



THE BULLETIN

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE WILSON'S CREEK NATIONAL BATTLEFIELD FOUNDATION

SPRING, 2011

LITTLE WARS: WAR GAMING WILSON'S CREEK

By: James R. Cox

War gaming with toy soldiers has a long history. H. G. Wells, the famous author, played miniature war games on the floor of his study. In 1913 he wrote the first war game rule book, *Little Wars*: a game for boys from twelve years of age to one hundred and fifty and for that more intelligent sort of girl who likes boys' games and books. The U.S. Army War College trains its officers using war games. Thus, some friends and I joined good company when we decided to refight the Battle of Wilson's Creek in miniature. The 1,750 acre battlefield was reduced to a 5' x 12' table top. Each 50 men who fought at the battle were represented by a single one inch tall plastic soldier. Rules and dice controlled the microcosmic mayhem.

The battle set up was historically accurate. The southerners were scattered for over a mile in their camps along Wilson's Creek. The federals attacked simultaneously from the north and south at dawn taking them by surprise. The Union command was divided. So was the Confederate command. General Price commanded the Missourians. General Pearce commanded the Arkansans, and General McCulloch, although in nominal command

—See *War Games* on page 3—



Jim Cox demonstrates the stick used to move "troops" across his reconstruction of the Wilson's Creek battlefield.

TOM & KAREN SWEENEY RECEIVE SCVB PINNACLE AWARD

When the Springfield Convention & Visitors Bureau presented its 2011 Salute to Travel & Tourism awards on February 17 at the University Plaza Hotel & Convention Center, two longtime friend and members of the Foundation were the stars of the show. The Pinnacle Award for Travel and Tourism was awarded to Dr. Thomas and Karen Sweeney, founders of General Sweeney's Museum of Civil War History. The Pinnacle Award is presented individuals who have been active in the travel industry for many years and have made substantial contributions to the betterment of the Springfield area's travel industry.



The museum's collection of Trans-Mississippi Civil War artifacts is considered to be one of the best and most complete in the country. A retired radiologist, Tom became interested in collecting Civil War artifacts at the age of 12 when he collected his first artifact, a Colt pocket pistol. He paid 25 cents for it. Through the years, the Sweeneys traveled around the country attending collectors' shows and honing skills in buying and selling. One purchase, John Brown's Bible, which contained the written names of the abolitionist's wives and children, was sold to Harpers Ferry National Historical Park in West Virginia. Tom Sweeney said the sale price helped build the museum, which opened in 1993.

The Sweeneys knew early on that they did not want a museum full of relics. They wanted the artifacts to tell stories. The stories will continue to be told at the museum, which became part of Wilson's Creek National Battlefield in 2005, through at least August of this year. Because of concerns about security and fire suppression, the Park Service plans to close the existing structure after the 150th anniversary of the battle and move many of the items to temporary displays in various locations in the visitor center. The rest of the collection will be put into storage until a permanent museum wing can be added to the visitor center. 🎖

DEDICATED TO THE SUPPORT OF WILSON'S CREEK NATIONAL BATTLEFIELD

WORDS FROM THE PRESIDENT

by Steve Ross



Spring is here already and summer is approaching fast, especially for those of us organizing the big *150th Anniversary Reenactment* to be held August 12-14. Committees and sub-committees have been organized and are working out all of the intricate details involved in making an event of this scale fun, safe, and orderly. We are still looking for companies or individuals who are willing to help us sponsor this event. If you want to help or have suggestions, please call us at 417-864-3041. You can also like Wilson's Creek National Battlefield Foundation on FaceBook for the latest updates on the reenactment.

The fund-raising potential of the *150th Anniversary Reenactment* becomes even more important as we face the imminent closing of the Civil War Museum at Wilson's Creek National Battlefield in August. Without a permanent home for the collection, National Park Service plans call for selected pieces to be on display in new cases located at the Visitor Center, while most of the artifacts will be put into storage. With the limited funds available

to the park service for new construction, this temporary solution will likely be in place for many years, unless we can use this opportunity to raise money for a new and modern museum building connected to the existing Visitor Center. The money raised from the reenactment could cover part of this cost, but we will need to work hard to find funding from other sources if we are going to make it happen. We will need your help too!

The Sweeney collection tells the most complete story of the Civil War in the trans-Mississippi campaign of any museum in the nation. It is only fitting, and I feel, of utmost importance, that this collection be housed in a museum space that will protect it and present the history of the Civil War west of the Mississippi in a personal way to the visitors who come from across the nation and around the world to see it. It would be a great shame to deprive the public of this treasure for any length of time!

I appreciate the continued support of our many loyal members for this and all our efforts to protect and preserve the battlefield. Thank you!

Steve Ross, President

Arts in the Park 2011!

Wilson's Creek National Battlefield presents its annual FREE concert series on the lawn in front of the Visitor Center.

May 7, 7:00 P.M. – **Crazy Mule & The Missouri Boatribe Bluegrass Band (double feature)**

Five talented musicians formed Crazy Mule, a band steeped in Ozark Mountain tradition and humor. The Missouri Boatribe Bluegrass Band performs in Branson and Silver Dollar City. Dean, the mandolin player, appeared on the Andy Griffith Show as one of the Darling Family.

May 14, 7:00 P.M. – **The Missouri State University Community Band** is a 45-member, all volunteer community band that performs a variety of band music favorites.

June 4, 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.

*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 12 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.

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

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.

of the entire army, acted more like a brigade commander during the battle and effectively only commanded the regular Confederate forces. We rolled dice for command. I was General Price.

Although the rules allowed us to move wherever and fight however we chose, it was surprising how the lay of the land and the command structure controlled the battle. For instance, Lyon advanced to the top of Bloody Hill but could not go much further without the risk of being surrounded by the Confederates who came swarming out of the river valley. Colonel Sigel, attacking from the south, faced the same problem when he reached the high ground where the Wire Road climbs out of Wilson's Creek valley. Here he stopped, as did Dr. Bill Piston who was playing his part.

Price's troops were scattered from one end of the encampments to the other and were all mixed with the troops of McCulloch and Pearce. It took a while to assemble my men and march south to deal with Sigel. Historically Sigel's misidentification of the enemy swiftly led to disaster. I had no such luck and had to fight. This proved tough going. In fact, in our version of the battle it was my troops that were driven back in disorder, not Sigel's.

Meanwhile on Bloody Hill, Lyon was holding his own and McCulloch and Pearce were having real problems. Placing troops in line without overlapping, attacking uphill without confusion and advancing to weapon range without being pinned down or driven back proved a difficult task as in the real battle. In the actual battle the Confederates launched successive attacks on Bloody Hill, each one involving more troops, as they were rounded up and marched into line of battle. Although the fight began at dawn, it took 4 hours for the southerners to finally get most of their troops into line to attack Lyon. Considering how small the battlefield is (and I don't mean our tabletop), this delay in marshaling the southern forces is startling. Of course, the southerners at the actual battle had to fend off Colonel Plummer's attack through the Ray cornfield, drive off Sigel and, for a while, hold troops in reserve fearing a third federal column from the east which never materialized. Even we, with complete knowledge of the past and knowing that we were facing the full federal army whom we outnumbered more than two to one, still had trouble coordinating our attacks up Bloody Hill. None of our attacks budged Lyon's men. Finally, the federal troops having bloodied and disordered the Confederates, withdrew from the field in good order as Lyon may have planned.

After many hours of fun, our little war was over, but all of us gained a greater insight into how the battle was fought, the challenges that faced the commanders, and the real consequences of that battle fought 150 years ago. Although the soldiers were plastic, the cannon smoke cotton balls, and the casualties mere numbers, it was never far from our minds that real men and women had fought and died in the confusion, smoke and blood of that distant conflict. 

THREADS THROUGH THE PAST

Wilson's Creek NB presented a quilt exhibit in the multi-purpose room at the Visitor Center during March for Women's Month. The exhibit, developed by several staff members at the park, park volunteers, and the Ozark Piecemakers Quilt Guild, featured quilts from the park's museum collection, as well as others on loan from private individuals. Park staff and volunteers from the Quilt Guild were available to handle the quilts. This event was an excellent opportunity for visitors to examine various quilts and ask questions about them.

The battlefield preserves and protects quilts made by women in the 19th century. In these quilts can be found women's hopes for the future, their fears, joys, and family memories, graphically demonstrating their social awareness and political opinions of the times in which they lived. The art of quilting also spread to other cultures, including many Native American and African American groups.

This exhibit is another fine example of promoting the battlefield and demonstrating the impact of civilians before, during, and after the Civil War. A booklet explaining the different types of quilts and providing information about each quilt in the exhibit is available at the Wilson's Creek Visitor Center. 



HISTORY IS IN (ON) THE AIR

Both KSMU and KOZK (Ozarks Public TV) will present a variety of Civil War programming during April and the months leading up to the Reenactment in August.

Listen to KSMU for readings of Civil War letters written by local people on five consecutive Thursdays at 7:30 a.m. beginning March 31st. In addition, ongoing coverage of Civil War history will be presented through the Sense of Place reports on Wednesday mornings. KSMU news will provide a preview of the reenactment through interviews with key players. To pick up KSMU tune your FM dial to 91.1 in Springfield, Branson 90.5, West Plains 90.3, Mountain Grove 88.7, Joplin 98.9, and to 103.7 in Neosho.

The Foundation is underwriting Ken Burns' *Civil War* series and a program about Robert E. Lee on KOZK during April, as well as Ozarks Watch episodes about Wilson's Creek in April and May. Watch for announcements of additional Civil War programming on KOZK during the summer months. 

"THE BIG READ" FOCUSES ON THE CIVIL WAR

The words of Civil War soldiers and civilians will be given new voice throughout the month of April, as the Springfield-Greene County Library District devotes programs and special events to exploring the American Civil War.

The rich lineup of free, live music, demonstrations, author talks and living history performances is part of "Voices of Conflict: The American Civil War," the theme of the library's community reading celebration, The Big Read.

Most years during The Big Read, the library recommends a single title for everyone to read, discuss and then explore through library programs. In observance of the war's 150th anniversary, the library selected 11 titles related to the conflict including ones by local writers Dr. William Piston, Dr. Randall Fuller and editors of the Campbell family memoirs, "Confederate Girlhoods: A Women's History of Springfield, Missouri."

This month-long focus on the Civil War also allows the library to highlight its many resources for researchers and hobbyists, including the online collection of digitized materials and photographs, "Community & Conflict: The Impact of the Civil War in the Ozarks." The site is at ozarkscivilwar.org.

The site includes more than 6,000 pre-Civil War, Civil War and Reconstruction-era documents showing the war's effects on the lives of the people living, working and fighting in the Trans-Mississippi Theater, Missouri and especially the Ozarks.

The photographs, letters, journals, memoirs and artifacts are from partner museums, archives, parks and universities across the Midwest. Just in time for renewed attention to the Battle of Wilson's Creek and the August reenactment, we can see letters from Confederate Gen. Sterling Price and papers belonging to Union Gen. Nathanael Lyon.

In April, the library and Wilson's Creek National Battlefield also plan to unveil a Virtual Museum with more than 200 artifacts and images from the park's Civil War Museum. The site, civilwarvirtualmuseum.org, explores the war across the Trans-Mississippi Theater, focusing on naval engagements, guerrilla warfare, medicine and military campaigns. Visitors will be able to listen to local period music, and hear personal accounts of the hardships endured.

Michael Price, from the Library's Local History and Genealogy Department, also has a four-page research tip guide on ways to use military records to trace your ancestors' Civil War service. His list stems from a February program, "Tracing Your Civil War Ancestor."

Through the busy April lineup of programs and special performances, the library hopes to begin a community conversation about the Civil War.

Some of those conversations will be lighthearted – a Civil War fashion show on April 2, 10 a.m. at the Library Station and 2 p.m. at the Midtown Carnegie Branch. Some conversations are sober. Guest lecturer Father Moses Berry will talk about Soldiers and Slaves at 10 a.m. Saturday, April 9, at the Ash Grove Branch. Dr. Larry Toll of Evangel University will present "Beyond Wilson's Creek," the men who served in the 24th Missouri Infantry, U.S., at 2 p.m. April 23 at the Midtown Carnegie Branch.

Civil War book authors Dr. Randall Fuller, Steve Yates, Dr. William Piston and editors of

"Confederate Girlhoods: A Women's History of Early Springfield, Missouri," will also participate in readings and lectures throughout April.

The library concludes the April observance with "Voices Remembered: The 2011 Chautauqua" on April 28-30. The live performances feature Civil War music by area artists Cathy Barton and Dave Para; the Holmes Brigade; Judy Domeny and a Civil War short play. Living history performers include actors as abolitionist John Brown, Mary Chesnut and Zerelda James Samuel, mother of Frank and Jessie James.

A full schedule of April events appears in the library's magazine, *Bookends*, available at any branch or online at thelibrary.org/bigread. 



Company H of the 3rd Arkansas State Troops, part of the online collection of digitized materials and photographs in "Community & Conflict: The Impact of the Civil War in the Ozarks."



Missouri, a state of mixed allegiances, was a volatile area at the beginning of the war. In 1861, of the 157 engagements and battles listed in the Army Register, 66 took place in the Show Me State. In comparison, thirty-one recorded events occurred that year in Virginia, twenty-eight in West Virginia, and thirteen in Kentucky.



Superintendent's Corner

By Ted Hillmer

Dear Foundation Members,

Although the 150th Anniversary of the American Civil War will begin on April 12th with the event that started the conflict—the firing on Fort Sumter in Charleston Harbor—Wilson's Creek National Battlefield will begin its anniversary commemoration on August 10th with a special evening candlelit ceremony at the Ray House. The battlefield will mark one of the most important and tragic periods in American history by presenting northern, southern, Native American, and African American viewpoints on this conflict that occurred 150 years ago. And yes, because the institution of slavery was a major part of our history, it will also be represented.

The National Park Service is committed to honoring the sacrifices of all people whose lives were affected by the turmoil of Civil War in a way that emphasizes the importance of freedom and equality in the lives of 21st-century Americans. The battlefield strongly supports the NPS vision of providing meaningful opportunities to reflect on our past in an environment that is inclusive and contemplative.

The next four years will be filled with events that support this vision of inclusion through partnerships within the greater Springfield area. Many of our partners have already begun planning and scheduling events centered on the Civil War and Wilson's Creek NB. This will be an exciting time for the battlefield's visitors and volunteers, as they continue to expand their knowledge of this period in the history of the United States.

In closing, I wanted to thank our Foundation Board and members for making Wilson's Creek NB a special place. Your interest in history and support for the battlefield has enabled the park to present the story of the Battle of Wilson's Creek within the larger story of the causes and consequences of the Civil War. Thank you for your support.

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 L. Alber
Mike Ball
Brian Beirne
James Bouquet
Caleb and Kylie Brigman
Daniel Brigman
Daughters of Union Veterans
David Brigman
David Callahan
Scott Cauger
Civil War Round Table of the Ozarks
Jason Coffman
Courtney E. Cook
Kathleen A. Dean
William L. DeSmet
Ron Dirickson
Thomas Doneker
Catie and Dustin Eby
Karen and Arthur Foley
Donley and Patricia Granstra
Walter and Kay Green
Dennis Hood
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Ozarks Coca-Cola/Dr. Pepper
Marsha Patochek
Mark and Karen Perreault
Martha Railey
Ralph Foster Museum
Steve Ross

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Clay Stuckey
Naomi Tate
Dr. Thomas Telle
Bruce Throckmorton
Kathy Vickers
Patricia Walker Trust
E. Jack Webster
Wendy's—Sam, June, and Mike Hamra
Morris Westfall
Mark Whisler
Helen White
Roger and Jackie Willman

Upcoming Events: at Wilson's Creek National Battlefield

April

- 1 Civil War Museum opens.
- 2 Park Day volunteer work day.
- 3 Change to Spring Hours: 8:00 am - 5:00 pm Visitor Center, 8:00 am - 7:00 pm Tour Road
- 16-24 National Park Week – No Entrance Fee.
- 23 National Junior Ranger Day - programs and activities for young visitors.

May

- 14 Free Arts in the Park Concert – *Missouri State University Community Band*, 7:00 pm at the Visitor Center
- 21 Free Arts in the Park Concert – *Missouri Boatride Bluegrass Band* and *Crazy Mule*, 7:00 pm at the Visitor Center
- 28 Free Arts in the Park Concert – *The Back Porch Players*, 7:00 pm at the Visitor Center
- 28 Change to Summer Hours: 8:00 am – 5:00 pm Visitor Center, 8:00 am - 9:00 pm Tour Road

June

- 4 "Ray House Jamboree" old time music program, 11:00 am - 4:00 pm at the Ray House (stop 2 on the tour road)
- 18 Artillery Firing Demonstrations, 11:00 am - 4:00 pm at stop number 5 on the Tour Road.

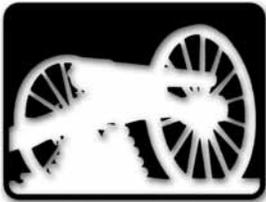
July

- 2 Artillery Firing Demonstrations, 11:00 am - 4:00 pm at stop number 5 on the Tour Road.
- 16 Artillery Firing Demonstrations, 11:00 am - 4:00 pm at stop number 5 on the Tour Road.

August

- 10 150th Battle Anniversary Observance, 10-11 a.m. – No Entrance Fee
- 12-14 "150th Anniversary Reenactment" (to be held on private land just north of Wilson's Creek National Battlefield)

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



Wilson's Creek
National Battlefield
Foundation

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Visit our website!
www.wilsonscreek.com

Address Correction Requested