General Thomas Ewing Jr’s Telegram Book for 2 January to 30 January 1864
Battle of Pilot Knob State Historic Site Collection
65-2015-001-0001
Part 2

Transcribed and annotated by Walt Busch, Battle of Pilot Knob State Historic Site

The original telegram book is available for review at Battle of Pilot Knob State Historic Site, Missouri State Parks, and they can be contacted at 573-546-3454 or battleofpilotknobstatehistoricsite@dnr.mo.gov

Citation:
Ewing, Brigadier General Thomas Jr., Telegram Book for 2 January to 30 January 1864; Department of Natural Resources, Division of State Parks Battle of Pilot Knob State Historic Site Collection, 65-2015-001-0001

Legend
_____ denotes missing text on all items.
???: denotes unknown scribble
Money amounts indicate charges for telegram
[?] Unsure I transcribed it correctly
Disallow is quartermaster notation to not allow US payment of telegram.
Kansas City Jany 14 1864

To Maj O D Greene
A A G St Louis MO

Two squadrons 5th Kansas do not belong to my command were relieved and ordered to Lebanon Mo by Par. 10 Special Orders No. 303 from Dept Headquarters of November 5th 1863
Thos Ewing Jr
Brig Genl

[5th Kansas Cavalry]
32     Kansas City Jan 13 1864
To Capt John Williams A.A.G Ft. Leavenworth
Advise me by telegraph of Genl Curtis’ arrival + say to him that I send to him statement of troops in Kansas by to morrows mail. If he visits Fort before assuming command of Department see that prescribed honors are paid him

Thos Ewing Jr
Brig Genl

1,00
Kansas City Jan 13 1864
To Capt J G Rees
Independence
Send up to-morrow requisitions for pistols for the militia which are or will be mustered at Independence

Thos Ewing Jr
Brig Genl
Washington Jan 13 1864

To Genl Ewing

Would you prefer to go in the field rather than remain in Kansas if yes where would you like to go.

J. M. Schofield
MG.

5.65
29  Kansas City Jan 13 1864
To Maj Genl J. M. Schofield
Washington D.C.
I have some views as to the disposition of the border which can best be presented orally to you. Can you procure me an order by telegraph to go to Washington. The settlement of the border troubles now in successful progress will be undone inevitably by proposed changes if carried into effect in present shape

Thos Ewing Jr.

13.45  Brig Genl
28  Kansas City Jan 11th 1864

To Maj. O.D. Greene
A A. Genl St Louis Mo.

May I order to Saint Louis such officers and men who have passed examination as may from time to time be duly notified of appointments in Negro Regiments organizing there.

Thos. Ewing Jr.

3.15  Brig. Genl
Kansas City Jan. 11th 1864

To Maj. O.D. Greene  A.A.G   St. Louis Mo.

Lieut. Hudson 10th Kansas Vols has accepted appointment as Maj 1st Mo Col. Troops and has been ordered by Col. Pile to report to him for duty. Is such order sufficient to relieve him from duty here if not will you telegraph order for him to report there.

Thos Ewing Jr
Brig Genl

5.05

[Lieutenant Joseph Kennedy Hudson, 10th Kansas Infantry, was appointed major of the 62nd USCT (which was originally designated 1st Mo Colored Troops). He served with them through several battles including their last one, which was also the last land battle of the Civil War, at Palmetto Ranch, TX. In 1898, President McKinley appointed him brigadier-general of volunteers during the Spanish-American War. Photo and info on Col. Pile with telegram 25]
26  Kansas City Jan 11 1864
To Maj O.D. Greene  A.A. G Dept. Mo
Saint Louis

Part of Colorado troops had got to Independence  All stopped  I am collecting Eleventh
Kansas in border counties of Missouri hoping thereby to get it with me if I go to the field.
Thos Ewing Jr
Brig Genl

3.55
25 Kansas City Jany 10th 1864

To Brig Genl Wm A. Pile
U.S. Co[?l]d Troops St Louis Mo

Wm P Deming L[?] H Rendick[?] and S H Marple will start for Saint Louis day after to morrow with orders to report to you

Thos Ewing Jr
Brig Genl

2.55
William Alexander Pile (Photo), a minister, moved up the ranks to become a brigadier general of volunteers and commander of the 1st Brigade, 1st Division, United States Colored Troops. After the war, he was a territorial governor for New Mexico.

William P. Deming (photo), Silas H. Marple later of 65th USCT. LH Rendick, possibly is Lucius H Burdick who was a Lieutenant later with the 65th.
No 24       Kansas City Jan 11 1864

To Maj Genl J.M. Schofield  
Washington DC

I have ordered most of the 11th Regiment into Missouri border so it may go with me If I am going to the field I hope you will retain the Regiments you mean to send there that I may take them. Please telegraph what is probably to be done with me

$12.30       7.05  Thos Ewing Jr Brig Genl

[11th Kansas Infantry/Cavalry]
To Capt John Willans
Ft Leav.
Send a company of fifteenth to Fort Riley Select a company with a Comdg Officer competent to command the post.

Thomas Ewing Jr
Brig Genl

.55 cts

[15th Kansas Cavalry]
Kansas City Jan 9\textsuperscript{th} 1864

To His Excellency, Thomas Carney, Leavenworth, Kans

The report sent by my adjutant on the 10\textsuperscript{th} Decbr of Kansas Militia recd by me under Genl Schofields order is incorrect. The number recd was in Johnson and Franklin Counties together one hundred and fifty (150). In Miami County none. In Linn Co. number not definitely known but probably about one hundred and fifty (150) They were all recd twentieth (20\textsuperscript{th}) Septbr and ordered out fifth (5\textsuperscript{th}) Novbr. Will send you a correct report as to Linn County Militia in a few days.

1.75 paid

Thos Ewing Jr. Brig Genl

[Thomas Carney was the 2\textsuperscript{nd} governor of Kansas, serving after Dr. Charles Robinson left office. During his tenure as war governor, he donated personal funds to the state to balance the treasury and pay for the militia. Photo from Kansas Memory http://www.kansasmemory.org/item/208529]
To Capt JG Rees
Independence

Have stabling for horses of Co F 2d Colorado ready this evening and quarters for men if possible

By order

$.50cts

J M Hadley
AAAG

Kansas City Jan 7 1864
No 20      Leavenworth Jan 6 1864

To Brig Genl Ewing

I have only Nine (9) regt wagons and five (5) post teams which supply the post with wood, water + forage they are inadequate to meet the wants of this post. Shall I send any part of them – have written

Geo W Carpenter

90¢ Col

[Lieutenant George Washington Carpenter, 14th Kansas Infantry & Quartermaster]
No 19

Kansas City Jan 6 1864

To Capt Henry C. Hodges
Fort Leavenworth

Send Capt Case a train of Twenty Five Wagons

Thos Ewing Jr
Brig Genl

35 pd

[Hodges, the depot quartermaster at Fort Leavenworth, shouldn’t be confused with the Henry C. Hodges who became a general.]

[Theodore Spencer Case, 2nd Lieutenant, 25th Missouri infantry, and later captain and assistant quartermaster. In February, 1865, he was made colonel and quartermaster-general of Missouri. Later in life, curator of the University of Missouri, postmaster of Kansas City and he edited the "Kansas City Review of Science and Industry" from 1877 till 1885.]
No. 18 Kansas City Jan 6 1864
To Capt Jas P. Roy
Chf Com Sub Fort Leavenworth
By instruction from Dept Hd Qrs you are directed to be on the lookout for Capt Barber C.I. Vols – if you hear of him, inform that his orders are rescinded + he is ordered to Fayetteville Ark direct him to report here for his orders

By order J. M. Hadley
115 paid

[Captain James P. Roy, West Point class of 1849, was not only commissary and subsistence for fighting against the rebels but also against native Americans. Roy was regular army. 2nd US Infantry.]
Captain Barber probably, Captain Oliver Barber, Chief Commissary on General Blunt’s staff. Later in life a Douglas Co. politician. Photo from: http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~ksdoughp/history/lawearlykansaspioneers1.jpg}
No. 17       Kansas City Jan 6 1864
To Col C R Jennison       Fort Leavenworth
The section of Hunts Battery lately ordered down is at Westwort[?], will not return soon
J.M Hadley
A.A.A.G.
45 paid

[Colonel Charles R. Jennison, 15th Kansas Cavalry, one of the most colorful figures of the Kansas-Missouri border war. Standalone chimneys in the Burnt District of the border are often referred to as ‘Jennison’s Monuments.’

Jennison was arrested by Federal authorities in December 1864 for plundering in Missouri and was convicted and dishonorably discharged. He was elected several times after the war to the Kansas Legislature. Image Courtesy Wilson’s Creek National Battlefield; WCIR 31691]
No. 16       Kansas City Jan 6 1864

To Capt E.G. Ross

Lawrence

If Capt Barber C, I Vols is or comes into that country order him here. His present orders are rescinded

By order J M Hadley

80 paid

A.A.A.G.

[Capt. Edmund G. Ross, 11th Kansas Infantry/Cavalry, became friends with his commander General Ewing during the war. Their relationship warranted at least one prominent Kansas, Daniel Anthony, to allege that his vote bought by Ewing when Ross cast the deciding vote in the US Senate that saved President Andrew Johnson from impeachment. Photo Library of Congress.]
No. 15

Kansas City Jany 5 1864

To Col C R Jennison

Fort Leavenworth

I need some teams here. Have Carpenter send all immediately all teams whether belonging to

Regmt or post which he can spare invoiced to Lt. Lloyd – answer

Thos Ewing Jr

Brig Genl

70¢

[Probably referring to Captain Robert Carpenter, Co. B, 15th Kansas Cavalry.]
To Capt H C Hodges
Depot QM Ft Leav
If possible send a train or part of a train to Capt Case. It is indispensable
Tho Ewing Jr
Brig Gen

50cts
If you are willing have your Quartermaster send here his wagons as well as those we loaned you. We are very short of transportation.  

Thos Ewing Jr  
Brig Gen  

$1.50
No 12 Kansas City Jan 5 1864

To Maj O.D. Green
A A G Dept of Mo

I have ordered the transportation taken by the tenth regiment sent back from Dresden as it is specially needed here.

Thos Ewing
Brig Genl

$2.25

[10th Kansas Infantry]
Kansas City Jan 5 1864

To Maj OD Greene  AAG St Louis MO

Co. F 2nd Colorado and thirty stragglers here + will start to morrow by way of Dresden, shall they take the cars there? Co. K second and F+G third Colorado under Maj Pritchard at Ft. Riley on 27th ult enroute for this place. The weather is such that men cannot march without getting frost-bitten. A brief delay in the movement of these companies until it moderates would I think be advisable.

7.45 paid

Tho Ewing
Brig Genl

[Major Jesse L. Pritchard, 2nd Colorado Cavalry, who served with his unit at the Battle of Westport in 1864.]
10       Kansas Jan 4 1864

To Lt G.W Carpenter  
Ft Leav.

I think you should surrender requisitions for forage for December of Companies of fifteenth which lately left Leavenworth and get requisitions for the amount actually issued have written
Thos Ewing Jr
.70cts  
Brig Gen

[15th Kansas Cavalry]
To Col C R Jennison  

Comdg  

Ft Leav.

Arrest officer of the day officer of the guard and sentinels through whose neglect that prisoners escaped on night of Dec 31st 1863  

Send them here with charges for trial  

Scout the country for rearrest of escaped prisoners.  

By order of Brig Gen Ewing

$1.10

JM Hadley

AAAG

Kansas Jany 4 1864
To Maj. OD Greene  
A A G  St Louis

Lieut Hudson has been appointed Maj of the first Mo Colored regiment. He is on duty here superintending recruitment of 18\textsuperscript{th} regiment. It will be an injury to the service to relieve him and he desires to remain. Please advise War department.

\$4.35  
Thos Ewing Jr  
Brig Gen

\[18\textsuperscript{th} USCT was organized at large throughout Missouri. The 1\textsuperscript{st} Missouri Colored Infantry became the 62\textsuperscript{nd} USCT\]
To Brig Gen. James Totten
Chief of Staff St Louis

Comdg Officer of Fort Scott under date of 30th ult[?] says scouting parties first returned from Carthage, Bowers Mill, Montevallo, Greenfield and Nevada and hear nothing of an enemy. I will keep a good force along southern border of my district for the rest of the winter.

Thomas Ewing Jr  
Brig Gen

[Brig. Gen. James Totten, regular US Army, served with General Lyon at Wilson’s Creek. Totten faced a court martial in 1870 for various charges. He was found guilty and dismissed. Image Courtesy Wilson’s Creek National Battlefield; WICR 31808]

[Carthage is in Jasper Co., MO; Bower’s Mill in Lawrence Co., MO, Montevallo and Nevada in Vernon Co., MO.]
Kansas Jan 4 1864

To Col Wm A Pile

St Louis

Lieut Hudson is superintending the recruitment of the 18th regiment and it will be an injury to the service to relieve him. He prefers to stay.

Thos Ewing Jr

$21.85

Brig Gen
To Capt. H.C. Hodges

Fort Leav

Capt. Case has no funds even to pay my telegraph bills. Can you not send him some answer.

Thos Ewing Jr

Brig Gen

.40ct

Kansas Jan 6 1864
Kansas Jan 2  1864
To Maj RH Hunt
Fort Leav
Section of battery here will probably remain some time is at Westport
J M Hadley
AAAG
.40 cts

[Major Robert H. Hunt, 15th Kansas Cavalry... Major Hunt was injured during the Battle of Westport by a piece of exploding shell hitting his head and was later breveted Lieutenant Colonel for his actions during this battle.]
Kansas Jan 2 1864
To Capt Jno Willans
Fort Leav.
Ascertain if Capt Vittum is in Leavenworth if so order him here Order Maj Haas Capt. Thompson + Lieut Fish of fifteenth Kansas here All for duty on Court martial By order of Brig. Gen Ewing JM Hadley

.90 cts

[Captain David S. Vittum, Co. F, 3rd Wisconsin Cavalry; Major Henry C. Haas; Captain Jno. L. Thompson, Co. A; Lieut. Reeder M. Fish, Co. H, all of 15th Kansas Cavalry]
2       Kansas Jan 2 1864

To H. Griswold  
Leavenworth

Logan case postponed until 4th  Witnesses present + cannot well postpone longer.

Thos Ewing Jr.  
Brig Gen

40 cts

[Judge Hiram Griswold 1807-1884, one of the attorneys for the defense in John Brown’s trial after Harper’s Ferry.]
Kansas Jan 2d 1864

To Maj. OD Green

AAG

St Louis

Tenth regiment left this morning Eight companies from here + two from Fort Scott Delayed two days by muster and intensely cold weather

Thos Ewing Jr

Brig Gen

$2.45

[10th Kansas Infantry]
No. 20

The United States

To Brig Gen Ewing Jr., Dr.

For cash paid for postage on Telegraph despatches on public service, received and sent by him from the 2d of Jany 1864, to the 30th of January 1864, inclusive ... As per copies attached

127.35

Despatches