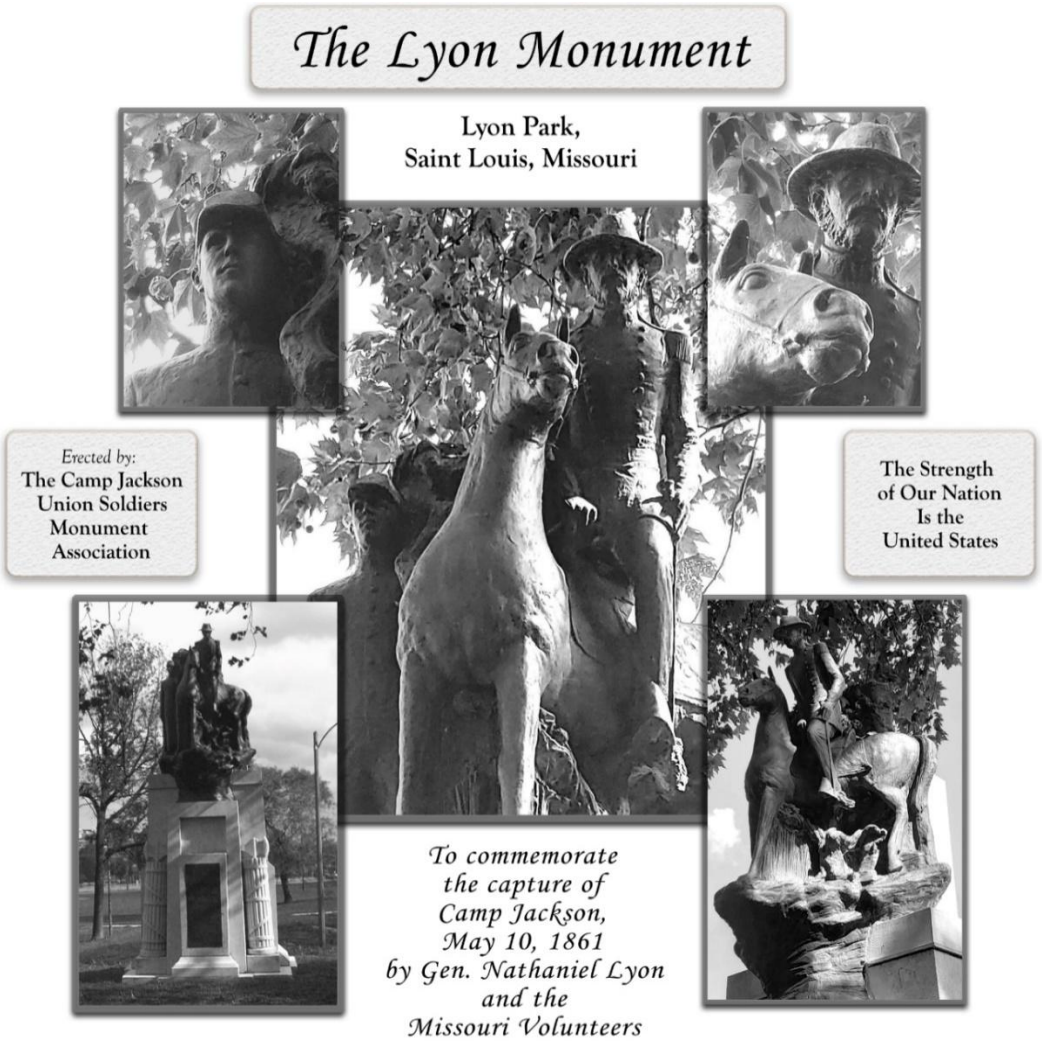


GENERAL NATHANIEL LYON DEDICATION

The *1861 Missouri Speaks Collection*/Repository of Missouri Civil War documents is dedicated to the memory of Brigadier General Nathaniel Lyon, a Connecticut Yankee from Eastford, Connecticut. General Lyon was the first Union general killed in battle during the Civil War. A professional soldier who had previously served as an infantry company commander in both the Seminole and Mexican-American Wars. He was killed at the Battle of Wilson's Creek, executing his oath to defend the Constitution of the United States by leading a loyal Union force against a rebel force attempting to carry Missouri out of the Union. Colonel Thomas Snead, one of the Missouri rebel officers fighting in that battle wrote, "By wisely planning, by boldly doing, and bravely dying, Lyon had won the fight for Missouri."[1] That feeling was echoed by Congress in 1897 when it published a report stating:

> *The battle of Wilson's Creek, fought on the 10th day of August 1861, was one of the most important among the first battles of the Civil War. The brave and gallant General Lyon was killed on that battlefield while leading his brave command against overwhelming odds. So stubbornly did he and his devoted command contest the ground*

[1] Thomas L. Snead, *The Fight for Missouri: from the Election of Lincoln to the Death of Lyon*. New York: Scribner's Sons, 1886, p. 303.

fought over that the victors were unable to pursue their advantage, and it is truthfully said that the result of that battle was to save the great state of Missouri to the Union.

A few months after Lyon's death, one of Lyon's men wrote:

> *The present time is pregnant with vast events. Battles are imminent which will throw the story of Wilson's Creek into the shade. But whatever events shall happen, whatever triumphs or reverses to the nation after the sharp storm of calamity shall have spent itself and the blinding passions of this crisis shall have cleared away, there are some names which mankind will not willingly let die, and among them, among the martyrs of constitutional liberty, posterity will write the name of LYON.*[2]

Even though Lyon was a national hero in the North and a respected soldier and patriot in the South, post-war generations of neo-Confederates have besmirched his reputation while bypassing the truth of what happened in Missouri in the run-up to and the first year of the Civil War. As the genesis of this collection was a desire to recover General Lyon's reputation, it seems appropriate that his name should be attached to this collection.

Gen. Nathaniel Lyon
Painting By Alonzo Chappel

[2] (FLP: Ser 5MR-Dec#32)

General Lyon and His Ninety-Day Volunteers

When Missouri's secessionist Governor Jackson refused to provide troops for President Lincoln's call-up after the surrender of Fort Sumter, unionist volunteers stepped forward to fill Missouri's quota of 4,500 ninety-day volunteers. A few days later, under the leadership of their newly elected leader, Captain Nathaniel Lyon, the volunteers surrounded Camp Jackson, where the secessionist-minded militia were gathered, and took them prisoner without firing a shot. That action delivered a death blow to the governor's secession efforts; not only had he lost most of the state's weapons, but his only combat-ready units ceased to exist after the individual members signed a pledge "as gentlemen, not to take up arms or serve in any military capacity against the United States during the present civil war." Later, after the governor effectively declared war on the United States by calling for 50,000 volunteers to resist Federal authority on June 12, 1861, the Union volunteers, under the leadership of now General Lyon, moved up the Missouri River and defeated the governor's forces in the Battle of Boonville; then a second element engaged the governor at the Battle of Carthage, where they were so badly outnumbered, they were forced into a fighting retreat until they could break contact after dark. Finally, as the Union volunteers ninety-day commitment was drawing to a close, they effectively blunted a Confederate Army invasion of Missouri at the Battle of Wilson's Creek, where they fought a vastly superior force, with 1,317 of their comrades either killed, wounded, or missing, including General Lyon, making him the first Union general killed in battle during the Civil War.

In 1993, a National Park Service Civil War Sites Advisory Commission evaluated some 10,500 armed conflicts "to identify the nation's historically significant Civil War sites." That committee found 384 sites historically significant, including all three of the battles in which Lyon's ninety-day volunteers fought. Concerning their last battle, where General Lyon and so many of his men were killed, the U.S. Congress wrote the following in 1897:

> *The battle of Wilson's Creek, fought on the 10th day of August 1861, was one of the most important among the first battles of the civil war. The brave and gallant General Lyon was killed on that battlefield while leading his brave command against overwhelming odds. So stubbornly did he and his devoted command contest the ground fought over, that the victors were unable to pursue their advantage, and it is truthfully said that the result of that battle was to save the great state of Missouri to the Union.*

After the Civil War, the survivors of Missouri's ninety-day volunteer units created the Camp Jackson Union Soldiers Monument Association to arrange for a statue to honor General Lyon and memorialize their capture of Camp Jackson. They arranged to place their statue on the site of Camp Jackson to identify it as the spot where the nation's first effort was made to stop the slave powers from splitting the United States.

In 1961, the veteran-funded statue was moved from its place of honor at the site of Camp Jackson to an isolated site where it was hidden in a clump of trees behind the Budweiser Brewery in St. Louis. For the story on that movement *see the next page*.

Soldiers Banished—A Traitor Memorialized

After the Union troops that funded the Camp Jackson Memorial Statue disarmed General Frost and his command at Camp Jackson, they paroled them after they pledged not to take up arms against the United States again. When General Frost was released from his parole, he was offered a commission as a brigadier general in the Confederate Army, even though he was a turn-coat Yankee from New York. However, after swearing allegiance to the Confederacy and accepting a commission, he later abandoned his command and fled to Canada, causing him to be dropped from the Confederate Army rolls as a deserter. After the war, when he was no longer in danger of being hung as a Confederate deserter, he was allowed to return to St. Louis after he again swore allegiance to the United States, as he did after graduating from West Point in 1844.

In 1961, Frost's daughter offered $1,050,000 to Saint Louis University to purchase the Camp Jackson property where the volunteers' statue stood, but the funds were contingent on the volunteers' statue being moved and the site being named after her father. Today, the Camp Jackson site is the Frost Campus of St. Louis University, and the monument to the Union soldiers who delivered the first blow to the nation's slave powers and prevented Gen. Frost from using the militia to carry Missouri out of the Union is in a clump of trees behind the Budweiser Brewery in St. Louis. According to a map on the St. Louis University website, a statue of the poet Robert Frost is now located on the former Camp Jackson site.

Poet Robert Frost Statue
Frost Campus, St. Louis U.

Many of those involved in the creation and funding of the statue suffered badly from wounds received during the Battle of Wilson's Creek, as 873 Union soldiers were wounded during the battle, and General Lyon and 444 more were killed or missing.

Daniel M. Frost

Considering the volunteers' attachment to the Wilson's Creek battlefield, it is felt that their statue should be moved from behind the Saint Louis Brewery to the Wilson's Creek National Battlefield. It is only fitting that a monument commissioned by Missouri's ninety-day volunteers to memorialize their service and the service of their former comrades should be moved to where they made their greatest sacrifices, and where the bodies of so many of their missing comrades remain. Yes, these men captured Camp Jackson and disarmed the governor's militia, but they fought, suffered, and left comrades behind at Wilson's Creek, a spot that has been set aside by a thankful nation to honor what they did there and where they will receive the recognition they deserve.

Putting this historically significant statue at the Wilson's Creek National Battlefield, where their comrades gave their lives, would demonstrate respect for their service and honor their sacrifice. Not only will their story resonate with visitors, it will stimulate interest in Missouri's Civil War history as visitors seek to learn more about their efforts to keep Missouri in the Union, and why all three battles they fought are considered nationally significant by the National Park Service.

Editor's Note: The pictures and articles above concern the capture of Camp Jackson by forces serving under then Captain Lyon, which was the first aggressive action of Union forces during the Civil War. The next four items all provide information about the capture.

1. Shortly after the capture of Camp Jackson, a delegation representing St. Louis businessmen traveled to Washington to see the president and recommend changes to the military organizations in Missouri. Some historians have mischaracterized the goals of that delegation as an effort to remove now General Lyon from command. An unimpeachable description of the goals of that delegation is presented below.

2. Comments by Lt. General and President Ulysses S. Grant, who was a civilian in St. Louis at that time and spoke with Captain Lyon on the day Camp Jackson was captured.

3. An article that appeared in the Louisville (Kentucky) Daily Journal newspaper about the capture of Camp Jackson.

4. An article written by a Union Army Colonel from Kentucky comparing General Lyon and Confederate General Thomas "Stonewall" Jackson. The article includes information about Camp Jackson.

(FLP: Ser 2PS-May-Annex-6)
June 23, 1863

James E. Yeatman *to* **Governor Gamble**

Missouri Historical Society, St. Louis - Gamble Papers

St. Louis, June 23, 1863.

Gov. Gamble
Dear Sir,

Among the many charges which have been made against you, there is one which I feel it due to you should be corrected, and as there is no one so fully conversant with the facts as myself, I desire to put on paper a statement of the facts which you can use in any way that you desire.

I allude to the mission to Washington directly after the taking of Camp Jackson and the charges that you had gone on for the purpose of urging the removal of Genl. Lyon from the command of the troops in Missouri. After the Camp Jackson affair, a number of citizens met together for consultation and advice, all proposed to be friends of and loyal to the government.[3] At this

[3] Yeatman mentions that the attendees were, "all proposed to be friends of and loyal to the government," which could mean he was implying that some may not have been. In other places, they were described as "the great landowners and rich merchants of St. Louis, who preferred peace to everything else, …and whose prosperity depended on the continuance of Southern trade, which would be instantly stopped by war."

meeting, they determined to represent to the president what they considered injurious to the government, and to recommend a policy which they claimed calculated to strengthen the government and our state and prevent her from following the lead of those states which have seceded.

I for one, in concurrence with many others at the time and under the circumstances, with such facts as I was in possession of, considered the taking of Camp Jackson as an unfortunate affair, but with the facts which subsequently came to my knowledge, I am satisfied not only of the necessity of such action at the time, but those who were engaged in it were entitled to the warmest thanks and lasting gratitude of every man who loved his country and desired its unity and perpetuity.

You were not present at the meeting of citizens referred to but were then absent in Pennsylvania and was telegraphed to meet me in Washington for the purpose of joining in a representation to the president. In the petition which you drew up, a statement[4] was made of the Camp Jackson affair, and the president urged to substitute other troops for the Home Guards, composed mostly of Germans against whom there was likely to be engendered a feeling of bitterness and hostility, which would result in injury to them and bring about a pride of nationalities which would last through long years to come. You did not desire the number of troops to be diminished, only that regular troops or volunteers from other states should be substituted for the Home Guards. Not one word was said in the paper drawn by you favoring the removal of Genl. Lyon. Your judgment and advice, which was adopted, was against any such recommendation and met the full sanction of those who we represented when reported to them. But why the question is raised at this late period and charges rising against you is difficult to conceive. Had you done all and more than is charged against you, the evidences which you have since given of an enlightened patriotism, and a loyalty which is above all reproach, the sacrifices which you have made and services rendered should satisfy the surest exacting. For one, I thank you, feeling that your weight of character and sound judgment, thrown on the side of our government at the time it was, aided materially in preserving to the union our own noble state.

Future generations will appreciate and thank you for what you have done.

Very Respectfully,
& Truly Yours,

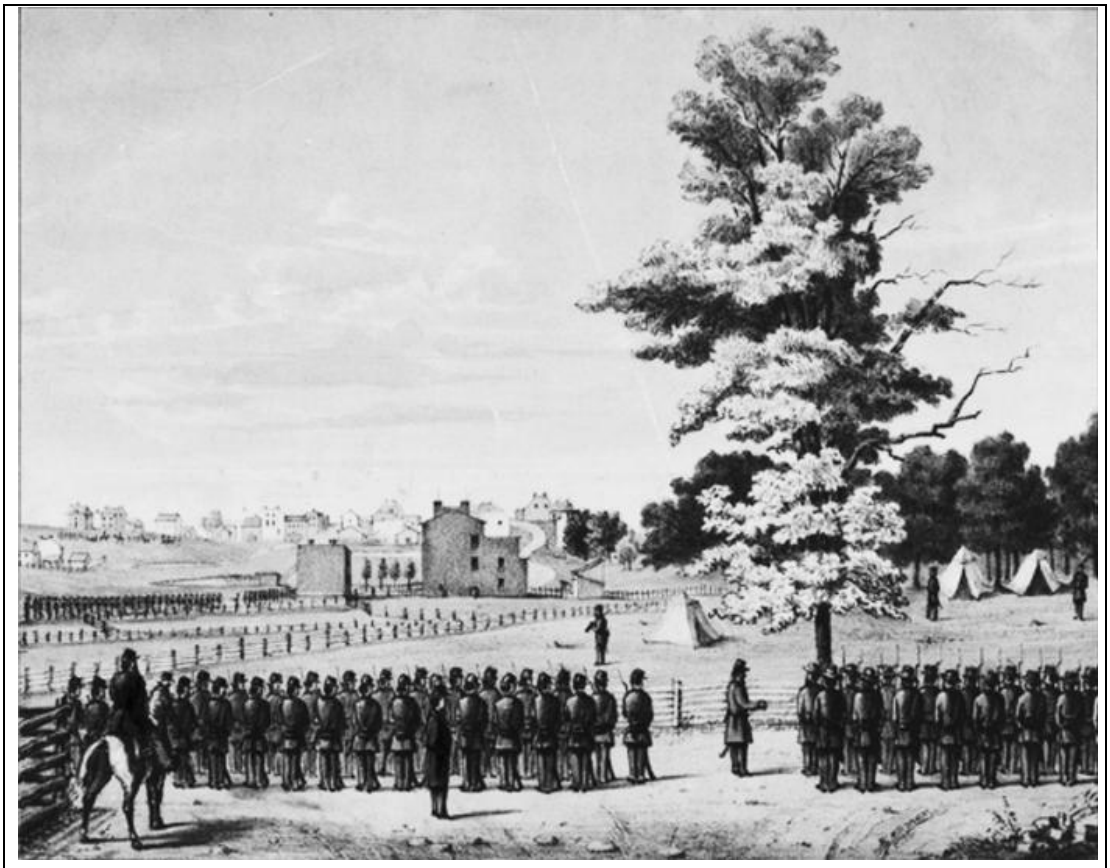
James E. Yeatman

[4] For the original letter delivered to President Lincoln, see (FLP: Ser 2PS-May#67).

President Ulysses S. Grant:

The breaking up of Camp Jackson had a good effect and a bad effect. It offended many Union Democrats, who saw in it an invasion of state rights, which it certainly was. It was used by the secessionists as a means of exciting discontent among the Southern sympathizing citizens and as an argument that the federal government was high-handed in its dealing with Missouri. Then the fact that Germans were used to coerce Americans—free Americans in their own camp, called out by the governor of the state—gave offense to the anti-German element across the state. I knew many good people with the North, at the out-set, whose opinions were set southward by this incident. But no really loyal man, to whom the Union was paramount, ever questioned the act. Those who went with the South over this would soon have gone on something else—emancipation or the use of troops for example. The taking of Camp Jackson saved St. Louis to our side and a long, terrible siege to retake it if Governor Jackson had prevailed, and was one of the best things in the whole war. I remember how rejoiced I was as I saw Blair and Lyon bring their prisoners into town.*

*Quoted comments by John Russel Young in his book *Around the World with General Grant, Volume II,* The American News Company, 1879; Pages 467-468.



Camp Jackson
Civil War Daily Gazette

Camp Jackson as Seen by the *Louisville Daily Journal* (KY),

Another Border Slave State Like Missouri

1861 Missouri Speaks, Series 1, Vol. 3,
(FLP: Ser 1MD-May#138)[5]

Missouri and the U.S. Government

Reprint published in *Missouri Democrat* May 23, 1861

[From the *Louisville (KY) Daily Journal* May 21, 1861]

We see that the government of the United States is very bitterly denounced for what has been done in Missouri [with the arrest of Missouri's militia force at Camp Jackson.] Whether the Administration at Washington has or has not pursued in all respects the best and most judicious course in regard to Missouri, we are not prepared to say; but certainly, there was an obvious necessity for the adoption of prompt and vigorous measures of some sort by the federal government.

No man of sense, who has the least knowledge of the facts, could doubt, even if he would, that the purpose of the disunionists in Missouri, who were so rapidly gathering at Camp Jackson, near St. Louis, with heavy artillery, mortars, bombs, etc., was to seize the U. S. Arsenal, munitions of war, and all other property, in imitation of the conduct of the other disunionists in the states that had already seceded [and captured the U.S. Arsenal at Liberty, Missouri]. They left no room whatever for doubt as to their object. Camp Jackson, as a contemporary says, was a camp of secessionists. All the secessionists in St. Louis knew it to be their camp. Its avenues were named for Southern disunionists. It had just received arms from the Confederate conspirators that had been taken from the U. S. Arsenal at Baton Rouge [Louisiana]. The boat bearing the arms to St. Louis had defiantly carried the secession flag. The arms had been taken to Camp Jackson amid the acclamations of the mob of secessionists. The governor of the state was a notorious secessionist. He was and is managing the military of the state with a view of crushing out the Union cause. His policy was to have a test oath prescribed by the General Assembly, which should commit all the enrolled militia of the state to obey his orders. The General Assembly was in secret session. The secession militia was to be concentrated at Camp Jackson under the disguise of drilling as usual. The secessionists of St. Louis boasted that three thousand Tennesseans were to come and join Gen. Frost, the militia commander at Camp Jackson, and the secessionist Home Guards, to capture the Arsenal.[6]

All these things were notorious. The secessionists, all of them, from the governor of the state down, flattered themselves that the United States government, which had shown itself inactive and even imbecile in similar cases in the seceding states, would be weak enough to let them make all their arrangements at their leisure and strike suddenly whenever they should find themselves fully prepared. They proved, however, to be woefully mistaken in their reckoning. The administration, though a slow learner, had learned some little wisdom from their mortifying and calamitous experience in the seceding states. The commander of the United States troops at St. Louis [Capt. Nathaniel Lyon], in the exercise of the discretion confided to him as a U.S. Army officer, struck instead of waiting to be struck. Just as the

[5] For an explanation of how to read the FLP identifiers, see page xlii.

[6] Militia Brigadier General Daniel M. Frost was a West Point graduate from New York that had married into a wealthy slave-owning family in Missouri.

secession troops thought they were about ready to capture all the United States property, Capt. Lyon captured them. And then the miserable secession leaders undertook to excite public sympathy by pretending that they had been assembling their forces with all their tremendous batteries of cannon and mortars at Camp Jackson solely for a little training exercise. Which is about the same thing South Carolina would have cried if U.S. Army Major Anderson had opened fire on the artillery batteries being erected for the attack on Fort Sumter, e.g., our only object in planting the cannons facing Fort Sumter was a little inoffensive target practice.

A good deal of complaint is made now on account of General Harney's proclamation,[7] calling the Military Bill an indirect ordinance of secession, and expressing a strong determination to protect all citizens against disunion oppression and persecution. Most assuredly such protection was strongly demanded. As soon as the disunion troops were made prisoners at Camp Jackson, the disunion legislature, passed an unconstitutional Military Bill which puts all the state forces under the command of the governor; commands the enlisted men to obey him alone, making it treason for an enlisted man to speak disrespectfully of the governor or legislature; and subjects every able-bodied man in Missouri to military duty for a term of seven years.

The afore mentioned Military Bill deprives the citizens of Missouri all of their constitutional, legal, and natural rights as citizens of the United States, **making it the solemn duty of the federal government to intervene to protect the citizens of Missouri. If it permitted all the rights of men, as United States citizens, to be crushed out, it would entitle itself to the scorn of all mankind.**

If we may judge from scores of statements we see daily, the Union men of Missouri should have far more protection from the United States than they are having even under the stringent proclamation of Gen. Harney. All the papers in Illinois, and all the papers in Missouri that dare to be loyal, proclaim that in Missouri, a frightful reign of terror prevails everywhere except in the immediate presence of the loyal Union troops. Hundreds and hundreds of loyal families and thousands of loyal individuals have been exiled from the state within the last few days. Sixty families have been driven out from Macon City [Macon County] alone, leaving the place half depopulated. Numerous others are driven out every day. Certainly, if the arm of the federal government can put a stop to these outrages, it should be stretched vigorously forth for that purpose. When all the citizens of a state are allowed to vote and act as they please without being subjected to the duress of torture or bodily fear, we would have the federal government interfere as little as possible; but when a despotic local government undertakes to make slaves or exiles of its own citizens, then let the federal government, if it was instituted for any purpose under heaven, show what that purpose is and protect its citizens and reestablish law and order.

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[7] U.S. Army Brigadier General William S. Harney was the commander of the Army Department of the West, with his headquarters in St. Louis. After Gov. Jackson signed the new Military Bill, Harney published a proclamation to the citizens of Missouri, stating in part, "This [Military Bill] cannot be regarded in any other light than an indirect secession ordinance, ignoring even the forms resorted to by other states. Manifestly, its most material provisions are in conflict with the Constitution and laws of the United States. To this extent, it is a nullity and cannot and ought not to be upheld or regarded by the good citizens of Missouri. For the full proclamation, see *1861 Missouri Speaks*, Series 1, April-May volume, (FLP: Ser 1MD-May#90).

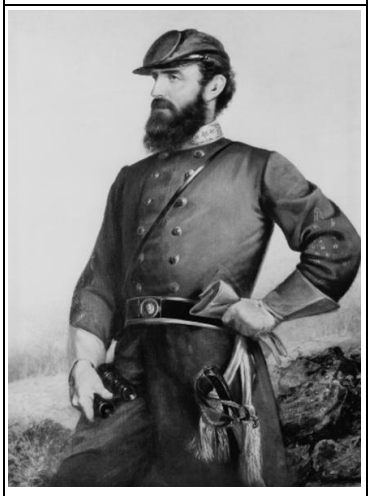
Generals Nathaniel Lyon and Thomas "Stonewall" Jackson

Col. John A. Joyce
24th Regt. Kentucky Vol. Inf., Union Army[8]

Preface of Jewels of Memory

These jewels from the casket of my personal memories, I flash over the ocean of literature, trusting that some sparkling rays may attract human hearts when the soul that divined these words and the hand that fashioned them has vanished like the dew of the morning.

Gen. Nathaniel Lyon
United States Army



Gen. "Stonewall" Jackson

Nathaniel Lyon of Connecticut and Thomas "Stonewall" Jackson of Virginia were the Puritanical[9] soldiers of the late civil war. A deep religious conviction of patriotism motivated the hearts of these natural leaders, who never faltered in a plan once adopted, but struck the enemy with lightning force and rapidity, accomplishing by boldness what other generals failed in securing with more time and larger numbers.

Lyon was born in the year 1819, graduated in 1841 at West Point, and was killed at the battle of Wilson's Creek, Missouri, on the 10th of August 1861.

Jackson was born in the year 1824, graduated at West Point in 1846, and received his death wound at the battle of Chancellorsville, Virginia, in May 1863, dying on Sunday, the 10th of that month.

Lyon, in his first assignment out of West Point, served as an infantry company commander in the Second Seminole War, and both Lyon and Jackson served as lieutenants in the Mexican war and fought in the same battles for the Stars and Stripes, and both were promoted for marked gallantry. After the Mexican war, Jackson resigned his commission and took a professorship at the Virginia Military Institute (VMI), at Lexington, Virginia, where he taught until the first shot on Fort Sumter, South Carolina, aroused the nation to battle.

At the close of the Mexican war, Lyon went to California, where he served with great distinction, and afterwards in Kansas during the "Bleeding Kansas" period, playing a part in the bloody events that made Kansas a free state.

In February 1861, Lyon was sent to St. Louis with his company of Regular Army soldiers to protect the Saint Louis Arsenal from secessionists. While only a

[8] An excerpt from Col. Joyce's *Jewels of Memory*, Ch. 1 (Washington, D.C.: Gibson Brothers, Publishers, 1895), expanded for the benefit of readers, new to Missouri's Civil War history.

[9] Puritan: Very strict in moral or religious matters, often excessively so. Demanding simplification of doctrine and worship.

captain, he was soon promoted to brigadier general and took command of the 10,000 volunteers that Congressman Francis Blair, Jr., Colonel Franz Sigel, and other patriots had raised to counteract the secessionist efforts of Governor Claiborne "Fox" Jackson, after the governor refused to provide troops for President Lincoln's call for state militia after the capture of Fort Sumter by the Confederates.

Less than a month after the fall of Fort Sumter, on May 10, 1861, while national authorities in Washington were still haggling about policy and precedent and while Union forts and arsenals were being captured daily by secessionists across the South, Captain Lyon made the first aggressive move by a Union force against the secessionist slave powers. Knowing that captured Union weapons had been sent to a militia encampment in St. Louis by Confederate President Jefferson Davis for use in capturing the Arsenal, Lyon moved his forces by multiple routes to surround Camp Jackson and demanded the immediate surrender of future Confederate General Daniel M. Frost and his militia force. Having no options but to fight or lay down his arms, Frost wisely chose the part of discretion and surrendered his 700 men and their munitions of war. Without firing a shot, Lyon was able to retake the captured weapons, confiscate the militia's own weapons, and have each man sign a pledge of honor not to take up arms against the United States, which effectively defanged Missouri's secessionist governor as his best equipped, trained, and officered units ceased to exist as organized units.

The Southern sympathizing citizens of St. Louis were terribly excited over Lyon's actions, and while the prisoners were being marched back to the Arsenal, an unruly crowd gathered and began verbally abusing the German elements of Lyons force. Eventually, stones and other missiles started being thrown. When someone in the crowd shot a German officer off of his horse, his men opened fire, and before Lyon could regain control, nearly thirty had been shot, which included Union soldiers, prisoners, and even civilians, including women and children.

For forty-eight hours, the city was in a wild state of revolution, "Union Home Guards" and secessionist "Minute Men" watching each other from street corners, dark alleys, basements, cellars, and attic windows. This daring act of Lyon in capturing the secessionist-controlled State Militia saved Missouri to the Union and drew at once the lines between loyal and disloyal citizens. Lyon's brave spirit was the iron hand that spliced the timbers of a crumbling state and strengthened the breaking arches of a nation.[10]

A month after the capture of Camp Jackson, on June 11, 1861, Governor Jackson and his Missouri State Guard commander, Major General Sterling Price met with General Lyon and Congressman Francis Blair, Jr. at the Planter's House Hotel in St. Louis, to discuss the situation existing between the state and national authorities. Governor Jackson was insisting that Lyon must confine his military movements to the Saint Louis area and not bring troops into or across Missouri. Lyon replied that the troops of the United States had a right to march anywhere under the flag, and if any man or body of men attempted to interrupt their course, destruction and death would be their fate.

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[10] For additional information on Camp Jackson and Governor Jackson's efforts to carry Missouri out of the Union, see the article below reprinted from the (Kentucky) Louisville Journal of May 21, 1861.

After the meeting, Governor Jackson returned to the Capitol in Jefferson City by train, cutting telegraph wires and ordering bridges burned as he passed. The next day, the governor issued a proclamation, calling for 50,000 volunteers to resist federal authority, effectively declaring war on the United States.

While Governor Jackson was doing his best to drag Missouri into the whirlpool of secession, Governor Letcher of Virginia was not slow in organizing troops to sustain the Southern Confederacy and enlist the Old Dominion in the war against the Union.

Thomas J. (Stonewall) Jackson was the commander of the state militia at Harper's Ferry under Virginia Governor Henry A. Wise when that rugged fanatic of freedom, John Brown, was wounded, captured, and hung [after he attempted to capture the Harpers Ferry Arsenal]. Colonel Robert E. Lee was the commander of the regular army troops on that occasion. **The firing on the flag at Fort Sumter was but the echo of the scaffold thud at Harper's Ferry when John Brown was hung, and the toll paid by this country for the sin of human slavery.**[11] Jackson offered his heart and hand to his native state, was commissioned a colonel, and was soon after made a brigadier general of the Confederacy.

At the first battle of Bull Run,[12] when Union forces were attempting to break the Confederate lines at the celebrated "Stone Bridge," General Barnard E. Bee, a companion commander of Jackson, in cheering his men into the fight, called their attention to the front and exclaimed, "Look at Jackson and his men, he stands like a stone wall," and from that historic day to the present time the hero of a hundred battles has been known as "Stonewall" Jackson.

During Jackson's life he was the mainstay of General Lee. In 1862 and 1863, he had an independent command and swept up and down the Shenandoah Valley like an eagle, pouncing upon his prey when least expected. The swiftness of Jackson's movements over the passes of the Blue Ridge, through the luxuriant fields of the Shenandoah Valley, over the swollen streams and rolling hills of Maryland, bring to mind the active genius of the Great Napoleon.

It was a common belief with the soldiers of Stonewall Jackson that his constant prayer and solemn sincerity assured victory on every field, and the Almighty inspired and led their beloved commander. At Malvern Hill, Antietam, Fredericksburg, and down to the fatal night at Chancellorsville, in May 1863, when he received his death wound from an accidental shot fired by his own men, Jackson never faltered in his duty nor doubted the issue while he had a soldier to command. The same inflexible fortitude that guided his heroic conduct in the Mexican War, actuated his soul in battling against the United States. None were inspired with more lofty courage or religious devotion to duty than Jackson showed on the blood-stained battlefields of the late war. When dying at Guinea's Station, his wife told him the end of life was near. He

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[11] John Brown was an abolitionist whose hatred of slavery led him to seize the United States arsenal at Harpers Ferry in October 1859 to obtain arms for a slave rebellion. His raid on the arsenal failed; he was captured, tried for treason against Virginia's Commonwealth, and hung. While Brown was considered a villain in the South, many in the North regarded him as a hero for attempting to end slavery. By writing, "The firing on the flag at Fort Sumter was but the echo of the scaffold thud at Harpers Ferry when John Brown was hung," the author demonstrates that he felt there was a link between John Brown's efforts to end slavery, his hanging, and the Civil War.

[12] The First Battle of Bull Run was fought July 21, 1861.

replied as his last words, “Very good; very good; all right,” and thus as a child of destiny, he passed into the realms of the vast unknown.

The integrity and valor that characterized the life of Jackson belong to American heroism, and, although he fought for the destruction of the United States, his bravery and genius must be recognized in every land and climate where man battles with man and dies for what each deems the right.

When Jackson’s wound was reported, Lee replied, “He is better off than I am. He lost his left arm, but I have lost my right.” Were it not for Jackson being subordinate to Lee, I am convinced that Jackson would have outshone Lee. It is thus unfortunate for a great genius to be born under the shadow of another, for, while the subordinate exercises wonderful powers, his greatest deeds are obscured by the commanding general.

In Missouri, a short time after the fall of Camp Jackson, General Lyon took command of all Union troops, replacing General William S. Harney, whose age and inaction ill-suited him for controlling the desperate daily events occurring through Missouri.

After the governor’s proclamation calling for 50,000 volunteers to resist federal authority, Lyon moved a force by steamboat up the Missouri River toward the Capitol. On the approach of Lyon, the governor and his secessionist supporters relocated to Boonville to join elements of the governor’s secessionist State Guard force. After securing the Capitol, Lyon continued up the Missouri River and attacked the State Guard at Boonville on the 17th of June 1861, resulting in triumph for the Union troops.[13]

Lyon followed up his success, pushing the enemy toward the southwest corner of Missouri, where the Governor’s forces linked up with Confederate forces from Arkansas, Louisiana, and Texas. Under the command of Confederate General Ben McCulloch, 10,125 rebels eventually assembled at Wilson’s Creek, about 9 miles from Springfield, where Lyon only had a force of 5,400.[14] The combined Confederate army and the governor’s secessionist Missouri State Guard had a cavalry force alone of 6,000, while Lyon had only 500. Realizing a successful retreat through the passes of the Ozarks in the face of such overwhelming odds would be impossible, Lyon decided to attack in an effort to bloody the invaders badly enough that they would not pursue his retreating army. Under the cover of darkness, Lyon maneuvered his forces nine miles from Springfield into positions for a sunrise attack on the unsuspecting enemy encampment. After nearly five hours of some of the bloodiest fighting of the entire war, Lyon’s attacking force executed an orderly withdrawal back to Springfield and then continued on another 120 miles to their supply base at Rolla, totally unmolested by enemy forces. Unfortunately, General Lyon was killed in the battle; however, his boldness in attacking a force twice his number was a success, as rather than pursuing Lyon’s men or advancing further into Missouri, the invading Confederates returned to Arkansas a short time after the battle. Had Lyon retreated and

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[13] Some have called this the first land battle of the Civil War. See: John B. Barnes, "Boonville: The First Land Battle of the Civil War." Infantry Journal, No. 35 (Dec. 1929): 601-607

[14] The original figures by the author, Col. Joyce, were 24,000 for the rebels and 6,000 for Lyon. The figures used here and below are from *The Battle of Wilson's Creek* by National Park Service historian Edwin C. Bearss (Wilson's Creek National Battlefield Foundation, 4th Edition, 1992).

abandoned Springfield to the invaders, a big step would have been taken toward carrying Missouri into the Confederacy. However, by wisely planning, boldly doing and bravely dying, Lyon had given the Missouri State Convention time to reconvene and take the actions necessary to keep Missouri in the Union.

Attacking a force twice his number was an act worthy of the bravery of Alexander the Great and Napoleon Bonaparte. In fact, Napoleon would have approved of Lyon's action as one of his maxims was:

#13: A retreat, however skillful the maneuvers may be, will always produce an injurious moral effect on the army, since by losing the chances of success yourself, you throw them into the hands of the enemy. Besides, retreats cost far more, both in men and materiel, than the most bloody engagements; with this difference, that in a battle the enemy loses nearly as much as you, while in a retreat the loss is all on your side. [Casualties during the Battle of Wilson's Creek were: Union 1,317; Confederate: 1,222]

The death of Lyon at Wilson's Creek threw a cloud of sorrow over the Union. Lyon's remains were escorted from St. Louis by an honor guard to his native Connecticut on a special train draped in mourning black. Mourners by the hundreds crowded the tracks along the route, and thousand paid homage as his body laid in state in Cincinnati, New York, and Hartford, and upward to 20,000 attended his funeral in the small farming community of his birth in Connecticut. The Congress of the United States passed resolutions of respect and regret, while eloquent eulogies were delivered in honor of the fallen hero across the country.

Lyon and Jackson were deeply mourned by their friends, and in all human probability had these natural soldiers lived until the last shot at Appomattox, they would have been in supreme command of their respective armies. Jackson was mathematical, solemn, and a strict believer in predestination. Lyon might have been the right arm of the 17th century English military and political leader, Oliver Cromwell, and while gifted with the military genius of Jackson, he combined statecraft with his war-like talent and was thoroughly conversant with the political philosophy of the Republic. These warriors had many elements in common. The Puritan of Connecticut had the solemnity of the courtly gentleman from Virginia. Lyon was direct and positive in his work. So was Jackson. The Yankee was spare and angular, with piercing bluish gray eyes. The Southern soldier looked about the same. Lyon was studious. Jackson was contemplative. Lyon never doubted. Jackson was self-reliant. Lyon left West Point as Jackson entered. Each fought for the old flag in Mexico, but when the rebellion began, they separated on the ideal of duty, and fought as earnestly as when bleeding for the same flag. The genius and death of Lyon gave genuine promise of his greatness, while the death of Jackson, nearly two years after, found him the right arm of the Confederacy and at the peak of his glory. Lyon, with a regiment, would fight a division. Jackson, with a division, would fight a corps, and each could command an army.

While C.S.A. Generals Robert E. Lee and James Longstreet, and U.S. Generals Ulysses S. Grant and William T. Sherman learned wisdom from the rugged road of experience, Lyon and Jackson divined at once the motives of men, planned the attack, struck the blow, and as a

natural sequence, triumphed where defeat perched on the banners of those who doubt.

The brain of the natural soldier is his map of the battlefield. As the pawns, knights, and bishops are moved on a chess board, he organizes brigades, divisions, and armies to checkmate his foe at some central point, and wins the victory while his adversary hesitates on the field of slaughter.

The name and fame of Lyon and Jackson shall emblazon the military pages of this great Republic as long as honesty and valor are respected, and side by side through the coming ages, these self-possessed, ideal soldiers shall march in the van of the military heroes who have gone down to universal silence in the crash of battle.

Peace to Stonewall Jackson,
God bless brave Lyon, too;
Sighs and tears we'll mingle
For the Gray and for the Blue;
And coming ages yet shall weave
Fondly, fair and true—
Garlands bright above the mounds
Where sleep the Gray and Blue!

Makeshift Lyon Monument
"Rock Pile of Remembrance"

Visitors to the battlefield stacked signed stones on the spot where Gen. Lyon fell.
(Photo Credit: *Wilson's Creek National Battlefield, WICR#11347*)

After the Battle of Wilson's Creek, until the end of the war, troops on both sides passed the battlefield as armies flowed back and forth to Arkansas. Those who had fought there, and even the curious, made the pilgrimage up the hillside that was now an altar to freedom, consecrated by the blood of General Lyon and his men that willingly sacrificed their lives in the defense of this nation against the slave powers seeking to destroy it. Sometime after the battle, visitors started leaving stones with their names on them at the spot where Lyon fell, creating a de facto monument in his honor. As time passed, visitors started carrying those stones away as souvenirs; but as that hillside had already been consecrated by the blood of patriots, no monuments were needed.

Almost thirty years after the battle, a group of veterans from Kansas made a pilgrimage to visit the battlefield. One of those who was on that bloody hill with General Lyon wrote the following:

> *At the higher and upper end of the open space, there was a pile of loose stones; not a monument, but rather as if one had been piled there and then scattered about. On one stone, "Newsom," late of "Hughes's" regiment, Missouri (Confederate) troops, had carved his name. This is the spot where Gen. Nathaniel Lyon—who, had he lived, would have been the Stonewall Jackson of the Union army—sank from his horse, dead…The great figure of the battle was Gen. Lyon; his death sanctified the field. If every other event that occurred there were forgotten, it would still be remembered that Lyon died there. Kansas in her proud sorrow remembers that it was as he led the Second Kansas to one more desperate charge that he fell.*[1]

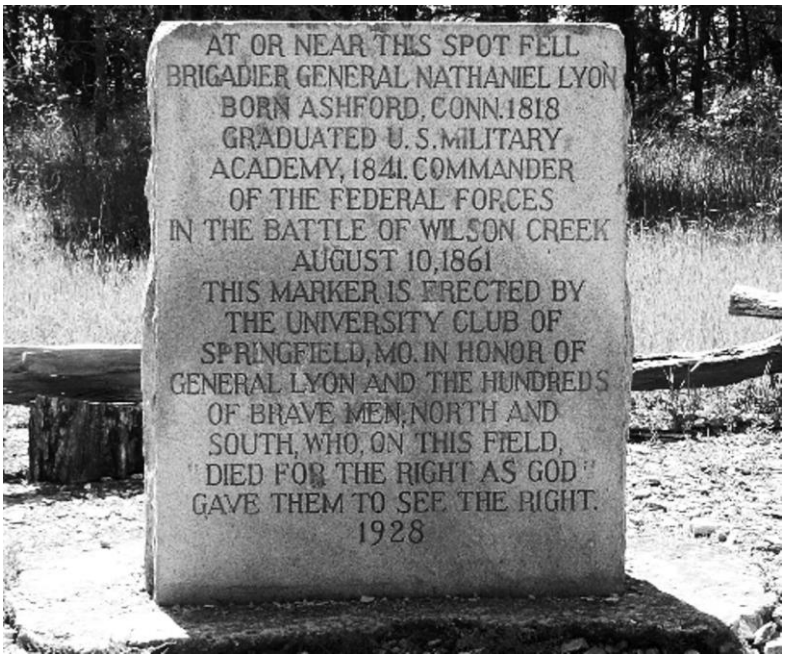
It is not surprising that a Confederate soldier would leave a tribute to Lyon, as Lyon was respected by both sides. President Jefferson Davis in his post-war book, *The Rise and Fall of the Confederate Government Vol. 1*, wrote the following on the Battle of Wilson's Creek.

> *The battle was fiercely contested, but finally won by our troops. In this action, General Lyon was killed while gallantly endeavoring to rally his discomfited troops and lead them to the charge...We must accord to him the redeeming virtue of courage and recognize his ability as a soldier.*

1. Noble L. Prentis, *Kansas Miscellanies* (Kansas Publishing House, Topeka, 1889) pgs 64 and 66.

The Spot of General Lyon's Death

Located at Bloody Hill at Wilson's Creek National Battlefield (*National Park Service*)



The body of General Lyon was laid out in state at the camp, at the close of this bloody day, and not an officer or private but shed bitter tears as they gazed on their dead general, almost idolized by every man of them from the highest to the lowest. He was buried [by Mary Phelps] on the farm of Colonel John S. Phelps, a native of [Hartford] County, Connecticut and for many years a member of Congress from Missouri. He is a strong Union man, and is now raising a regiment for the United States army, while the rebels have seized his property. [*The Last Political Writings of Gen. Nathaniel Lyon* (New York: Rudd & Carleton, 1861), p. 237]

BELOW IS A SOLDIER'S DIARY ENTRY AFTER OBSERVING GEN. LYON'S SMALL ARMY ARRIVING IN ROLLA SIX DAYS AFTER THE GENERAL WAS KILLED IN THE BATTLE OF WILSON'S CREEK.

Aug 16th—The somewhat depleted army...arrived, and the real heroes, including our own twenty-

one men, marched across our parade ground, and now we had an opportunity for the first time of witnessing the steady march of a battle-stained army; and with us, many a heart almost stood still, and eyes were moist as the rider less war-horse of the lamented Lyon, draped in mourning black,[15] *was led at the head of the column.* [Regiment Committee; *Military History and Reminiscences of the Thirteenth Regiment of Illinois Volunteer Infantry in the Civil War in the United States, 1861-1865;* Woman's Temperance Publishing Association, 1892; p. 68.]

[15] The original entry was: "in full caparison."

The Obelisk at Lyon Park, St. Louis, Missouri

In March 1869, ten acres at the front of the Saint Louis Arsenal grounds were given to the city of St. Louis for the erection of a monument to the late Brig. Gen. Nathaniel Lyon. The monument, dedicated on September 13, 1874, consists of a 28-foot obelisk of Missouri granite. That space, now Lyon Park, is located at the front of the St. Louis Arsenal, at the intersection of Arsenal and 2nd Street in Saint Louis.

There are monuments in Washington to many distinguished soldiers whose services were invaluable, but there is none to Lyon, among the bravest of the brave and whose deeds were such as to cause his memory to be kept forever green by his fellow countrymen. Yes, among all the statues of heroes that adorn the public places of this city there is but one in honor of a general killed in battle. This, it seems to me, is a reproach which should not rest upon us forever. [BGen. William A. Hammond, Civil War Surgeon General, Washington,. D.C., 1899].

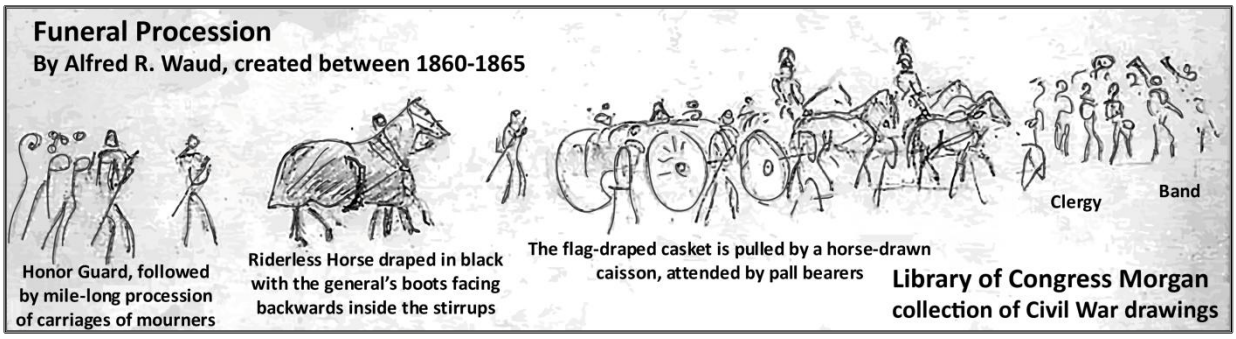
The General Lyon Monument

The City of Springfield purchased a monument to General Lyon that was dedicated during the first reunion of the veterans of the battle of Wilson's Creek in 1883. It was initially located on the square but was eventually relocated adjacent to Gen. Lyon Boulevard in the Springfield National Cemetery. The plaque carved into the western side of the monument reads:

ERECTED BY THE CITIZENS OF SPRINGFIELD TO THE MEMORY OF GENERAL NATHL LYON WHO FELL AT THE BATTLE OF WILSON'S CREEK WHILE COMMANDING THE UNION ARMY AUG. 10, 1861.

The east surface also has an inscription:

THOUGH HE DIED FOR HIS COUNTRY, YET HE LIVES IN THE HEARTS OF HIS COUNTRYMEN;
THOUGH HE FELL IN WAR, IN PEACE HE IS NOT FORGOTTEN. CHERISHING HIS VIRTUES, COMMENDING HIS PATRIOTISM, WE HONOR HIS MEMORY.



From the time the body left Hartford, to the hour when it was deposited in the Congregational Church in Eastford, all classes and conditions of people paid it, in sundry ways, some token of respect.

Gen. Lyon was literally buried with his fathers, in the family burial-ground in the town of Eastford, near the Ashford line. The funeral brought together more people than the town ever saw convened within its limits before, or will again for many years to come.

Obelisk and cannon located in the General Lyon Cemetery in Eastford, Connecticut.

The estimation in which Lyon was held by all patriotic people, amounting almost to idolization, was shown by the multitude who gathered to pay this last tribute of respect and affection to his remains. It is estimated that 15,000 were present, and when the last echoes of the musketry over Lyon's grave rattled through the ravines of Windham County, there was not one of all the throng who did not leave the sacred place with a sadder, even if not a better and more patriotic heart. ["Funeral of Gen. Lyon Buried at Eastford," *Hartford Daily Current* (Sept 6, 1861).]

No one can become familiar with the life of Nathaniel Lyon, without feeling that in his death, the Nation lost one of her noblest as well as bravest sons.
[Ashbel Woodward, *Life of Gen. Nathaniel Lyon (Hartford: Case*, Lockwood & Co., 1862)]