



THE BUGLE CALL

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE WILSON'S CREEK NATIONAL BATTLEFIELD FOUNDATION

SUMMER, 2009

LOCAL SCHOOLS NAMED FOR CIVIL WAR VETERANS

By Len Eagleburger

My granddaughter came home from pre-school at York Elementary in Springfield, Missouri, one day and told her mother that her school was named after a Civil War veteran. As an amateur Civil War historian and author, I was most surprised to learn about this. The only school I was aware of that was named for a Civil War veteran is Phelps Elementary School, named after Missouri Governor John Smith Phelps.

As I researched the namesake of York Elementary, I discovered that Bowerman Elementary was also named for a Civil War veteran. So three schools in Springfield are named after Civil War vets, one transplanted from Wisconsin, one disabled, and one a governor of the state. Bowerman opened in 1906 at Grant and High Streets, York in 1911 on West Nichols, and Phelps in 1931 on South Kimbrough.

Milton Bowerman was born April 14th, 1837, in Sombra, Canada. He was educated at Detroit, Michigan, learning the carriage and sign painting trade. When



Milton Bowerman (left) served as a first lieutenant with the Union army and on the Springfield School Board.

See *Schools* on page 3

NEW CIVIL WAR WEB SITE HIGHLIGHTS TRANS-MISSISSIPPI THEATER

It was fought—brother against brother—nearly 150 years ago on our own soil, yet the Civil War remains of great historical and personal significance to Americans and a popular topic with the public. Although the Civil War is probably the most thoroughly researched conflict in U.S. history, the trans-Mississippi theater has not been documented as extensively. Relatively speaking, few have researched and gathered the documents that tell the important stories about the western region's involvement.

Until now, that is. For the past two years, librarians, historians, and regional partners have worked to create

a unique web site and online resource entitled "Community & Conflict: The Impact of the Civil War in the Ozarks." The site contains more than 2,500 pages of historical documents gathered from institutions and individu-



The new *Community & Conflict* page can be viewed at www.OzarksCivilWar.org

See *Web Site* on page 2

ANNUAL MEETING!

of **THE WILSON'S CREEK NATIONAL BATTLEFIELD FOUNDATION**

9:00 A.M. MONDAY, AUGUST 10, 2009



PLAN TO ATTEND!

IN THE VISITORS CENTER MULTI-PURPOSE ROOM AT WILSON'S CREEK NATIONAL BATTLEFIELD - ANNIVERSARY OBSERVANCE AT 10:00 AM AT THE VISITOR CENTER

WORDS FROM THE PRESIDENT

by Ken McClure



This is again the time of year when we reflect on the past. On Monday, August 10, we will look back to the events that took place here almost 150 years ago. The Battle of Wilson's Creek helped determine our nation's destiny and the fate of thousands of soldiers and civilians who lived and died here. At the 148th anniversary ceremony we will gather to commemorate the

battle and honor the memory of the brave men on both sides who fought for their beliefs.

We will also remember the Foundation's past accomplishments—like the Edwards Cabin restoration, the exciting new interpretive film showing at the Visitor Center, and the more than 200 acres of battlefield land we have preserved—that help visitors understand and appreciate this special place. On this occasion we are reminded too of the individuals whose efforts and dedication made these achievements possible. Three such people are Tom Strong, Jane Ann Johnson, and of course, past President Ron Elkins. Although they are

leaving the Foundation's Board of Directors in August, we will not soon forget their important contributions to the mission and success of our organization. Thank you for your dedicated service and leadership.

We are very proud of our past successes, but it is the future that holds vital new challenges and possibilities for the Foundation and the battlefield. One of those challenges is always how to make the public aware of the wonderful resource we have here at Wilson's Creek National Battlefield. A new television series by Ken Burns airing this fall on Ozarks Public Television, *The National Parks—America's Best Idea*, will highlight the history and variety of our country's National Park system. The Foundation Board has agreed to help underwrite this program to increase awareness of our own pristine national battlefield right here in southwest Missouri.

We hope all of you will visit Wilson's Creek soon, to take advantage of its resources and enjoy the history, the natural setting, and the recreational activities it offers.


Sincerely,



Ken McClure, President

Web Site continued from page 1

als throughout the region. The digital collection includes letters, maps, diaries, court and government documents, and photographs that document life in the Ozarks during 1850-1875. Researchers can explore the themes of slavery, agriculture, military life, women and children, civilian refugees, and other issues that represent a crucial period in the history and culture of the region. The site, www.ozarkscivilwar.org, opens with a stirring video created by Wide Awake Films, that introduces the themes and topics of the collections. A researcher's dream, the site features high-caliber scans of documents, transcriptions with side-by-side comparisons to scanned images, keyword, geographic and thematic searches, historic interpretation, links to other site, and bibliographic citations.

The Wilson's Creek National Battlefield, the Greene County Archives and Records Center, the History Museum for Springfield-Greene County, the Jasper County Records Research Center, the University of Missouri Western Historical Manuscript Collection in Rolla, and Dr. William Piston and David Richards from Missouri State University have contributed collections and provided invaluable staff support to this project, which was made possible through a Library Services and Technology Act Digital Imaging Grant funded by the Institute of Museum and Library Services and coordinated by the Missouri State Library. 

Have any stories of local or historical interest? We're always on the lookout for new stories and unique images for *The Bugle Call*. Please send your newsletter contributions 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

The Mission of the Wilson's Creek National Battlefield Foundation

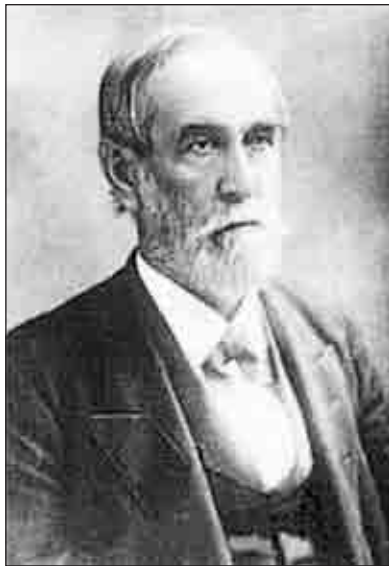
To work in cooperation with and to support the Wilson's Creek National Battlefield, a unit of the National Park Service and its staff. To further, by all proper and legitimate agencies and means, the acquisition of Civil War historical properties and materials especially those related to the Battle of 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.

he was 21 he moved to Janesville, Wisconsin, where he enlisted in Company A, 13th Wisconsin Infantry as a private in September, 1861. Because of his education, he was quickly promoted to the rank of first lieutenant, serving on the staff of Union General Rosseau at Nashville, Tennessee. After the war in February 1868, he found his way to Springfield, Missouri, where he continued working in the carriage business and later opened a grocery store on Boonville Street in partnership with his father-in-law, Asa Root. He was a member and officer of the Springfield School Board for several years a noted Greene County official. Robert Neumann, Director of Greene County, Missouri, Archives recently related to me, "I think the school has his sword, and I know there was a picture of him on the wall when I went to grade school at Bowerman."


William J. York is a different story. He was born October 3, 1835, in North Carolina. At the time of the Civil War, he was living at Fayetteville, Arkansas. He enlisted with the 1st Arkansas Cavalry in Company H, as a private. The 1st Arkansas Cavalry was organized in the summer of 1862 and saw much action up and down the Old Wire Road from Springfield, Missouri, to Fort Smith, Arkansas. York, listed as disabled, became a resident of Springfield in January 1887 and promptly petitioned successfully for an elementary school to be built in the Eagle Heights addition. He lived in Springfield until his death on March 12, 1912.

John Smith

Phelps was a Missouri legislator, U.S. Congressman, military Governor of Arkansas, and later Governor of the State of Missouri. He formed, as its Colonel, an unattached regiment of infantry known as Phelps Regiment, which took part in the activities around Springfield and Wilson's Creek in the early days of the war. Phelps Street and Phelps Grove Park in Springfield, as well as Phelps County in Missouri, are named after the Phelps family. Phelps' son, Col. Elisha John Phelps, fought at the Battle of Wilson's Creek and later Pea Ridge, Arkansas. He was a Brevet Brigadier General when the war ended. Mary, wife of John and mother to Elisha, was instrumental in protecting Gen. Nathaniel Lyon's body until it could be transported to St. Louis and from there to Lyon's birthplace in Connecticut. She started the children's home for orphans of the Civil War in Springfield. The Phelps family is remembered today in the Ozarks through the Phelps Camp #66, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, and the Mary




John Smith Phelps

Phelps Tent of the Daughters of Union Veterans. Phelps School is currently the center for "Wings," a gifted childrens' program. For many years a portrait of John S. Phelps was on display in the school. My granddaughter, Michaela Faith Annis, is eight years old and attends both York and Phelps Elementary Schools. 

SUMMER YOUTH PROGRAM CONTINUES IN 2009

This is the fourth year that high school students have been hired to work on cyclic maintenance projects at the battlefield. Mr. Ken Elkins is again crew leader, providing direction for the group of five students from Central, Kickapoo, and Clever High Schools—Shannon Johnson, Cole Pearce, Joe Rowe, Alden Dougan, and Jazmon Jenkins. Ken had worked with students in 1980 under a federally funded program entitled Youth Conservation Corp.

The group will be working on several projects, including installing split rail fence sections, painting bridge rails along the tour road, trimming hedges, preparing an area for the proposed apple orchard, and other small jobs. Each Friday they will participate in an Environmental Day to learn about other environmental activities in the greater Springfield area.

The primary purpose of the summer program is to introduce students to National Park Service activities and job categories. It also provides them with paying employment and assists the battlefield with needed repairs and maintenance. In addition, students are encouraged to think about working for the National Park Service as they attend college and to apply for full time jobs once they graduate. This program is a win-win for the students and the National Park Service. Thank you to the Wilson's Creek Foundation for continued support of this program for young people. 



Wilson's Creek youth workers (from left) Joe Rowe, Alden Dougan, Justin Pierce, Shannon Johnston, and Jazmon Jenkins

BATTLEFIELD ACQUIRES HISTORIC PHOTOS

Local businessman Jim Joplin spent a lifetime collecting images of the Civil War, particularly images of Missouri soldiers and the battlefields where they fought. Several years ago Mr. Joplin passed away, and Wilson's Creek National Battlefield has been able to work with his widow, Sue, to purchase approximately 450 of his Civil War images. The images consist mainly of Carte de Visite's, (CDV's) of Missouri Union soldiers, as well as some other types of photographs, including ambrotypes and tintypes. This purchase adds a missing piece to the museum collection at Wilson's Creek and allows battlefield staff to tell stories through images of soldiers from both sides of the Civil War.



An image of Claiborne Jackson from the collection

Battle of Wilson's Creek 148th Anniversary Activities

- Membership Dinner**
Friday, August 7, 2009 **7:00 p.m.**
Riverside Inn, Ozark, MO
- Foundation Annual Meeting**
Monday, August 10, 2009 **9:00 a.m.**
Visitor Center
- Anniversary Program**
Monday, August 10, 2009 **10:00 a.m.**
Visitor Center
- Reception**
Monday, August 10, 2009 **11:00 a.m.**
Visitor Center

Please join us for all the activities scheduled to commemorate the 148th anniversary of Battle of Wilson's Creek. This year's events will feature guest speaker author, David Hinze. Don't miss any of the fun and history! For more information, contact the Foundation office at 417-864-3041.

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DINNER TO BE HELD FRIDAY, AUGUST 7

The annual Foundation membership dinner will again be held in the Mediterranean Room at beautiful Riverside Inn in Ozark, Missouri. The evening will begin with a social hour from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. with a cash bar. From 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. we will enjoy a buffet dinner with all of Riverside's specialties. We hope that many of our members and supporters will be able to join us for an evening of entertainment, great food, and friendship. Come out and meet our great Foundation board and loyal supporters!

A reservation form is included below. If you need driving directions to Riverside, please call the Foundation office at 417-864-3041 or e-mail amcdonough@wilsonscreek.com.



Wilson's Creek National Battlefield Foundation 2009 Membership Dinner Reservation Form

Friday, August 7, 2009

at Riverside Inn, Ozark, Missouri

Social Hour: 6:00 p.m. (cash bar) – Dinner: 7:00 p.m. – Program: 8:00 p.m.

Dinner Buffet—Chicken, beef, sides, bread, drinks, dessert

Cost: \$28.00/person - Attire: Business Casual

Reservations must be received by August 5, 2009.

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone () _____ Number for Dinner _____



Wilson's Creek
National Battlefield
Foundation

Yes, I plan to attend. Please reserve _____ seats at \$28.00 Per Person.

Total Enclosed \$ _____

Please make checks payable and return to:

**Wilson's Creek National
Battlefield Foundation
P.O. Box 8163
Springfield, MO 65801**

or call the Foundation office at: 417-864-3041
or fax form to: 417-864-7428

The Civil War Round Table of the Ozarks presents...
Beyond Campaigns & Commanders

A Two-Day Seminar
October 9 & 10th, 2009

at the Clarion Hotel, Springfield, Missouri

Speakers & Noted Authors Include:

LeeAnn Whites, Blair Tarr, Doug Scott, Bill Gurley,
Richard W. Hatcher, Kip Lindberg, and Matt Matthews

To Register:

Visit <http://history.missouristate.edu/WGPiston/CWRT/cwrt.htm>
or call Jeff Patrick at (417) 350-7192
or Gary Brimmer at (417) 350-7552
or e-mail to tam1rn@juno.com

BATTLEFIELD VISITATION UP IN FIRST HALF OF 2009

Compared with last year's numbers, visitation at Wilson's Creek is up 30.37 percent, according to data from the monthly report for June 2009 from the NPS Public Use Statistics Office. One might wonder what are the reasons for this increase in visitation. There are a number of possible explanations based on several years of tracking the numbers. We have had no severe weather for the past six months: no tornadoes, no major ice storms, and no major flooding. Last winter was relatively mild, with no days below zero, limited snow fall, and fewer rainy days than last year. The battlefield's sign-in book lists about the same number of visitors from Missouri (38%) but a greater percentage from other states (35%). However, annual pass holders do not normally sign the book, so local visitation among hikers, bikers, and walkers could account for part of the increase. In addition, difficult economic conditions may encourage people to stay closer to home instead of taking long vacations. Lower gas prices this year allow the public to plan vacation activities in the greater Springfield area at a reasonable cost. Other local attractions, such as the Springfield Zoo, Fantastic Caverns, and Bass Pro Inc. to name a few, are also experiencing increased visitation.

Regardless of our visitation numbers, the battlefield is offering great activities to enjoy this summer. Rangers and volunteers conduct programs at the Ray House, in front of the Visitor Center, and at Stop 5. The Arts in the Park performances had some great crowds, cannon demonstrations have been well attended, our Civil War library is answering questions, our world renown Trans-Mississippi collection is seeing more visitors, our corn is four to five feet high, our school groups included over 5,000 students, wildflowers are blooming next to the tour road, battlefield events are publicized with new posters and McDonalds place mats, and we have had some very positive press from the News-Leader and local TV stations. At six months into the season, we are very happy that 127,000 visitors have already enjoyed what Wilson's Creek has to offer. Bring your friends out to experience a part of history at the only Civil War battlefield in Missouri. ☞

PBS DOCUMENTARY "AMERICA'S BEST IDEA" AIRING THIS FALL



A new public television series by Ken Burns, *The National Parks: America's Best Idea*, will premier on September 27th on Ozarks Public Television and PBS stations nationwide. More than eight years in the making, this highly anticipated documentary tells the history of the found-

ing of the national parks, as well as the story of people from diverse backgrounds who dedicated themselves to creating and protecting what remains the world's greatest National Park System.

The six-part film features some of the most breathtaking images of American's national parks – from Acadia in Maine to California's Yosemite, the Everglades of Florida to the Gates of the Arctic in Alaska. Ken Burns promises, "Our film celebrates the beauty of these parks and the vision and foresight of the men and women who made sure that this land would be preserved."

For many viewers *The National Parks: America's Best Idea* will provide their first look at some of the glorious parks that belong to all Americans. The National Parks Conservation Association is working with Ken Burns and PBS stations around the county to use the historical film to increase awareness about the current state of national parks and to inspire action that will ensure they are preserved for the enjoyment of future generations. Although Wilson's Creek NB is not included in this film series, Ken Burns appears in the battlefield's interpretive film, *A Mighty Mean Fowl Fight*. The Wilson's Creek Foundation is helping underwrite the National Parks series on Ozarks Public Television. ☞



TRIVIAL TIDBIT

The so called Minié ball was not a ball at all. It was a conical lead projectile with a hollow base that expanded as the bullet was fired, forcing the sides of the projectile to grip the riflings in the gun barrel. This gave the bullet a spin that improved accuracy. Its development forced both North and South to adjust strategies and tactics in fighting the war.

RAY HOUSE JAMBOREE HELD ON JUNE 13

The Foundation's annual Ray House Jamboree, one of the events in the battlefield's Arts in the Park series, took place on a beautiful June day at the historic Ray House. A nice breeze on the hilltop cooled the audience that came to enjoy traditional old time music throughout the day. Refreshments of fresh popcorn and cold lemonade were served, and living historians in period dress led tours of the Ray House. Several local music groups performed, including Stringfield with Dennis McBride, the Piney River Gang with the Rapps, and the Ozark Mountain Dulcimers with Dennis Norwood. 🎷



The Piney River Gang



An Ozark Mountain Dulcimer player



April McDonough serves visitors at the Foundation booth.



Alexis Phillips sings with the Piney River Gang.



The audience enjoys the show under the shade of a maple tree in front of the Ray House.

NEW MEMBERS & CONTRIBUTORS

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

Don Akers
 Don Barnes
 Brent Barnett
 Roseann Blunt
 Kenneth & Charlotte Buckingham
 Virginia Bussey
 Scott Cauger
 Bill Charles
 Chicago Civil War Round Table
 The Civil War Preservation Trust
 John M. Coleton
 Gary Conwell
 John S. Coryell
 Jim Cox
 J Craig
 William DeSmet
 Ron & Dona Elkins
 Hadley & Jacqueline Ford
 Hal Funk
 J.D. Gillenwaters
 David & Robin Goebel
 Charles Goodwin
 Green Mountain Civil War Round Table
 Ray Greenlee
 Carol Grimes

Jack R. Hadsall
 Sam & June Hamra
 Robert Herb
 Ronald Himstedt
 Dr. Dennis Hood
 John Houlehan
 Linda & Jerry Jared
 James Jeffries
 Christopher Jones
 Mark Jones
 Tracy Kimberlin
 Richard & Mary Jo Kirkey
 David T. Lewis
 Jack & Lisa Lilley
 Christopher Lissner
 Faye & Richard Loeb
 Maurice Martinez
 John W. Mayer
 Ken McClure
 Fred & Ramona McQueary
 Lisa Meyer
 J.P. Morgan Chase
 Mount Olive Middle School
 John L. Nau, III
 Ozarks Civil War Round Table

Ozarks Coca-Cola/Dr. Pepper
 Mark & Karen Perrault
 Tom & Colette Petr
 Bill & Nancy Piston
 Martha Railey
 Jim Ridenour
 Arthur C. "Chad" Schrieber
 Holmes Semken
 Steve Shaw
 Silver Dollar City
 Richard Simpson
 Harold Sites
 Jewell Smith
 Shane Sondermann
 Lyle & Martha Sparkman
 State Bank of Southwest Missouri
 Ron & Lezah Stenger
 Tom Strong
 Tom & Karen Sweeney
 Naomi Tate
 Ralph Thaemlitz
 Timothy Vaught
 Christopher Warren
 Stewart White
 Mike & Carol Williamson



Superintendent's Corner

By Ted Hillmer

Dear Foundation Members,

This summer has been very busy at the battlefield. Several seasonal employees hired through NPS Centennial Challenge funding are assisting with our Common Soldier talks, the Ray House is open during the week, cannon demonstrations are scheduled on most weekends, and an additional employee has been hired to enter the Civil War collection into the NPS database. We have also hired two fifth-year landscape architecture students from Oklahoma State University to work on several projects.

The news media has been very favorable to us recently, with a five part series in the Christian County Headliner and articles in the Springfield News-Leader highlighting the summer youth program supported by the Wilson's Creek Foundation, the Arts in the Parks events in May and June, and the National Parks Conservation Association publication promoting protection of the cultural landscapes at Wilson's Creek and Pea Ridge. The battlefield's weekend cannon demonstrations were also covered in a television news story on KOLR 10.

Some recent projects funded through the Regional Office include rock removal from the Tour Road near stop number 3, new paint for the Ray House, rehabilitation of other structures at the battlefield, planning an apple orchard near the Ray House, rehabilitation of the Sweeney House as temporary housing for the Law Enforcement Ranger, repairs to the Ray spring house, and completion of new entrance gates at the Visitor Center and the Facility Management complex.

Thanks to each of you for your contributions to the National Park Service and especially to Wilson's Creek NB. I appreciate your support for all our projects and activities.

Ted Hillmer,
Superintendent



Wilson's Creek National Battlefield Annual Moonlight Tour *Saturday, September 12, 2009*

Don't miss the annual re-creation of evening and night time battlefield scenes at Wilson's Creek National Battlefield. The tour will depict scenes at various locations along the tour road, showing events that occurred before, and after the 1861 battle. The Wilson's Creek Foundation will be offering Chili Suppers at the Visitor Center from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m.

The first tour starts at 6:45 p.m. and the final one at 10:00 p.m. Tours leave every 15 minutes and each lasts 75-90 minutes. Tour leaders will provide an overview of the events of August 10, 1861, and background for each of the scenes. Visitors may ask questions and interact with tour leaders, but they will only be observers of the historic dramas presented at each stop.

Tickets for the Moonlight Tour go on sale July 25. Tickets are \$5 each, and may be purchased by mail or in person (no internet sales). Tickets are limited and usually sell out early. Call the Wilson's Creek Visitor Center at (417) 732-2662 for information.

Tickets on sale at the Visitor Center now.

Only \$5.00 per person!

Contact the Battlefield Visitor's Center at (417) 732-2662

Upcoming Events: at Wilson's Creek National Battlefield

August

- 1-11 Artillery Exhibit, items highlighting the role of field artillery in the Civil War – daily in the Visitor Center
- 8 Infantry & Artillery Firing Demonstrations, 11:00 am - 4:00 pm at stop number 5 on the Tour Road.
- 8-9 "Tracing Your Civil War Ancestor", genealogy program 2:00 - 4:15 pm at the Visitor Center
- 9 Infantry & Artillery Firing Demonstrations, 12:00 pm - 3:00 pm at stop number 5 on the Tour Road.
- 10 148th Battle Anniversary Observance, 10:00 am – No Entrance Fee
- 15-16 Fee Free Weekend – No Entrance Fee
- 15 Artillery Firing Demonstrations, 11:00 am - 4:00 pm at stop number 5 on the Tour Road.

September

- 7 Artillery Firing Demonstrations, 11:00 am - 4:00 pm at stop number 5 on the Tour Road.
- 8 Change to Fall Hours, 8 am - 5 pm Visitor Center, 8 am - 7 pm Tour Road.
- 12 Special Event: "Moonlight Tour": Evening living history program highlighting events before and after the Battle of Wilson's Creek, 6:45 - 10:00 pm – Tickets required: \$5.00 each.
- 26 National Public Lands Day – No Entrance Fee

October

- 25 Change to Winter Hours, 8 am - 5 pm Visitor Center and Tour Road.

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

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

**Visit our New & Expanded Website!
www.wilsonscreek.com
Coming this August!**

Address Correction Requested