

NATIONAL ORGANIZATION  
**SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR**  
 CIVIL WAR MEMORIAL ASSESSMENT FORM

**PLEASE:**

- Type or print, using a ball-point pen, when filling out this form. Legibility is critical.
- Do not guess at the information. An answer of, "Unknown," is more helpful.
- Include a photograph of each viewable side and label it with name & direction of view.

- Thank You.

**Type of Memorial**

Monument *with* Sculpture                       Monument with *Cannon*  
 Monument *without* Sculpture                       Historical Marker                       Plaque

**Affiliation**

G.A.R. (Post Name & No. \_\_\_\_\_)                       M.O.L.L.U.S.  
 W.R.C. (Corps Name & No. \_\_\_\_\_)                       Other Allied Order  
 SUVCW (Camp Name & No. \_\_\_\_\_)                      (Please describe below)  
 DUVCW (Tent Name & No. \_\_\_\_\_)  
 Other: Missouri Department of Natural Resources - Division of State Parks Civil War Marker Program

**Original Dedication Date** ~~Unknown, last 5 years~~ Please consult any/all newspaper archives for a local paper's article that would have information on the *first* dedication ceremony and/or other facts on the memorial. Please submit a copy of your findings with full identification of the paper & date of publication. Thank you.

**Location**

The Memorial is *currently* located at:

Street/Road address or site location N38°27.855 W93°09.573 Hwy 52 so of junct w/ Dodge Pond Ave  
 City/Village Cole Camp Township \_\_\_\_\_ County Benton

The front of the Memorial faces:  North     South     East     West

**Government Body, Agency, or Individual Owner** (of private cemetery that Memorial is located in)...

Name Dept of Natural Resources Dept./Div. Division of State Parks  
 Street Address PO Box 176  
 City Jefferson City State MO Zip Code 65102  
 Contact Person Jim Denny Telephone ( 573 ) 751-8566

If the Memorial has been moved, please list former location(s)...

\_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

**Physical Details**

Material of Monument or base under a Sculpture or Cannon =  Stone     Concrete     Metal     Undetermined  
 If known, name specific material (color of granite, marble, etc.) \_\_\_\_\_



**General Vicinity**

Rural (low population, open land)       Suburban (residential, near city)  
 Town     Urban / Metropolitan

**Immediate Locale** (check as many as may apply)

Industrial     Commercial  
 Street/Roadside within 20 feet     Tree Covered (overhanging branches)  
 Protected from the elements (canopy or enclosure, indoors)  
 Protected from the public (fence or other barrier)  
 Any other significant environmental factor \_\_\_\_\_

**Condition Information**

**Structural Condition** (check as many as may apply)

The following section applies to Monuments *with* Sculpture, and Monuments without \_\_\_\_\_ Sculpture - including the base for Monuments with *Cannon*. Instability in the sculpture and its base can be detected by a number of factors. Indicators may be obvious or subtle. Visually examine the sculpture and its base.

<b>Sculpture</b>	_____	<b>Base</b>	_____
If hollow, is the internal support unstable/exposed? (look for signs of exterior rust)	_____		_____
Any evidence of structural instability? (look for cracked joints, missing mortar or caulking or plant growth)	_____		_____
Any broken or missing parts? (look for elements (i.e., sword, musket, hands, arms, etc. - missing due to vandalism, fluctuating weather conditions, etc.)	_____		_____
Any cracks, splits, breaks or holes? (also look for signs of uneven stress & weakness in the material)	_____		_____

**Surface Appearance** (check as many as may apply)

	<b>Sculpture</b>	<b>Base</b>
Black crusting	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
White crusting	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Etched, pitted, or otherwise corroded (on metal)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Metallic staining (run-off from copper, iron, etc.)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Organic growth (moss, algae, lichen or vines)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Chalky or powdery stone	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Granular eroding of stone	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Spalling of stone (surface splitting off)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Droppings (bird, animal, insect remains)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other (e.g., spray paint graffiti) - Please describe...	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Does water collect in recessed areas of the Memorial?     Yes     No     Unable to tell

**Surface Coating**

Does there appear to be a coating?  Yes  No  Unable to determine  
If known, identify type of coating.

Gilded  Painted  Varnished  Waxed  Unable to determine

Is the coating in good condition?  Yes  No  Unable to determine

**Basic Surface Condition Assessment** (check one)

In your opinion, what is the general appearance or condition of the Memorial?

Well maintained  Would benefit from treatment  In urgent need of treatment  Unable to determine

**Overall Description**

Briefly describe the Memorial (affiliation / overall condition & any concern not already touched on) .

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Supplemental Background Information**

In addition to your on-site survey, any additional information you can provide on the described Memorial will be welcomed. Please label each account with its source (author, title, publisher, date, pages). Topics include any reference to the points listed on this questionnaire, plus any previous conservation treatments - or efforts to raise money for treatment. Thank you.

**Inspector Identification**

Date of On-site Survey 06/17/2009

Your Name Walt Busch US Grant Camp 68

Address 220 N College Box 381 City Arcardia

State MO Zip Code 63621 Telephone ( 314 ) 630-8407

Please send this completed form to:

Kevin P. Tucker, PDC, Chair  
58 Forest Street  
Wakefield, MA 01880  
(617) 595-7721

Thank you for your help, and attention to detail.

SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR  
National Civil War Memorials Committee

## Battle of Cole Camp [American Shield]

[Insert: A State Divided: The Civil War in Missouri, Missouri Department of Natural Resources]

### The Battle of Cole Camp

The eve of the Civil War found Benton County divided in loyalty. Most residents supported slavery and states' rights, while a minority, primarily German-Americans, favored abolition and a strong Union. Both factions regarded each other with suspicion and hostility.

In April of 1861, President Lincoln requested that Missouri provide troops to bring the seceded states back into the Union. Missouri's pro-secession governor, Claiborne Fox Jackson, vehemently refused, so Congressman Frank Blair and Gen. Nathaniel Lyon organized Federal volunteers in St. Louis to fill the quota requested by the president. Lyon also authorized loyal communities to organize Home Guards for self-protection. Capt. Abel H.W. Cook of Cole Camp was commissioned to enlist men in Benton and adjoining counties. Cook held rallies on June 11 and 12 on a farm northeast of Cole Camp, where he enlisted approximately 900 men, mostly German-Americans. They marched a few miles south to the adjacent farms of John Heisterberg and Harm Harms, where they established "Camp Lyon" on a gentle north-south ridge. Two barns provided shelter, and there was space to drill between the two farmyards, which stood about 600 yards apart.

"Colonel" Cook, as he styled himself, began to turn farmers into soldiers. The volunteers elected their own officers, who were often the best liked, rather than the most experienced. As a result, discipline was lax. Worse still, the men were as overconfident as they were ill trained. Some boasted they could whip the rebels single-handed while others jeered when their officers suggested a defensive barricade. Only 400 muskets, with little ammunition, had been received from St. Louis, so fewer than half of the makeshift army could be armed. To make matters worse, there was an abundance of whiskey.

On June 12, 1861, after failing to reach a conciliation with Gen. Lyon, Gov. Jackson called for volunteers to oppose any aggression by the federal government. He gathered his force, the State Guard, at Boonville. Lyon attacked and defeated the State Guard on June 17. Jackson and his tattered army fled south, but his route to southwest Missouri was threatened by the Home Guard recruits at Cole Camp.

Meanwhile, Warsaw had raised two State Guard companies to support the governor, with Walter S. O'Kane in overall command. Camp Lyon had already been scouted by Benton County Sheriff B.W. Keown, so O'Kane, with this intelligence in hand, prepared to attack the hated "Dutch" and clear the way for Jackson's southward movement.

[Insert: 1855 Map of Missouri, J.H. Colton. While deposed governor Claiborne Jackson and his State Guard troops moved south from Boonville, guardsmen from Warsaw launched a surprise attack on Unionist Camp Lyon near Cole Camp.]

[Insert Map of Troop Movements]

The Warsaw men, about 250 afoot and 100 mounted began the 20-mile march to Cole Camp on the afternoon of June 18. They arrived near the town around midnight, where they encountered John Tyree, a loyal Unionist although a slaveholder. He had seen their departure from Warsaw that morning and had reported it to Cook. Tyree was questioned, then shot; he was the first casualty of the battle.

O'Kane's men remained determined to attack even if the Home Guard had been warned. "Colonel" Cook, however, had failed to take Tyree's warning seriously. He posted guards and sent for the men he had furloughed (about half his force), but let the others sleep. There were approximately 400 men in camp. About 125 were bedded down in and around each of the two barns, their muskets left outside to make room. Others camped in the woods and in the open area south of the Heisterberg house. Fifty more slept behind a rail fence north of the Heisterberg barn. None had been alerted to the impending attack.

[Insert: Picture of civilians under arms with text ' The Home Guardsmen at Camp Lyon had received muskets from St. Louis but no uniforms, and had only been soldiers for six days before they were attacked.']

It was nearly 3 a.m. when O'Kane's force arrived near Camp Lyon. He sent his mounted troops to attack from the southwest, while the others unfurled a United States flag and pressed on. The hapless guards, who probably mistook them for friends, were bayoneted before they could fire or sound an alarm. Rushing to the Heisterberg barn, the Southerners shouted "No mercy for the Dutch!" and fired through the open doors into the sleeping Home Guards, killing 15 to 20 and wounding others.

The pandemonium awakened the men, behind the fence, who fired into the Southerners' flank. The attackers retreated and regrouped, then attacked again and captured the barn (one report says the doors had been closed and were battered open with a fence rail). Most of the occupants had fled, leaving only the dead and wounded inside. The Home Guardsmen behind the fence, now out of ammunition, retreated into the forest.

[Insert: Picture of Confederate Shield]

[Insert: DNR Logo ' Missouri Department of Natural Resources']

To the south, the men who had been sleeping in the open and under the trees formed ranks and moved toward the barn in a counterattack to relieve their comrades. They were suddenly attacked in the flank by the mounted Southerners and chased into the woods. They rallied there and drove back the horsemen, who were unable to penetrate the undergrowth. Farther south, the men at the Harms barn also began to form up, then hesitated when the Stars and Strips approached through the darkness. It was carried by Southern cavalry and infantry who were advancing towards the Harms farm. They unleashed a volley against the surprised German-Americans, killed several, and forces the rest to retire in confusion.

The Home Guards fled into the forest, abandoning most of their muskets (362 of their 400 weapons were captured). The fight lasted no more than 30 minutes, but nearly a third of the

Germans had become casualties: 35 to 40 dead, around 60 wounded, and 25 to 30 captured. Warsaw troops were six or seven killed, and about 25 wounded. It was one of the bloodiest battles that the fledgling Civil War had yet seen.

As day dawned the casualties were gathered at the Heisterberg house. Drunken Southerner threatened the prisoners, but their officers intervened. Women came from nearby farms to care for the injured, the worst of whom were exchanged under a flag of truce. The remaining wounded were taken in wagons to Cole Camp, then moved to Warsaw on June 20. Later on June 20, Gov. Jackson retreated unmolested through Cole Camp.

[Insert: Photo man with gun 'Dr. Thomas P. Sweeney Collection' ' David Henderson Duvall joined the Missouri State Guard around the time Cole Camp was attacked. The willingness of Missourians to start killing one another for the North or South is evident in Duvall's expression and weapons.]

Although Benton County saw no great battles, it suffered from guerrilla activity throughout the war. Once peace was restored, a commemoration was held at the site of Camp Lyon. On June 19, 1866, local Unionists followed the Cole Camp band to the Heisterberg farm for a picnic dinner. The patriotic speeches that followed were interrupted by a man who galloped wildly into the gathering and gave a rebel yell. He was rescued from being mobbed, then turned loose with a stern warning to never return to Cole Camp. The war was over but the wounds had yet to heal.

[Insert: What Became of "Colonel" Cook?

Abel H.W. Cook, a New Yorker, settled with his wife and sons on a farm near Cole Camp in 1856. Although an influential Unionist and abolitionist, he proved a poor military leader. Cook failed to heed John Tyree's warning of the attack, and allowed his men to be caught asleep. He abandoned his command and fled during the fight, perhaps with good reason: during the battle, Peter Tomforte, ca camp cook, was captured. Tomforte insisted in broken English that he was "cook" and was shot when identified as the Home Guard leader.

Escaping in disguise, Cook rode 25 miles northeast to reach Federal troops in Syracuse, where he reported to Capt. James Totten. A *New York Time* correspondent judged Cook harshly for leaving his men: "The only excuse he had to plead this inhuman conduct is that he hurried away to consult with Captain Totten. The fitness of Colonel Cook for command is quite doubtful."

Cook remained a captain in the Home Guard until the force was disbanded. He evidently held no other command during the war.

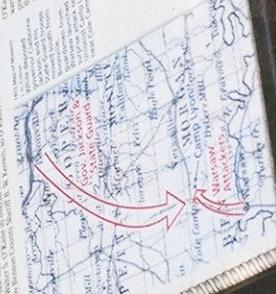
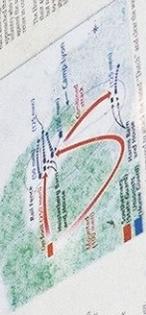
# BATTLE OF COLE CAMP



AS PART OF THE CIVIL WAR NATIONAL MONUMENT SYSTEM

## The Battle of Cole Camp

The site of the battle is located in Cole Camp, Missouri, about 10 miles north of the town of Cole Camp. The battle took place on June 12, 1862, during the American Civil War. It was a tactical draw, but it was a significant battle in the region. The Union forces, led by General Nathaniel Lyon, defeated the Confederate forces, led by General Sterling Price. The battle was a tactical draw, but it was a significant battle in the region. The Union forces, led by General Nathaniel Lyon, defeated the Confederate forces, led by General Sterling Price.



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