Among the beginnings of towns in Douglas County, some of which have left no records and little memory, are Douglas, supposed to be a pro-slavery settlement ten miles west of Lawrence on the Kaw River. It was started in 1854 by Paris Ellison, a slave owner, and its greatest population was five, all living in one house.

Another ghost town is Wakarusa, located so close to Lawrence that it is said to have been swallowed up by the city, yet it gave its name to the most populous township in the county. It really was located just south of Blanton's Crossing on the Meairs farm.

An atlas of Douglas County issued in 1873 and known as the Beers Atlas, lists among the towns in the county at that time: Baldwin, Bloomington, Clinton, Eudora, Lecompton and Prairie City.

Prairie City occupied about 160 acres of land, a little south and west of Baldwin. The streets running North and South were named:- Lawrence, Liberty, Church, Mount Pleasant, Main, Aurora, Ottawa, Black Jack and Republican. Streets running East and West were named Robinson, Harris, Geary, Sumner, and Freemont. The town straddled the present track of the Southern Kansas, earlier known as the Lawrence, Leavenworth and Galveston.

Another town adjoining Baldwin was Media, which had a big store, church, etc., within the last fifty years. The first settlement of Media was in November, 1878, by E. G. Gilbert and H. W. Willett and family. Willett was both postmaster and merchant. The Presbyterian church was erected in 1881.

Another lost town gave its name to Palmyra township. Palmyra was settled in 1855 by the Palmyra Town Company with 320 acres of land. Later in 1858 it bought 320 acres to the south which were given to an educational association, which was the beginning of Baker University. The Palmyra postoffice was established in 1856 with