

Reflections

A publication of the Kansas Historical Society and the Kansas Historical Foundation

Summer 2016



Following the Footsteps of
John Brown in Kansas



ERECTED MAY 8, 1928
BY THE WOMAN'S

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"OSAWATOMIE"
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All photographs and artifacts in the Kansas Historical Society collections unless noted.

Sam Brownback, Governor of Kansas

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ON THE COVER: Patrick Zollner, director, Cultural

Resources Division, and Matt Veatch, director,

State Archives Division, will be among the hosts

representing the Kansas Historical Society on the

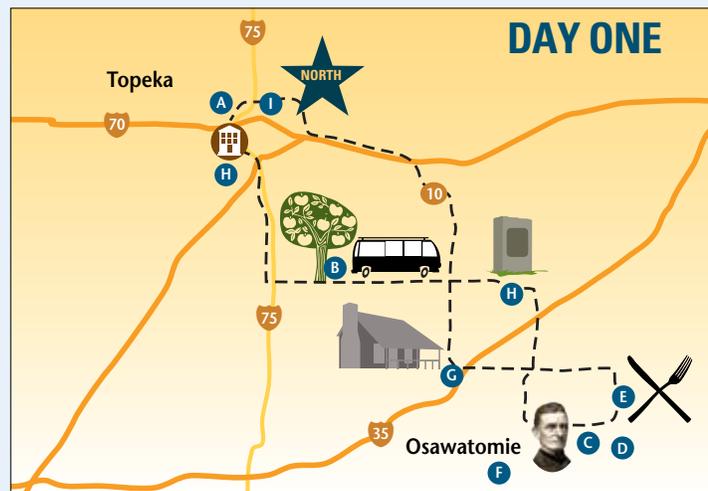
Taste of Kansas road trip.

Reflections

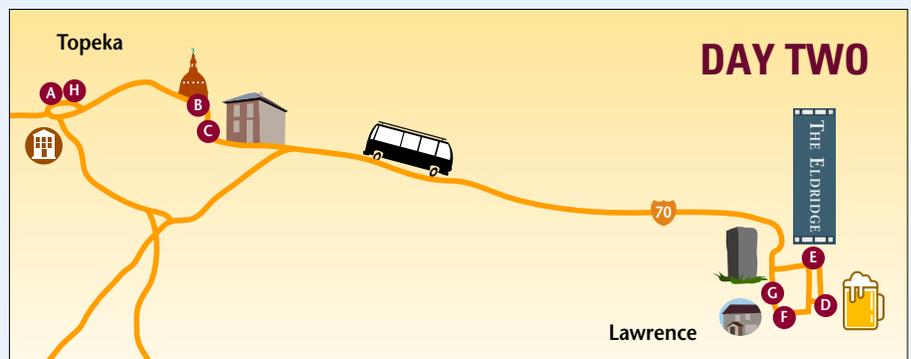
SUMMER 2016
VOLUME 10, NUMBER 3

Taste of Kansas *Tragic Prelude*

ROAD TRIP



- | | |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| A Kansas Museum of History | F Pottawatomie Massacre site |
| B Fieldstone Orchard | G Dietrich Cabin |
| C John Brown Museum | H Black Jack Battlefield |
| D Old Stone Church | I North Star Steakhouse |
| E Beethoven's #9 Restaurant | |



- | | |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| A Kansas Museum of History | E Eldridge Hotel |
| B Kansas State Capitol | F Savage House |
| C Ritchie House | G Pioneer Cemetery |
| D Free State Brewing Company | H State Archives |



We're excited to offer you the chance to explore the story of Kansas Territory from a unique perspective. When you follow John Brown's footsteps, you'll discover how he ignited the violence of Bleeding Kansas. This road trip is enhanced with some delicious regional foods with a backdrop of the beautiful wooded hills of eastern Kansas. Come along with us!

It's 1856 and John Brown has just arrived in the territory.

- Step into the cabin that Brown used as his headquarters
- See archeological discoveries from the family cabin
- View the area where Brown's violent cycle began
- Walk where Brown's men first faced combat
- Tour a house that survived the Sack of Lawrence
- Visit the Underground Railroad station of one of Brown's supporters
- Discover why the mural of Brown became so controversial
- Encounter some of the precious letters that Brown wrote

Along the way we'll tease your tastebuds at some interesting places!

- Visit an orchard where the apples are just ripening
- Enjoy authentic German dishes
- Dine at a steakhouse that was once a prohibition-era roadhouse
- Tour the warehouse of Kansas' first brewery
- Dine at the hotel that proslavery forces tried to destroy



*Let the first blow be
the signal for all to
engage . . .*

—John Brown



John Brown, circa 1856

THE LEGEND OF “*Osawatomie*” *Brown*

OCTOBER 7, 1855 – ARRIVAL

A cold wind met John Brown as he arrived in Kansas Territory. Brown was weak and exhausted after the long overland trek from upstate New York. He had but 60 cents in his pocket and barely enough energy to complete the journey.

Accompanied by one of his young sons and a son-in-law, Brown brought desperately needed supplies, money, and weapons to his family. Living near Pottawatomie Creek, they had no houses to keep out the cold, but shivered over fires, hungry and ill. They suffered from “fever & Ague, & chill,” too sick to harvest their meager crops. Brown set to work building “shanties” on the small parcels they called Brown’s Station in Franklin County.

In addition to helping his family, Brown came to Kansas to fight for freedom. Born in Connecticut in 1800, Brown was deeply influenced by his abolitionist father, Owen. At the age of 12 he witnessed a young African American boy being beaten; that haunting image was never far from his thoughts.

Brown worked as a farmer, surveyor, and tanner. He and his first wife, Dianthe, had seven children before she died. With his second wife, Mary, they had 13 children. A strong disciplinarian, Brown also displayed tenderness toward his family. Struggling to keep them fed, he moved from Pennsylvania to Ohio to Massachusetts. There he attended lectures by African American abolitionists Frederick Douglass and Sojourner Truth.



Brown used this surveyor’s compass in Kansas Territory as he spied on proslavery camps. The object is in the collections of the Kansas Historical Society.

*Every day strengthens
my belief that the
sword . . . will soon
be called on to give
its verdict.*

—John Brown, Jr.

Brown's half-sister and brother-in-law, Florella and Samuel Adair, moved to the new territory to support the free-state cause. His five oldest sons and their families followed in spring 1855. John Brown, Jr., convinced his father that the free-state cause needed his support and asked for supplies and weapons. "We need them more than we do bread," Brown, Jr., said. "Every day strengthens my belief that the sword . . . will soon be called on to give its verdict."

In Kansas Brown found like-minded people willing to join his campaign to free the slaves. In his high-collared white shirt, brown broadcloth suit, and gray cape, Brown was an impressive figure. Lean and strong, his face weather-beaten, he stood straight and erect at just under 6 feet. A man of few words, Brown was known to have a flat and metallic voice. His eyes suggested the inner fire that drove him, but he remained cool and calm under pressure. Even his captives admitted he was as courteous as he was defiant.

Eager to display a show of force, Brown quickly assembled an armed militia, composed mostly of his sons, who patrolled a territorial election in October 1855. The abolitionists met no opposition, yet their presence provoked proslavery sympathizers.

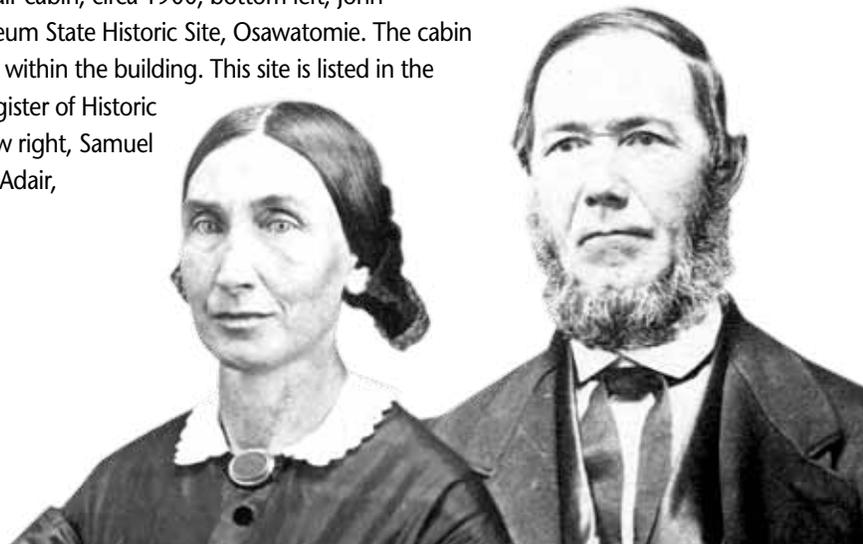


SAMUEL AND FLORELLA ADAIR

A part of the second group of the antislavery New England Emigrant Aid Society, Samuel and Florella (Brown) Adair purchased a log cabin in Osawatimie where they raised their family. John Brown lived with them during his time in Kansas. Adair founded the First Presbyterian Church in Osawatimie, which today is the Old Stone Church, listed in the National Register of Historic Places. The cabin was moved to John Brown Memorial Park in 1912. A stone pavilion was built around the cabin in 1928. Visitors can see the cabin and learn more about the story at John Brown Museum State Historic Site.



Top left, Adair cabin, circa 1900; bottom left, John Brown Museum State Historic Site, Osawatimie. The cabin is contained within the building. This site is listed in the National Register of Historic Places. Below right, Samuel and Florella Adair, circa 1862.



DECEMBER 1, 1855 – WAKARUSA WAR

When a group of proslavery supporters sieged Lawrence in December, Brown led his men to protect the town but fired no shots. A free-state man was the only casualty in what became known as the Wakarusa War.



THOMAS BARBER

Originally from Pennsylvania, Thomas W. Barber worked in the woolen industry in Indiana before he came to Kansas Territory in 1855. He settled along the Wakarusa River southeast of Lawrence and became involved with the free-state cause. Barber was shot as he rode with his brother, Robert, and Thomas Pierson, to defend against a proslavery attack on Lawrence. George W. Clark claimed responsibility for the shooting, called the Wakarusa War, saying he had “sent another of these d—d abolitionists to his winter quarters.” The only casualty in the war, Barber died on December 6, 1855; he was called a martyr. The well-known abolitionist and Quaker, John Greenleaf Whittier of Massachusetts, dedicated a poem, “Burial of Barber,” to the victim. Barber is buried in Pioneer Cemetery in west Lawrence. The poem is displayed on his gravestone.

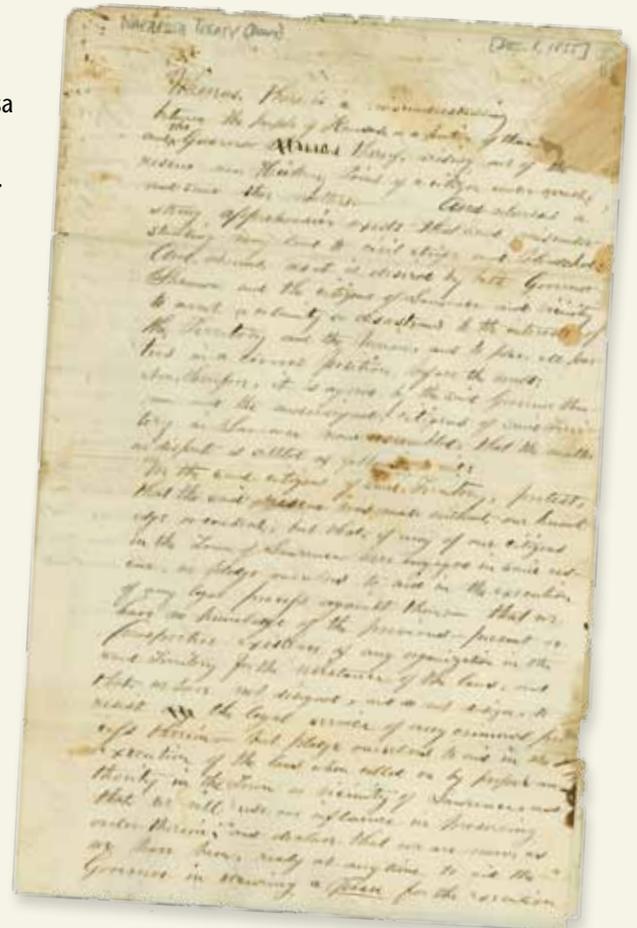
The first two stanzas of this poem by Whittier:

Bear him, comrades, to his grave;
Never over one more brave
Shall the prairie grasses weep,
In the ages yet to come,
When the millions in our room,
What we sow in tears, shall reap.

Bear him up the icy hill,
With the Kansas, frozen still
As his noble heart, below,
And the land he came to till
With a freeman’s thews* and will,
And his poor hut roofed with snow!

*muscular strength

Right, draft of the Wakarusa War treaty, signed by Governor Wilson Shannon. The document is in the collections of the Kansas Historical Society.



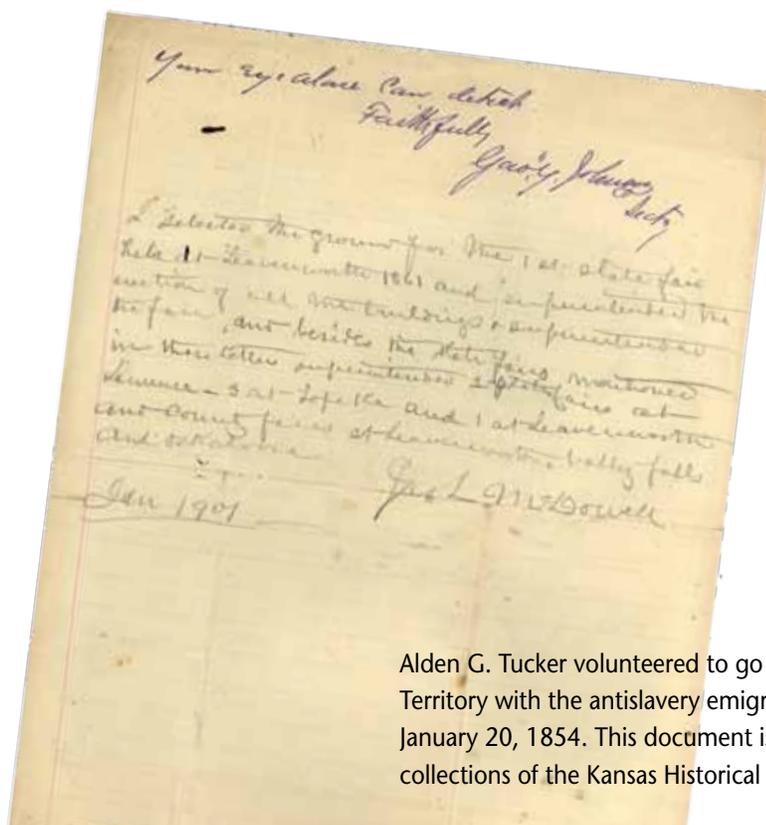
EMIGRANT AID SOCIETIES

Both antislavery and proslavery emigrant aid societies were established to influence voting. Eli Thayer of Massachusetts anticipated the passage of the Kansas-Nebraska Act and organized in winter 1853 and 1854. The antislavery society funded a portion of the settlement cost. The first party arrived in Lawrence in August 1854.

Proslavery supporters in Missouri formed "Sons of the South" to prevent Kansas from being overrun by freestaters. Their proximity allowed them to cross the border to vote in territorial elections. When it appeared that proslavery forces were outnumbered, Jefferson Buford solicited men from Alabama, South Carolina, and Georgia. They received free transportation, a year's support, and a 40-acre homestead. Buford's Expedition arrived in May 1855. Many joined the territorial militia and settled near proslavery communities like Lecompton.

1856 – YEAR OF VIOLENCE

Although 1856 began quietly in the territory, it would soon earn the nickname, Bleeding Kansas. Early that year Brown was enraged to learn that President Franklin Pierce had endorsed the proslavery legislature. When a territorial judge failed to issue arrest warrants for Brown's actions, proslavery forces were angered. John Brown, Jr., had formed the Pottawatomie Rifles, a free-state militia; then proslavery men brought 400 men from the South to form their own guard. The presence of these opposing militias rankled residents' nerves. "We are constantly exposed and have almost no protection," Florella Adair told her family.



Alden G. Tucker volunteered to go to Kansas Territory with the antislavery emigrant association, January 20, 1854. This document is in the collections of the Kansas Historical Society.

JOSEPH SAVAGE HOUSE

Also a part of the second group of the antislavery New England Emigrant Aid Company, Joseph Savage moved with his brother to Lawrence. One of the city founders, he built a wood-frame house in May 1855. Several expansions were later made to the property, which is the oldest remaining house in the county. Located to the south of the city, it survived proslavery attacks and Quantrill's Raid during the Civil War that destroyed much of the community.



MAY 21, 1856 – SACK OF LAWRENCE

Sheriff Samuel Jones, leading the proslavery militia, attacked Lawrence with the intent of destroying the free-state newspapers. Other sympathetic businesses like the Free State Hotel were looted, fired upon, or torched. One of the proslavery men was killed that day. The actions became known as the Sack of Lawrence.

Brown, Jr.'s Pottawatomie Rifles were too late mobilizing forces, reaching Lawrence after the attack. John Brown was incensed by the violence; his anger grew as he realized the free-state residents of Lawrence did not fire their guns as the proslavery militia burned their businesses to the ground. News of a violent attack on U.S. Senator Charles Sumner of Massachusetts by a Southern congressman on the senate floor, which occurred the following day, may have reached Brown in time to add to his furor and spur his next attack.

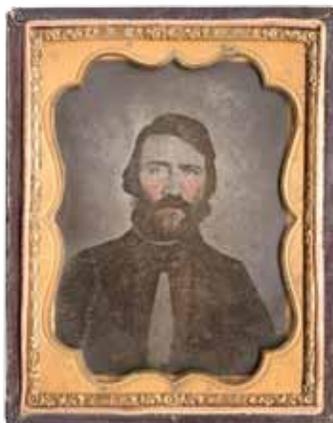


This flag was carried by proslavery men during the Sack of Lawrence. It is in the collections of the Kansas Historical Society.

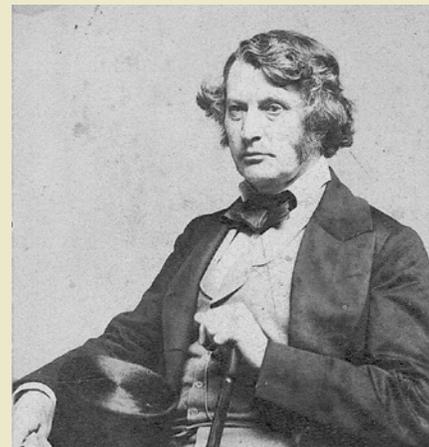
SHERIFF SAMUEL JONES

From Virginia, Samuel J. Jones, moved west with his family in fall 1854. He first settled in Westport, Missouri, on the border of Kansas Territory. Sympathetic to the Southern cause, Jones first led a group of proslavery men across the border to destroy a ballot box at Bloomington in Douglas County, where he was soon appointed the county's first sheriff. Enthusiastic in his work to enforce proslavery laws, he freed a man accused of killing a freestater. When the free-state militia began to form, Jones attacked free-state supporters in Lawrence during the Wakarusa War and the Sack of Lawrence. In 1857 Jones resigned his position and left Kansas Territory.

Ambrotype portrait of Samuel Jones, circa 1859, in the collections of the Kansas Historical Society.



CHARLES SUMNER



Charles Sumner, pictured in 1860, from the collections of the Kansas Historical Society.

An abolitionist from Massachusetts, U.S. Senator Charles Sumner delivered scathing criticism to slaveholders in a speech called "The Crime Against Kansas." He argued for the immediate admission of Kansas as a free state, denouncing the Kansas-Nebraska Act and the political arm of slave owners. Two days later, on May 22, 1856, U. S. Representative Preston Brooks from South Carolina beat and nearly killed Sumner with his walking cane on the senate floor. Northerners were outraged, calling Sumner a martyr. Southerners praised Brooks as a hero.

Word of the caning traveled slowly to Kansas. Those close to John Brown claimed he was incensed by the news and further motivated to strike back after the Sack of Lawrence, which occurred the day before the caning. "At that, the men went crazy," wrote his son Salmon Brown. "It seemed to be the finishing, decisive touch."

You cannot easily
imagine our situation
when it is known all
abroad that our
relatives have a hand
in this affair.

—Samuel Adair



MAY 24, 1856 – POTTAWATOMIE MASSACRE

On the evening of May 24 Brown delivered retribution to several proslavery men, even though none of them had been involved in the attack on Lawrence. His militia approached two houses along Mosquito Creek in Franklin County. James Doyle and his two sons and Allen Wilkinson were kidnapped and killed. Along Pottawatomie Creek, they captured and killed William Sherman; his body was thrown into the stream. Brown denied involvement in the violence but admitted his approval.

The violent acts shocked Kansans and the nation. “I left for fear of my life,” Louisa Jane Wilkinson testified after moving to Missouri when her husband was murdered. The Pottawatomie Massacre also took its toll on Brown and his family. Forced into hiding, Brown’s sons experienced anxiety, exhaustion, and displays of insanity. “You cannot easily imagine our situation when it is known all abroad that our relatives have a hand in this affair,” Samuel Adair wrote to family members. Brown seemed to draw strength and a sense of urgency from the notoriety he gained after the massacre.

Brown used this saber during the Pottawatomie Massacre, which he brought to Kansas from Ohio in 1855. The object is in the collections of the Kansas Historical Society.

JAMES TOWNSLEY

A native of Maryland, James Townsley settled along Pottawatomie Creek in 1855. He joined the Pottawatomie Rifles the next spring. Townsley was with Brown the night of the massacre and testified as an eyewitness to Brown’s involvement. “. . . I did not then approve of the killings of these men,” Townsley said, “but Brown said it must be done for the protection of the Free State settlers . . .”

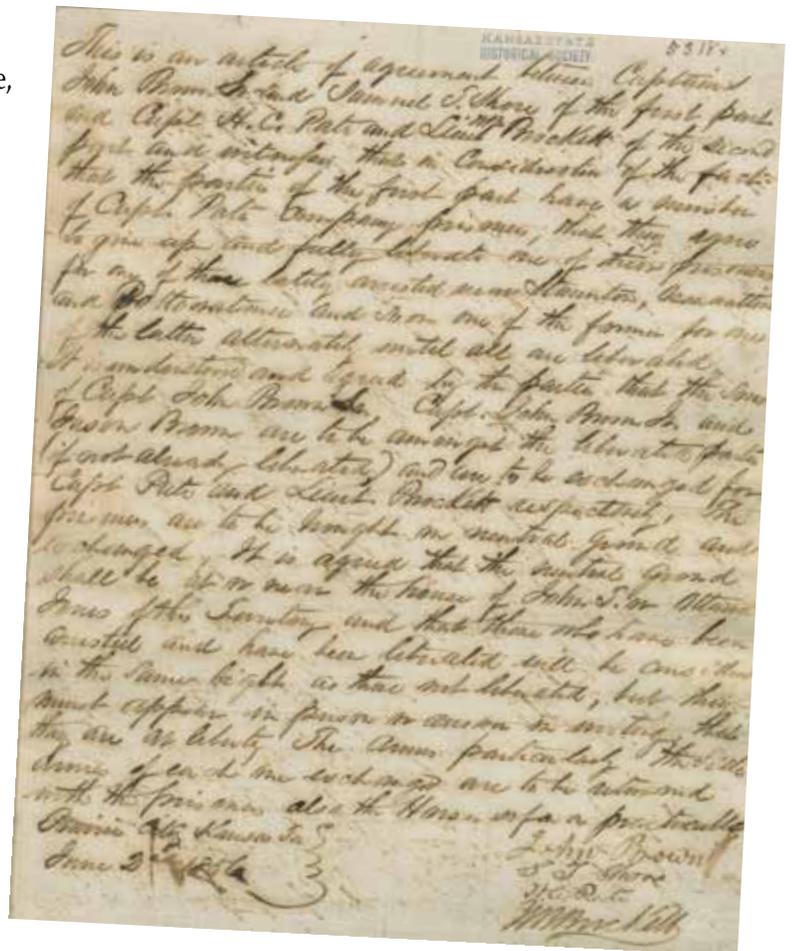
“Dutch” Henry Sherman signed this affidavit identifying the men involved in the Pottawatomie Massacre. He named Brown and Townsley as perpetrators who attacked and stole horses on May 24, 1856. This document is in the collections of the Kansas Historical Society.

United States of America
Territory of Kansas
S.S. Henry Sherman
a resident of said Territory, on the oath of
truth, one year, being sworn says that, on the
night of the twenty fourth of May last he this
affiant was robbed of a Gray horse of the
value of one hundred dollars; that this af-
-fiant has good reason to believe and does
believe that John Brown Senior, Brown
Brown - Townsley - & Wilcox - were guilty
of having feloniously stolen, taken and car-
-ried away said Gray horse from the possession
of affiant. Affiant further says that some per-
-son or persons unknown to this affiant, about
the fifteenth day of June last did feloniously
-ly steal take and carry away, a certain set
horn of this affiant, a toy, about four days
old of the value of one hundred dollars
and further, this affiant says that some person
or persons unknown to this affiant, about
the thirteenth day of May last, did feloniously
steal take and carry away, from the posses-
sion of this affiant, about twenty five
head of cattle of the value of one thou-
-sand dollars.
Sworn to & Subscribed this 7 July 1856
S.S. Cato Judge of the 2d District. Henry Sherman

JUNE 2, 1856 – BATTLE OF BLACK JACK

The proslavery militia immediately arrested 13 men involved in the Potawatomie Creek massacre. Henry Pate, a proslavery supporter, and his troops captured and held three of Brown's sons. On June 2, as Pate's men camped near Palmyra in Douglas County, Brown's men attacked. After several hours the abolitionists finally overwhelmed their opponents who eventually surrendered. Several of Brown's men were injured including his son and son-in-law. Brown and Pate each signed an agreement for the exchange of prisoners. Known as the Battle of Black Jack, this was first armed conflict between proslavery and antislavery forces, perhaps the first battle in the Civil War.

Rumors, lies, and heresay bubbled throughout the territory during the summer of 1856, causing panic among the citizens. "What we now need is men money and Rifles," wrote freestater Charles Wright of Lawrence in June 1856. "... we must hav it now or Kansas is lost." Kansas newspapers reported numerous attacks by armed men from both sides, fears escalated, and settlers moved away hoping to escape the conflicts.



These articles of agreement concerned the exchange of prisoners at the Battle of Black Jack. They are in the collections of the Kansas Historical Society. The battle site is a National Historic Landmark.

AUGUST 3, 1856 – ENCOUNTER WITH SAMUEL READER

The day was warm and pleasant as Samuel Reader shouldered his rifle near a free-state camp in Brown County on August 3. As he stepped toward the opposite bank of Pony Creek, he came face to face with two men walking alongside their covered wagon, drawn by two oxen. The younger man was tall, the older man quite old. He was wearing a worn hat and appeared dilapidated, dusty, and soiled.

The older man asked Reader if he belonged to the free-state party camped nearby. "I replied, that I did," Reader said. "I pointed in its direction, and told him how he could find it."

"Your coming has caused a good deal of excitement among the Pro-slavery men living on the road," the older man said. "They didn't mind talking with us





Reader created this pastel of his encounter at Pony Creek in 1906. It is in the collections of the Kansas Historical Society.

about it, as we are surveyors.” Reader spotted the surveyor’s chain, compass, and tripod standing under the wagon cover. Reader found the man to be talkative, “almost garrulous.”

Reader told them that he lived in Indianola.

“O yes! I know,” the man replied. “It is a hard place, and has got a very bad reputation. I have heard of it. Have you ever been in a fight?”

Reader said he had not.



This image of Sara Robinson, 1857, can be found on kanasmemory.org.

SARA ROBINSON

Born in Massachusetts, Sara Robinson was well educated when she came to Kansas Territory with her husband, Charles. He was elected governor under the free-state Topeka Constitution in 1855, then arrested in May 1856 by the proslavery government. Sara wrote of her husband’s imprisonment and published a book, *Kansas, Its Interior and Exterior Life*, about the struggle, which helped alert the nation about the violence in the territory. It was called “one of the best works on the early history of Kansas.”

“If ever you do get in a battle, always remember to aim low,” the man recommended. “You will be apt to over-shoot at first.”

The younger man looked at Reader with a broad grin on his face. The two men went on their way. Reader returned to camp and told the men about his encounter.

“Well, that was old John Brown; and we are to break camp, and move farther on.”

The men continued on without pause. Glancing back Reader could see the homely, humble figure, who followed at a snail’s pace. “What man among us,” Reader said, “could then have predicted, that in little more than three years, he would shake this American republic, from center to circumference!”

AUGUST 30, 1856 – BATTLE OF OSAWATOMIE

In mid-August troops from Missouri crossed into the territory to attack free-state settlements and protect proslavery strongholds. On the morning of August 30 they approached the Adairs’ cabin near Osawatomie where Brown had established his headquarters. When the troops spotted Brown’s son, Frederick, they shot and killed him on the spot. Brown gathered his men in the woods as the Missourians fired their cannons. Outnumbered, Brown’s troops fired volleys and eventually fled. Four more free-state men were killed and several others were wounded. The story of “Osawatomie” Brown spread across the nation. Several weeks later, ill and exhausted, Brown left Kansas and prepared to move his fight to the South.

SUMMER 1857 – RETURN TO KANSAS

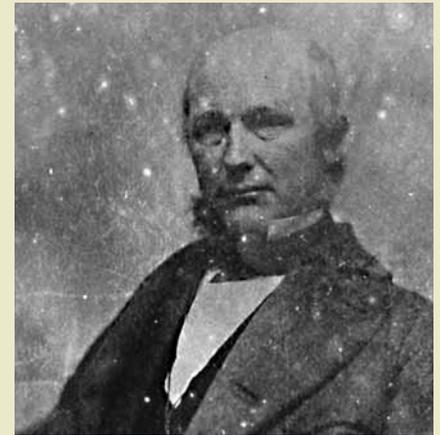
John Brown spent several months raising funds for his campaign in the East. When he returned to Kansas he found antislavery sentiment was building. Around this time he quit shaving and began to grow a full beard. He adopted the alias Isaac Smith.

By the fall he was gathering troops in Kansas to help him carry out plans for a raid on the arsenal at Harpers Ferry, Virginia (now West Virginia.) There he hoped to rally African Americans to stand up to slave owners.



John Brown displays the full beard he grew to assist with his disguise, 1859. It can be seen on kansasmemory.org

BLEEDING KANSAS



This image of Horace Greeley, circa 1856, can be found on kansasmemory.org.

Horace Greeley, editor of the *New York Tribune*, began using the term “bleeding” in his reports on Kansas Territory in June 1856. On the third day of the Republican National Convention in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, Greeley quoted Colonel Perry of Kansas during his nomination of John C. Frémont for president. “Kansas, bleeding at every pore, would cast more votes indirectly for their candidate than any other State in the Union.”

*It was the most
affecting sight I ever
beheld . . . They helped
me to get the oxen
and wagon, and I
started with them to
the ravine.*

—Sarah Read

MAY 19, 1858 - MARAIS DES CYGNES MASSACRE

Along the Kansas-Missouri border, the Reverend Benjamin Read was visiting a neighbor about a mile from home when he was captured by a band of proslavery men. A man told his wife, Sarah, about the incident. He told her that she should not be alarmed, the company would do no harm to her husband. She set out on foot to follow the men.

Living in Linn County, the Reads were well aware of ongoing tensions in Bleeding Kansas. From the neighbor's house she learned that Charles Hamilton's proslavery men had captured others from the Trading Post area. Hamilton's house had recently been destroyed by antislavery forces; he was angry to have been forced to leave the area.

She used a spyglass and spotted the men marching toward a ravine. Hearing gunshots, she ran toward them. Read watched as Hamilton's men passed. When she claimed they had her horse Captain Hamilton told her she could take the horse if it was hers. "Where are the prisoners?" Read asked. The men told her she could find them in the timber. She called out and the Reverend Read recognized her voice, asking her to bring aid as soon as possible. As she approached, Sarah could see men lying wounded on the ground.



“It was the most affecting sight I ever beheld,” Sarah said and went to find assistance at nearby houses. “They helped me to get the oxen and wagon, and I started with them to the ravine.”

When she returned she realized that some men had left. She searched farther for her husband. One man said that he had crawled toward the bushes and died. Men searching the ravine for the dead did not find him. Finally, late that night, Sarah found him about 10 miles from where the men were shot. The Reverend Read was shot in the abdomen, but he survived the injury. The couple remained there until morning when men came to take them home.

The news of the Marais des Cygnes Massacre captured the nation’s attention. Of the 11 free-state men captured, five were killed; five were seriously injured, only one escaped unharmed. Whittier again paid tribute to the victims with a poem.

James Montgomery’s Jayhawkers attempted to pursue Hamilton’s men into Missouri but failed to find them. When John Brown arrived at that place in June he built a simple fortification nearby, which he used for military purposes.

“Le Marais du Cygne”
By John Greenleaf Whittier
The first two stanzas:

A BLUSH as of roses
Where rose never grew!
Great drops on the bunch-grass,
But not of the dew!
A taint in the sweet air
For wild bees to shun!
A stain that shall never
Bleach out in the sun!

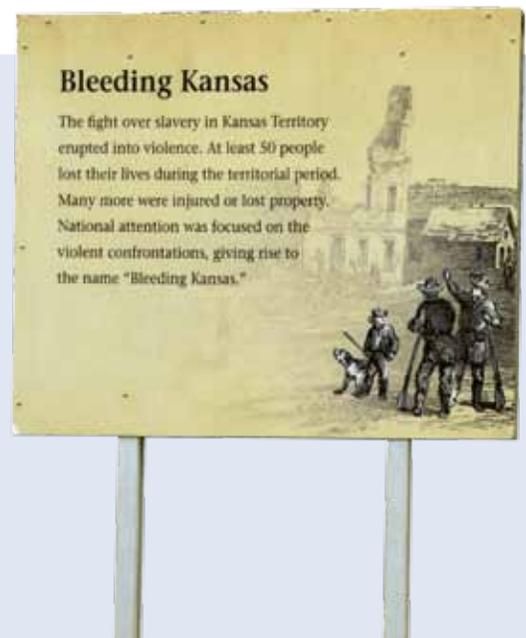
Back, steed of the prairies!
Sweet song-bird, fly back!
Wheel hither, bald vulture!
Gray wolf, call thy pack!
The foul human vultures
Have feasted and fled;
The wolves of the Border
Have crept from the dead

This illustration of the Marais des Cygnes Massacre is from *Beyond the Mississippi* by Albert D. Richardson, 1867. The image can be found in kansasmemory.org.



Marais des Cygnes Massacre State Historic Site

While our road trip will not include a stop at this site, it is open for visitors to walk the grounds. Signs provide information about the tensions during Bleeding Kansas and the events that led to the capture and murder of five free-state men. The site, which is a National Historic Landmark, is open dawn to dusk near Trading Post.



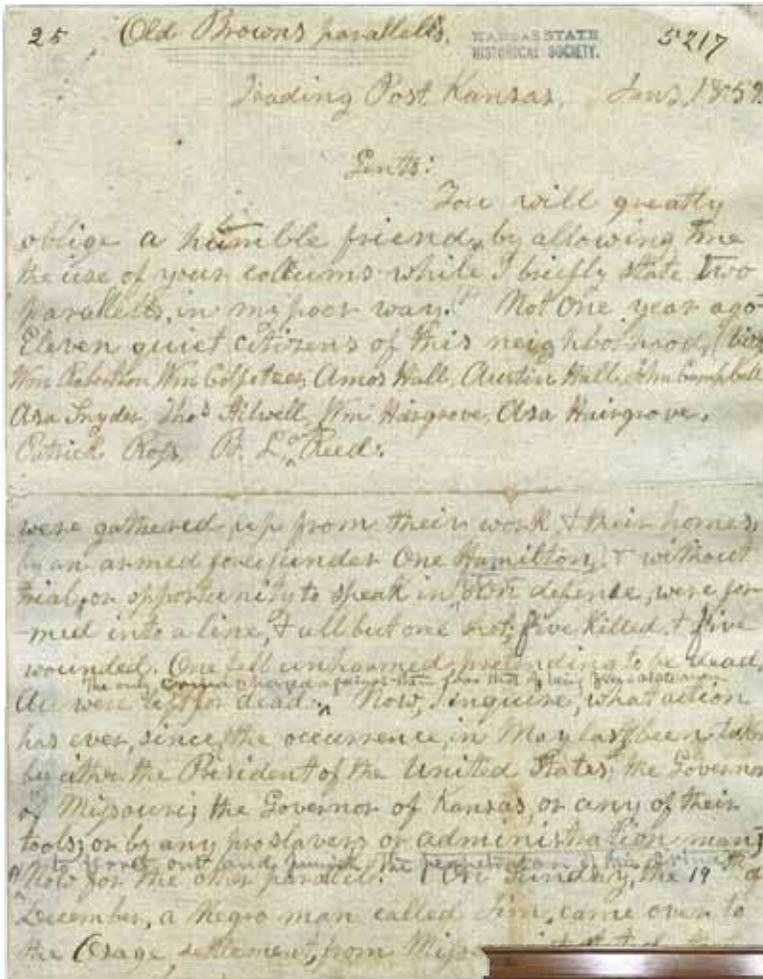
DECEMBER 20, 1858 – RAID INTO MISSOURI

In December John Brown led a raid across the border into Missouri and freed 11 slaves. One slave owner was killed in the raid. Authorities in Missouri issued an arrest warrant for Brown and attempted to capture and return the slaves. Augustus Wattles, an abolitionist newspaper editor from Moneka in Linn County, provided sanctuary for Brown at his home.

Although the men were friends, Wattles disagreed with Brown's methods. Like other abolitionists, Wattles favored emancipation of slaves through peaceful means; Brown had come to believe force was the only solution. Meeting with Wattles and another abolitionist, James Montgomery, Brown was forced to defend his raid to both men who feared retaliation from Missourians.

At the Wattles' home, Brown wrote a letter to the *Lawrence Republican* that became known as "John Brown's Parallels." According to family tradition, one of the Wattles children watched Brown through a crack in the floor while he wrote at the desk. Not wanting to reveal his location and trying to protect his friend Wattles, Brown indicated the letter was written at Trading Post rather than Moneka.

In the "Parallels," Brown compared his Missouri raid to the Marais des Cygnes Massacre where five free-state men were killed. He objected to authorities' pursuit of him while doing nothing to find those responsible for the action at Marais des Cygnes. Brown chose to ignore his own part in the earlier Pottawatomie Massacre, where he was responsible for the death of five proslavery sympathizers.



The first page of "John Brown's Parallels," which were written on this desk. Both are in the collections of the Kansas Historical Society.



UNDERGROUND RAILROAD

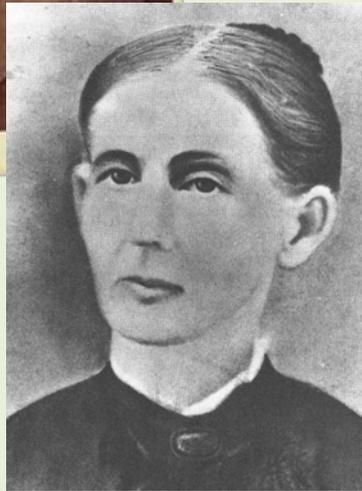


Shouts and banging alerted John and Mary Ritchie that federal troops were outside their house in November 1857. As troops raised an axe to chop through the door, the sound of sharpshooters rang out. The lawmen and a slave owner finally gained entrance and searched the Ritchies' house for fugitive slaves but found none. Rumors quickly spread that the Ritchies hosted a station on the Underground Railroad, an offense punishable by law.

The Ritchie family had arrived in Topeka, Kansas Territory, in 1855, and the following year began construction on their three-story house. A real estate speculator, saddler, and humanitarian, Ritchie soon became drawn to the free-state cause.

The Underground Railroad was made of sympathetic families and a series of safe houses that spanned from the South to the North, offering covert protection and transportation for former slaves. The "railroad," which went in opposition to federal laws, depended on secrecy for its survival. As a result, few records were left to document the history.

Ritchie family tradition said there was a cave near the house with a spring that served as a water source where fugitive slaves could be hidden. An observer claimed to see a family of five hidden in the Ritchies' sod cabin in 1858. Abolitionist Henry Hiatt from Mound City said that he twice delivered two African American men in a covered wagon to the Ritchies at midnight.



John and Mary Ritchie were abolitionists and supporters of John Brown who operated a station on the Underground Railroad in Topeka. The house is listed in the National Register of Historic Places.



VICTOR HUGO

On the day when John Brown was hanged in Charles Town, Virginia (now West Virginia), French writer Victor Hugo wrote a letter to the *London News* calling for Brown's conviction to be stayed. ". . . Brown, the liberator, the champion of Christ . . . slaughtered by the American Republic," Hugo wrote. "It would penetrate the Union with a gaping fissure which would lead in the end to its entire disruption." Hugo's letter arrived too late. The writer and the French government later commissioned a gold medal in memory of Brown. In 1874 he presented the medal to Brown's widow. "Honor be to him," he wrote, "and to his worthy sons who were associated with him in his endeavors!"



John Brown, Jr., donated a letter and this coin from Hugo to the Kansas Historical Society in 1880.

OCTOBER 16–18, 1859 – HARPERS FERRY

John Brown began a raid on the U.S. arsenal in Harpers Ferry, Virginia (now West Virginia), on October 16. With 21 men, he hoped to start a slave revolt that would energize the nation. Most of Brown's men were captured or killed during the raid. He was taken prisoner, tried, convicted, and sentenced to death. Hanged December 2, 1859, Brown's death further polarized the nation. He was immediately celebrated as a martyr by many abolitionists.



Brown ordered 950 of these iron pikes for his raid at the U.S. arsenal in Harpers Ferry. This object is in the collections of the Kansas Historical Society.

JOHN BROWN LIVES ON

JOHN GREENLEAF WHITTIER

Born to a Quaker family in Massachusetts, John Greenleaf Whittier began reading and writing poems at an early age.

Abolitionist William Lloyd Garrison published his first poem and later hired Whittier as an editor. Garrison persuaded Whittier to join the antislavery cause and Whittier encouraged Charles Sumner to run for U.S. Senate. He became editor of *The National Era*, one of the most influential abolitionist newspapers in the nation.

After the Kansas-Nebraska Act, Whittier created a series to inspire Kansas' fight for freedom. His work stirred abolitionist sentiments across the country. His first poem was "The Kansas Emigrants," sung to the tune of "Auld Lang Syne." After the raid on Harpers Ferry, Whittier dedicated his last poem in the series, "John Brown of Ossawatimie," to the abolitionist in 1859.





JOHN STEUART CURRY

When John Steuart Curry was hired in 1937 to create murals for the Kansas State Capitol, he had already established his reputation in public art. Born in Dunavant, Jefferson County, Curry was strongly impacted by Kansas history and the environment. His works, dramatizing those themes, were on display in galleries in New York and Washington, D. C.

Curry's commission for the Capitol murals comprised three works: in the east and west wings of the second floor and the rotunda. He wanted to create works of art that would resonate with the public. His initial designs, revealed in 1939, sparked a controversy that continued as Curry worked onsite. Painting on canvas in oil and tempura, Curry began in the east wing with *Tragic Prelude*.

He placed the Conquistador and Frontiersman to the right of John Brown who stands at the center of the struggle between antislavery and proslavery forces. Considered Curry's best work, the mural's rich symbolism shows the tornado and prairie fire threatening as soldiers die and settlers flee.

Kansas Pastoral in the west wing illustrates the state's agricultural heritage. For the rotunda, Curry planned to reflect Kansas' historic struggle between man and nature.

Critics immediately raised concerns about Brown's depiction and the negative implications on Kansas. Discouraged and angry by the reaction, Curry left after completing only two murals, both are unsigned. Curry returned to his home in Wisconsin where he died in 1946.



Top to bottom, *Tragic Prelude*; Curry's preliminary sketch of *Tragic Prelude*, late 1930s.

Board Member Highlight

Paul Stuewe's first experience with the Kansas Historical Society was as a history major at Washburn University. Bob Richmond, assistant director for the agency, was Stuewe's adviser. As he researched his senior thesis, he discovered the rich collections being preserved at the Historical Society. "That experience validated my ongoing interest in Kansas history," Stuewe said, "which began in elementary school, and my desire to be a part of its preservation and promotion."

The experience moved Stuewe to become a life member in 1975. After graduation he became a high school history teacher, a career he's continued for 40 years. He currently teaches AP European History at Blue Valley West High School in Overland Park.

"History is part of my DNA," Stuewe said. "Teaching history is not only what I do but also who I am and as a lifelong Kansan, Kansas history is part of my personal history."

In 1990 he was editor of *Kansas Revisited: Historical Images and Perspectives*. The popular book is in its third edition and fifth printing and is still used in universities throughout Kansas. It is a requirement in preparing educators to teach Kansas history courses.

Stuewe is currently serving as president of the Kansas Historical Foundation. He is invigorated by his involvement to raise funds for the Kansas Historical Society. "Overall, I want to promote our vision statement," Stuewe said, "which is to enrich people's lives by connecting them to the past."

This fall's Taste of Kansas road trip will benefit from Stuewe's knowledge of the Kansas Territory. He will share his insights in history with participants in a program at the Eldridge Hotel. "There is no period of Kansas history as important or as interesting as our beginning, the territorial period," Stuewe said. "I am very much looking forward to our tour of that period."



Paul Stuewe, president of the Kansas Historical Foundation, and Vicky Henley, executive director and CEO of the Foundation, are hosts of the Taste of Kansas road trip.

*There is no period of
Kansas history as
important or as
interesting
as our beginning,
the territorial period.*

— Paul Stuewe

Special Tastes *from the region*



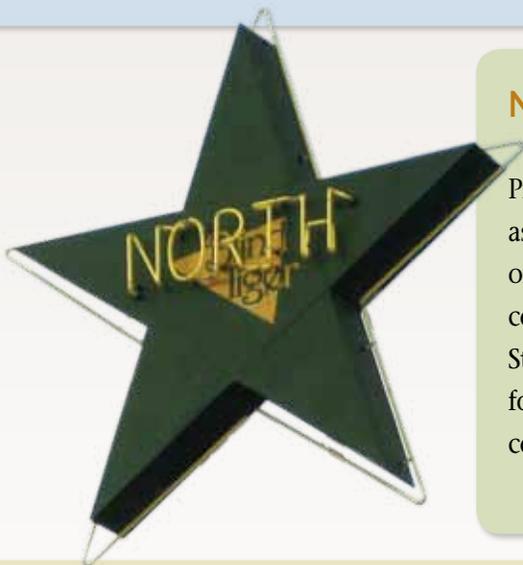
Fieldstone Orchard, Overbrook

Kansans have been enjoying apples since early settlers transplanted them in the area. Fieldstone Orchard, a self-sustaining farm, is located on 150 acres of gently rolling hills. Begun by Ken and Nancy Krause in 1977, the orchards include apple trees from Normandy and antique and contemporary American varieties. Visitors are invited to pick their own fruit and shop in the Country Store.



Free State Brewery, Lawrence

Kansans were the first to adopt prohibition, which barred the manufacture and sale of alcohol from 1881 until 1948. Even so, some Kansans found a way around the restrictive laws and continued to enjoy their beer. In 1989 the Free State Brewing Company of Lawrence became the first legal brewery in Kansas in more than 100 years. Free State, creator of John Brown Ale, operates a 14-barrel brewhouse with modern equipment and distributes a selection of bottled beers across the Midwest.



North Star Steakhouse, Topeka

Prohibition was still the law in Kansas when the North Star opened as a roadhouse in 1942. When that ended in 1948, Kansans could only purchase liquor by the drink as members of a club. The confusing process made business difficult for roadhouses like North Star. Over the years North Star Steakhouse developed a reputation for its fries and gravy and KC strip steaks. Jim and Pat Caplinger continued that tradition when they bought the restaurant in 1997.

Beethoven's #9, Paola

German foods have long been popular in Miami County. North German Lutherans settled in the area in 1859. More than 20 years ago Beethoven's #9 was opened featuring authentic German foods like Jäger schnitzel (tenderized pork with a creamy mushroom sauce), beef stroganoff, spaetzel (soft egg noodles), and sweet red cabbage, from recipes passed down through generations. Their menu also includes fresh bakery products and a selection of German beers. Jeanie Clerico purchased Beethoven's in 2014.





Last year's trip to Wyandotte County received rave reviews.

Delightful fellow travelers.

Well done, well organized.

All the events were exceptional in presentation and knowledge of each speaker.

Wonderful experience!!!

Join us to follow the footsteps of John Brown in Kansas!



The Taste of Kansas Tragic Prelude road trip is made possible through support by Freedom's Frontier National Heritage Area.

You are invited to join the Kansas Historical Society and Kansas Historical Foundation for a unique experience September 16-17, 2016.

The Taste of Kansas bus tour will require minimal to moderate walking with alternatives for those who have difficulties with stairs. Because of the locations associated with John Brown's time in Kansas, this tour will require more time on the bus than previous tours.

The program fees will cover your local transportation (by bus), all food, admission fees, tour guides, and performances. Lodging is not included. If you make reservations at Hyatt Place, 6021 SW 6th Avenue, Topeka KS 66615; 785-273-0066; please request the Kansas Historical Society rate of \$99. Rooms are limited and special pricing is available only through September 1, 2016. Hyatt Place is conveniently located near the Historical Society.

Our staff members will provide you with an authentic experience: see the real places, discover the real stories, and go behind the scenes. It's a one-of-a-kind tour!



Discover where the abolitionist lived at John Brown Museum State Historic Site, Osawatomie

Learn about the archeological evidence while visiting Old Stone Church, Osawatomie



Go behind the scenes and encounter John Brown's personal correspondence at State Archives, Topeka

Taste of Kansas Registration Information

We are pleased that you have decided to travel with us. Find three easy ways to register for Taste of Kansas. The early bird rate of \$160 to members is available through August 19. Registration closes September 1, 2016, seats are limited.

1. You may register online at kshs.org/18914. Find information and links to help you register and pay for the road trip online. If you are not already a member, find a link to become a member to reduce your fee.
2. Copy or detach the registration form below. You may also print the form from kshs.org/18914, or call 785-272-8681, ext. 205; to request a registration form in the mail. Complete the form and mail to Membership Services, Kansas Historical Foundation, 6425 SW 6th Avenue, Topeka KS 66615-1099.
3. If you would like us to assist you in registering, please call and we can help you register by phone, and help you become a member. Call 785-272-8681, ext. 205.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Please print guests(s)' first and last names to appear on nametags.

Members:

Early bird price through August 19, 2016

\$160 x # _____ participants = \$ _____

From August 20 – September 1, 2016

\$175 x # _____ participants = \$ _____

Nonmembers:

Through August 19, 2016

\$240 x # _____ participants = \$ _____

From August 20 – September 1, 2016

\$265 x # _____ participants = \$ _____

Make checks payable to the Kansas Historical Foundation

Or select: Visa Mastercard Discover

Credit card number _____ Expiration date _____

Signature _____



We reserve the right to change or cancel scheduled events based on participation or dangerous conditions.

We request prior notification to accommodate an individual's special need. Please indicate any special accommodations required.

Refund policy:

The paid amount minus \$10 handling fee will be refunded for cancellations requested before 5 p.m. September 1, 2016. No refunds will be granted after September 1, 2016.

Kansas State Historical Society, Inc.
6425 SW 6th Avenue
Topeka KS 66615-1099

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Last year's bus trip to Wyandotte County delved into the history of Strawberry Hill, Argentine, and Quindaro. Participants had the unique opportunity to get up close and personal with these fascinating communities. They said it was a wonderful experience and were ready for more.

Follow the footsteps of John Brown in Kansas, September 16-17, 2016!