

## Charles Robinson to Amos Adams Lawrence

Transcription of a letter from the Amos Adams Lawrence Collection, Massachusetts Historical Society. Charles Robinson wrote from Kansas Territory to Amos A. Lawrence in Massachusetts. Robinson recounted to Lawrence the recent discussion of the new settlement's name, believing "Wakarusa" to be inappropriate and rejecting the names of Eastern cities already in existence. There appeared to be unanimous support for the name "Lawrence", which had fallen into common use, though it had not been officially adopted. Robinson advised Lawrence that a naming committee would be in contact with him soon to give him formal notice of the adoption of "Lawrence" as the settlement's official name.

Creator: Robinson, Charles, 1818-1894

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## Charles Robinson to Amos Adams Lawrence

Private

Lawrence, K. T. Oct. 16, 1854.

A. A. Lawrence Esq.

Dear Sir

Yours of the 30th ult. is received. With regard to our name and your recommendation, your letter came too late to influence the action of the citizens. The name of "Wakarusa" is inappropriate, as our city is not situated on the river by that name; besides, the interpretation of it is not often given in the most modest way. It is said to mean "~~not up~~ to the middle",

A letter from Mr. Thayer was received some time since, offering a library on behalf of the citizens of Worcester, if the city would be called by that name, but our people are nearly unanimous in their opposition to the names of eastern or other cities for our city. We prefer to be the first of the name, or of a family, than to be inferior, <sup>or</sup> second to another of the same name. I think I was the first to suggest your name for the city, although I have never urged it at all, as I wished every person to be satisfied in his own mind. From the time the name was proposed there has been, ~~no~~ appearance, no objection or opposition to it, although I

Have delayed the final action upon it as long as I could, that any such opposition might manifest itself, if it existed. Most of our people are very much attached to it, & after I explained your course[?] in connection with our enterprize, & your personal characteristics, as they have been exhibited to me, there was much enthusiasm manifested, & I think it will be impossible to induce our people to change the name of their city for any considerations, unless it should be objectionable to you, which I hope will not be the case, as I am very much attached to the name, for more reasons than one, as you may be aware. So much of your letter as referred to the name of the city, has been read to <sup>our</sup> ~~the~~ people, but they are all the more attached to the name on account of it. A committee has been chosen to give you formal notice of the naming of the city, with Rev. Mr. Lum for chairman. You will doubtless hear from them soon, so you will not take this in any other light than a

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Robinson to Lawrence, Oct. 16, 1854.

very private chat. I must ask pardon for the freedom I have used, & for the haste in which I have written; but my cares must be <sup>my</sup> ~~an~~ apology in part. [M].

With the highest Esteem

I am ever yours most truly

C. Robinson.