

THE LAWRENCE, KANSAS, JOURNAL-WORLD

December 18
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Carl W. Ackerman, Dean,
Graduate School of Journalism,
Columbia University,
New York City, New York.

Dear Dean Ackerman:

It is difficult to answer your letter of December 7th because the Journal-World is a very part of the life of Lawrence and has been since the founding of the town in 1854.

When the New England Emigrant Aid Society was formed in New England for the general purpose of making Kansas a free state, and with the special purpose of founding the city of Lawrence, it was a part of the plan to have a newspaper as the "organ" of the society.

The first issue of that paper, The Herald of Freedom, was printed in the east in October 1854 and beginning with the first week in January, 1855 was published regularly in Lawrence. A second free state paper, the Kansas Tribune, was also first published in the east, and beginning with the first week in January, 1855, was published for many years until joined with the Journal as the Journal-Tribune.

George W. Brown, the editor of the Herald of Freedom, was a dominant figure in the affairs of the Emigrant Aid Society, and later the author of several books. He was one of the first men to believe there was petroleum in Kansas.

John Speer, editor and publisher of the Tribune, was one of the most forceful and bravest men ever in Kansas Journalism. When opposition to slavery was made a capital offense by the Lecompton legislature, Speer defied the legislators and their law in a page advertisement in the Tribune. This act more than any other one thing brought the bogus legislature, as it was afterwards known, into disrepute.