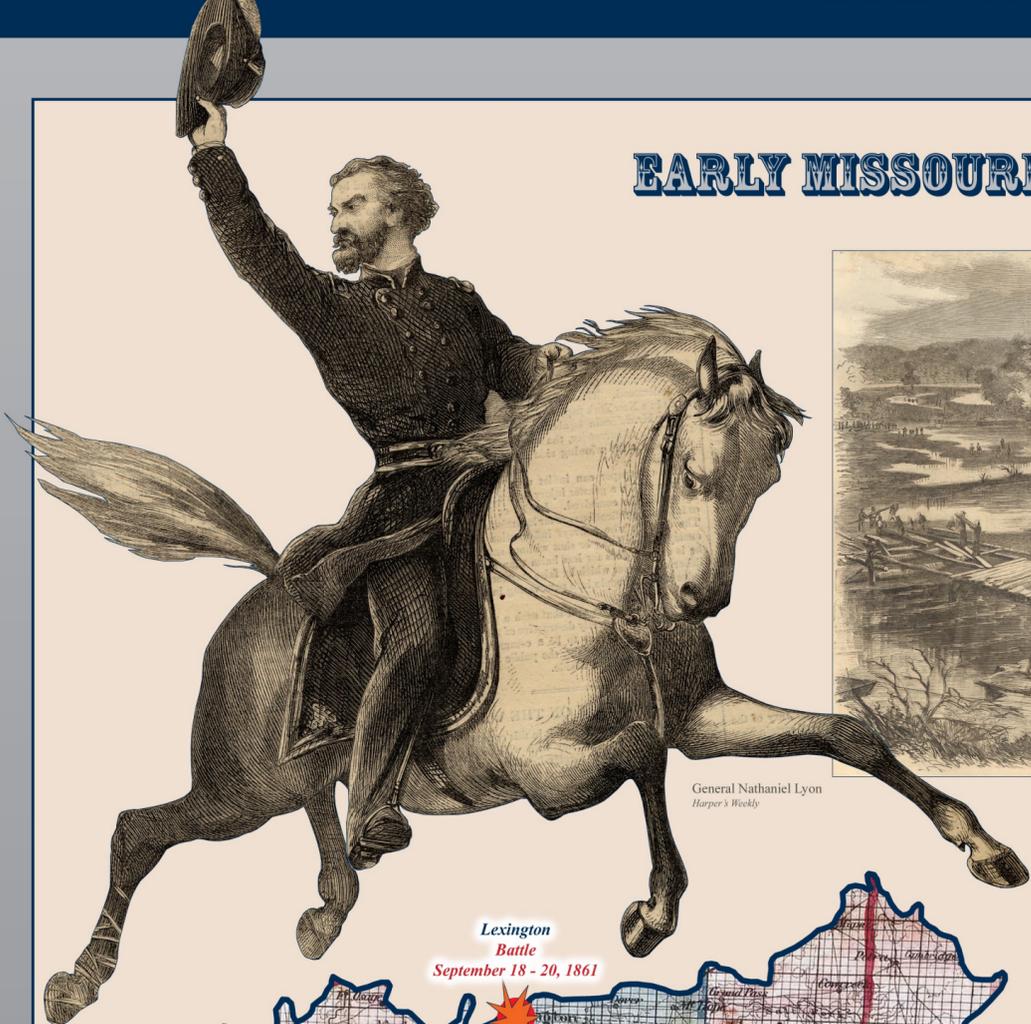
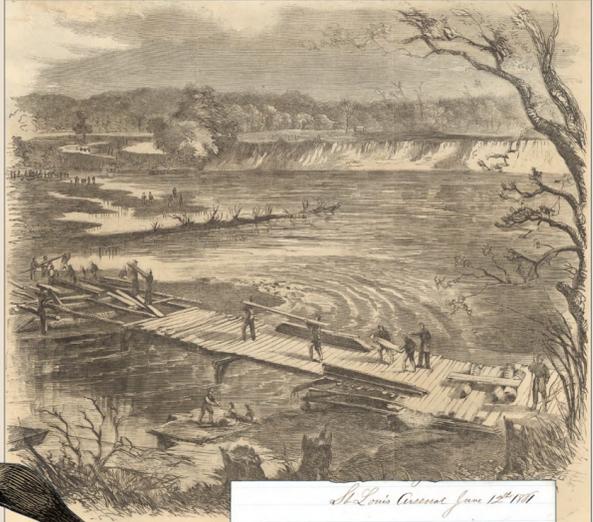


EARLY MISSOURI BATTLES, 1861

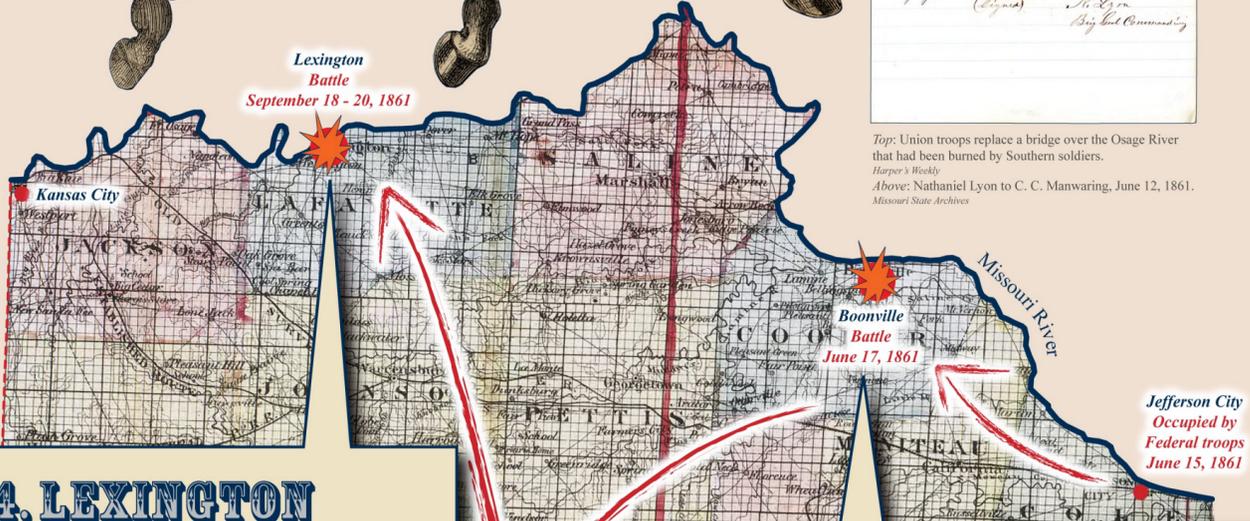


General Nathaniel Lyon
Harper's Weekly



St. Louis Crescent, June 12, 1861
C. C. Manwaring's
"Secure as far as possible any
bridge that has been in danger of being
destroyed by the rebels."
(Original) *St. Louis
Daily Post-Dispatch*

Top: Union troops replace a bridge over the Osage River that had been burned by Southern soldiers.
Harper's Weekly
Above: Nathaniel Lyon to C. C. Manwaring, June 12, 1861.
Missouri State Archives



4. LEXINGTON



The Battle of Lexington, by F. Domenico.
State Historical Society of Missouri - Columbia

Emboldened by his success at Wilson's Creek, General Price moved toward northern Missouri, even though McCulloch refused to follow. Price found the town of Lexington, Missouri, a tempting target in part because of its location on the Missouri River and in part because it was poorly defended by Northern home guard units.

As Price advanced, his forces grew to between 10,000 and 12,000. While the Northerners also received reinforcements, they were outnumbered 4 to 1 when the fighting began. Price quickly pinned down the Union forces who were forced to surrender.

1. BOONVILLE



Departure of General Lyon and his command from Boonville, Missouri for the Arkansas border.
Harper's Weekly

After Federal forces had secured Jefferson City, General Nathaniel Lyon led 1,700 troops in pursuit of Missouri Governor Claiborne Fox Jackson. Lyon's troops clashed briefly with Jackson's Missouri State Guard forces near Boonville, Missouri. The 20-minute battle, which took place on June 17, 1861, sent Jackson and his forces on a retreat to Southern Missouri with Lyon in pursuit.



2. CARTHAGE

Federal forces led by Colonel Franz Sigel, a native of Germany, moved west from Rolla in an attempt to prevent Governor Jackson's Missouri State Guard, numbering between 4,000 and 6,000, from joining General Ben McCulloch's Confederate forces in Arkansas.

After engaging the State Guard in a series of skirmishes north of Carthage, Missouri, Sigel's well-armed force of 1,100 was forced to retreat to the safety of the nearby town. Sigel failed to keep Jackson's men from moving south to combine forces with McCulloch. In this battle Claiborne Fox Jackson, who would soon die of cancer, became the only sitting Governor in U. S. history to lead troops into battle.

3. WILSON'S CREEK



The Battle of Wilson's Creek, by N. C. Wyeth, Missouri State Capitol Mural.
Missouri State Archives

The Missouri State Guard, led by former Missouri Governor Sterling Price, combined with McCulloch's Confederate forces to form a sizable army of 14,000. After taking a few weeks to train their men, Price and McCulloch moved toward Springfield, Missouri, where Lyon's army of 7,000 waited.

Though Lyon surprised the Southerners by attacking early on the morning of August 10th, Price and McCulloch forced the federal troops to retreat toward Rolla, Missouri. The North was further devastated by the fact that Lyon, the Union's first Civil War hero, died in the battle.



The Battle of Carthage, July 5, 1861
Harper's Weekly