

# BATTLE OF LONE JACK WAS 58 YEARS AGO TODAY

Fifty-eight years ago today occurred the battle of Lone Jack in Jackson County. For fifty years the people of four counties met annually on this battle field to celebrate the anniversary of that Civil War event. The people refused to forget the occasion until the world war displaced in their minds the former strife.

The annual Lone Jack picnic originated in war and was ended by war. No Lone Jack picnic has been held since the Missouri boys departed for France in the world war.

The Battle of Lone Jack was a battle between Missourians. They fought each other on the issues which divided the North and the South. There were no local quarrels or old scores to settle. In nearly all other battles in Western Missouri the old antagonism with Kansas played a predominating part. But the Battle of Lone Jack was fought by intensely conscientious Missourians who were there with rifles in their hands for the sublime purpose of settling, as far as they could, the great issues of the Civil War.

The battle had no perceptible effect on the final result, but the heroism displayed was typical of the heroism displayed on the three thousand battle fields of that war.

But the world war brought the Missourians together in a common cause. Then why remember the unhappy days of 1861-65? Perhaps that explains the permanent adjournment of the Lone Jack picnic. Not that the annual celebration was ever characterized by the sentiments of the Civil War; such was never the case. But those who met annually at this celebration are nearly all in constant memory of the more recent events in France in which they will, for all time, have the personal interest born of loss and sacrifice.

In the half century the anniversary of the Lone Jack battle was celebrated every year found those who wore the gray and those who wore the blue hobnobbing in the most friendly intercourse and recounting war-time events. The speeches from the platform were of every shade of political belief. The celebrations were broad and liberal.

The Lone Jack battle was fought by federal troops commanded by Col. Emory Foster and by confederates commanded by Colonels Cockrell, Jackman, Tracy, Hays and others. There were in action about eight hundred men on each side. The battle lasted five hours, the contestants being separated by the width of a street. The number killed was about 10 per cent of those engaged. The battle ended with the withdrawal of Foster's forces.