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Col. E. R. Brown came to Kansas in the fall of 1870, after having been an extensive slave owner in the south. His plantation in Mississippi consisted of ten thousand acres and at one time he owned as many as 350 slaves. He sold his land holdings in Missisippi shortly before he came to Atchison. Arriving in Atchison, he had $50,000 in gold with him. His first purchase here was the Bellevue farm of 160 acres, for which he paid $60 an acre. Later he bought adjoining land, for $10 and $12 per acre, until his land holdings in that vicinity became very extensive. The old Bellevue school stands on the land he donated for school purposes. With Col. Brown when he came from the south, was his wife, Sarah Howard Brown, and daughter, Miss Mary Brown. Also five of the old servants of the family came. Col. Brown died in 1887. His wife died in 1874. The daughter is also dead. Bellevue is a French word, meaning "Beautiful View."

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