

# THE BUGLE CALL

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE WILSON'S CREEK NATIONAL BATTLEFIELD FOUNDATION

SPRING, 2012

## A STAMPEDE IN A BLACKJACK THICKET

By Silas Claiborne Turnbo

An account of a wartime incident as told me by Mr. James Thomas who was born and reared in Green County, Missouri, gives some idea of the terrible encounters of those stormy days. Mr. Thomas in relating the event said that while he lived four miles northeast of Springfield, Missouri, "The United States forces kept a stage stand in one mile of our house and a detachment of soldiers was kept constantly on hand to guard the stage line and stand. The stage coaches were used in carrying the mails, dispatches and other matter that was indispensable and consequently it was necessary to be well protected by federal cavalry.


On the early morning of June 1st, 1863, I noticed 14 mounted men ride across the road beyond the corner of our field. They appeared, to be traveling in a very cautious manner. I knew from their appearance that they were not federal, Their uniforms and equipments were different from the northern men and I pronounced them to be southern men. Our family that were living were union in sentiment and as we lived within the federal lines I deemed it prudent as well as my duty to report my discovery to the authorities though I was not quite ten years old.

As soon as the party passed from my view I went in haste to a party of federal soldiers and told them what I had seen and some of them reported it immediately to their commanding officer and without the loss of a minute he ordered a number of mounted soldiers to make an investigation. As I was the informant they told me to go along with them and show them the way and where I saw the party cross the road and I complied with their orders for I knew better than to refuse.

When we reached that part of the road where I had observed the cavalcade of men cross it the federal soldiers took up their trail and followed it to the edge of a blackjack thicket where the officer in charge of the soldiers halted his men and sent forward a few men on foot to reconnoitre the location of the enemy for it was presumed that they were concealed in the thicket until such time as they saw fit to come out to make an attack on the stage stand for the purpose of robbery.

## WILSON'S CREEK FOUNDATION RECEIVES NPS AWARD

The NPS Midwest Region recently recognized the Wilson's Creek Foundation's accomplishments through the 2012 Midwest Region Partnership Awards. The awards were created to recognize the community and interagency partnerships that are integral to promoting the National Park Service mission, both within and beyond park boundaries. This recognition is for the many successful partnerships that not only promote activities and programs within the Midwest parks but assist in carrying messages of conservation, stewardship, and positive citizen engagement to their neighboring communities.

The Foundation was selected to receive the Outstanding Friends' Group Project Award as a result of all the months of planning, coordination, and hard work that climaxed with the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Commemoration and Reenactment of the Battle of Wilson's Creek that was held August 12-14, 2011, recreating the Civil War battle that took place on August 10, 1861. The Wilson's Creek Foundation Board of Directors is honored to receive this recognition from the National Park Service Midwest Region. 

The detail of soldiers were instructed to be cautious and make as little noise as possible and locate the party and the men went on and gradually made their way through the thick grove of blackjacks and discovered them in a place where they were well shadowed by the thick clusters of blackjacks. They had all dismounted and were lounging around in the shade of the trees. Some were lying down, others sitting up. Guns and equipments were lying scattered around in the grass. Their horses were turned loose to graze and were scattered here and there.

They were certainly very careless and this neglect was their doom. They were so derelict that the reconnoitering party approached them near enough to make a minute detail of their carelessness without being discovered and after they had made all the investigation necessary they crept back to the main force and made their report which surprised the officer and men for they were convinced now that their carelessness indicated that they were not regular

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# WORDS FROM THE PRESIDENT

by Steve Ross



Spring is here! Actually, I think it has been here since sometime in late February, based on the weather in the Ozarks this year. As we have for the past several years, the Foundation is working with Wilson's Creek National Battlefield to bring you another spring season of *Arts in the Park*, including the *Ray House Jamboree*. We have some great groups lined up this year and hope you can make some or all of the free concerts. It is a great way to get out and enjoy a spring evening with the family. Look for the performances and dates listed on the following page. Did I mention that the concerts are free except for the usual park admittance fee required for the *Ray House Jamboree*?

I read an article in the news recently about visitation to national parks. Although visitor numbers to our parks have remained generally steady or even risen slightly in recent years, statistics indicate that the average age of visitors is also rising. It seems the same generation that began visiting national parks decades ago continues to

visit, while younger generations seem to be losing interest. The article was quite unsettling to me. Are younger generations so wired into the virtual realities created by smart phones, computers, and social networking that they have lost interest in the natural wonders of the world and our nations history? I really hope not, because it is the interest in these places that serves to protect them. It is important that older generations share their love of our national parks with their children and grandchildren. Technology is great, but it can't fill the senses and inspire the imagination like a visit to a place with historical significance or dramatic natural beauty.


I hope that everyone who reads this will visit Wilson's Creek National Battlefield and other national park sites this year and bring along some members of the next generation. Come out to tour the battlefield this spring, walk the trails, connect with history, and hang around for some great *Arts in the Park* music. We need to keep interest in our national parks alive and healthy.

Thank you for your continued support!

Steve Ross, President

## FILTERED WATER AVAILABLE AT WILSON'S CREEK NB

Since Wilson's Creek NB does not sell bottled water at the Visitor Center, we would like to practice sustainable principles, for our visitors, by offering a sustainable choice. The battlefield purchased a water filter that greatly reduces lead, aesthetic choline taste, odor, and particulate class sizes (0.5 to 1 micron). The battlefield would like to invite our visitors to fill their reusable water bottles at one of the filtered water drinking fountains. In using this filter, we can reduce the number of water bottles that are thrown into our landfills each year.

According to Superintendent Hillmer, "We are providing a service that our visitors requested and doing our part in being good stewards of our natural resources". Next time you are visiting the park, stop by and help do your part in being a good steward of our resources. Fill your reusable water bottles! If you don't have a reusable container, stop by the Visitor Center bookstore where you can purchase one. 



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' 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.

# FOUNDATION RECEIVES CVB AMBASSADOR AWARD

Wilson's Creek National Battlefield Foundation was honored with the Ambassador Award during the Springfield Convention and Visitors Bureau "Salute to Travel and Tourism" awards banquet on Thursday, February 16. The award was presented to the Foundation for their hard work in organizing and presenting the 150th Anniversary Reenactment of the Battle of Wilson's Creek in 2011. The award was accepted by Foundation president, Steve Ross and reenactment chairman, Jim Cox. "We accept this with great appreciation for the many Foundation members and volunteers who made the reenactment possible with countless planning meetings, hours of hard work in the heat of summer and their generous donations of funds" said president Ross. 




*Blackjack* continued from page 1

confederate soldiers but a band of guerrillas and robbers and were waiting until night to make a dash for spoils.

The commander ordered all the men to dismount and leaving two or three men to take charge of the horses he lead his force into the thicket and after working their way through carefully and silently they came up near where the enemy were still displaying their ignorance and carelessness. The federals were ordered to fire a volley at the men and charge them which they did, killing five men and wounding others. The survivors that were able fled in dismay nearly all of them leaving their horses, guns and equipments. It was a stampede of those that were left that were able to retreat and made their escape.

The victors collected the horses together and the guns and saddles that were of value were gathered up and the wounded cared for. The federal soldiers did not tarry any longer than necessary for fear that other forces of the enemy might be nearby and attack them and lose what they had gained and taking the wounded with them they returned back to camps and a detail of men was sent back with tools to bury the dead and on arriving on the scene they dug a short and shallow trench and they carried the dead men and placed them down in it. Then they out off a lot of small blackjack brush and leaves and laid them on the dead forms and covered them over with dirt.

One of the detail who helped to bury the dead was a tall fellow named George Smith and was a very wicket man and after they had buried the bodies and were preparing to leave this man Smith pointed his finger at the filled up trench where the dead men lay cursed them and says, "Lay there and take a nap till the woods burns and we will burn you with it." Among the wounded was a small lad of a boy who said that the party were guerrillas and they had him along with them for a waiter. This boy after recovering from his wounds enlisted in the federal army." 

## Arts in the Park 2012!

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

May 5, Saturday, 7:00 p.m. – **Red Bridge** – This group of entertainers provides high energy & high entertainment shows, which includes fun and natural humor. With their great musicianship, and most of all, a strong variety of songs from which to draw upon, the audience is kept entertained & tappin' their feet.

May 12, Saturday, 7:00 p.m. – **Bob Hammons & Wildwood** – This gospel group was voted 2012 Midwest Gospel Group of the Year by the Society for the Preservation of Bluegrass Music of America. They play 50-80 engagements a year, including festivals, fairs, and churches.

May 19, Saturday, 7:00 p.m. – **The Missouri State University Community Band** – This 45 member, all volunteer community band will perform a concert on the lawn in front of the Visitor Center.

May 26, Saturday, 7:00 p.m. – **High Strung** – Welcome back this bluegrass group from the Springfield-Branson area who started performing regularly at bluegrass festivals in 2004.

June 2, Saturday, 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. – **Ray House Jamboree** – Our annual Civil War & old-time music celebration on the front porch of the historic Ray House (Tour Stop Two), 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.



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# HY-VEE EVENT FEATURES WILSON'S CREEK

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Hy-Vee's Springtime Party is a time when each Hy-Vee store selects a theme and promotes it for one week. Everything in the store—displays, advertising, employee activities, and community involvement—are related to the theme. Stores compete against each other in several categories, including best looking store, best theme, best sales increase, best employee involvement, and best community involvement. Hy-Vee's goal is to be part of the community and help make it a better place to live. The company motto is "Making Lives Easier, Happier, and Healthier."

This year Springfield's new Hy-Vee store, appropriately located on West Battlefield, has chosen the Battle of Wilson's Creek as its theme during the week of April 23-29. After visiting the battlefield, the Springtime Party Committee decided they wanted to help keep history alive in the Ozarks and support the Wilson's Creek National Battlefield Foundation's efforts.

For one week the Hy-Vee store will be decorated in a Civil War era theme involving all departments, through props or featured foods from that time period. Local vendors will build Civil War displays, reenactors will help recreate an 1860s atmosphere in the store, Civil War memorabilia will be showcased, and local schools will participate in a Wilson's Creek themed art contest. Wilson's Creek Battlefield, the Foundation, and other Civil War groups will be participating Thursday through Saturday, April 26-28, providing customers with information about various activities, events, book sales, and educational materials.

This will be a fun week, filled with events, and a unique opportunity to learn more about our nation's history. The Hy-Vee store will also sponsor activities to benefit the Wilson's Creek Foundation, raising funds to keep the local battlefield preserved so future generations can learn about history in person, not just in text books. This is a great opportunity to educate the community about the Civil War Sesquicentennial and invite people to visit the battlefield. 🎺



Springfield's HyVee store is located on the southeast corner of Battlefield Road and Kansas Expressway.

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# EMANCIPATION DAY SESQUICENTENNIAL

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On April 16, 1862, President Abraham Lincoln signed the Compensated Emancipation Act, a law that ended slavery in Washington, DC, by paying slave owners for releasing the enslaved individuals they held. The anniversary of the signing of this act is celebrated annually in Washington, DC, as Emancipation Day, a holiday in the district.

The Compensated Emancipation Act set aside \$1 million, freed immediately all slaves in Washington, DC, and offered to Union slaveholders up to \$300 per emancipated slave. An additional fund of \$100,000 was to be given out at the rate of \$100 each to every individual freed slave who agreed to leave the country and settle in places like Haiti or Liberia.

Following the act's passage, 3,185 slaves were freed. The act did not apply to slaves who had fled to Washington, DC, from servitude in other locations. Some of those slaves were subject to previously enacted fugitive slave laws that were still in force. Despite these limitations of the act, its passage signaled the end of slavery in the United States.

Since 1866, April 16 has been observed as Emancipation Day in Washington, DC. The day was celebrated with an annual parade until 1901, when a relative lack of interest in the tradition as well as limited public funds available to support it, bought the annual observance of the act's anniversary to a halt. The tradition was rekindled in 2002 and has been observed since then. In 2005, Emancipation Day was celebrated for the first time as an official city holiday in Washington, DC.

The passage of the Compensated Emancipation Act pre-dated by nine months the signing of the Emancipation Proclamation, an executive order intended to abolish slavery in the United States. President Abraham Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation on January 1, 1863. 🎺



Emancipation, an illustration from Harper's Weekly, 1865



# Superintendent's Corner

By Ted Hillmer

Dear Foundation Members,

With the recent weather as nice as it has been, this could be a summer or spring newsletter! The mild winter has been very beneficial for our visitation at the park. It has increased by 11.98 percent from this time last year. In addition, according to Eastern National's main office, our bookstore at Wilson's Creek NB is in the top ten book stores with an increase in sales of 13.1 percent from last year.

- The grass is growing, visitation is up, and our bookstore sales are higher than last year. We are also very busy at the park with several programs:
- Student groups are now visiting the battlefield. More than 8,000 are expected over the next two months. The National Junior Ranger Program is scheduled to begin on April 28 – tell your friends to enroll in this national program for young people.
- National Park Service Week is April 21 – 29, and admission will be free for all National Park Service sites. The Foundation, the park staff, and Civil War groups will be promoting Wilson's Creek.
- The Arts in the Park music programs begin in May. Bring a lawn chair and something to eat and enjoy

the Saturday concerts in front of the Visitors Center, starting at 7:00 p.m. on May 5, 12, 19, and 26. The annual Ray House Jamboree is scheduled for the 2<sup>nd</sup> of June from 11 am to 4 pm.

- The HyVee Springtime Event is April 23 – 29th. Hy-Vee has selected Wilson's Creek NB to be the theme for this event. The store will be decorated in Civil War décor and funds raised will be donated to the Wilson's Creek Foundation. Plan to visit and buy your groceries at Hy-Vee the week of April 23- 29.

As you can detect from the above information, the park is busy with springtime events and excited to be promoting the battlefield to our visitors. A special thank you to Wilson's Creek membership, Board Members, and staff for all your support in making Wilson's Creek National Battlefield the best battlefield in the National Park Service.

T. John Hillmer, Jr.  
Superintendent

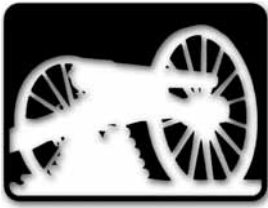
## NEW MEMBERS & CONTRIBUTORS

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!

Kenneth Ackley  
 Jodie Adams  
 Brent Barnett  
 Brian Beirne  
 Catherine Boyd  
 Daniel Brigman  
 A. Scott Cauger  
 Judi Clement  
 Thomas Coay  
 Coca-Cola/Dr. Pepper Bottling Co  
 James Corbridge  
 Jim Cox  
 Daughters of Union Veterans Tent 22  
 Ron Dirickson  
 Bob Drake  
 Denna Emerson  
 James M. England  
 Mar'Ellen Felin  
 Arthur and Karen Foley  
 Hadley and Jacqueline Ford  
 Chris Foulk

Richard Freihofer  
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 Ozarks Coca-Cola/Dr. Pepper  
 Mark and Karen Perreault

John Plank  
 Martha Railey  
 Ralph Foster Museum  
 David and Chris Rauch  
 Bill and Judy Robinett  
 Ken Rutherford  
 James and Dori Scaminaci  
 Cynthia Schowengerdt and Erin Bush  
 William Sheriff  
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 Helen Murray White  
 Stewart White  
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# Wilson's Creek National Battlefield Foundation

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

**Return Service Requested**



Be sure to like Wilson's  
Creek National Battlefield  
Foundation on Facebook!

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

## **Upcoming Events: at Wilson's Creek National Battlefield**

### **April**

- 21-29 National Park Week – No Entrance Fee.
- 28 National Junior Ranger Day - programs and activities for young visitors.

### **May**

- 5 Free Arts in the Park Concert – *Red Bridge*, 7:00 PM at the Visitor Center
- 12 Free Arts in the Park Concert – *Bob Hammons & Wildwood*, 7:00 PM at the Visitor Center
- 19 Free Arts in the Park Concert – *Missouri State University Community Band*, 7:00 PM at the Visitor Center
- 5 Free Arts in the Park Concert – *High Strung*, 7:00 PM at the Visitor Center
- 26 Change to Summer Hours: 8:00 am – 5:00 PM Visitor Center, 8:00 am - 9:00 PM Tour Road

### **June**

- 2 “Ray House Jamboree” old time music program, 11:00 am - 4:00 PM at the Ray House (stop 2 on the tour road)
- 9 Get Outdoors Day – No Entrance Fee.
- 15-7/30 *Lincoln: The Constitution and the Civil War* Exhibit, at the Visitor Center
- 23-24 The U.S. Soldier at Wilson's Creek (Firing Demonstrations), 11:00 am - 4:00 PM at stop number 5 on the Tour Road

### **July**

- 7 Artillery at Wilson's Creek (Firing Demonstrations), 11:00 am - 4:00 PM at stop number 5 on the Tour Road
- 21 Artillery at Wilson's Creek (Firing Demonstrations), 11:00 am - 4:00 PM at stop number 5 on the Tour Road

### **August**

- 10 151st 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)