

Lawrence was settled in the summer of 1854 by a group of men sent from the east. At that time there was great discussion over the Kansas-Nebraska bill, which was the privilege of deciding by popular vote whether slavery or freedom should exist in Kansas and Nebraska. The slave and free powers in the nation were so evenly balanced that the decision of Kansas became of national importance. It was the first open popular struggle which ended in the Civil War.

An association called the New England Emigrant Aid Society was formed in Massachusetts with the purpose to promote the emigration to Kansas of persons opposed to slavery there and to prevent by all legal and constitutional means its establishment.

The Lawrence Association was formed on September 18th, and a constitution was adopted. It provided for the usual form of city government, the determining and registry of claims upon the public lands in absence of laws of the United States, the conditions upon which persons could become members, etc.

Charles Robinson, agent of the New England Emigrant Aid Society, and wise counselor of the settlers during the territorial disorders, was elected president.

Lots were reserved for a college, schools, and state buildings.

On October 6th, the town received the name of Lawrence. It had been called Wakarusa, New Boston, and Yankeetown. The name of Lawrence City was given to it, "first to honor Amos A. Lawrence of Boston, both as an individual and officer of the Company, and second, because the name sounded well, and had no bad odor attached to it in any part of the Union."

Quantrill's raid on Lawrence, August 21st, 1863, was the