

E508

.6

6th



E 508

.6

6th

Copy 1

96-15310

THE SOLDIERS OF KANSAS.

---

The Sixth Kansas Cavalry and  
its Commander.

---

AN ADDRESS BY  
CHARLES E. CORY.

---

Reprinted from Collections Kansas Historical Society, Vol. XI, 1909-'10.

## *Nothing but Flags.*

COMRADES! Salute the battle-torn colors in memory of those who fought and died with them that the nation might live!

“Nothing but flags!” but simple flags!  
Tattered and torn, and hanging in rags;  
And we walk before them in careless tread,  
Nor think of the hosts of the mighty dead  
Who have marched beneath in the days gone by,  
With a burning cheek and a kindling eye,  
And have bathed these folds with their life’s young tide,  
And in dying were blest, and with blessings died!

“Nothing but flags!” Yet methinks at night  
They tell each other their tales of fright!  
Dim specters come; and their arms entwine  
’Round each standard torn, as they stand in line.  
As the word is given, they charge! they form!  
And these corridors ring with the battle storm!  
And once again, through the smoke and strife,  
These colors lead on for the nation’s life!

“Nothing but flags!” Yet they’re bathed in tears;  
They tell of triumph; of hopes and fears;  
Of a mother’s prayers for a boy away;  
Of a serpent crushed; of the coming day!  
Silent they speak; and the tears will start,  
As we stand beneath them with throbbing heart,  
And we think of those who are ne’er forgot!  
Their flags come home; why come they not?

“Nothing but flags!” Yet we hold our breath,  
And gaze with awe at these types of death!  
They are nothing but flags; yet the thought will come:  
The heart must pray, though the lips be dumb!  
They are sacred and pure! We can see no stain  
On these dear loved flags come home again!  
Baptized in blood, our purest, best;  
Tattered and torn, they are now at rest!

—Anon.

[Compiled by B. B. Smythe, company K, Ninth Michigan infantry, and troop A, First United States cavalry (dragoons), and dedicated with the love of a private soldier to the regimental flags of the Kansas volunteer soldiers, now exhibited in a special steel case in the rooms of the Kansas State Historical Society.]

D. of D.

JAN 3 1918

8.9.13 Dec 7 18

## *The Sixth Kansas Cavalry and its Commander.*

An address by CHARLES E. CORY,<sup>1</sup> of Fort Scott, before the Kansas State Historical Society,  
at its Thirty-third annual meeting, December 1, 1908.

THE Western cavalry in the war of the Rebellion had a peculiar duty. The distances were great. The commands were not situated as Longstreet's and Lee's and Meade's and McClellan's and Hooker's and Grant's armies were. The military forces in the West, on both sides, were comparatively small bodies. Between the points of operation would be a day's march, or two days' march, instead of an hour's march or possibly two hours' march, as it was in the East. The cavalry was of immensely more importance in the West than in the East, although of great importance there. If a blow was to be struck on the James or Shenandoah it could be done in a surprisingly short time—surprisingly in more ways than one. Stonewall Jackson or Sheridan might be reported in bivouac at sundown, and might strike a vicious blow at dawn. In the West, however, it might take two, or three, or five days' riding. They were away apart. The mortality in the West was greater in proportion to the number engaged, though the total mortality was much less. The percentage of mortality in Kansas regiments in battle was greater than that of any other state, although the actual number of deaths was smaller. For instance, there were more men killed in three hours at each of the battles of Chickamauga, Cold Harbor, Fredericksburg and Gettysburg than were killed in any battle, however long, on any field west of the Mississippi. There were more men killed at Chickamauga in three hours than were killed during the whole Spanish-American and Philippine wars. The number of men engaged in those Eastern battles was greater. The fight itself was fiercer. The battle field casualties were greater.

My statement does not belittle the services of the army in the West, nor does it belittle the glory that attaches to our soldiers in Cuba and the Philippines. Those boys that went to the later war did their duty. They did all that was asked of them, and did it with alacrity, faithfulness and bravery. They did it well; but there was not so much to do. Our young men in the Philippines were not fighting with fighters. They were fighting with brigands and cutthroats, and cutthroats are always cowards. They had no such contests as occurred, for instance, at Fredericksburg, where after the battle a man might walk three-quarters of a mile and stand on a soldier's body at every step. Nor were they fighting with such men as Meade met at Gettysburg, where Pickett's Virginians and Carolinians went across the open plains in the face of 35,000 infantry and a thousand cannon,

NOTE 1.—See sketch of CHARLES ESTABROOK CORY, page 229, volume 7. Kansas Historical Collections, and a paper written by him, entitled "Slavery in Kansas." In volume 8 he also had a paper, "The Osage Ceded Lands," page 187. Mr. Cory obtained the facts in this paper relative to the life and service of Colonel Jewell from his family, and from conversations with private soldiers and others who served under him.



and were slashed down like timber before the cyclone—and then reformed and came on again! Nerve near omnipotent! They were not against a force like Thomas met at Chickamauga, who stood and fought until they were decimated. These last men I have mentioned were fighting their brothers, of the same blood, while the men in the Spanish and Philippine wars were against men who were not fighters. The enemy believed in the wisdom of the adage that “he who fights and runs away shall live to fight another day.”

The men in the West in the Civil War did not differ in the same way from the men in the East. The difference in the Civil War was not in the kind of people, but only in the conditions surrounding them. The Western forces were smaller. The distances were greater. The men were just as combative, just as brave, had the same virile strength and nerve on each side, but the blood letting was less because the opportunity was less. The Eastern armies were close together. In the West the bands of fighters were far apart.

Let me illustrate: Suppose Longstreet or Jackson in Virginia had taken a fancy to strike Boston. Suppose Sheridan had taken a fancy to strike Charleston. That would be about on a par with Gen. Sterling Price’s swift jump from the Indian Territory to hit Colonel Mulligan at Lexington, Mo. The Eastern armies could not dream of such a thing, but in the West such dashes were common.

In such conditions as this it was natural that the cavalry should be the most useful branch of the army. It could hit a sudden blow at a distance, where the infantry would be powerless, although both equally willing and equally ready. The Sixth Kansas cavalry was probably better constituted than any other Western cavalry regiment to perform this kind of duty. Its members were to the man born. They were on their own ground. They were accustomed to frontier life. They knew what cowardice on the battle field meant, for in a fratricidal war they had a keener perception of the dangers of shirking on the field than did the Eastern men, although they were not a bit more ready to fight. The Eastern soldier, north or south, was from a community all Union or all Confederate. In the West it was not so.

The surroundings made the men to meet the case—manufactured them. Missouri for instance furnished very many regiments in the Confederate army; and yet, from the same neighborhoods where those regiments were raised there were also raised organizations of Union soldiers. A great number of the members of the Sixth Kansas cavalry were from Missouri, and went back to Missouri when the regiment was mustered out. They are there now—and have forgotten. The other side has too. In a kindly spirit they strive to forget. They are brothers. In all my extended acquaintance with the soldiery of the '60's, I know of none who now have hate in their bosoms. The haters now were teamsters or coffee-coolers then.

Soldiers that are raised from such a community as I have described, where the people are all intelligent and brave, with some of the people on one side of the fighting line and some on the other, are not likely to draw very fine distinctions about the articles of war. It has been told that the bitterest quarrel is a church quarrel. It is not true. The bitterest of all is a family quarrel—brother against brother, cousin against cousin. The

problems are home to them. They are likely to pay more heed to routing or disabling the enemy than they are to the matter of observing what is regarded as correct among soldiers.

These men were not ruffians. I have the pleasure of knowing a hundred of them. They were simply soldiers in a very rough time and in rough surroundings. An instance: Years ago I knew private Charles H. Hosley, of the Sixth, one of the sunniest-hearted and kindest souls I ever met. He was a man who loved all humanity. If there ever was a real Christian gentleman he was one. Yet he was in the fiendish scrap at Cane Hill which I shall describe after a while, and did his part. We who live "safe at home, secure and warm," must not judge these people by our measure.

The punishment of the Western men was as much in the almost insufferable hardships that they underwent in the way of lack of clothing, lack of food, hard riding, hard marching, as it was in the actual work on the battle field. In all of these matters the cavalry very naturally bore the brunt. It is to the credit of the cavalry regiments in the far West that they always came up to the measure of their duty. They despised a leader with white blood as much as they hated a martinet or a bully. A really brave and competent general at Wilson Creek lost his life because he did n't know his men on this last point. He did not know them. They killed him.

#### THE LEADER.

A unique character was Lieut. Col. Lewis R. Jewell. He inherited from his life on the ancestral farm in Massachusetts the will and nerve that have helped so much to build up the West and the Middle West. Yet he was not a Yankee. Though his ancestors had been in Massachusetts from a time shortly after the Mayflower came, he himself took on the more rugged character of the West. An old portrait now in my office shows him with an incisely chiseled Yankee face. But his mental make-up was distinctively of the West. The old Jewell home was at Marlboro, Middlesex county, where the colonel himself was born. While a boy he had dreams and visions of a new world toward the setting sun. He was ambitious, and had an itching to become a part of it. So, with the consent of his parents, he fared westward, alone in the tiresome journey over the hills, and joined his uncle in Ohio. There, enjoying the benefits of good ordinary country schools and a devout Christian home life, he at the same time ran against the struggles which make the average Western man so nery in business and so fearless in war.

When in 1843 he married Susan Hutchinson, at Warren, Ohio, and had bought a little wagon load of household furniture, he had just four shillings left to begin home building. Before that time he had spent some years as a general sales agent for a large manufacturing concern; had for a short time engaged in mercantile business; had built, owned, and for a short time ran a steamboat on the Ohio and Mississippi.

I never saw him. He was a splendid, large, broad-shouldered, deep-chested man considerably over six feet high, of massive build, and, in the words of Patrick Gorman, one of his men, "with a voice clear down to his boots." On the word of Mrs. Jane H. Haynes, the widow of one of his captains, "He was a man who by his looks, conduct and action would command respect anywhere." When in action he used that voice with precision, force and elegance, but not with strict regard to the decalogue.

The call of the gold mines came to him in 1849. He went. The overland

journey with a wagon train, the toilsomeness and the cruel hardships of it, have been described by others so many times that the story is scarcely interesting.

Shortly afterward he left California and recrossed the mountains, and settled on a farm in the northeast corner of Crawford county, Kansas, in 1856, close to where Arcadia stands.

When the troubles on the border began, of course a man of his make-up was restless. He could not remain quietly at home when his neighbors were going to the front. A company was raised in his neighborhood, nearly all of the members being people who had just settled on raw prairie farms and were trying to make homes of them. On the formation of the company the soldiers very naturally looked for the most promising leader. Just as naturally their selection fell on Jewell. The Home Guards<sup>2</sup> were first organized at Fort Scott with three companies of infantry. When it was decided to enlarge the organization, with his little band Captain Jewell marched into Fort Scott and joined the regiment as Company D.

The Fort Scott Home Guards were a great organization. They were soldiers on their own motion. They guarded the border. They forced quiet where lawlessness had been. Wherever house-burnings or depredations occurred, a detachment of the Home Guards came right quickly. They by arms enforced peace.

September 9, 1861, the Home Guards were disbanded, and the Sixth Kansas cavalry<sup>3</sup> was organized from the three companies of the Guards and five new companies. Captain Jewell had shown himself worthy, and was elected and commissioned lieutenant colonel. He held his commission until his death. He was in actual command nearly all the time, though nominally Wm. R. Judson was colonel of the regiment. Judson was not a fighter, and it is probable that his selection as colonel was more on account of his prominence politically than on account of anything he had ever done or was expected to do as a soldier.

#### THE SIXTH KANSAS CAVALRY.

The Sixth Kansas cavalry was a somewhat peculiar organization; not entirely unique for a Western regiment, but different from most regiments of the United States army. For instance, a good proportion of the men rode their own horses. A part of the time half of them wore citizen's clothing. They had no other, and could get no other. They were not only most remarkable fighters, but they were also the finest foragers that ever went to war since the days of vandals. That is saying a good deal, because the Western armies in the Civil War on both sides scarcely needed a commissary train, and the words "conscience" and "property rights" were blotted out of their dictionary. In the graphic words of a soldier who talked to me the other day, not about the Sixth Kansas cavalry, however, "we had no commissary, and we took no prisoners."

The situation in which the Sixth Kansas was thrown was largely influential in making up the character of its service, and the character of its men as soldiers. The border of Missouri, Kansas, Indian Territory and Arkan-

---

NOTE 2.—This organization was known as the "Fort Scott Home Guards," also as "William R. Judson's Frontier Battalion."—List of Synonyms of Organizations in the Volunteer Service of the United States during the years 1861, '62, '63, '64, and '65, compiled by John T. Fallon, Washington, 1885, pp. 32, 33.

NOTE 3.—"Military History of the Sixth Kansas Cavalry," in Official Military History of Kansas Regiments. Leavenworth, W. S. Burke, 1870, p. 119.



sas, from Kansas City to Fort Gibson, say 300 to 350 miles, was a seething, hissing caldron. Noble L. Prentis called this region "Battle Corners."<sup>4</sup> He was tasteful in the selection of the word.

What was supposed to be the flower of the army, on both sides, was in the East. They did more bloody fighting, but here was the real punishment. The Sixth was a cavalry regiment. Its companies could move. They could go to a place. Two or three would be sent in one direction, a couple of companies in another direction, and possibly another portion in still another direction, to quiet local disturbances. They were doing continuous field police duty.

Its soldiers were what my friend Joe Ausman calls "roughnecks." My guess is that not half a dozen men in the regiment would at that time have known what a nightshirt was for if they had seen one. But they could live like princes on the lee side of a haystack on a winter night, or they could ride all night, over all sorts of roads, or no roads at all, and go into a skirmish in the morning like a bridegroom goes to his wedding. The hard frontier life had made them men of iron. They were not much to look at. They did not wear collars and cuffs and polished shoes at inspection, but they did business.

Then, their physical endurance! Nearly every one of the Sixth had ridden in prairie schooners or had tramped from Indiana or Illinois, or other Middle West states, and were accustomed to sleeping on the ground with nothing over them but a horse blanket and the sky, possibly the blanket omitted. They were ready for anything. They could hit the eye of a squirrel in the top of a tree. They had been trained on occasion to get their meat from the woods along the streams. They were hardy, and could stand any sort of punishment on a forced march. They could sleep in the saddle. That was the kind of people that made up the Sixth. The Sixth Kansas cavalry was up to the best of them. The people down Fort Scott way are proud to claim the Sixth as the Fort Scott regiment. It was really organized there, but the different parts came from a wide territory. The colonel, lieutenant colonel, major and surgeon were all Fort Scott people, but the companies came from places wide apart, some from as far west as Junction City.

#### THE BURNING OF FORT SCOTT—WHICH DID N'T HAPPEN.

A zealot is not so by education. He is born that way. If Luther, or Calvin, or Cromwell, or Sam Adams, or John Brown had not taken the particular trend they did they would still have been cranks, and would have moved the world on some other issue. James H. Lane—"Old Jim Lane," as his worshipers loved to call him—was a zealot. He had been a soldier in the Mexican war. He was a fighter. He had been a Democratic congressman from Indiana, but, coming early to Kansas, he was wise enough to discover that the inevitable ending of the border troubles would be that Kansas would be a free state. He promptly changed his political garments and became an ardent free-state man and later a Republican.<sup>5</sup> A new con-

NOTE 4.—"Battle Corners" forms the first chapter of Noble L. Prentis's book, *Kansas Miscellanies*, published at Topeka in 1889.

NOTE 5.—"No such distinction as 'Democrat' and 'Republican' were known in the early territorial days of trouble. An attempt to organize a National Democratic party, by such men as C. W. Babcock, Marcus J. Parrott, James H. Lane, James S. Emery, H. Miles Moore, and others of like prominence [in 1855] was denounced by the first territorial legislature as a 'measure fraught with more danger to the interest of the Proslavery party and to the Union

vert, if he is a born zealot, always goes to the extreme limit, and Lane did that. He took on an extreme hatred for anybody that even thought of making Kansas a slave state, although he himself had voted in Congress to repeal the Missouri compromise, the only shadowy promise Kansas had had of becoming a free state. He cared very little about methods. Webb Wilder says he was king in Kansas; and it was true. He left the United States senate, where he was serving as the first senator from Kansas, and called himself brigadier general. He got a sort of roving commission<sup>6</sup> from Washington. By some sort of necromancy he had command in the south-eastern corner of the state.

than any which has yet been agitated,' and they resolved 'that it is the duty of the Proslavery party, the Union-loving men of Kansas territory, to know but one issue, slavery,' and all others were held to be 'an ally of abolitionism and disunionism.' (Ho. Jour., 1855, p. 380.) The attempt to organize a National Democratic party was thus squeezed out, and simultaneously we find the men named above, and others of like belief and prominence, participating in the Big Springs convention. A Democratic meeting at Lawrence warned the Missourians not to come over and participate in elections. The Big Springs convention resolved, as against the action of the territorial legislature, 'that Democrats and Whigs, native and naturalized citizens may freely enter' into its movements 'without any sacrifice of their respective political creeds, but without forcing them as a test upon others,' and that 'when those issues may become vital as they are now dormant, it will be time enough to divide our organization by these tests, the importance of which we fully recognize in their appropriate sphere.' (Proc. Big Springs Convention, S. 6, 1855, p. 3.) And this is exactly what happened. After squatter sovereignty had settled the slavery question the Republican party was organized; and in all the bitterness of the past no man was ever heard to say that a Democrat, or Republican, or Whig did so and so, but invariably that a Missourian, a border ruffian, proslavery man or a free-state man was responsible."— Extract from letter of Sec'y George W. Martin to Gov. George W. Glick, March 8, 1904.

The following extracts bearing upon politics and parties in Kansas in the '50's are copied from a letter of Epaphroditus Ransom, receiver of the Osage land district at Fort Scott, to Lewis Cass, United States Secretary of State, dated at Fort Scott, March 25, 1858. A copy of the original manuscript, in the Lewis Cass collection of the Michigan Historical Society, was made for the Kansas State Historical Society by the secretary, Henry R. Pettengill, in May, 1908.

"At least three-fourths of the population of this territory are from the free states, and they are determined to make Kansas a free state. I think a *majority* of the free-state men here were originally Democrats, National Democrats. They have officiated and acted with Republicans here, the great body of them, for the reason that those opposed to that party organized *not* as a 'Democratic' but 'Proslavery' party. That drives nearly all the Northern Democrats into the ranks of our opponents.

"When I arrived in this territory, in January, 1857, the Democratic party, *as such*, had never been organized within it. A 'Proslavery' party only had been organized in opposition to the Antislavery or Republican party. At a convention of the Proslavery party, held soon after my arrival, I made great exertion to induce the National Democrats to drop their designation of 'Proslavery' and organize as a National Democratic party, upon the basis of the Cincinnati platform, and being invited to participate in the proceedings of the convention I addressed that body with what ability I possess in favor of such reorganization. After a stormy sitting of some days, the measure was adopted."

NOTE 6.—The following quotations from official documents are intended to outline the military service of James H. Lane in Kansas, from 1855 to 1864:

"HEADQUARTERS KANSAS VOLUNTEERS,  
September 12, 1856.

"To Lieutenant Richy: Having confidence in your courage and ability I do appoint you one of my aids. You will report yourself for duty without delay.—LANE, *Com'g.*"  
(Manuscript in collections of Historical Society.)

A free-state military organization was effected at a meeting held in Lawrence November 29, 1855. Dr. Chas. Robinson was made commander in chief and Col. Jas. H. Lane was placed second in command. (Wilder's Annals, 1886, p. 89.) The above appointment was intended for John Ritchie, of Topeka, lieutenant colonel of the Fifth Kansas cavalry in 1861, and colonel of the Second Indian Home Guards, March 28, 1862.

"HEADQUARTERS KANSAS MILITIA,  
December 17, 1857.

[P. B. Plumb.] "SIR—You are hereby notified of your appointment as aid-de-camp to the major general under the act entitled 'An act for the organization and regulation of the militia,' passed December 16, 1857.—J. H. LANE, *Maj. Gen'l.*"

(Copied from photograph of the collections of the Kansas State Historical Society, made from the original letter to P. B. Plumb, and presented by him to Geo. W. Martin.)

"HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF WASHINGTON,  
WASHINGTON, D. C., April 24, 1861.

"Gen. J. H. Lane and Maj. C. M. Clay, Washington, D. C.:

"GENTLEMEN—The Secretary of War desires that the volunteers under command of Gen. J. H. Lane and Maj. C. M. Clay should take post at the United States navy yard, for its protection.



I am therefore directed by Colonel Smith, commanding, to request that you will report with your respective commands to the commandant of the navy yard for this service by nine o'clock to-night, to remain on duty until daylight. You will report to the commandant of the navy yard for the same service on each succeeding night for the periods that your respective commands may have been enrolled.

"I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

THEO. TALBOT,  
Assistant Adjutant General."

[Official Records War of the Rebellion, S. 1, vol. 51, pt. 1, p. 335.]

See Kan. Hist. Col., vol. 10, p. 419, for roster, etc., of the Frontier Guard.

"Hon. Secretary of War:

"EXECUTIVE MANSION, June 20, 1861.

"MY DEAR SIR—Since you spoke to me yesterday about Gen. J. H. Lane, of Kansas, I have been reflecting upon the subject, and have concluded that we need the services of such a man out there at once; that we better appoint him a brigadier general of volunteers to-day, and send him off with such authority to raise a force (I think two regiments better than three, but as to this I am not particular) as you think will get him into actual work quickest. Tell him when he starts to put it through not to be writing or telegraphing back here, but put it through.

Yours truly, A. LINCOLN."

"His Excellency, A. Lincoln, President:

"WASHINGTON CITY, June 20, 1861.

"SIR—I tender and ask the acceptance for service for three years, or during the war, the following regiments of troops in Kansas in addition to the three regiments from that state heretofore accepted, viz.:

"One regiment of infantry, including two companies of cavalry and two companies of artillery, Col. James Montgomery. One regiment of infantry, including two companies cavalry and two companies artillery, Col. William Weer. General Cameron concurs with me in the existing necessity for two additional regiments, and will cheerfully make the order on your suggestion.

Respectfully, J. H. LANE."

[Official Records War of the Rebellion, S. 3, vol. 1, pp. 280, 282.]

"Gen. James H. Lane:

"WAR DEPARTMENT, June 20, 1861.

"DEAR SIR—This department will accept two regiments for three years, or during the war, in addition to the three regiments the department has already agreed to accept from the governor of Kansas, to be raised and organized by you in Kansas. Orders will be given to muster the same into service immediately on being ready to be so mustered, and on being mustered the requisite arms, etc., will be furnished on the requisition of the mustering officer, who is hereby authorized to make the same.

"By order of the President: (Signed) SIMON CAMERON, Secretary of War."

[Official Records War of the Rebellion, S. 3, vol. 1, p. 282.]

The foregoing letter is also printed in the Leavenworth *Daily Conservative* of June 26, 1861, in a communication signed "James H. Lane, Brig. Gen.," and beginning:

"LEAVENWORTH, June 25, 1861.

"To the Citizens of Kansas: On the 20th instant I was duly appointed a brigadier general in the volunteer force of the United States."

Following General Lane's letter is a card signed by William Weer, stating that General Lane had assigned to him the duty of receiving and organizing troops at Leavenworth or Lawrence.

"WAR DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, June 20, 1861.

"SIR—You are hereby informed that the President of the United States has appointed you brigadier general of the volunteer force raised in conformity with the President's proclamation of May 3, 1861, in the service of the United States, to rank as such from the 17th day of May, 1861. Should the senate, at their next session, advise and consent thereto, you will be commissioned accordingly.

"Immediately on receipt hereof, please to communicate to this department, through the adjutant general's office, your acceptance or nonacceptance of said appointment; and, with your letter of acceptance, return to the adjutant general of the army the oath, herewith inclosed, properly filled up, subscribed, and attested, reporting at the same time your age, residence, when appointed, and the state in which you were born.

"Should you accept, you will at once report by letter for orders to the secretary of war.

SIMON CAMERON, Secretary of War.

"Brigadier General James H. Lane, United States Volunteers."

[Congressional Globe, January 8, 1862, 37th Cong., 2d Sess., p. 223.]

M. C. Meigs, quartermaster general, on June 26, 1861, made an order on Messrs. Haughton, Sawyer & Co., Boston, from which the following extract is given:

"This clothing is for two regiments to be raised and commanded by General Lane of Kansas, and must be delivered in time to reach Fort Leavenworth before the 20th July, at which time the regiment is to take the field.

"I inclose General Lane's requisitions, three in number, specifying the articles, and indorsed by me for identification."

[Congressional Globe, January 8, 1862, 37th Cong., 2d Sess., p. 224.]

"ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE,  
WASHINGTON, D. C., July 10, 1861.

"Detail an officer to muster in General Lane's brigade. The companies will be mustered when presented, even though less than the standard, and will be filled up afterwards.

"By order GEORGE D. RUGGLES, *Assist. Adj. Gen.*

"Commanding Officer, Fort Leavenworth, Kansas."

"LEAVENWORTH CITY, KANSAS.

L. THOMAS, *Adjutant General.*

"Official copy.

"Adjutant General's Office, July 16, 1861."

"The above order was given at the request of General Lane.

L. THOMAS, *Adj. Gen.*"

[*Congressional Globe*, 37th Cong., 2d Sess., p. 224.]

"Special Order.

"FORT SCOTT, August 27, 1861.

"Colonel Montgomery: You will report a list of the commanding officers of the companies composing the United States reserve corps stationed at this post and the strength of companies in said corps.

J. H. LANE, *Commdg. Kansas Brig.*

"By ABRAM CUTLER, *Acting Asst. Adj. Gen.*"

[Mss. in collections Historical Society.]

"HEADQUARTERS, WEST POINT,

"September 17, 1861.

"To Lt. Col. John Ritchy [Ritchie].

"Confiding in your courage, gallantry and skill, I do and by these presents designate you colonel of the Fifth Regiment, Kansas brigade, in place of Col. H. P. Johnson, who gallantly fell this morning while leading said regiment at the attack on Morristown. You will assume the command of said regiment and report to Colonel Montgomery for orders.

J. H. LANE, *Comg. K. B.*"

[Mss. in collections of Historical Society.]

"HEADQUARTERS KANSAS BRIGADE,

KANSAS CITY, October 3, 1861.

"Gen. S. D. Sturgis:

"GENERAL — In answer to your note of this day\* I have this to say: That I don't care a fig about rank; I have enough of the glittering tinsel to satisfy me. I am here in obedience to an order from Maj. Gen. John C. Fremont to cooperate with you in ferreting out and fighting the enemy. Kindly and promptly do I desire to obey that order. My brigade is not here for the purpose of interfering in any wise with the institution of slavery. They shall not become negro thieves, nor shall they be prostituted into negro catchers. The institution of slavery must take care of itself.

"I said in the senate of the United States, and my experience since only demonstrates its truth, that in my opinion the institution would perish with the march of the Federal armies.

"Again I say that the mass of personal property in Missouri, including slaves, is at this moment held by the wives and children assisted by the Federal army, while the husband and father are actually in arms against the government. In my opinion our policy in this regard should be changed.

"Confiscation of slaves and other property which can be made useful to the army should follow treason as the thunder peal follows the lightning flash. Until this change is made you offer premiums for the men to remain away in the army of the enemy. I had a man cowardly shot in the woods to-day within sight of our camp by the very men, I have no doubt, whose property you are so anxious to protect.

"I am endeavoring to find what transportation I have to spare, if any, and will report to you accordingly.

Yours,  
J. H. LANE,  
*Commanding Kansas Brigade.*"

[Official Records War of the Rebellion, S. 2, vol. 1, p. 771.]

"LEAVENWORTH CITY, KAN., October 9, 1861.

"His Excellency, A. Lincoln, President of the United States:

"SIR—Since my return from Washington to Kansas I have labored earnestly and incessantly, as commander of the Kansas brigade, to put down the great insurrection in Missouri. After the state authorities here had failed to collect a force worthy of the name, I, by my own individual efforts and those of my personal friends, despite the opposition of the governor of this state, succeeded in raising and marching against the enemy as gallant and effective an army, in proportion to its numbers, as ever entered the field. Its operations are a part of the history of the country. That brigade to a man are exceedingly desirous of continuing in the service under my command, and I am very anxious to gratify its members in that behalf; but as matters are at present arranged, I feel compelled to abandon the field.

"While the Kansas brigade was being organized, Gov. Charles Robinson exerted his utmost endeavor to prevent the enlistment of men. Since its organization he has constantly, in season and out of season, villified myself, and abused the men under my command as marauders and thieves. For the purpose of gratifying his malice against me, he has conspired with Captain Prince, the commandant at Fort Leavenworth, to dissolve the brigade, and Captain Prince has apparently heartily espoused the cause in that direction. The latter-named person, in his official capacity, has refused to recognize my authority as commander, and wholly declined to respond to my lawful requisitions upon him for articles and supplies necessary to the efficiency and comfort of the brigade.

"There being no hope of improvement in this condition of things so long as I am in my present position, in order that I may with my brigade remain in the field, and the government be sustained in this region, and Kansas be protected from invasion from Missouri, I earnestly request and recommend the establishment of a new military department, to be composed of Kansas,

\* Not found.



the Indian country, and so much of Arkansas and the territories as may be thought advisable to include therein. After much consideration, and consultation with influential and intelligent gentlemen hereabout, I am decidedly of opinion that this at least should be done, and that the commandant thereof should have under him at least 10,000 troops.

"If this can be done, and I can have the command of the department, I will cheerfully accept it, resign my seat in the senate, and devote all my thoughts and energies to the prosecution of the war. But if nothing can be done to remedy the evils complained of, I will, as above intimated, be compelled to leave my command, quit the field, and most reluctantly become an idle spectator of the great struggle, and witness, I have no doubt, the devastation of my adopted state and the destruction of its people.

Yours truly, J. H. LANE."

[Official Records War of the Rebellion, S. 1, vol. 1, p. 529.]

"WAR DEPARTMENT, THE ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE,  
WASHINGTON, March 26, 1910.

"Mr. George W. Martin, Secretary Kansas State Historical Society, Topeka, Kan.:

"Nothing has been found of record in this office to show that James H. Lane was commissioned brigadier general in June, 1861, or at any time in that year prior to December.

"The records show that the nomination of James H. Lane to be brigadier general of volunteers was sent to and confirmed by the United States Senate on December 18, 1861; that a commission as of that grade was prepared for him on December 19, 1861; that the commission was canceled March 21, 1862, by order of the Secretary of War, for the reason that it had not been accepted, although ample time for its acceptance had been given. Nothing has been found of record to show that the commission was ever issued, or to show what disposition was made of it, nor has it been found on file. In view of these facts it is presumed that the commission was never issued, but was retained in the War Department until March 21, 1862, when canceled, and that then it was destroyed.

F. C. AINSWORTH, *The Adjutant General.*"

[See letter of J. H. Lane to the Legislature, February 26, 1862, on page 226.]

#### CONTEST OF FRED P. STANTON IN UNITED STATES SENATE FOR SEAT OF JAS. H. LANE.

The credentials of Frederick P. Stanton, who had been appointed by Governor Robinson to succeed James H. Lane as United States senator from Kansas, were presented to the senate by Senator Foot, of Vermont, on July 12, 1861, and referred to the judiciary committee. Among the papers presented in this contest were two printed statements of Mr. Stanton claiming that Mr. Lane, by accepting a military appointment and qualifying to the same as brigadier general, had forfeited his constitutional right to a seat in the United States senate. General Lane also presented a printed memorial. A consideration of the report of the committee, which favored the seating of Mr. Stanton, was deferred from time to time, and finally terminated in a vote adverse to the claims of Mr. Stanton on January 16, 1862.

*Proceedings in United States Senate, January 13, 1862.*

"PRESIDING OFFICER: Mr. Stanton will be admitted to a seat on the floor during the pendency of this question, with the privilege of addressing the senate on the resolution before the body. The question before the senate is on the following resolutions, reported by the Committee on the Judiciary: 'Resolved, That James H. Lane is not entitled to a seat in this body.' 'Resolved, That Frederick P. Stanton is entitled to a seat in this body.'"

Mr. Clark, of New Hampshire, moved to strike out the word "not" in the first resolution, and during his remarks on the question made the following statements:

"There is no doubt of the proper election of the sitting senator from Kansas in April last; there is no doubt that he is entitled to hold his seat unless he has lost it by being appointed to and accepting the office of brigadier general in the volunteer forces of the United States while he was a member of the senate. . . . On the 20th of June, call it an appointment if you choose, he was appointed a brigadier general in the volunteer forces, and at or about that time he was sworn. On the next day, or the next day but one, he went to the commanding general, and being informed that he could not hold both offices, he said he would not hold the office of brigadier. He went to the President and told him he would not hold the office of brigadier. He went to the Secretary of War and told him he would not hold the office of brigadier. . . . His statement on this point is undisputed by anybody; it can be attested by his colleague, who I understand was with him when he went to the Secretary of War, when he went to General Scott, and when he went to the President, and declared to them all he could not hold the office.

"He was appointed brigadier general, as they say, on the 20th of June; he resigned it about that time; but he did not come into the senate and accept the position of senator and be sworn and become a member of this body until the 4th day of July. That concludes the whole question. The constitution says he must have held the office while he was a member. He was not a member till he was sworn in. Before that time, if he held the office at all, he had resigned it.

"He took no oath as brigadier general of the volunteer forces. I mention it to show the irregularity with which this whole thing went on. The President wrote a note to the Secretary of War that 'we had better appoint' him. The Secretary of War thereupon notified him that he had been appointed brigadier general, and transmitted to him a form of oath which happened to be that for a brigadier of the army. Lane took it to 'put it through,' went to a justice of the peace, and subscribed it. That was all he did subscribe, and he then published an address to the people of Kansas.

"Now, the point I make, Mr. President, is, that there was no such intelligible, well-considered acceptance of that office as ought for a moment to bind him; and that is all there is about it, so far as the oath is concerned. But they say he acted as brigadier. I do not know that he so acted, except it may be in taking the oath. I contend that if there are two sources of power on which his acts could be based, he is at liberty himself to say on which he did act. There was this appointment of him as brigadier general of volunteer forces; and at or about the same time he received from the Secretary of War an order to raise troops in Kansas. When he got that order he at once published his proclamation. The proclamation purports to have been published on

the 26th of June. You might infer that it was written on the 26th of June, and therefore you might say that James H. Lane is not true when he says that he resigned his commission the day after he took that oath, or about that time. If he acted as brigadier on the 26th of June, how is it that he resigned his commission, if he had one, on the 22d? Why, this was the state of facts: When he got his appointment he determined at once to issue his address. He wrote his address the very day he got that pretended appointment. He gave it to Mr. Weer, I think, who was here, to carry it to Kansas and publish it in the papers, before he had concluded to resign and give up the office of brigadier. Mr. Weer took the address. I suppose Mr. Lane had then taken the oath of office; I do not know how that was, but Mr. Weer, at any rate, took the address and appointment, and he went to Kansas and caused that to be published in the papers in Kansas on the 26th of June, three or four days after Mr. Lane had determined not to accept the office, and without knowing that he had refused to accept it. That accounts for all that; but it makes very significant another fact. James H. Lane, the senator, says he never signed that address as brigadier. They do not say that he did. . . . But they say further that he made requisitions for clothing for the troops, and gave orders for mustering his brigade. I know it very well; but in that he did not act as brigadier; he acted under an entirely different authority from the War Department. It was given to him at the same time that this pretended appointment was given him. In a letter dated June 20, 1861, addressed to 'Gen. James H. Lane,' the Secretary of War says: 'This department will accept two regiments for three years, or during the war, in addition to the three regiments the department has already accepted from the governor of Kansas, to be raised and organized by you in Kansas.'

"Here was a distinct order from the War Department for him to raise these two additional regiments. He went on to raise them, under this order of the Secretary of War; he did not raise them as brigadier general, because, if that was the idea, why was the order given? Now, I ask, if you are going to turn from the senate all those gentlemen who have been raising troops, what becomes of my friend the senator from New York [Mr. Harris], who, I believe, has raised three regiments? If Lane loses a seat for two, he ought to lose a seat and a half."—*Congressional Globe*, 37th Cong., 2d sess., pp. 291, 293.

"January 15, 1862. Mr. Lane, of Kansas, spoke in the senate in his own behalf :

"When I left here after the adjournment of Congress at the special session [August 6, 1861], I passed through Indianapolis, and the governor of my native state of Indiana presented me with a commission as brigadier general. I had not, then, however, determined to take the command of any troops.

"When I reached Kansas I found there a condition of things which appealed to me. I put the case to any senator upon this floor. Kansas was about being invaded by the army of Price, over 10,000 strong. I have been at the head of the armies of the people of Kansas for five years. That people looked to me; and I say that if I had not gone to the scene of action, even as a private, I should not have discharged my duty to that state. There was no officer of the government there beyond a colonel. The forces of Kansas were scattered; I called them to defend their own firesides. They came, and of the troops that I commanded those that were unorganized numbered three to one. They were the people. Unorganized, they came to defend their homes. As the courier falls into the ranks of the passing column, so did I fall into the ranks of that army in my usual place; the people acquiescent and I willing. Look at the orders and proclamations issued from that army. How are they signed? 'J. H. Lane, commanding Kansas brigade.' Not as brigadier general, either under state authority or under the appointment of the general government. The moment that Price was driven beyond our border, the moment the danger to Kansas ceased, that moment did I lay down the command given to me by that people."—*Congressional Globe*, 37th Cong., 2d Sess., p. 341.

"EXECUTIVE MANSION,  
WASHINGTON, February 10, 1862.

"Major General Hunter and Brigadier General Lane, Leavenworth, Kan. :

"My wish has been and is to avail the government of the services of both General Hunter and General Lane, and, so far as possible, to personally oblige both. General Hunter is the senior officer and must command when they serve together; though in so far as he can, consistently with the public service and his own honor, oblige General Lane, he will also oblige me. If they cannot come to an amicable understanding, General Lane must report to General Hunter for duty, according to the rules, or decline the service. A. 'LINCOLN.'"

[Official Records War of the Rebellion, S. 1, vol. 9, p. 551.]

#### LETTER OF GENERAL LANE TO THE LEGISLATURE.

"LEAVENWORTH, KAN., February 26, 1862.

"SIR—There should be a perfect understanding between you, the local representatives of the people of Kansas and your representatives in the national Congress. To this end I make the following statement:

"On the 20th of January I left Washington, expecting to take command of a column designed to move in four separate bodies through this state southward.

"It was understood by the senate and expected by the country that a satisfactory arrangement would be made with Major General Hunter. Such was my conviction.

"I came to Kansas, therefore, intending to arrange matters with him; to resign my seat in the senate to you from whom I had received it, and to notify the President of the acceptance of the commission of brigadier general, which was not to issue until the receipt of such notification.

"I made every effort which self-respect would permit to effect this arrangement with Major General Hunter. I failed. The correspondence when published will prove, indeed, that I could not have served under him in any capacity, however subordinate, without degradation.

"I had no military ambition beyond that connected with this expedition. I desire to surround the institution of slavery with free territory, and thus girdle the cause of the rebellion itself. Without fault on my part, as I believe, I have been thwarted in this, the cherished hope of my life.

"The sad yet simple duty only remains to announce to you, and through you to the people of Kansas, my purpose to return to my seat in the United States senate—a purpose declared to the President through a telegram, of which the following is a copy: \_\_\_\_\_

"LEAVENWORTH, KAN., February 16, 1862. "

"All efforts to harmonize with Major General Hunter have failed. I am compelled to decline the brigadiership. J. H. LANE.' "



"I have nothing further to say. I trust you will find me, as ever, faithful to the state and country. All I am and all I have shall now, as heretofore, be devoted to them.

"Wishing you health, happiness and a safe return to your constituents, I remain your friend and servant,  
J. H. LANE."

[Leavenworth *Daily Conservative*, February 28, 1862.]

"WAR DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON CITY, July 22, 1862.

"Hon. James H. Lane, Kansas:

"SIR—You are hereby notified that you have been appointed by the Secretary of War commissioner of recruiting in the department of Kansas. You are requested to proceed forthwith to raise and organize one or more brigades of volunteer infantry, to be mustered into the service of the United States for three years, or during the war. For this purpose full authority is hereby conferred upon you to establish camps and provide for the maintenance of discipline and the supply of the troops with munitions of war. On your requisition the commanding general of the department will issue supplies of arms and accouterments, clothing, camp equipage, and subsistence; transportation for recruits and recruiting officers will be furnished on your requisition or refunded on vouchers in the usual form, accompanied by your order directing the movement. It is recommended that the provisions of General Orders No. 75, current series, be followed as far as possible in organizing companies, to the end that muster rolls may be uniform and authentic. This is necessary in order to secure justice to the soldier and to prevent confusion in accounts and loss to the government. In performing these duties you are authorized to visit such places within the department of Kansas as may be necessary, for which purpose transportation will be furnished you by the commanding general upon your requisition, or the cost of the same will be reimbursed by the Secretary of War from the army contingent fund. You will be expected to report frequently to this department the progress and prospects of the work, and to make any suggestion that may occur to you from time to time as useful in facilitating its accomplishment. This appointment may be revoked at the pleasure of the Secretary of War.

By order of the Secretary of War.

C. P. BUCKINGHAM,

*Brigadier General and Assistant Adjutant General.*"

[Official Records War of the Rebellion, S. 3, vol. 2, p. 959.]

August 4, 1862, Capt. Jas. M. Williams, company F, Fifth Kansas cavalry, and Capt. H. C. Seaman, were appointed by J. H. Lane recruiting commissioners for the purpose of recruiting colored regiments. January 13, 1863, a battalion of six companies recruited by the above officers was mustered into the United States service by Lieutenant Sabin of the regular army. May 2, 1863, the other four companies were organized, and the First Kansas Colored completed.—Military History Kansas Regiments, p. 246.

"LEAVENWORTH, August 5, 1862.

(Received 6:40 P. M., 6th.)

"Hon. Edwin M. Stanton, Secretary of War: Recruiting opens up beautifully. Good for four regiments of whites and two of blacks. General Blunt leaves immediately to assume command of troops in Indian country. I am to protect his rear with my recruits.

JAMES H. LANE, *Commissioner.*"

[Official Records War of the Rebellion, S. 3, vol. 2, pp. 294, 295.]

"LEAVENWORTH, KAN., August 6, 1862.

"Hon. E. M. Stanton: I am receiving negroes under the late act of Congress. Is there any objection? Answer by telegraph. Soon have an army.

J. H. LANE,

*Commissioner of Recruiting.*"

[Official Records War of the Rebellion, S. 3, vol. 2, p. 311.]

"TOPEKA, KAN., August 20, 1862—4 P. M.

(Via Leavenworth. Received 8:40 P. M.)

"Hon. E. M. Stanton: General Lane is recruiting a regiment of colored men in Kansas. Shall I commission the officers? Has a draft been made on this state?"

C. ROBINSON."

[Official Records War of the Rebellion, S. 3, vol. 2, p. 417.]

"WAR DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON CITY, D. C., August 21, 1862.

"Governor Robinson, Topeka, Kan.: (Via Leavenworth.) If General Lane has applied to you to commission any officers for a regiment of colored men, please give the name of the person and rank of the officers for whom application has been made and instructions will be given you on the subject.

EDWIN M. STANTON, *Secretary of War.*"

[Official Records War of the Rebellion, S. 3, vol. 2, p. 431.]

"WAR DEPARTMENT,

WASHINGTON CITY, D. C., August 23, 1862.

"Gen. James H. Lane, Commissioner of Recruiting, Leavenworth, Kan.:

"SIR—It has given me much satisfaction to be advised by your letter of the 18th inst. that the objects of your commission are advancing beyond your expectations. In regard, however, to that portion of your communication which contemplates the raising of two regiments of persons of African descent, you are informed that regiments of persons of African descent can only be raised upon express and special authority of the President. He has not given authority to raise such troops in Kansas, and it is not comprehended in the authority issued to you. Such regiments cannot be accepted into the service.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

EDWIN M. STANTON, *Secretary of War.*"

[Official Records War of the Rebellion, S. 3, vol. 2, p. 445.]

"LEAVENWORTH, September 22, 1862.

"Gen. C. P. Buckingham:

"SIR—It is earnestly requested that Major Hunt may be ordered to pay the one month's advance to the three new regiments in this state without delay.

Respectfully,

J. H. LANE, *Commissioner of Recruiting.*"

[Official Records War of the Rebellion, S. 3, vol. 2, p. 577.]

WASHINGTON, D. C., September 23, 1862, 7:35 P. M.

"Hon. J. H. Lane, Leavenworth, Kan.: You are not authorized to organize Indians, nor any but loyal white men. Funds to pay the regiments will be forwarded as soon as the money can be had from the treasury.

EDWIN M. STANTON."

[Official Records War of the Rebellion, S. 3, vol. 2, p. 582.]

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF THE MISSOURI,  
ST. LOUIS, MO., September 29, 1862.

"General Loan, Jefferson City, Mo.:

"GENERAL—Your letter of the 26th, inclosing one from Colonel Thompson of the 192, relating to Lane and Jennison and their threatened raid on Missouri, is received.

"I will send one of my staff officers to Leavenworth to ascertain the facts. Lane's movements are often much exaggerated, and for that reason the rebels are very much afraid of him. So far as they are concerned a reign of terror is the proper check to them, and it would be well to make them understand they will have no sympathy at your hands. If he will pitch in at Cow-skin Prairie, he will not be likely to go amiss. I am told it is not much better about Independence. We have got to fight the devil with fire. We are not likely to use one negro where the rebels have used a thousand. When I left Arkansas they were still enrolling negroes to fortify the rebellion. You think Lane and Jennison should be sent to a 'safe place.' I think it will be safe to send them against the rebels and Indians that are now collected and invading McDonald, Barry and Stone counties. But let terror reign among the rebels. It will be better to have them under such power than loose to carry on this guerrilla warfare, which drives good people out of Jackson and Lafayette.

SAMUEL R. CURTIS, Major General Commanding."

[Official Records War of the Rebellion, S. 1, vol. 13, p. 688.]

"Maj. Gen. H. W. Halleck, General-in-Chief:

ST. LOUIS, MO., October 7, 1862.

"Gen. J. H. Lane, of Kansas, has raised three regiments. He has a commission for a brigadier general from Indiana. Can I detail and give him a temporary command?" Blunt recommends it and favors it. He would help scare the rebels in southwest Missouri and Arkansas very much.

SAMUEL R. CURTIS, Major General."

[Official Records War of the Rebellion, S. 1, vol. 13, p. 715.]

WAR DEPARTMENT, ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE,

WASHINGTON, June 8, 1863.

"Special Orders, No. 255.

"38. . . . The order by letter from the War Department of July 22, 1862, under which Hon. J. H. Lane was appointed commissioner for recruiting, Department of Kansas, with power to raise troops, is at his request hereby vacated and annulled.

E. D. TOWNSEND, Assistant Adjutant General.

"By order of the Secretary of War.

"To the governor of Kansas." [Mss. in collection of Historical Society.]

In a letter of Guilford Dudley, adjutant general of Kansas, dated Topeka, July 25, 1863, to the provost marshal general, Washington, relative to the quota of troops furnished by Kansas, he states that in spite of the general orders of the adjutant general's office, Nos. 18 and 75 (February 21 and July 8, 1862), assigning to governors of states the duty of raising and control of regiments until their muster, and the commissioning of officers, an exception had been made in the case of Kansas, and a recruiting commission given to J. H. Lane.

"The authority so given being exclusive and original, the usual regulations governing the recruiting service were relaxed, and neither descriptive papers, muster-in rolls, nor reports of any character were filed in this department. Three regiments were thus organized during the latter part of the summer of 1862, by Hon. J. H. Lane, under the authority of the War Department. These regiments were numbered, respectively, the Eleventh, Twelfth, and Thirteenth. Although neither of these were reported to this department at the time of their organization, the muster-in rolls of the Eleventh and Twelfth (except company A) have recently been received. The Thirteenth has never forwarded its rolls."—Official Records War of the Rebellion, S. 3, vol. 3, p. 568.

FORT LEAVENWORTH, July 22, 1864.

"General Rosecrans: After full consultation with General Blunt and other military men I have become satisfied that Missouri is in imminent peril of devastation. Ten thousand rebels are in course of concentration on the border and should be met by prompt action in calling out the loyal men of Missouri and arming them for the field.

J. H. LANE."

[Official Records War of the Rebellion, S. 1, vol. 41, pt. II, p. 333.]

#### LANE IN THE PRICE RAID.

FORT LEAVENWORTH, October 11, 1864.

"Hon. James H. Lane, Lawrence: Colonel Walker is the man to command the Sixteenth in the field. The regiment will move down to Olathe soon, and I will see what can be done. The following is part of General Orders No. 55: 'Hon. James H. Lane having tendered his services to the major general commanding, they are accepted and he is assigned to duty as volunteer aide-de-camp.'

"I shall go to Olathe soon, to-day or to-morrow. Try to urge forward militia to that point. Latest news from St. Louis is that fighting was going on near Jefferson City. I have sent out troops to open the telegraph line beyond Independence to-day. Troops turning out rapidly everywhere, but not going forward fast enough.

S. R. CURTIS, Major General."

[Official Records War of the Rebellion, S. 1, vol. 41, pt. III, p. 793.]

\* "Answer, if any, not found."



Maj. Gen. Samuel R. Curtis, in his report of the Price raid (published in the Official Records of the War of the Rebellion, vol. 41, series 1, pt. 1) makes frequent mention of the service of Gen. James H. Lane. About October 13, 1864, he had moved his headquarters to Wyandotte. "Here Senators Lane and Pomeroy had both joined me as volunteer aides, and I found both of these men of great service in giving correct intelligence to the wavering public mind, and in suppressing false impressions" (pp. 472, 473). Mentions Lane's service at Lexington (p. 475). At the battle of the Little Blue, Lane "took an active and prominent part in the conflict, and displayed much coolness and gallantry under the fire of the enemy" (pp. 478, 525). At the battle of the Big Blue "Lane's experience in former campaigns in Mexico and upon the Kansas border enabled him to be of much service in the field everywhere" (pp. 484, 526). In battle of Westport (p. 491). Battle of Marais des Cygnes: "During that night (October 24-25) Generals Pleasanton, Lane and myself traveled most of the time between the divisions, but at early dawn we went forward and saw most of the conflict. We also joined the advance movement in the timber" (p. 495). Lane very active in the field during the battle of the Osage, October 25, which occupied thirty minutes, and deserves special commendation, and is mentioned first among others for "unceasing toil and extraordinary gallantry" (pp. 496, 501). At battle of Charlot, October 25, Curtis met General Lane, who had been sent back for reinforcements, "earnest in his efforts to hurry forward the First division, which was considerably in the rear, at the same time expressing his apprehension as to McNeil's ability to hold his ground until more forces could be brought up" (pp. 502, 503). The names of Lane and Pomeroy, acting aides-de-camp, appear on General Curtis's "Roll of Honor" in Price's raid (p. 520). October 27, James H. Lane was relieved from further duty as volunteer aide-de-camp (p. 528). General Blunt also acknowledges obligations to Lane for valuable services rendered during Price's raid (p. 579). In the same volume, page 548, is found an interview between Lieut. George T. Robinson, Eleventh Kansas, chief engineer, and Gen. William S. Rosecrans, commanding Department of Missouri, who had come to the aid of Curtis, and was then, October 24, at Little Santa Fe. After expressing general dissatisfaction with General Curtis's management of the campaign, he said to Lieutenant Robinson: "I understand, sir, that Jim Lane is running this border ruffian institution, and actually in command of the whole machine."

ROBINSON: "I told General Rosecrans that General Lane was certainly at the front and doing his duty as a common soldier, as were many other Kansas men, but as to his having command of any portion of the troops it was not so."

General R. said: "Oh, yes, I understand the whole thing, sir, much better than you possibly can do; I understand and know Jim Lane thoroughly."

"FORT SCOTT, October 28, 1864.

"General Davies: Four o'clock yesterday I left Lamar, our army well closed up. Price moving on Bowers's Mills ahead of ours, and Blunt pushing and will pursue to the Arkansas river with force enough to crush him. Every step taken gives evidence that Price's army is demoralized and starving.  
J. H. LANE."

"FORT SCOTT, October 29, 1864.

"Hon. E. M. Stanton: Rosecrans and Pleasanton are escorting Marmaduke and Cabell to Saint Louis. Curtis and Blunt are pursuing Price with about 4000 men. Can they not be reinforced?  
J. H. LANE."

[Official Records War of the Rebellion, S. 1, vol. 41, pt. IV, pp. 302, 319.]

Fort Scott at that time was a village. There were probably in the town about 300 people, composed of court officers, clerks, deputy marshals, land-office employees, and those few people who were here to furnish supplies to the permanent inhabitants and to the soldiers. There were a great many more people in Fort Scott, but they were soldiers. The real population was about 300. Under the national administration, of course, all these court and land-office employees were Democrats; and the great majority of them were Southern pro-slavery Democrats. Lane naturally hated them, and, hating them, it was easy for him to hate Fort Scott.<sup>7</sup> Because of his hatred he decided to abandon and destroy the town. The site had been selected and a

NOTE 7.—"Since the election on 21st December, this town has seemed to be watched by Lane and his coadjutors as the peculiar object of their hate, and upon which they intend to inflict exemplary punishment. They have frequently threatened to send down their bands from Little Osage and Sugar Mound and sack and burn the town, take possession of the government funds in my custody."—From Mss. of E. Ransom before quoted.

"The people [after the Marais des Cygnes massacre, May 19, 1858,] felt much incensed against Fort Scott. The citizens of the town had, however unwillingly, permitted these border ruffians to make it their regular stopping place and silently acquiesced in the establishment of their headquarters. The stigma naturally attached itself."

Ten of the perpetrators of the Marais des Cygnes massacre were well known in Fort Scott. "They were the Hameltons, W. B. Brockett, Thomas Jackson, Harlan, Yealock, Beach, Griffith and Matlock."

"Governor Denver, feeling that retaliatory measures might be taken by free-state men, ordered Deputy United States Marshal Sam Walker, of Lawrence, to arrest James Montgomery and some others. On reaching Raysville, on his way to Fort Scott, Walker found Montgomery addressing a large body of men in favor of proceeding to Fort Scott and exacting vengeance on the proslavery men there in sympathy with the Hamelton crowd. Walker saw it was not advantageous to arrest Montgomery then, but addressed the assembly himself, and asked for war

fort located there in 1842 as a base to protect the border from the Indians, and the man who selected the site thoroughly knew his business, for, for military purposes, it is the finest strategic point in southeastern Kansas. It was the ideal spot for Lane to make his stand. But when Gen. Sterling Price was moving along the western border of Missouri, making dashes into Kansas, and on both sides of the line harrowing the Union people, Lane made up his mind to get even with Fort Scott, and issued an order to build Fort Lincoln<sup>s</sup> on the Osage river a few miles west of where Fulton now is, a spot entirely unfitted for a fortification. He also included in his order a

rants for the arrest of Geo. W. Clarke and others. Receiving the reply that the United States district judge, Joseph Williams, would not issue the warrants, he said he would make the arrests upon warrants issued by a justice of the peace, although it would not be strictly legal. Clarke was arrested on a warrant issued by a justice of the peace on Sunday, May 30. His friends demanded the arrest of Montgomery, and upon the advice of Capt. Nathaniel Lyon, then stationed in that vicinity, he was also arrested. Walker then left with Montgomery for Lecompton for trial, but was overtaken by a courier at Raysville announcing that Judge Williams had released Clarke. This action so angered Walker that he turned Montgomery loose."—Roble's History of Bourbon County, 1894, pp. 112-114.

"November 10, 1858.—A letter from Osage, in the *Leavenworth Journal*, says: 'Geo. W. Clarke, a pet in the land office at Fort Scott, was the real cause of all the troubles in that region, and a company of dragoons had to be stationed there to protect him from the merited vengeance of an outraged people.' He says Clarke 'in the summer of 1856 plundered, robbed and burned out of house and home nearly every free-state settler in Linn county, while his hands were steeped in innocent blood, and the light of burning buildings marked his course.'"—D. W. Wilder, *Annals*, 1886, p. 243.

"George A. Crawford arrived in Kansas by steamboat, landing at Leavenworth in the spring of 1857. While at Lawrence, en route to Lecompton, he encountered a party going to Fort Scott to secure the town site, and at once accepted an offer of partnership in the town project. Fort Scott was then an abandoned military post, whose buildings were occupied by pioneers. Messrs. Crawford, Eddy and their associates purchased claims to 520 acres of land and organized the Fort Scott Town Company, of which Mr. Crawford was elected president, serving in that capacity nearly twenty years. The deed to every original lot in the town bears his name. He organized a hotel company, purchasing a proslavery and making it a 'Free-state hotel,' by which name it was known far and wide. During the years 1857 to 1860, the violence and anarchy which had previously characterized the more northern portions of the territory were transferred to the region of Fort Scott. The town was in constant danger of destruction during these troubles. Mr. Crawford was opposed to the agitation kept up by the contending forces and invoked peace, and desired to settle all questions of the past by securing immigration. The proslavery men who were being driven out took refuge in Fort Scott and formed an organization. Mr. Crawford's opposition to their plans provoked a long series of attempted assassinations. Failing in these they gave him notice to leave the town within twenty-four hours or he should be killed. His answer was, 'I don't exchange messages with horse thieves.' Mr. Crawford was in the room with John H. Little, ex-deputy United States marshal, when, December 16, 1858, a raid was made on Fort Scott by James Montgomery in rescue of Benjamin Rice, who was held as a prisoner by United States Deputy Marshal Campbell."—Extract from biographical sketch of George A. Crawford, Grand Junction (Colo.) *Star*, January 29, 1891.

NOTE 8.—April, 1861, the Civil War broke out, and Kansas was as patriotic as the balance of the North. A company of 108 was raised at Fort Scott for three months' service by C. W. Blair, who was made captain. Blair and some of his company were the same year mustered into the Second Kansas for three years. "During the summer of 1861, and by September 1, some 3000 troops, more or less, collected here at Fort Scott. What troops were here then were under the command of Gen. Jim Lane, who ran things in rather a loose way. In the summer of 1861, Jim Lane had built a fort on the north side of the Osage river, and named it Fort Lincoln. It was built on low bottom land that was no more a fit place for a fort than where Knapp's park is now located. This fort consisted of a stockade and a large blockhouse. In later years this stockade and blockhouse were moved to Fort Scott and located about the junction of Lowman and Firs streets."—G. W. Goodlander's *Memoirs and Collections of the Early Days of Fort Scott*, page 66+

"The proximity of war in Missouri led J. H. Lane who was posing as Brigadier General of Volunteers, in command of Kansas troops, to fortify Fort Lincoln, on the Osage river. The work done there, in a military or common sense view, was simply idiotic. He went down on the very lowest bottom land of the river, where he threw up an earthwork about the size of a calf pen and then blazoned it forth as a great military fortification.

"In the latter part of August [1861] a considerable force was being concentrated at Fort Scott. Old Jim Montgomery had by this time gotten a regiment together, and five companies of the Third Kansas under him arrived on the 20th of August. Other Kansas troops arrived from time to time until the aggregate force was about 2000 men. Fort Scott was now headquarters for General Lane's brigade.

"The rebel generals, Price and Raines, were operating in western Missouri with several thousand men, and contemplated an attack on southeastern Kansas. On the 1st of September General Raines with his division approached within twelve miles of Fort Scott, on the southeast, and a scouting party came within two miles of town and captured a corral full of mules and drove in Lane's pickets. A force of 500 cavalry, with one twelve-pound howitzer, was sent out next day to reconnoiter. They ran into the rebel pickets and drove them across Drywood creek, where they were reinforced, and quite a rattling good skirmish was fought until the ammunition of the Union forces gave out, when they fell back in good order on Fort Scott. The official re-



direction that Fort Scott should be burned if Price made a movement toward the town.<sup>9</sup>

Nearly everybody in Fort Scott was moved, though a few of the people refused to go. Mrs. E. A. Smith, who lived in a little native lumber cabin where now is First street and Scott avenue, just under my office window, her brother in the frontier guards, announced, "I will just stay here and see who burns my house." And she did stay. A few other women did the same. Fortunately for Fort Scott, and fortunately for the honor of the Union arms, Lieut. Col. Lewis R. Jewell, of the Sixth, was the man who received the order to burn the town. He was left there with one or two companies and he sent back by the aide who brought the order a perfectly respectful response, acknowledging receipt of the order; and he added, in words which indicate the kind of man he was, "When General Price begins his occupancy of the city, then your order will be obeyed."

Price's army was about Deerfield, in Vernon county, Missouri, some ten miles away, and he sent 500 troops over to attack Fort Scott. Jewell gathered up everybody who could carry a gun, and all the arms in Fort Scott,

---

ports give the Union loss in this action as five killed and twelve wounded. The rebel loss was about the same. In the meantime the infantry force occupied the heights east and southeast of town.

"The entire force waited on the crest of the hill until night for the expected attack of General Raines. About dark a raging thunder storm came up.

"That night General Lane ordered the entire force to fall back on Fort Lincoln, twelve miles north, on the Osage, leaving Fort Scott to the mercy of anybody that might come along. . . . General Raines was at that moment making a forced march on Lexington, Mo., by an order that day received from General Price."—Robley's History of Bourbon County, 1894, p. 169.

"Wilder says that Lane fortified Camp Lincoln August 17, 1861. Britton claims that Lane was satisfied, on the evening of September 2, that the rebel forces would attempt to take Fort Scott the next morning, and, believing that his own force was insufficient to repel them, ordered the abandonment of the town and withdrawal of his troops to Camp Lincoln."—Britton's Civil War on the Border, 1891, p. 129.

NOTE 9.—"I was a young boy when I came to Fort Scott with my father, Dr. A. G. Osburn, and settled on the farm where I still live, near the military bridge just across the Marmaton, east of Fort Scott. I was here in 1861 when General Price was on the border, and General Lane built Fort Lincoln on the Osage and ordered that on the approach of Price's army, or any part of it, Fort Scott should be burned. I never saw the order, but I know it was issued because it was common talk among all the people about the post. All the families except three or four women left Fort Scott, and they refused to go. John Caldwell (he now lives in Drywood) and myself went up to Dayton."—C. H. Osburn, April 1, 1910.

"I was commissary sergeant here at the time Lane issued his order that when Price's army appeared Fort Scott should be abandoned, fired and burned; but I never saw the order, yet it was common talk among the officers and men that the town was to be destroyed. I had charge of the commissary stores, and issued rations from the government stores. I followed the troops to Fort Lincoln, where they had been ordered, all except Colonel Jewell, who had been left in command. I was here before the war, during the war, and helped to organize one of the companies of the Sixth Kansas, in which I was second lieutenant, and afterwards organized the company for the Fourteenth Kansas of which I was captain, and have lived here almost continuously ever since.—A. H. Campbell, March 25, 1910."

"I was in Fort Scott when General Price came by. General Lane issued an order to remove all families to Fort Lincoln, and the government stores. The greater part of the stores were removed. All the families were moved who would go. Mrs. General Blair and myself were removed by a military squad by force. Mrs. Colonel Wilson and Mrs. E. A. Smith were the only women who did not leave. Mrs. Blair was intensely indignant, as she had a babe in arms only two weeks old, but she was forced to get into the ambulance and go. My husband, Captain Haynes, was detailed with his company and another, I forget what company, to carry out the order to burn the town and the balance of the stores when Price's army came in sight. I saw all the orders, and saw that one. The town was not burned. There is no question about the order. Everybody understood it. I was acquainted with all the commanding officers, and there can be no doubt about the order."—Mrs. J. H. Haynes, March 24, 1910.

"I came here in the fall of 1858, and have lived here since excepting from 1886 to 1898, and 1901. I was here at the time of Price's raid in 1861, and Jim Lane had command here. At that time he vacated the town and moved to Fort Lincoln, all except one or two companies, expecting Price to make a raid on the town. It was the general impression of everybody left here that he had issued an order that if Price made his appearance to burn the town, and he stationed a picket at each house with a torch to set fire to the houses. I never saw the written order, but it was generally understood by all that were left here that that order had been given."—E. L. Marble, March 28, 1910.

"My name is Patrick Gorman. I live on my farm near Fulton, Kan., and have been a resident of this county continuously since 1858. I was fourth corporal of company A, Sixth Kansas

from the latest improved rifle to the single-barreled muzzle-loading shotgun and the muzzle-loading pistol, and stayed in Fort Scott. He went down to Buck Run, the little stream that divides the town, and cut cottonwood logs and hewed and painted them to represent cannon and mounted them over the breastworks built along the west side of Buck Run, fronting east, so that when Price's detachment came to the high ridge east of town he could see with the field glass a serried array of a half mile of vicious looking cannon. When Price approached the town he went out and met him. The formidable army that Jewell had quickly gotten together of old men and boys and cripples and possibly women, and the savage look of the fortifications, did its work and the Confederate soldiers withdrew.

This disobedience by Jewell of the order given by Brigadier General (?) Lane saved the city of Fort Scott from being burned, and is only one of the many things that could be told about his nerve and prompt action in emergency.

Jewell's connection with the Sixth was brief, for he joined the regiment at the first organization, in September, 1861, and was mustered out by Shelby's volley at Cane Hill on November 28, 1862. While he was with the regiment, however, he was very busy. Up to his death at Cane Hill, he and First Major Wm. T. Campbell, and Second Major Wyllis C. Ransom, were nearly always away on some sort of expedition, preserving the peace along the border. After Jewell's death Major Campbell succeeded him, and from that to the end of the war practically handled the Sixth Kansas cavalry, Wyllis C. Ransom being a close second in his services for the regiment. A. H. Campbell, the son of Wm. T., was the second lieutenant in company H, and afterward became a captain in the Fourteenth Kansas regiment. With many rare exceptions the officers were the kind of men I have described before, ready to do anything and dare anything that was necessary, and equally worshiped and as readily followed by their soldiers.

The regiment, being divided up as I have described, took part in a great number of battles of more or less moment. It made a good record at Grand River, taking a sortie around by Fort Gibson, then swung over into northern Arkansas. Newtonia was one of the places where it did good work. While in the Territory it captured the capital of the Cherokee Nation.<sup>10</sup> This tribe

---

cavalry, and was present in and about Fort Scott when General Price passed along the Missouri border. At that time Gen. James H. Lane ordered the removal of all of the families from Fort Scott, and the removal of all of the property to Fort Lincoln on the Osage, which he had established there. The families and household goods were all removed, except that one or two companies were left here in Fort Scott with orders that when Price's army or any portion of it appeared in sight, the town must be fired and the rest of the troops should retire to Fort Lincoln. The women all left with the exception of two or three, who refused to go. I never saw the written order issued by General Lane, but I know that it was issued, and I know that the families were removed, and I know that preparations were made to carry out the order of burning the town. It was a matter of common understanding among all of us, and while I never actually saw the order, I am positive it was issued."

NOTE 10.—Among the papers of Col. R. J. Hinton in the Historical Society's collections is a copy of a portion of a letter written by Albert Pike to John Ross, dated Seminole Agency, August 1, 1861, in which Pike refers to his letter of June 6, 1861, to Ross renewing his propositions for a treaty of alliance between the Cherokee Nation and the Confederate states. The paper is indorsed in Colonel Hinton's handwriting as captured by him in the Territory in 1864. The following extracts refer to the purchase of the Cherokee neutral lands by the Confederacy:

"I was empowered to pledge the Confederate states, in case of the loss from any cause of the so-called 'neutral lands,' between Kansas and Missouri, to the payment of the purchase money, \$500,000, paid for it by the Cherokees, with interest from the time of purchase in 1835.

"I wish only, as you have declined to enter into any arrangement whatever with the Confederate states, even for the purpose of maintaining a real neutrality, now and for all future time to exclude the conclusion that the Confederate states will ever hereafter feel themselves bound to pay the Cherokee people the purchase money of the 800,000 acres of land lying between Kansas and Missouri. That was offered by me as one of the terms of an alliance, offensive and



of Indians was about equally divided between the Confederate and the Union sides. When the capital was captured the Sixth seized all of the records of that division of the Cherokees. These records have great historical value, and are now in the archives at Washington. The battle of Prairie Grove was another place where it contributed its share—a bloody, vicious battle, in which charges were made and repulsed, and assaults made on each side, and then again made.

#### A PLEASANT SPOT.

Lieutenant Campbell, of the Sixth, tells a story that shows one of the bright spots in the life of a soldier. When they were at Rhea's Mills he was officer of the day, and he found a couple of Confederate prisoners in the mill. They told him that they were awfully hungry, and he sent at once to the commissary and had a good meal furnished them. He has now forgotten what command they were with. Subsequently, at the battle of Cane Hill, Campbell was taken as a prisoner to a town farther down in Arkansas, where he was at once given the liberty of the town on parole, but was not returned to his command. He wondered at it, for no one else was paroled. Shortly after he was turned loose an old gray-headed man approached him and asked if he was being pretty well treated. He reported that he was pretty well treated, but that he was hungry, and being on parole had no place to sleep. The old man told him that if he would come with him he would furnish him a place to sleep and something to eat. He walked up the street with him to a fine old Southern mansion, and was taken into a room which was evidently the guest chamber, with a splendid four-poster bed, and everything around the room indicating comfortable ease. They had him sit at the table with the family, and treated him as an honored guest. That evening he noticed some little commotion around the place, and inquiry gave him the news that the great guerrilla chieftain Quantrill was coming into town that night. He came. Quantrill was a little deity among those people. When Campbell came to the house that night to go to bed he found a man lying on a pallet on the floor. He was a little bit inclined to have a spell of brain storm when the man rolled over and started to talk, and informed him that he was Quantrill. They talked together about their experiences and had a very pleasant evening, but it was a shock to Campbell. He wondered why the old man did not put Quantrill into the bed instead of on the floor. Before morning Quantrill was gone again. A week or so afterward

---

defensive, which, being rejected, the proposition is now withdrawn forever. It is not possible that any obligation can now or ever rest on the Confederate states to pay this large sum. In electing to remain nominally neutral, and really in alliance with the Northern states, you will have elected also to look to them for the price of that land, of which they have already plundered you. If the Confederate states ever pay any part of its value, they will only pay to those of your people who have declared themselves the friends of the South their share and proportion of that value."

"In the Cherokee Nation there were two parties—one in favor of an immediate alliance with the Confederate states, the other, headed by John Ross, declaring in favor of neutrality. Ross, as principal chief, had issued a proclamation (May 17, 1861) admonishing his people to remain neutral, and in this position he was backed by a majority of the Cherokee people.

"In August a general convention of the Cherokee people was called by John Ross as principal chief, for the purpose of considering the advisability of entering into an alliance with the Confederate states. This convention (August 21, 1861), after due deliberation, declared in favor of an alliance with the Confederate states, but the formal treaty to that effect was not signed until October 7, 1861.

"John Ross, who had long been the principal chief of the Cherokees, addressed the assembly in a statement giving the purpose of its deliberations, but very carefully avoided any word that would commit himself. When it was voted to enter into a treaty of alliance with the Confederate States, Ross, as principal chief, signed the treaty, but he afterwards repudiated that action and renewed his friendly intercourse with the Federal government."—History of Oklahoma, by Joseph B. Thoburn and Isaac M. Holcomb, 1908, pp. 78, 79.

he old man asked him if he thought it strange that he should be taken into his house, "a damned Yankee" as he expressed it, and treated that way. Campbell confessed that his guess was right. Then the old man told him that one of those prisoners he had had at Rhea's Mills was his son, and the young fellow, when Campbell was brought a prisoner, had taken his father around and pointed Campbell out to him, and told him the story, but did not speak to Campbell himself.

General Sherman's statement that "War is hell" is undoubtedly true, but there are some little kindly spots in it after all.

CANE HILL.<sup>11</sup>

But the event of the Sixth was the battle of Cane Hill, with a description of which my story ends; for this is more a sketch of Colonel Jewell than a detailed history of his regiment. It was a little battle, but larger than we want to see again.

On November 28, 1862, General Blunt was at Boonsborough (now Cane Hill), in Washington county, northern Arkansas, with about 5000 Union troops, including several Kansas commands. Marmaduke was there with about 7000 or 8000 Confederates. Lines were formed just north of Boonsborough, but there was no battle—a little firing, that was all.

Running out of a spur of the Boston mountains, just over the ridge east of Boonsborough, is a little brook, of swift-running spring water, ten to twenty feet wide, Cove creek, running southward. Its valley is a ravine, only a few rods wide, about like a city street, with the Van Buren-Fayetteville wagon road running along the right side of the stream—that is, the west side—with bluffs on each side. Cove creek gives the name for the battle used in the Confederate archives.

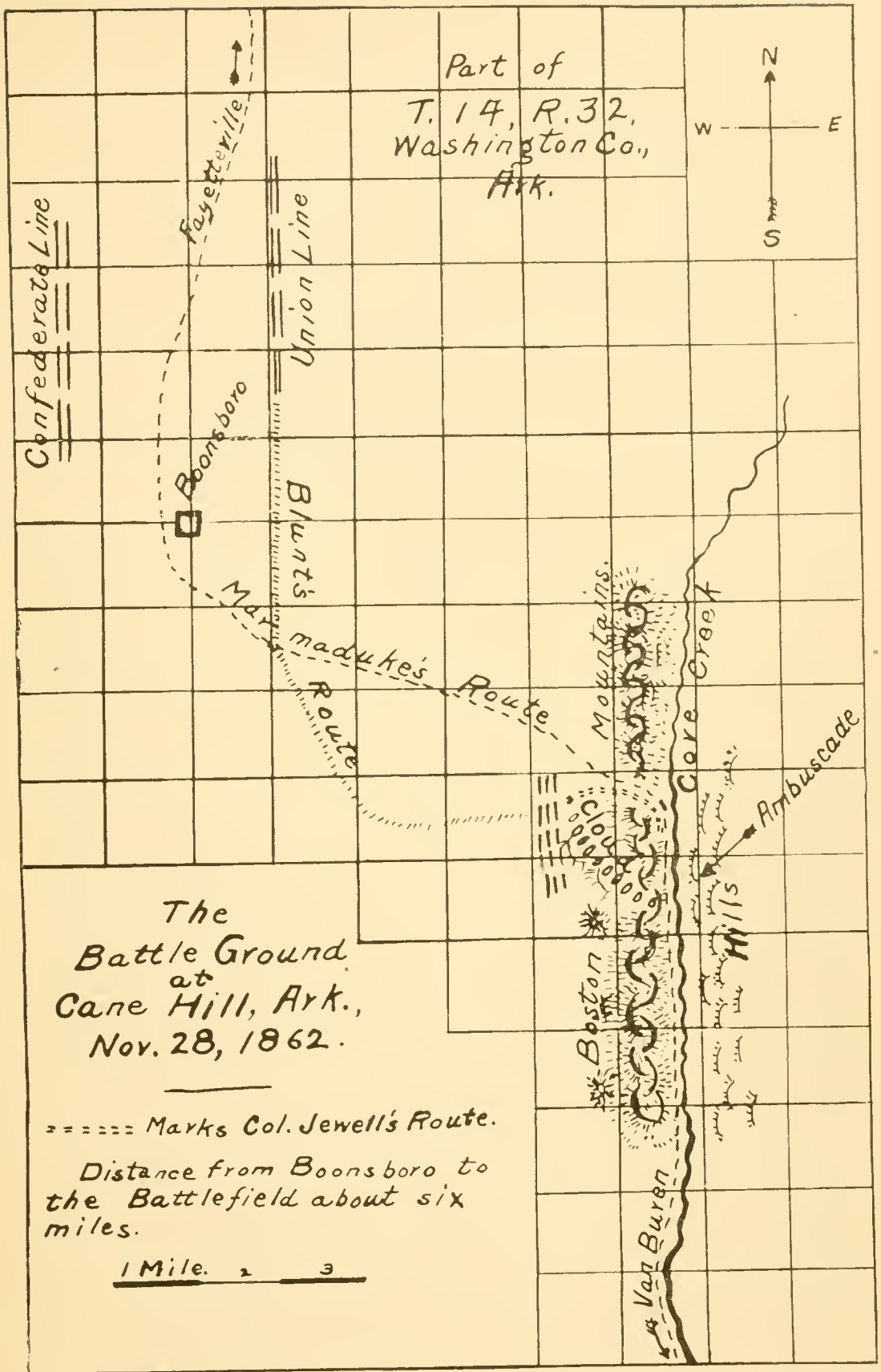
The Confederate troops were moving south down the road toward Van Buren. They were going, you observe.

Blunt ordered Colonel Cloud, of the Tenth Kansas, to follow the Van Buren road and assault the Confederate troops down Cove creek. He changed his mind and directed Colonel Jewell to make the assault. Jewell asked the privilege. The little valley was so narrow that Jewell concluded that more than three companies would be a burden and in the way of each other. Colonel Judson being absent, Jewell was in command. He had his men in line and made a speech to them. Speeches to the file were common in the West. He told them that he had a very dangerous expedition before them, with the chances against them. He reminded them that Marmaduke and Shelby had somewhere about 7000 men. He would order no man to go. He wanted volunteers. He got them.

Up to this time in the story of the assault it would seem that this proposed attack was a piece of foolhardiness—a charge of a battalion against several regiments! But if the plans had been carried out the chances are that even then it would have succeeded. Colonel Cloud was ordered by Blunt, with the Tenth Kansas, to go to a lower pass, just a short distance, and cross over the narrow ridge. At the proper time he was to throw his

---

NOTE 11.—"Cane Hill is a ridge of perhaps eight miles in length and five miles in width, in the southwestern part of Washington county, Arkansas, just beyond the north base of the Boston mountains. Three villages are built upon it (Russellville, Boonsborough and Newburg), which almost blend with each other, covering a distance, as the road to Fayetteville runs, of three or five miles."—Official Records, War of the Rebellion, Series 1, vol. 22, pt. I, p. 139. Accounts of the action at Cane Hill, Arkansas, November 28, 1862, may be found in Britton's *Civil War on the Border*, 1891, chap. 29; *Military History of Kansas Regiments*, p. 81; *Official Records, War of the Rebellion*, S. 1, vol. 22, pt. I, pp. 41-59.





force down off the ridge on Shelby's flank into the open space. This was all understood by the officers. When every company of the Sixth promptly stepped forward and volunteered to go with Jewell, and three were selected, his own old company in the number, everything was ready.

Jewell and his little band of "rough riders" made a dash over into the valley. The dash was so vigorous and sudden that the rear of the retiring forces moving down the creek gave way, and Jewell went with such impetuous haste that he actually got to the cannon of a rebel battery which was stationed in such a way that it would sweep quite a portion of the gulch, before it had time to load and fire. Jewell took the battery and went on. The little party, with Jewell a rod or two ahead of the front, went down that gulch like very devils, with Jewell in advance of every man in the battalion, roaring like a bull and swinging his saber and calling to his men to come on. They swung down around the gulch, occasionally sabering a man off his horse. When they got to the throat of the valley at the lower pass over the Boston mountains, they expected to hear the guns of Colonel Cloud's regiment. Fully expecting it, and being confident, they dashed on, because it was Jewell's idea, and the thought of every individual soldier, that the way to fight that part of the battle was to fight it with a rush and a whirl. I say they all "thought." There was not a machine soldier in the regiment. They all thought. But to their surprise they heard no guns on the flank. What could it mean? Notwithstanding this, having faith in the good work which Cloud was known to be able to do, they kept on. Cloud was a soldier, they depended on him. Up to this time the assaulting party had slight injury, because Jewell's battalion had gone so much like a whirlwind that the Confederate rear had little chance to do any fighting. Swinging on down the gulch, on the heels of the retreating foe, they turned a corner, and were suddenly face to face, just a few rods off, with about 3000 of Marmaduke's Confederates, with Fighting Jo Shelby and his cavalry protecting the rear. Still no sound from Cloud! Colonel Cloud, according to the arrangement, moved his men southward and started to climb across the ridge. He was carrying out the order and was actually just going over the brow of the ridge when a courier came dashing up with an order from General Blunt not to complete the flank charge, but to withdraw; this without any previous warning to Jewell so that he could protect himself. Why this was done will probably always remain a mystery.

Jewell's men until they got to this point had received very little punishment. They were well mounted, and had succeeded in dashing over the ground faster than the rebels could get out of their way. Every man was yelling like a fiend. In the last rush Lieut. A. H. Campbell was riding a very fine and strong horse. One of the Confederates had his horse shot from under him, and a comrade stopped to let him mount behind him, probably his brother. This delayed the two men so that they were actually in the vortex of the cyclone. Campbell made a dash after them, and as he got beside the horse he drew his revolver and attempted to fire into the back of the rear man. He snapped the revolver two or three times, and then discovered that it was not loaded. In his excitement he had emptied his revolver and not recharged it. His horse with free rein dashed on. On account of this effort he had passed Jewell. This was the only time that any Union soldier was ever ahead of Jewell in a charge. Jewell was swinging



his saber and filling the air with his voice in his yells to his men to come on. He said to Campbell, "That 's right, lieutenant, go ahead!" The last words he ever spoke before he received his death wound.

The withdrawal of Colonel Cloud's flank attack was not the worst of it. Lieut. Col. A. V. Reiff, of the Confederates, whose written story I have, had arranged an ambushade by order of General Cabell, at the narrowest part of the gulch, near where Cloud was to attack. The steep slopes were alive with hidden soldiers.

Just at the instant of Jewell's approach, the Confederates who were drawn up in line of battle at very close range and well prepared, fired a volley that was horrible. At the same time the lead rained from the ambushade above. Campbell's horse was shot from under him and he was thrown to the ground a long distance away. In his own words, "I think I was breathing splinters and dirt for half an hour." A young oak as big as a stove pipe, a few feet to one side, was clipped by a shot, just as you snip off a sunflower with your whip. The same volley did awful execution on the whole little band. One shot hit Jewell's horse and another at the same instant hit him in the breast. He fell off and the horse rolled kicking and plunging into the little stream. Then, without any support, of course they had to retreat, every instant agonizingly wondering what was the matter with Cloud.

Why somebody didn't pay dearly for the murder of Lewis R. Jewell is past finding out.

After this volley, of course, any further advance was useless. They were forced back. They could have been forced back with clubs by such an overpowering force. Quoting Confederate Lieutenant Colonel Reiff, "the valley gorged like sheep passing a narrow gate." Reiff and his men fired into the mass as they struggled to get away, but could not, as the valley was full. They were taken prisoners, some of them held for many months.

General Jo Shelby was really in command of the body of men protecting the rear against whom the assault was made. He described that scene to me just a short time before his death. After his experience through all the border troubles on the Kansas-Missouri line in the late '50's, Shelby was competent to judge. He was a soldier all over. He said that was the fiercest sortie he had ever seen on the field, and that the leader of it was the bravest man he ever met in battle. Shelby was a dignified, cultured, and scholarly gentleman. He was probably the first man to get to Colonel Jewell after he fell off his horse, and the incident is characteristic of both of the men. Shelby saw the straps on Colonel Jewell's shoulders and immediately dismounted. Shelby knew what deference he owed to a soldier, although a foe. I don't think he knew him, but simply recognized him as a lieutenant colonel. Seeing that he was badly wounded, he said, "Colonel, is there anything I can do for you?" It was intensely interesting to hear Shelby describe the incident, better than I can. He said that Jewell without a whimper, without any apparent anxiety in his voice or manner, raised on his elbow and said, "Yes, General, you can get me a cup of water." Shelby got him a canteen of water and then said, "Colonel, isn't there something else I can do for you?" Jewell said, "Oh, no, no, no. All you can do for me I guess, is to send one of your aides to General Blunt and tell him that I am disabled." Observe the quiet, cool nerve of the man. He didn't say he was killed, although he knew he was.

And so they took him. He was turned over to the Union command, and died on the 30th, two days afterward. His body was carried to Fort Scott and interred in the national cemetery and afterward reinterred at Arcadia, his old home, where his descendants keep his memory green.

HOW HE DIED.

I do not like to quote, but here is a description which I cannot avoid. When majestic old Olaf Gulmar, the Jarl, the descendant of the Scandinavian Vikings, was at his death, after a rigid, stormy life, he ordered his servitor Valdemar Svensen to carry him to the deck of his favorite boat, the Valkyre, set it on fire and cut the moorings. It was done. As a seaward wind and an ebbing tide carried the sloop from the northernmost point of Norway toward the pole, in a mass of flame and the roar of the storm, Corelli describes him in his death rhapsody:

“‘Hark!’ he cried, and his voice vibrated with deep and mellow clearness. ‘Hark to the thunder of the galloping hoofs! See! See! The glitter of the shield and spear!’ He raised his arms as though in ecstasy. ‘Glory! Joy! Victory!’

“And like a noble tree struck down by lightning, he fell—dead.”

So died Lewis R. Jewell, of the Sixth Kansas cavalry.

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

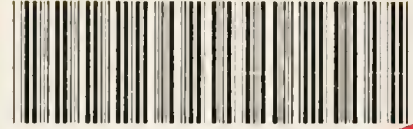


0 003 258 675 2





LIBRARY OF CONGRESS



0 003 258 675 2



**permalife.**  
pH 8.5