



# THE BUGLE CALL

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE WILSON'S CREEK NATIONAL BATTLEFIELD FOUNDATION

WINTER, 2011/2012


## COUNTRY MUSIC STAR VISITS BATTLEFIELD

Country western singing sensation Trace Adkins toured Wilson's Creek National Battlefield and met with Wilson's Creek Foundation supporters for a private reception Friday afternoon, June 17, before his performance at the Show-Me Music & Arts Festival that evening. Mr. Adkins is well-known for such songs as "Arlington," the story of a fallen soldier brought to be laid to rest in the national cemetery, as well as being a finalist on the reality television series "Celebrity Apprentice."

Mr. Adkins became interested in Civil War history through the stories of his ancestors passed down within his family. His personal connection to history and the ardent desire to see it preserved is what motivated him to become involved in the Civil War Trust, a national Civil War preservation organization credited with saving 30,000 acres of threatened battlefield ground in 20 different states. The Civil War Trust has been an active partner in preservation efforts at Wilson's Creek Foundation, partnering with the Foundation to save more than 250 acres of land threatened by development adjacent to the battlefield at Wilson's Creek.



Trace Adkins tours the Civil War museum

While at the battlefield, Mr. Adkins toured the Visitor Center, saw the historic Ray House, and visited the Civil War Museum. Foundation President Steve Ross said, "We were pleased to have Mr. Adkins visit the battlefield and especially to see the museum collection assembled by Dr. Tom and Karen Sweeney." 

## BENJAMIN MCCULLOCH

By Len Eagleburger

Perhaps the most hardened and experienced military commander at the Battle of Wilson's Creek in 1861 was none other than Benjamin McCulloch. Born in Tennessee in 1811, he was the son of a veteran of the Creek War of 1813-14 and the Battle of New Orleans in 1815 during the War of 1812.

In Tennessee he was neighbors with Davy Crockett and enlisted with his men to go to Texas (along with his brother Henry) in 1835, but the "Tennessee Boys" left without them because of measles. They finally reached San Antonio after the Alamo had fallen. In the War of Texas Independence, Ben McCulloch joined the Texas army under Sam Houston in its retreat to east Texas. Assigned to Captain Isaac N. Moreland's artillery company at the Battle of San Jacinto (April 21,



1836), he commanded one of the "Twin Sisters" -- two six-pounder cannon sent to aid the Texans by the citizens of Cincinnati. He made deadly use of grapeshot against the Mexican positions and received a battlefield commission as first lieutenant. McCulloch was then attached to Capt. William H. Smith's cavalry company, but left the army to revisit Tennessee. He returned a few months later with a company of thirty volunteers under the command of Robert Crockett, Davy's son and served gallantly in winning Texas's independence from Mexico. After Texas entered the Union in 1845, he was appointed Major General in command of all Texas militia west of the Colorado River. That same year, with the outbreak of the war with Mexico, he raised a company of Rangers that became Company A of Col. Hays's 1st Regiment of Texas Mounted Volunteers, who were known for their

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# WORDS FROM THE PRESIDENT

by Steve Ross



I want to express my apologies to our Foundation members for the lateness of this newsletter. What was meant to be a summer newsletter has become the summer/fall/winter newsletter. The planning, hosting and follow-up work related to the 150th anniversary of the battle of Wilson's Creek kept us so busy that the newsletter had

to be put on a back burner. Now that a very busy year has come to an end we hope to make it up to you with a bigger issue to recap an extraordinary year.

Foundation members and many other volunteers worked tirelessly for a year and a half to prepare for the *Battle of Wilson's Creek 150th Anniversary Reenactment* this past August 11-14. It was an outstanding event! A few unexpected setbacks including a devastating EF-5 tornado in Joplin and flooding in northern Missouri justifiably diverted some funding and resources (such as bridges) to these hard hit areas. Resourceful members of our reenactment committees found other sources for bridge materials and secured contributions of time, materials and money from many generous companies and individuals. We had to get by with one less bridge than we planned, and temperatures in the 100's during July and early August made miserable work for the crews preparing the site. But the necessary work was completed and the temperatures dropped into the 80's just in time for the event.

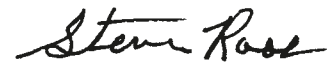
Almost 3,000 reenactors recreated different battle scenes from August 10, 1861, accompanied by dozens of horses, and at least as many cannons as were present during the original battle. It was a truly unforgettable experience that surrounded the spectators with the sights, sounds, smells and feel of history. The spectacle of thousands of soldiers, vibrations from the roar

of the cannons and the galloping horses were better than the best 3-D, surround-sound, movie theatre.

We had hoped the reenactment would help us raise money for our effort to add a museum wing to the visitor center, but due to some of the setbacks I mentioned earlier, the 150th Anniversary Reenactment wasn't a big money maker for the foundation. Thankfully we made a small profit but, more importantly, we met our major goal—to get the next generation interested in history. To make them appreciate all that has gone before so that they will have a better vision for the future, and a greater respect for the hallowed ground of places like Wilson's Creek National Battlefield. I heard a lot of visitors say that they had never visited Wilson's Creek, or any Civil War battlefield before our reenactment. Hopefully this new audience will be the caretakers of these places when the bicentennial of the Civil War is commemorated in 2061 and we can rest assured that places like Wilson's Creek will be protected for many generations to come.

I recently visited the Civil War Museum after it closed its doors for the last time on December 1. I got a lump in my throat as I watched park service employees packing artifacts in boxes for storage or transfer to Harpers Ferry for conservation. It was sad to see the empty display cases that once told the story of the conflict west of the Mississippi, but I am relieved that efforts by our Foundation will keep the vast majority of these artifacts here at Wilson's Creek. Much of the collection will be back for the public to view in 2013 in cases squeezed into the existing Visitor Center. We will continue to work in the coming year to build a larger, permanent home for this outstanding collection. With your continued support I know we can get it done.

Best wishes for the new year!



Steve Ross, President

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.

# CIVIL WAR MUSEUM CLOSES


For the past six years, since shortly after the National Park Service purchased the General Sweeny's Museum trans-Mississippi Civil War collection in August 2005, the Wilson's Creek Foundation has been working on a project to move the priceless artifacts to the battlefield Visitor Center, where it will be safer and more accessible to the public. Many battlefield visitors just didn't have time to go up the road to the museum, and the Foundation Board felt it was important to make this wonderful resource available to more people. Through conversations with NPS Midwest Region and Wilson's Creek staff, an understanding was reached that the ultimate goal for collection was to build a museum wing attached to the Visitor Center with new, state-of-the-art exhibits. Although there was no guarantee that government funds would be available for this project, the Foundation Board decided to move forward, hiring an architect to draw plans for the addition and contracting with an exhibit designer to provide the schematic design of new museum exhibits. Over a period of several years, battlefield staff, Foundation members, and Civil War scholars have worked with the architects and exhibit designers on this project, but it has become clear that government budgetary constraints and the difficulty of raising enough private funds in the current economic climate make completing a new museum unlikely in the next five to ten years.

Aware of the difficulty of funding a new museum wing anytime soon and increasingly concerned about the safety and security of the collection, the NPS began considering other alternatives in November of 2010. Although a new museum wing at Wilson's Creek remains the park service's stated long term goal, a consolidation strategy was proposed to improve the preservation and protection of the museum artifacts and increase public access. This strategy would require closing the present museum, but it was agreed that it would remain open until after the sesquicentennial of the battle in August 2011. In September 2011 the NPS announced that a contract to design and build new museum exhibits for the Visitor Center was in place. This process includes moving most of the collection to the Visitor Center for storage while the project is under way. Many of the objects are being assessed for conservation needs, and some will be sent to the NPS Harper's Ferry Center to be conserved before being returned to Wilson's Creek. The first design team meeting to identify themes for the new exhibits was held at the battlefield in September, and the Civil War Museum was closed to the public on December 1. The design project will continue for the next 16 months, with new exhibits scheduled to be installed by April of 2013.


Although the Foundation's goal for the trans-Mississippi museum collection has always been and remains a



new wing with exhibits that can accommodate the majority of the artifacts, incorporate modern museum design elements, and serve as an educational resource for casual visitors and researchers alike, the preservation and protection of the collection is an important consideration. Since funding a new wing is not possible at

this time, we will continue to cooperate with NPS and Wilson's Creek personnel in the best interests of the battlefield and its visitors. For more information about the current museum project, contact the Foundation office at 417-864-3041. 

*McCulloch* continued from page 1

ability to regularly travel 250 miles in ten days or less. He subsequently was named chief of scouts under Gen. Zachary Taylor, with the rank of major. McCulloch led his scouting company as mounted infantry at the Battle of Monterrey and his expert reconnaissance work preceding the Battle of Buena Vista probably saved Taylor's army from disaster. After Buena Vista he was promoted to the rank of major of U.S. Volunteers. When the Civil War broke out in April of 1861, he received a colonel's commission from Confederate President Jefferson Davis after Texas seceded in February, 1861. In May of the same year, Davis promoted him to brigadier general. McCulloch was placed in command of the Indian Territory. He set up his headquarters at Little Rock, and began piecing together an Army of the West, with regiments from Texas, Arkansas, and Louisiana. He disagreed strongly with General Sterling Price of Missouri, but with the assistance of Brigadier General Albert Pike, he was able to build alliances for the Confederacy with the Cherokee, Choctaw, and Creek nations and on August 10, 1861, handily defeated the Union army of General Nathaniel Lyon at the Battle of Wilson's Creek, Missouri. McCulloch commanded the Confederate right wing at the Battle of Pea Ridge (or Elkhorn Tavern), Arkansas, and on March 7, 1862, after much maneuvering his troops overran a key Union artillery battery. Union resistance stiffened late in the morning, however, and as McCulloch rode forward to scout out enemy positions, he was shot out of the saddle and died instantly. McCulloch always disliked army uniforms and was wearing a black velvet civilian suit and Wellington boots at the time of his death. Credit for the fatal shot was claimed by sharpshooter Peter Pelican of the 36th Illinois Infantry. 



TRIVIAL TIDBIT

A muzzle-loading rifle could be loaded and fired at a rate of about 3 rounds per minute. Its maximum effective range was about 300-500 yards.





**\$29.95**

## Wilson's Creek Publishing Announces the Release of Battle of Wilson's Creek 150th Anniversary Commemorative Photo Book

Wilson's Creek Publishing in cooperation with Irwin Printing Company, Inc. are proud to offer the premier print edition of Battle of Wilson's Creek 150th Anniversary Commemorative Photo Book now available in hard back.

In the first year of the Civil War, The Battle of Wilson's Creek was the first major battle west of the Mississippi River in what turned out to be the third-most fought after state. On August 12-14, this historical and tide-shifting battle was reenacted for its 150th anniversary. A team of six professional photographers was brought together to capture the heart of this one time event.

Battle of Wilson's Creek 150th Anniversary Commemorative Photo Book is a high quality photo book, focused on commemorating the people who re-enact the battle of Wilson's Creek.

The Battle of Wilson's Creek 150th Anniversary Commemorative Photo Book can be purchased at Irwin Printing in Republic, Missouri or online at [www.wilsonscreekpublishing.com](http://www.wilsonscreekpublishing.com). More than half of the first printing has been sold, and a second printing is already being planned to accommodate the demand for this premium photo documentation of this historical event.

To order call Irwin Printing Co., Inc. at **417-831-1878**  
or go to **[www.WilsonsCreekPublishing.com](http://www.WilsonsCreekPublishing.com)**

## NEW CELL PHONE TOUR AT WILSON'S CREEK

Wilson's Creek National Battlefield recently announced that its new cellular phone tour is now available. Twelve stops on the tour road, at the Ray House and on the Bloody Hill Trail have been developed for the tour. Signs are posted at the individual locations.

Superintendent Ted Hillmer said, "Since most visitors now have cell phones, this is another technology that can benefit our visitors by educating them about the history of Wilson's Creek." The process is very simple: by calling 1-800-521-0055 and dialing the stop number from the sign, visitors receive a audio message that provides interesting facts and fascinating stories about the battle, the men who fought it, and the people living in the area near Wilson's Creek at the time. Sponsored by Eastern National, a National Park Service partner, additional cellular phone tour stops are under development.

Visitors can also leave comments about their experiences at the battlefield and the tour by pressing \*0 at the end of any segment. Standard minute usages apply based on your cellular service provider.

For information, call the Battlefield visitor center at 417-732-2662, extension 227. ☎

## 8TH ANNUAL LUMINARY TOUR BRINGS BIG TURNOUT

For the eighth year in a row, Wilson's Creek National Battlefield hosted the Memorial Luminary Driving Tour to celebrate the holiday season and honor the memories of the soldiers who fought there. Over 2,539 luminaries representing those killed, wounded, or missing at the Battle of Wilson's Creek, August 10, 1861 lined the entire length of the five-mile tour road during the free event on Saturday, December 10.

Over one hundred volunteers, including Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War, Wilson's Creek National Battlefield Foundation members, Ozark Civil War Roundtable members, and other community organizations helped to decorate the visitor center, assemble the luminaries, and distribute them through the park. Many of the sacks were filled with sand the week before the event. Scouts placed the bags along the road on the day of the tour and placed electric LED candles in each. The electric candles have been used for the last 3 years to avoid issues with wind or rain that might otherwise postpone the event.

A great volunteer turnout resulted in the fastest setup and cleanup in the history of the Luninary Tour. Scouts

from Nixa troop 200 performed the flag ceremony and played taps as the colors were lowered. The Kickapoo High School choir sang Christmas carols throughout the evening and the Foundation provided hot cider and cookies to guests. An estimated 1,500 visitors attended the event this year. 🎶



A brilliant full moon added an extra glow to the scene at the Ray House, which was open for tours during the evening.

Left—Members of the Kickapoo High School choir sing carols in a visitor center all decked out for the holidays.

***Special limited time offers!***

If you missed them at the reenactment, you can still get a t-shirt or reenactment book when you renew your membership. If you have already renewed, call the Foundation office for special pricing at (417) 864-3041.



Get a Wilson's Creek 150th Anniversary Reenactment book with membership of \$10 or \$25.



Receive a Wilson's Creek Andy Thomas print t-shirt with a \$50 membership.



Get your choice of 150th anniversary logo or cannon photo t-shirts with a \$100 membership.

*Shirt colors may vary. (No choice)*



**I would like to help the Foundation in its work to preserve and protect our battlefield.**

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**T-Shirt Style** (\$100 level or higher only):  
☐ 150th logo ☐ Cannon

Make checks payable to *Wilson's Creek National Battlefield Foundation* and mail with this completed form to:

**WCNBF  
PO Box 8163  
Springfield, MO 65801**

**You will receive an acknowledgment of your gift. Thank you for your support!**



# The 150th Anniversary Reenactment



A bridge under construction across Wilson's Creek.

## Why a Reenactment?

Over two years ago the Wilson's Creek Foundation Board began talking about an event to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the Battle of Wilson's Creek in August of 2011. Since the most common question from battlefield visitors is "When is the next reenactment?" that seemed to be the most logical choice. But board members didn't want to simply recreate the battle; they wanted to hold an event that would have something for everyone, while highlighting the importance of history and raising public awareness about the battlefield. Foundation Board Member Jim Cox had been instrumental in planning the 130th anniversary reenactment in 1991, and we were thrilled when he agreed to lead the effort this time, with assistance from his brother Stormy Cox. They began recruiting members of a Reenactment Committee to work on preparing a budget, planning a fundraising campaign, choosing possible dates, and looking for a suitable site. The committee also held discussions with the Blue-Gray Alliance, a national reenactor organization, and Wide Awake Films, a Kansas City company that has extensive experience making Civil War films.

## How much time do we have?

During 2010, an extensive planning process got underway and gathered steam. It soon became obvious that a successful event of this size would take a tremendous effort from the Reenactment Committee, the Foundation's Board and its supporters, and the community. Additional committees were formed as preparations moved forward, and monthly meetings of more than twenty Reenactment Committee Chair people were held. The weekend of August 12-14, 2011, was chosen for the reenactment, a site near the battlefield was identified, an agreement was reached with the Blue-Gray Alliance, various events and activities were considered and planned, and a reenactment web site was designed to provide public information and a registration process for the reenactors. Fundraising to cover major event expenses was initiated, and a marketing campaign began publicizing the reenactment. The committee also developed a mission statement: to commemorate and preserve the history of the Civil War in the Ozarks, to encourage debate about the meaning and impact of the war, to create public interest in the Civil War and the Battle of Wilson's Creek, to promote educational activities, and to recruit the next generation of caretakers of the Wilson's Creek Battlefield. The Foundation identified ways that reenactment proceeds would be used to benefit the battlefield—for education programs, land preservation efforts, and a new Civil War Museum wing for the trans-Mississippi collection.



# of the Battle of Wilson's Creek

## Are we crazy!?!

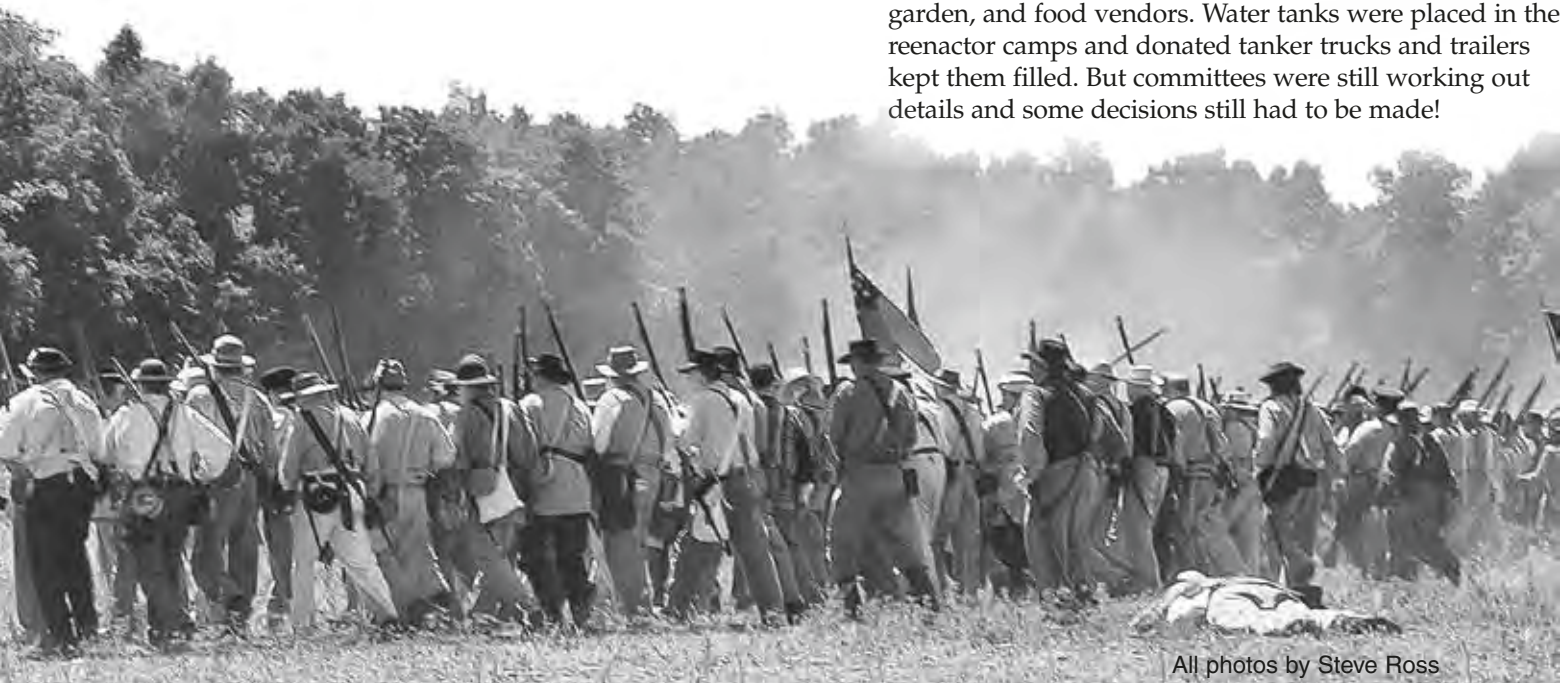
The spring and summer months of 2011 raced by at a frantic pace, as more than twenty committees finalized plans for the various elements of the reenactment weekend. Education activities were scheduled for Thursday, August 11; old-time activities, music, and entertainment were planned; historical and educational groups were recruited to provide informational displays; Civil War author talks were organized; emergency services were arranged; alcohol sales procedures were determined; ticket sales venues were chosen and set up; and a full-scale effort to prepare the site was underway, complicated by extreme heat and summer drought conditions. Thousands of reenactors registered for the event, and sutlers selling Civil War era goods signed up to attend. The telephone at the Foundation office rang constantly, with questions and requests for information. There were countless decisions to be made—how many food vendors; what size and number of tents; where various activities would take place; whether the cornfield would survive; how much hay, straw, firewood, water, and ice would the reenactors need; and would everything be ready on time! Hundreds of volunteers were needed to handle parking, crowds, activities, entertainment, the beer garden, and supplies for the reenactor camps. And of course, a few unexpected difficulties required adjustments in the plans as momentum was building and time was running short.



Reenactors portraying the Missouri State Guard fire at Federal soldiers.

## Ready or not?

The week of the reenactment was finally here, and we weren't sure we were actually ready. With the help of MODOT, two bridges had been built across Wilson's Creek, trees had been removed, and thorn bushes and brush were cleared from the area. The site was as ready as Stormy Cox and his crew could make it, and reenactors and sutlers began arriving the weekend before the reenactment. Tents popped up; Union, Confederate, and civilian camps appeared; a dusty street was lined with sutler shops; an 1860s town was portrayed; horses splashed through the creek; and cannons were scattered throughout the 700-acre site. The transformation of the landscape was amazing—looking at the scene was like traveling back in time to the 1860s. Of course, we needed modern accommodations too—over a hundred port-a-potties were distributed around the site, and food vendors, emergency services, ice trucks, and secure accounting facilities were arranged near the service entrance. Special quiet generators provided electricity for ATM machines, computer ticket sales, microphones, speakers, the beer garden, and food vendors. Water tanks were placed in the reenactor camps and donated tanker trucks and trailers kept them filled. But committees were still working out details and some decisions still had to be made!



All photos by Steve Ross





Cannon fire kicks off the beginning of the Friday battle.



Sutlers set up rows of tents from which to sell their wares.



The St. Louis Brown Stockings demonstrate how baseball was played in the 1860's.



Visitors watch gentlemen duel.



A military dress ball was held on Saturday evening.

## Could it have been any better?

The week of the reenactment brought showers and milder temperatures, a welcome relief from the summer drought and excessive heat. When Thursday arrived, we knew we had no more time to prepare. August 11 was publicized as a free education night, with military drills, reenactor camps open, sutlers selling Civil War goods, educational programs, and night cannon firing demonstrations. Teachers and families with children streamed in to watch the activities and get a preview of the weekend. We were still working out some kinks, but everyone seemed to enjoy themselves. After a shower during the night, Friday dawned sunny and pleasant. It was a little rough getting up and running as the crowds arrived, but by noon everything was smoothing out. The opening ceremony with local dignitaries took place at 9 a.m., and the first reenactment on the east side of Wilson's Creek began at 10:30, with horses charging across the bridge and the sound of cannon fire resounding across the valley. The day was filled with period music, craft demonstrations, Civil War author talks, army skirmishes, old-time activities, a working steam engine, and 1860s-style shopping in the sutler tents. Friday highlights included a gentlemen's duel, fashion show, period wedding, another battle reenactment in the afternoon, and night cannon firing. Tractors and ATVs buzzed around the site all day, carrying ice and supplies to the reenactor camps and transporting people to and from the parking areas. Vendors provided food and drinks, the beer garden along the creek offered a cool spot for relaxing, and the Foundation tent was busy selling special event t-shirts and reenactment books. Authentic camping with the troops was available for anyone who was brave enough to eat 1860s rations and sleep on the ground in a Civil War tent. Saturday and Sunday continued the same basic program. Saturday's highlights included period baseball games, an evening military dress ball, and of course, morning and afternoon battle reenactments. Saturday was the biggest day for attendance. Some traffic problems developed in the morning, but they were soon resolved by the parking crew and local law enforcement personnel. On Sunday the event was beginning to wind down, and the reenactors who had traveled some distance were packing up to leave. The outdoor church service at 10 a.m. was well attended, and the last battle reenactment took place at noon. In the afternoon crowds dwindled, and the amazing weekend came to a close.





Board members helped sell t-shirts in the Foundation's tent.

## Was it worth it?

We had hoped all the planning and preparations would create an experience that people would enjoy and remember for years to come. When the reenactment was over, we were all too exhausted to assess the weekend right away. In the following months, though, as we heard positive comments and complaints, we evaluated the event from the perspective of our original mission. If we were successful in raising awareness about the important places that embody our past, if we fostered an interest in history and the Civil War, if we reached young people and made them care about the future of Wilson's Creek National Battlefield, then we were successful in our mission and our efforts were worthwhile. The financial accounting took several months, and a number of factors caused expenses to be higher than we expected. When all the bills had been paid and sponsorships and donations had been included, a modest balance remained in the plus column. Although it wasn't as large as we hoped, the funds will be used to support projects we had identified to benefit the battlefield. And everyone who asks, "When is the next reenactment?" gets the same response—"We'll have to think about it."



Sunday morning church service was held under the shade of trees along the banks of Wilson's Creek.



A young reenactor brings water to the fallen soldiers laying under the hot August sun.



A "wounded" soldier is helped from the field of battle.



# Our deepest gratitude to all who worked so hard and gave so much to make the Wilson's Creek 150th Anniversary Reenactment Possible!

## WILSON'S CREEK FOUNDATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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### *Our sincere gratitude to additional organizations and individuals providing support during the reenactment*

MO Sesquicentennial Commission—Judd Slivka, Beverly Krue, Steven Glynias, 10<sup>th</sup> Missouri Infantry, MO Army Nat. Guard 935<sup>th</sup> Aviation Support Battalion, Action Tent, Battlefield Septic, Big Rigs—Danno Selim, Campbell Ford, Camping World RV Sales, Fall Creek Corporation, Federal Protection, Lamar Advertising, Loomis Armored US, Ozarks Public Broadcasting, Sign-A-Rama, Springfield CVB, Rick Schnell, Storm Electric, TCI Graphics, Clint Vannatta, RSC Rental, Paul Eck, Bob Ogden, Curt Doennig, Bill Johnmeyer, Morgan Rinker

### *Special acknowledgements*

Family members of Wilson's Creek Foundation Board, Dulin-Sawyer Family, Mark Clark Family, Travis Miller Family, Dr. John Marshall, Charlie Stark, Fran Black, Jane Mooneyham, James Baumlín, Jon Herbert & the OTC Players, Stickley Family—Back Porch Players, St. Louis Brown Stockings, Kevin Smith—BSA Troop 160, Republic Lions Club, Days Inn South, LaQuinta Inn and Suites-Airport, Sleep Inn-Medical District, University Plaza Hotel & Convention Center, Baxter Springs Historical Society, Daughters of Union Veterans, Eastern National, Newtonia Battlefields Association, Phelps Camp 66 SUV, Republic Historical Society, SW MO Indian Center, Springfield Regional Arts Council, Watershed Committee of the Ozarks

### *Special thanks to the Western Division of the Blue-Gray Alliance*

*for hosting the 150th Anniversary Reenactment of the Battle of Wilson's Creek: General Terry Crowder, Commander, First Federal Division; Major General Joe Way, Commander, and Colonel Mark Way, Chief of Staff, Cleburne's Division.*





# Superintendent's Corner

By Ted Hillmer

Dear Foundation Members,

Every year presents itself with important dates to carve into the annals of history. It could be special legislation that was passed, inventions, discoveries, weather phenomena, or any other event of historical significance. This year was no exception for Wilson's Creek NB, with the sesquicentennial anniversary of the Civil War battle that was fought here on August 10, 1861.

The Foundation went above and beyond the call of duty this year by agreeing to plan, coordinate, and sponsor its largest and greatest event – the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Reenactment and Commemoration of the Battle of Wilson's Creek. Thousands of hours were volunteered by groups, individuals, State of Missouri employees, Foundation board members, and Wilson's Creek staff to support this special day in the history of the battlefield. Words cannot express my appreciation to each of you for this huge endeavor that educated thousands of visitors to the importance of the battle fought here in southwest Missouri. Thank you for the contributions of time, energy, and funds that produced such a wonderful program for

the greater Springfield area and surrounding states. This is a date that will live on forever in the minds and hearts of the so many of us – August 12-14, 2011.

With this event completed, other opportunities will allow the Foundation to continue the commemoration of the Civil War over the next three years. Potential projects have been suggested to educate our visitors about the importance of keeping history alive. Additional ideas are partnering with other groups, purchasing additional land, and continuing to work toward a museum wing addition to the Visitor Center for the trans-Mississippi theater Civil War collection.

I hope many of you had a chance to attend our 8<sup>th</sup> annual Luminary Driving Tour event on December 10. As always, it was a special evening event that is free to the public.

Merry Christmas and have a Happy New Year in 2012. Thank you for allowing me to work with the greatest friends' group staff and board members in the National Park Service – Wilson's Creek National Battlefield Foundation.

Ted Hillmer,  
Superintendent

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## NEW MEMBERS & CONTRIBUTORS

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Our thanks to the following people who recently contributed to Wilson's Creek National Battlefield Foundation.

Mary & Mike Abroe	Ron Elkins, Jr.	Robert & Barbara Kipfer	John & Pat Purtell
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# RARE PRICE ARTIFACTS ARE REUNITED AT WILSON'S CREEK


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Wilson's Creek National Battlefield in partnership with The Museum of the Confederacy, Richmond, Virginia, reunited artifacts of Major General Sterling Price during August 2011. This special exhibit included Major General's Price presentation sword & scabbard, Colt revolver, field glasses, eyeglasses and case, snuff box, and his St. Louis Grays membership medal. Of special interest are the presentation sword and field glasses.

The presentation sword was given to Major General Price by the women of New Orleans in 1862 shortly after the Battle of Lexington, Missouri. It features symbols of Missouri and Louisiana. At the time of its manufacture, by Thomas Griswold and Company, it was reputed to be the finest Confederate sword in existence, costing approximately \$1,000.00. The sum was raised by public subscription with no donation exceeding \$1.00.



The field glasses were given to Major General Price by the Ladies of Memphis, Tennessee, January 1<sup>st</sup> 1863. The Price family loaned this pair of field glasses to the United States government during both the Spanish – American War of 1898 and World War I.

All artifacts, except for the revolver, were returned to the Museum of the Confederacy in early September. The revolver, with the image of Sterling Price carved in the ivory handle, remains on display in the visitor center at Wilson's Creek National Battlefield on permanent loan from the Price family. 



Wilson's Creek  
National Battlefield  
Foundation

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