

## "Pottowatomie Creek, Jan. 17th," February 7, 1857

In passing south, before coming to the Pottowatomie Creek, we passed the ruins of several Free State houses; amongst them the distinguished Capt. John Brown's and his sons', John Brown, Jr., and Jason Brown. These were all intelligent and enterprising men, and came to Kansas to build up homes for themselves, improve the country and save it to freedom.

Old Capt. Brown has been a man of distinction, in the East. He was of the firm of Perkins & Brown, in Ohio, who took the premium at the World's Fair in London, and also in New York, on the finest and best wool. They were known through the country as importers of the best Spanish, French and Saxony sheep.

Capt. Brown traveled over Europe, and examined the various woolen manufactories, for the purpose of benefiting the wool growers and manufacturers in America. In other branches of agriculture he also took leading premiums. His sons brought with them to Kansas imported stock of Devonshire and Durham cattle.

One of them had established here a fine vineyard, and had in thrifty growth fine varieties of grapes. He also had a nursery of the most choice varieties of fruits.

These were not the men to be intimidated or subdued; of course they must be destroyed.

John Brown, Jr., was arrested by the U.S. dragoons, for treason, for offering to defend the town of Lawrence on the 21st of May last, and was marched in chains, with several others, for thirty miles, in one of the hottest days in June, without food or water. He was then confined in the U.S. camp for nearly four months, without even an indictment against him.

Jason Brown was also arrested, but was afterwards set free.

When the ruffians thought the country was sufficiently safe, by the arrest or expulsion of the leading Free State men by the United States forces, they came in great numbers, and overran the country. They burned the houses of the Free State settlers, among other outrages.

Frederic Brown, a younger brother of John and Jason Brown, was shot in cool blood on the highway, by the Rev. Martin White, who was acting as an advance guard to the main army, who were advancing stealthily to the destruction of Osawatomie.

Noble minded and generous men have ever been the mark of tyrants; and so here: this family of Browns, the most patriotic and enterprising of men, have been expelled from Kansas by the U.S. Government, set on by the brutality of pro-slavery officials.

John Brown, Sen., is a little past middle age, slightly grey – puritanic in his religion and habits, and whatever he does he does conscientiously, from a sense of duty, and, as he expresses it, from the fear and love of God. He is mild and gentle in his manners, and fearless and uncompromising in the discharge of his duty. In losing these men, Kansas loses her most enterprising citizens, and morality her most devoted advocates.