

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 Dept of Natural Resources, Division of State Parks, Civil War Monuments Program

**Original Dedication Date** 2006

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 Matthew H. Ritchey Home W94°10'60" N36°52'39" 600 Block of Mill West of Market  
 City/Village Newtonia Township \_\_\_\_\_ County Newton

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)...

N/A

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**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.) Metal, Plexiglass, Polymers

Material of the Sculpture = \_\_\_ Stone \_\_\_ Concrete \_\_\_ Metal \_\_\_ Undetermined  
If known, name specific material (color of granite, marble, etc.) not applicable  
If the Sculpture is of metal, is it solid cast or "hollow?" \_\_\_\_\_

Material of Plaque or Historical Marker / Tablet = Laminated Plastic & Plexiglass

Material of Cannon = \_\_\_ Bronze \_\_\_ Iron - Consult known Ordnance Listing to confirm  
Markings on muzzle = not applicable

Markings on Left Trunion \_\_\_\_\_ Right Trunion \_\_\_\_\_  
Is inert ammunition a part of the Memorial? \_\_\_ If so, describe \_\_\_\_\_

**Approximate Dimensions** (indicate unit of measure) - taken from tallest / widest points  
Monument or Base: Height 3 1/2 feet Width 4 feet Depth 2 1/2 feet or Diameter \_\_\_\_\_  
Sculpture: Height \_\_\_\_\_ Width \_\_\_\_\_ Depth \_\_\_\_\_ or Diameter \_\_\_\_\_

For Memorials with multiple Sculptures, please record this information on a separate sheet of paper for each statue and attach to this form. Please describe the "pose" of each statue and any weapons/implements involved (in case your photos become separated from this form). Thank you!

**Markings/Inscriptions** (on stone-work / metal-work of monument, base, sculpture)

Maker or Fabricator mark / name? If so, give name & location found not applicable

The "Dedication Text" is formed: \_\_\_ cut into material \_\_\_ raised up from material face

Record the text (indicate any separation if on different sides...) Please use additional sheet if necessary.  
See Attached for text

TITLE: Second Battle of Newtonia  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Environmental Setting**

(The general vicinity and immediate locale surrounding a memorial can play a major role in its overall condition.)

**Type of Location**

- |   |   |  |
|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cemetery           | <input type="checkbox"/> Park           | <input type="checkbox"/> Plaza/Courtyard |
| <input type="checkbox"/> "Town Square"      | <input type="checkbox"/> Post Office    | <input type="checkbox"/> School          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Municipal Building | <input type="checkbox"/> State Capitol  | Other: <u>Historic Building</u>          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Courthouse         | <input type="checkbox"/> College Campus | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Traffic Circle     | <input type="checkbox"/> Library        | _____                                    |



**Surface Coating**

Does there appear to be a coating? \_\_\_ Yes X No \_\_\_ Unable to determine

If known, identify type of coating.

\_\_\_ Gilded \_\_\_ Painted \_\_\_ Varnished \_\_\_ Waxed \_\_\_ Unable to determine

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

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

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

X 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 12/18/2006

Your Name Walter E. Busch, US Grant Camp #68 Commander

Address PO Box 509 City Pilot Knob

State MO Zip Code 63663 Telephone ( 314 ) 630-8407

Please send this completed form to:

Todd A. Shillington, PDC  
15 Park Place  
Holley, NY 14470-1022  
(585) 638-5929

Thank you for your help, and attention to detail.

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

## **SECOND BATTLE OF NEWTONIA**

### **A State Divided: The Civil War in Missouri - Missouri Department of Natural Resources**

[Insert Photos: American Flag and Maj. Gen. James G. Blunt]

#### **Second Battle of Newtonia**

A few miles southwest of this location, the Second Battle of Newtonia was fought on Oct. 28, 1864. The conflict came near the end of Maj. Gen. Sterling Price's celebrated invasion of Missouri. With the Federals still in hot pursuit of Price's retreating Confederates, Maj. Gen. James Blunt observed Price's rear elements ahead of him on a prairie south of Newtonia and ordered a charge. Brig. Gen. Joseph Shelby saw the approaching enemy and immediately sent his division forward to meet them. Outnumbering Blunt, Shelby pushed the Federals back to Newtonia and nearly flanked them. The late arrival of reinforcements saved Blunt's column and allowed a brief counterattack at sunset. Both sides claimed victory.

#### **Background: Price's Missouri expedition**

In September 1864, Confederate Maj. Gen. Sterling Price rode out of northeastern Arkansas into Missouri at the head of a 12,000-man army. Price's Raid, as the expedition came to be known, cut a swath some 600 miles long through the state. Price's army advanced up the eastern end of the state, heading for St. Louis. On Sept. 26-27, Price's troops fought the bloody Battle of Pilot Knob. It was a victory, but a costly one that left over a thousand Confederates as casualties following a suicidal charge against a small but well armed Federal force hunkering behind the earthen walls of Fort Davidson. After the battle, Price gave up the idea of attacking St. Louis, which had been reinforced by a large Federal army. Instead, he turned his army west and headed up the Missouri River valley. Another objective had been to capture the state capital, Jefferson City. Price found the capital well fortified and decided to avoid giving battle there. Skirting around the city, he moved his army to Boonville where a large Southern population gave him and his soldiers a friendly welcome. While in central Missouri, he sent detachments to capture Federal garrisons at Glasgow and Sedalia. He then moved toward the western border of Missouri with large federal forces closing in behind him, and gathering in his front.

At Westport, Mo., on the western end of the state, the pursuing Federals finally closed with Price. In the fateful Battle of Westport, fought on Oct. 21-23, 1864, Price was defeated, and his battered army retreated southward. The Federals defeated Price again at Mine Creek, Kan., on Oct. 25, and captured two generals in the process. Later that day the Southerners managed to hold the Federals at bay at the Battle of the Marmaton river (Charlot's Farm) while Price moved his cumbersome supply train across the river. At the battles of Westport, Mine Creek and the Marmaton River, the Confederates were saved from annihilation by the heroics of Gen. Joseph Shelby, the legendary Confederate cavalryman. On those occasions, his courageous rear guard stands enabled Price's army, or what was left of it, to make a retreat. At Newtonia, his skills would be called upon again.

[Insert engraving: Engraving of Confederate Maj. Gen. Sterling Price. Price's Missouri Expedition, at a total distance of 1,434 miles, was the longest cavalry raid carried out by either side during the Civil War. During the raid, Prices soldiers participated in 43 military engagements.]

#### **Second Battle of Newtonia**

Once across the Marmaton River, Price abandoned most of his supply train. His army, now little more than a mob, reached Carthage after a 56 mile march, rested briefly, and continued on to Newtonia. On the morning of Oct. 28, Shelby's famous "Iron Brigade," commanded by Brig. Gen. M. Jeff Thompson, was in the advance guard, and charged across the prairies surrounding Newtonia in a failed attempt to surprise and capture the two Federal companies stationed in Newtonia. The companies fled with Thompson's command in pursuit. During the chase, a notorious member of the local militia, Lt. Robert Christian, was killed (see

[Insert graphic: Maj. Gen. Sterling Price's Missouri Expedition Sept. 1- Nov. 1, 1864: Maj. Gen. Sterling Price's 12,000-man army entered Missouri in three columns. As his army moved up the eastern end of the state and then west along the Missouri River Valley, detached units of various sizes were sent to attack Union outposts, destroy railroad tracks and other property of strategic value, gather recruits, capture military stores and weapons from the Federals, and pick the surrounding region clean of forage, horses and foodstuffs. During his raid through Missouri, Price claimed to have destroyed \$10,000,000 worth of enemy property.]

sidebar). With the way cleared, Price's army proceeded south of town to the old Camp Coffee campground, where the Confederates had camped prior to the First Battle of Newtonia. the battered and exhausted army halted there and went into bivouac. Unlike most of the country along the line of retreat that had been stripped bare by contending armies, at Newtonia there were provisions and forage to be had for both men and horses. Shelby realized that despite the desperate situation the army was in, it was important to stop and rest the troops and animals: "It is better to lose an army in actual battle than to starve the men and kill the horses."

The Federal pursuit had paused momentarily and this gave Price's men a chance to regain some of their strength and gather what supplies they could before resuming the withdrawal from Missouri. The Federals had halted at Ft. Scott, Kan., before taking up the chase again. On Oct. 26, the pursuit was resumed with Maj. Gen. James Blunt and two brigades in the lead. Three other brigades followed. By rapid marches, Blunt reached Newtonia on Oct. 28 in the early afternoon. Ahead he saw Price's rear guard and wagon train encamped south of town. With less than a thousand men in his two brigades, he was outnumbered by the force before him. Blunt assumed (incorrectly) that reinforcements were immediately behind him. He formed his men in line of battle and ordered them to charge the enemy.

As soon as the advancing Federals were spotted, Shelby immediately roused his division and soon had 2,000 men in line and moving forward to repulse the federal advance. It quickly became evident to Blunt that the larger Confederate force would soon flank him, so he ordered his men to fall back. They retreated to the outskirts of Newtonia. The day was getting late. As the Confederates prepared for a final twilight charge. Brig. Gen. John Sanborn arrived on the scene with a brigade of fresh Federal troops and covered Blunt's retreat. Shelby's forces were dismounted and had no wish to overextend their lines by further pursuit of the now reinforced army of Blunt. Both sides fell back claiming victory. The Federal pursuit of Price ended at Newtonia. The remnants of Price's army retreated into northwest Arkansas unmolested. The Second Battle of Newtonia was the last battle in the Trans-Mississippi theater of the Civil War.

[Insert Photo: Brig. Gen. Joseph O. Shelby and Confederate Flag.]

#### The Death of Lt. Robert Christian

At the time of his death on Sept. 28, 1864, Lt. Robert Christian was a member of the 15th Missouri Cavalry stationed at Newtonia. He served under Capt. James Ritchey. Ritchey was the son of Matthew Ritchey, who built the Ritchey mansion and also the stone barn and mill that figured prominently in the First Battle of Newtonia. Most of Lt. Christian's military career was spent in Missouri-enrolled militia units that operated in the southwest section of the state and in northwest Arkansas. In this region, the war was truly neighbor against neighbor with constant skirmishing between militia units and guerrilla and partisan bands. By the latter years of the Civil War, this warfare between small groups of combatants degenerated into a vicious no holds barred struggle, and little mercy was shown for foes or their families and supporters. Christian, although regarded by his superiors and comrades as a brave soldier and a worthy and efficient officer, was seen by Confederates quite differently: "... a first lieutenant (Robert H. Christian) of the Missouri militia committed one of the most diabolical, cold-blooded murders that I heard of during my trip." This correspondent went on to describe the heartless execution by Christian's men of several elderly and inoffensive civilians. He concluded his report to his commander by saying: "I have given you the above narrative of Christian's acts at the request of the public living in that section. they look to you as the avenger of their wrongs." Payback came during the Second Battle of Newtonia when the men of Shelby's advance guard attacked the federal garrison at Newtonia and scattered the unit except for Christian. According to the official report: "they only succeeded in overtaking and killing the commanding officer (one Captain [sic.] Christian), who was noted for his bloodthirsty brutality." This was code language for the fact that Christian was actually executed (or murdered) as just retribution for his alleged misdeeds. Local legends report that Christian was captured as he attempted to escape on a balky horse. While he was a prisoner, a lone rider, Samuel Moore, galloped up and shot Christian to death - supposedly in retaliation for the murder by Christian of his father. This report then claims that Christian's body was dragged through the streets of Newtonia. Other reports state that Christian was also scalped. At the time of his death, he was 34 years old. He is buried in the Newtonia Civil War Cemetery. (see above photograph).

[Insert photo: Grave of Lt. Robert Christian]

[Insert Graphic: Map of the Second Battle of Newtonia Battlefield. Surveyed and published by A. Konig. 1865. Library of Congress.]

# SECOND BATTLE OF NEWTONIA

A STATE REVERED  
THE CIVIL WAR IN MISSISSIPPI



The Fourth U.S. Cavalry (Union) and the First Mississippi Cavalry (Confederate) met at Newtonia on October 11, 1862. The Union Cavalry was led by Robert O. Anderson and the Confederate Cavalry by John S. Mosby. The battle was a tactical draw, but it was a significant event in the Civil War in Mississippi.



This map shows the positions of the Union Cavalry and the First Mississippi Cavalry during the Second Battle of Newtonia. The Union Cavalry was led by Robert O. Anderson and the First Mississippi Cavalry by John S. Mosby. The battle was a tactical draw, but it was a significant event in the Civil War in Mississippi.

At Newtonia, Mo., on the western end of the state, the pursuing Federal Cavalry met with Price's army on October 11, 1862. The Union Cavalry was led by Robert O. Anderson and the Confederate Cavalry by John S. Mosby. The battle was a tactical draw, but it was a significant event in the Civil War in Mississippi.



This illustration depicts a soldier on horseback during the Second Battle of Newtonia. The soldier is shown in the middle of a charge, with a sword raised in his right hand. The background shows a hazy, battle-torn landscape.

The pursuing Federal Cavalry met with Price's army on October 11, 1862. The Union Cavalry was led by Robert O. Anderson and the Confederate Cavalry by John S. Mosby. The battle was a tactical draw, but it was a significant event in the Civil War in Mississippi.



Map of the Second Battle of Newtonia, Mississippi.

MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF TOURISM