

Notes (Feb, 2005) from:

The Provisional Government of Nebraska Territory
And The Journals of William Walker, Provisional Governor of Nebraska Territory
Edited by William E. Connelley, 1899

Date	Comment
1804	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Louisiana Purchase included areas of modern day Kansas & Nebraska 2. Area split up over the years and states created
1844	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. KS & NE of today was "Indian Territory" (only whites were tribal members, government personnel, missionaries – no settlers allowed) 2. Secretary of War recommended organization of Territorial Government <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Introduced Bill in Dec 1844 to Congress. b. Bill went through committees c. Bill amended January 1845 and referred to the Committee of the Whole on the State of the Union d. No action taken
1848-50	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. April 24, 1848 – Senator Steven Douglass introduced bill for organization of Nebraska Territory (both modern day Kansas and Nebraska was in this territory) 2. No action 3. Next: Movement by people in territory to establish territorial government 4. Leading tribes in the area: Wyandots, Delawares, Shawnees, Miami, Kickapoos <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Men of education and influence b. Knew value of land and settlement c. Knew a great highway to Pacific Ocean must be in the future d. Indian tribes moved for organization of territory with Wyandots at the head of the movement e. Council Fire at Ft. Leavenworth (1848) – Wyandot Nation at Head of Confederacy 5. Colonel Thomas H. Benton introduces his bill for the location and construction of a "great national highway" – Benton believed the mouth of the KS River would become a great commercial center 6. Senator Atchison opposed Benton
1851	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Fall of 1851-52 and Spring of 1852 – 32nd Congress – People (Indians) petitioned to establish a Territorial Government in the Territory of Nebraska 2. No response to petition
1852	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. People (Indians) decide to elect a delegate to send to last session of 32nd Congress in winter of 1852-53 2. October 12 – Wyandot Nation Council House – Elect a delegate to Congress from Nebraska Territory (although the people refer to it as the Nebraska Territory, it is not officially so as not passed by Congress at this time) – Abelard Guthrie elected delegate <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Officers <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. Judges: Geo I. Clark, Samuel, Priestly, Matthew R. Walker ii. Clerks: William Walker, Benjamin N. C. Anderson iii. Persons Voting: Charles B. Garrett, Isaac Baker, Jose Antonio Pieta, Henry C. Norton, Abelard Guthrie, Henry C. Long, Cyrus Garrett, Francis Cotter, Edward B. Hand, Francis A. Hicks, Russell Garrett, Samuel Rankin, Nicholas Cotter, Joel W. Garrett, Isaac Long, Thomas Coon-Hawk, Jacob Charloe, William Walker, George I. Clark, Benjamin N. C. Anderson, Matthew R. Walker, Samuel Priestly, Henry Garrett, William Gibson, Presley Muir, Joel Walker, Isaac Brown, Jas. Long,

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	<p style="text-align: center;">Jno. Lynch, William Trowbridge, John W. Ladd, Daniel McNeal, Edward Fifer, Peter D. Clark and Henry W. Porter</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Met with opposition from US Government representatives who were in the area 4. Drew attention of Interior Dept and threat of military force to prevent white people from occupying any portion of Territory - Opposition inspired by Senator Atchison of Missouri 5. After election, opposition changed tactics <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Called for delegate election at Ft. Leavenworth b. Barnow selected to oppose/defeat Guthrie in subsequent election or to contest the seat if Territory organized and Guthrie admitted as delegate 6. Two opposing/hostile factions in Democratic party in Missouri <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Colonel Thomas H. Benton, Willard P. Hall, Frank P. Blair, Jr. and the St. Louis Republican <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. Moderation ii. Rights of slavery under existing laws without effort to extend in by the repeal of the MO Compromise iii. Organization of Nebraska Territory b. Senator William C. Price of Springfield <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. Radical and aggressive ii. In favor of all matters and measures put forward by the slave power of the South 7. November 20, 1852 – Abelard Guthrie leaves for Washington, D.C. 8. December 9 – Walker informed by Guthrie that Willard P. Hall had prepared a bill for organization of the Territory of the Platte <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. South boundary – thirty-sixth degree and thirty minutes b. North boundary – forty-third degree c. West boundary – summit of the Rocky Mountains (included part of modern Colo.) d. East boundary – Missouri 9. December 13th – Mr. Hall introduced bill – was referred to Committee on Territories <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Bill never reported by Committee
1853	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. February 2 – William A. Richardson of IL reported a bill with the same boundaries as Hall's bill 2. Opposition from Southern members and reported back to House with rejection recommended 3. February 10 – Bill pass the House by a vote of 98 to 43 4. February 11 – Senate referred Bill to the Committee on Territories, Steven A. Douglass was Chairman 5. February 17 – Mr. Douglas reported the bill without amendment 6. Several unsuccessful efforts were made to have it taken up. 7. Congressional term would expire March 4 8. Bill did not pass at this time, but Mr. Guthrie accomplished the objective sought in his election – consideration of the question of the organization of Nebraska Territory 9. Bill deferred to next session of Congress
1853	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Another factor entering into movement: Fixing of the location of the line of the railroad to be built between the Pacific Ocean and the Missouri River <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Iowa wanted initial point on her western border b. Missouri said the valley of the KS River was the logical, most central, practicable point c. The North favored Council Bluff as the starting point d. The South felt the mouth of the KS River was the better location to start 2. Determination to organize the Provisional Government of Nebraska in the interest of

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	<p>the "Central Route" made it necessary that the meeting be held in the Council House of the Wyandot Nation (formerly a schoolhouse at 4th & Nebraska)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. July 26, 1853 – Meeting at Wyandot Nation Council House b. Organized by appointment of Wm. P. Birney of Delaware, President, and Wm. Walker, Secy. c. A committee appointed to prepare resolutions expressive of the sense of the meeting. James Findley, Dyer and Silas Armstrong were appointed. d. <i>"In accordance with the resolutions adopted, the following officers were elected as a provisional government for the Territory: For provisional Governor, Wm. Walker, Sec'y of the Territory, G. I. Clark; Councilmen, R. C. Miller, Isaac Mundy, and M. R. Walker."</i> e. "Resolutions adopted expressive of the Convention's preference of the Great Central Rail Road Rout." f. "A. Guthrie, late delegate was nominated as the Candidate for reelection. Adjourned." g. No boundaries were fixed – matter granted that the Territory included the same area as defined in Hall and Richardson bills.
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. First duty of new government – call the election for Delegate 2. Rev. Thomas Johnson (pro-slavery) entered the nominations (Price-Atchison Democracy) 3. Commissioner of Indian affairs came to territory and personally influenced emigrant tribes to vote for Johnson 4. Wyandots were outraged by the action of the Commissioner of Indian Affairs but they could do nothing else other than submit without protest 5. Abelard Guthrie filed a contest for the seat of Delegate and vigorously attacked the Indian 6. Commissioner 7. Fight became bitter – Guthrie became convinced the slave power would organize two Territories, making one slave and one free <p>The cause of the failure of the Provisional Government of Nebraska Territory to secure recognition from the US Government was the division of the Territory it represented into two separate Territories by the Kansas-Nebraska bill. Governor Walker says in his journal notes that "the provisional government of Nebraska continued in existence till after the organization by Congress of the two Territories and the arrival of A. H. Reeder, the first Governor of Kansas."</p> <p>What did this movement for the organization of Nebraska Territory accomplish? It forced the 33rd Congress to action. (The Wyandot Nation spearheaded the movement to organize the territory in what is modern-day Kansas. They would also be an integral part of the formation of the Wyandott Constitution and the State of Kansas.)</p> <p>The Constitution of the Provision Government of Nebraska Territory – adopted at the Wyandot Nation Council House on July 26, 1853 – was the first State Paper of Kansas and Nebraska.</p> <p>May 30, 1854 – Kansas-Nebraska Act organized the Territories of Kansas and Nebraska</p> <p>And now begins the real fight – "bleeding Kansas" and the fight for statehood. Free or pro-slavery?</p>

Notes taken by Patricia Adams