

NATIONAL ORGANIZATION  
**SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR**  
**CIVIL WAR MEMORIAL ASSESSMENT FORM**

**PLEASE:**

- Type or print, using a ball-point pen, when filling out this form. Legibility is critical.
- Do not guess at the information. An answer of, "Unknown," is more helpful.
- Include a photograph of each viewable side and label it with name & direction of view.

- Thank You.

**Type of Memorial**

☐ Monument *with* Sculpture                      ☐ Monument with Cannon  
☒ Monument *without* Sculpture                      ☐ Historical Marker                      ☐ Plaque

**Affiliation**

☐ G.A.R. (Post Name & No. \_\_\_\_\_)                      ☐ M.O.L.L.U.S.  
☐ W.R.C. (Corps Name & No. \_\_\_\_\_)                      ☐ Other Allied Order  
☐ SUVCW (Camp Name & No. \_\_\_\_\_)                      (Please describe below)  
☐ DUVCW (Tent Name & No. \_\_\_\_\_)  
☒ Other: LYON MONUMENT ASSOCIATION

**Original Dedication Date** 13 SEP 1874                      Please consult any/all newspaper archives for a local paper's article that would have information on the *first* dedication ceremony and/or other facts on the memorial. Please submit a copy of your findings with full identification of the paper & date of publication. Thank you.

**Location**

The Memorial is *currently* located at:

Street/Road address or site location Lyon Park, Arsenal & Broadway W90°12'38" N38°35'37"  
 City/Village St. Louis                      Township                      County St. Louis City

The front of the Memorial faces:    ☐ North    ☐ South    ☐ East    ☒ West

**Government Body, Agency, or Individual Owner** (of private cemetery that Memorial is located in)...

Name CITY OF ST. LOUIS                      Dept./Div. FACILITIES MANAGEMENT

Street Address 1200 MARKET

City ST LOUIS                      State MO                      Zip Code 63103

Contact Person FACILITIES MANAGEMENT                      Telephone ( 314 ) 613-7280

If the Memorial has been moved, please list former location(s)...

Originally at the corner of 2nd and Arsenal, just east of present location. Later moved to promintory.

**Physical Details**

Material of Monument or base under a Sculpture or Cannon = ☒ Stone    ☐ Concrete    ☐ Metal    ☐ Undetermined  
 If known, name specific material (color of granite, marble, etc.) Pink-Reddish Granite

Material of the Sculpture = ☒ Stone ☐ Concrete ☐ Metal ☐ Undetermined  
 If known, name specific material (color of granite, marble, etc.) pink-reddish granite, white limestone base  
 If the Sculpture is of metal, is it solid cast or "hollow?" \_\_\_\_\_

Material of Plaque or Historical Marker / Tablet = TWO BRONZE PLAQUES MISSING

Material of Cannon = ☐ Bronze ☐ Iron - Consult known Ordnance Listing to confirm  
 Markings on muzzle = N/A

Markings on Left Trunion \_\_\_\_\_ Right Trunion \_\_\_\_\_  
 Is inert ammunition a part of the Memorial? ☐ If so, describe N/A

**Approximate Dimensions** (indicate unit of measure) - taken from tallest / widest points

Monument or Base: Height 28 feet Width 5.5 feet Depth 5.5 feet or Diameter \_\_\_\_\_  
 Sculpture: Height \_\_\_\_\_ Width \_\_\_\_\_ Depth \_\_\_\_\_ or Diameter \_\_\_\_\_

For Memorials with multiple Sculptures, please record this information on a separate sheet of paper for each statue and attach to this form. Please describe the "pose" of each statue and any weapons/implements involved (in case your photos become separated from this form). Thank you!

**Markings/Inscriptions** (on stone-work / metal-work of monument, base, sculpture)

Maker or Fabricator mark / name? If so, give name & location found J. Mitchell & A. Druiding, ARC

Found on lower front of pink granite in front.

The "Dedication Text" is formed: ☒ cut into material ☐ raised up from material face

Record the text (indicate any separation if on different sides...) Please use additional sheet if necessary.

FRONT: AUGUST 10, 1861

LYON

J. MITCHELL A. DRUIDING, ARC

MISSING: Bronze plaque of Gen. Lyon's portrait on Front

MISSING: Bronze plaque of mythological figure holding symbols of war & justice

UNKNOWN WHEN PLAQUES REMOVED.

**Environmental Setting**

(The general vicinity and immediate locale surrounding a memorial can play a major role in its overall condition.)

**Type of Location**

<input type="checkbox"/> Cemetery	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Plaza/Courtyard
<input type="checkbox"/> "Town Square"	<input type="checkbox"/> Post Office	<input type="checkbox"/> School
<input type="checkbox"/> Municipal Building	<input type="checkbox"/> State Capitol	Other: _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Courthouse	<input type="checkbox"/> College Campus	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Traffic Circle	<input type="checkbox"/> Library	_____

**General Vicinity**

☐ Rural (low population, open land)  
☐ Town

☐ Suburban (residential, near city)  
☒ Urban / Metropolitan

**Immediate Locale** (check as many as may apply)

☒ Industrial ☒ Commercial  
☐ Street/Roadside within 20 feet ☒ Tree Covered (overhanging branches)  
☐ Protected from the elements (canopy or enclosure, indoors)  
☐ Protected from the public (fence or other barrier)  
 Any other significant environmental factor \_\_\_\_\_

**Condition Information****Structural Condition** (check as many as may apply)

The following section applies to Monuments *with* Sculpture, and Monuments *without* Sculpture - including the base for Monuments with *Cannon*. Instability in the sculpture and its base can be detected by a number of factors. Indicators may be obvious or subtle. Visually examine the sculpture and its base.

	Sculpture	Base
If hollow, is the internal support unstable/exposed? (look for signs of exterior rust)	<u>n/a</u>	<u>n/a</u>
Any evidence of structural instability? (look for cracked joints, missing mortar or caulking or plant growth)	<u>n/a</u>	<u>n/a</u>
Any broken or missing parts? (look for elements (i.e., sword, musket, hands, arms, etc. - missing due to vandalism, fluctuating weather conditions, etc.)	<u>n/a</u>	<u>n/a</u>
Any cracks, splits, breaks or holes? (also look for signs of uneven stress & weakness in the material)	<u>cracks</u>	<u>cracks</u>

**Surface Appearance** (check as many as may apply)

	Sculpture	Base
Black crusting	<u>X</u>	<u>      </u>
White crusting	<u>      </u>	<u>      </u>
Etched, pitted, or otherwise corroded (on metal)	<u>      </u>	<u>      </u>
Metallic staining (run-off from copper, iron, etc.)	<u>      </u>	<u>      </u>
Organic growth (moss, algae, lichen or vines)	<u>      </u>	<u>      </u>
Chalky or powdery stone	<u>      </u>	<u>      </u>
Granular eroding of stone	<u>      </u>	<u>      </u>
Spalling of stone (surface splitting off)	<u>      </u>	<u>      </u>
Droppings (bird, animal, insect remains)	<u>      </u>	<u>      </u>
Other (e.g., spray paint graffiti) - Please describe...	<u>      </u>	<u>      </u>
some black crust on pink granite on rear of monument. cracks are small, but several on monument and base. Base is created by blocks of white limestone with beaded mortar to prevent water erosion (beading holding up well).		

Does water collect in recessed areas of the Memorial? ☐ Yes ☒ No ☐ Unable to tell

**Surface Coating**Does there appear to be a coating? ☐ Yes ☒ No ☐ Unable to determine

If known, identify type of coating.

☐ Gilded ☐ Painted ☐ Varnished ☐ Waxed ☐ Unable to determineIs the coating in good condition? ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Unable to determine**Basic Surface Condition Assessment (check one)**

In your opinion, what is the general appearance or condition of the Memorial?

☐ Well maintained ☒ Would benefit from treatment ☐ In urgent need of treatment ☐ Unable to determine**Overall Description**

Briefly describe the Memorial (affiliation / overall condition &amp; any concern not already touched on).

Light clean up is suggested. Monument not in critical condition. 2 year inspection cycle is recommended. See additional page for more information.

Also, research ought to be conducted to see if the plaques are lost to history. If not, they ought to be returned. If pictures of them are available, a fund ought to be created to recreate these and rededicate the monument.

**Supplemental Background Information**

In addition to your on-site survey, any additional information you can provide on the described Memorial will be welcomed. Please label each account with its source (author, title, publisher, date, pages). Topics include any reference to the points listed on this questionnaire, plus any previous conservation treatments - or efforts to raise money for treatment. Thank you.

**Inspector Identification**Date of On-site Survey 01 JULY 2005Your Name Walter E. BuschAddress PO Box 508City Pilot KnobState MOZip Code 63663Telephone ( 314 ) 630-8407

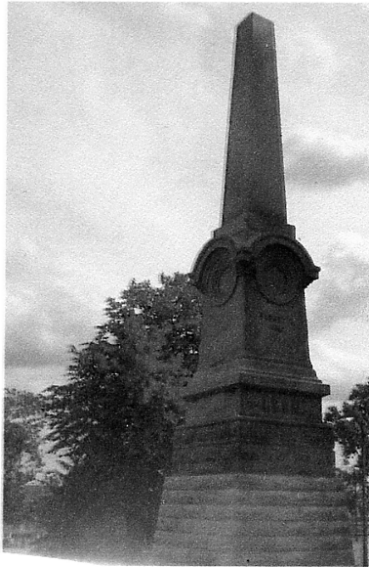
Please send this completed form to:

Todd A. Shillington, PDC  
15 Park Place  
Holley, NY 14470-1022  
(585) 638-5929

Thank you for your help, and attention to detail.

SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR  
National Civil War Memorials Committee





**Title:** Lyon Monument, 1874  
**Artist:** Adolphus Druiding  
**Artist Bio:** Architect  
**Medium:** Missouri granite with bronze plaques  
**Dimensions:** 27' H, 5' W, 5' D  
**Location:** Lyon Park - Broadway and Arsenal  
**Owner:** City of St. Louis  
**Donor:** Lyon Monument Association  
**Purchase Price:** \$3,000

Lyon Park, at Broadway and Arsenal, is a pleasant open space just east of the Anheuser Busch brewery. Both an obelisk and a statue have been placed in the park which has been named after General Lyon because of its proximity to the U.S. Arsenal which Lyon saved from attack by Confederate forces.

#### **MISSING ARE THE FOLLOWING ITEMS**

Lyon's portrait is cast on the bronze plaque on the front of the obelisk. On the reverse side is a mythological figure holding symbols of war and justice.

## **LYON PARK**

South Broadway and Arsenal

Ordinance Date: 1868

10.92 Acres

Gift - Deed

STATUES:

General Nathan Lyon Monument

General Nathan Lyon Statue

History:

In 1868, the city sought to acquire the present site of Lyon Park, which was the western portion of the grounds of the St. Louis Arsenal. An Act of Congress on March 3, 1869 granted that section of the grounds between Fourth Street and Carondelet Avenue to the city as a public park. The grant was made on the condition that the city build a monument to General Nathaniel Lyon within three years. The grounds were transferred to the City in September, 1871. A movement to erect an equestrian statue of Lyon, who was killed in the Civil War battle of Wilson's Creek in 1861, was started by survivors of the War in 1865 and \$15,000 was raised by public subscription and a grant from the County Court in 1868. Three years later, the idea of a statue was abandoned in favor of a granite obelisk. This 28-foot shaft of Missouri granite was dedicated on September 13, 1874. It is decorated with a bronze medallion of a relief portrait of Lyon on its west side and on the east side is a similar medallion containing a classic figure symbolizing war and peace.

In the late 1930's, a stone equestrian statue of General Lyon was relocated in the park from its former site at Grand and West Pine Boulevards.

ORATION

BY

HON. B. GRATZ BROWN,

BEFORE

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MISSOURI,

AT THE

INAUGURATION OF THE LYON MONUMENT ASSOCIATION,

IN

JEFFERSON CITY, MISSOURI, JANUARY 11, 1866.

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CITY OF WASHINGTON:  
1866.

## ORATION.

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LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:

I bid you welcome on this auspicious time. Free Missouri has chosen the first anniversary of her own emancipation ordinance as the day most appropriate for doing reverence to the name of Nathaniel Lyon. It is proposed that her representative men here assembled shall institute an association, having for its object the erection of some suitable monument to record his services, and the adoption of such measures of fraternity and celebration as may serve to keep his memory green. When we realize how signal were those services, and how sacred is that remembrance, no one can feel astonished that such a purpose should have drawn forth so large an audience, from all sections of our State, to participate in its ceremonies.

Invited by those charged with making preparation for this occasion, to be present and contribute to its expression, I shall humbly endeavor to perform the duty assigned me by such a review of the life and character of him whom it is intended to honor as shall assist in recalling more vividly some scenes that illustrated his career, and developing more clearly some elements that ennobled his soul. I shall labor to be brief. Others whom I see around me, distinguished leaders in arms as in eloquence, will contribute such adornment of speech and fervor of thought—such emotional persuasion—as I may not hope to attain.

Brigadier General Nathaniel Lyon was born at Ashford, Wyndham county, Connecticut, July 14, 1810. Reared in the modest and manly

ways of New England life, characterized in youth by a fondness for mathematics, indicating force as well as precision of thought, animated by the example of an ancestor who signalized his courage at Bunker Hill and fell fighting at the head of his regiment in the battle of Harlem Plains, he found a congenial sphere in the profession of arms. In his eighteenth year he entered the Military Academy at West Point, and graduated with distinction in 1831. Appointed to a lieutenancy in the second infantry, his first service was in Florida, during the latter part of the Seminole war. In 1847 he was promoted first lieutenant, and the adjustment of difficulties with Great Britain concerning the boundary question having released his regiment, stationed in Oregon, he was, soon after the commencement of hostilities with Mexico, ordered into active service. He joined General Taylor before Monterey, but subsequently was transferred and placed under the command of General Scott. During the battles which ensued he served with distinction at Vera Cruz, Cerro Gordo, Contreras, Churubusco, and "for meritorious conduct" received the brevet rank of captain. It was at the taking of the city of Mexico by our forces that he first shed his blood for the honor of the flag, being wounded by a musket ball while fighting bravely at the Belen gate.

On the 11th of June, 1851, he received the rank of full captain, and was ordered to Jefferson Barracks, preparatory to being sent to California for service against the Indian tribes.

Upon that duty he remained some years. When civil war, however, became imminent on our western border, owing to the conflict of freedom and slavery for the possession of the soil, he was ordered back from the Pacific and stationed with his company at Fort Riley, in Kansas Territory. As a military man he was there employed in a work of repression and maintaining order that tasked his patience and humanity to the utmost. It is, perhaps, not going too far to say that rigid methods of discipline had done much to impair the elasticity and independence of his mind, and the aversion to disorder to which he had been educated was well calculated to degenerate into a blind execution of the tyrannies of control. But in this instance a native vigor rescued him from the depressing influence. While prompt, therefore, to obey, and firm in the enforcement of law, he yet sympathized warmly with those who were resolute to defend the cause of liberty against all opposers, and it is perhaps the highest encomium that can be pronounced upon his bearing to say that he won no less the esteem of the Army as a most brave and capable officer, than the love and confidence of the people to whom he was so often and offensively opposed. It was upon the strength of the reputation thus achieved, that in 1861, when rebellion, under the cloak of State sovereignty, undertook to defy the Federal Government, the President, solicitous to sustain those who were laboring to prevent Missouri from joining the movement of secession, assigned him to what at that time was the most important command in the valley of the Mississippi—the arsenal at St. Louis. The incipient step of treason throughout the South had been to seize upon the military depots of the United States, which, under the management of the Secretary of War, Mr. Floyd, had been well supplied with material in anticipation of their surrender. And it is beyond question that the same sinister policy had prevailed in regard to the arsenal at St. Louis. There were stored all the arms and munitions upon which the Government could rely for equipping the five great States of the Northwest. It was a prize that would be eagerly grasped by the authorities in Missouri, who were known to be hostile to the United States, and it was never doubted that it would require all the en-

ergy and devotion of its commander to maintain possession against the forces that were heralded as accumulating for its capture. Soon after his arrival he was advised by those whose solicitude had made them cognizant of all that was transpiring, that an officer on duty with him was unreliable, and had expressed himself ready to facilitate the entry of State troops. His reply was, "If he found the officer in question taking any step to throw the post into the hands of the enemy, he would throw him into the Mississippi river." And the same directness pervaded all his action. But these are matters on which I need not dwell. How nobly he achieved the purpose intrusted to him; how through days and nights of anxiety he sentinelled the ramparts with his little band, with what matchless skill he organized loyalty into armed battalions and occupied the city by an improvised garrison, and with what precision and power and method and nerve he struck the blow at the moment when treason was congregating into camp for attack—all these are blazoned as memorable inscriptions upon the flag of your patriotism. It will be sufficient to say that then it was the name and fame of Nathaniel Lyon became first commingled in time and wedded in eternity with the heroic struggle that has culminated in dedicating Missouri to equal rights and human freedom.

The military administration of General Lyon in this State, covering a period of little more than ninety days, was signalized not only by great vigor of preparation, but also by a large forecast of the magnitude and bearings of the war which was to ensue. Perhaps, however, that which more than all else will challenge the admiration of posterity in his conduct at this critical conjuncture was the boldness and unhesitating decision with which he took the initiative. While statesmen trembled and Cabinets prevaricated, while a republican Congress was denying its creed before a few remaining southern representatives, while the Government itself, after permitting a garrison at Fort Sumter to be sacrificed, was still cogitating expedients to hide the fact of war, he, a simple captain of infantry, with more of bravery than them all, with a courage that was genius, determined to assume responsibility and maintain at all hazards the supremacy of the United States in so much of its

territory as was intrusted to his keeping. In thus initiating hostilities he realized that it would be made the occasion of violent and inflammatory appeals to precipitate public opinion against the Federal Government; but he had also determined that his own movements should be so rapid, and his concentrations of force at important points so imposing, as to develop all there was of Union sentiment among the people, and preclude disloyal elements from effecting any organization. And it was with this view that he contemplated following up promptly the capture of Camp Jackson by the occupation of this capital, the arrest or dispersion of the Legislature then in session here, and the capture of those State officers who were inciting the people to rebellion.

The facility of such movement was not doubted, and it was perhaps the anticipated arrival of a superior officer rather than any question of policy that deferred its execution. This arrival and assumption of command by General Harney transpired two days afterward, and was in every sense unfortunate, inasmuch as his recognition of the situation was sadly deficient in clearness, while he was endeared by no ties of sympathy with the loyal people of the State. The result was immediate paralysis of military preparation. Volunteer enlistments were discouraged, the ardor of patriotism was chilled, conservatism rapidly supplanted confidence on all sides. This was still further increased when it was known that General Harney had entered into an agreement by which the movement of Federal troops was to be stopped, the maintenance of order intrusted to General Sterling Price, and the Union men of the interior left without defense. That was a virtual surrender of the State to disloyal control. Advised of the effect produced, however, the United States Government hastened to correct the mistake it had committed, and the recall of General Harney and the promotion of General Lyon enabled the latter to act again with celerity and resolution. He at once prepared for occupying the State permanently in its strategic points. Having already dislodged the rebels who had begun to congregate in the southwest, by a swift movement of troops upon Potosi, and armed loyal companies in several of the most reliable counties, north as well as south of the Missouri

river, he ordered Colonel Curtis to occupy the line of the Hannibal and St. Joseph railroad strongly, and putting down traitors everywhere, to move with a detachment upon Lexington. He then gathered his whole disposable force together, and impressing a large flotilla of vessels, steamed at once to Jefferson City. His entry here was made on the 11th of June, 1861, the day following the departure of Governor Jackson and his staff.

General Lyon, remaining only long enough to give military organization to the place, and leaving a small garrison, hurried forward to Boonville, where in a brief but spirited engagement he scattered the hastily levied rebel forces that had concentrated to resist him. Many were made prisoners and paroled, many came in for clemency after the battle, a few were killed and wounded. The leaders mostly escaping, fled in the direction of Arkansas. Prior to leaving St. Louis General Lyon had dispatched a column under Colonel Sigel to occupy Springfield and disperse any hostile bands gathering in that quarter. The whole plan of operations as projected contemplated not only reinforcing this column directly from its base, but establishing a cordon, of posts across the southern part of the State, at Franklin, Rolla, Waynesville, Lebanon, and Carthage, that would render safe its communication. Contemporaneously it was General Lyon's intention to march southwardly from Boonville to Springfield with the troops under him, and thus uniting all his forces into a mobile army, to hold that point as a key to the defense of the State, not less against invasion from without than rebellion from within. It is remarkable that the outline of the campaign thus rapidly improvised by General Lyon, in the very outset of our civil conflict, should have been demonstrated by the whole course of the war—by our disasters not less than our victories—to be that in which alone there was safety, both for offense and defense. Indeed, it was the only plan compatible with the retention of the State under Federal control.

Some delays in procuring transportation; some needless dispersion of troops in the extreme Southwest; some want of energy in sending forward men and munitions from Rolla, embarrassed his concentration at Springfield; but his own arrival at that point on the 15th of

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July, preceded by the return of detachments under Sigel and Sweeney a few days previous, enabled him to make a very formidable front. It was true that the enemy against whom he was antagonized might aggregate a much larger force than any he could hold in hand, and that there would be no lack of resolution in their ranks or skill in their leaders; but he calculated very greatly on his own superior armament and the admirable discipline of a large part of his command. The result demonstrated that in this respect his confidence was fully warranted. The steadiness displayed by the volunteer soldiery of Missouri, Iowa, and Kansas, when first brought under fire, was in no respect inferior to that of troops in the regular Army stationed by their side. Indeed, it is but a just tribute to our citizen levies, who have stood forth so promptly and multitudinously during the five long years of warfare, to say that if a fault may be charged upon them when compared with veterans, it is that they are too impatient in their valor properly to realize danger when it confronts them.

It was in those eventful August days of 1861, when the fair rolling lands of the Southwest were first pressed by the foot of the invader, when the rebel levies under Price were augmented by those of Arkansas under McCullough, that General Lyon prepared for the impending battle—a battle destined to be decisive of so much in the history of our State. I shall not dwell upon all the incidents and movements designed to develop the strength and position of the enemy, or the plans first projected, afterward laid aside, for encountering the hostile forces. There was no discouragement among our troops, but rather an exalted confidence in their general. The rebels were likewise confident in their strength. Day after day increasing in numbers, and moving steadily forward, they encamped on the 9th of August along the ravines of Wilson's creek, some ten miles south of Springfield. It was here that General Lyon determined to attack them; and in doing so to strike them simultaneously in front and in the flank or rear. For this purpose, after retaining to himself some three thousand seven hundred men, and ten pieces of artillery for an attack along the Mount Vernon road, he intrusted Colonel Sigel with sixteen hundred men

and six guns for an assault along the Fayetteville road.

This division of his small army has been much criticized in military circles, as involving too great risk under the peculiar circumstances. Perhaps the criticism is just; and yet it may be affirmed confidently that had the projected diversion been pressed with a success and maintained with a fortitude equal to his own direct onset, the result would have given us a complete victory at an early hour in the day. Again, it has been maintained by many, that in the disproportion of his forces to those of the enemy, in the absence of any intrenched position of strength or secure line of communication with his base at Rolla or Jefferson City, he should not have hazarded a battle at all, but, taken advantage of a rapid retreat to evacuate the Southwest and select some other line for defense. This was known to be the opinion of some of the officers consulted by General Lyon, and to their reasoning he was at first inclined to defer, although it was in conflict with all his military instinct. But farther reflection and conference induced him to repose upon his own primary judgment, and attack the enemy in his camp. And in this I think he was right. A careful examination of all the facts elicited since the battle demonstrates that he derived from his initiative all the benefit he anticipated—that the enemy were taken at a great disadvantage and thrown into a confusion from which they did not recover for hours; and that, up to the very moment of retiring, even with a dismembered army, our troops maintained a victorious position. Besides, there were considerations of a general character that could not be disregarded in a matter of so much moment. Retreat without a battle would be to surrender the State to the enemy; for, in the face of such abandonment, loyal counties could not be asked to declare for the Government, while the impulse given to the cause of treason would force all the unprotected into its ranks. Besides, none knew better than he, that the outcome of a revolution, such as that which unfolded before him, was to be measured by beliefs and the constancy of whole peoples rather than by battles, whether lost or won. He did well and wisely, therefore, to make his stand at the front and not at the rear. Nay, he did more; for the valor of his army, the

glory of his bright example, the knowledge thus early made manifest that there was a lion in the path of treason, exerted an untold influence in strengthening the loyal cause throughout all the nation.

It is not my purpose to-day to trace minutely the incidents of that memorable battle. They are familiar to you all; and what there was of heroism displayed there, what of failure, or what of mischance, needs not to be again recited. Fought with a stubbornness beyond precedent in the earlier part of the war, it ever rises up again in memory, from the very ashes of sorrow, a burning light, fierce with incitement, amid the darkness of that time. It was at the culmination of that desperate encounter, when the thick ranks of the enemy, driven back again and again and repulsed in all their attempts to break the Union lines, were gathering for one more onset, in hope to recover vantage ground, that General Lyon stood forth in person to direct, and, if possible, anticipate their charge. He had been twice wounded already, but he paid no heed to his wounds. His horse had been killed, but he mounted another. Remonstrated with for such exposure, he replied, "I am but doing my duty." It was at this moment, when ordering the advance, that an orphaned Iowa regiment claimed his attention, saying, "Who will lead us, General?" He responded with rapid enthusiasm, "Forward, brave men, I will lead you," and, with his blue eye kindled to a blaze of light, and his manly form erect with confidence, he suited the action to the word and rode down to his death fearlessly and well. A sharp, swift pain, a sudden shock, and he fell insensible to the earth. He was hastily cared for; yet human aid could avail nothing there. His head supported by his orderly, the gurgling flow from his wound arrested by a change of position, one moment of consciousness vouchsafed to him, in which his opening eyes realized the scenes around him, then, with a radiant look and the words "Lehman, I am going up," he passed to the spirit land to render an account to his God of deeds done in the body. From amid the resounding tumultuous strife his soul went forth into the stilled silence beyond. From the narrow precincts of human discord he mingled abruptly with the infinities and eternities of time. From the field of blood and the

torn wreck of battle he was translated into the effulgencies where dwell cherubim and seraphim. Oh, how lustrous was that release!

It has been said by those who were near to his trust, that in the days preceding his death, the shadow of approaching dissolution fell upon his heart—that he was visited by one of those mysterious whispers of Providence that so often connect sensibly with the grave those standing on its brink; and that in the night preceding the battle, as he lay upon the open field, his memory, counting its beads, as it were, of childhood's home and a mother's image and early vanished hopes, voiced a low chant of by-gone time that hushed him into peaceful slumber. If this were so, it is yet certain that no foreboding affected his faith in the issue of the approaching conflict. To his aid-de-camp he declared it impossible that his men should be whipped. To himself there might come the summons, but defeat to his army was not within the range of his vision; and thus upheld by the loftiest sense of duty, serenely trusting his own life to the care of his Maker, devoting himself with ardor to the stern issues of that battle-field, and recking not of injuries or exposure or death, he will remain forever in history outlined as the heroic figure in the foreground of that great panorama of battle and of progress which shall portray our national deliverance from treason and rebellion.

The battle at Wilson's creek was in one sense a drawn battle, in so far at least as each of the contending armies had repulsed the attack made upon its lines, and yet the Union troops at the close of the engagement held the ground from which they had driven the enemy in the morning. Evident signs, moreover, betokened that consternation was beginning to pervade the rebel ranks. The withdrawal of forces from the front, the burning of a supply train far away to the left, and the destruction of baggage wagons and equipage in the immediate presence of our advance, told of trepidation ready to dissolve into retreat. Indeed, General McCulloch subsequently, in a publication made at Richmond to defend the inaction of his army and its failure to take the aggressive, declared and proved that he was forced to retire from the field because of want of ammunition. The testimony of rebel officers, taken later in the war, was also to the



effect that long before the last shot was fired the roads to their rear were filled with dismayed fugitives, who spread before them as they went reports of a great disaster to their arms. It may be affirmed, therefore, with confidence that had General Lyon lived, he who knew so well the advantage of prestige in war as to hazard in its behalf the chances of attack and a division of his forces, would have held with unquailing, resolute, indomitable tenacity to that field of battle, and by his mere presence converted it into a brilliant triumph for the Union cause. His own troops had suffered severely but were still held well in hand, and while even retreat could not dismay them an advance would have inspired irresistible enthusiasm and added another to the many instances of victory wrung from the confusion of conflict by the intuitive fortitude of an admirable leader.

I have thus undertaken hastily and imperfectly to set before you a sketch of the life and death of Nathaniel Lyon. And what is there after all in his brief career, crowned with so large an apotheosis, that strikes us most with reverence? Surely, it is not the aggregate result of his military achievements, for taken at their highest and credited with all their consequences, still they are as nothing in the scale when compared with the services rendered by many of the great captains who have since led our soldiers to victory. Nor is it alone the fact of his tragic death, in the foreground of so much of sacrifice by hundreds who have tendered their lives with equal devotion to the country, that makes us separate his name from that of all others in the tribute of this solemn occasion. Assuredly, there is a deeper meaning in the eloquent voice of his fame, and a profounder affiliation between his nature and that of those who thus hold him endeared, than any which comes of martial glory.

What that is and how it is, it behooves us much to consider, if we would truly know and esteem aright one who will confront future generations with his image.

Comparative anatomists tell us that the science they teach has arrived at such exactitude that in exhuming fossils from the earth and developing the outlines of huge animals that have passed away forever, oftentimes the discovery of a few vertebrae or joints or articulations will

suffice to determine the bony structure of the entire frame. Thus they are enabled to reconstruct mammoth or mastodon until they stand forth whole as when they trod first the green sward of primeval earth. It must be some such science that presides over the judgments of the people, when, from the disjointed passages of a broken and buried life, they erect that visible presence and fashion of the soul which becomes to them an exalted heroism. And preëminently has this been so in the relation sustained to General Nathaniel Lyon by the patriotism of this State. The tie of sympathy, which has thus strengthened with each year and day since he died, was one whose source many did not recognize at that hour of a fresh mourning for his loss, one that was perhaps overshadowed in the display of the towering energies of his active command, and yet it penetrated every tone of his voice, it was the constant illustration of his conduct, it animated him amid difficulties, and gave hope, decision, and inflexibility to his purpose from first to last—I refer to the deep absorbing conviction which possessed his whole being, that this was a war waged in behalf of freedom for all men, and that however circumscribed then as to methods of defense and loyalty, it could have no other termination than to proclaim "liberty throughout all the land and to all the inhabitants thereof."

It was no secret, from the outset of his career in arms, that he was a radical abolitionist, who held the grave words of the Declaration of Independence to be something more than glittering generalities, and who believed that the Constitution of the United States, which guaranteed to the citizens of each State the rights of citizens in the several States, was limited by no abridgments of color, and should be enforced regardless of sectional lines. The Army of the United States, fostered under pro-slavery influence and patronage, was not the place where such opinions were calculated to win respect or promotion, and yet he never swerved from the faith or scrupled to avow it. I have already alluded to the fact that during the disturbances attendant upon the immigration to Kansas he was ordered back from California and remained stationed for a long time at Fort Riley and other points in that Territory. While there his ardent temperament



and clear recognition of the principle involved enlisted his sympathies deeply in behalf of those who were so faithfully contending for freedom.

A private diary kept by him during that period of his life, a copy of which has been kindly furnished to me by a friend, evinces in every page the earnestness and boldness of his reprobation of the attempt then making by the Administration to drag a resisting people into acceptance of slavery. It also evinces in many of its entries how early he had foreseen the necessity of the extinction of slavery, in order that the perpetuity of our Union might be possible. And still later, when the conflict engendered in Kansas had assumed a national bearing and absorbed all other issues, when broad lines of sectionalism were beginning to appear, and parties and churches and socialisms were drifting into that inevitable conflict whose hour had come, he stood not by, an idle spectator of the great events which were gathering, but seized his pen, and sought to wield an influence for the right through the columns of the public press. A series of papers published by him at the time, in which he discussed the rights of labor, the doctrine of popular sovereignty, the morals of slavery, the secret of disunion, the grievances of the South, and the crime of rebellion, will be found even yet to possess much of interest. Though evidently the work of an unpractised writer, they are distended by strong ribs of thought, and jointed and shewed throughout with the very logic of freedom. Subsequently, in the presidential canvass of 1860, he contributed still more important aid to the triumph of the Republican cause, believing that in its success was to be found the only safety of the nation, from anarchy on the one hand, or from a universal slave despotism on the other. Addressing those who, four years before, in the name of Americanism, had defeated the party of free soil, he concluded one of his appeals in these words: "You we ask to unite with us to strengthen those hands which we are confident are soon to become invested with this office of our national elevation and redemption from its present humiliation and disgrace before the enlightened world. You we invite to the ways of pleasantness and peace, along which, with the cause of humanity, we intend to bear Abraham

Lincoln amid the choros of our emancipated nation."

Prophetic words! How truly did they disclose that which was to come after, and how clear was the ray thus let in upon the depths of his own meditation! It will not be supposed that from fugitive contributions to the public press, or hastily written letters to distant correspondents, the inner faith of any heroic soul will be gleaned with certainty. Men of such type rarely speak out their whole thought, unless demanded by necessity, because they revere it too much to thrust it forth where no sympathy awaits. But in the glancing light of expression here and there the true lineaments will oftentimes start forth with strange distinctness, and the half-suppressed utterance becomes thus the very emphasis of a life. And so it was with the lamented Lyon. Reserved in his customary address; writing principally to influence others, and from the stand-point of their reason, not his own, it was only when the fires of his noble nature shot forth, in despite of a self-imposed control, that men recognized the intensity of his convictions and the depth of his faith. In real life he was different. There his manner of daily intercourse, his habits of conversation, his ordinary beatings, were far more responsive to his feelings, and left an impression upon all of great earnestness combined with great intrepidity. It was this frankness of demeanor, this clear reading of the character of others, and equally clear rendering into action of his own, that so early won for him the implicit confidence of the loyal population of St. Louis when intrusted with the arsenal at that point. Seeing more plainly than any other saw the work to be done, he was at no loss to recognize who could be relied on to aid that work, and resting his analysis upon the principles at issue, he made no mistakes in persons or parties.

Thus it was that, in responding to the cheers of a German regiment, which had just received its arms, and was returning to the city—one of the many that rallied to the flag in that brief hour of imminent danger—he spoke in terms touched with pathos of his own feeling at witnessing the alacrity with which those foreign to the soil rushed forward to defend the nation while its own sons leveled the parricidal hand. He knew that it was no question of party or pa-

tronage with them, but one of pure principle, and as such he could not but honor them the more for their devotion, and took occasion then and there to declare that in his own belief "the safety of Missouri would be recognized in the future, under the Providence of God, to have been assured by the love of liberty inborn in the German people."

Educated in the formalism of a military school, it was to have been anticipated that General Lyon would be most punctilious in the discharge of duty. But with him the regard for it was something more than punctillio; it was a morbid tenacity of its strictest requirements that at times gave an appearance of harshness to his character. He was resolute to do all that was required, and no personal trouble or sacrifice ever induced him to practice evasion or permit neglect. Thus it is related that on one occasion he was stationed at a frontier post, and for a period of four months was the only commissioned officer present with the garrison. Upon him, therefore, devolved the duties of commandant, post adjutant, company commander, and officer of the day; and yet during those four months he never failed to visit the guard, in the latter capacity, twice during each night, once at nine o'clock and again after midnight. I doubt if the same can be said of any officer in the American Army. Those who were placed under his command were at first inclined to construe his discipline as severity, but a very short experience invariably sufficed to change such opinion when it was found that he was only relentless toward the unfaithful. This was shown in the attachment and trust with which he was regarded by the men of his own company during the years of his service as a junior officer, a trust which was often manifested by making him the depository of sums of money aggregating large amounts, for which there was no other receipt than his honor. Abstemiousness in diet, a scrupulous regard for health, neatness of personal attire, and a modest carriage completed the symmetry of this model of a perfect soldier.

General Lyon was characterized mentally by a rapid intuitive reasoning rather than the slower elaboration of logical forms. He seemed to arrive at convictions by a forecast rather than by argumentation, and there was nothing of

which he was so intolerant as a sophism or a technicality. Strongly objective and reliant upon his own integrity of purpose, given to wide generalizations of thought, and adorned by those frugal virtues, truth, chastity, and temperance, he won upon our faith rather by assurance of what was within than by outward iteration. He was one of Plutarch's men whom simplicity and directness environed like an aureole. His devotion to that service in which all of his life was so freely rendered, and to which all of worldly estate was so grandly bequeathed, was a spontaneous offering, not a cold calculation. The spirit which upheld him was not that of the professional soldier, indifferent to sacrifice, aiming only at victory; not that of the strategic leader of armies, eager for advantage in the game of war; not that of the commander, knowing no duty but obedience, professing all his creed in the term loyalty; but it was a spirit that found its true inspiration in the cause which was perilled on the issue, and recognized that cause in all its humanities and liberal promise as the one hope of future generations.

But I may not linger as I would wish upon this grateful theme—the lineaments of a character so strong, brave, and upright. His manner of death was itself a pronounced obituary. His most moving funeral rites were those of the battle-field. Yet, there was not wanting other and larger expression. The thanks of the nation were rendered in resolutions adopted by the Senate and House of Representatives, declaring that Congress "deemed it meet and proper to enter upon its records a recognition of the eminent and patriotic services of the late Brigadier General Nathaniel Lyon. The country to whose service he devoted his life will guard and preserve his fame as a part of its glory." And the President was requested to cause the same to be read at the head of every regiment in the United States. The response of the people, too, when an opportunity presented, was a still more emphatic demonstration. His body, hastily buried near the field of battle, was exhumed by his relatives, under a flag of truce, for transportation to his early home on the Atlantic shore. But what was designed as an unostentatious transfer could not go forward without calling forth the most signal manifestations of grief throughout the length and breadth of the land.

In all places where his remains lay in state, multitudes thronged to pay their last tribute to his memory. Along the lines of railway citizen soldiers gathered to drop the flag over his funeral car. St. Louis, amid its loyal population, was one wide house of mourning. The great cities of Cincinnati, Pittsburg, Philadelphia, and New York vied with each other in their testimonials, bewailing his loss as a national calamity. It was a spontaneous outflowing of popular sympathy and sadness, that in all this long martyrology of our best and bravest, has only had its parallel in the gloom attendant upon the return to its sepulchral home of the confined form of Abraham Lincoln. These two, first and last of the great sacrifices, enshrined in the same supreme sympathy, how clearly they made plain in death not less than in life, that this Union is one and inseparable.

Borne along to the town of Eastford, in the State of Connecticut, the ceremonial of his interment bespoke how feelingly New England regarded the fall of her second Warren. The church bells sounded plaintive in the hushed air; the sobbing music scarce knew its notes; the heart of the vast concourse was touched with infinite pity as his form was lowered to its rest beneath the weeping willows, and the response, earth to earth, pronounced above his grave. He lay with his fathers near by the Still river. His last long march was done. There have been many marches famous in this war. There was the march to Richmond that cast such a swath of dead men by the wayside. There was that other march, which will live forever in chronicle and song, the March to the Sea. But that burial march from the West to East was more typical than any of these, in that it forecast the moral element of our great national struggle—a struggle which shall have its ending only when humanity shall put on the robes of equality; when color and race shall disappear in the lines of virtue; when John Brown shall be accredited as patriot and statesman, and Liberty shall claim the continent as her own.

Four years have gone by since the compass of his life was closed—four years horrid with the realities of carnage, and wicked with the dream of disunion; and now our nation, com-

pacted by conflict, confronts the world with a power and prestige second to none. The fields have smiled once more with their yellow harvest gleaned in peace; the stir of industry resounds on every side; commerce has reentered upon its rights. The conquests of force have been made permanent by absolute surrender; and armies disbanded; navies laid up in ordinary; the equipage of war thrown off, show how confident the Government feels in its power to make good the fruits of that submission. And the word has gone forth likewise, that alone redeemed our conflict from the barbarism of a strife for simple mastery: that word—first spoken in a whisper, afterward shouted with acclaim—first a military edict, now a constitutional guarantee—that beneath our flag throughout all the land no human being shall ever again be held as a slave. The last days of the year just closed were made glorious by proclamation of that event; and even now your national Congress keeps watch and ward to see the announcement fulfilled in all its breadth and wealth of meaning.

We have been rendering homage to-day to the life and services of one who gave his all to the more hope of such a consummation: whose lot was cast amid the more violent phases of that struggle, but whose faith went far out into the future, even to this day of rejoicing over an "emancipated nation." That faith of his should be a watch-word to us forevermore, whereby amid the discouragements of the present we may repose upon the confidences of the future. All of progress is not yet attained for our people, all of freedom not yet won for this nation; and because the after part of that progress is resorted to the methods of peace and not of war, and because it remains still to verify that it be liberty, and not hypocrisy which is set up, we may not abandon the issue of these times without proving recreant to our trust. Years of toil and trial may have to be confronted before the end shall draw nigh. The term of a generation of men is the historic period of the accomplishment of social revolutions such as that which now environs us, and shall we abandon then the guardianship that is devolved on us out of this chaos of old forms, and give to those who would have made ruin in the name of slavery and disunion, the ordering of

any essential guarantees of peace and freedom? That is a grave and pregnant inquiry, going to the soul of all our late armed controversy, and eminently fit to be pondered in this memorial hour.


Far be it from my purpose to intrude upon your notice the jarring creeds that divide factions in the time set apart for tributes to the dead. But this is not partyism—it is patriotism, and it would be no honor to him whose name we are preparing to inscribe in those lists that are to teach our children by illustrious example, were any affectation to preclude us from the thought of that larger duty developed in the relations that victory has imposed. He is joined now to the Everlasting. He sees the light of a celestial sphere, and his being is attuned to harmonies not of earth. But who can doubt, if he were here in the flesh, that he

would counsel us by that hope he held so sacred, never to imperil the achievements of our war of liberation by making it possible for the vanquished to falsify those decrees which in the name of freedom have gone forth to every kindred and nation and tongue?

And in conclusion, I would say to you who have purposed to commemorate the virtue and valor of Nathaniel Lyon, go forward zealously with your noble tribute; carve the laurel around his brow; build high the shaft that shall bear witness to his fame; quarry the purest marbles whereon to inscribe his services, and dedicate your work when done to the Centuries, for be sure that the memory of one so pure in heart, so steadfast in faith, so true in every action to the simple grandeur of his heroic mold, is what the world will not willingly let die.







AUGUST 10.  
1861

LYON.