

By the Kansas State Historical Society

## TERRITORIAL CHARACTER: CHARLES ROBINSON

**Charles Robinson was an important character in the fight to keep slavery out of Kansas. He became the state's first governor.**

### **What did Charles Robinson do before he came to Kansas?**

Charles Robinson was born in Massachusetts. He taught school and practiced medicine before going west to look for gold in California. On the way to the gold fields, Robinson passed through Kansas. He was impressed with the prairie.

While in California, Robinson supported successful efforts to keep slavery out of the state. He was elected to the California House of Representatives. He soon returned to Massachusetts and became a newspaper editor. He also married Sara Lawrence.

### **Why did he come to Kansas?**

The New England Emigrant Aid Company worked to attract freestate settlers to Kansas Territory. Charles Robinson was the leader of the first Emigrant Aid Company group to settle in the territory. He established its headquarters in Lawrence. Lawrence became a center for free-state activities.

"Gov. Robinson's Polka" was written to show support for Robinson when he was in jail. It was played at a concert in Massachusetts.

### GOV. ROBINSON'S POLKA.

ANDREW WHITNEY.

