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.