

THE ORGANIZATION OF THE KANSAS TROOPS
IN THE CIVIL WAR

by

GOLDA CRAWFORD

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PREFACE

The Memorial Building, located in the capital of the State of Kansas, is a tribute to the Kansas Civil War veterans and, as such, was dedicated May 27, 1914 in the presence of more than 5,000 of them. Money secured from the Federal Government on two claims was used to construct this memorial to the Kansas troops. An appropriation of Congress in 1908 paid the state the two claims; the one, for equipping troops during the Civil War, and the other, for service within the state repelling invasions of Confederates, bushwhackers, and Indians. The organization of these troops is one of the interesting and exciting phases of the history of Kansas. To give an account of it is the purpose of this study.

The military organization is closely connected with the political intrigue and a true account is difficult to present since the literature of the period is controversial. There are yet in the hands of individuals manuscripts that, when released, will throw more light on the situation.

The principal sources of material for the study have

been from the Historical Library, the Newspaper Section, and the Archives and Manuscripts Divisions of the Kansas State Historical Society in Topeka, and the library of the Kansas State College.

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CHAPTER I

KANSAS AT THE BEGINNING OF THE WAR

Kansas was the youngest state in the Union at the beginning of the Civil War. President James Buchanan had signed the bill admitting Kansas as a free state on January 29, 1861 which was only two months and seventeen days before President Lincoln's first call for troops.

The struggle for statehood was long - five years, three months, and six days.¹ And it had been as bitter as it had been long. A state of famine, much suffering, and a tendency to thievery and robbery in many districts² were results not only of the long bitter struggle, but also of the drouth of 1860.³ An editorial in the Leavenworth Conservative said:

Kansas is in no condition for civil war. Her people burdened with crimes of former years, and suffering from a fearful visitation of Providence, ask only for an opportunity to cultivate the arts of peace.⁴

Kansas had no arms or ammunition at the outbreak of

¹ G. Raymond Gaeddert, "The Birth of Kansas," University of Kansas Publications, (Lawrence, 1940), p. 91.

² Ibid., p. 138.

³ Report of the Adjutant General of the State of Kansas, 1861-1865, (rev. ed., Topeka, 1869), pt. ii, p. 198.

⁴ Leavenworth Daily Conservative, April 16, 1861.

the war other than a few private arms that were among the people.⁵ There was no state militia; the military organization that had been formed during the "turbulent years" had fallen into disuse during 1859-60 and had almost entirely broken down.⁶ Neither did the State have money with which to purchase arms and supplies. Governor Charles Robinson applied to the Federal Government at the beginning of the war for the 5,000 stand of arms at Fort Leavenworth to be used by the State for its protection.⁷ A short time later, Lieutenant-Governor J. P. Root, in the absence of Governor Robinson, made a second appeal to Secretary of War Cameron in which he said that every other effort to obtain arms had failed.⁸

Kansas came into the Union with a total population of 107,206; of this number 106,390 were white persons, six hundred and twenty five were colored, and one hundred and eighty nine were Indians.⁹ The Leavenworth Conservative claimed that in this number "there are doubtless more ex-

⁵ Gaeddert, op. cit., p. 138.

⁶ Wyandotte County and Kansas City, Kansas, (Chicago, 1890), p. 79.

⁷ War of the Rebellion: compilation of official records of Union and Confederate Armies, (Washington, 1880-1901), series iii, vol. I, p. 112. This work will be referred to hereafter as Official Records.

⁸ Idem, series i, vol. III, p. 405.

⁹ Population of the United States in 1860, (Washington, 1864), p. 159.

perienced military men than can be found in any other hundred thousand men in the Union."¹⁰

Even though the loyalty of Kansas was of sufficient intensity to cause Major General J. M. Schofield to write to the Governor, "In a State like Kansas, where everybody in loyal...",¹¹ yet there was a divided attitude. There were those who would let the "erring brothers go in peace," there were those who were sympathetic with the agricultural South against the industrial North, and there were those who would conquer the South.¹² However, loyalty to the Union and the North was decidedly prevalent and to be expected since "the enemies of the Union were those who had oppressed and opposed her admission."¹³ On January 31, 1861, a newspaper editorial said, "Whatever other States, urged on by prejudice and fanatic zeal, may do or say..., the people of Kansas with one heart and one voice, will fight forever for that Union."¹⁴ Kansas newspapers criticized the Southern states for seceding and believed they had played traitor since Kansas had been treated "a

¹⁰ Leavenworth Daily Conservative, April 21, 1861.

¹¹ Official Records, series i, vol. 22, pt. i, p. 577.

¹² Gaeddert, op. cit., p. 137.

¹³ Adjutant General's Report, 1861-65, pt. ii, p. 198.

¹⁴ Leavenworth Conservative, January 30, 1861.

thousand times worse... than South Carolina ever was, yet she never thought of seceding."¹⁵ On April 25, Governor Robinson wrote to Secretary of War Cameron expressing the loyalty of the people of Kansas and assuring the Federal Government that the people were anxious "to maintain the integrity of the Government."¹⁶ The Kansas State Record expressed this loyalty in the following editorial:

Born of revolution, and from the first identified with the principles of free government, in contradiction to pro-slaveryism and secessionism, it would be entirely proper, and even necessary for our vindication, that our sympathy should be promptly and heartily extended to the Administration in this trying hour of our country's history, and every step possible taken for its assistance and justification.¹⁷

The loyal attitude was maintained throughout the war and, in 1863, when Martin F. Conway, Kansas representative to Congress, presented resolutions criticizing the government for the way in which it was carrying on the war, the state legislature passed a resolution asking his resignation because it believed he had betrayed the confidence of the people of Kansas "since they had been faithful beyond all measure to the Union and the Government."¹⁸

Only a few days after the President's call for troops

¹⁵ Ibid., April 6, 1861.

¹⁶ Official Records, series iii, vol. I, p. 112.

¹⁷ Kansas State Record, April 20, 1861.

¹⁸ House Journal of the State of Kansas, 1863, p. 238.

on April 15, 1861, it became the "smart thing" to organize independent military companies and tender them to the Government. By the middle of May, over sixty of these independent military groups had been formed in various parts of the State and had offered their services to the Governor.¹⁹ The "fever" of the movement hit even the legislature and a company of fifty persons composed exclusively of its members organized the "Capital Guard" and tendered itself to the Governor for the defense of the State.²⁰ So numerous were the offers that it was impossible for the Governor to accept many of the groups. This readiness to serve indicates that there was a state wide loyalty for the Union.

In Washington, D. C., the Kansans were exhibiting their loyalty in active service. There were in the capital, at the beginning of the way, a great many office-seekers and a number of Kansans were among them. James H. Lane, too, had gone to Washington immediately after his election to the Senate and, when there seemed to be danger of an attack on the city, organized the Kansas office-seekers and others into the "Frontier Guard." The group went on duty at the

¹⁹ Kansas State Record, May 18, 1861.

²⁰ Ibid., May 25, 1861.

White House on April 18²¹ and was transferred to the navy yard on April 24.²² The "Frontier Guard" remained in service only until May 3 but it had "for many days lent an important moral influence impressing and overawing the lurking treason still present in a considerable fraction among the Washington inhabitants."²³ Some who are familiar with Lane's political ambitions have called the guard a "purely political maneuver"²⁴ but it did serve a purpose in Washington and most certainly forced the President to recognize the loyalty of Kansas and Jim Lane.

21 John G. Nicolay and John Hay, Abraham Lincoln, (New York, 1890), vol. IV, p. 106.

22 Official Records, series i, vol. 51, pt. i, p. 353.

23 Nicolay and Hay, op. cit., p. 107.

24 Edgar Langsford, "Jim Lane and the Frontier Guard," Kansas Historical Quarterly, vol. IX, no. 1, p. 25.

CHAPTER II

THE BORDER SITUATION

Kansas was in a precarious position all during the war because of her geographical location. Her neighbor on the east was the established state of Missouri whose loyalty was doubtful to the point that there was considerable fear of secession. If Missouri should decide to withdraw from the Union, Kansas would have no way of communication with other loyal states except by land through Iowa which would be so expensive and slow that it would be almost entirely useless.¹ Even though Missouri did not follow the other seceding states, Kansas had to face the fact that the western half of that state contained four times as many unfriendly pro-slavery people as Kansas had in her entire population.² Governor Robinson in his message to the state legislature in 1862 said that "tens, hundreds and thousands, who are hostile to the Government, are hovering along our borders, menacing the peace of the

1 Official Records, series iii, vol. I, p. 112.

2 Bliss Isley and W. M. Richards, Four Centuries in Kansas, (Wichita, 1936), p. 183.

State."³ From this situation Kansas was left open to both the danger of raids from Missouri and probable invasion by the Confederate forces.

To the south and west, Kansas was open to attacks of both savage and civilized Indians. While the Five Civilized Tribes⁴ were divided on the slavery question, many of them were slave holders⁵ and the Confederacy was successful in enlisting the aid of about 75,000 of them to their cause.⁶

Throughout the four years of the war, the residents of the counties on the eastern and southeastern borders were in constant fear and anxiety for their property and their lives. The raids were considerable in number and of sufficient magnitude to hold the population in a continual state of terror. Then, too, the rumors of expected attacks by bushwhackers and secessionists kept the men exhausted from their constant watching for the enemy both day and night. People were more comfortable sleeping in their corn fields than in their beds with the constant possibil-

³ Kansas State Governors' Messages, (1862-1881), vol. I, p. 1.

⁴ The Five Civilized Tribes were the Cherokee, Creek, Chotow, Chickasaw, and Seminole tribes which occupied the eastern part of the Indian territory, the present state of Oklahoma.

⁵ Theodore Gardner, "The First Kansas Battery", Kansas Historical Collections, (1915-1918), vol. XIV, p. 239.

⁶ Isley and Richards, Ibid., p. 183.

ity of a prowling group of rovers visiting them unexpectedly in the night. The men of the house remained in the background and were "at home" only to those known to be friends.⁷ Every man slept with a revolver and did not travel along the border roads or in the streets of the border towns without it.⁸ Many residents along the Missouri border moved out and left their homes and farms so that the lives of their families might be safe. The border was a "seething, hissing cauldron"⁹ and the "scene of the most revolting hostilities."¹⁰

The bushwhackers and secessionists from Missouri and many of the Jayhawkers from Kansas were the constant enemies of the eastern border counties. Originally the Jayhawkers were supposed to "accomplish justice by irregular means," but to many of them jayhawking became a means by which an individual could gain considerable property for his personal use. In 1861, Lane was forced to issue strict orders to the "Lane Brigade" against the taking and destroying of private property.¹¹ The "Red Legs" were also a

⁷ Leavenworth Daily Conservative, August 4, 1861.

⁸ C. M. Chase, Letters, August 4, 1861.

⁹ Charles E. Corey, "The Sixth Kansas Cavalry and Its Commander", Kansas Historical Collections, vol. XI, p. 229.

¹⁰ Official Records, series 1, vol. 22, pt. 1, p. 15.

¹¹ James H. Lane, General Orders No. 4, September 1, 1861.

source of trouble. They were a group of self-appointed "dealers of justice", and, like the Jayhawkers, had in the beginning accomplished good work against the bushwhackers but later they, too, did considerable thieving and murdering for their own individual gains.

The raids on homes and towns and the robbing and murdering of men reached its height in the Quantrill Raid on Lawrence on August 21, 1863 and while the marauding of towns and homes did not end until after the war was over the vigilance of the troops and citizens lessened them in number and horridness after that raid.

Gaeddert gives three reasons for the insecurity of the Kansas settlers on the borders; first, the Lane-Robinson conflict caused factions in the legislature and the opponents of Robinson refused to vote power or funds for the use of the administration in caring for these matters; second, the "struggle for control of the military patronage and the eagerness of some of the politicians to command a brigade and organize regiments for the United States service"; and third, Kansas lacked money.¹²

This border situation was a constant incentive for the recruiting of volunteer troops but, since these same troops

¹² Gaeddert, The Birth of Kansas, p. 145.

were often removed from the State, it was necessary to use the militia of the State frequently during the four years of the war.

CHAPTER III

RECRUITING IN THE
ROBINSON ADMINISTRATION, 1861-1863

During Governor Robinson's administration thirteen regiments and two batteries of light artillery were ordered into the service in answer to the quota of troops asked from Kansas. The quota assignment for this period was 6,777 men; 5,006 for three years, or during the war and 1,771 for nine months. Kansas responded to the call with 9,889 men for three years and 650 who enlisted for three months, making a total of 10,539. This response gave the State a surplus of 4,768 over all quotas at the end of this administration.¹

The activities of recruiting during this period were handicapped by the political rivalry of the Robinson-Lane feud since the interest of both men were again involved. The differences between the two were so apparent and so disastrous to the best interests of the State that the

¹ Adjutant General's Report, 1861-65, pt. i, pp. 11-12; Official Records, series iii, vol. IV, p. 1264.

Leavenworth Conservative wrote:

On all public questions there is a Robinson version and a Lane version, and neither is the truth. Men anxious to know what to do and how to act hear both stories, in disgust strike a balance and wish to Heaven that there could be some cessation of this all-blighting feud.²

The conflict between the two men in regard to military matters, as well as political controversies, was beyond all question of policy and expediency. It is difficult to tell what is true, and what is not, from the controversial literature of the period; but, undoubtedly, both sides were at fault on the issues involved and one side was no less to blame for the atrocious acts than the other. Lane was ambitious to be the military leader of the state and control the military patronage, and, with the same relentless zeal, Governor Robinson was determined to retain the military powers which he believed to belong to the Governor of Kansas.³

Although Governor Robinson may have been a strong supporter of the war, as is contended by F. W. Blackmar,⁴ he was put in an unfavorable position with Lincoln and

² Leavenworth Daily Conservative, May 26, 1861.

³ Gaeddert, The Birth of Kansas, p. 131.

⁴ F. W. Blackmar, "Charles Robinson", Kansas Historical Collections, vol. VI, p. 197.

other Federal authorities and his enthusiasm waned. The President did not trust Robinson⁵ and Lane was able to capitalize on his friendship with Lincoln and other Federal officers to his own advantage.

Lane won the notice and gratitude of Lincoln by offering the service of the "Frontier Guard" at a trying time. Just how much Lincoln trusted Lane and how deep their friendship was, is a matter of controversy. At the time of Lincoln's death, the Leavenworth Conservative wrote:

It is well known that the personal relations of the two were of the most intimate, confidential character. They were close, personal friends; and while representing somewhat different views as to the policy of treating rebels, each had the fullest confidence in, and respect for, the opinion of the other; and their intercourse was always marked by the greatest harmony and warmest friendship.⁶

Although the personalities of the two men were markedly different, Lincoln evidently believed Lane had ability, as on June 20, 1861, he wrote the Secretary of War, "I... have concluded that we need such a man [Lane] out there at once; that we better appoint him a brigadier-general of volunteers today...."⁷

Lane was received cordially by Secretary of War

⁵ William E. Connelley, A Standard History of Kansas and Kansans, (Chicago, 1918), vol. 2, p. 717.

⁶ Leavenworth Daily Conservative, April 23, 1865.

⁷ Official Records, series iii, vol. I, p. 280.

Stanton and General G. B. McClellan,⁸ and Stephenson claims that, as far as the Federal authorities were concerned, "Lane represented Kansas in military affairs."⁹ He was given authority to establish camps, appoint officers, and provide for the discipline of the regiments¹⁰ yet, in other states, this authority was given to the Governor of the state.¹¹ Robinson, of course, deeply resented this evident slight to his authority and would not cooperate with Lane, often refusing to commission the officers appointed by him. There was also friction between Robinson and Brigadier-General James G. Blunt. The Secretary of War, after receiving complaints from all three men, wrote: "It is deeply regretted that there is any discord or ill feeling between the Executive of Kansas and the military commander and General Lane...if any way appeared by which the Department could establish harmony and unity of action it would be promptly pursued."¹²

⁸ Leavenworth Daily Conservative quoting the New York Tribune, January 28, 1862.

⁹ W. H. Stephenson, "The Political Career of General James H. Lane", Publications of the Kansas State Historical Society, III, (1930), p. 128. This work will be referred to hereafter as Stephenson, "Lane".

¹⁰ Official Records, series iii, vol. II, p. 959.

¹¹ Idem, vol. I, p. 227.

¹² Idem, vol. II, p. 479.

Lane accused Robinson of trying to prevent the enlistment of men and, on October 9, 1861, wrote Lincoln that he had raised an effective army despite the opposition of the Governor of the State, and this effective force that he had raised was styled by Robinson as "marauders and thieves."¹³ The reason for this written tirade was that Robinson was trying to bring about the disbandment of the "Lane Brigade" (the Third, Fourth, and Fifth Kansas Volunteer Regiments) and stop the raids in western Missouri in which the brigade had been burning towns and releasing the negro slaves of rebel Missourians. On September 1, Robinson had written Major General J. C. Fremont, commanding the Western Department, that there was no real danger of trouble on the border. Robinson believed that there would be no border clashes if the government stores were sent back to Fort Leavenworth from Fort Scott¹⁴ and if the "Lane Brigade" was removed from the border. He wrote, "what we have to fear, and do fear, is that Lane's "Brigade" will get up a war by going over the line, committing depredations, and then returning to our State"

¹³ *Ibid.*, series i, vol. III, p. 529.

¹⁴ Lane had been certain that Fort Scott was the logical place from which to protect the border.

followed by revengeful Missourians.¹⁵ Fremont agreed with Robinson and ordered Lane back to Fort Leavenworth. But, as Lane's activities continued, he, apparently, ignored the order, and, in return, used his influence to help remove Fremont from command. Thus was the situation all during the Robinson administration.

When the President, on April 15, 1861, issued a call for 75,000 militia to serve for three months, no quota was assigned to Kansas but the State furnished 650 men.¹⁶ This regiment, accepted by the Government on direct tender, was designated the Second Regiment Kansas Volunteers Infantry¹⁷ and was mustered-in on June 20, 1861. Most of the members of this regiment re-enlisted in the Second Regiment Cavalry.¹⁸

Secretary of War Cameron notified Governor Robinson on May 21, 1861 that one regiment had been assigned to Kansas for organization under the call of May 3, and that F. P. Stanton would be sent to Kansas with authority to

¹⁵ Charles Robinson, Letter to General J. C. Fremont in Archives Division Kansas State Historical Society: Official Records, series i, vol. III, p. 468.

¹⁶ Adjutant General's Report, 1861-65, pt. i, p. 11; Official Records, series iii, vol. IV, p. 1264.

¹⁷ So designated because another regiment had been completed and mustered as the First before this one was fully organized.

¹⁸ Adjutant General's Report, 1861-65, pt. ii, p. 11.

recruit one regiment in Kansas and two in New Mexico and to "give attention to the army in Kansas and New Mexico."¹⁹ This regiment, the First Infantry, was recruited mostly during the week before its muster-in on June 3, 1861 with G. W. Deitzler as Colonel.²⁰ Sometime later the First was mounted.²¹

The success of recruiting the First Regiment encouraged Governor Robinson to offer two additional regiments and they were accepted by Secretary of War Cameron.²²

Lane, not wanting to be left out of the military activities of his state, asked for, and received on June 20, authority to recruit and organize two regiments of mixed troops in addition to the three accepted from the Governor.²³

Lane went to work and the Third and Fourth Kansas Regiments were mustered-in with James Montgomery and William Weer as Colonels before either had the required number of recruits. Recruiting of the regiments had gone along rapidly when a Confederate raid seemed likely but the regiments being organized under the authority of the

19 Official Records, series iii, vol. I, p. 221.

20 Adjutant General's Report, 1861-65, pt. ii, p. 1.

21 Topeka State Record (Weekly), April 29, 1863.

22 Official Records, series iii, vol. I, p. 275.

23 Ibid., p. 282

Governor were securing most of the recruits. One reason for this was that western men preferred cavalry regiments.²⁴

The Third and Fourth were in service for eight months and with the Fifth made up the "Lane Brigade" which was used for his invasion of Missouri in the winter of 1861-62. Because the Third and Fourth Regiments were not up to the minimum standard,²⁵ in April, 1862 Governor Robinson was ordered by Major General H. W. Halleck to consolidate them into one.²⁶ The resulting regiment was mustered in on July 24, 1862 as the Tenth Kansas, the Tenth because the men could not decide if it would be the Third or Fourth and that was the next vacant number.

The Fifth Cavalry, already mentioned as a part of the "Lane Brigade", started active service in the summer of 1861 with that group but was not actually mustered in until December 31, 1861. After a re-organization of the regiment in February 1862, it showed marked improvement.²⁷

The Second Kansas Cavalry had its beginning in October, 1861 when Major General Fremont, commanding the Western Department, gave authority to A. C. Davis of

²⁴ Connelley, op. cit., p. 877 quoting 13th Biennial Report of the Adjutant General of Kansas.

²⁵ Minimum requirement for infantry 866; maximum, 1,046. Set up by General Orders No. 15. Official Records, series iii, vol. I, p. 152.

²⁶ Official Records, series iii, vol. II, p. 65.

²⁷ Ibid., p. 15.

Wyandotte County to raise a regiment of cavalry. The organization was commenced November 8, 1861 and was originally named the Twelfth Kansas Volunteers. The name of the regiment was changed to the Ninth and companies were added to and taken from the regiment a number of times; the final re-organization took place when Colonel Robert E. Mitchell of the Second Infantry took command. Three companies from the Second Infantry were attached and it was mustered in as the Second Kansas Cavalry on May 7, 1862.²⁸

The Sixth Regiment Kansas Volunteer Cavalry was started as a "Home Guard" unit. In July 1861, Brigadier General Lyon gave authority to W. C. Ransom of Fort Scott to organize three companies to be used for protection against threatened invasions from southeast Missouri. Later five additional companies were organized on the authority of Major Prince, commander of the post of Fort Leavenworth, when it was evident that the three original companies were not adequate for the protection needed. The regiment was accepted in the service on September 10, 1861.²⁹

The Seventh Regiment Cavalry was organized October 28, 1861 and immediately entered the field under Colonel

28 Ibid., p. 73.

29 Ibid., p. 73.

Charles R. Jennison.³⁰ During the winter of 1861-62 the regiment was in service on the border and in western Missouri and freed many slaves belonging to the Missourians. It was at this time that the title of "Jayhawkers" was given to the Seventh; a title it bore "unblushingly".³¹ The Seventh was one of the most notorious regiments of the war and had the reputation of "attacking and not waiting to be attacked".³² The following letter, dated July 26, 1862, written by a private in the regiment indicates the reputation that went with the regiment:

'Tis amusing, the estimation in which we are holden down here. We are known from Maine to Florida, and are regarded with a perfect holy terror. Both officers and men stare at us as we pass, with "There go the Kansas Jayhawkers". Is anything missing, the cry is at once raised, "Jennison's Jayhawkers did it". I have actually seen women have spasms when we were passing, purely from fear. On the 4th of July I went into a house for a drink of water, and the women were crying and wringing their hands, and one had had a fit. They actually expected to have their houses burned, the property taken and their babies eaten, and to be subject to every other possible outrage. Extravagant as this may seem, 'tis true.³³

The Eighth Regiment Infantry was organized September 2, 1861 under authority given Governor Robinson in August

30 Ibid., p. 93.

31 John Brown, Jr., Letter, July 18, 1862. Archives Division Kansas State Historical Society.

32 S. M. Fox, Letter to George W. Martin, December 9, 1908. Archives Division Kansas State Historical Society.

33 Leavenworth Daily Conservative, August 7, 1862.

by Major General Fremont, on order of the Department of War, to raise one regiment for "home service" and two for service in New Mexico.³⁴ Only one battalion was raised for New Mexico service and it was consolidated with the Eighth which was the only regiment raised under the authorization.³⁵

The Ninth Kansas Volunteer Cavalry was a consolidation of "independent" battalions and squadrons and detachments that were in Kansas without regimental affiliation. Many of the companies had been originally organized for other regiments. Its organization was completed on March 24, 1862.³⁶

As previously stated, the Third, Fourth, and a part of the Fifth were merged to form the Tenth Regiment. The consolidation was completed on April 3, 1862.

The organization of the above regiments was in answer to the President's calls of May 8, July 22 and 25, 1861. The quota assigned to Kansas was 3,235 and the men furnished 6,953.³⁷ The Leavenworth Conservative, quoting the New York Tribune, said: "Kansas is the only State of

34, J. C. Fremont, Letter to Governor Robinson, August 21, 1861. Archives Division Kansas State Historical Society.

35 Adjutant General's Report, 1861-65, pt. ii, p. 93.

36 Ibid., p. 166.

37 Adjutant General's Report, 1861-65, pt. i, 11; Official Records, series iii, vol. IV, p. 1264.

the whole list which has furnished her full quota".³⁸

On July 2, 1862, President Lincoln issued a call for 300,000 volunteers to serve for three years, or during the war, and the quota assigned to Kansas was 1,771.³⁹ On July 22, Lane was notified of his appointment as Commissioner for Recruiting in the Department of Kansas. He was requested to raise and organize one or more brigades of volunteer infantry and was granted "full authority...to establish camps, and provide for maintenance of discipline and the supply of the troops with the munitions of war."⁴⁰ It was after this appointment that Lane actively recruited colored troops which will be discussed in another chapter.

Lane immediately started on his duties and opened a recruiting office in Leavenworth.⁴¹ On August 5, he enthusiastically telegraphed Secretary of War Stanton: "Recruiting opens up beautifully. Good for four regiments of whites and two of blacks."⁴² Lane issued an order, dated August 7, appointing the following recruiting agents: Thomas Ewing, Jr. for the counties of Leavenworth, Jeffer-

³⁸ Leavenworth Daily Conservative, September 25, 1861.

³⁹ Adjutant General's Report, 1861-65, pt. i, p. 11; Official Records, series iii, vol. IV, p.1264.

⁴⁰ Official Records, series iii, vol. II, p. 959.

⁴¹ D. W. Wilder, Annals of Kansas, (1886), p. 350.

⁴² Official Records, series iii, vol. II, p. 294.

son, Jackson, Pottawatomie, Riley, Davis, Dickinson, Morris, Lyon, Shawnee, Wabaunsee, and Clay; Fielding Johnson and Josiash E. Hayes for Wyandotte, Johnson, Miami, Bourbon, and Linn counties and Cyrus Leland, Sr. for Doniphan, Brown, Marshall, Nemaha, and Washington counties.⁴³

On August 4, 1862 Lincoln had issued another call for troops, this time for 300,000 militia to serve for nine months and the quota for Kansas was again 1,771.⁴⁴ The Federal Government, because state recruiting was beginning to collapse, resorted to conscription for the first time and the dead line date for enlistments in Kansas was August 22. However, the State authorities were later notified that this date was extended to September 10 and "as soon after the tenth of September as practicable, the Secretary of War will be advised of the numbers then necessary to fill the quota to be raised in Kansas, in order that proper steps for a draft, to fill such a quota may be ordered."⁴⁵

The Eleventh, Twelfth, and Thirteenth Regiments were furnished in response to these calls, all for three years, or during the war. Thomas Ewing, Jr. was active in re-

⁴³ Leavenworth Daily Conservative, August 8, 1862.

⁴⁴ Adjutant General's Report, 1861-65, pt. i, p. 11; Official Records, series iii, vol. IV, p. 1265.

⁴⁵ Leavenworth Daily Conservative, August 22, 1862.

cruiting the Eleventh and the regiment was completed and mustered in September 15, 1862 only a little over a month after his appointment which was the "quickest work of its kind ever done in Kansas."⁴⁶ The Eleventh claimed to be the "most truly Kansan in its composition" as all of its members were citizens of Kansas.⁴⁷

On September 30, 1862, the Twelfth Regiment was mustered in under Colonel Charles W. Adams, who had been active in its recruitment, only six weeks after its commencement.⁴⁸

Under Cyrus Leland, Sr., the Thirteenth was mustered in on September 20, only five days after the Eleventh.⁴⁹

The response in organizing these regiments was undoubtedly due to a considerable degree to the enthusiasm of the recruiting officers and their friends. War meetings were held throughout the State and rousing speeches of patriotism were made. Thomas Ewing, Jr., visited nearly every sizable town in his district. Newspapers of that time carried advertisements for recruits playing up the bounty and advance pay offered by the Federal Government and offering \$2.00, and later \$4.00, to anyone bring-

46 Adjutant General's Report, 1861-65, pt. ii, p. 198.

47 Ibid., p. 214.

48 Ibid., p. 220.

49 Ibid., p. 223.

ing in a recruit. Lane, especially, was active and clashed with Governor Robinson on every issue involved. Lane emphasized the draft angle to procure recruits for the regiments.⁵⁰ The Leavenworth Conservative carried the following advertisement: "Forty-two dollars will be paid to every recruit on his being mustered in. Those who wait to be drafted will receive no bounty whatever."⁵¹

Governor Robinson denied that a draft was ordered for the State and maintained that no quota had been assigned to Kansas under the call of August 4 for 300,000 militia.⁵² Gaeddert claims this was substantiated by a statement made by Secretary of War Stanton to T. B. Elridge to the effect that no quota had been placed on Kansas under the call of August 4, and that Lane had offered to raise the troops and had been given consent to do so.⁵³ However, General Blunt, commanding the Department of Kansas, was authorized by Stanton to discharge any person in Kansas from the draft under the call of August 4 if his services were "indispensable or difficult to be supplied" in the operation of Government trains to the

50 Gaeddert, op. cit., p. 157.

51 Leavenworth Daily Conservative, August 11, 1862 and subsequent issues.

52 Leavenworth Daily Conservative, August 30, 1862.

53 Gaeddert, op. cit., pp. 157-158.

western posts.⁵⁴

The personnel of the Eleventh, Twelfth, and Thirteenth Regiments was mostly men of family - farmers and mechanics who were reluctant to leave their homes as many of them were poor and with no means of supporting their families other than their own work.⁵⁵ This type of men was all that was left as the footloose men of the State had enlisted in the regiments formed earlier. The White Cloud Chief contended that the threat of the draft had to be used to get these men to enlist as this was the only way in which the regiments could be filled.⁵⁶

No draft was imposed. The number of men furnished under the two calls was 2,936 for three years which was a surplus of 1,165 three year men⁵⁷ and when reduced to a nine month standard more than took care of the deficit resulting from the fact that Kansas did not furnish any nine month men under the call of August 4.

The First Kansas Volunteer Battery was mustered in July 24, 1861 with one hundred and fifty members, the Second Battery, on September 10, 1862, by order of General Blunt, with one hundred and forty members, and the Third

54 Official Records, series iii, vol. II, p. 464.

55 Adjutant General's Report, 1861-65, pt. ii, p. 198.

56 White Cloud Chief, September 25, 1862.

57 Adjutant General's Report, 1861-65, pt. i, p. 11; Official Records, series iii, vol. IV, p. 1265.

Battery, on November 27, 1867, under the auspices of Lane, with one hundred and twenty six members.⁵⁸ These batteries of light artillery were used to assist the regiments in the field.

Lane's appointment as Commissioner of Recruiting was annulled on his request June 8, 1863,⁵⁹ but actually his activities had ended some six months earlier.⁶⁰

58 Adjutant General's Report, 1861-65, pt. i, p. 11.

59 C. W. Foster, Letter to Major James G. Blunt.

Archives Division of the Kansas State Historical Society.

60 Stephenson, op. cit., p. 132.

CHAPTER IV

RECRUITING IN THE
CARNEY ADMINISTRATION, 1863-1865

The following regiments and battalion were mustered in during the administration of Thomas Carney: the First and Second Kansas Colored Regiments, the Fifteenth and Sixteenth Regiments Cavalry, the Seventeenth Infantry, and the Independent Colored Battalion. The negro regiments, as will be discussed in another chapter, were recruited mostly during the Robinson administration but were not mustered in the service until 1863 after Governor Carney had taken office.¹ During Carney's administration the President called for 9,883 recruits from Kansas and was furnished 8,479 for three years, 690 for one year, 39 for two years, and 441 for one hundred days.² This, when reduced to a three year standard, showed a deficit for the administration. However, considering the response in the previous years, it is not to be wondered that there was a letdown in recruiting - Kansas was becoming destitute of men.

1 Adjutant General's Report, 1861-65, pt. i, p. 11.

2 Official Records, series iii, vol. IV, pp. 1266-1267.

The few regiments placed in the field, in comparison to the number of recruits, is due to many enlistments in the old regiments whose ranks had been depleted by deaths, desertion, and expiration of enlistment period. Also, new companies were added to the old regiments; by July, 1863 two companies of cavalry had been added to the Fifth, three to the Sixth, and three to the Ninth.³

Lane and Governor Carney started out as political friends but the alliance did not last long and the two were soon at odds in regard to recruiting and military appointments and contracts. Carney, too, resented the interference of General Blunt who was commanding the Department of Kansas and was soon in Washington asking "that the governor of Kansas...be treated with the consideration that is extended to governors of other states."⁴

So, as it was in the Robinson administration, recruiting went on under difficulties with a Senator, an army officer, and the state executive all claiming the rights of recruiting.

The State authorities were handicapped by this situation in keeping records of the number of troops in service. The Adjutant General often was unable to furnish informa-

3 Leavenworth Daily Conservative, July 26, 1863.

4 Stephenson, Lane, p. 137.

tion that the Federal Government desired. The office was also handicapped because there was a lack of funds and, as a consequence, it was not properly organized. This incompetence caused a misunderstanding between Federal and State authorities in regard to the credits for the States.⁵ It also worked a hardship on the individual soldier since he could not always secure the statistics needed to secure his pay and bounty.

The Fourteenth Cavalry was mustered in on November 20, 1863, but had its beginning in the spring of 1863 when Major General Blunt was given authority to recruit a battalion of cavalry for his personal escort.⁶ Blunt needed troops and when this call was readily answered he received authority to recruit a complete regiment.⁷ A recruiting office was established at Fort Scott and T. J. Anderson was appointed Commissioner of Recruiting. As recruiting went along various rumors, which the Leavenworth Conservative called "false statements of the military and political demagogues who are the personal enemies of General Blunt", to the effect that General Blunt was under arrest, retarded the number of enlistments.⁸

5 Official Records, series iii, vol. III, p. 626, p. 1157; Leavenworth Daily Conservative, August 15, 1863.

6 Adjutant General's Report, 1861-65, pt. ii, p. 228.

7 Leavenworth Daily Conservative, June 15, 1863.

8 Ibid., July 10, 1863.

In June, 1863, Governor Carney, also, received authority to recruit a regiment of cavalry for the protection of the border.⁹ However, it was not until after the Quantrill raid on Lawrence on August 21 that recruiting was successful. C. R. Jennison was appointed recruiting agent and the Fifteenth Cavalry became a certainty.¹⁰ The reputation of Jennison, the genuine need for border protection, and the fighting spirit aroused by the raid were all responsible for the increase in enlistments.¹¹ Before the Lawrence raid the people had been distrustful of the purpose of the regiment, believing that Carney had had no assurance that the regiment would be used exclusively for border protection.¹² The regiment was mustered in on October 17, 1863.¹³

James B. Fry, United States Provost Marshal General, notified Governor Carney on November 2, 1863 that the Kansas quota, under the President's call for 300,000 men on October 17, 1863, was 1,659 to be recruited for the organizations already in the field.¹⁴ Captain Sidney Clarke,

9 Kansas State Record (Weekly), June 24, 1863.

10 Adjutant General's Report, 1861-65, pt. ii, p. 232.

11 Kansas State Record (Weekly), August 26, 1863.

12 Ibid., August 5, 1863.

13 Adjutant General's Report, 1861-65, pt. i, p. 11

14 Leavenworth Daily Conservative, November 18, 1863.

Provost Marshal General for Kansas, was at the same time, instructed by Fry to cooperate with Governor Carney in filling this quota.¹⁵ Carney assured Clarke that he would cooperate but, soon after this assurance had been given, Carney requested of Fry that Clarke make no attempt to recruit for old or new organizations at that time. He justified his request by stating that he had just finished recruiting the Fifteenth; the Sixteenth was at that time half full and would be organized in a few days; companies had been raised for the Second, Sixth, Ninth, and Fourteenth Regiments; and he was then recruiting for the Seventh and Eleventh Regiments. Carney felt certain that he could meet the quota if he were permitted to continue rather than turning the recruiting activities over to Clarke.¹⁶

Again there was a clash between the civil and military authorities. Clarke, who had been furnished with a copy of Carney's letter, did not believe that a true version of the Kansas situation had been presented and gave Fry the following information: first, that Carney himself had had nothing to do with raising the Fifteenth Regiment but that it had been the work of Colonel Jennison without even the

15 Official Records, series iii, vol. III, p. 1012.

16 Ibid., p. 1098.

supervision of the Governor; second, Clarke had been informed by the disbursing officer at Fort Leavenworth that only one company had been mustered in for the Sixteenth Regiment; and third, the companies for the Fourteenth had been recruited by Blunt by special authority received from the Provost Marshal General.¹⁷ Upon Clarke's recommendation, Carney's request was refused and recruiting went on under the supervision of Clarke.¹⁸ The work was so successful that Kansas, under the combined call of October 17, 1863 and February 1, 1864, furnished 5,374.¹⁹

On March 14, 1864, Lincoln issued a call for 200,000 three year men and the quota assignment for Kansas was 1,405.²⁰ But, because all credits had not been recorded, Kansas had a deficiency of 1,118 under former calls, and therefore, would have to furnish 2,627.²¹ After credits were brought up to date in the Provost Marshal General's office, Kansas was found to have a surplus of 4,022 to April 15, 1864;²² nevertheless, the State furnished 2,563 recruits under this call.²³

17 Ibid., pp. 1156-1158.

18 Leavenworth Daily Conservative, January 6, 1864.

19 Official Records, series iii, vol. IV, p. 1266;
Adjutant General's Report, 1861-65, pt. i, p. 11.

20 Ibid.

21 Leavenworth Daily Conservative, March 26, 1864.

22 Ibid., May 12, 1864.

23 Adjutant General's Report, 1861-65, pt. i, p. 11.

The Sixteenth Regiment, which had its beginning in the surplus that resulted from the recruitment of the Fifteenth, was in the process of completing its organization during the summer but was not completed and mustered in until October 8, 1864.²⁴

On April 23, 1864, President Lincoln issued a call for 85,000 militia for one hundred days' service. The President did not make a quota assignment on Kansas;²⁵ but on May 12, Carney offered the President two regiments of one hundred men from Kansas. The next day Carney wrote the President:

I have to ask that you will either accept or reject the proposition I made in my communication on the 12th inst. I hope, however, you will not allow the lives and homes of the citizens of Kansas to be jeopardized by the objection you suggested in our conversation, that "Senator Lane would probably oppose the raising of the troops, or if raised, would probably oppose an appropriation for their pay, in consequence of the patronage thus conferred upon the Governor of the State".²⁶

This letter was published by Carney papers but the President's reply was not made public for some time. The President replied that he would accept or reject the proposition after he had considered it; he reprimanded Carney for his letter which was "so obviously intended as a page

24 Ibid.

25 Official Records, series iii, vol. IV, p. 1266.

26 Leavenworth Daily Conservative, July 31, 1864.

for a political record"; he corrected the statement in regard to Lane: "What I did say was that he probably would oppose it because you and he were in a mood of each opposing whatever the other should propose"; and he expressed his opinion that "there is not a more foolish or demoralizing way of conducting a political rivalry, than these fierce and bitter struggles for patronage."²⁷

The President's consideration of the offer was favorable and on June 30, 1864 the State of Kansas was called on to furnish a regiment of one hundred day men and one colored battery. The Hundred Day Regiment was to be raised within twenty days, the service was not to be credited on any draft, no bounties would be paid, and was "to serve in fortifications or wherever their service may be required, within or without the state of Kansas."²⁸

Governor Carney agreed, according to the Leavenworth Conservative, "to keep his demagogue fingers out of the pie" and allow the recruiting officers complete freedom.²⁹ Quotas were assigned to the various military districts of the State³⁰ and recruiting proceeded with the usual friction between civil and military authorities. "Carney newspapers" were critical because the credit for the reg-

²⁷ Ibid.

²⁸ Official Records, series iii, vol. VI, p. 464.

²⁹ Leavenworth Daily Conservative, July 6, 1864.

³⁰ Ibid., July 7, 1864.

iment was going to the military officers rather than Carney; others criticized Carney for the interfering with appointments when he had agreed not to make any trouble. The most severe criticism was against the following section of the Governor's order for the regiment:

For the purpose of effecting this organization, volunteers from the regiments or detached companies will be accepted. Any number not furnished in this manner, will be drawn by lot from the companies.³¹

It was believed that "by lot" was nothing more or less than a draft, and an illegal draft, since the War Department had ordered "a volunteer regiment" and no power had been given the Governor to issue a draft for it.³²

Fear of a draft, a friendly rivalry among the counties and special inducements offered by the various counties and cities speeded up the recruiting but, even though "Hundred Dazers" came into the camp at Leavenworth rapidly, the regiment was not complete at the end of the twenty day time allotment and that period was extended ten days by the Secretary of War.³³

The Hundred Day Regiment almost turned out to be a "Hundred Day farce" when the companies from Jackson and Nemaha counties walked out of Camp Deitzler, and the

31 Lawrence Kansas Daily Tribune, July 14, 1864.

32 Ibid., July 16, 1864.

33 Leavenworth Daily Conservative, July 23, 1864.

company from Doniphan county refused to proceed to the camp. The reason for this friction was that officers chosen by the members of the companies were not accepted, but they were forced to accept officers appointed by Governor Carney.³⁴ The result was that a full regiment was not mustered in on July 28, but only four hundred and forty one recruits composed the Seventeenth Kansas at the time of its final organization.³⁵

The colored battery, authorized at the time of the authorization of a hundred days regiment, was the last Kansas organization to be accepted in the service. It was mustered in on January 1, 1865 with a membership of fifty four.³⁶

The President issued a call for 500,000 men for one, two, or three years on July 18, 1864 and the states were given fifty days to raise their quotas before a draft would take place. The Kansas quota was 3,729 but was cancelled because of excess credits on previous calls.³⁷ Yet, Kansas furnished twenty nine, one year; three, two years; and three hundred and nineteen, three years men, making a total of three hundred and fifty one.³⁸

34 Ibid., July 27, 1864.

35 Adjutant General's Report, 1861-65, pt. i, p. 11.

36 Ibid.

37 Official Records, series iii, vol. IV, p. 519.

38 Ibid., p. 1266.

The response of the State to the President's last call for troops on December 19, 1864 will be discussed in the chapter on the draft.

CHAPTER V

THE DRAFT, BOUNTIES, AND REPRESENTATIVE RECRUITS

The Federal Government first resorted to conscription on August 4, 1862 but, as this was put in operation through the states, it was not highly successful. A new law, passed March 3, 1863, operated directly on the nation instead of through the medium of the states. The states were divided into enrollment districts with a provost marshall general over each state and each district in the state. All unmarried men between the ages of twenty and forty-five and all married men between twenty and thirty-five were to be enrolled in each district and, if a draft were necessary, to be drawn by lot. Any district that had filled its quota by voluntary enlistments was not liable to the draft.¹

Kansas was divided into two enrollment districts. The part of Kansas north of the Kansas River was the Northern District with headquarters at Leavenworth, and south of

¹ James Ford Rhodes, History of the Civil War, (Chicago, 1919), pp. 202-203.

the river was the Southern District with headquarters at Lawrence.² The enrollment for the draft went on during the summer of 1863 and served as a stimulus for enlistments in the regiments then in the process of recruiting.³

Under the President's calls of October 17, 1863 and February 1, 1864, a draft would be used in Kansas if the quota of 3,523 were not raised. The number that enlisted before March 1 was to be credited and deducted from the original quota.⁴

Sidney Clarke, the Provost Marshal General, assured Governor Carney that every effort would be made by his bureau to fill the call and he was confident "that the quota of the state can be filled by volunteers."⁵

However, as time went on, it seemed "to be a settled fact" that there would be a draft on Kansas. Again the political factor dominated. Governor Carney was made "responsible" for the possible draft since he had delayed the enlistments for old regiments two months in the fall of 1863. This delay, which has already been discussed, slowed up recruitment and had decreased the credits of the

2 Official Records, series iii, vol. III, p. 471

3 Leavenworth Daily Conservative, June 12, June 17, 1863.

4 Abraham Lincoln, Order to Sidney Clarke, January 31, 1864. Archives Division Kansas State Historical Society.

5 Sidney Clarke, Letter to Governor Carney, February 1, 1864. Archives Division Kansas State Historical Society.

State.⁶ An additional quota of 1,409, under the March 14 call, seemed to make a draft still more certain, especially after it was learned that Kansas would not receive credit for the men who enlisted in Kansas regiments from other states.⁷

But, Kansas escaped a draft at this time. Senator Lane and A. C. Wilder, representative to Congress, were able to bring the record in the Provost Marshal General's office up to date and it was found that Kansas had an excess of 4,022 up to April 15, 1864.⁸

Although Kansas did furnish the larger part of her troops by the volunteer method, there was a draft on the State. Governor Crawford, in his message to the legislature on January 10, 1866, admitted one hundred and two drafted men in the troops furnished,⁹ and the records of the Adjutant General of Kansas list one hundred and twenty individuals as drafted men or substitutes of drafted men.¹⁰ These men were drafted under the President's call for 300,000 troops on December 19, 1864.

The first quota assigned to the State under this call

6 Leavenworth Daily Conservative, March 2, 1864.

7 Ibid., March 26, 1864.

8 Leavenworth Daily Conservative, May 5, May 12, 1864.

9 Kansas State Governor's Messages, vol. I, p. 5.

10 Adjutant General's Report, 1861-65, pt. i, p. 255: pp. 379-380.

was 3,636; but, because of excess credits, was reduced to 1,222.¹¹ On January 2, 1865, Provost Marshal General Fry issued an order which announced that the quota "must not be reduced except by actual enlistment in the Army, Navy, and Marine Corps, since the 19th ultimo."¹² The quota was to be raised by February 15, or the draft would be enforced.

However, Senator S. C. Pomeroy was informed by a letter, dated January 3, from the same office that "for the call of December 19th, . . . , the State of Kansas is found to owe no troops."¹³ Consequently, the people of Kansas were assured by Pomeroy that there would be no draft. The White Cloud Chief accounted for the contradictory statements by saying: "This officer Fry is chiefly distinguished for incompetence, and for issuing a multitude of orders upon every subject, each one contradicting all the rest, not much reliance can be placed on the letter to Pomeroy printed above."¹⁴

The people were encouraged by some sources to continue enlisting, since the position of Kansas on the call was not known for certain, so that the State would be on

11 Official Records, series iii, vol. IV, p. 1075; Lawrence Kansas Daily Tribune, January 26, 1865.

12 Circular No. 1 published in Kansas Daily Tribune, January 17, 1865.

13 White Cloud Chief, January 19, 1865.

14 Ibid.

the safe side. Others assured the people that there would be no draft. Resolutions were passed in the legislature asking that the draft be suspended.¹⁵ Governor Crawford, on February 1, asked Sidney Clarke for authority to raise a regiment composed of men whose terms had expired and were not subject to the draft. Crawford had had no information from the Government concerning the draft and could only base his actions upon "contradictory dispatches" published in the newspapers.¹⁶

The most serious consequence of their contradictory information was that recruiting almost stopped.

During the early part of February the enrollment boards of the Kansas districts were getting ready to carry out their orders to proceed with the draft on February 15, if the quota was not filled by that day.¹⁷ No countermanding order was received from the Federal Government and the Provost Marshal General of Kansas proceeded with the draft.¹⁸ And when Lane telegraphed: "Delay is positively refused,"¹⁹ the draft was a certainty and went on promptly.

Political elements were strong. Senator Pomeroy was criticized for maintaining, as late as February 14, that

15 Senate Journal, 1865, p. 175.

16 Samuel J. Crawford, Letters, 1865-1867.

17 Leavenworth Daily Conservative, February 4, 1865 quoting the Topeka Record.

18 Leavenworth Daily Conservative, February 21, 1865.

19 Lawrence Kansas Daily Tribune, February 22, 1865.

"the draft would be postponed to enable the people of the State to fill the quota with recruits."²⁰ Each political faction blamed the other for the draft, and for the false reports which had stopped recruiting. Governor Carney was criticized because recruiting had not been started immediately after the call; the Federal authorities were criticized for the contradictory statements issued; and Lane came in for his share because he had asserted that Kansas was far ahead on credits.²¹ The common feeling was that Kansas could fill the quota if given sufficient time, and would have had it filled had the true situation been known.

At the close of the annual session of the State Legislature in February, 1865, Governor Crawford went to Washington to confer with the Secretary of War in regard to the credits and the possibility of cancelling the draft.²² Crawford was able to convince the Secretary of War that the credits recorded in that department were in error and that Kansas should be allowed credit for an additional 3,039 men. This additional credit placed the State in excess. The Secretary of War refused to suspend

²⁰ Ibid., February 26, 1865.

²¹ February and March issues of Lawrence Kansas Daily Tribune, Leavenworth Daily Conservative, and White Cloud Chief.

²² Crawford, Letters, 1865-1867. Crawford to Charles S. Hills, June 14, 1865.

the draft in Kansas, in spite of the excess, since to do so in one state would cause dissatisfaction in other states who were claiming excesses. However, the Provost Marshal General was more responsive to Crawford's plea, he recognized the additional credits and, on March 15, ordered further proceedings under the draft suspended.²³

Before the suspension order was received in Kansas, the men that had been drafted were, on another order, sent to St. Louis and then south. The draftees were attached to the Seventh and Tenth Regiments.²⁴

The people of Kansas did not like conscription and always volunteered readily to prevent its use in the State. An individual considered it a disgrace to be drafted. Nevertheless, when the draft was imposed the good natured response again indicated the determination of the Kansans to go along with the Union. People of Kansas believed, and rightfully so, that the draft was imposed not because of lack of loyalty in the State, but because of an inconsistency between State and Federal records.

The statement that the Kansas troops were raised during the Civil War without being paid bounties is a familiar one but not quite true.

²³ Kansas State Governor's Messages, vol. I, p. 6.

²⁴ Adjutant General's Report, 1861-65, pt. i, p. 255; p. 379.

No bounties, as such, were paid in Kansas until the call of December 19, 1864, at which time, the total bounties paid amounted to \$57,407.00, and \$53,207.00 of this amount was credited to the Northern District.²⁵ Kansas stood at "the foot of the list" of the states paying bounties, being the fifth of the five states paying less than a million dollars.²⁶ The bounties paid in Kansas were not paid from the state funds, although a bill for paying bounties was considered by the legislature. In the 1865 session "an act to provide Bounties for Soldiers" was introduced in the House of Representatives by Mr. J. McLellan, a farmer from Holton, Kansas. The bill was referred to the Militia Committee and to the Committee on Ways and Means which reported it out of committee with no recommendation in regard to passage, and the bill was not passed.²⁷ Cities, communities, and individuals were responsible for the bounty payments in Kansas.

At various times during the war, funds were raised for the soldiers. In Emporia, a fund was raised to pay the "needy families of those who enlist in the Lyon county

²⁵ Official Records, series iii, vol. V, p. 749.

²⁶ Fred A. Shannon, The Organization and Administration of the Union Army, 1861-65, (Cleveland, 1928), vol. II, p. 93, p. 847.

²⁷ House Journal, 1865, p. 67, p. 163, p. 249.

company, a bounty of \$20.00 each, per annum, until the war is closed!"²⁸ Six citizens of Fort Scott contributed \$550.00 to a fund for the Eleventh Kansas.²⁹ Appeals were made to the citizens and business concerns of Leavenworth to contribute funds to be used for bounties at the time of the recruitment of the hundred days regiment.³⁰ Each member of the Shawnee county company in that regiment was paid a \$50.00 bounty.³¹

Under the call of December 19, 1864, the city of Leavenworth was divided into wards and as high as \$200.00 was paid to any person who would volunteer and be accredited to the ward offering the bounty.³²

Wakarusa township organized a "Draft Insurance Company", the return from which was similar to a bounty system. The company started with twelve members who paid \$50.00 each, if one of the twelve was drafted he was paid the \$600.00 in the treasury of the company, if more than one were drafted the fund was divided equally. This "bounty" might be used for either procuring a substitute or providing for the family of the drafted man.³³

²⁸ Leavenworth Daily Conservative, August 30, 1862 quoting the Emporia News.

²⁹ Ibid., September 4, 1862.

³⁰ Ibid., July 10, 1864.

³¹ Ibid., July 21, 1864.

³² Leavenworth Daily Conservative, February 23 and 24, 1865.

³³ Lawrence Kansas Daily Tribune, February 25, 1865.

Kansas troops, of course, were paid bounties by the Federal Government.

In filling the quotas of March 14, 1864 the draft was heavy in many of the states, but there was a large class of persons not liable to conscription who were sympathetic and financially able to give assistance in addition to contributions made for bounties. On June 26, 1864, the Provost Marshal General of the United States, by order of the President, appealed to this class of persons to procure recruits at their own personal expense and present them for enlistment in the service.³⁴

The appeal, while being very generally commended, was not materially so successful. Kansas furnished eight of the 1,296 recruits of this type put into the service.³⁵ The Kansas representative recruits were furnished by: William Clough, Jr., Leavenworth; Miss Mary R. Clough, Leavenworth; Elcona Hensley, Leavenworth; Arthur B. Havens, Leavenworth; Dr. John B. Irvin, Kennekuk; Mrs. Johanna Kuntz, Leavenworth; and Samuel F. Walters, Atchison.³⁶ Of the eight no record is found for three of the recruits furnished; one died of smallpox soon after his enlistment;

³⁴ Official Records, series iii, vol. V, p. 649.

³⁵ Ibid., p. 650.

³⁶ Ibid., p. 932.

another was promoted to the office of corporal in his regiment; and the others served as privates from the date of their muster in until the regiment to which they were assigned was discharged from service.³⁷ Colored persons were accepted by the Department of War to serve in this capacity³⁸ and one of the Kansas recruits was colored and a member of the Independent Colored Battery.

³⁷ Adjutant General's Report, 1861-65, p. 405, 470, 546, 550, 639.

³⁸ Leavenworth Daily Conservative, July 17, 1864.

CHAPTER VI

RECRUITING OF NEGRO AND INDIAN TROOPS

The census of 1860 showed that the colored male population of Kansas was two hundred and eighty six.¹ Yet, the three Kansas colored organizations showed many more than this in their enrollment lists. The two regiments had 1,770 recruits at the time of their muster in and two hundred and fifty four were enrolled later, and the Independent Colored Battery had an enrollment of fifty four.² And it is not, of course, to be supposed that all of the colored males living in Kansas were members of these three groups. This increase in the colored population of the State was, to a considerable degree, the work of James H. Lane and his brigade in their activities in Missouri during the winter of 1861 and 1862. "Last fall and winter...thousands found their way [out of western Missouri] into the Union lines - were protected, and brought by the gallant Union soldiery into the free State

¹ Population of the United States in 1860, p. 159.

² Adjutant General's Report, 1864, p. 18.

of Kansas. The old Kansas Brigade did most of this kind of good work," praised the Leavenworth Conservative.³ Stephenson has said that during Lane's invasion of western Missouri, he demonstrated his assertion that slavery would not survive "the march of the Union army", for as Lane's Brigade "marched through Missouri a 'black brigade' marched into Kansas."⁴ The number coming into Kansas during the first year of the war is uncertain. Lane's tendency to exaggerate makes it necessary to discount his statement that he himself had "aided 2,500 slaves to emigrate" as it does, his estimates, varying from 4,000 to 6,400, made at various times.⁵ The Seventh Cavalry was active in restoring slaves to freedom in Missouri and bringing them into Kansas. The captain of one of the companies estimated that that regiment had freed 2,000 slaves, many of whom came to Kansas.⁶ The St. Joseph Herald, in September, 1863, reported that about two hundred negroes had left Missouri for Kansas to join the "army of the Lord."⁷ Considering the evident exaggerations, it is certainly apparent that there was an increase in the Kansas colored popu-

3 Leavenworth Daily Conservative, July 8, 1862.

4 Stephenson, Lane, p. 126.

5 Ibid., p. 127.

6 Brown, Letter, July 18, 1862.

7 Leavenworth Daily Conservative, September 6, 1863.

lation during the war years.

The Union army at the beginning of the war was composed exclusively of white troops.⁸ While the ardent abolitionists became more and more insistent that negroes be recruited, it was more than a year after the commencement of the war before the Federal authorities would allow the recruiting even of free negroes, as the fear of losing the loyal border states was an "ever-ready deterrant."⁹ Not until July 17, 1862 did Congress approve two acts which gave the President complete authority in the use of negroes for "the purpose of constructing intrenchments, or performing camp duty, or any other labor, or any military or naval service for which they were found competent."¹⁰

In Kansas, negroes had been in C. R. Jennison's military company in the summer and fall of 1861¹¹ and were generally used by officers of the other Kansas regiments as teamsters and laborers.¹² Persons of mixed negro and Indian blood and a considerable number of free colored

8 Official Records, series iii, vol. V., p. 654.

9 Shannon, Union Army, vol. II, pp. 146-147.

10 Official Records, series iii, vol. V, p. 654.

11 Leavenworth Daily Conservative, June 25, September 20, 1861.

12 R. J. Hinton, "The First Colored Troops," Kansas State Historical Society Scrapbook, vol. VII, p. 129.

persons were mustered in the Indian regiment of Home Guards as "Indians" in the spring of 1862.¹³ Some of the colored men agitated for the formation of a negro regiment and were told that while General Blunt had no order from the Department of War, he "will not interfere with the drilling and organizing of colored men wherever they may form themselves into companies."¹⁴

However, actual recruiting of colored persons did not begin until after James H. Lane was appointed Commissioner of Recruiting for Kansas on July 22, 1862. On August 4, 1862, Lane appointed Captain James M. Williams, of the Fifth Kansas Cavalry, Recruiting Commissioner for the part of Kansas north of the Kansas River and Captain H. C. Seaman to the same office, south of the river "for the purpose of recruiting and organizing a regiment of infantry for the United States service, to be composed of men of African descent."¹⁵ They were instructed by Lane to inform the recruits of section twelve and thirteen of the act approved July 17, 1862. These sections referred to the President's authority to authorize the receiving of colored persons into the service, and if the recruit should enter

13 Ibid.

14 Leavenworth Daily Conservative, July 22, 1862.

15 Adjutant General's Report, 1861-65, pt. ii, p. 246; Leavenworth Daily Conservative, August 6, 1862.

service in the Union army freedom would be granted to him, his mother, and his wife, and children, "if they were owned by those in rebellion against the United States."¹⁶

Recruiting went forward rapidly and within sixty days five hundred men were recruited and placed in camps.¹⁷ The recruits from the two divisions were eventually consolidated to form the First Kansas Colored. In the meantime, Lane was busy trying to get authority from the Federal Government which would sanction what he was doing. On August 5, 1862, Lane telegraphed Secretary of War Stanton that Kansas was "good for... two [regiments] of blacks".¹⁸ The next day he sent another telegram to the Secretary of War: "I am receiving negroes under the late act of Congress. Is there any objection? Answer by telegraph. Soon have an army."¹⁹ There is no record of Secretary Stanton's direct reply to Lane's question and Nicolay and Hay say: "The probability is he made none, but, remembering that the inquiry came from a region of Border Ruffian memories and methods, left Lane to his own devices and responsibilities."²⁰ But Lane eventually got his answer. On

16 Official Records, series iii, vol. II, p. 312.

17 Adjutant General's Report, 1861-65, py. ii, p. 246.

18 Official Records, series iii, vol. III, p. 294.

19 Ibid., p. 311.

20 Nicolay and Hay, Abraham Lincoln, vol. VI, p. 445.

the same day that Lane had sent his message to the Secretary of War, the military commander at Fort Leavenworth sent a copy of Lane's order to the recruiting commissioners for negro troops to the Department of War asking for the "consideration of the Department." The matter was referred to Major General H. W. Halleck, commander of the forces in the West, who, on August 18, gave the following decision: "The law of July 17, 1862, authorizes the President only to receive into the military service of the United States persons of African descent. As the President has not authorized recruiting officers to receive into the service of the United States such persons for general military purposes, the enclosed order of General Lane is without the authority of law."²¹ Lane had proceeded with the recruiting and reported, on the same day that Halleck gave his decision, that he had raised enough colored persons for two regiments.²² The disbursing officer at Leavenworth had been informed on August 19 that "under no circumstances" would negro regiments be paid bounty and premium.²³ Governor Robinson entered the controversy and telegraphed Stanton, on August 20, that Lane was recruiting

²¹ Official Records, series iii, vol. II, pp. 312-313.

²² Ibid., p. 445.

²³ Ibid., p. 411

a colored regiment and asked if he should commission the officers.²⁴ Stanton curtly replied that when such officers were presented Robinson would receive his instructions.²⁵ It was after all of this occurred that Lane was notified by Stanton, on August 23, that he was not authorized to recruit "persons of African descent" since the President had not given his "authority to raise such troops in Kansas" and that such troops could not be accepted into the service.²⁶ Again on September 23, Stanton telegraphed Lane: "You are not authorized to organize Indians, nor any but loyal white men."²⁷

General Blunt, commanding the Department of Kansas, was favorable to "Lane's Colored Regiments." In a speech made in Leavenworth August 4, 1862, he said, "I authorized those soldiers [in the Indian territory] to arm everything, black and white... We have in Kansas at least negroes enough for two complete regiments, I expect them to go into the service."²⁸

Lane was not at all perturbed by the refusal of the Government officials and did not dismiss the two camps but

24 Ibid., p. 417.

25 Ibid., p. 431.

26 Ibid., p. 445.

27 Ibid., p. 582.

28 Leavenworth Daily Conservative, August 6, 1862.

combined them and held the colored men as recruits until January 13, 1863 when they were mustered in the service as a battalion of six companies. Four additional companies were organized and mustered in between the date of the first muster and May 2, 1863.²⁹ During their five and one half months' service as recruits, they held border posts, made fortifications,³⁰ and were used to guard prisoners at Fort Lincoln on the Osage River.³¹ These colored recruits had one encounter with guerrillas on October 28, 1862.³²

Kansas newspapers denied that there was any disposition on the part of Kansans to "steal" negroes but that the negroes had "stolen" themselves and come to Kansas.³³ However, there is evidence that Lane's men, especially, "sometimes resorted to forcible recruiting among the slaves of the loyal" in Missouri.³⁴ Residents of the western counties of Missouri wrote Lincoln to report the "negro stealing" of "Lane, Jennison, and others."³⁵ A squad from the colored regiment, when it was located in camp outside

29 Adjutant General's Report, 1861-65, pt. ii, p. 247.

30 Hinton, op. cit., p. 127.

31 John Howard Kitts, "The Civil War Diary of John Howard Kitts," Kansas Historical Collections, vol. XIV, p. 318.

32 Adjutant General's Report, 1861-65, pt. ii, p. 247.

33 Leavenworth Daily Conservative, June 20, 1861.

34 Nicolay and Hay, op. cit., vol. VI, p. 445.

35 Official Records, series i, vol. 13, pp. 618-619.

of Leavenworth in the summer of 1862, forcibly took a number of colored men to camp.³⁶

In June 1863, General Blunt was authorized by the Bureau of Colored Troops in the Department of War to raise a colored regiment in Kansas.³⁷ The colored men were reluctant to enlist in this regiment because there had been a delay in mustering the First Kansas Colored and a further delay and misunderstanding in the payment of it. The colored troops had been led to believe that they would be paid from the time of their enlistment, but they received pay from the time of their muster. This made the colored population suspicious of the good intentions of the Government.³⁸ The inducement of a Federal bounty, if they enlisted while none would be given if they were drafted, helped bring in many recruits.³⁹ The regiment, the recruiting of which fell almost entirely on Colonel T. J. Anderson, was completed and mustered in on November 1, 1863.⁴⁰

The First Kansas Colored was later designated as the 79th United States Colored Infantry and the Second Kansas,

36 Leavenworth Daily Conservative, August 22, 1862.

37 Official Records, series iii, vol. III, p. 1112.

38 Leavenworth Daily Conservative, July 10, 1863.

39 Ibid., July 11, 1863.

40 Adjutant General's Report, 1861-65, pt. ii, p. 256.

the 83rd United States Colored Infantry.⁴¹

Governor Carney, on July 2, 1864, was authorized to raise a negro battery of light artillery.⁴² W. D.

Matthews, colored, was active in recruiting for this battery and it went on rapidly but was not mustered in until January 1, 1865. That the officers, commissioned as well as non-commissioned, were taken from the ranks of the enlisted men, was a special inducement.⁴³

Kansas is credited with furnishing 2,080 colored troops during the war.⁴⁴

The three regiments of Indian troops were credited to the Indian Nations but many Kansas Indians were enrolled in them and they were officered originally, almost exclusively, by Kansas men.⁴⁵ The First and Second Regiments, and a part of the Third were recruited in the State but no credits were allowed it.⁴⁶ Only a few records were made of the recruitment of these regiments. The Indian regiments were organized as "Home Guards" and were engaged in service in their own territory, or in campaigns

41 Leavenworth Daily Conservative, April 4, 1865.

42 Official Records, series 1, vol. 41, pt. ii, p. 27.

43 Leavenworth Daily Conservative, July 9, 1864.

44 Official Records, series iii, vol. V, p. 662.

45 Adjutant General's Report, 1864, p. 19.

46 Senate Journal, 1865, pp. 56-57.

necessary for reoccupation of their homes.⁴⁷

Previous to the formation of the Indian regiments, Lane had used about fifty four Delaware Indians as scouts during the winter of 1861-62.⁴⁸ The Council Grove Press, in the summer of 1861, reported that the Kansas Indians were "loyal to the Government." A number of them had offered to join the company of troops being organized in Geary county.⁴⁹ The Adjutant General of Kansas reported to the Senate in January 1865 that the number of Kansas troops "embraces also a number of Indians who were regularly recruited into white regiments. These were our home Indians, such as the Delawares, Shawnees, Pottawatomies, etc., many of them having been made citizens of the United States by act of Congress. It is impossible to separate these home Indians, or distinguish them from other members of the regiments, as they are reported here the same as other volunteers."⁵⁰

The First and Second Regiments were recruited mostly from the refugee Indians in southern Kansas. This group was driven from their homes in the Indian territory by the

47 R. J. Hinton, "Employment of Indians by the Rebel Pike," Indian Pamphlets, vol. VIII, (Ks. Hist. Libr.) p. 6.

48 Leavenworth Daily Conservative, October 29, 1861; Hinton, op. cit., p. 6.

49 Leavenworth Daily Conservative, June 1, 1861.

50 Senate Journal, 1865, p. 56.

Indians who had joined the Confederacy. They located along the southern border of Kansas during the winter of 1861-62.⁵¹ In the spring of 1862, George W. Collamore and Rev. Evan Jones made a visit to their camp and found about 3,000 Indians, mainly of the Creek, Seminole, and Cherokee nations, located in an encampment in the timber along the Neosho River.⁵²

Blunt in his Civil War Experiences said: "A short time prior to my taking command of the department, [of Kansas] authority had been given by the Secretary of War, to recruit and organize two regiments of infantry from the loyal refugee Indians then in Kansas, and field and staff officers (white men) had been appointed by the War Department."⁵³ Blunt claimed that Gen. S. D. Sturgis, his predecessor, had prevented the organization of the Indian regiments. Sturgis, on April 25, 1862, had issued an order which said: "There will be no Indians mustered into service in the Department of the Mississippi."⁵⁴ However, on April 2, Robert W. Furnas had been given authority

⁵¹ Wiley Britton, The Union Indian Brigade in the Civil War, (Kansas City, 1922), p. 45; Hinton, op. cit., p. 3.

⁵² Leavenworth Daily Conservative, April 10, 1862.

⁵³ James G. Blunt, "Civil War Experiences," Kansas Historical Collections, vol. 18, p. 222.

⁵⁴ Leavenworth Daily Conservative, April 26, 1862.

by the Adjutant General of the United States to raise a regiment of infantry from the loyal Indians to serve for three years, or during the war.⁵⁵ Colonel W. G. Coffin, Superintendent of Indian Affairs, continued the organization of the First Regiment of Indians, ignoring General Sturgis' order. He had his orders from Washington.⁵⁶

On May 5, 1862, General Blunt issued an order rescinding the one issued by Sturgis and directed that the regiments be raised with "all possible speed."⁵⁷ His instructions were upheld by the Federal authorities who, on May 8, 1862, telegraphed Blunt, "Hurry up the organization and departure of the two Indian regiments."⁵⁸

The Third Indian Regiment was organized in the summer of 1862 under Colonel William A. Phillips and was composed mainly of Cherokees and half breeds.⁵⁹ "Drew's Regiment," a regiment of Cherokees which had been organized in 1861 for rebel service, deserted the Confederacy and joined the Third Regiment.⁶⁰

In 1860, Kansas had 27,976 white male persons between the ages of eighteen and forty five⁶¹ and put in the ser-

55 Official Records, series iii, vol. II, p. 2.

56 Leavenworth Daily Conservative, May 8, 1862.

57 Ibid., May 9, 1862.

58 Ibid.

59 Ibid., July 27, 1862.

60 Blunt, op. cit., p. 222; Hinton, op. cit., p. 6.

61 Population of the United States, p. xvii.

vice 18,069 white persons,⁶² almost two thirds of the entire military population of the State. In addition to the white troops, Kansas received credit for 2,080 colored soldiers making an aggregate of 20,149. As the number of troops called for from Kansas was only 16,660, the State had an excess of 3,489 men.⁶³ In addition to this record, there were, as already mentioned, many Kansas Indians in the 3,530 troops credited to the Indian Nations. Thus, Kansas, with her white, colored, and Indian troops, furnished more soldiers, in proportion to her population, than any other state in the Union.

62 Official Records, series iii, vol. IV, p. 1270.

63 Ibid.

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APPENDIX

KANSAS VOLUNTEER ORGANIZATIONS

Organization	Date of Muster-in	Remarks
First Regiment Infantry	June 3, 1861.	All regiments, unless otherwise stated, for three years, or during the war.
Veteran Battalion First Infantry	May 28, 1864.	Re-enlistments as veterans from First Infantry.
Second Regiment Infantry	May 14, 1861.	Three-month regiment. Actually served five months.
Second Regiment Cavalry	May 7, 1862.	Mostly made up of re-enlistments from Second Infantry.
Third Regiment Infantry	July 24, 1861.	Third and Fourth Regiments consolidated April 3, 1862 because they were not up to minimum requirement. Designated as the Tenth Regiment Cavalry.
Fourth Regiment Infantry	July 24, 1861.	
Fifth Regiment Cavalry	Dec. 31, 1861.	
Sixth Regiment Cavalry	Sept. 10, 1861.	
Seventh Regiment Cavalry	Oct. 28, 1861.	
Seventh Regiment Cavalry	Oct. 28, 1861.	Called the "Jayhawker" regiment.
Eighth Regiment Infantry	Sept. 2, 1861.	
Ninth Regiment Cavalry	March 24, 1862.	
Tenth Regiment Cavalry	July 24, 1862.	Result of consolidation of Third and Fourth April 3, 1862.
Veteran Battalion Tenth Infantry	August 14, 1864.	Re-enlistments as veterans from Tenth Cavalry.
Eleventh Regiment Cavalry	Sept. 15, 1862.	
Twelfth Regiment Infantry	Sept. 30, 1862.	

Organization	Date of Muster-in	Remarks
Thirteenth Regiment Infantry	Sept. 20, 1862.	
Fourteenth Regiment Cavalry	Nov. 20, 1863.	
Fifteenth Regiment Cavalry	Oct. 17, 1863.	
Sixteenth Regiment Cavalry	Oct. 8, 1864.	
Seventeenth Regiment Infantry	July 28, 1864.	One hundred day regiment.
First Regiment Colored Infantry	May 2, 1863.	Later designated the 79th U. S. Colored Infantry.
Second Regiment Colored Infantry	Nov. 1, 1863.	Later designated the 83rd. U. S. Colored Infantry.
First Light Battery	July 24, 1861.	
Second Light Battery	Sept. 10, 1862.	
Third Light Battery	Nov. 27, 1861.	Known as "Hopkin's" Kansas Battery.
Independent Colored Battery	Jan. 1, 1865.	
First Regiment Indian	1862	First, Second, and part of the Third recruited in Kansas; no credits given to the State but rather to the Indian Nations. Few records kept of these groups.
Second Regiment Indian	1862	
Third Regiment Indian	1862	