

STEPHEN WATTS KEARNY

KEARNY



NEWS

Stephen Watts Kearny was an American Soldier who is remembered for his significant contributions in the Mexican-American War, especially the conquest of California. Kearny was made a Brigadier-General and given the task of leading the newly organized Army of the West to New Mexico and California in 1846.

Before he was appointed to General he had to start from the beginning just like everyone else. He easily went from position to position. He took a commission as First Lieutenant in the 13th Infantry. He was promoted to captain in April in 1813 and remained in the Army after the war, serving mostly in the West.

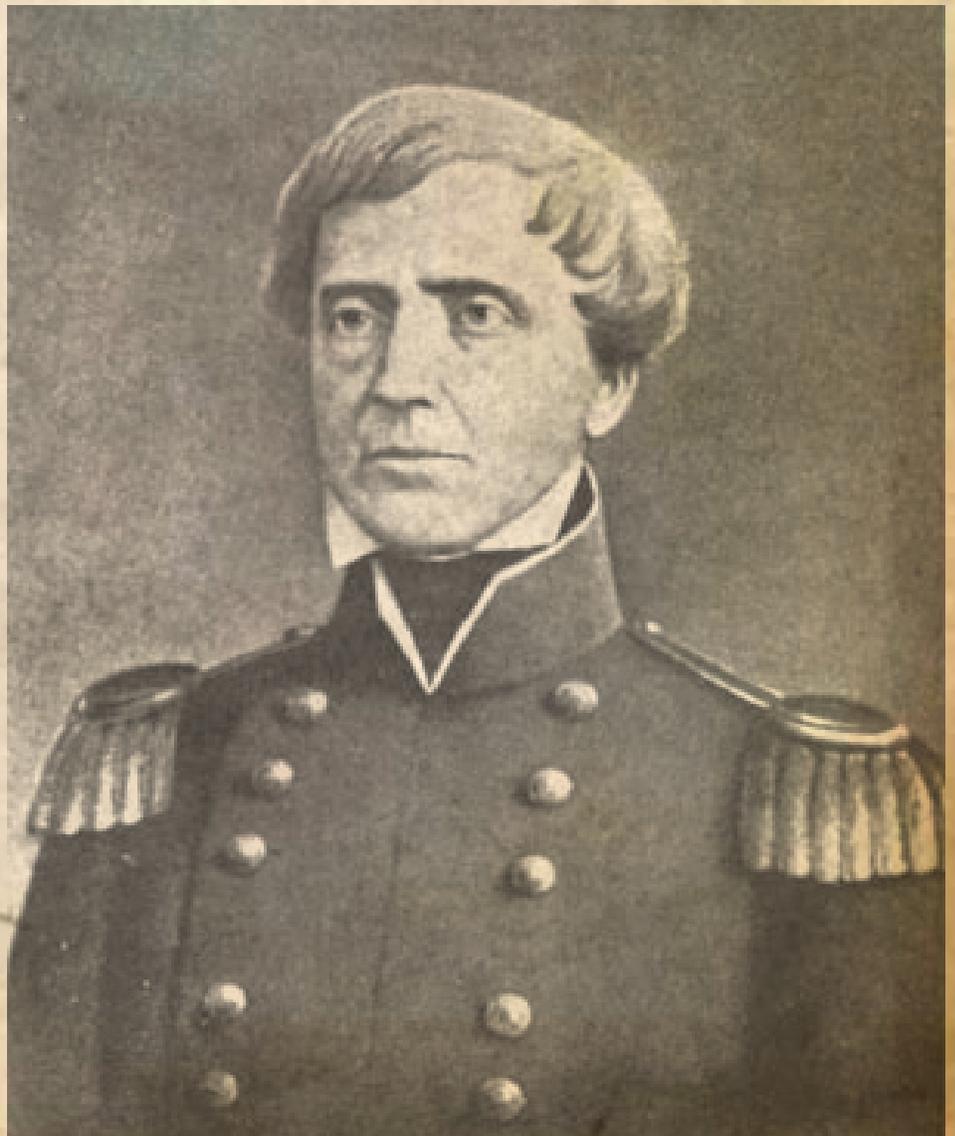
He took part in expeditions such as the Colonel Henry Atkinson's Yellowstone expedition and Oregon Trail from Fort Leavenworth to Wyoming expedition. He led the Americans to victory during the Mexican-American war and led to the battle of San Pascual, which he won, with the help from Stockton. Kearny played an important part in the Mexican-American War thus making a very important figure. He was born August 30, 1794 in Newark, New Jersey.

He was the Son of Philip

Watts Kearny and Susanna Watts and was the youngest of three. He left college in 1812 to serve in the New York Militia soon after outbreak of the War of 1812. He took a commission as First Lieutenant in the 13th Infantry the next year.

He was promoted to captain in April in 1813 and

remained in the Army after the war, serving mostly in the West. During the same year he was wounded and captured as a prisoner during the Battle of Queenston Heights and was later released in a prisoner exchange. He served through the end of the war, and was transferred to the 2nd Infantry in 1815.



KEARNY'S

JOURNEY

In 1819, he took part in Colonel Henry Atkinson's Yellowstone expedition, which built the first United States military post west of the Mississippi River, Camp Missouri (which later on was renamed Fort Atkinson), near what is now Omaha, Nebraska. In the next year he accompanied Captain Matthew J. Magee on an overland expedition to authorize Fort Snelling, near what is now called St. Paul, Minnesota.



After his career was entrenched around the late 1820s he met, courted and married Mary Radford, the stepdaughter of William Clark. Together they had 11 children, but unfortunately six of them died before reaching adulthood.

By 1825, he became a Major in the 1st Infantry. In that same year he accompanied Atkinson up the Missouri River using a keelboat to get across. During his trip he visited several Ponca and Mandan villages soon after he traveled another 120 miles up the Yellowstone River. Kearny was appointed as the



first commander of the new Jefferson Barracks in Missouri in 1826. Kearny was appointed as the first commander of the new Jefferson Barracks in Missouri in 1826. Kearny was made Lieutenant Colonel of the 1st Dragoons in Iowa in 1833.



The Dragoons were a proud fleet of cavalry that fought in many battles. During this time Kearny earned himself the nickname "father of the United States Cavalry" when the U.S. Cavalry eventually grew out of this regiment. The regiment was afterwards appointed at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas. Kearny had been promoted to full Colonel and appointed commander of the Third Military Department, which was entrusted with keeping peace with Native Americans and guiding travelers and expeditions by 1842.



He later led an expedition of five companies of dragoons over the Oregon Trail from Fort Leavenworth to Wyoming, where he had a council meeting with the Sioux near Fort Laramie to persuade them not to attack the emigrant wagon trains in 1845



MEXICAN AMERICAN

WAR

Kearny was made a Brigadier General and given the task of leading the newly organized Army of the West to New Mexico and California in 1846. The Army of the West involved two batteries of artillery, three squadrons of dragoon, one regiment of cavalry, and two companies of infantry, which all together are about 1750 men.

The Army marched in late June over the Santa Fe Trail to the Arkansas River near Bent's Fort, from where he sent Captain Philip St. George Cooke ahead to New Mexico with a flag of truce, hoping to consult a peaceful surrender of New Mexico. He was hoping to take New Mexico without shedding blood.

Governor Manuel Armijo refused to surrender Armijo

declined to surrender, stating that he would oppose the invasion; he later sent an emissary to Kearny delivering the same message. Armijo later called an untrained crowd of New Mexicans to Santa Fe to volunteer for the defense of the territory.

Meanwhile Captain George Cooke continued to try and convince the Governor to hand over his land willingly to prevent any violence to take place. Governor Armijo had his volunteers ready for a war and sent them to Apache Canyon east of Santa Fe to defend against Kearny's men on August 14. Two days later on the 16th when Armijo and his volunteers finally arrived, he decided not to defy Kearny's orders and sent the volunteers back home. As Lieutenant Emory described Armijo's response: "He has seen what they [his people] are blind to; the hopelessness of resistance."



Kearny obtained what he desired, he and his troops took ownership of Santa Fe without starting a war on August 18. On September 22, 1846 Kearny was appointed as the military governor of California. Kearny also published the first set of laws

for New Mexico under United States sovereignty. These laws were known as "The Kearny Code".

It became the substructure for law in New Mexico and was in use until 1885. Three days later on September 25 after establishing the new set of for New Mexico Kearny and 300 of his troops set out for California.

On his way to California he encountered a scout named Kit Carson who was carrying messages back to Washington on the condition of warfare in California. Carson had told Kearny that California was presumably under American control, so Kearny sent 200 dragoons back to Santa Fe. Kearny has asked Carson to guide him to California. On his way there he encountered Major Archibald H. Gillespie, who told him about an on-going California riot in Los Angeles.



2 months later in early December Kearny reached his destination. Once he arrived at California he encountered Andrés Pico and a force of about 150 Californio Lancers which soon led to the the battle of San Pascual. Kearny and his troops belittled Pico and his men. They were vanquished and had to retreat to nearby ridge to wait re-

enforcements from Stockton. Their combined forces they went on to not only taking Los Angeles but San Diego as well thus ending the Mexican American in California.



LONG LASTING LEGACY

He is remembered for his significant contributions in the Mexican-American War, especially the conquest of California. Kearny is the namesake of Kearny, Arizona and Kearney, Nebraska. Many schools are named after Kearny, including Kearny Elementary in Santa Fe, New Mexico and Kearny High School in the San Diego neighborhood of Kearny Mesa. Kearny Street, in downtown San Francisco, is also named for him, as is a street in Fort Leavenworth.

Camp Kearny in San Diego,

a U.S. military base which operated from 1917 to 1946 on the site of today's Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, was named in his honor. Fort Kearny in Nebraska is also named for him. Kearny Mesa, an area of San Diego, was later named after him.



His nephew was Major General Philip Kearny of American Civil War fame. Kearny Mesa, an area of San Diego, was later named after him. Two U.S. postage stamps relate to Kearny. Scott catalog number 970, printed in 1948, commemorates Fort Kearny, and number 944, issued in 1946, the capture of Santa Fe. This is Kearny's legacy. He is also immortalized in many statues and memorials along with multiple novels that have been written in the years since his untimely death.

