

TONGANOXIE COMMUNITY HISTORICAL SOCIETY SPECIAL NEWSLETTER, October 2020

SPECIAL NEWSLETTER

by Kent Quarles and Perry Walters

Black Soldiers from Kansas and the Civil War

By the end of the Civil War, roughly **180,000** black men (**10%** of the Union Army) served as soldiers in the U.S. Army and another **19,000** served in the Navy. **Twenty three blacks serving in the army and navy received the Congressional Medal of Honor.**

Early in January of 1861, Private H.S. Adams reported that the Negroes shouted "Hurrah to de Union" as the Indiana 47th Volunteers crossed the Ohio River near Lexington, KY.

Several weeks later Pvt. Adams reported that while near Senator Wickliff's farm in Kentucky, he had a little talk with a Negro belonging to Senator Wickliff. The slave said the blacks had been praying for this for 5 years and that the rebels told him that the Negroes should stay away from the Union Army. Henry Smith Adams said, "I think the blacks understand the nature of our trouble very well".

In the fall of 1862, while stationed in Helena, Arkansas, H. S. Adams reports in his diary, "The Negroes flock in here by the hundreds and are stopping in vacant houses, stables, bush tents, and some just lay around anywhere. They are dying by the dozen. One Negro has a mule and cart and our officers have made it his duty to haul the dead to the graveyard in the hills west of town, while it is the duty of others to bury them. I have seen 2 and 3 laying in the yard in the blanket or coffin waiting burial. Some come in from the country wearing silk hats, and silk dresses, and at the same time perhaps barefooted.

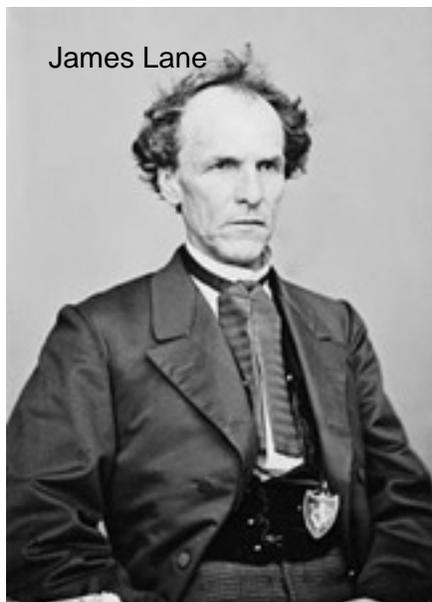
Our quartermaster feeds them and at night hundreds of them in some old building will strike and sing a most lonely melancholy tune. I have also heard them do this when loaded on a boat for the north, just as the boat would leave the shore they would start the same tune and keep it up until out of hearing and I don't know how much longer. "

I recognize that paragraphs 2, 3 and 4 do not "fit" the topic being written about. These statements are from the diary of Henry Smith Adams who at the time was a private in the Indiana 47th Volunteers. I do feel that they give us some first hand knowledge about what the black slaves were thinking during the Civil War. In addition the last paragraph gives us a very sad picture of what was happening to slaves that were struggling in the deep south.

Kansas had two black units that fought in the Civil War. The first unit formed was the 1st Kansas Colored Volunteer Infantry which was formed on August 4, 1862. James Lane, now a United States Senator, authorized the formation of the 1st Kansas Colored Volunteer Regiment. On October 29, 1862, that unit marched to Island Mound, near Bates City, Mo. to have battle with some southern guerillas.

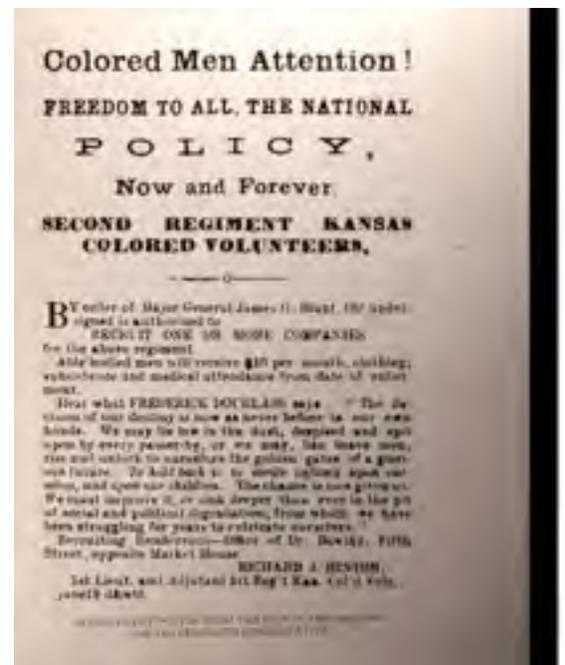
The battle was considered a skirmish. The black soldiers were outnumbered 400 to 240, but they held their line. It was a great day for the 1st Kansas Colored for several reasons.

1. Though outnumbered they won the battle with the Missouri Guerillas
2. Their Commanding officer, General Blunt, said after the battle. "They fought with desperate bravery. "They fought like "Tigers". The initial statements about the blacks being able to fight were very positive. One reason the blacks fought so well is that they realized if they were caught by the Confederates (or Confederate guerrillas) they would be shot, or taken back to be a slave once again.
3. It was the first black unit to be formed (Aug 4, 1862) and the first to fight Oct.29, 1862 in the Union Army. Now tradition is difficult to overcome (think of Chief Tonganoxie who was not a chief , but a councilor). The curator of the Grinter House in the 1980's spoke at the Riford house when TCHS was meeting there. He said that Walt Neighbor knew that Tonganoxie was not a chief, but he still promoted him as a chief. There are several locations on the internet where the 54th Massachussetts is considered to be the first black unit formed in the north and the first to serve in combat. The movie "Glory" aided this belief. This unit was formed in February 1863, several months after the 1st Kansas Colored had been formed. Again tradition is difficult to change.
4. There are several unique issues that need to be noted and discussed.



James Lane

James Lane, now a federal senator, ignored army regulations about not recruiting black people into the army. Lane recruited an army without Federal authorization. The Sec. of State and Lincoln were upset with this action. Lincoln earlier had fired General John



Fremont, who after the battle of Wilson's creek near Springfield, Mo., emancipated the slaves. Lincoln was very upset with this action because he believed it might cause those states with slaves that were still in the Union, to change their attitude and join the Confederate States. Fremont went home and waited for orders to play a major role in the Civil War. Towards the end of the Civil War Fremont had a minor role but there was no military action with the job. I am not aware of any action Lincoln took against Lane on this matter, but he was upset.

When Fremont was "fired" by Lincoln, there were several Delaware Indians (Chief Fall Leaf was a Captain and two of his boys were Lieutenants) with Fremont. They had previously been with him in California and there was much respect on both sides. Because of this respect for Fremont, the Delaware Indians also left the military and went home. This action caused them to be AWOL— something they didn't understand— and they never received any military benefits.

Initially this 1st Kansas Colored was part of the State of Kansas Militia. Therefore, there was no authorized pay for the service that this black unit accomplished. They went into battle and fought like "Tigers" for no money. Now, when the Emancipation Proclamation (Slaves in the states of Missouri, Kentucky, Delaware and Maryland were not affected by this proclamation) became effective, Jan 1, 1863. many things changed. On Jan 13, 1863 the 1st Kansas Colored was mustered into the U.S. military. Now they were part of the United States Military and as such they were entitled to pay. The Blacks were paid \$10.00 per month with 3 dollars taken out for clothes. The white soldiers were paid \$12.00 per month plus an additional \$3.00 per month clothing allowance.



A significant effect was on the three black officers of this unit. After the unit was mustered into the U.S. Army the black officers lost their rank. Wm Matthews, a freed black person who was born into freedom in the state of Maryland, eventually moved to Leavenworth and became a Captain in the 1st Kansas Colored Volunteers. There were also two black lieutenants in this unit. They all lost their position. If they wanted to stay in the unit they had to re-enlist as a private. Captain Matthews was very well respected by the white soldiers. He was often asked for advice. He was eventually mustered in as an officer (June 28, 1863), but no action was ever taken to approve this act.

The 1st Kansas Colored Volunteer Regiment played a significant role in the Civil War in the region of Oklahoma, (which at the time was Indian Territory), Arkansas, Louisiana, and Texas. One of their main duties was to escort supply trains into Indian Territory (Ft. Gibson). They were also in several noted battles. I will

discuss a few of the more significant battles in which the 1st Kansas fought. In every case their commanding officers gave them extremely high praise for their ability to fight.

The *Battle of Cabin Spring* took place on July 1 & 2, 1863. It was in Mayes Co. OK. Confederate troops attempted to surprise the Union troops who knew about this confederate plan from captured confederate soldiers. Despite the high water from recent rain, the Union troops made it across the creek and successfully drove the South away from the battle field. Once again the African-American soldiers drove the South back and away from the creek. This action allowed victories at other locations including Honey Springs. **This was the first battle that had the African'-American troops and the white troops fighting side by side.**

The Second Battle of Cabin Creek took place on Sept. 19, 1864. The Union Troops, including some of the 1st and 2nd Kansas Colored were gathering hay in a field when the Confederate troop showed themselves. The Union fired and the Confederate troops responded with artillery support. The mules with the Union were frightened and ran. Many of the mules were so terrified that they drug the wagons along. Many ran over a cliff and into Cabin Creek. The Kansas Colored took a beating and the South won the day, but it did nothing, so people said, to help either side in the war. The south took over a \$1,000,000.00 in supplies including many mules and wagons with supplies.

The *Battle of Honey Spring* took place in what then was Indian territory. Today it is part of Oklahoma. It was in Macintosh Co. about one hour south of Tulsa, OK. The battle took place on July 17, 1863. It was a Union Victory, but there were several reasons this was a significant battle.

1. It was the first time that there were fewer white people on each side. Native Americans made up most of the force for both armies. **The Confederates were struggling and this was noted because they were using flintlocks and muzzle loaders. Plus they were purchasing Mexican powder, and it did not do well in moist conditions.** The South had numerous misfires. Also food was a problem. The South also saw some signals given by the North that they mis-interpreted. The Confederates charged right into the strong forces of the North. The 1st Kansas Colored drove the Confederates back after a severe battle.
2. The bulk of both forces were Native Americans. However, during the first part of the Civil war in this area most historians believed the 5 civilized tribes fought with the Confederates. Some of The Native Americans had suffered "The trail of Tears" among other issues. The Indians in this territory believed they were not getting the Federal Government's promises. They didn't trust the Federal Government. Many fought with the South in the early parts of the war because the South promised them security and recognition of the Indian lands.



Later in the war the Indians saw that the southern promises were not likely to be fulfilled and they began to switch sides and fight for the Union.

3. In summary why the Indians sided with the Confederacy: (1) They believed the United States was on the verge of **collapse**, (2) They were **neglected** by the United States, (3) [William H. Seward](#), the United States Secretary of State, advocated the **seizing** of Indian lands, (4) Their main agent was an **advocate** for the South, and (5) Their laws supported **slavery**. Many Cherokee Indians

brought their slaves with them when they moved west to Indian territory.

4. It is not easy to realize what many of the Indians thought about fighting for the North or the South. In many cases some of the Indians fought with the South and later the North. In the case of the Creek Indians, Daniel Macintosh fought with the south. However, the Chief of the Creek Indians, Opothleyahola, was among the minority of Creek in [Indian Territory](#) who supported the [Union](#). I think this was true of most of the Indian Tribes that lived in Oklahoma or Texas. Some of the tribe fought for the South and some of the Indians from the same tribe fought for the North. This is supported by the fact that the Battle of Honey Springs had large numbers of Indians fighting on both sides.
5. In the Delaware Indian situation, they also fought for the North from the beginning until the end of the war. I think the Indians fought on the side that they believed would provide them the best deal. As the war progressed it became evident that the south might lose the war and many Indians switched sides. SIMPLE!!
6. The North had the 1st Colored Volunteer Regiment and after the battle, General Blunt said this, "I never saw such fighting as was done by the Negro regiment.....The question that Negroes will fight has been settled. Besides, they made better soldiers in every respect that any soldier I have ever had".
7. Once again the 1st Kansas Colored fought bravely. The Union troops confronted a strong Confederate force. After a 2 hour bloody battle the Confederate forces retreated. The 1st Kansas Colored which was in the center of the Union forces not only held the line, they advanced to within 50 paces of the Confederates and exchanged fire for some twenty minutes. The Confederates finally broke and ran.

The Battle of Poison Springs, April 18, 1864 was probably the most significant battle that the 1st Kansas Colored Volunteer Regiment ever encountered. The Union army was low on supplies and Col. Steele had his troops in a relative safe place, Camden, Ark., (Ouachita Co., Arkansas). Steele sent Col. Williams with 198 wagons to forage for supplies. Included in this group of soldiers, were the 1st Kansas Colored Infantry Regiment.

The Confederate troops ambushed and destroyed the Union foraging expedition. The Confederate troops then blocked the road into Camden. This road was the route to safety for the Northern troops if they could get across the swollen creek. The Union defense was not enough. **The 1st Kansas Colored were involved in this defense and resisted two attacks by the Confederates. A third well organized attack by the South broke though the 1st Kansas defense. The entire Union troops retreated and were chased for 2.5 miles.** The Confederates gave up the chase and came back to the battle ground. Now they turned their attention to the 1st Kansas that were wounded or captured. **Both side agree that many of the black soldiers were killed after the battle was over. 301 soldiers of the Union troops were dead, wounded or missing. 117 of these were black soldiers that were killed and 65 were black soldiers that were wounded.**

This was not the only time during the Civil War that Black soldiers were slaughtered after they had surrendered. Nathan Bedford Forrest at the battle of Fort Pillow (slightly north of Memphis, Tennessee) gets credit for slaughtering the black soldiers and their white officers. Read a portion of the letter below.

A letter from one of Forrest's own sergeants, Achilles V. Clark, writing to his sisters on April 14, reads in part:

“Our men were so exasperated by the Yankee's threats of no quarter that they gave but little. The slaughter was awful. Words cannot describe the scene. The poor deluded negroes would run up to our men; fall on their knees and with uplifted hands; scream for mercy, but they were ordered to their feet and then shot down. The white [sic] men fared but little better. The fort turned out to be a great slaughter pen. Blood, human blood stood about in pools and brains could have been gathered up in any quantity. I with several others tried to stop the butchery and at one time had partially succeeded but Gen. Forrest ordered them shot down like dogs and the carnage continued. Finally our men became sick of blood and the firing ceased.”

Later in the Civil War, the 2nd Kansas Colored Volunteers, during a difficult battle used this battle cry, “Remember Poison Springs”.

The official records note the killing of the Union wounded, including all of the black soldiers the South found on the battle field. Also found were thousands of pairs of shackles that were going

to be used to bring the blacks back to the south. After the war it was noted that many pairs of shackles and chains were found on the battle field where the South had been located.

On December 13, 1864 the 1st Kansas Colored Infantry became the 79th United States Colored Troops (U.S.C.T.) They were one of the last regiments mustered out of the military. They were in the military until Oct 30, 1865.

“According to the Kansas Historical Society, the 1st Kansas, during the Civil War, lost more men than any other Kansas regiment (white or black). President Lincoln later called the men who served in the U.S.C.T. “the sable arm” and credited them for helping turn the tide of the war”.

The 2nd Kansas Colored Volunteer Infantry

Joseph Nichols, a slave from Missouri, was part of the 2nd Kansas Colored Volunteer Infantry. After the Civil war he eventually made his home in Tonganoxie, Kansas.

The 2nd Kansas Colored Volunteer Infantry was organized at Ft. Scott, Kansas. They mustered in from August 1863 to November 1, 1863. I don't know how this works because many people around Leavenworth seemed to join at Ft. Leavenworth, but they also seemed to all muster in some other place, like Ft. Scott. This unit formed after the Emancipation Proclamation so they were paid from their beginning. On December 13, 1864 this unit was re-designated as the 83rd U. S. Colored Troops (U.S. C. T.)

The 2nd Kansas Colored began mustering in at Ft. Scott on August 1863. They completed mustering in at Ft. Smith Arkansas on November 1, 1863. The unit moved from Ft. Scott to Ft. Smith on October 19th. 1863. They were on escort duty at that time. Escort duty was very important because supplies of all types were necessary. Food and ammunition were very important and the Confederates desperately needed supplies. This type of duty existed until March of 1864. During this time much effort was placed on training to become a battle ready unit. Also, during this time the unit was on escort duty.

On March 24, 1864 the 2nd Kansas Colored was selected to take part in the Camden Expedition. This expedition failed. It was supposed to open up Shreveport and connect with other union force and get control of the Red River and invade Texas.

The Camden campaign was part of the Red River Campaign. The Camden part was located in Arkansas. There were several battle sites over many days that involved the Camden Campaign. The Battle of Poison Spring which involved the 1st Kansas Colored and has been discussed earlier. This was where the South came back to the battlefield and murdered many of the Black soldiers.

Marks' Mills near Fordyce had a battle, there was a battle at Prairie De'Ane, and others, but the battle that is considered the most significant was the battle of Jenkins Ferry.

Union supplies were very low. The Union had foraged for feed and food and the men were living on 1/2 rations. and the Confederates forces were growing. The Union's ammunition was low and General Steele decided to retreat to Ft. Smith. The South was close behind. One of the forage trips ultimately became the battle of Poison Springs.

Soon after the Camden Expedition **the Second Kansas Colored fought its most notable engagement of the war, the Battle of Jenkins Ferry, Arkansas on April 30, 1864.** The battle of Jenkin's Ferry was where Joseph Nichols was wounded with grape shot from a cannon.

The men of the Second Kansas vowed revenge and some of them charged into the conflict shouting "Remember Poison Springs." During the battle the Second Colored became the first black Union soldiers to successfully capture a Confederate field artillery battery. In doing so they also took a number of prisoners.

On the 30th of April, when the regiment had just arrived at the pontoon boats at Jenkins Ferry, on the Saline River, the artillery announced that the rebels had engaged the rear of Gen. Steele's army, commanded by Gen. Rice, a brave, accomplished, and good officer.

Col. S. J. Crawford, of the Second Colored, immediately countermarched his regiment one and one-half miles to the scene of action, and asked Gen. Rice where he should bring his regiment into action. "What regiment do you command?" was the immediate inquiry. To which the prompt reply was, "2nd Kansas Colored Infantry." "They won't fight," responded Gen. Rice. **To which the Colonel, in language much more emphatic than Christian, replied that they could and would go as far as it was possible for any others to go.**

The 2nd was then directed to relieve the 15th Indiana. No sooner had the regiment come into line than it engaged the enemy in deadly conflict. This lasted for about two hours, when it was confronted by a three-gun rebel battery. The Col. at once saw the impossibility of holding the position any length of time unless the rebel battery was silenced or captured. The Union command had no artillery at hand with which to silence the artillery, consequently the Colonel for the 2nd Kansas Colored was determined to silence the artillery. He sent acting Adjutant Playford to Gen. Rice for permission to charge the battery.

Up to this time in the history of the war no colored troops had been permitted to charge upon a rebel battery, and Gen. Rice evidently was unwilling that the experiment should be tried under such unpromising circumstances. **He finally consented** that the movement might be attempted when heavy cheering was heard on the left, which would indicate that the rebel right had been turned. Then, and not until then, should such a hazardous experiment be undertaken.

By this sudden, unexpected and successful charge of the 2nd Kansas Colored upon the enemy, and the capture of their battery, is due the success attending our arms in this engagement.

Owing to the heavy rains of the previous night, the Saline bottoms were almost a mortar-bed, rendering it almost impossible for the men to drag the guns to the place, on the north side of the river, where our army encamped for the night. Had it not been for this successful charge, and the gallant conduct of Gen. Rice and his troops, it would have been almost impossible for the rear of our army, with such a force pressing them, to have succeeded in crossing the river.

Col. Crawford ordered the prisoners to be taken to the rear without insult or injury, which conduct on his part is in striking contrast to the treatment bestowed upon our colored troops at Poison Springs. He also told a rebel Lieutenant and other prisoners to inform their commanding General that colored troops had captured them, and that he must from necessity leave some of his wounded men in hospitals along the way. He expected the same kind treatment shown to them that he showed to those falling into his hands.

This campaign resulted only in defeat and disgrace, the loss of hundreds of brave and good men, thousands of horses, mules and wagons, and hundreds of thousands of dollars worth of other Government property.

On December 13, 1864 the Second Kansas Colored Infantry was re-designated as the 83rd U.S. Colored Troops (U.S.C.T.) when the War Department decided to organize all black soldiers in the Union Army under a unified command. Operating under that designation, the regiment was assigned garrison duty for military outposts in Union-occupied areas of Arkansas for the remainder of the war. The regiment was disbanded on October 9th, 1865 in Little Rock, Arkansas, and discharged in Leavenworth, **Kansas on November 27, 1865.**

THE JARRETT FAMILY HISTORY

The information on the Jarrett family was provided by the Jarrett family.

Ed note: After Joseph Nichols was released from the Army, he eventually came to live in Tonganoxie. His daughter married a Jarrett and to this day there are still descendants from that marriage who live in Tonganoxie. The name Nichols is gone, but the marriage of Nichols and Jarrett still have offspring that reside in Tonganoxie.

Joseph Nichols was born circa 1837 in either Africa or in Clay Co., MO. We have two different birth places given by two different census takers. We do however know that he was a slave in Clay Co., MO. While enslaved, he was married to Eliza Jane Wood. Eliza had been married before and had a daughter named Lucilla King. Eliza died in August 1863 and it was shortly after that when Joseph ran away. Joseph crossed the Missouri River into Kansas. We don't know where he crossed but he found his way to Quindaro Township, which was a stop on the Underground railroad. There were a good number of people who were helpful to runaways. He was told about a new recruitment plan for Blacks. He could join the army and avoid bounty hunters plus he could get paid \$10.00 per month, plus he would get medical care and new clothes.

He was taken to Leavenworth where on Sept 2nd. he was assigned to Company I, 2nd Kansas Colored Infantry. After a brief training, his unit was sent to join the 83rd U.S.Colored Infantry which was in Arkansas. On the way from Ft. Smith to Little Rock, they came through Clarksdale

3-172 OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR
 U.S.D. Est.
Department of the Interior,
BUREAU OF PENSIONS.
 Washington, D. C. *Jan. 15*, 1898

Mr. *Joseph Nichols*
 Co. I 83 Reg. U.S.C.V. Eng.
 Sta:

Will you kindly answer, at your earliest convenience, the questions enumerated below? The information is requested for future use, and it may be of great value to your family.

Very respectfully,
H. C. Brand
 Commissioner

Joseph Nichols
 Longwood Kan.

No. 1. Are you a married man? If so, please state your wife's full name, and her maiden name.
 Answer: *Hannah Nichols formerly by Hannah Logan*

No. 2. When, where, and by whom were you married? Answer: *at Little Rock Ark by Gt. Rev. S. Smith and Capt. J. P. ...*

No. 3. What record of marriage exists? Answer: *Special order Secy of War issued by Brig Genl W. Thomas at Nashville Tenn on 25. 1864*

No. 4. Were you previously married? If so, please state the name of your former wife and the date and place of her death or divorce. Answer: *Eliza Jane Hood. Died Aug 1863 at Clay Co Mo*

No. 5. Have you any children living? If so, please state their names and the dates of their birth. Answer: *Lucilla born 1859, daughter of my first wife. Mary Gabriel born Feb 17. 1867. John Nichols " " 11. 1874*

Date of reply, *Jan 24*, 1898
Witness Lieutenant J. M. Naughton *Joseph X. Nichols*
(Signature)
Marked

where he met Hanna Logan, who also had found new freedom. They were taken so much by each other that they were married on March 28th, 1864 in Little Rock, Arkansas. The next day his outfit was sent to Camden where they were in combat from April 2 to April 24th. This battle included the capture of Jenkin's Ferry. This ferry was a supply line for the Confederate army across the Ouchita River.

During the battle Joseph was wounded by grapeshot from a cannonball. At sometime during this campaign, Joseph was promoted to 1st Sgt. of Company I of the 83rd U. S. Colored Infantry. Joseph was honorably mustered out at Camden, Arkansas on October 9, 1865. As was army policy, they were transferred back to Ft. Leavenworth, his place of induction.

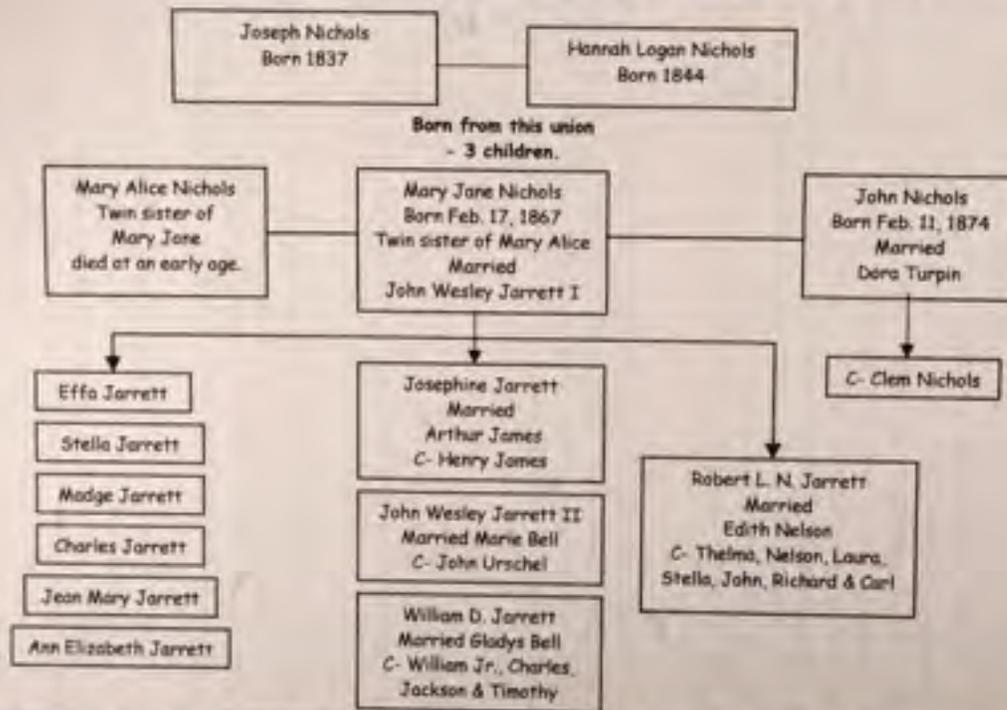
In Leavenworth Joseph and Hannah set about starting a family and in 1869 twin girls were born. Mary Alice and Mary Jane (Our Grandmother). Mary Alice died shortly after birth. After



Marriage license

Nichols & Jarrett Families

* C- Child or Children



John Jarrett

I also found a listing for a John Jarrett, although Levi and John were both in Tennessee at the same time, they did not serve in the same units during the Civil War. Could this be John Wesley's father. It's quite possible. He would be the right age, his last name is Jarrett and notice the word "African Descent" from the text taken from the same Web site as Levi's. Below is the text I found on the Internet for John Jarrett

UNITED STATES COLORED TROOPS

59th REGIMENT INFANTRY.

John Jarrett's Military Record

Organized March 11, 1864, from 1st Tennessee Infantry (African Descent). Attached to 1st Colored Brigade, District of Memphis, Tenn., Dept. of Tennessee, to June, 1864. 3rd Brigade, Infantry Division, Sturgis' Expedition, to June, 1864. 1st Colored Brigade, District of Memphis, District of West Tennessee; to February, 1865. Fort Pickering, Defences of Memphis, Tenn., District of West Tennessee, to July, 1865. 2nd Brigade, District of West Tennessee, to September, 1865. Dept. of Tennessee to January, 1866.

SERVICE - Post and garrison duty at Memphis, Tenn., till June, 1864. Sturgis' Expedition from Memphis into Mississippi June 1-13. Battle of Brice's Cross Roads, Guntown, June 10. Ripley June 11. Davis Mill June 12. Smith's Expedition to Tupelo, Miss., July 5-21. Near Ripley July 7. Pontotoc July 11-12. Camargo's Cross Roads, Harrisburg, July 13. Tupelo July 14-15. Old Town Creek July 15. Post and garrison duty at Memphis, Tenn., and in District of West Tennessee till January, 1866. Repulse of Forest's attack on Memphis August 21, 1864. Mustered out January 31, 1866.

Levi Jarrett's Military Record

Levi Jarrett was the father of the Jarretts. We found an entry for him with the U.S. Colored Troops Web site <http://www.itd.rps.gov/csss/usct.html>.

Also, there is an African American Civil War Memorial in the Washington, D.C. area and you will find Levi's name listed there on the plaque: Row C-55. (If you have access to the Web, you should be able to copy the link above and it will take you there.)

United States Colored Troops - 40th Regiment Infantry

Organized at Nashville, Tennessee, February 29, 1864. Attached to Defenses of Louisville Camp: Nashville Railroad, Department of the Cumberland, to June, 1865. Defenses Nashville Camp: Northwestern Railroad, Dept. of the Cumberland, to December 1864. Defenses of Louisville & Nashville Railroad, Dept. of the Cumberland to April 1865. 2nd Brigade, 4th Division, District of East Tennessee, Department of Cumberland to July 1865. 1st Brigade, 4th Division District. East Tennessee, to August 1865, Dept. of Tennessee to April 1866.

Service - Railroad guard duty entire term on Nashville & Louisville Railroad and Nashville Camp: Northwestern Railroad, and in District of East Tennessee. Action at South Tunnel, Tennessee, October 10, 1864. Mustered out April 25, 1866.*

On the June 1st 1880 census in the County of Leavenworth, State of Kansas, the city of Leavenworth, you will find Levi Jarrett listed. He is 52 years old, a farm laborer and his wife is Mary E., who is 49 years old, a washerwoman and was born in Tennessee. At this point in time, they have a son named Jerry, who is 24 years old and is a farm laborer too. They have daughter - Della, who is 21 years old and a servant. Also living with them is Della Baldwin, who is 18 years old and has a daughter that is 2 years old. (Couldn't make out the name.)

Levi Jarrett was the father of the Jarretts

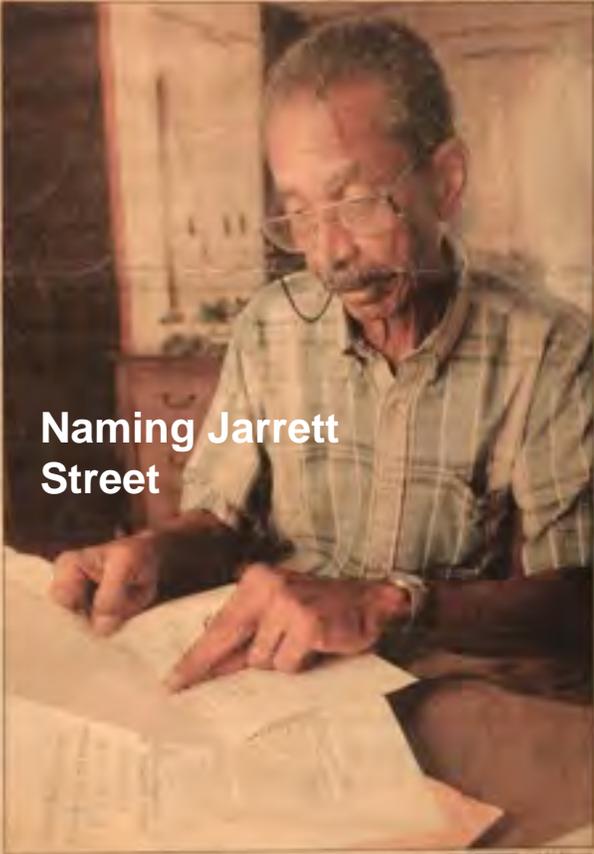
More than memory lane

In the 1870s, the Jarretts came to Kansas to be free. They remain here today — a testament to faith and a promise nurtured for generations. That spirit will be memorialized Friday when a thoroughfare in Tonganoxie is renamed Jarrett Street.

By JOHN CARRAS
of The Kansas

Carl E. Jarrett Sr., a life-long Kansas City, Kan., resident is proud that a street in Tonganoxie will be named Jarrett Street on Friday. Friday will honor his family legacy that dates back to the 1860s from his great-grandfather who was a slave in Clay County, Mo.

Naming Jarrett Street



Carl E. Jarrett Sr., of Kansas City, Kan., looks over documents and photographs depicting the long legacy of the Jarrett family in Leavenworth, Tonganoxie and K.C. It all started with Jarrett's great-grandfather, Joseph Nichols, who was a slave in Clay County, Mo., before and

during the Civil War, Nichols escaped slavery and joined the Union Army during the war, and a long family legacy began. On Friday a street in Tonganoxie, where many Jarretts have lived over the years, will be renamed Jarrett Street.

Gladys Bell Jarrett & William D. Jarrett



a while he became disenchanted with city life. He decided to move to a less complicated lifestyle. They had heard of a farm community south and west of Leavenworth on what was called “the Fort to Fort Road” (Ft. Leavenworth to Ft. Riley). This settlement was named in honor of the Indian Chief, Tonqua Noxia.

Ed Note: This article on the Jarrett Family was written several years ago when most people thought Tonganoxie was a Chief. Today we know that he was a councilor and never a Chief.

When they arrived they found another Black family. Their name was the John Caldwell family. Mr. Caldwell was a blacksmith and all the farmers from surrounding communities brought their work to his shop. The Nichols found a house on what was to become 6th street. Here in 1873 John their son was born.

There was a traveling Minister named King Langford, a Baptist. There was a Methodist minister, but we couldn't find his name. There was a Quaker church which allowed both Baptist and Methodists to worship in their building. In 1876 the congregation had grown and they were able to buy the building and have a church home. The Rev. Langford and the Nichols were the leaders in this effort.

With the war being over and the slaves being freed, people came from all over the south. Among them were the Jarrett family from Yadkin Co. North Carolina. They had been slaves on a farm owned by Isaac Jarrett. Those who came to Kansas were Robert 21, Jerrie 18, and Wesley 12, and Richard 7. The other members of the family stayed in North Carolina.

The Church (1st Baptist) served as their social and spiritual center. It was a meeting place for those from the outlying communities (Basehor, Reno, High Prairie, Hoag Station, Neeley and Stranger Township). This is where John Wesley Jarrett and Mary Jane Nichols met. After a courtship of sometime, they were married.

The newlyweds moved in with Joseph and Hannah Nichols on 6th Street. Wesley immediately began building a house on the lots next door to the east. The Jarrett family began to grow faster than the home he was building, so they decided the Nichols could take the new house and the Jarretts would keep the old one. In this house 12 children were born (two died in infancy) Effa b.?? d. 1885; Josephine b. 1890 d. 1939; Estella b 1894 d. 1966; Madge b. 1895 d. 1983 Robert, our father b. 1897 d. 1978 Charles b. 1899 d. 1994; John Wesley b. 1901 d. 1989 Jean Mary b. 1908 d 1991; William D. b. 1906 d. 1980; Ann Elizabeth b.1909 d. March 27, 2017

Ann lived in that house and Jackson Jarrett lived in the house next door east (which was originally built for Mary and Wesley Jarrett. In 1999 we decided to have a family reunion. In calling around I talked to Janie Ichord (My Aunt Marie's sister which is John Wesley's widow) who had the idea of naming the the street to honor the Jarrett family for having lived in the same houses for over 100 years (126), Janie took the idea to the Tonganoxie City Council.

On August 27, 1999, during the family reunion, the part of 6th street by the Jarrett's homes was renamed Jarrett Street.



