

THE MISSOURI-KANSAS CONFLICT, PRE-1854 TO DECEMBER, 1860

I PRE 1854-THE BEGINNING

1. Missouri Compromise of 1820
 - A. Admitted Missouri as a slave state and Maine as a free state
 - B. Slavery would be prohibited above the 36° 30' latitude line in the remainder of the Louisiana Territory.
2. Wilmot Proviso-1847
 - A. A proposal to prohibit slavery in the territory acquired by the United States at the conclusion of the Mexican War.
 - B. Passed the House twice but never passed the Senat
 - C. The Wilmot Proviso further divided the North and the South over the issue of slavery.
3. Compromise of 1850
4.
 - A. Texas surrendered its claim to New Mexico, over which it had threatened war, as well as its claims north of the Missouri Compromise Line, transferred its crushing public debt to the federal government, and retained the control over El Paso that it had established earlier in 1850, with the Texas Panhandle (which earlier compromise proposals had detached from Texas) thrown in at the last moment.
 - B. California's application for admission as a free state with its current boundaries was approved but a Southern proposal to split California at parallel 35o north to provide a Southern territory was not approved.
 - C. The South avoided adoption of the symbolically significant Wilmot Proviso and the new New Mexico Territory and Utah Territory could in principle decide in the future to become slave states (popular sovereignty), even though Utah and a northern fringe of New Mexico were north of the Missouri Compromise Line where slavery had previously been banned in territories. In practice, these lands were generally unsuited to plantation agriculture and their existing settlers were non-Southerners uninterested in slavery. The unsettled southern parts of New Mexico Territory, where Southern hopes for expansion had been centered, remained a part of New Mexico instead of becoming a separate territory.
 - D. The slave trade was banned in Washington D.C.
 - E. The most concrete Southern gains were a stronger Fugitive Slave Act, the enforcement of which outraged Northern public opinion, and preservation of slavery (but not the slave trade) in the national capital.
5. Abolitionist Activities
 - A. Formed underground railways in Illinois, Iowa and Missouri in mid 1830's
 - B. Establishment of colleges by abolitionists in Missouri and Illinois
 - a. Marion College, Palmyra, Missouri-1835
 - b. Knox College, Galesburg, Illinois-1837
 - c. Mission Institute, Quincy Illinois-1838
 - C. Formation of Underground Railway systems
6. Missourians Respond
 - A. Formation of Vigilante Committees in St. Louis to name abolitionists-1835
 - B. Expelled abolitionists from Marion College-1836
 - C. Captured and convicted 3 Mission Institute abolitionists for "Grand Larceny"-1841
 - D. Convicted those "enticing" slaves to leave their masters

II 1854

1. Formation of the Massachusetts (soon The New England) Emigrant Aid Society-March, 1854
 - A. Massachusetts legislature passed \$5,000,000.00 for the society
 - B. Plan to transport 20,000 people from Mass. and 40,000 foreigners to Kansas/ year
2. Kansas-Nebraska Act-May 30, 1854
 - A. About 1,400 whites populated Kansas Territory-½ military, ½ serving Native Americans
 - B. Creates territories of Kansas and Nebraska
 - C. Repealed the Missouri Compromise of 1820
 - D. Popular sovereignty would decide status of slavery in each territory
3. Pres. F. Pierce apptd. H. Reeder of Penn. Governor of Kansas Territory on July 7
4. First Em.Aid Soc. 29 settlers arrive at Mt. Oread, Aug. 1, 1854. August 6, 1854 (date of initial property claim).
5. Lawrence City named, Oct. 6, 1854 for Amos A. Lawrence, Treas. of E. Aid Soc.
6. Gov. Reeder arrives in Kansas Territory on Oct. 7
7. A pro-slavery man was killed by a free-stater, saying he had been insulted in the fall
8. Election of Kansas Congressional Territorial delegate, Nov. 29
 - A. Results:

Whitfield	2,238	Pro-slavery
Wakefield	248	Freesoiler
Flenneken	305	Democrat
 - B. According to Abolitionist Charles Robinson, 1,114 votes were illegal. If all illegal votes were pro-slavery, Whitfield would have still won, 561 to 248 to 305
9. Election of Nebraska Congressional Territorial delegate in Nebraska, Dec., 1854

Iowans went across the border into Nebraska Territory to elect officials and representatives who would make the ne land friendly to Iowa. Iowa invaded Nebraska Territory as Missourians invaded Kansas to vote but was not dealt with in the same way in the dominant eastern press as they termed the Missourians' voting as a hot, major black scandal (Lloyd Lewis, 1939)

III 1855

1. Gov. Reeder orders a census in Kansas in January and February
2. Election for Kansas territorial legislature March 30
 - A. Same results as the first election, pro-slavery candidates won all but 1 seat
 - B. Reeder declared election valid, agreed to by President Pierce
3. After the election, Cole McRea killed Malcolm Clark, a pro-slavery man in April
4. Charles Robinson requests and receives 100 Sharps carbines from the N. E Em. Aid Soc.
5. Lawrence Association resolves to reject the elected legislature and declare freedom in Kansas the only issue on June 25
6. Second legislature meets at Pawnee, Kansas near Fort Riley
7. Gov. Reeder removed from office Aug. 5, 1855
8. Pres. Pierce appoints Wilson Shannon Governor on August 10, 1855 and he took the oath of office on September 7, 1855
9. Free-staters hold a meeting on Aug. 14 to plan a constitutional convention, repudiating the
10. Free-staters hold their convention on Sept. 5, in Big Springs, Kansas and stated that they "owe no allegiance or obedience to the tyrannical enactments of this spurious legislature" at Lecompton
11. November 21 a land dispute resulted in a pro-slavery man killing a free-stater at Hickory Point
12. A free state vigilante committee formed to get the murderer and his accomplices and drove the families of the suspects out of their homes and burned the houses to the ground.

IV 1856

1. On Jan. 5, a free-stater election was planned from the constitutional convention to elect a legislature and approving the Topeka Constitution
2. On Jan. 24, President Pierce told Congress that he supported the pro-slavery legislature and denounced the free-stater legislature as “revolutionary”
3. March 4 the free-stater Topeka legislature approved application to Congress to be admitted as a free state
4. May 11, U. S. marshal Israel Donaldson attempts to serve papers in Lawrence and was resisted. Marshall Donaldson requests help from citizens
5. By May 20 Lawrence is surrounded by pro-slavery forces and were taken over by Sherriff Samuel Jones and several homes, the Free-State Eldridge Hotel and two newspapers are burnt
6. On May 24, John Brown, some of his sons and others murdered 5 pro-slavery men on Pottawatomie Creek with cutlasses, and soon after a man they released was also murdered
7. From Aug. 12 to 19, Free-state guerrillas, lead by James Lane, attacked pro-slavery strongholds at Franklin, Fort Saunders, Georgia Fort and Fort Titus, termed the Wakarusa War
8. Gov. Shannon is removed by President Pierce and is replaced temporarily by Daniel Woodson in August
9. New governor John W. Geary arrives in Leavenworth on Sept. 9
10. George W. Clark, Kansas Indian agent, invades Linn County, Kansas and destroyed crops, seized livestock, burned several houses and drove away some settlers

V 1857

1. October 5-6 Free-state victory in the election for territorial legislature
2. On Nov. 4, James Buchanan is elected President over John C. Fremont
3. December 7 a special session of new free-state controlled legislature calls for popular vote on Lecompton Constitution
4. December 21 with free-staters refusing to participate in election, Lecompton Constitution is approved. The vote was “for the constitution with slavery” or “for the constitution without slavery,” only, and “constitution with slavery” won 6,226 to 569

VI 1858

January 4 the Lecompton Constitution rejected in second vote in which free-staters participate
March 25 the Leavenworth Constitutional Convention convenes and
April 3 the Leavenworth Constitution is approved
May 18 the Leavenworth constitution is ratified by Kansas voters and rejected by U. S. Congress
May 19 Charles Hamilton leads 30 men from Missouri to Trading Post, Kansas and kills five free-state men and is considered the last violent act of “Bleeding Kansas”
Aug. 2 on the third and final vote on the Lecompton Constitution it is defeated

VII 1859

January 25 Dr. John Doy and his son Charles arrested in Kansas with thirteen fugitives and taken to Weston, Missouri, for trial.
January 31 Battle of the Spurs near Holton Kansas and John Brown escapes with freed slaves from Missouri
March 4 Trial of Dr. John Doy of Lawrence. Although the first jury cannot agree on a verdict, he is convicted of “negro stealing” at a second trial in June and sentenced to five years in prison.
July 23 ten men free John Doy from the St. Joseph jail

Missouri and the South lacked the propaganda ability of the North.