

By the Kansas State Historical Society

TERRITORIAL CHARACTER: JULIA LOUISA LOVEJOY

Julia Louisa Lovejoy was a religious woman. She fought against the spread of slavery with her pen. She wrote countless letters to those in the eastern United States about the events in Kansas Territory. Through her writings, as well as others, national attention was focused on the violence over slavery. This gave rise to the name "Bleeding Kansas."

What did Julia Louisa Lovejoy do before she came to Kansas?

Julia Louisa Lovejoy was born Julia Hardy in New Hampshire. At a young age she became very religious. She felt the purpose of her life was to influence the world around her. Lovejoy once said, "If I have not done good, I have done evil." She was married to Charles Lovejoy, a Methodist Episcopal preacher.

Why did she come to Kansas Territory?

The Lovejoys came to Kansas as part of the New England Emigrant Aid Company. The company recruited antislavery settlers to move to Kansas Territory. Lovejoy saw a way to make the world better by working to end slavery. To do this, she became a writer for several eastern Methodist newspapers.

