

## Augustus Wattles to Thaddeus Hyatt

This letter, written from New York by Augustus Wattles, was addressed to Thaddeus Hyatt, president of the National Kansas Committee. The main focus of the letter was on two proslavery men--Captain Doake and General Clark--who persisted in mistreating free state settlers along the Missouri-Kansas border. The letter also referred to Charles Jennison and to James Montgomery, whose band of free state militiamen was still active even into 1860. Wattles vehemently maintained that free state forces were only organizing for their own protection, not for a great insurrection as the Missourians believed.

Creator: Wattles, Augustus, 1807-1876

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Augustus Wattles to Thaddeus Hyatt

Wattles, Augustus  
Kan. Hist. Soc. 28961  
Thaddeus Hyatt.

New York Dec. 3, 1860

Dear Hyatt

I wish you to know  
that the Capt. Doake  
who is mentioned in the telegr-  
aph dispatches this morning  
from Missouri, as raising  
men to defend ~~the state~~  
against Montgomery, is a  
brother in law of the notori-  
ous Gen. Clark who killed  
Bowie, in 1855 near Lawrence  
Doake lived <sup>at Lexington</sup> ~~there~~ at that  
time, and left on the defeat  
of that party. He & Clark  
went into Texas, Arkansas  
and Southern Missouri &



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raised an army ~~of men~~  
who came into Kansas in  
the summer of 1856 and drove  
every free state settler out of  
Bourbon & Lynn counties,  
and confiscated their property  
The cattle & horses were sold  
at public auction in Missouri  
and the money divided mostly  
amongst the officers.

The claims of the free state  
settlers were also confiscated  
and sold or otherwise  
occupied by men of the ~~slave~~  
~~own~~ party. This was particularly  
the case on the Little Osage  
river. In the winter & spring  
of 1857 the free state settlers

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returned to their homes & finding them occupied, proceeded, to eject the occupants, and re-establish themselves again. This led to a strife which has kept the country in a turmoil for the last three years. Mr Doak has been several times into Kansas & committed unlawful acts. Last year he came with a company and arrested a man <sup>by the name of Wright</sup> in Kansas, without any process of law & put him in a Missouri jail. I have always understood him to be a disunionist. I know Mr Brackett, the Hamiltons & others of his associates were.



Augustus Wattles to Thaddeus Hyatt

The old cry of insurrection  
~~When~~ they are defeated is  
 familiar to all. How can  
 Kansas be in insurrection  
 against Mo? <sup>The story is intended</sup> ~~It is simply~~  
 to raise an excitement to blind  
 the country to the great outrage  
 against the settlers in selling  
 their farms ~~against~~ the present  
 Land Sale.

Montgomery has no 1000 men  
 nor 500 men, nor any number  
 of men from abroad. It is simply  
 such a combination of  
 settlers to protect their property  
 against speculators as has  
 been common at every land  
 sale in the free territories  
 for these twenty or thirty years.  
 This combination is formidable  
 only to those who are intending wrong



There settlers cannot pay  
for their claims, and the  
President, as I understand,  
advised them to combine for  
their mutual protection.  
They have done so, But as  
this breaks up the plan  
of ~~aiding~~ ~~the~~ southern  
Kansas of free State settlers  
it is called an insurrection  
and Capt. Montgomery &  
others are charged with  
crime, and Gen. Harney is  
sent with the U.S. army  
to arrest them. All this  
is to cripple the free state  
~~and~~ by depriving the settlers





of their human, & thus  
removing ~~the~~ one great  
obstacle to the making  
of a new slave state out  
of Southern Kansas & the  
Cherokee country.

The country is greatly  
improved upon by the  
reports from Mo.

The poor settlers who ~~are~~  
have been burnt out by  
the government officials  
& those who are moving  
from Texas are now in  
that vicinity, & there added  
to the settlers who expect to  
be sold out, make a  
very formidable army  
against the oppressors,  
and there compose it.

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The worst will happen  
before we reach them, so  
far as a collision is  
concerned

Mr Demin and I  
have done pretty well today.  
We cannot have the  
Cooper Institute on Thursday  
night, so the plan is to  
put off the meeting till  
next week.

Most truly yours  
Augustus Wattles