater. Remington made a few sketches of his property, which included a small house and some sheds, and some drawings, one of which depicts one of his favorite activities—coursing after hares. More simply put, he and his friends would chase jackrabbits and try to hit them with long sticks. That year, Remington and his companions attended a Christmas program at nearby Plum Grove Grade School, where their rambunctious behavior resulted in an eviction from the premises. In retaliation, the young rowdies built a large bonfire near the school, then Remington began shouting “Fire!” at the top of his lungs, causing pandemonium as the party-goers ran out the door and leaped through the windows of the supposedly burning schoolhouse. The irritated citizens did not find the joke funny, and a warrant was issued for Remington’s arrest. A few weeks later, in February, Remington sold his ranch and headed farther west, where he found fame as one of the most celebrated artists of the American West.

*Adapted from The Kingdom of Butler: 1857-1970, A History of Butler County, Kansas, by Jessie Perry Stratford and Lawrence P. Klintworth, 1970. Courtesy of the Butler County History Center. The Couatts Memorial Museum in El Dorado houses the largest collection of Remington bronzes in Kansas.*