

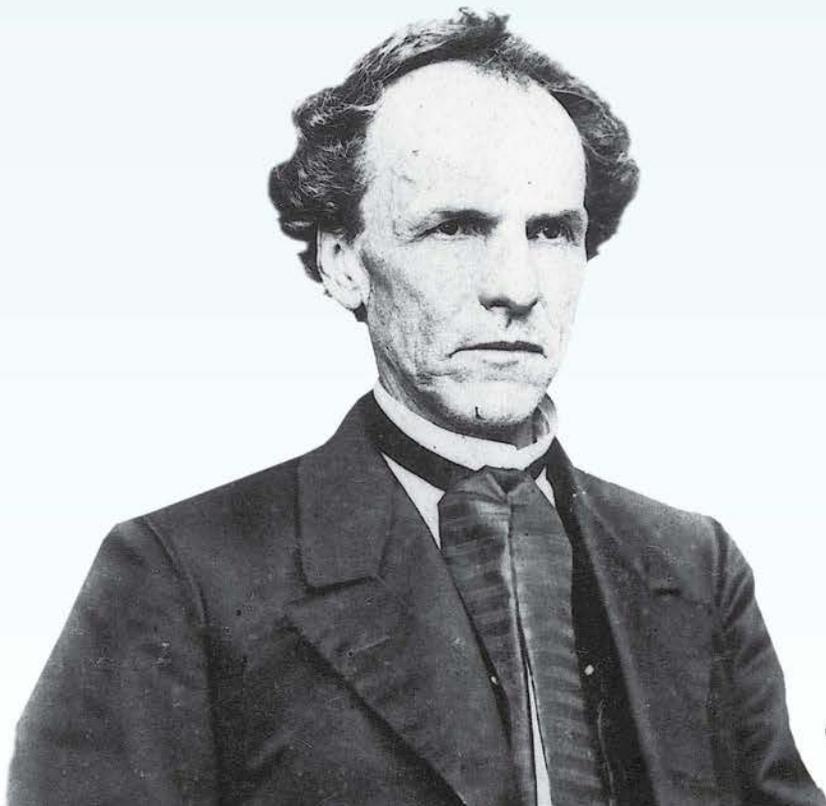
By the Kansas Historical Society

Where Duty Leads, I Will Be With You: James Lane Recruits Volunteers

New Senator James Lane was proud to represent Kansas in Congress. The Civil War had just broken out when he arrived in Washington, D.C., to begin his term. He quickly organized a “frontier guard” of Kansans to protect President Abraham Lincoln in the White House. He also felt a strong responsibility to raise troops for the defense of the Union.

Lane was a well-known leader during Kansas’ territorial years. He gave powerful free-state speeches to large crowds across the country. He established a trail for antislavery settlers to travel safely to Kansas. He also organized militias to defend antislavery settlers from proslavery forces.

When the country went to war in 1861 Lane decided that Kansas should send as many troops as possible to support the Union. General Lane was responsible for organizing the recruitment of several regiments of soldiers—several hundred men in total. His stirring speeches convinced men in the new state to volunteer to serve.



General James Lane

KANSAS REPUBLICAN, AUGUST 7, 1862

PROCLAMATION

Office of Recruiting Commissioner; Department of Kansas
Leavenworth City, Kansas, Aug. 4 1862

To The loyal men of Kansas; Nebraska, Colorado and Ducotah:

The government is engaged in raising an army that will insure the suppression of the rebellion, and the aid of every loyal man is invoked for the accomplishment of this object.

The conviction exists in the minds of the people that nothing but war, real earnest war can be availing, and the national authorities are responding to the conviction of the people.

Acting upon this policy the government has authorized me to organize an army in this department; and in the name of that government, I call upon every loyal man to aid me in the work. . . . supplies of arms and accouterments, camp equipage, and subsistence will be furnished.

Everything necessary to the complete equipment of the forces will be promptly and fully supplied. Every Volunteer will receive the bounty of \$25 and one month's advance pay upon being mustered into the service. Those who join this army will designate the men who shall command them.

JAMES H. LANE, Commissioner for Recruiting, Department of Kansas

These forces will be used for the defense of this Department. While the armies of the North and East will be marched to meet the rebels upon their own sod, no troops can be sent here for our protection. We must rely upon the organized forces now in this Department, and such as can be raised among ourselves. The government will provide munitions of war—the MEN we must furnish . . .

The nation is struggling for its existence. The noblest institutions ever established amongst men are in peril. A Herculean effort is being organized to avert this calamity. . . .

Shall we not, then, stand by the flag in defense of our hearthstones and family altars? I do not say to you, GO, and perform this great work, but I do say COME and join the host marshalling for the conflict. Where duty leads I will be with you. Rally, then, our country calls!

