

On March 11, 1854, more than two months before the Kans.-Nebraska bill was passed, a meeting of antislavery people was held in Worcester, Mass. At that time, Eli Thayer planned the organization of The New England Emigrant Aid Society for the ultimate purpose of making Kansas a Free State.

Following a number of changes in the original plans, the first group of immigrants arrived in Lawrence on Aug. 1, 1854. This party of 29 men had Chas. H. Branscomb for its leader.

A second party of 67 persons arrived in Lawrence Sept. 11 1854, led by Dr. Chas. Robinson.