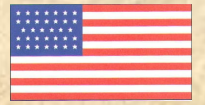


# The Union Defender



The Newsletter of Phelps Camp No. 66,  
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

## May 2018

### WHAT HAPPENED AT THE MARCH MEETING?

- 1) We paid tribute to camp member John Sutton, who will be retiring from Wilson’s Creek National Battlefield this June.
- 2) Members discussed a possible “field trip” to visit the museums at Fort Leonard Wood and a “behind the scenes” tour of the Chemical Corps Museum.
- 3) Members discussed a possible “staff ride” of Wilson’s Creek National Battlefield.
- 4) Members discussed participating in a cemetery program outside Mt. Vernon in October (more details TBA).

### NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be Tuesday, June 12 at 7 p.m. at the Wilson’s Creek Visitor Center.

**PLEASE NOTE THE CHANGE IN DATE (NOT THE FIRST TUESDAY OF THE MONTH, BUT THE SECOND TUESDAY—THIS MEETING ONLY)**

### UPDATE ON GRAVE OF EMERY JACKSON

Last fall, Phelps Camp members and Wilson’s Creek volunteers rediscovered the site of the grave of Private Emery Jackson, a veteran of the 1st West Virginia Cavalry, who died near Marionville in 1891. His headstone was shattered a few years ago.

The replacement headstone ordered from the Department of Veterans Affairs has arrived! We have ordered a copy of his pension file to learn more about Jackson and his family, and will discuss plans to build a fence around his grave and host a headstone dedication ceremony at the next meeting.



## **WILSON'S CREEK TIMELINE OF THE AMERICAN SOLDIER ON MAY 28**

Members of Phelps Camp will present the "Timeline of the American Soldier" program on the front lawn of the Wilson's Creek Visitor Center from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. on Monday, May 28 in observance of Memorial Day.

Please spread the word and come out to learn more about the daily life of the average soldier during each of America's wars. You will be amazed by the impressive research done by our camp members into their respective time periods and their collections of original and reproduction items.

## **HISTORICAL NOTES**

### **LOCAL RESIDENT SHARES STORY OF IMPORTANT CIVIL WAR CROSSING AT OSAGE RIVER (CONCLUSION)**

Joseph Shelby lived in Missouri for a large part of his life and was a veteran of the Battles of Wilson Creek and Pea Ridge. He later gained a level of notoriety for his command of the "Iron Brigade" — a cavalry brigade recognized for its toughness and resiliency in operations in the Trans-Mississippi Theater of the Civil War.

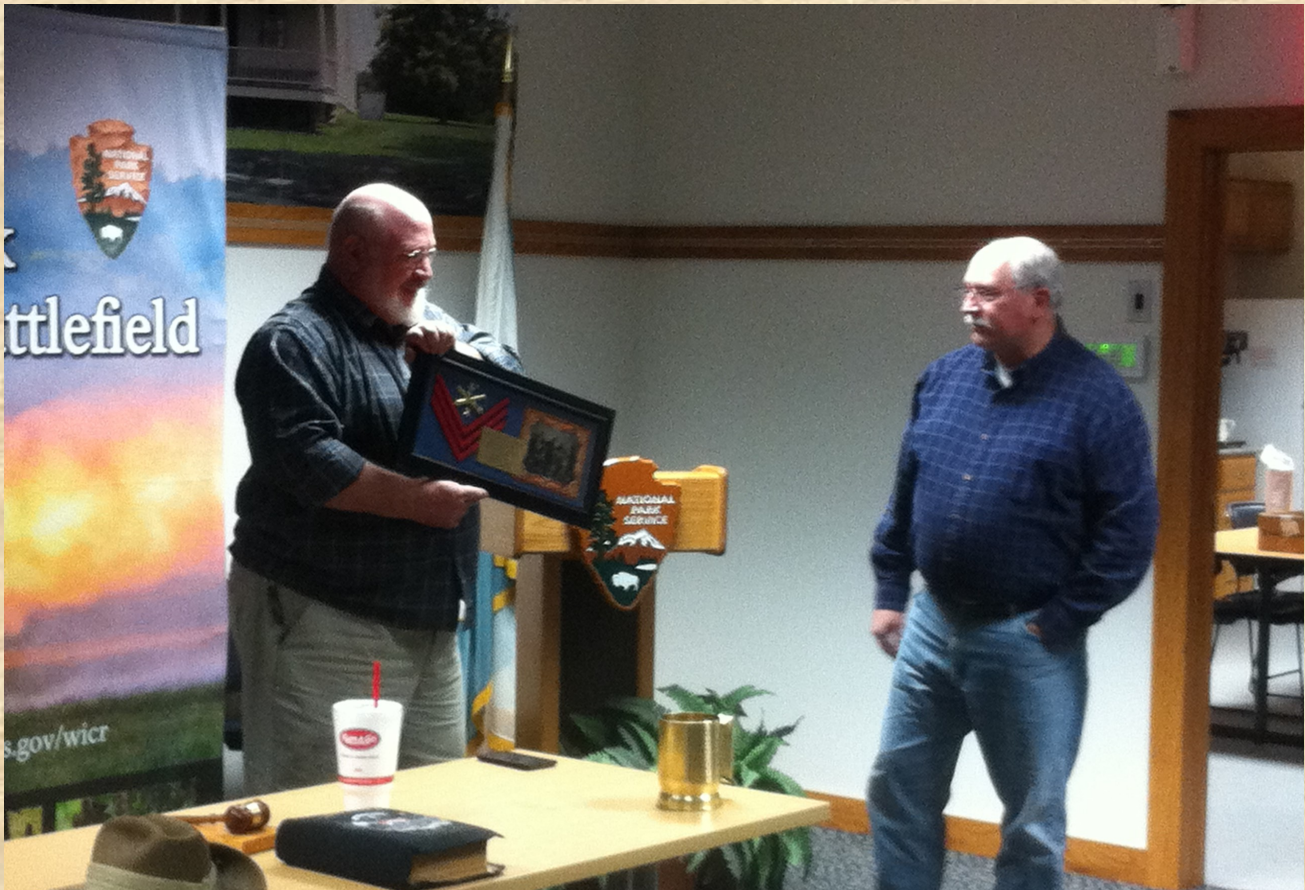
The Confederate soldiers, stated Ed Bode, were so famished from the feverish pace of their travels in support of General Price's Missouri Expedition that by

the time they reached Osage County, they remained near Bode's home for several hours and had his wife fry chickens for breakfast and lunch.

"There were militia soldiers on the north side of the Osage River — on the Cole County side — and Shelby's troops began firing cannons down upon them," Bode said. "Shelby's troops then began to wade across shoals of the Osage and once across, the Union troops retreated up the hill. "That's when Shelby's troops began to bring their cannons across on the ferry and the Bode's were released."

During the skirmish, Bode said, a house once located at the ferry landing area on the north side of the river incurred slight damage when a cannonball went through a window on the second floor. Bode noted the story, that has been passed down through generations, was shared by older local residents.

Bode further explained segments of Shelby's division crossed the Osage River at two other locations south of Wardsville. Once across, they spent the night and, the next day, moved through Wardsville to eventually connect with General Sterling Price at site overlooking Jefferson City, the result of which has been the subject of scores of articles and books.



In the book "An Osage County Civil War Patchwork," Roberta Schwinkle recites an article that appeared in the March 17, 1982, edition of the *Unterrieffied Democrat*, which described the recovery of an artifact of the skirmish at Bode Ferry. As the article explained, a cannonball was uncovered on a farm in the area while a local resident was digging a foundation for a new outbuilding. While sifting through stacks of paperwork pertaining to the events that unfolded at Bode Ferry in the fall of 1864, Ed Bode explained two Confederate and two Union soldiers were killed during the skirmish and buried nearby. He then acknowledged the reason behind his efforts to research and preserve this small segment of local Civil War history.

Chief Ranger and Phelps Camp charter member John Sutton is presented with a framed photo, artillery branch insignia and sergeant's chevrons in honor of his service to Wilson's Creek National Battlefield and Phelps Camp. John also received an engraved shell casing "mug." John will retire from the National Park Service this June.

Enjoy retirement, John !