

## **Choosing Kearney**

### **Location of camp and rifle range**

### **Preparations**

### **Rifle Contest**

### **Troop arrival**

### **Big social event**

## **June 16, 1905**

Word from Lincoln was that annual National Guard Encampment would be held at Kearney at the Old Ft. Kearny military grounds. All that the city would need to provide was some wells for water, barrels for ice, hay, and straw. Would begin Aug. 8 and last 9 days. [ending on Aug. 16]

## **June 22, 1905**

Encampment to be held at Kearney. City figures it would cost them \$400-\$500 which the city council thought they could easily find. Plans were being made to secure land south of the Industrial School. Wells would have to be put down. If arrangements could be made with the UP to use the cotton mill spur soldiers could disembark and embark at the camp.

## **July 5, 1905**

Adjutant General Culver came from Lincoln to look over the proposed encampment grounds.

## **July 6, 1905**

The visit was made. Several cities want the camp, all grounds must be inspected before a final decision is made.

## **July 11, 1905**

The state target shoot would be held in Kearney beginning July 31 through the beginning of the state encampment on Aug. 8.

Representatives of every company in the two regiments of the Nebraska National Guard would participate. A team would be chosen would go to New Jersey for the national competition

## **July 19, 1905**

It was finally official. The encampment would be held in Kearney on land south of the Industrial School. Some of their farm would be used for maneuvers. About 1600 would be attending.

It was thought that the camp would draw many visitors to see the maneuvers and drills.

### **July 24, 1905**

Camp to be on some of the Watson Ranch and on Industrial School pasture. Watson Ranch extends west from the Normal School grounds. Camp headquarters to be near the industrial school, 3 ½ miles from the depot. Camp to be one mile. Communication by a telephone system was to be constructed and operated by the signal corps.

“Kearney people have offered free bathing facilities to the troops.”

32 men from the various companies have proficiency good enough in target practice to participate in the state contest July 1-Aug. 7. There will be 15 on the team that goes to New Jersey in late August.

Officers from the state level met with grocers, bakers and meat men to make arrangements.

### **July 26, 1905**

Arrangements for provender – biggest issue was bread, need 10,000 loaves. Contract with a local baker who will probably have to get extra from Omaha

### **July 28, 1905**

Rifle range located on island in Platte southwest of the paper mill [30<sup>th</sup> Ave]. Shooting station on the north side of the island, shooting southwest, up stream. Since long range rifles were to be used people were to use caution. People wishing to watch should go west along the railroad to the paper mill and then go south to the island. Participants would camp on the island.

### **Thursday, Aug. 3, 1905**

Omaha detachment would leave for Kearney next Tuesday. The commander had arranged a schedule of departures so all the troops would not arrive in Kearney at the same time.

### **August 7, 1905**

Winners of the rifle contest, with the two highest scores, were privates from Stanton. None of the 15 going to New Jersey was from Kearney

### **August 15, 1905**

Reception last evening at industrial school in admin. building by the citizens of Kearney for Gov. Mickey and Nat. Guard officers. A formal affair with gov. and officers in receiving line. Building decorated with flowers raised on the grounds. Grounds all trimmed and lots of flower beds.

### **August 17, 1905**

Mrs. General Culver lost a gold nugget stick pin. Anyone finding it could turn it in to the Industrial School. SD Butcher took about 40 pictures at the encampment and planned to publish them in a portfolio

### **August 18, 1905**

National Guard camp held at Kearney regarded to be one of the best if not the best since the Guard was organized.

Many of the recruits had enlisted just a few days before the encampment began so when units marched into camp they were a bit ragged. Within a few days they took on a soldierly appearance. What few misbehaviors there were were immediately called to the attention of the appropriate officers and dealt with.

### **August 21, 1905**

A man who attended the National Guard camp returned home to Omaha to find his wife had left the 5-month-old baby with the hired girl and had moved out. While he was at camp she was breaking camp.

Detectives found her in a room at 16<sup>th</sup> & Cass. The man was placed in city jail charged with being a suspicious character. The wife was allowed to return home.

### **June 22, 1909**

Reunion at old Fort Kearney began the next day

16 men from Company A in Kearney and 16 from Holdrege were to be in the camp as guards.

### **August 20, 1927**

Five Mattson brothers at National Guard Camp at Ashland. One lieutenant, one sergeant, two corporals & one private.

The sergeant, Ivan, while lower rank at camp, is a member of the Kearney City Council

The private would get his chance at command later since there were two more brothers coming up.