



# THE BUGLE CALL

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE WILSON'S CREEK NATIONAL BATTLEFIELD FOUNDATION

SPRING, 2009

## THE DISASTROUS DISPUTE OF TWO MISSOURIANS

Some of the men who fought on the same side during the Civil War also engaged in disputes among themselves over military prominence and recognition. Two such men were William D. Bowen and Florence M. Cornyn, who heeded Congressman Frank P. Blair's call on April 22, 1861, to form the 1st Missouri Infantry with a 3-month enlistment period. Both men were St. Louisans, Bowen a businessman and Cornyn a physician and personal friend of the Blairs.

Bowen was a 2nd Lieutenant, while Cornyn served as Staff Surgeon. The 1st MO was attached to the 3rd Brigade of General Nathaniel Lyon's Army of the West. Their first action was the removal of arms from St. Louis to Springfield, Ill. Later engagements during the spring and summer of 1861 included the capture of Camp Jackson in St. Louis and the state capital at Jefferson City, as well as expeditions to Potosi, Booneville, Dug Springs, and McCullah's Store in Missouri.



William D. Bowen

At the Battle of Wilson's Creek on August 10, 1861, Cornyn pronounced General Lyon dead on the battleground. The 1st MO then marched to Rolla and on to St. Louis August 11-21. The designation of the regiment was changed to 1st Missouri Light Artillery on September 1, 1861.

Cornyn stayed with the 1st Light Artillery as Surgeon and saw later action at the Battle of Shiloh in Tennessee, while Bowen stayed at Rolla to form the 1st Battalion Missouri Cavalry after the retreat from Springfield. He was promoted to the rank of Major, eventually becoming Lt. Colonel of the 9th Missouri Cavalry and later the 10th. As commander of the 1st Battalion MO Cavalry, Bowen saw action at the Battle of Salem in December 1861, also



Florence Cornyn

## CONFEDERATE 1ST NATIONAL FLAG DONATED TO BATTLEFIELD

A rare silk Confederate 1st National flag was donated to Wilson's Creek National Battlefield on March 13 by Bill Stafford and his son, Dick Stafford of Norfolk, Nebraska. The flag was captured by their relative, William Brooks, a Union soldier who served with the 1st Iowa, 19th Iowa and was a Colonel with the 56th U.S. Colored Infantry when he died in Arkansas in 1864. Bill Stafford told the story of how his grandmother would occasionally let him look at the flag she stored in a trunk when he visited

—See *Flag* on page 4—



Bill and Dick Stafford look on as Karen Sweeney examines the Confederate 1st National flag they generously donated to Wilson's Creek National Battlefield.

escorting Gen. Samuel L. Curtis during his actions in 1862 at Pea Ridge and Helena, Arkansas. Bowen was then ordered back to St. Louis by Gen. Henry H. Halleck to form the 9th Missouri Cavalry. While Bowen was organizing the 9th MO, Cornyn had also been ordered back to St. Louis to form the 28th Missouri Infantry, receiving the rank of Lt. Colonel. It was rumored that Cornyn, even though a non-combatant surgeon, had picked up a weapon and fired on the enemy at Wilson's Creek and had also fired an artillery cannon during the Battle of Shiloh. It seemed he had traded in his scalpel for a sword.

The unfortunate event that followed was as much a political blunder as a military error, with disastrous consequences. During the fall of 1862, the 9th MO Cavalry

—See *Dispute* on page 3—

# WORDS FROM THE PRESIDENT

by Ken McClure



The 200th anniversary of Abraham Lincoln's birth celebrated on February 12, 2009, has focused public attention not only on our nation's sixteenth President, but also on the challenges he faced during one of our darkest hours. As the sesquicentennial of the American Civil War approaches, we are reminded of the importance of commemorating the defining events of our country's history. We have already started planning the Foundation's participation in activities for the 150th anniversary of the Battle of Wilson's Creek in August of 2011 and the Civil War years of 1861 to 1865. I hope you will take time to reflect on the significance of these past events and get involved in the present-day observances.

Although the situation now is not as devastating as in the 1860s, we are facing difficult times in our country today, with wars overseas and economic problems here

and around the world. Many people in southwest Missouri are struggling with unemployment and financial instability. While there are other pressing needs that must be met, we hope that our loyal members and donors will continue to support the Foundation and the battlefield at whatever level is affordable for them, so that we can continue the important work of education and preservation.

I also want to remind everyone what a bargain Wilson's Creek National Battlefield is for vacations or recreation during the spring and summer months. For only ten dollars, a carload of people can spend the whole day learning about the Civil War and the Battle of Wilson's Creek, researching ancestors in the library, hiking or horseback riding along the trails, or just enjoying nature in the outdoors. There are free Arts in the Park concerts, the new film about the battle, and other activities for people of all ages. This park belongs to all of us—come out and see what it has to offer.

  
Ken McClure, President

## FOUNDATION RECEIVES PRESERVATION MARCH FUNDS

The Wilson's Creek Foundation recently received a check for \$1,800.20 from funds raised at a preservation march held November 1-2, 2008, in Loudoun County, Virginia. The check represented 20% of the money raised by over 300 Civil War reenactors who participated in the march. The donation is earmarked for land acquisition efforts at Wilson's Creek National Battlefield.

The Foundation wishes to express our gratitude for this support provided by the reenactor community. The donation will

help to promote our mission and bring attention to Wilson's Creek. The battle to preserve Wilson's Creek and other Civil War battlefields can only be won through caring Americans like Civil War reenactors. 



Rob Hodge presents check for preservation funds to Executive Director, April McDonough.

We are always looking for interesting stories about the Civil War in the Ozarks or personalities who lived at the time. If you would like to contribute an article, please send it to:

Wilson's Creek National Battlefield Foundation  
Attn: Bugle Call Editor  
P.O. Box 8163  
Springfield, MO 65801  
FAX to: 417-864-7428  
E-mail: [info@wilsonscreek.com](mailto:info@wilsonscreek.com)

With your help we can keep *The Bugle Call* sounding loud and clear throughout the year.

### The Mission of the Wilson's Creek National Battlefield Foundation

To work in cooperation with and to support the Wilson's Creek National Battlefield, a unit of the National Park Service and its staff. To further, by all proper and legitimate agencies and means, the acquisition of Civil War historical properties and materials especially those related to the Battle of Wilson's Creek, or usable in the interpretation of the Wilson's Creek battle. To be a friend of the park whose primary purpose is to support Wilson's Creek National Battlefield in a partnership through activities which may include fund raising, volunteerism, education, advocacy, and research.

—Dispute continued from page 1—

under Lt. Colonel Bowen was ordered to consolidate with the 28th MO Infantry to bring it to regimental strength. Subsequently, Cornyn, although not a seasoned military leader, was promoted to Colonel and ordered to reorganize the 28th MO Infantry into the 10th Missouri Cavalry, becoming the regimental commander. As an experienced military officer, Bowen resented being outranked by a surgeon, believing that Cornyn had been promoted only because of his political connections. Adding to the hard feelings in the regiment was the fact that there was only one slot for a Lt. Colonel, so Cornyn's Lt. Colonel Thomas Hynes was demoted to Major, serving under Bowen's Major Frederick Benteen, who had enlisted earlier. Hynes never got over being demoted and even refused to turn over the regimental records when Benteen took charge of the 10th in 1863. As an experienced and noted cavalry commander, Bowen's resentment continued to smolder over being outranked by a surgeon.

During November 1862 while the 10th MO was being formed, Bowen, Cornyn, and Hynes filed charges and counter-charges against each other with the military authorities. The 10th MO was then moved to the Memphis/Corinth theatre under Bowen, and Cornyn was appointed brigade commander under Gen. Grenville Dodge. When all the charges and counter-charges were adjudicated, Hynes was court martialled and kicked out of the military. Cornyn and Bowen were both facing court-martials at Corinth, Mississippi, on August 10th, 1863, exactly two years after both had fought at Wilson's Creek. Accidentally meeting Bowen face to face in the parlor of the building where the court martials were being heard, Cornyn made the mistake trying to provoke a fight by slapping Bowen in the face. Instead, Bowen pulled out his pistol and shot Cornyn dead. Cornyn's body was sent back to St. Louis, where his burial expenses were paid by the Blairs, while Bowen was drummed out of the military and almost into oblivion. As Saint Louis Police Commissioner years after the war ended, Bowen was instrumental in bringing Missouri bushwacker Samuel S. Hildebrand to justice.

After Cornyn's death, Lt. Colonel Frederick Benteen became the commander of the 10th Missouri Cavalry, which went on to fight at Brice's Crossroads and Tupelo, Mississippi; later clashed with Confederate Maj. Gen. Sterling Price's forces during his invasion of Missouri, most notably at Mine Creek, Kansas; crossed the Mississippi River again to take part in Wilson's Raid through Georgia; and finished the war at Macon, Georgia, when hostilities ended. 🗡️

*Photos of William Bowen and Florence Cornyn, from Len Eagleburger's private collection.*

*Except from The Fighting 10th: The History of the 10th Missouri Cavalry US. Len Eagleburger. Author House, 2004. (edited by April McDonough)*

---

---

# BATTLE OF SPRINGFIELD MARKER #1 RELOCATED

---

---

A ceremony to commemorate the Battle of Springfield was held on the Springfield square on Thursday, January 8, 2009, the 146th anniversary of the battle. Marker #1 for the self-guided Battle of Springfield Tour was recently relocated to the city square, where Union Brigadier General Egbert B. Brown organized defenses to protect the square from approaching southern troops.

Speakers at the ceremony to commemorate the battle and highlight the new location of Marker #1 included Kenneth McClure, President of the Wilson's Creek National Battlefield Foundation, and Frederick Goman, author of *Up From Arkansas*, which tells the story of the battle.

The Battle of Springfield Historic Marker Tour, dedicated on May 19, 2001, was a cooperative effort of the Wilson's Creek National Battlefield Foundation and the City of Springfield. Design and construction of the twelve markers that describe the events during the Battle of Springfield on January 8, 1863, were funded by the Foundation. Illustrations of battle events are from paintings by Col. Darrell L. Combs, USMC Retired, and layout and design of the markers was provided by Foundation board member Steve Ross of S-R Graphics. City officials agreed to install the markers at suitable locations in the downtown area and maintain them in perpetuity. Marker #1 was originally placed at the corner of Jefferson and Water Streets, near the present location of Founder's Park. This marker has now been moved to a more appropriate site on the southwest corner of the square.

Battle Summary: Brig. Gen. John S. Marmaduke's expedition into Missouri reached Ozark, where it destroyed the Union post, and then approached Springfield on the morning of January 8, 1863. Springfield was an important Federal communications center and supply depot that the Rebels wished to destroy. The Union army had constructed fortifications to defend the town. Their ranks, however, were depleted because Francis J. Herron's two divisions had not yet returned from their victory at Prairie Grove on December 7. After receiving a report on January 7 of the Rebels' approach, Brig. Gen. Egbert B. Brown set about preparing for the attack and rounding up additional troops. Around 10:00 am, the Confederates advanced in battle line to attack. The day included desperate fighting with attacks and counterattacks until after dark, but the Federal troops held and the Rebels withdrew during the night. Brown had been wounded during the day. The Confederates appeared in force the next morning but retired without attacking. The Federal depot was successfully defended, and Union strength in the area continued. Estimated battle casualties totaled 403.

A Guide to the Battle of Springfield Historic Marker Tour Route can be obtained by contacting the Foundation office at 417-864-3041. 🗡️

# Arts in the Park 2009!

During May and June, Wilson's Creek Battlefield is presenting its annual Arts in the Park events including several free Saturday concerts on the lawn in front of the Visitor Center.

May 2, 7:00 P.M. – **Gum Springs Serenaders**

returns to perform music from the mid 19th century complete with fretless banjos, fiddles, rib bones and parlor guitar.

May 9, 7:00 P.M. – **High Strung**, from the Springfield-Branson area is a group that has.

May 16, 7:00 P.M. – **The Missouri State University**

**Community Band** is a 45-member, all volunteer community band conducted by Ron Brimmer.

May 23, 7:00 P.M. – **Crazy Mule** consists of five talented musicians who formed a bluegrass band steeped in Ozark Mountain tradition, humor, and culture.

May 30, 7:00 P.M. – **Suzanne & Jim** will provide old time entertainment that will charm the hearts of the young and the “young at heart.”

June 13, 11:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M. – **“The Ray House Jamboree”** An old time music festival on the lawn in front of the historic Ray House (Tour Stop Number 2), featuring several local groups performing traditional Ozark music.

June 20, 7:00 P.M. – **The 135th Army Reserve Band** is a 30-member, all reservists, military band from Springfield, MO.

\*All concerts are FREE, open to the public, and held on the lawn in front of the Visitor Center, except the Ray House Jamboree (June 13 at the Ray House—regular admission fees of \$5.00 per person or \$10.00 per vehicle apply). Please bring blankets or lawn chairs for all programs.



Private James Dunlavy of the third Iowa Cavalry received the Medal of Honor for capturing only one prisoner at the Battle of Mine Creek on October 25, 1864 near present day Pleasanton, Kansas. The lone prisoner was Confederate General John S. Marmaduke, whose poor eyesight caused him to believe that Dunlavy was a Confederate soldier.

## FOUNDATION HONORS MALCOLM “MAC” BERG

The Board of Directors of the Wilson's Creek Foundation recently honored the late Malcolm “Mac” Berg with a Resolution of Appreciation at its February board meeting. Mac, who passed away in December after a long illness, was Superintendent at Wilson's Creek National Battlefield for 11 years, from 1989 until his retirement in 2000.



Malcolm “Mac” Berg

Mac spent a fifty-year career with the National Park Service, providing outstanding leadership and accomplishments that reflected his strong commitment to preserving our nation's cultural and natural resources. Through his leadership of the battlefield, Mac was able to expand services, improve the visitor experience, and foster a cooperative partnership with the Wilson's Creek Foundation. He was always valued as a friend of the Foundation who worked to build our organization into one of the best friends groups in the National Park Service. The Foundation Board wishes to extend condolences to Emily Berg in the loss of her husband.

Memorials in honor of Mac Berg may be made to the Yellowstone Foundation - Ranger Fund Initiative, 222 E. Main St. Ste. 301, Bozeman, MT 59715 or Wilson's Creek National Battlefield Foundation, PO Box 8163, Springfield, MO 65801. ☞

—Flag continued from page 1—

her home as a child. The flag changed hands, but was eventually returned to him. His wish was for the flag to be put on display at a place where the 1st Iowa fought so that it could be preserved for the public to see.

It is unlikely that the flag ever flew at Wilson's Creek. It was probably made later in the war. William Brooks may have fought at Wilson's Creek with the 1st Iowa, but his presence at the battle has not been confirmed.

The flag is in excellent condition for its age. Silk flags are especially subject to fading and deterioration, but the red, white and blue colors of the donated flag are incredibly vivid and the material is in generally good condition.

Plans are now under way to find the funds needed to have the flag professionally conserved and mounted for display in the visitor center. The conservation process could take several months to a year to complete. If you would like to make a donation to help prepare the flag for display, please contact the foundation office at (417) 864-3041.



# Superintendent's Corner

By Ted Hillmer

Dear Foundation Members,

With spring here and summer just around the corner, the battlefield is preparing for our annual spring events. Although current economic conditions could mean a decrease in visitor numbers this summer, the nice spring weather and the annual home school basketball tournament in the greater Springfield area have helped to increase recent visitation and book store sales. We are planning to continue the many programs that educate our visitors about the importance of Civil War history, including the promotion of our new Junior Ranger program and working with the McDonalds located at FF and Republic Road to publicize our summer events on their paper tray liners. We are also scheduling living history demonstrations at Tour Road Stop 5, six free Arts in the Park musical performances on the lawn in front of the Visitor Center, and the Ray House Jamboree.

Several groups have contacted the battlefield to complete service projects on Park Day, April 4<sup>th</sup>. By the time you read this message, over 200 volunteers will have worked on trash cleanup, trail rehabilitation, painting bridge rails, and installing split rail fence at Wilson's Creek. This event is sponsored by the Civil War Preservation Trust located in Washington, D.C.

A special thank you to the Wilson's Creek Foundation Board and members for your continued support of battlefield preservation, funding for the Battle of Wilson's Creek film, planning the Civil War Museum addition and exhibit design, and assistance with a recent flag donation.

T. John Hillmer, Jr.  
Superintendent

---

---

## NEW MEMBERS & CONTRIBUTORS

---

---

The following people and organizations have recently contributed to the Wilson's Creek National Battlefield Foundation. Our sincere thanks to everyone for your generous support!

Claude Alber  
Altria Client Services  
Jack and Laurel Babcock  
James Bouquet  
Andrew Blunt  
David Brigman  
Kim Brueggemann  
Erin Bush  
Cane Hill Family & Community Fund  
Scott Cauger  
Don Chaney  
John Christensen  
Lincoln Connell  
Bill and Virginia Darr  
Timothy Daught  
Daughters of Union Veterans Tent #22  
Ron Dirickson  
Randall Doennig  
Thomas Doneker  
Craig Dunn  
Dustin and Catie Eby  
Ron and Dona Elkins  
Denna Emerson  
Empire Bank  
Hadley and Jacqueline Ford  
Richard Freihofer  
Hal and Kathy Funk

John and Caroline Gerdes  
Gary Glad  
Douglas and Jacqueline Glover  
Deborah Good  
Donley and Patricia Granstra  
William Hahn  
Dan Hayden  
Brian Hickman  
Hiland Dairy  
Ted and Rachel Hillmer  
Karen Horny  
Greta Huff  
Jane Ann Johnson  
Roy and Charlene Johnson  
JP Morgan Chase  
Mildred Lampe  
Regina Leitle  
R. A. Linstrom  
Richard and Faye Loeb  
Richard Luke  
Steven Meyer  
Mt. Olive Middle School  
Deloris Newton  
Robert Nichols  
Timothy Noonan  
Larry Ollis  
Larry and Nancy O'Reilly

Craig Owen  
Padgett Family Foundation  
Marsha Patochek  
Michael Pierce  
John Plank  
J. Edward Power  
Martha Railey  
Ralph Foster Museum  
David Rauch  
Don and Sally Richardson  
Bill and Judy Robinett  
Steve Ross  
Jim and Dori Scaminaci  
Cynthia Schowengerdt  
Ron and Lezah Stenger  
Clay W. Stuckey  
Thomas Telle  
Florence Thompson  
John Thompson  
Towe Construction Co.  
Georgianna Turri  
Kathy Vickers  
E. Jack Webster  
Morris Westfall  
David White  
Helen White  
Roger and Jackie Willman

# Upcoming Events: at Wilson's Creek National Battlefield

## April

25 National Junior Ranger Day - programs and activities for young visitors - guided battlefield tour 1:00-3:30 p.m.

## May

2 Arts in the Park Concert - *Gum Springs Serenaders*, 7:00 pm at the Visitor Center  
9 Arts in the Park Concert - *High Strung*, 7:00 pm at the Visitor Center  
16 Arts in the Park Concert - *Missouri State University Community Band*, 7:00 pm at the Visitor Center  
23 Arts in the Park Concert - *Crazy Mule*, 7:00 pm at the Visitor Center  
23 Change to Summer Hours: 8:00 am - 5:00 pm Visitor Center, 8:00 am - 9:00 pm Tour Road  
30 Arts in the Park Concert - *Suzanne and Jim*, 7:00 pm at the Visitor Center

## June

12-8/11 Artillery Exhibit, Artillery items highlight the role of field artillery in the Civil War daily in the Visitor Center  
13 "Ray House Jamboree" old time music program, 11:00 am - 4:00 pm at the Ray House (stop 2 on the tour road)  
20 Arts in the Park Concert - *The 135th Military Army Band*, 7:00 pm at the Visitor Center  
20 Artillery Firing Demonstrations, 11:00 am - 4:00 pm at stop number 5 on the Tour Road.  
27-28 Union Soldier Living History Weekend—Artillery Firing Demonstrations, 1:00 - 4:00 pm at stop 5 on the Tour Road

## July

5 Artillery Firing Demonstrations, 1:00 - 4:00 pm at stop number 5 on the Tour Road.  
18 Artillery Firing Demonstrations, 1:00 - 4:00 pm at stop number 5 on the Tour Road.  
25 Moonlight Tour tickets go on sale at the Visitor Center for the September 12 event: \$5.00 each.

## August

10 146th Battle Anniversary Observance, 10-11 a.m. - No Entrance Fee

Note: All Small Arms and Artillery Firing Demonstrations are located at Tour Road Stop Number 5 (Sigel's Final Position).  
All programs are weather dependent and subject to availability of volunteer assistance. For more information, call (417) 732-2662 or visit the National Park Service Web Site at [www.nps.gov/wicr](http://www.nps.gov/wicr)



Wilson's Creek  
National Battlefield  
Foundation

**P.O. Box 8163  
Springfield, MO 65801**

**Visit our website!  
[www.wilsonscreek.com](http://www.wilsonscreek.com)**

**Address Correction Requested**