



THE BUGLE CALL

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE WILSON'S CREEK NATIONAL BATTLEFIELD FOUNDATION

FALL 2009/WINTER 2010

THE CANNONS OF GREENE COUNTY

By Len Eagleburger

On June 4, 1870, Congressman S.H. (Pony) Boyd introduced and passed a joint resolution in Congress "directing the (US) Secretary of War to place at the disposal of the judges of the county court of the county of Greene, State of Missouri, eight captured twelve-pounder guns, of obsolete pattern, now condemned, and in store at the Rock Island arsenal (Ill), to be placed in Franklin Square, North Springfield, Missouri, around the monument to be erected to the memory of the late Brigadier General Nathaniel Lyon, and the Federal forces who fell with him at the Battle of Wilson's Creek." (Col. Sempronius H. "Pony" Boyd was first elected from the old 4th Congressional district of southwest Missouri in 1862 and served until the 1870's. He was a former mayor of Springfield and a circuit judge. He formed and led the 24th Missouri Infantry as its colonel during the Civil War).

As most of you probably know, the Franklin Square plans never materialized. The cannons were distributed in various parts of the county, one going to Walnut Grove, another to Ash Grove, and others to Springfield. One cannon was loaned to Drury University, and it still occupies a prominent position on the campus facing Benton Avenue, where it has witnessed many an outdoor student gathering and bonfire. Drury later acquired a second gun. All of these old cannons, except the one at Walnut Grove and one of the two at Drury, have long ago been burst, it is said. Until about 30 years ago, it was the custom to fire off the old field-pieces on the Fourth of July.

Today, there are only three of the eight cannons accounted for. One is located at Walnut Grove High School in Walnut Grove, MO. The other two are on the campus of Drury University in



Walnut Grove cannon

See *Cannons* on page 3

WHY I WROTE AN ARTILLERYMAN'S WAR, GUS DEY AND THE SECOND UNITED STATES ARTILLERY

By Michael Ingrisano

When I clocked out for the day from my job in New York City on September 3, 1942, to enlist in the U.S. military service and World War II, I had no idea what the future would bring or who Gus Dey was. You see, Dey had enlisted in the U.S. Army at the same Whitehall Street office almost a century earlier, in December 1854. Over 130 years later in August 1986, I married his great granddaughter, Nancy Helen Day, and I began to



Gus Dey

realize a relationship between the Civil War veteran and myself. As a teenager and a child of immigrants, I had often fantasized that I fought in the Civil War but of course never realized what war was all about until I saw combat.

Nancy and I honeymooned at Shepherdstown, WV, a stone's throw from Antietam, where we observed

an artillery demonstration. A few years later, a family wedding trip to St. Louis inspired us to trace Dey's Civil War journeys and battle locations, beginning in Corinth where we met a local Civil War historian who generously shared his immense knowledge of the area. We spent several days in Springfield and at Wilson's Creek, using the Civil War library, which was wonderful even in the early 1990's. Finally, during a short visit to the state library in Columbia, MO, we learned that there was research material available to expose some of the history of Dey's fairly unique service.

As a Regular Army artilleryman, Dey saw initial action in Florida, and then pre-Civil War hostilities in the Kansas and Missouri territories. At the Civil War battlefields of Wilson's Creek and Corinth, MS, where

See *Artilleryman* on page 2

WORDS FROM THE PRESIDENT

by Ken McClure



The fall and early winter of each year are always very special times at the Wilson's Creek National Battlefield, and the Foundation is pleased to be a part of these events. On September 12, the Foundation, in conjunction with the park staff, hosted the annual Moonlight Tour and Chili Supper. This event, always popular, was successful again this year with all busses being full. Many were afforded an opportunity to see the Battlefield at night and witness re-creations of several events that might have occurred at the time of the battle in August of 1861. Plans are now underway for the Luminary Tour, which will be held at the park on December 12. This is always a very special evening that serves to highlight the Park, and especially the Ray House, as we begin the Holiday Season.

The Foundation was also pleased to play a part in sponsoring the recent Ken Burns series on the national parks. It is our hope that these programs, which appeared on PBS, will re-ignite a public interest in our National Park System and, especially, our own Wilson's Creek National Battlefield. In this regard, the Foundation Board, in beginning its planning for the 150th Anniversary of the Civil War, is hoping that national awareness of the events of 1861 through 1865 and the ongoing impact the war had on the nation will result in many new individuals becoming serious students of the Civil War.

The Foundation and its Board are most grateful for your interest and involvement in the Wilson's Creek National Battlefield and your ongoing support of the Foundation. It is our hope that you have a very happy and prosperous 2010.



Ken McClure, President

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the Regulars were almost considered non-combatants, Dey fought and later led his unit in pivotal action and with distinction. I soon realized, though, that the Dey's service, as well as the history of the Regular U.S. Army in general, was sparsely covered in Civil War literature. This awareness, along with my youthful interest in the Civil War and my feeling of connection with Dey, created the desire to tell his story.

Nancy's family lore and relics from Gus Dey were decimated by early deaths and the Great Depression, so there was little personal history for the author in me to draw from. A real asset for the book was that our home in Virginia is only a short drive from the National Archives in Washington, DC. The Civil War archivists there are top notch, eager to help any researcher. The official records of the Regular Army provided a rich source of day to day happenings, both dramatic and mundane. This provided the framework for *An Artilleryman's War*, Gus Dey and the Second United States Artillery.

Gus Dey became the thread, frequently a minor character, but one who marched with the history of the Regular Army. An immigrant with probable military experience, Dey saw comrades struggle with sectarian emotions and desertions as the Civil War approached. More comrades would leave when the war progressed and promotions were available in the Northern volunteer forces. Through to war's end, Dey stayed with the Regular Army, earning a rare promotion to 2nd Lieutenant before he mysteriously had enough and left the Army himself. Along the way, he witnessed American history

in the making: the stuff of dreams for this son of Italian immigrants.

To purchase a copy of Mike's book about Gus Dey, contact the Foundation office at 417-864-3041. ☞

Have any stories of local or historical interest?
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

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 fundraising, volunteerism, education, advocacy, and research.


Cannons continued from page 1

Springfield. Nobody knows what happened to the one in Ash Grove, unless it is the second one obtained by

Drury. These three are "sister" cannons, all having been manufactured at the same arsenal and in the same lot. They are "captured" or "surrendered" (later called "memorial") Confederate States of America guns from the Augusta, Georgia Arsenal, 1863. They were from a lot of about 60 guns, all twelve-pounders in the Napoleon style made of brass or bronze. They were originally sent to the CSA Army of Tennessee in the summer of 1863.



Drury cannon north

The cannons at Drury University and Walnut Grove High School have been in place for a number of years. They are all visible from your vehicle, so drive by and take a peek at them some time. 



Drury cannon south

6th Annual Luminary Tour & Ray House Christmas


Don't miss the most unique holiday display in southwest Missouri. The entire five miles of tour road at Wilson's Creek will be lined with flickering candles in paper bags, over 2,500 in all, on December 12. The luminaries will be assembled and placed by Scouts, battlefield volunteers, and staff members to honor the 2,539 soldiers killed or wounded at the Battle of Wilson's Creek. The historic Ray House will be open and decked out with period furnishings, decorations, toys, refreshments, and living historians will describe the lives of the Ray family in the 1860s.

The Luminary Tour and Ray House Christmas is a **free event** on **Saturday, December 12, from 4:30 to 10:00 p.m.** Bring the family for a beautiful ride and you might even glimpse a ghost of Christmas past.

STAFFORDS VIEW DONATED FAMILY FLAG

This fall Dick Stafford and his wife Kay traveled to southwest Missouri from their home in Norfolk, Nebraska, to visit Wilson's Creek and view the rare silk Confederate 1st National flag that was recently donated to the battlefield by their family. The flag, which has been professionally conserved and mounted, is now on display in the artifact room next to the Civil War Library.

Although the flag was sent home sometime during the Civil War by William S. Brooks, family members are not sure where and when he obtained it. He fought with the 1st Iowa Infantry at the Battle of Wilson's Creek, and later with the 19th Iowa Infantry at the Battle of Prairie Grove, Arkansas. While serving as Colonel of the 56th U.S. Colored Infantry, Brooks was killed during the skirmish at Wallace's Ferry near Helena, Arkansas, on July 26, 1864.

The flag was donated by the Stafford family and other descendants of Col. William S. Brooks. The family of Edward H. Stafford includes Dorothy, his widow; Edward H. Stafford, Jr.; Jeri Stafford Rankin; Donald Stafford; and Trudy La Fallette. The family of Bill W. Stafford includes Richard D. Stafford. Other descendants of Col. Brooks include Julianne and Robert Weir, Ronnie Watson, and Mary Bailey. 



TRIVIAL TIDBIT

"Even with all the sorrow that hangs, and will forever hang, over so many households; even while war still rages; even while there are serious questions yet to be settled—ought it not to be, and is it not, a merry Christmas?"

—Harper's Weekly, December 26, 1863

DAUGHTERS OF UNION VETERANS MAKES DONATION TO WILSON'S CREEK FOUNDATION

Springfield, Mo.—Margaret Maulin, Past Missouri Department President of Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War, 1861-1865, recently presented a check in the amount of \$1,048.50 to Roseann Blunt, Director of Finance for Wilson's Creek National Battlefield Foundation. The monies were raised through fundraising events within the state organization during Margaret's term. The Foundation plans to use the money to help with land preservation efforts for Wilson's Creek National Battlefield, either to purchase property in the boundary expansion area for the battlefield or to participate in a conservation easement through the Farmland Protection Program. The local chapter of the Daughters of Union Veterans, Mary Whitney Phelps Tent No. 22, has been a longtime supporter of the Foundation and the battlefield. 📄



Margaret Maulin (left) presents a check to Roseann Blunt

FOUNDATION MOURNS THE LOSS OF TWO MEMBERS

The Wilson's Creek Foundation is mourning the loss and celebrating the achievements of two former board members and longtime supporters.

John F. Wolfe, 70, of Springfield, MO., passed away Friday, August 28, 2009. John was born July 13, 1939, in Topeka, KS. He was an Eagle Scout, a supervisor for Hallmark Cards in Lawrence, KS., and a pharmaceutical representative in Springfield, MO. His passion was Civil War history. He spent many hours talking to school groups, volunteering at Wilson's Creek National Battlefield and participating in reenactments. John was a member of the Sons of the Confederate Veterans, where he served as president of his chapter. He was instrumental in the promotion and planning of the 12 historical markers for the Battle of Springfield, located throughout downtown Springfield, MO. The family is requesting that donations be made in John's behalf to Wilson's Creek National Battlefield, 6424 W. Farm Rd. 182, Republic, MO 65738.

Tommy Joe McLoud, 56, Rogersville, passed away in Cox South on Wednesday, November 18. He was born in Springdale, AR., on September 23, 1953. Tom graduated from the University of Arkansas with his MBA in 1981 and worked in commercial real estate with McLoud & Co. He was a member of Second Baptist Church in Springfield, MO., as well as Sunrise Rotary and University of Arkansas Alumni. He enjoyed basketball, football, baseball, golf and cooking. He is survived by his wife, Jill Marie; his parents, Harvey Joe and Virginia McLoud, and his children, Joseph Brandon and Jason Thomas. Tom was a great asset to the Wilson's Creek National Battlefield Foundation on matters of land preservation and real estate transactions. The family suggests memorial contributions to Boy Scouts of America, Camp Barnabas, or Southwest Baptist University Tom McLoud Scholarship Fund. 📄

DESCENDANT OF GENERAL SWEENEY VISITS WILSON'S CREEK

Allen Sweeney and his wife Bev recently flew from their home in Louisville, Kentucky, to visit Wilson's Creek National Battlefield, where Allen's great-great-grandfather, General Thomas W. Sweeney, was wounded in the thigh as he led the 1st Iowa Infantry into battle on Bloody Hill. While touring the Civil War Museum, the Sweeneys saw the general's presentation sword, field glasses, and other items that Allen's father Charlie had brought to the museum several years ago. After stopping at the Visitor Center and watching the interpretive film, they toured the battlefield and saw the area on Bloody Hill where



General Sweeney was wounded.

Like his famous relative, Allen served in the military, graduating from the US Air Force Academy in 1965. He flew F-4 Phantoms and F-15 Eagles, completing several tours in Vietnam, Turkey, and various bases in Europe. After he retired as a major in 1984, Allen was a pilot for United Parcel Service Airlines for 18 years. He retired from UPS in 2008 and now enjoys taking Bev on trips in their Cozy MKIV.

The Sweeneys left some photographs, genealogical material, and newspapers concerning the general for the museum archives. 📄



Superintendent's Report

By Ted Hillmer

Dear Foundation Members,

In 2016, the National Park Service will celebrate its 100th year of serving visitors. Throughout our history, the NPS staff has been dedicated to their fundamental mission of protecting resources for future generations, preserving the nation's history, and providing outstanding educational and recreational opportunities for diverse visitors. Our new Director, Jon Jarvis from the Western Region, is dedicated to improvement in several areas: interpretation, volunteerism, sustainability, and our youth programs. Wilson's Creek has been active in these areas for many years, with assistance from the Foundation.

As we reflect on the tremendous success of the Wilson's Creek NB over the past decade and our many contributions to protecting our history, we have cause for celebration – and action. The members of the Foundation continue to provide projects and activities to enhance the visitor experience and to preserve the battlefield. The Preservation and Museum Committees provide exceptional advice and direction for the battlefield, as they move toward completion of important projects.

One of the Foundation's past board members played a key role in protecting and assisting with land preserva-

tion efforts. I visited with Tom McCloud on many separate occasions to discuss development and real estate issues in the greater Springfield area. Tom was always willing to provide information to me during and after his term on the board. I will miss his advice, knowledge of southwest Missouri, and even his bragging about his favorite school—the University of Arkansas!

Our projects this year continue to concentrate on our 150th Anniversary in 2011. I will be focusing on several issues, including land preservation (i.e., conservation easements), activities for the 150th commemoration of the Civil War in Missouri, a Battle of Wilson's Creek reenactment in 2011, the museum addition for the Visitor Center, and the Newtonia Study with the Regional Office.

Our projects are urgent. America stands at a crossroads. Down one road lie missed opportunities and irretrievable loss of our natural and cultural legacy. Down the other lies a future in which Wilson's Creek NB, protected forever and for all, contributes to a better world. Thank you for being part of the bigger picture in protecting our lands and providing opportunities to learn about this great area in southern Missouri.

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!

Larry and Sundhild Barrett
City of Battlefield
Bob and Susan Beine
Parker Bena
Daniel S. Brigman
David Brigman
Kim Brueggemann
Annie Busch
John Casullo
Michael Charnisky
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Florence Thompson
Jerry Tonroy
Richard and Pamela Wagner
Jack Webster
Mark Whisler
Jackie Williams
Mike and Carol Williamson
Roger and Jackie Willman
Joe Ann Yocom

Upcoming Events: at Wilson's Creek National Battlefield

December

- 12 6th Annual Luminary Tour & Ray House Christmas, 4:30 p.m.-10:00 p.m. – Free Admission
- 25 Christmas Day (Visitor Center, Tour Road and all other battlefield property closed).

January

- 1 New Year's Day (Visitor Center, Tour Road and all other battlefield property closed).

December 1 - March 1 Civil War Museum closed for exhibit cleaning and maintenance

Note: 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

We hope you can visit to the battlefield during the quiet winter season to explore the trails, travel the tour road, do a little family research in the Library or just enjoy the quiet of the park and it's wildlife in the winter.

*Wishing You and Your
Families...*



*a Bountiful Holiday
Season!*



Wilson's Creek
National Battlefield
Foundation

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

**Visit our website!
www.wilsonscreek.com**

Address Correction Requested