

## National Kansas Relief Committee, Minutes

This document details the minutes of three meetings of the Kansas Relief Committee, otherwise known as the National Kansas Committee, held in 1856 on June 9th, June 21st, and June 26th. It also includes information about the membership of this emigrant aid company. The first of these meetings adopted resolutions to aid the plight of free-state settlers in Kansas Territory. Furthermore, the members of the committee decided to establish five thousand settlers in Kansas Territory and to give them a year's worth of provisions.

Creator: National Kansas Committee

Date: June 9, 1856 - June 26, 1856

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Kan. Hist. Soc. 28661

Thaddeus Hyatt.

*A Meeting was held on the 9th. of June 1856 at the Broadway Tabernacle to raise funds in aid of the suffering and persecuted friends of Freedom in Kansas. At this meeting the following resolutions were offered*

Resolved, That we have watched with painful interest the progress of events in Kansas, and that we sympathize with the President to interpose his authority for the protection of the Free State settlers from the lawless outrages of the invading slaveholders and their auxiliaries, recently collected by Major Ruford in the western state states. (Applause.)  
Resolved, That should the government persist in its refusal to protect the peaceful pioneers of Kansas against their oppressors and plunderers, they will be fully justified in protecting and defending themselves; but we entreat them to forbear to the last possible moment, and only stand on the defense when in choice as betwixt them resistance and enslavement. (Tremendous cheering.)  
Resolved, That it is the duty of Congress at once to pass a law which will prevent the packing of Grand Jurors by United States Marshals bent on indicting innocent citizens for high treason, and on the destruction of private property under pretense of law. (Cheers.)  
Resolved, That we proceed to manifest our sympathy for the suffering freemen of Kansas by furnishing them with material aid. (Cheers.) and that Samuel B. Haggles, Theodore McNamee, Thaddeus Hyatt, Hec Lockwood and C. S. Francis be appointed a committee to receive and apply funds contributed for that purpose.  
The resolutions were adopted.

*On motion, Henry A. Chittenden was added to the Committee and also appointed Treasurer.*

*By a subsequent resolution the following twenty five gentlemen were appointed by the Chair a Committee for collecting funds.*

*The Committee of Twenty-five. The following named gentlemen have been appointed to compose the Committee, which the Chairman of the meeting on Monday evening was authorized to appoint. It was made their duty to solicit subscriptions in aid of Kansas:*

William C. Bryant,	James H. Titus,
Geo. H. Adams,	William C. H. Noyes,
Henry J. Raymond,	Gerardus Boyer,
Charles A. Dana,	Charles H. Marshall,
Jonathan I. Collington,	James W. Nye,
William Kent,	Edmund M. Young,
Robert Emmet,	Milton St. John,
William M. Evans,	Edgar Ketchum,
J. W. Edmonds,	Dexter Fairbanks,
Joseph H. Cox,	Charles Partridge,
David Dudley Field,	E. D. Coker,
Moses H. Grinnell,	Charles W. Elliott,
	William Allen Butler,

*Samuel B. Haggles and C. S. Francis having declined serving on the Committee of Six, at a meeting of the said Committee held at the store of Women & McNamee Nos 112 & 114 Broadway on Saturday Morning June 21st at 11 P. M. Edgar Ketchum Esq and Charles A. Dana were elected to fill such vacancies.*

*On motion of Hec Lockwood, Thaddeus Hyatt was elected Chairman and Secretary of the Committee.*

*The Treasurer reported the receipt of the following*



## Contributions

Cash collected at the	100	W. E. Smith	25	00
Balance	100	W. E. Smith	25	00
Milton W. John	100	W. E. Smith	25	00
C. R. Smith	100	W. E. Smith	25	00
Charles Patton	100	W. E. Smith	25	00
H. A. Christensen	100	W. E. Smith	25	00
H. Amey	100	W. E. Smith	25	00
John A. Co.	100	W. E. Smith	25	00
Charles Patton	100	W. E. Smith	25	00
M. A. K. K. K.	100	W. E. Smith	25	00
Charles Patton	100	W. E. Smith	25	00
J. A. Smith	100	W. E. Smith	25	00
Edgar K. K.	100	W. E. Smith	25	00
A. Christensen	100	W. E. Smith	25	00
John A. Co.	100	W. E. Smith	25	00
T. L. Berry	100	W. E. Smith	25	00
Oscar P. K.	100	W. E. Smith	25	00
T. K. K.	100	W. E. Smith	25	00
George O. K.	100	W. E. Smith	25	00
James J. Van A.	100	W. E. Smith	25	00
Wm. L. K.	100	W. E. Smith	25	00
Robt. K.	100	W. E. Smith	25	00
M. K. K.	100	W. E. Smith	25	00
J. E. K.	100	W. E. Smith	25	00
Wm. K.	100	W. E. Smith	25	00
Wm. K.	100	W. E. Smith	25	00
A. M. K.	100	W. E. Smith	25	00
M. K. K.	100	W. E. Smith	25	00
Richard K.	100	W. E. Smith	25	00
Total	100	W. E. Smith	25	00

The Treasurer reported the following disbursements which were approved by the Committee - viz:

To Mr Eldridge of the Lawrence Hotel at Lawrence.

for expenses connected with the Cause \$ 20.00

P. Broadway Tabernacle for 9th inst — \$100.00

Sent Draft to Mr. Gabel of the New  
 Haven Settlement Co at New Haven, Conn. } \$ 100.00

On motion, the Treasurer was requested to notify the Collecting Committee that the Disbursing Committee were waiting to receive their Report and the Treasurer was prepared to receive whatever contributions had passed into their hands.

The Committee then adjourned.

26.<sup>th</sup> June. Thursday Morning 10<sup>o</sup> 0<sup>o</sup> clock

Committee met at the Office of Edgar Litchum.  
Age 79. Napan M. J. M. Namee & C. H. Dana  
absent.

Gov. Keeler - Eli Thayer of Worcester & Mr. Peppan of the Albany Committee were present with the Committee to advise with respect to distributing the funds. Gov. Keeler expressed his views substantially

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as follows. viz:

Establish 5000 armed settlers on the soil of Kansas: and provision them for one year. To effect this, organize a fund of \$2.000.000 in the hands of a National Central Committee with their head quarters at Chicago. Committee to consist of 5 citizens of Chicago - 3 of Kansas and one from each State.

Each State to be thoroughly organized by State, County & Town organizations. All monies collected to be paid into the Chicago Treasury excepting such sums as the various branches might expend in direct efforts for the cause. No Salaries to exist. The whole work to be one of undiluted patriotism.

The Chicago route to open <sup>communication</sup> ~~road~~ through the southern portion of Iowa from Iowa City to a point on the Mississippi river opposite Nebraska City and from there diagonally across the south eastern portion of Nebraska to Topeka in Kansas. The greater portion of this route is already open being a good post road. Arrangements are being made with the Iowa Stage Co. for a line of stages, packs and wagons, sufficient to accommodate the emigration.

The plan is to abandon the Mississippi valley as a place accursed. Have no dealings whatever with them. & hire

their Steamers, river & places of business entirely. Proclaim to the world that the Mississippi river is infested with pirates and wholly unsafe ~~and~~ as a highway of travel. Let it be known that organized bands of ruffians board the Steamers - demand the Register and spot such of the passengers as they deem unsound - ransack the vessel and open packages of merchandise and ~~and~~ <sup>despoil</sup> all the free state emigrants & forcibly expel



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