

the Shawnees made a treaty, whereby the "Shawnee cession," a splendid tract of land, was opened to settlement. This "cession" embraced all that portion of the Territory, bounded on the east by a line drawn north and south, through Range 20, on the north by the Kansas river, on the west by the middle of Range 6, and on the south by a line parallel with and near the 3d standard parallel, except such lands as were owned by the Pottawattamies and Kaws. It comprised about nine hundred and seventy-five thousand acres of choice lands. Lawrence, Topeka, Lecompton, and Tecumseh, are located on the north side of this cession, and were among the first towns located in the Territory.

The Delaware treaty provided that all this land except the Delaware Reserve, shown upon the map, and embracing about 275,000 acres, and a small portion of the western part, called the "out-let," which was ceded to the government, should be sold in trust for the use and benefit of the Delaware tribe. Commissioners were appointed to appraise the lands, and they were to be sold at public sale, by the government, to the highest bidder, but not at a less price than the appraised value. It was the intention of the treaty, undoubtedly, to prevent squatters from taking possession of the lands under pretense of being "bona fide settlers;" but the ultimate result of the matter was, that "squatters" got upon the lands, made slight improvements, and were allowed by the Commissioners, on proving their bona fide intentions, to purchase the lands at the appraised value. The first sale of the Delaware trust lands took place at Ft. Leavenworth, in the fall of

