

The struggle for the liberation of the slaves and for a united nation began in Douglas county, and thru the sacrifice of property and life, the pioneers paved the way for Kansas to enter the Union as a Free State. Yet, knowing this, to the best of my knowledge, the first monument to be erected by general contribution in the county was that placed in Oak Hill cemetery in Lawrence, some forty-five years ago, in commemoration of those who perished at the hands of Quantrill. A few roadside markers have been placed, and the huge boulder at Lawrence marks the spot where the first N.E.E.A. pioneers landed. We should have within the county at least one fine monument to the soldiers and sailors of the Civil War.

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Looking back 84 years I see a tall, gaunt, stern, unyielding and courageous man, who then as now was little understood. Hunted by H. C. Pate with his Westport Sharpshooters, or "Shannon's Sharp Shooters", *the foe of slavery,* John Brown, instead of hiding out to save his life, himself turned hunter and flushed his quarry as Pate and his larger force lay intrenched in the underbrush *within a few yards of the ground upon which we stand today.* at this now historic spot.

Following a few hours of shooting in which ammunition on both sides was nearly exhausted, Pate sent a man with a flag of truce to discuss plans for surrender. Brown held the envoy and sent for Pate. The memory of the slaughter at Dutch Henry's Crossing was fresh in the minds of Pate and his men, and they dare resist no longer, some thirty men surrendering to possibly half their number.

That in a few words is the story of the battle of Black Jack
 In men engaged, in those killed or wounded, the battle of Black Jack was a trifling affair. The killing of an Archduke of Austria in June 1914, was also in itself a trifling affair. But the battle of Black Jack marked the beginning of armed resistance in Kansas which tolled the knell of human slavery in the United States; and the murder of the Archduke plunged the world into war.