This is a “Special Offer” form letter, dated 8 May 1911, from the Brinkerhoff-Faris Trust & Savings Company at Clinton in Henry County, Missouri, “To our many customers.” Signed by Secretary and Treasurer H. P. Faris, the letter offered investments in deed of trust loans at a favorable rate of interest.

According to the firm’s letterhead, the Brinkerhoff-Faris Trust & Savings Company was established in 1867 and incorporated in 1887, although there is no record of the firm on the Missouri Secretary of State’s website. One of the firm’s namesake founders was probably William E. Brinkerhoff (See WHMC-Rolla collection R019), who later removed to Carthage, Missouri. A collection of papers from the Brinkerhoff and Vial (later Brinkerhoff and Smith) Land Agency, 1867-1878, of Clinton has been cataloged as WHMC-Columbia collection C0055).

This “Special Offer” form letter offered investments in deed of trust loans returning 5½ % net income, through 10 July 1911. Officers of the firm were John H. Lucas (President), Miss L. A. Demeritte (Vice-President), H. P. Faris (Secretary and Treasurer), and J. R. Winters (Assistant Secretary and Assistant Treasurer). H. P. Faris was Herman P. Faris, one of Clinton’s leading citizens, and by 1919 “Judge” John H. Lucas was living in Kansas City. According to a later chronology of Henry County, the Brinkerhoff-Faris Trust & Savings Bank closed its doors on 23 November 1932, but managed to pay off the last of its depositors in February 1939.

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