

# THE BUGLE CALL

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE WILSON'S CREEK NATIONAL BATTLEFIELD FOUNDATION FALL 2013/WINTER 2014

## FIRST BLOODY HILL RUN AT WILSON'S CREEK NB



The Bloody Hill Run started with the roar of a cannon firing.

Each year more than 175,000 people visit Wilson's Creek National Battlefield, one of only six National Park Service sites in Missouri. Visitors come from all over the United States and many foreign countries to discover both its historic significance and its natural beauty. However, even though the park is located only a few miles south of Springfield, many area residents have never visited the park and are not aware of all it has to offer. In an effort to bring new visitors to the park and promote its facilities, the Wilson's Creek Foundation sponsored the first annual Bloody Hill Run on October 19, 2013.

Although plans for the event were in limbo for several weeks during the Federal government shut-down that included most national parks, government offices and agencies reopened just in time for the run to take place as scheduled. The Bloody Hill Run is named for the hill where many soldiers died during the battle of Wilson's Creek and the steep climb at the end of the race.

On a blustery cold Saturday in October, more than one hundred runners, park staff, volunteers, Foundation board members, and spectators gathered at Wilson's Creek NB for an 8K timed run and one-mile fun run. Participants and volunteers were greeted by gloomy

See *Bloody Hill Run* on page 3

## NEW EXHIBITS COMING TO VISITOR CENTER IN SPRING OF 2014

After many years of planning for the placement of the best collection of artifacts from the Trans-Mississippi Theatre, formerly the Sweeney Collection, the battlefield will be installing new temporary Visitor Center exhibits in April of 2014. New cases with text and illustrations will display three-dimensional artifacts, textiles, photographs, and written accounts from diaries.

Nine specific topics will educate the visitors about the importance of the Civil War and specifically Wilson's Creek: 1 – Communities in conflict; 2 – Slavery in Missouri and Facing an Uncertain Future; 3 – Missouri Shapes America's Slavery Debate and Bleeding Kansas; 4 – Decisions in the Community; 5 – On the Eve of battle and the Battle of Wilson's Creek; 6 – War in the Trans-Mississippi Theater; 7 – Brown Water Navy and Battle Flags; 8 – Rebuilding our Community; and 9 - Preservation and Commemoration. The fiber optic battle map program will be included in the exhibits with a small modification, as the map will be raised and placed at floor level.

The park is excited about the new exhibits that will showcase the great collection of artifacts maintained by Wilson's Creek NB. Battlefield and NPS staff have devoted countless hours to this important project at Wilson's Creek. The majority of the hours have been contributed by design/build contractors Design Minds, Inc. and Mystic, NPS Harper's Ferry Center, volunteers, Wilson's Creek staff, and the NPS Midwest Region to make this project a great success for over 160,000 annual visitors. If you have not visited the park for some time this will be a great reason to return (put the date on your 2014 Wilson's Creek calendar!). 

# WORDS FROM THE PRESIDENT

by Craig Dunn



As the end of 2013 approaches, I feel a great sense of pride as I look back upon this year's events and the Foundation's success, thanks to the countless number of park staff, volunteers, and board members who contributed to our efforts. This past spring we held our first annual Spring Fling event, built upon a similar event held many years ago, but made even

better today by the contributions of our sponsors and partners. Having the event take place on the hallowed ground of Wilson's Creek National Battlefield created a true connection to the battle that took place 152 years ago, and great strides were made that night in our fight to preserve even more of this precious battleground.

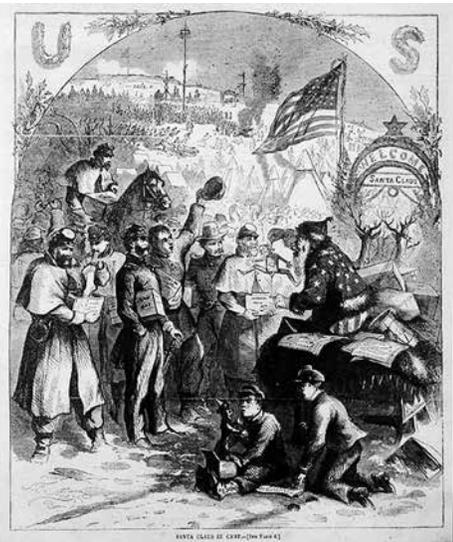
Just last month we held yet another new event, the Bloody Hill Run, an 8K timed race and one-mile fun run that helped to promote awareness and visitation at the park. The proceeds from the run will also be used to continue to help us fulfill our mission of preserving the battlefield.

Unfortunately, in the weeks leading up to the Bloody Hill Run, a different type of awareness was forced on all of us who are involved in some way with Wilson's Creek NB. And that is the fact that our precious National Parks, like Wilson's Creek National Battlefield, can suffer as a consequence of political disagreements in Washington. During the government shutdown, the battlefield was closed, and the outstanding staff at Wilson's Creek National Battlefield were no longer able to tell the story of the Battle of Wilson's Creek. I am proud to say, though, that even during this difficult time, the Foundation never shut down. The Foundation continued to be there to represent the best interest of the battlefield, thanks to all those who support our efforts. So I would like to close by thanking the excellent staff at Wilson's Creek that we are privileged to work with, thanking the amazing group of board members and staff of the Foundation that I am privileged to work with, and thanking you, our members and donors, for your faithful support as we continue to fight to preserve this battlefield.

Craig Dunn, President



The Christmas of 1861 saw soldiers full of bravado, still relatively well fed and equipped early in the war, and eagerly anticipating Christmas boxes of treats from home. Often officers authorized extra rations of spirits and the men engaged in greased pig-catching contests, footraces, jumping matches, and impromptu pageants dressed as women. Soldiers erected small evergreen trees strung withhardtack and pork. Some were excused from drills, although other references point to the need to haul logs and forage firewood no matter what day of the year it was.



An illustration from Harper's Weekly showing Santa visiting a Union camp

Have any stories of local or historical interest relating to the Civil War? 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](mailto: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.

*Bloody Hill Run* continued from page 1

skies and a brisk wind, but spirits were high and the runners were ready to go when they heard the cannon shot that started the races. The male and female 8K overall winners received vacation packages in Branson with tickets for Silver Dollar City and the Branson Belle. Other prizes included bagels for a year from Panera, the Battle of Wilson's Creek August Light dvd, and The Battle of Wilson's Creek book by Edwin Bearss. Refreshments for the participants and spectators were provided by Hy-Vee, Associated Grocers, Culver's, Einstein Bros Bagels, and McAlister's Deli.

Foundation President Craig Dunn said that he believes this event will promote the park, encourage tourism, and highlight one of the hidden jewels of the Springfield area, Wilson's Creek National Battlefield. 



Wilson's Creek National Battlefield Foundation treasurer, Brian Hickman is awarded a finishers medal by board member, Kathleen O'Dell.



Brock and Sarah Buerck and Emily Ross with their medals after finishing the run.

## 10th Annual Luminary Tour & Ray House Christmas



Mark your calendars for the Wilson's Creek National Battlefield Memorial Illumination on **Saturday, December 14, 2013**. More than 2,500 candle luminaries will be placed on both sides of the 5-mile tour road loop to provide a tangible representation of the 2,539 casualties of the Battle of Wilson's Creek.

The evening will begin with a short program at 4:30 p.m. to honor veterans and thank the volunteers who prepared and placed the luminaries. The tour road will open for vehicles at 5:15 p.m. and close at 9:00 p.m. The Visitor Center book store will be open, and the Kickapoo High School Choir, led by Nathan Cornelius, will perform Christmas carols. Refreshments will be served by the Wilson's Creek Foundation. The historic Ray House will be decorated in 1860s Christmas style, with volunteers in period clothing describing life for the Ray family during the Civil War.

Admission for this event is **free**, as the battlefield's special gift to the greater Springfield area.

# The Gettysburg Address

Gettysburg, Pennsylvania  
November 19, 1863

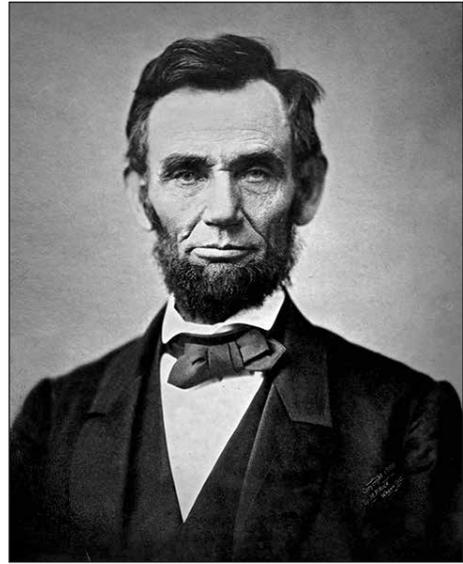
Perhaps the Most famous battle of the Civil War took place at Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, July 1 to July 3, 1863. At the end of the battle, the Union's Army of the Potomac had successfully repelled the second invasion of the North by the Confederacy's Army of Northern Virginia. Several months later, President Lincoln went to Gettysburg to speak at the dedication of the cemetery for the Union war dead.

On June 1, 1865, Senator Charles Sumner referred to the most famous speech ever given by President Abraham Lincoln. In his eulogy on the slain president, he called the Gettysburg Address a "monumental act." He said Lincoln was mistaken that "the world will little note, nor long remember what we say here." Rather, the Bostonian remarked, "The world noted at once what he said, and will never cease to remember it. The battle itself was less important than the speech."

There are five known copies of the speech in Lincoln's handwriting, each with a slightly different text, and named for the people who first received them: Nicolay, Hay, Everett, Bancroft and Bliss. Two copies apparently were written before delivering the speech; the remaining ones were produced months later for soldier benefit events. Despite widely-circulated stories to the contrary, the president did not dash off a copy aboard a train to Gettysburg. Lincoln carefully prepared his major speeches in advance; his steady, even script in every manuscript is consistent with a firm writing surface, not the notoriously bumpy Civil War-era trains. Additional versions of the speech appeared in newspapers of the era, feeding modern-day confusion about the authoritative text.

## **Bliss Copy**

Ever since Lincoln wrote it in 1864, this version has been the most often reproduced, notably on the walls of the Lincoln Memorial in Washington. It is named after Colonel Alexander Bliss, stepson of historian George Bancroft. Bancroft asked President Lincoln for a copy to use as a fundraiser for soldiers. However, because Lincoln wrote on both sides of the paper, the speech could not be reprinted, so Lincoln made another copy at Bliss's request. It is the last known copy written by Lincoln and the only one signed and dated by him. Today it is on display at the Lincoln Room of the White House.



Four score and seven years ago our fathers brought forth on this continent, a new nation, conceived in Liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal.

Now we are engaged in a great civil war, testing whether that nation, or any nation so conceived and so dedicated, can long endure. We are met on a great battle-field of that war. We have come to dedicate a portion of that field, as a final resting place for those who here gave their lives that that nation might live. It is altogether fitting and proper that we should do this.

But, in a larger sense, we can not dedicate – we can not consecrate – we can not hallow – this ground. The brave men, living and dead, who struggled here, have consecrated it, far above our poor power to add or detract. The world will little note, nor long remember what we say here, but it can never forget what they did here. It is for us the living, rather, to be dedicated here to the unfinished work which they who fought here have thus far so nobly advanced. It is rather for us to be here dedicated to the great task remaining before us – that from these honored dead we take increased devotion to that cause for which they gave the last full measure of devotion – that we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain – that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom – and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth.

Abraham Lincoln  
November 19, 1863

Reprinted from [abrahamlincolnonline.org](http://abrahamlincolnonline.org)



# Superintendent's Corner

By Ted Hillmer

Dear Foundation Members,

Another year is near its completion, and as I look over the park's and Foundation's accomplishments, I am amazed! Some of the goals were achieved in spite of a government shutdown that lasted 16 days.

The Spring Fling at the Ray House was a new event for the Foundation, and it was very successful. The evening was a gala event with great music, great food, great supporters, and a great night firing of the park's cannon by Wilson's Creek staff and volunteers. The first Wilson's Creek Bloody Hill Run held in mid- October was another success. Although the turnout was smaller than expected, the Foundation Board was very active, and sponsorships from the community allowed the Foundation to raise funds and educate the public about the purpose of the park. The third project was the purchase of land on the southeast side of the battlefield – 20 acres of the Keet property that will become part of the park. The Civil War Trust and the Foundation are partnering to preserve a total of 60 acres of land that will be saved from development.

The battlefield has also achieved several goals during 2013, increasing volunteer hours to assist with programs for our visitors and school groups over 11 percent from the previous year. In addition, the park partnered with the Springfield-Greene County Library District on a lecture series highlighting the sesquicentennial of the Civil War. This week-long program attracted over 1,000 visitors. Throughout the year, the staff at the park has also been working with Harper's Ferry Center on the temporary Visitor Center exhibits that will house some of the artifacts from the Trans-Mississippi collection.

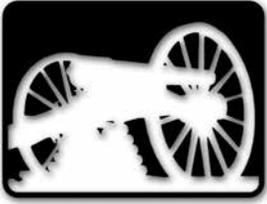
I am very blessed this holiday season, with health for myself and my family; however, I am so thankful for the members of the Foundation and its officers for all the time and effort they have dedicated to preserving the battlefield. Wilson's Creek is very blessed to have a Foundation that continues to give, making the park a better place to visit and learn about the history of this great country.

Ted Hillmer,  
Superintendent

## NEW MEMBERS & CONTRIBUTORS

These generous people and organizations have recently joined or contributed to the Wilson's Creek National Battlefield Foundation. Please join us in thanking them for their support of historical preservation!

- |                            |                            |                                  |
|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------------|
| John & Connie Alexander    | John & Carolyn Gerdes      | Evelyn Mangan                    |
| Don & Janis Barnes         | Jacqueline Glover          | Mark Maurice                     |
| Larry & Sundhild Barrett   | Charles Goodwin            | Walter & Nancy McCrillis         |
| Bob and Susan Beine        | Ray & Betty Greenlee       | Ramona McQueary                  |
| BNSF Railways              | Carol Grimes               | Raymond M. Meyer                 |
| Ken & Charlotte Buckingham | Judd Harris                | W. Brett Neibling                |
| Bob Carter                 | Ted Heidloff               | Kathleen O'Dell                  |
| Robert Capps               | Ted Hillmer                | Charlie & Mary Beth O'Reilly     |
| John Casullo               | Dennis Hood                | Ozarks Coca-Cola/Dr. Pepper      |
| Thomas Coay                | John Houlehan, Jr.         | Dale L. Pilant                   |
| Jason Coffman              | Cathlene Hubbard           | J. Edward Power                  |
| Gary Conwell               | Hy-Vee                     | Martha Railey                    |
| Thomas Doneker             | Nicholas Inman             | Jerry Redfearn                   |
| Craig Dunn                 | Jane Ann & Warford Johnson | Michael Schroepel                |
| Ron Elkins, Jr.            | Jeremy & Heather Jones     | Lyle Sparkman                    |
| Tom Finnie                 | JP Morgan Chase            | Springfield First Community Bank |
| Hadley & Jacqueline Ford   | Chris Kennon               | David Stokely                    |
| Tom Fowler, III            | Tracy Kimberlin            | Tom Strong                       |
| Martha Friedmeyer          | Mary Jo Kirkey             | David Christopher Warren         |
| Pauline Fuelts             | Faye & Richard Loeb        | Fred Weber                       |
| Hal & Kathy Funk           | Bill & Kathy Love          | Mark Whisler                     |
| Don Garrett                | Edwin Magnusson            | Lena Wright                      |



Wilson's Creek  
National Battlefield  
Foundation

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

**Return Service Requested**



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Foundation on Facebook!

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

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

### **November**

28 Thanksgiving Day (Visitor Center, Tour Road and all other battlefield property closed).

### **December**

14 10th Annual Luminary Tour & Ray House Christmas, 5:00 p.m.-9:30 p.m. – Free Admission

24 Christmas Eve (Visitor Center, Tour Road and all other battlefield property closes at 12:00 p.m.).

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).

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](http://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 its wildlife in the winter.

*Wishing You and Your  
Families...*



*a Bountiful Holiday  
Season!*