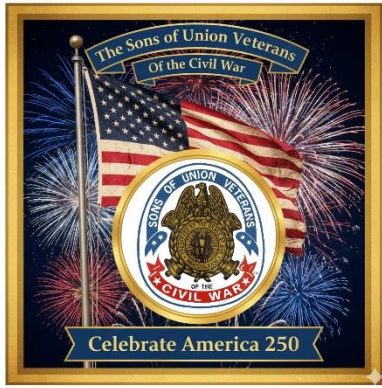




THE FRANKLIN CAMP MONTHLY BULLETIN

OFFICIAL DISPATCH FOR THE FRANKLIN CAMP #5
DEPARTMENT OF KANSAS
SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR

VOLUME 6, No. 9

SEPTEMBER 15, 2026

A LOT OF BUSINESS COVERED AT THE MEETING



The August 27 meeting of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War Franklin Camp covered a lot of ground. With half a dozen topics on the agenda, Camp Commander Dan Stilley sailed through the subjects smoothly and quickly to give our featured speaker plenty of time for a most interesting discussion (see separate article on presentation).

Following the opening invocation given by Past Camp Commander Bill Stoker, Dan led off with a call for camp officer nominations. Camp elections will be held at the September meeting and nominations were requested to be sent to Camp Secretary Jim Thornton by September 10. Officer installations will be at the October meeting.

Second on the agenda was a proposed increase in camp dues for 2027. As Commander Stilley outlined, the Franklin Camp will be hosting the 2027 Department Encampment and will be responsible for providing snacks and beverages. Plus, the camp routinely makes donations to the Quilt-of-Valor group and possibly other organizations who may give presentations to the camp. This could lead to a shortfall. The membership elected to keep the camp dues at \$5.00 for 2027 and use “pass the hat” donations when needed.

Dan next brought up the “Last Union Veteran Project” being taken on by the brothers of the Sgt. Samuel J. Churchill camp in Lawrence who are looking to place a memorial marker on the grave of the last Union Veteran to pass in the State of Kansas. Franklin Camp brothers agreed to individually donate to the project, and the camp will collect donations through September 15 and forward to Churchill Camp. Secretary Thornton stated he would send out links via email to contribute funds electronically.

The last major item on the evening’s agenda was a reminder of the Kansas State Fair being held September 11 through 20. Brother Bryan Wampler took the floor to explain the invitation from the SAR to join them at the fair to publicize the SUVCW and sign up on the Google Docs spreadsheet previously sent out.

Following the Secretary’s Report and Treasurer’s Report, turned the meeting over to Senior Vice Commander Matthew Archambault for his presentation on “Salt and the Civil War.”



MEETING OF 8-27-2026

ATTENDANCE:

17 Members in Attendance

Mark Anderson	Matthew Archambault
Jerry Coffeldt	John Hansen
Philip Hansen	Ted Lockwood
Rick McPherson	Richard Miller
Bill Stilley	Dan Stilley
Bill Stoker	Ron Thompson
Jim Thornton	Dale Walters
Bryan Wampler	Lee Wilson
Jeff Winters	

6:00pm

Call to Order by Commander Daniel Stilley
Invocation Given by Acting Camp Chaplain Bill Stoker
Opening Procedures – Commander Stilley and Camp Officers

Business:

- 1) Election Nominations
 - a) Must be submitted to Secretary Jim Thornton by September 10.
 - b) Elections to be held at September meeting.
 - c) Officer Installations to be performed at October meeting.
 - d) Current Officers have all confirmed they will continue for another term if necessary.
- 2) Camp Dues Increase Proposal
 - a) Camp facing future expenses for Department Encampment in April 2027 as well as continued donations to Quilt-of-Valor for supplies.
 - b) Suggestion made to “pass the hat” for donations to cover encampment expenses and contributions to QOV and other causes as they occur.
 - c) Motion made to keep camp dues at \$5.00 and use “pass the hat” donations when needed. Motion passed. Camp dues will remain \$5.00
- 3) Collection for Contribution to Sgt. Samuel J. Churchill Camp “Last Soldier” Project
 - a) Discussion of Churchill Camp’s “Last Soldier in Kansas” project to place a marker at the grave in Baldwin of the last Union Soldier to pass in Kansas.
 - b) Franklin Camp brothers agreed to contribute. Treasurer Richard Miller will collect funds through September 15 and forward to Churchill Camp.
 - c) Secretary Thornton will send a link to the membership for electronic contributions.
- 4) Kansas State Fair – September 11-20
 - a) Brother Bryan Wampler (past president of Kansas SAR) invited the SUVCW to join with the SAR at their information booth at the fair. Secretary Thornton will send link to Google Docs sign-up schedule
- 5) Secretary’s Report
 - a) National Encampment Recap
- 6) Treasurer’s Report – Richard Miller
 - a) Balance = \$ 606.55
- 7) For the Good of the Camp
 - a) September 19 – Battle of Lexington re-enactment and candlelight tours
 - b) October 21 – Civil War Lectures at the World War I Museum

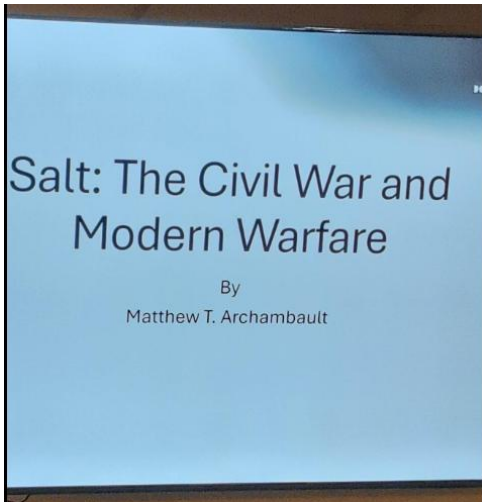
Patriotic Instruction: Senior Vice Commander Matthew Archambeau presenting “Salt and the Civil War”

7:20pm

Closing and Adjournment

SALT: MORE THAN A SEASONING **IT'S A MILITARY TARGET**

When you think of salt, what comes to mind? The salt shaker on the dinner table? The stuff the road crews spread on the street when it's icy and snowy? Do you ever think about salt supplies being a military target in war? Or how about it being vital to an army's survival?



Matthew pointed out the large discrepancy in salt production between the Confederacy and the Union. Northern states produced five times more salt than the South. Brother Ted Lockwood, who works for Morton Salt Company, commented on the vast salt deposits in Ohio resulting from the pre-historic inland sea that covered the mid-western states. With Ohio and New York providing salt for the Union and the blockade cutting off salt imports for the Confederacy, salt deprivation became a weapon of war.

Well, if you attended the August 27 meeting of the SUVCW Franklin Camp, you received a crash course in how vital salt, good old sodium chloride, is to the military and the survival of an army. Camp Senior Vice Commander Matthew Archambault gave an informative presentation on "Salt: The Civil War and Modern Warfare" and led a discussion on its sources and how it became a target for both sides, especially for the Union who frequently targeted the primary Confederate salt supplies in Florida.

- Confederacy's strategic shortcomings
 - Arms industry
 - Salt production
 - Principal salt states – Virginia, Kentucky, Florida, and Texas (2.365 M bushels of salt)
 - Comparison to Union salt production – NY, Ohio and Pennsylvania (12M bushels)
 - Onondaga, New York, leading Union Salt producer
 - 1860 – 200 acres of vats
 - 1862 – 6000 acres, employing 3,000 works and producing 9M bushels of salt
 - Salt Imports
 - English imports (England and British Carribean) supported the South prior to the Civil War
 - 25% of those imports came through New Orleans
 - Prior to Civil War, 350 tons of British salt unloaded every day (52K bushels)
- Military uses of Salt
 - Disinfectant
 - For curing beef and bacon and fish
- Rations
 - More salt per capita used than Europeans being also greater consumers of food
 - 1 animal is dedicated to every two men for hauling logistics
 - Soldiers, horses, livestock... ALL NEED SALT
 - 1864, monthly allowance of 10lbs of bacon, 26lbs of coarse meal, 7lbs of flour, 3lbs of rice, and 1.5 lbs of salt (Confederate)

- Confederate response
 - initially, coastal plantations sent slaves to gather seawater for evaporation
 - Salt works established, state-level, in coastal areas
- 200lb sack of Liverpool salt
 - 1860 50 cents
 - 1862 6 dollars
 - 1863 25 dollars
- Salt workers wanted to be paid in salt

As Matthew continued with his presentation, it became more than obvious that simple old salt was a key part of military operations and if an opponent's access to it is cut off or severely reduced, it affects the entire

military process and weakens the opponent. This was the goal of Union forces in Florida, a key source of salt for the Confederacy.

The Union navy attacked and blockaded key ports along the Florida coast, preventing Confederate salt production to be shipped out. At the same time, Union troops attacked the salt works in the Kanawha River Valley of Virginia. These Union attacks on the Confederate salt works forced the Confederate War Department to commit troops to internal state defenses, particularly areas where salt manufacturing prevailed, thus weakening the number of available troops in the field.



As you can see in this photo, Brother Archambault had everyone's attention. The presentation covered many aspects of salt's importance – from curing and storing meat products to its use as a disinfectant.

Matthew expanded on the topic of salt by leading into modern warfare. The Civil War taught military commanders the value of attacking opponent's resources, rather than simply going head-to-head, army-vs-army. By cutting the supply of resources, the opponent can be weakened. Not only does the opponent have to dedicate badly needed troops to protect those resources, but he will also be forced to ration those resources until they are depleted.

General William T. Sherman recognized this in August 1862 when he said, "Salt is eminently contraband, because of its use in curing meats, without which armies cannot be subsisted."

General Sherman foreshadowed this concept of destroying an opponent's resources which, though it did not become military doctrine until 2011, continued to be put into practice during the Second World War and came into fruition in the Persian Gulf War of 1991.



So, now when you grab that salt shaker on the dinner table, remember this: you're not only grabbing a seasoning for your meal, but you're also grabbing a military target!

****All photos in this article were taken by Brother Jerry Coffelt****



FRANKLIN CAMP CREATES A “CAMP ARCHIVES”

Back in January, Franklin Camp 5 celebrated its Twentieth Anniversary as a camp. The Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War Franklin Camp #5 was organized on October 17, 2005. The camp received their official charter within the Department of Kansas on December 6, 2005, and the signature of the National Commander in Chief on December 20, 2005. Five of our original charter members are still with the camp, and Daniel Stilley, who was a Junior Member at that time, is now the camp commander.

As the camp reminisced about those early days, several of the long-time members recalled many events the camp was involved in and wondered about photos and documents from the early years. Some brought forth memories of brothers who have since passed away and who were such a vital part of the formative years of the camp. A few posts were made on the camp's Facebook Group Page as well as a couple of articles written in the camp newsletter about the camp's anniversary.



Well, those Facebook posts and newsletter articles had a far-reaching effect. Past Department Commander and Past Camp Commander Jim Converse reached out to Franklin Camp Secretary Jim Thornton via both phone call and email. Brother Converse was the very first Franklin Camp Commander. While still a member of the SUVCW and Franklin Camp, he now lives in Ohio. And he had A LOT to share.

Brother Converse still had dozens of photos, camp newsletters, camp documents, etc. stored on his computer. He wanted to know if the camp would like to have all that information from the past. He shared some of it via email attachments for Secretary Thornton to review and evaluate. Of course, Franklin Camp wanted it!

After a few more conversations, PDC Converse informed Brother Thornton that he would download all his Franklin Camp records to a flash drive and mail it to him. In early July, Secretary Thornton received the flash drive in the mail. And what a gold mine of Franklin Camp history. Six and a half (6.5) gigabytes of information and records of the camp's early years.

Of course, this needed to be shared with the camp membership. So now the *Franklin Camp Monthly Bulletin*, the official newsletter of the camp, features a section called “Looking Back....” which includes reprints of those early newsletter articles and a few of the photos from years ago. Needless to say, Brother Converse is credited in the newsletter for this section. It would not be possible without his willingness to reach out and share the camp history with us.

So now Franklin Camp Secretary Thornton has a file on his computer titled “Franklin Camp Archives.” Maybe someday in the future he can pass it on to a camp secretary looking for the history of the camp.





Franklin Camp is in need of speakers, presentations, or programs for our 2027 monthly meetings. We currently have presentations lined up through November (our last official meeting of 2026).

The camp's program committee is currently at work looking to fill the 2027 schedule.

If you have a suggestion or contact information for a possible speaker, please notify one of our camp officers or a member of the programs committee.

Don't hesitate to step up and volunteer yourself to give a presentation. Feel free to give a talk on your own ancestor! Everyone has a story to tell!

Local Civil War History Preservation Loses a Friend

For those of us who have been part of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War Franklin Camp and the Sons of Confederate Veterans Key Camp for the last fifteen or so years, one place just an hour south of here has held a special place in our hearts – Mine Creek Battlefield. Some of us have spent many hours there helping where we can during our organized “workdays,” during the Heritage Day Festival, or just because. We consider Mine Creek our battlefield. One constant over these fifteen years has been our friend Tami Neal who began as a volunteer docent, moved up to site director, and then took on the task of President of the Mine Creek Battlefield Foundation. And now that constant presence will be moving on.



Tami Neal has made the decision to step down as President of the Mine Creek Battlefield Foundation, and this will be her last year coordinating the Heritage Day Festival. She will be spending more time with her husband traveling the world and pursuing her love of photography. In her own words (used with her permission):

“Hello Everyone,

I have made one of the hardest decisions of my life, and that is the decision to resign as President of the Mine Creek Battlefield Foundation. With that decision, this will also be my last year being involved in the coordination of Heritage Day.

Heritage Day has never been something I have done alone. It has always been a team effort, and I am incredibly grateful to the Foundation Board, our staff, volunteers, demonstrators, and reenactors who have helped make it what it is today.

I have struggled with this decision for more than a year. As many of you know, I moved back to Iowa in 2018 to take care of my parents. That chapter of my life came to an end in 2024 when my mother passed away, and with that, my own life began to change.

It gave my husband, Bruce, and me more time together. Bruce decided to take on fewer projects with his company, and we made the decision to begin traveling and seeing more of the world. It has also given me the opportunity to pursue my love of landscape photography, a dream that I have wanted to spend more time following.

I have been part of Mine Creek for more than 12 years. I started as the Site Administrator, then became a board member, and eventually had the honor of serving as President of the Foundation. I have loved every minute of this journey.

But more than the positions or the work, it has been the people who have made Mine Creek so special to me. The friends I have made over these years have become another family to me. I have also lost friends who left a permanent mark on my heart—Scott, Bennie, and John Poynter among them. They, and so many others, will always be a part of what Mine Creek means to me.

Although I am stepping away from the Foundation and Heritage Day, I am not disappearing. I will still be following many of you on Facebook and watching all the wonderful events you continue to participate in. I hope our paths will cross again at an event somewhere down the road.

And, of course, I would love for you to follow along with me as I begin this next chapter and pursue my photography and travels. I have a Facebook photography page where I share my photography adventures:

<https://www.facebook.com/TamaraPettyNealPhotography>

You all mean more to me than you probably realize. You are the heart of Mine Creek — the people who come back year after year, who share your knowledge, your time, your talents, and your passion for history. You are the ones who help keep the battlefield alive.

Thank you for allowing me to be a small part of your lives and for becoming such an important part of mine. I will treasure the memories, the laughter, the long days, the crazy moments, and most of all, the friendships.

I am sure I will see you again at some event somewhere.

Until then, please know that I will always have a very special place in my heart for Mine Creek and for all of you.

With all my heart,

Tami Neal
President - Mine Creek Battlefield Foundation”



Throughout her tenure with Mine Creek, Tami has always been welcoming to organizations such as ours and has always treated both the SUVCW and the SCV with the utmost respect. Like us, her goal has always been to preserve history for future generations and to spread that history to the battlefield visitors. Tami continued to work hard to ensure the visitor center remained open, especially during state budget hearings and budget cuts. Mine Creek is NOT a national park service battlefield; it is only a “state historic site” and therefore receives no federal funding.

Her passion and dedication to Civil War history, and to Mine Creek Battlefield will be sorely missed. Tami’s friendship with the SUVCW Franklin Camp and the SCV Key Camp will forever be cherished.



The Mine Creek Battlefield Foundation

presents



HERITAGE DAY AT MINE CREEK BATTLEFIELD



Saturday, September 26, 2026



Event Activities 10 am - 4 pm
Museum open until 5 pm



20485 Highway 52 • Pleasanton, KS 66075



EVENT ADMISSION

- Adults \$5
- Students \$2
- Children 4 & under Free

MUSEUM ADMISSION

FREE

★ ★ ★



LIVE CAVALRY



CANNON
DEMONSTRATIONS



LIVING
HISTORY



FAMILY
ACTIVITIES

Step back in time and experience history come to life!

Join us for a day of immersive Civil War history at one of the largest cavalry battlefields in the nation, where one of the largest cavalry battles of the Civil War was fought on October 25, 1864.



The
Mine Creek
Battlefield
Foundation



Find us on Facebook!

<https://www.facebook.com/minecreekbattlefieldfoundation/>

PLEASE COME OUT TO JOIN US AT MINE CREEK BATTLEFIELD! VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO KEEP AN EYE ON THE ARTIFACTS AND REPLICA WEAPONS GRACIOUSLY PROVIDED BY OUR FRIENDS WITH THE SONS OF CONFEDERATE VETERANS KEY CAMP. DEPARTMENT COMMANDER JIM THORNTON AND SCV KANSAS DIVISION COMMANDER RICK MCPHERSON WILL BE LEADING BATTLEFIELD WALKS THROUGHOUT THE DAY AND YOUR HELP WOULD BE GREATLY APPRECIATED!

MAY I ASK A FAVOR OF YOU?

One of the activities at the camp level tracked by the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War national organization is “*Patriotic Instruction*”. We have all heard that term used by our camp officers and most of us assume it simply refers to our own programs and presentations given at our monthly meetings. But that is not the case.

According to the SUVCW national guidelines, “The purpose of the office of Patriotic Instructor is to provide leadership in promoting patriotism within the membership of our Order and to inform, educate and promote patriotism among the populace in general.” So “*Patriotic Instruction*” also includes activities, programs, and presentations given outside our monthly meetings.

Many of us have spoken to schools, churches, and other civic organizations regarding the SUVCW or on a historical topic. This is “*Patriotic Instruction*.” Another example is the camp’s participation in the Shawnee Indian Mission Fall Festival each year. Brother Lane Smith’s many portrayals of General Robert E. Lee also count toward Patriotic Instruction. The SUVCW national organization tracks this community involvement, and each camp completes an annual report listing its Patriotic Instruction activities and submits it to the national headquarters as well as the State Department level.

In order to be accurate (and to make our camp look good!) I would like to maintain a list of activities taken part in or presentations given by our members to community groups, civic organizations, schools, churches, etc. This will make it so much easier to compile the annual report at year’s end. But to do this, I need your help.

If you take part in an activity or give a presentation of a patriotic nature, please let me know. You can send me an e-mail to JDThornton85@live.com. In your e-mail, please provide the name of the organization, the nature of the activity and your role, or if there is a presentation/program the title or topic of the presentation/program, and the date it took place. I will then add your Patriotic Instruction participation to the list for the camp.

I know many of us give presentations and programs outside of our camp meetings and as camp secretary, I really want to keep track of these activities and help our camp thrive and look good.

Thank you so much for your hard work and help.

*Jim Thornton, Secretary
Franklin Camp #5
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War*

Looking Back....

From the Franklin Camp Newsletter "The Old Flag"; Volume 5, No. 6; June 2009

Memorial Day Service 2009 – Olathe Memorial Cemetery

Unlike the Veterans Day Service, we could not have asked for nicer weather for this service on Saturday, May 23rd. Even the railroads cooperated with none passing by during the service. The American flags were posted on the flag poles prior to the service, and they simply looked beautiful next to the monument. The service opened with the Boy Scout Troop 256 leading the processional by lining the walkway into monument circle. The Processional itself was led by Junior member Steven Meis carrying the American flag, followed by the volley detail of Bill and Daniel Stilley and Dave Tollefson.

Following the Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance, poems were recited by Boy Scout Noah Forsyth and Junior camp member Daniel Stilley. Noah gave the poem "When You Go Home" followed by Daniel with "On Fame's Eternal Camping Ground." The first speaker was Dept Commander Jim Converse who presented Order #11 given by General John Logan after the war to establish Decoration Day. Commander Converse then went on to give a very interesting history of that order and Decoration Day itself.

The Penny Tribute was presented by LGAR National President Barb Knopke, who then provided a wreath laying ceremony with Jen Knopke representing the Ercelle Speaks Circle of the LGAR. Camp member Roger Miller followed with General MacArthur's "Duty, Honor, Country."

The service completed with a volley salute with orders given by Daniel Stilley and the wreath laying ceremony led by the three Department leaders, Commander Jim Converse, SV Jim Knopke and JV Matt Toll.



Department Commander Jim Converse, speaking of the original General Order #11 which founded Decoration Day in the G.A.R., and the human sacrifices of our veterans.

Photo-Patty Eggers



Franklin Camp Rifle Squad members (l-r) David Tollefson, Bill Stilley, and Junior Member, Daniel Stilley firing three-volley salute.

Photo-Patty Eggers



Estelle Circle President, Jennifer Knopke and LGAR National President, Barb Knopke, place wreath at the G.A.R. Monument.

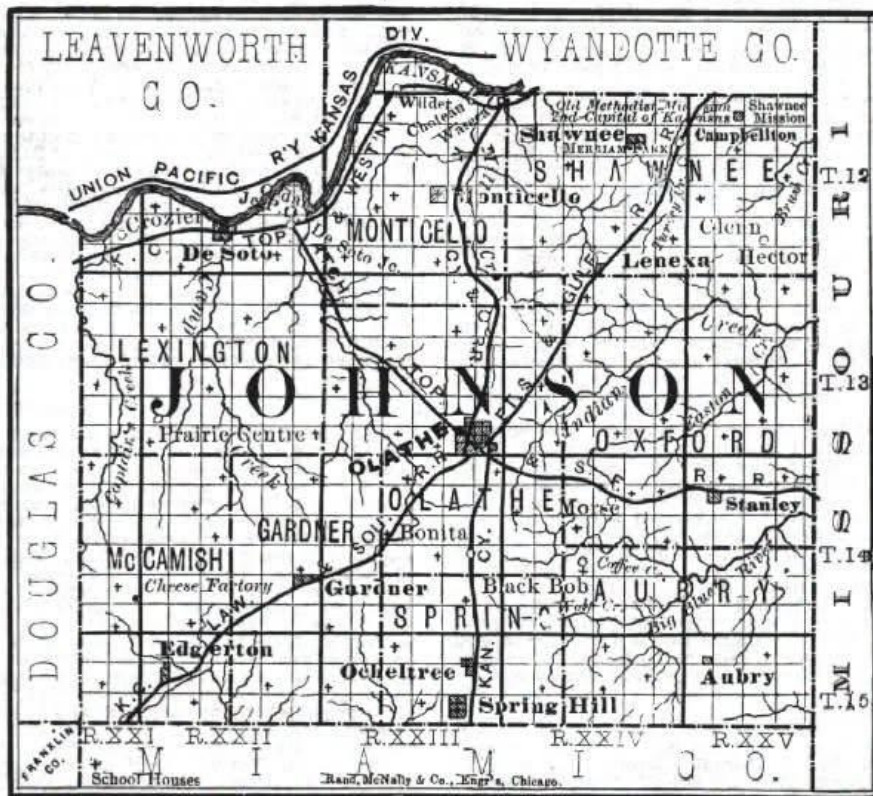
Photo-Patty Eggers

"The Old Flag" was the official newsletter of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War Franklin Camp 5. It was edited and published monthly by Past Camp Commander Jim Converse 2008-2010.

Sometimes the Border War Was Town vs Town

(The following is excerpted from a September 3 Facebook post by LeEtta Felter. Dr. LeEtta Felter serves on the Olathe City Council and frequently posts interesting facts about the Johnson County area in her "Tell Me a Story About Kansas" series of posts.)

The Kansas Town that Disappeared when its Cause was Lost



A few miles south of De Soto, hidden beneath what later became part of the Sunflower Army Ammunition Plant, once stood the town of Lexington, Kansas.

Lexington was laid out in 1857, during the bitter struggle over whether Kansas would enter the Union as a free state or a slave state.

The town's founders and many of its residents supported the pro-slavery cause. Nearby De Soto, meanwhile, was strongly aligned with the Free-State movement.

The two towns were separated by only about three miles, but politically, they stood on opposite sides of one of the most explosive questions in American history.

Lexington's founders apparently had big ambitions. The community appeared prominently on territorial maps, and a post office opened on June 29, 1857. By 1860, Lexington had a two-story hotel and a general store. But its future was tied closely to the pro-slavery movement.

When the Free-State cause prevailed and Kansas entered the Union as a free state in 1861, Lexington's political and economic influence faded. The Civil War made conditions along the Kansas-Missouri border even more dangerous.

Lexington's post office closed on January 14, 1863, and the townsite was officially vacated in 1864.

By 1883, the Johnson County Democrat described Lexington simply as a "defunct city" located on what had become the Penner farm.

That may be the most interesting part of Lexington's story: De Soto survived and grew, while its once-confident rival nearly disappeared from the map.

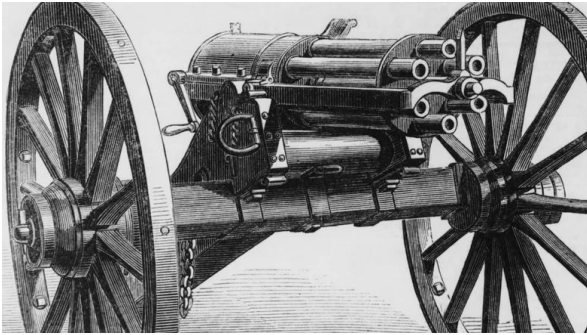
Kansas has many ghost towns that were defeated by railroads, drought or changing trade routes.

Lexington may have been defeated by history itself. The former townsite was approximately three miles south of De Soto, within the area later occupied by the Sunflower Army Ammunition Plant.

Sources: Joco History's Lexington collection and Johnson County Communities & Ghost Towns

DID YOU KNOW?

THE GATLING GUN IS BASED ON AN AUTOMATIC SEED PLANTER



War was a much different prospect in the mid-1800s, compared to modern times. While today it's commonplace for handguns to hold about 17 rounds, in the days prior to the Civil War, weaponry was far less advanced. In fact, just before the war started in 1861, most weapons available to soldiers in the field were either single shot handguns or rifles that had to be manually loaded with gun powder and a bullet before the weapon could be fired. That would change, however, in November of 1862. Inventor Richard Jordan Gatling received a patent for a new type of weapon that would drastically change warfare going forward.

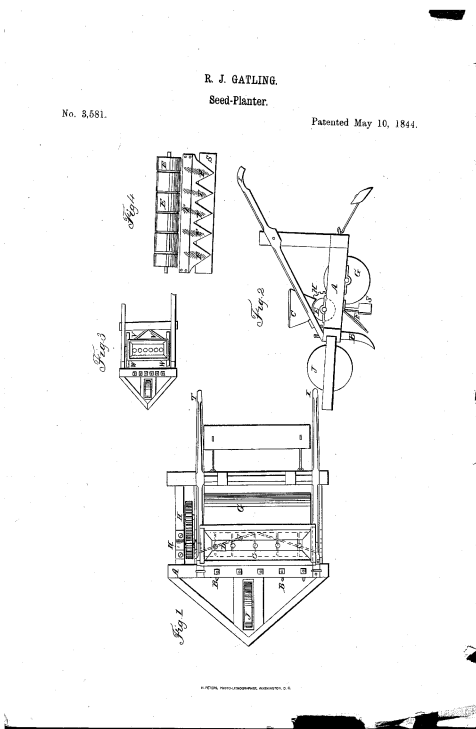
Born in Maney's Neck, North Carolina on September 12, 1818, Gatling began early on helping his father improve tools and machinery they used to harvest cotton. Richard Gatling received his first patent for a new kind of seed planter in 1844. Over the subsequent years, Gatling continued to improve upon his seed planter, as well as invent a whole host of other types of farming equipment.

With the approach of the 1860s and the early battles of the Civil War breaking out, Gatling became inspired after witnessing the horrors of battle. Noticing that far more soldiers died from disease than from bullets, Gatling reached back into his past for an idea that he hoped, in the end, would spare the need for massive armies. Later in his life, in 1877, he would write, "It occurred to me that if I could invent a machine gun which could by its rapidity of fire, enable one man to do as much battle duty as a hundred, that it would, to a large extent supersede the necessity of large armies, and consequently, exposure to battle and disease would be greatly diminished."



Richard Jordan Gatling

Gatling sometime between 1870 and 1880



Adapting his original idea of the automatic seed planter, Gatling created a device that had 6 to 10 rifle barrels arranged in a circular pattern. Connected to a hand crank, the barrels would begin to rotate once the crank was turned. On top of Gatling's new weapon was a hopper, a funnel type device that fed bullets into each of the rifle barrels as they rotated by. Using gravity, the bullets locked into place, were "automatically" fired and the empty cartridge being ejected all within the time of the weapon being cranked.

Gatling's gun could fire up to 350 rounds in a minute. In some of the early trials, the weapon reportedly fired 1,000 rounds in one minute. Compare that to the rate of fire of most single-shot infantry rifles, of two or perhaps three rounds per minute at best. After dealing with issues like frequent jams and needing a crew of four soldiers to navigate the enormous weapon on the battlefield, Richard Gatling was awarded the patent for the weapon later to be dubbed "the Gatling Gun" in November of 1862.



Although General Benjamin F. Butler bought 12 and Admiral David Dixon Porter bought one, it was not until 1866 that the U.S. Government officially purchased Gatling guns. And while the weapon would see limited use in the Civil War, due to it being relatively untested in battle, the Gatling Gun's presence in wars thereafter continued to be increasingly prominent. Richard Gatling's original intent for the weapon, to drastically reduce the need for armies, unfortunately was never fully realized.

In 1870, Gatling sold his patents for the Gatling gun to Colt. Gatling remained president of the Gatling Gun Company until it was fully absorbed by Colt in 1897. In 1893, Gatling patented a Gatling gun that replaced the hand cranked mechanism with an electric motor, a relatively new invention at the time, achieving a steady rate of fire of 300 rounds per minute. The hand-cranked Gatling gun was declared obsolete by the United States Army in 1911. Decades later, the mechanical concept was resurrected and wedded to electrically driven cranking in the M61 Vulcan. That cannon has given rise to numerous variations scaled up to as high as 37 mm and down to 5.56 mm calibers offering versions that are gas-operated as well.

Later in his life, Gatling patented inventions to improve toilets, bicycles, steam-cleaning of raw wool, pneumatic power, and many other fields. In his final years, Gatling moved back to St. Louis, Missouri, to form a new company for manufacturing his steam plows, or tractors. While in New York City to visit his daughter and to talk with his patent agency, Gatling died at his daughter's home on February 26, 1903.

Unfortunately for Gatling, and the rest of the world, his technology would only be advanced upon in even more and more lethal ways. It did not eliminate the need for armies; the technology only enabled armies to kill more, and more quickly.

And now you know how a peaceful, automated seed planting device evolved into a weapon of death and destruction.

FRANKLIN CAMP MONTHLY BULLETIN

The Franklin Camp Monthly Bulletin is a newsletter published for the Franklin Camp #5 of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War. The SUV is a non-profit organization with a patriotic, historical, and genealogical orientation and is not affiliated with any other organization. Opinions in this newsletter reflect the views of the writers and are not necessarily a statement of the views of the SUV, the Department of Kansas, nor any other camp. Comments and articles are solicited.

Franklin Camp Website Resources

Franklin Camp Facebook Group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/805798033688654>

Franklin Camp Webpage: <https://suvwks.org/franklin-camp-no-5/>

SUV National: <http://www.suvcw.org/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/SUVCW/>

Department of Kansas Website: <https://suvwks.org/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Sons-of-Union-Veterans-of-the-Civil-War-Department-of-Kansas-124886647572266/>

Franklin Camp Officers

<u>COMMANDER</u>	<u>SR. VICE COMMANDER</u>	<u>JR. VICE COMMANDER</u>	<u>SECRETARY</u>	<u>TREASURER</u>
Dan Stilley	Matthew Archambault	Jeff Winters	Jim Thornton	Richard Miller

NEXT MEETING

Franklin Camp No. 5 meetings are held on the fourth Thursday of each month at Pegah's Restaurant, 12122 West 87th Street, Lenexa, Kansas. The camp does not meet in December.

The Franklin Camp will meet on **THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 24**, at Pegah's Restaurant at 12122 W. 87th Street in Lenexa, Kansas, at 6 p.m. for dinner and conversation. Our featured program will be provided by Brother Dale Walters presenting "*The Myth of the Lost Cause: Some Hidden Motives.*"

Come early and join us for camaraderie, dinner, and education! As always, your wife or significant other is welcome. Feel free to bring guests!

Don't forget to bring a prospective recruit!

UPCOMING PATRIOTIC INSTRUCTION FOR THE FRANKLIN CAMP

September 2026 – Dale Walters – The Myth of the Lost Cause: Some Hidden Motives

October 2026 – John Hansen – Civil War Ghost Stories

November 2026 – Jim Thornton – Coffee and the Civil War

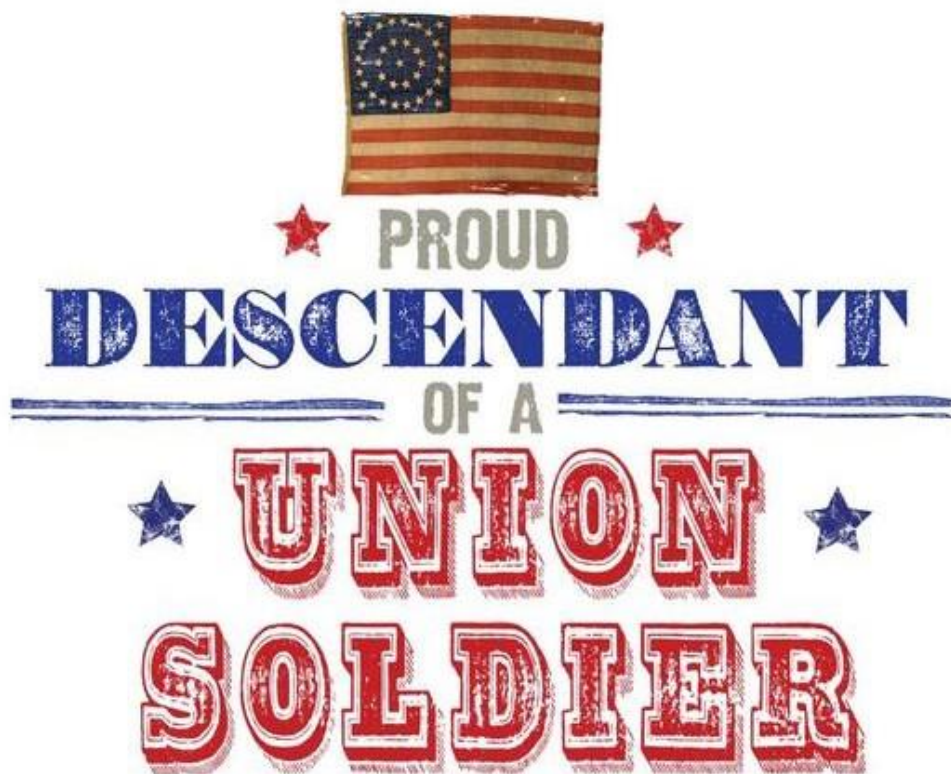
!!!!Programs Are Needed for 2027!!!!

****VOLUNTEERS TO PRESENT A PROGRAM AT FUTURE MEETINGS ARE WELCOME! IF INTERESTED, PLEASE E-MAIL A MEMBER OF OUR PROGRAMS COMMITTEE****

WANTED: NEWSLETTER ARTICLES

The Franklin Camp Monthly Bulletin is always looking for articles on topics of interest. If you attend a Civil War event or have something you would like to contribute to the monthly newsletter (maybe a book recommendation and review?), please notify our newsletter editor Jim Thornton at JDThornton85@live.com. This year, in commemoration of our nation's 250th Anniversary, we would like to do a series of articles on what it means to you to be an American. What was your proudest moment as an American? Please submit your contribution in a WORD DOC or PDF format to Jim at the e-mail address above.

“THE LAST FIVE LETTERS OF THE WORD HISTORY SPELL “STORY.” AND THAT’S EXACTLY HOW HISTORY SHOULD BE TAUGHT. NUMBERS AND DATES HAVE NO SOUL. SUCH PRESENTATIONS FALL FLAT, FOR HISTORY IS ALIVE AND RELEVANT.”



REQUIRED DISCLAIMER: “Individuals attending events hosted by the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, by virtue of their attendance, agree to the usage of their likeness in the Banner, any Camp or Department Newsletter, any SUVCW website and/or on any SUVCW Social Media outlet, promotional brochures, or any other SUVCW material.”