

HARDSCRABBLE



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OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF U.S. GRANT CAMP #68
DEPARTMENT OF MISSOURI
SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR

15 April 2008 Edition

Volume 4



From the Commander,

Greetings!

I have been commander now going into my fourth month and still feel like I am unsure of what I am doing. We have lost three members. Economic times are upon us forcing us to make decisions on where we want to spend it. The price of gas is ever increasing with at the present time no relief coming in the near future.

I want to personally thank each and every one of you, who have renewed your membership. Personally, I think by belonging to the Sons of Union Veterans that I am keeping alive the memory of my ancestors and all they did for us at that crucial time in the history of our Nation. I have in the past had to make a choice of which organizations I wanted to remain a member of and hope that if in the future, whether near or far, that those who have had to make this hard decision will again return.

Please remember that I am the editor of the Hardscrabble newsletter and I am still patiently waiting for you all to send me information on your ancestors to put in our section the Boys in Blue. Don't wait to send it in later but send it to me today. Send it to me either at somewhere1@sbcglobal.net or send it to me at the following address.

Gary L. Scheel
P.O. Box 87
Ste. Genevieve, MO 63670
Thank You.

In Fraternity, Charity & Loyalty,

Gary L. Scheel
Camp Commander



CIVIL WAR TRIVIA



Photo #1



Photo # 2

Both of these houses are in Galena, Illinois and were residences of General Grant and his family. But they only lived in one of them. Which photo of these two houses is the one they lived in?

Last Months Trivia Question:

Where was General Grant born and the date of his birth?

Answer to last month's Trivia Question.

U.S. Grant, born April 27, 1822 in Point Pleasant, Ohio

Ken Roberts sent in correct answer

U.S. Grant Camp #68, 2, Editor 1



CAMP BUSINESS

Brothers,

Greetings. We had a very good meeting on April 7th. The weather was perfect. Brother David Busch gave an introduction to a series of presentation on "Haunted Civil War Sites in St. Louis." There were ten members present with three ladies also in attendance because of the subject of Brother Dave's presentation.

I want to apologize for my shortness that evening but I was getting over an illness and was interested in getting home in a timely manner. I will strive to do better.

As of this date we have lost two members plus there are two others that we have not had a response from.

We would still like to hear from those who have not responded yet. You still have a few days left. This will be the last time that the Re-Up portion will be in our newsletter.

I want to express my appreciation to Brother Mark Coplin for his hard work in trying to contact those who have not renewed their membership.

Our next meeting will be at Jefferson Barracks to allow the 2nd Missouri to practice drilling especially for the upcoming Parade on Memorial Day. We decided this because of our next meeting being on May 5th, Sinco De Mayo day (Spelling may be incorrect) For those of you who prefer not to march Brother Dan Jackson, our Grave Registration Officer, would like you to go with him to the cemetery to register graves. There will be a short meeting prior to the drilling part. More information on exactly where the meeting will be held will be forthcoming.



RE-UP 2008

Your membership dues for the U. S. Grant Camp #68 are due. Please send your check or money order for \$35.00 or \$38 if you wish to pay SVR dues to our Secretary/Treasurer:

Mark Coplin,
4856 Hursley Dr.
St. Louis, MO 63128

On 5 November 2007 we as a Camp voted to pay everyone's Sons of Veteran Reserve dues. The SVR dues are \$3 a year. Help us save money for a flag for our SVR Unit by sending in your \$3 with your Membership donation.

In order to be a member of our SVR Unit, 2nd Missouri Infantry you need to send in an application.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

April 15th through May 15th

May 5th - Meeting at Jefferson Barracks

May 15th - All Grave Registrations Due

BOYS IN BLUE

William Henry Longshore

Great Grandfather of Carl A. Wattenberg, Jr.

Born. Feb 18, 1841, Zanesville, Ohio

Enlisted August 1861

Private Co. D, 30th Ohio Infantry, Army of the Tennessee in 1863

Congressional Medal of Honor for "Gallantry in the Storming

Party" At Vicksburg, MS May 1863

Mustered out August 1865

Died: December 20, 1909 at Fort Scott, Kansas

Buried: Evergreen Cemetery, Fort Scott, Kansas

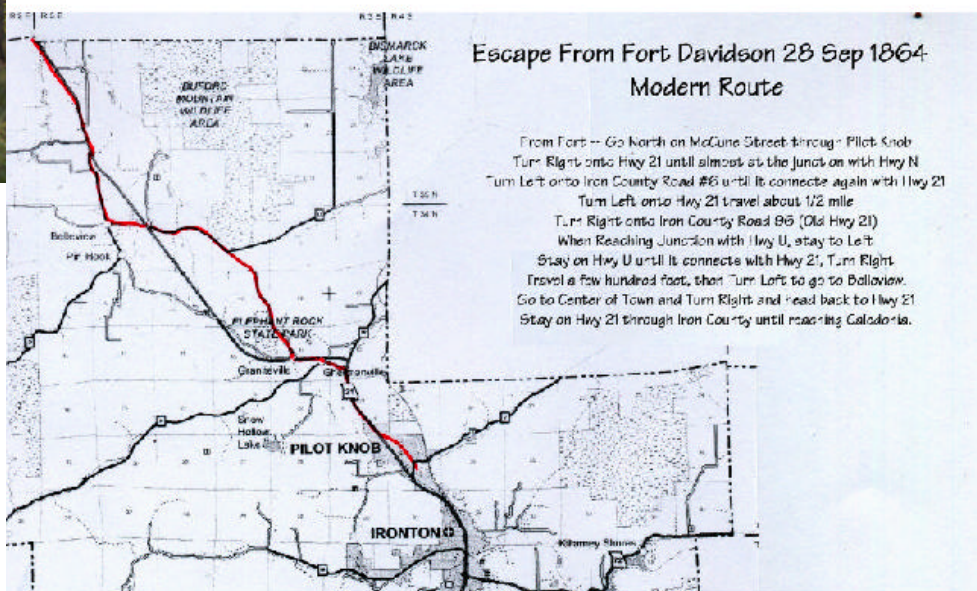




OUR ACTIVITIES

FOLLOWING THE HEROES

This is one of the maps that Brother Walt Busch has outlined as the modern route that the Heroes' of the retreat from Fort Davidson to Leasburg, MO used.



The weather forecasters were predicting rain for Monday, March 17th, the date chosen by Brother Walt to follow the retreat. This was open to employees and volunteers who worked at Fort Davidson. I quickly volunteered to go. Jack Mayes, an employee, an expert of the route also went along. Jack has been conducting such tours since his first one in 1967 when he took Dr. Margreiter on the tour for an article he was doing for the Civil War Times Magazine. The photo to the left is of



Jack Mayes photographing a stone at a grave of an unknown Union Soldier who was killed at Webster, the town site now known as Palmer, MO.

We left at 8:45 a.m. on our adventure and followed the route as described by Jack. It was exciting to think of how the Union troops were in a hurry to get somewhere and how the Confederate troops were in a hurry to stop them.

This was not an official activity of our camp but Walt and I both feel that this was a service for historians who have asked about the best way to follow the route. Brother Walt stated that the

information garnered from this day will be used on a new sign that will show the route. It therefore, in my opinion, constitutes a great service done to those who served during the Civil War on this retreat and to their descendents and anyone else interested in following the route. The Civil War community, whose interest in this aspect of the Battle at Fort Davidson, knowledge will greatly be enhanced.

ESCAPE FROM FORT DAVIDSON

28 SEP 1864

Modern Route



From Fort's Entrance turn Left.

Right Turn on McCune Street (follow road as it curves to Hwy 21)

Right Turn onto Hwy 21 Colonel Archibald Dobbins, CSA, and his men camped west of this area. About 1 mile from the fort on this route was Gum Spring mentioned by veterans.

Left Turn onto Iron County Rd #6 (Old Hwy 21)

It was in this area that Sgt. Shields and twenty of his men were used as guides.

Right Turn onto Hwy N

Left Turn on Hwy 21

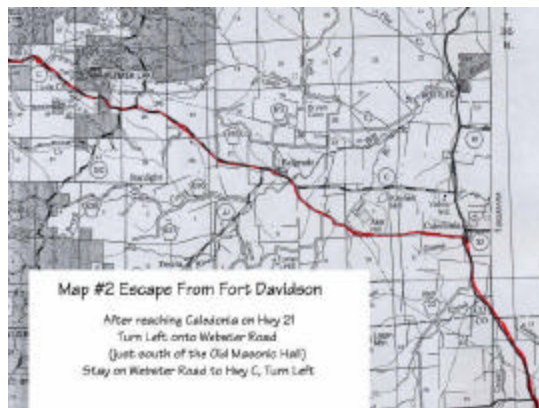
Right Turn onto Iron County Rd 96 Buford Mtn. in the background of the photo to the right.

U Hwy intersects Iron Co. Rd 96. Stay to the left

Right Turn on Hwy 21. Command reached this area at dawn on September 28, 1864

Left Turn on Iron County Rd 20. Route to Belleview. Belleview was called Cross Roads at time of Civil War.

Left Turn on Hwy 21 to Caledonia. Command halted at Cedar Creek while Sgt. Shields and his men rode into Caldeonia. The creek is 1.4 miles from Caledonia. At this point you have traveled 14 Miles.



Left Turn on Webster Rd. Access to Webster Road is by a brick building that was the Old Masonic Lodge.

Left Turn on Hwy C. 8 miles from Caledonia

Right Turn onto Hwy Z. Just past Marble Chapel church which is on the left.

On Hwy Z, .4 mile from Hwy C is the Grave site of an unknown Union Soldier killed Sept 29th Local citizens take care

of the site.

Right Turn on first right after grave then right turn at next right and box spring will be on your left. This spring is mentioned in letters of veterans. You are now in Webster which is now referred to as Palmer.





The Church on the hill is on the original site of the church that was in existence during the Civil War. This is the only building on the original town site.

Go back to Hwy Z and make a Right Turn. (It now becomes a gravel road) On your right is the Palmer Cemetery where the remains of six Union soldiers are interred in a mass grave. These men were members of Captain Harris' Company of Militia.

The grave site is on the right side of the cemetery.

Box Spring in Webster (Palmer)

Stay Straight on this Road until you cross over the Courtois Creek Bridge.

Turn Left onto Road 657 and drive through town of Brazil until you come to Hwy Y. (Once you make this turn you will no longer be on the route. You will pick it up again when on Hwy 8)

Turn Right onto Hwy Y

Turn Right on Hwy 8 and cross bridge over Courtois Creek then turn around. Near this area Ewings Command crossed the Courtois and headed to the safety of the ridge.

Follow Hwy 8. Shortly after starting up ridge you will be near the site of the first skirmish.

Follow Hwy 8 until the Huzzah Valley Camp Resort is reached.



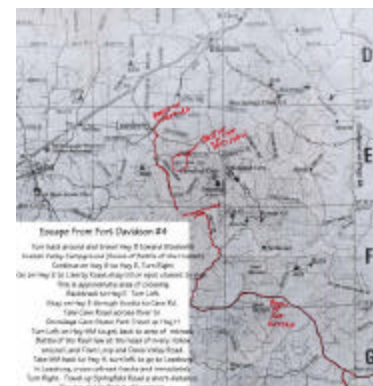
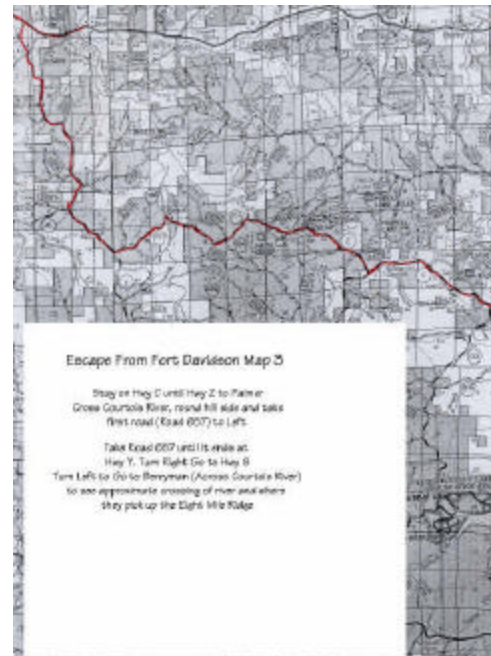
It was near the Red Barn that the largest battle to take place on the retreat was to happen. The Union troops crossed the Huzzah Creek and fired their artillery and small arms at the Confederates descending off of the ridge. The Red Barn covers part of the logs that are the remains of a church located at this site during the battle. (For a few miles you will not be able to follow the original route because they followed the Huzzah Creek)

Continue on Hwy 8. On top of hill across from Horse Fly Valley Lane, in the ditch to your right you will see the grave marker of reportedly three unknown Union

Soldiers. Continue on Hwy 8

Right Turn on Hwy E. Stay on this road until you come to Liberty Road and turn left. Stay on this until you get to near the river. Approximate crossing area into Avery Hollow across Meramec River. Backtrack to Hwy E and turn left.

Take Cave Road which will take you across Meramec River to Onondaga Cave State Park.



Stay on Hwy H.

Left Turn on Hwy MM to get back to area of retreat. Battle of Red Haw at the head of Avery Hollow near Land Town Loop & Davis Valley Road. (You are now back original route. To follow route more accurately after Onondaga Cave turn left onto Liberty School Road. This passes through the Avery Hollow and starts up Hwy MM. Avery Hollow is where the armies crossed the Meramac River. There was a hard base bottom to the river called Avery Ford which would support the weight of the artillery.

Return to Hwy H and Turn Left. Battle of Leasburg was in this general area of the town of Leasburg.

Turn Right on Springfield Road after you cross railroad tracks.

This concludes the tour of the route.

I would like to thank Brother Walt Busch for getting this ride together along with the Department of Natural Resources of Missouri for its interest in allowing the time and resources for documenting this route.



This is the grave site of Private William J. Jackson, Company H, 47th Missouri Infantry on which we are planning to place a new grave marker in October 2008. His grave does not currently indicate who he is.

Bibliography:

Dr. Cyrus A. Peterson Collection: Battle of Pilot Knob Papers. Missouri History Museum
St. Louis, MO.

66 Miles in 39 Hours: Gary L. Scheel, Copyright 2002

Maps: Walter E. Busch. Site Coordinator Fort Davidson Historic Site. Pilot Knob, MO

Photos: Gary L. Scheel.