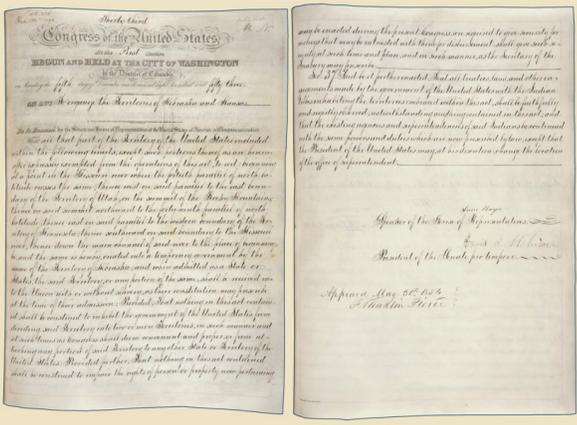




BLEEDING KANSAS

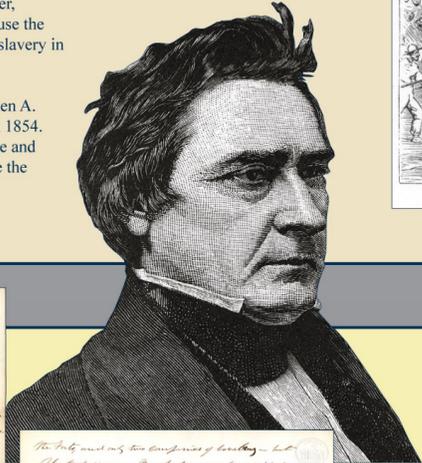
THE KANSAS-NEBRASKA ACT



"An Act to Organize the Territories of Nebraska and Kansas," approved May 30, 1854.
National Archives and Records Administration

When Congress debated legislation to create the territory of Nebraska west of the Missouri River, pro-slavery Missourians opposed the bill because the Missouri Compromise would have prohibited slavery in the new territory.

To remedy the situation, Illinois Senator Stephen A. Douglas proposed the Kansas-Nebraska Act in 1854. This bill proposed two territories instead of one and allowed settlers of the new territories to decide the question of slavery for themselves.



Missouri Senator David Rice Atchison.
State Historical Society of Missouri - Columbia



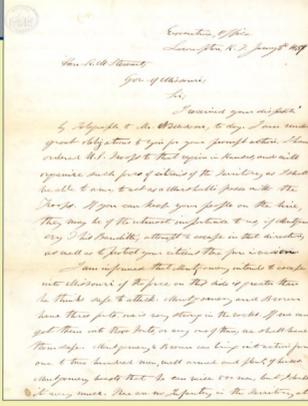
BORDER RUFFIANS "GOING OVER TO WIDE OUT LAWRENCE."
W. HOW AND ENG. NY.

Missouri State Archives

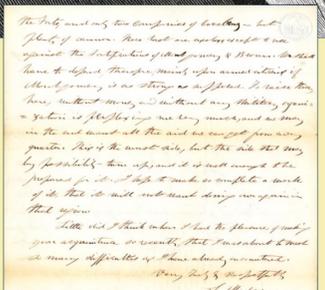
BORDER VIOLENCE

Citizens of the Kansas Territory held an election to select the new territorial legislature in March 1855. To ensure that candidates who supported slavery won the election, Missouri Senator David Rice Atchison led about 1,000 armed pro-slavery Missourians into Kansas to cast fraudulent votes and prevent free-state settlers from voting.

Though Kansas ultimately became a free territory, violence broke out along the Kansas-Missouri border. While "free-soilers" like John Brown and the Kansas Jayhawker James Montgomery led violent raids against those who supported slavery, Missouri border ruffians led equally brutal raids into Kansas. To help protect the citizens of Missouri's border towns, Governor Robert Marcellus Stewart sent troops to the region in 1860, several months before the beginning of the Civil War.



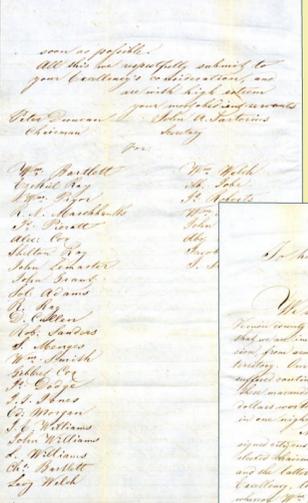
Above and right: Kansas Territorial Governor Samuel Medary to Missouri Governor Robert Stewart, discussing the strength of Free-Soil forces led by James Montgomery, January 3, 1859.
Missouri State Archives



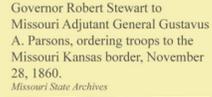
"We shall have to depend, therefore, mainly upon armed citizens if Montgomery is as strong as supposed. To raise these here, without money and without any military organization is perplexing me very much..."



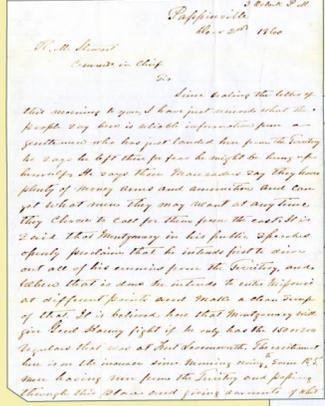
James Montgomery.
Kansas State Historical Society



A petition to Missouri Governor Robert Stewart from the citizens of Henry Township, Bates County, requesting military protection, November 21, 1860.
Missouri State Archives



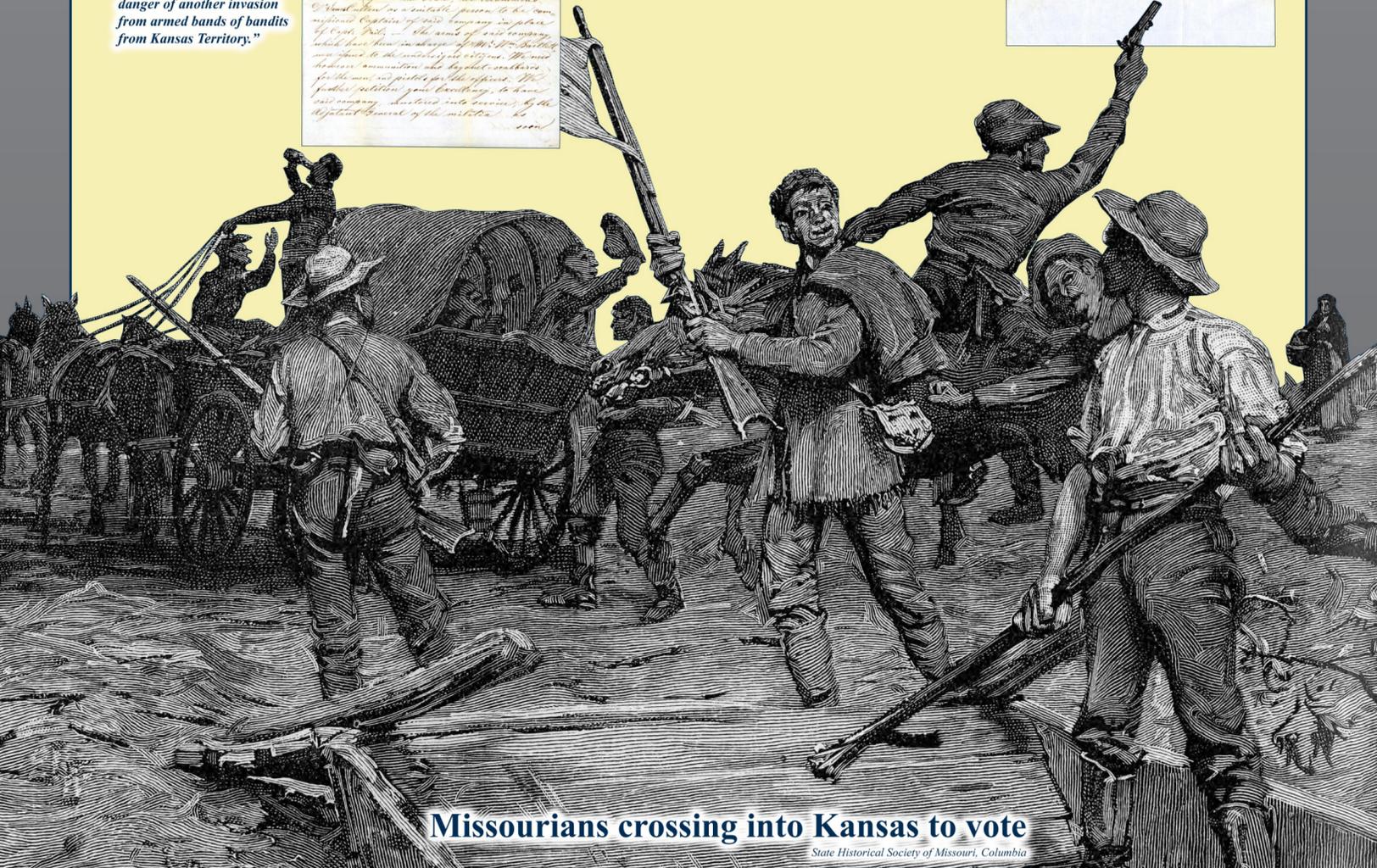
Governor Robert Stewart to Missouri Adjutant General Gustavus A. Parsons, ordering troops to the Missouri Kansas border, November 28, 1860.
Missouri State Archives



Missouri Adjutant General Gustavus A. Parsons to Governor Robert Stewart, on the conditions he found upon his arrival in western Missouri, December 2, 1860.
Missouri State Archives

"We are imminently in danger of another invasion from armed bands of bandits from Kansas Territory."

"You will repair with the least possible delay to the scene of trouble on the Southwestern border of our State."



Missourians crossing into Kansas to vote
State Historical Society of Missouri, Columbia

1854 - 1860