

This paper, whatever it is, came as ^a the result of a peculiar quest. ~~Not knowing a single person in Lawrence~~ ~~I was seeking for~~ ~~some way~~ I was trying to find if education today offered any easier ~~approach~~ manner of learning the character and background of men ^{in which I learned,} than the hard way ~~which was mine~~, when I came to Lawrence, not knowing a solitary person in the city, or country, aside from the members of my own family.

My love of history had caused me to read about the world and the various nations of past and present, but I knew nothing of the rich history of Lawrence, nor of the valliant part it had played in making Kansas a free state. My associate, Mr Brady, born and reared in Johnson county and educated at Baker university, could have given me a great deal of valuable information, but he failed to coach me in what would have been of vital importance to us.

Had the many veterans here of the Civil war known that my father had fought with them at Pea Ridge, Wilson's Creek, ~~etc.~~ ^{and} many other battles and had been a part of the Union forces that had broken the ^{to Kansas,} Price invasion, they would have been glad to welcome me and ~~to aid me~~ with their friendship. Had Colonel Learnard, who was also at Wilson's Creek; had General J. N. Roberts, builder of the stone castle at Thirteenth and Massachusetts street known of my father, ^{they} ~~he~~ too would earlier have been my friends.

Had the New England Society known that I came from ~~the bluest~~ undiluted New England ancestry, they would have welcomed me as a friend and as an asset to the town, instead of looking at me as an interloper because I had not been ~~born in~~ here at the time of the raid.

Far more important to me would it have been had I known the real worth of the men and women, ~~some~~ like Dr. S. B. Prentiss, aged, frail and poorly dressed, who had been ^a real man during the early days of Kansas, and ^{had} headed the first school committee in Lawrence.