

By the Kansas Historical Society

Price's Raid and The Battle of Mine Creek

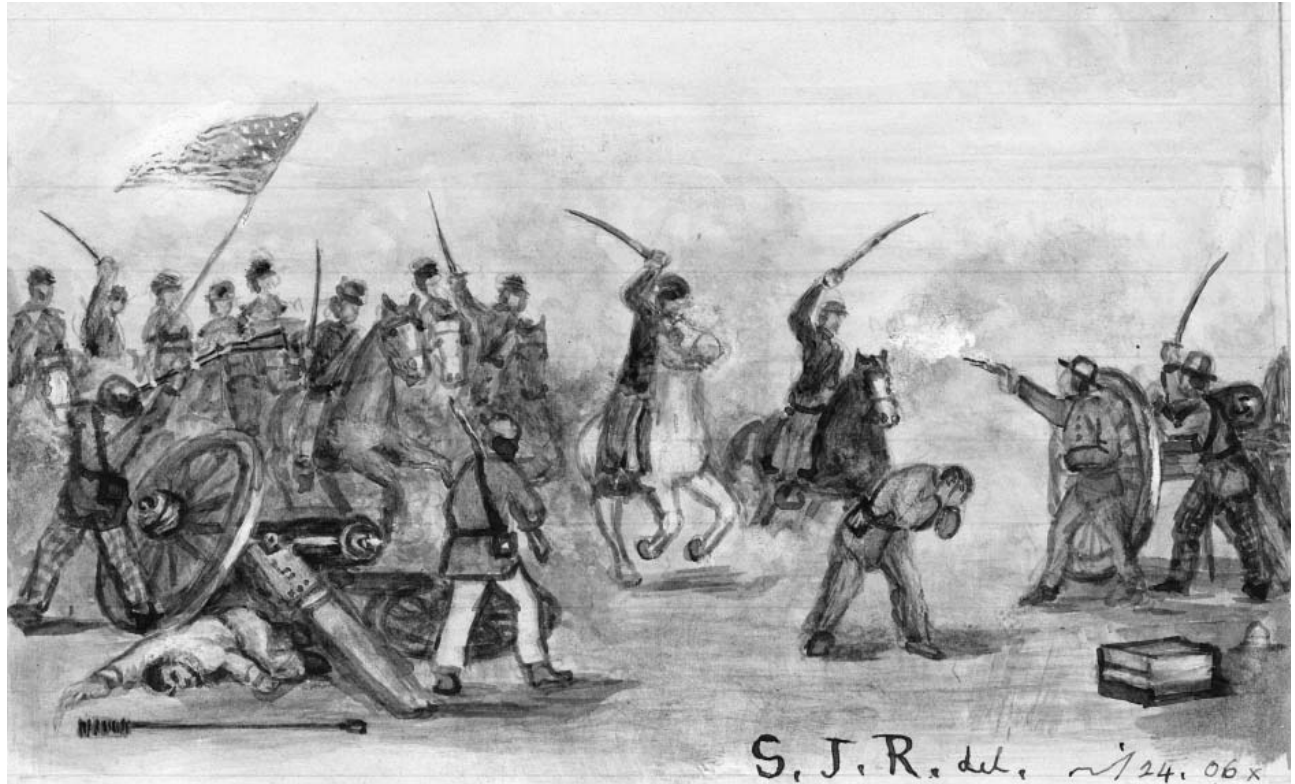
After three and a half years of fighting, the outcome of the Civil War was yet to be decided. On October 25, 1864, the only significant Civil War battle on Kansas soil occurred along Mine Creek in Linn County. This battle was part of a series of events and military engagements known as the Price Raid.

On September 7 Confederate troops commanded by General Sterling Price crossed the Arkansas River at Dardanelle, Arkansas, heading **north**. Their mission was to rally loyal Southern men to join their army and to acquire supplies, such as food, clothing, and weapons. On the way **north**, General Price engaged Union troops on September 27 at Fort Davidson, Missouri, in the Battle of Pilot Knob. The Confederates lost 1,000 men. Originally set on reaching St. Louis, Missouri, Price discovered that the city was too heavily defended. His army then turned **west** to Jefferson City following the Missouri River. Again, Price was prevented from entering the city because it had been reinforced with Union troops and cannons. Price continued **west** and chose to make Kansas City his main objective. The opposing armies clashed first at Lexington and then at the Big and Little Blue Rivers. Price was defeated at Westport on October 23 and forced to retreat **south** along the Missouri-Kansas border.

By October 25 Price's army had withdrawn **southward** along with 500 wagons filled with goods they had confiscated in their long march through Missouri. Confederate troops tried to delay the oncoming Union army. The Confederate supply train was slowed as the wagons attempted to cross Mine Creek. It had rained the night before and the banks of the creek were steep and slippery. The wagons blocked the way for the Confederate army.

In late morning approximately 2,800 Union troops attacked 8,000 Confederates along the banks of Mine Creek. This would be one of the largest cavalry battles in the Civil War. The Union troops were much better armed and the battle was over in less than one hour.

Afterward, Union troops pursued the defeated Confederates **south** into Missouri. On October 28 Union forces attacked Price's army at the Battle of Newtonia. Price continued his retreat **south** into Arkansas. At Cane Hill, Arkansas, his men received their first significant food in days. Price then crossed the Arkansas River into Indian Territory (Oklahoma) and eventually reached Clarksville, Texas.



The illustration depicts the Battle of Mine Creek, the biggest battle between Union and Confederate forces to take place in Kansas during the Civil War. The Battle of Mine Creek was also one of the largest cavalry battles of the Civil War. The artist, Samuel Reader, was a soldier in the Second Kansas state militia that was engaged in the battle.