

Henry Clay Pate

Henry Clay Pate led the Pro-slavery men at Black Jack. The son of a slaveholding family in Bedford County, Virginia, Pate had come west to promote the Pro-Slavery cause in Kansas Territory. He was later killed while fighting for the Confederacy at the Battle of Yellow Tavern near Richmond, Virginia in May, 1864.



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Henry Clay Pate led the Pro-Slavery men at Black Jack. Born in 1832 to a slaveholding family in Bedford County, Virginia, Pate came to Westport (later Kansas City), Missouri in April, 1855 in order to promote the Pro-Slavery cause in Kansas Territory.

*I went to
take Old
Brown,
but Old
Brown
took me.*

Henry Clay Pate,
on the encounter
at Black Jack.

Soon after arriving in Westport, Pate started his own newspaper to promote the Southern cause. From Westport, he joined various forays of Pro-Slavery militia into Kansas Territory. Pate was a leader in the sacking of Lawrence in the spring of 1856. Later that year, he encountered Brown and his Free-State men at Black Jack.

Pate joined the Confederate Army at the outbreak of the Civil War in 1861 and rose to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. He was killed while serving under General J.E.B. Stuart at the Battle of Yellow Tavern, Virginia, in May, 1864.