Written by Rev S. L. Adair

Frederick, Brown, who was killed near Osawatomie Aug. 30th 1856, was the son Capt. John Brown, a native of Canton Ohio. Frederick was his third son, & was born Dec. 21st 1830 at Richmond Crawford Co. Penn. When quite young his father removed with his family from Penn. to Ohio. In the fall of 1854, Frederick with two other brothers started for Kansas bringing with them some very excellent stock. They spent the winter in Ill. & early the Spring of 1855 reached Kansas. They selected claims & located near South Middle creek, some ten miles west of Osawatomie. About two weeks afterwards they were joined by two brothers with families. In the fall of the same year their father, one other brother, & a brother-in-law, arrived.

When Lawrence was threatened in Dec. 1855; the father & five sons, Frederick one of the number, responded to call for aid, & were found in Lawrence, ready to aid in the defence of life & property from the sword & faggot of the invaders. When quiet was restored, they returned & spent the winter on their claims. In the latter part of the winter Frederick had a return of a disease from which he had suffered much years before. There was an accumulation of blood on the brain which for weeks almost entirely prevented sleep & produced partial insanity. Nor was he wholy freed from the influence of this during the summer. It was this which probably gave rise to the expression found in some accounts of him where he is called "a half witted young man", an expression which by no means conveys the truth in relation to him. When not under the influence of the disease above mentioned, he was considered by no means below mediocrity in in intelligence & judgment. As evidence of this I need but refer to the fact that in the fall of 1855 he was elected as a delegate to the convention that met at Topeka & formed the Free State constitution & was prevented, only by sickness, from being present to take part in its deliberations.

In the Spring of 1856, when Lawrence was sacked, & a call was made for help, he was again found under arms & on his way to assist in repelling the foe. Nor did he from this time entirely lay aside his arms. The battle of Black Jack is one memorable in Kansas history. And though labouring to some extent at the time under the disease before spoken of, Frederick Brown acted no inconspicuous part. And it has been thought by some that on his boldness & daring victory in a great measure turned.

Some time after this, two of his brothers & his brother-in-law, being sick, he went with his father & conveyed them via Nebraska into Iowa. While on his return through Nebraska he was taken sick & left by his father. As soon as recovered sufficiently to travel he came on to Lawrence, & in a day or two, he with 4 other young men was sent by General Lane with a message to his father in Osawatomie. He reached Osawatomie Aug. 28 in the eve, on the 29th went south until he met his father who was on his return from pursuing a company who had been on the Pottawatomie, robbing & burning houses, taking horses, & carrying off prisoners. He returned to Osawatomie that afternoon, called at the house of the writer, conversed freely on the state of things in the Territory. Though many things looked dark — many free state men had been driven off — some killed & others taken prisoner, roads blockaded, & mails stopped, yet he seemed hopeful. When asked in regard to his own safety, replied, "They will never get me; they may get my body, but they will never get me". When asked how he felt about death, in case it should be his lot, He said, he hoped he was prepared; & if God so ordered he was willing to die in the cause of Freedom. When asked as to his hope of its being well with him after death; he replied that he relied alone on a personal interest in the atonement of Christ as the ground of his acceptance with God. I had at different times previously conversed with him on this subject; but never heard him express himself more fully, or more satisfactorily than at this time. We parted, with his saying that he would call early next morning & carry any letters we might have ready to send to the States, with him to Lawrence & send them via Nebraska. He went to a neighbors & where the young men who came with him had stopped & spent the night. Early on the next morn he rose, fed his horse & was on his way to get the letters when coming to the road near my house he saw some men coming from towards town. He halted for a moment and when they drew near, said, "Good morning, boys". And then asked, "Are you going to Lawrence to day?" They answering in the negative, & then remaining silent, he soon remarked, "I think I ought to know you". When Martin White replied, "I know you, & we are foes", & as he spoke

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raised his gun & shot him. Martin White was accompanied by four other men. And what I have ~~sta~~ given is the substance of the statement made by one of the party ~~to a~~ in the presence of a friend of mine. ~~The~~ Frederick Brown was shot down in the road near my house. The firing of the gun & the running of the horses aroused me, & a cousin of mine who was at my house came to the door & saw two men riding away. My cousin & myself ~~went~~ started immediately to the road, saw the body lying there. He was dead, having been shot through the heart or near it. ~~The alarm was immediately given~~ His side arms were on him; they had not been touched. The cap over the sheath of his revolver was buttoned down. His Sharps rifle he had left at the place where he stopped over night.

One of White's party stated in the presence of a friend of the writer that they had been down near town & were returning when the same Brown walking across the prairie; that when he came to the road he saw them & halted, & when they came near said "good morning, boys". "Are you going to Lawrence to day?" They answered, "Yes" and saying nothing more, Brown, stepping towards them, said, "I think I ought to know you". At which Martin White, being now quite near to Brown, said, "I know you, & we are foes." And as he spoke shot him.

This is probably as near a true statement of the particulars of his death as can be given. A number of things incidental, known to the writer lead him to believe that the statement made by that person was substantially correct. White's story, as published in Spear's book on Kansas, that Brown had stolen his horses, & that he ~~had~~ saw him riding one & leading another that morning, is wholy false, & can be proven by many witnesses. ~~Brown,~~