

By the Kansas Historical Society

National Kansas Committee Resolution

Following the sacking of Lawrence, many organizations emerged nationwide with the mission of providing aid to free-state groups in Kansas Territory. In 1856 these groups met in Buffalo, New York, and merged to create the National Kansas Committee. The newly formed committee raised money for weapons and supplies and recruited volunteers to assist the abolitionist cause in Kansas.

At a meeting of the National Kansas Committee held at the Astor House in the City of New York on the twenty fourth day of January A.D. 1857, the following resolution was adopted:

Resolved – That the Treasurer be directed to reserve in the Treasury, out of any unappropriated monies in his Custody or which may be hereafter sent to the National Committee, the sum of five thousand dollars (\$5,000.00) to be used by the Committee in aid of Capt John Brown in any defensive measures that may become necessary; and that Capt Brown be & he is hereby authorized to draw upon the Treasurer for the sum of five hundred (\$500.00) dollars as a portion of said sum at such time as he may deem expedient for the said purposes.

H. B. Hurd Sec N. K. Com



Sacking of Lawrence by O. N. Merrill, May 21, 1856

Photograph by Augustus Washington

Augustus Washington, an African American and son of a former slave, made this daguerreotype of John Brown in 1846 or 1847. Washington took two additional pictures of Brown during their portrait session creating what are believed to be the three earliest photographs of Brown. The flag in Brown's hand is thought to be that for the Subterranean Pass-Way. Brown planned the pass-way as a network of armed abolitionists who would escort escaped slaves out of the South. The Subterranean Pass-Way was never put into use.



The daguerreotype was the first photographic process to receive widespread use. It entailed creating an image on a silver-coated copper plate. The image was fragile and could not be duplicated.