

Charles Robinson to Amos Adams Lawrence

Transcription of a letter from the Amos Adams Lawrence Collection, Massachusetts Historical Society. Charles Robinson wrote from a town of Medford, presumably in New England, to Amos A. Lawrence in Boston regarding relief efforts for Kansas. Robinson discussed the formation of a committee at Lawrence, which would "ascertain the objects of charity & minister to their necessities." He also described other relief efforts being carried out at the local level, which Robinson believed to be more effective than using nonresident disbursing agents or traveling solicitors.

Creator: Robinson, Charles, 1818-1894

Date: November 15, 1860

Callnumber: History University of Kansas #651 Box 1 Folder 1

KSHS Identifier: DaRT ID: 3683

Item Identifier: 3683

www.kansasmemory.org/item/3683

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Charles Robinson to Amos Adams Lawrence

Medford Nov. 15 1860

Dear Sir

In answer to your enquiries I would state that the destitute districts in Kansas are organized for purposes of relief, each locality having its committee for the purpose of ascertaining the objects of charity & ministering to their necessities. Such a committee has been appointed at Lawrence consisting of the clerymen of the different denominations in the place. This committee agrees to correspond with other committees, ascertain the wants of the needy & supply them so far as may be in their power & keep an account of all their proceedings, of all receipts & expenditures, & agrees to charge nothing for their services. The merchants of Lawrence agree to sell provisions & goods of all kinds on the orders of this committee at cost including freights. At a meeting of the citizens of Lawrence the matter of relief was fully discussed and it was unanimously agreed that the above method was the best & most economical way of affording relief to the destitute. Past experience has shown that nonresident disbursing agents are very expensive besides giving very general dissatisfaction to the destitute. Also it is believed that but a comparatively small portion of the charities contributed to travelling solicitors from Kansas or ~~persons~~ persons pretending to be from them ever reaches the needy in the Territory. My belief is that the surest way of reaching the destitute is through the Lawrence committee or a committee similarly constituted in the territory. The committee at Lawrence can be reached by addressing Rev. Richard Cordley, Rev. Chalres Reynolds or Hon. Geo. W. Deitzler, mayor.

Very Respectfully

[Signed] C. Robinson

Hon. A. A. Lawrence,
Boston