

Emigration to Kansas Territory

This printed letter, written by A. Havington Shurtleff, agent for the New York State Kansas Aid Society, provided twenty points of information about traveling to Kansas Territory as part of four emigrant companies organized to depart from Buffalo, New York, for the Kansas Territory.

Creator: Shurtleff, A. Havington

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DEAR SIR:—To your inquiries, I can only send you the following general answers:

1. Companies will leave Bennett's Hotel, Buffalo, for Kansas, in the following order:

No. 1, March 15, 1857 No. 2, April 1, 1857. No. 3, April 15, 1857. No. 4, May 5, 1857.

Each Company will be attended by gentlemen familiar with Kansas and the routes, who will conduct them there and assist in locating. I shall go April first.

2. The advantages of going in our Companies, are Cheap Fare, Good Society, and Aid to find good Locations.

3. Our Company will be composed of families, single ladies and gentlemen.

4. All who desire to join us, should send their name to me for each ticket wanted, stating the time they will start.

5. We go the Chicago & St. Louis route by Rail Road and Steamboat. Early trains need not fear molestation from Border Ruffians.

6. All kind of laborers can find employment at high wages, especially mechanics.

7. \$200 is the least a man with a family should start with, and \$40 for a single man.

8. We shall have first-class fare, costing about \$25 from Buffalo to Leavenworth, K. T. This includes good cars, cabin passage up the river, and 100 pounds of baggage. Extra baggage \$2 per cwt. Children under 12 years half price and fifty pounds baggage. Under 4 years, free.

9. Freight should be boxed strong, marked plain, and directed as follows: "Mr.

Leavenworth, Kansas Territory, care of *Mr. [unclear] not determined yet*
St. Louis. Shurtleff's Kansas Party." It will then go safe, and cost from \$5 to \$7 per cwt. It should be sent by the first of March.

10. The Aid Societies do not intend to aid emigrants only in cheap fare, to locate, and to influence capitalists to loan money to such as cannot pay for their claims.

11. I do not think there will be any trouble to loan money to pay for any number of claims in Kansas, by giving mortgages on them.

12. There is no better country for capitalists than Kansas. Interest is high, security good, land cheap, and opportunities to make large fortunes out of town sites.

13. March or April is the best time to go. Take nothing but Beds, Bedding, Clothing, Mechanic's Tools, Money, and Land Warrants, issued before or after 1850. I advise to go with the March Company.

14. It will take about a week to perform the trip.

15. You can locate near villages, where Schools and Meetings are convenient. Timber or Prairie Claims can be obtained, or parts of each, at \$1.25 per acre.

16. Most of the lands in Eastern Kansas will be sold this season.

17. Our Company will mostly locate near Council City; but those going with us can locate where they please.

18. The Pre-emption Laws do not require a man to take his family on his claim.

19. For a description of Kansas, inclose five postage stamps to D. T. H. WEBB, Boston, Mass., *Mr. Webb*, and you will receive the "Kansas Emigrant;" or fifteen postage stamps to me, and I will send you the "Kansas Region," of 192 pages, by MAX GREEN, Esq. *Mr. Webb*

20. Kansas is as beautiful, as rich a soil, and as pleasant a climate as we have on the Western Continent.

A. HAVINGTON SHURILEFF,

Ag't New York State K. A. S.