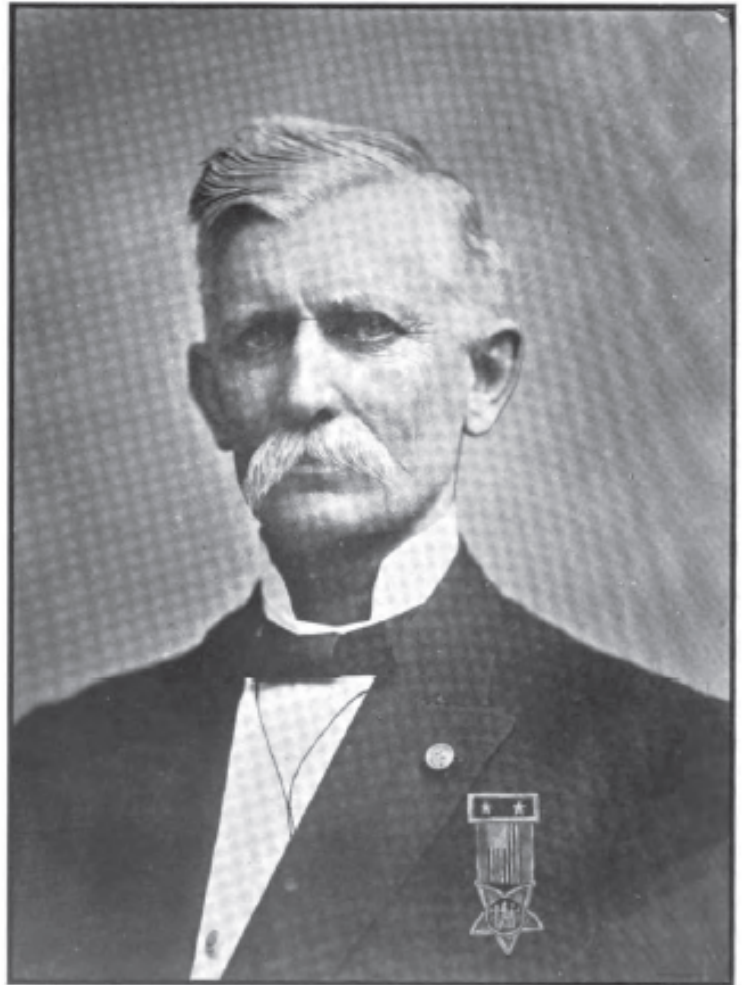


# Jere(miah) Thornton Dew 1904

From "Kansas City, Missouri: Its History and Its People, 1800-1908", by Carrie Westlake Whitney, published by the S. J. Clarke Publishing Co., Chicago, 1908, pages 607-608:

Jeremiah Thornton Dew, since 1878 a practitioner at the Kansas City bar, was born in Clinton County, Illinois, November 5, 1847, and is descended from Scotch-Irish ancestry, although the family was founded in America at an early day. His paternal grandfather, Rev. John Dew, was one of the pioneer Methodist ministers of the west and was contemporaneous with the famous preacher and circuit rider, Peter Cartwright, so closely associated with the founding of the Methodist Episcopal church in the Mississippi valley. Rev. Dew was educated for the ministry in his native state and came to the west with Bishop McKendree of the Methodist clergy, in whose honor McKendree College at Lebanon, Illinois was named. Together these two godly men made their way to Kentucky, then largely an undeveloped wilderness, and late came to Illinois. The Rev. Dew was born in Botetourt County, Virginia, in 1780, became an active worker in the ministry in 1812 and is referred to in the works of Peter Cartwright and in Reynold's History of Illinois. He assisted in founding McKendree College and became one of its early



JERE. T. DEW, DEPARTMENT COMMANDER.

presidents. This college still flourishes under the control of the Methodist Church but is now a non-sectarian institution. The Rev. Dew was a man of advanced thought, strongly opposed to the institution of slavery, and twenty-five or thirty years before the Civil War he took slaves to Illinois, where he gave them freedom. His death occurred in 1840.

His son, Samuel P. Dew, was born in what is now St. Clair County, Illinois, and died in 1858 at the age of thirty-six years. He married Eliza Walker, of Clinton County, Illinois whose ancestors were early residents of Georgia and were conspicuous in the Civil War. Many of the Walkers were in the Methodist ministry. Mrs. Dew died February 28, 1908, aged eighty-two years.

Jeremiah Thorton Dew was but an infant when his parents removed to the farm in St. Clair County, Illinois, upon which he was reared, early becoming familiar with all the duties and labors that fall to the lot of the agriculturist. He was but sixteen years of age when in 1864 he responded to the call of the government and became a member of Company B, 145th Regiment of Illinois volunteers, his uncle Edward C. Dew, having command of the company as captain. He continued at the front until the close of hostilities and after the war had ceased he continued his education in a college in St. Louis and subsequently entered McKendree College at Lebanon, Illinois, from which he was graduated in 1874. While a student there he was editor of the college paper, the McKendree Repository, and was president of his class during the graduating year. In the meantime he read law and after leaving college he entered a law office at Nashville, Illinois, but before he had completed his preparation for the bar he removed to Kansas and continued his studies in the office of Martin & Case, well known attorneys of Topeka.

In September, 1877, he removed to Kansas City and here read law with Tomlinson & Rose, being admitted to the bar in February, 1878. He was later admitted to a partnership with his former preceptors, Col. A. A. Tomlinson and John A. Ross, the former now a retired lawyer and capitalist, under the firm name of Tomlinson, Ross & Dew, which continued for many years. A later change in partnership led to the adoption of the firm style of Dew, Downs & Parkinson, afterward succeeded by Dew, Parkinson & Barnes, his partners being John D. Parkinson and John H. Barnes. Mr. Dew has continued in the practice of civil law and has been connected with much important litigation tried in the courts of the district. Earnest effort, close application and the exercise of his native talents have won him prestige as a

lawyer, a fact which is highly complimentary, for no bar has numbered more eminent and prominent men.

Mr. Dew was married in 1877 to Miss Julia E. Parkinson, a daughter of Hon. Alfred J. Parkinson, a wealthy farmer of Madison County, Illinois, and a former member of the State Senate. She died leaving three children: Emma E., who married Olin T. Thorp; Samuel Arthur; and Julia L. Mr. Dew was for many years [since May 22, 1889] a member and commander of Farragaut Post, No. 3, G.A.R., and one of its most prominent members. [He was commander of his post in 1893 and served as Adjutant for five years.] He has attended many national encampments as delegate from the department of Missouri, has been judge advocate of that department and also assistant national inspector general and three terms a member of its national council of administration, also [elected in 1904 as ]department commander of the Department of Missouri, and at present the adjutant general of the national organization. In the line of his profession he is connected with the Kansas City Bar Association, while fraternally he is a Mason. He gives unswerving allegiance to the Republican party, which he has supported since age conferred upon him the right of franchise, and a salient characteristic in his life - one that wins him uniform respect - is found in his allegiance to any cause or principle which he believes to be right. (BCM)

ADDENDUM:

He died April 17, 1915 and is buried in Elmwood Cemetery.