

THE BANNER

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Department of Missouri Names of Six Unknown Cavalry

By Brian Smarker

It was Sunday, July 17, 1864, in Liberty, Missouri, when a decision was made to pursue Confederate bushwackers near the Missouri River who had been spotted by an advance party earlier that day. Maj. Smith ordered three groups of 2nd Colorado Calvarymen to patrol the area and track down the rebels. He led a force of about 40 pursuing a northeasterly direction, while a group of 50 led by Capt. Green rode east along the river toward Richmond, Mo.

A third group of 43 was led by Capt. Thomas Moses Jr., consisting of troops from Companies C and M. Their orders led them towards Fredericksburg, Mo., about a mile east of the Clay County border in Ray County, near present day Excelsior Springs. They traveled northeast along the old State Road, a popular route for Mormons and other pioneers heading into the western wilderness. They had been replenishing their food supplies before approaching a larger force of soldiers numbering approximately 300 within a mile of Fredericksburg.

At first, this large band appeared to be one of the other groups of soldiers from Liberty sent to patrol the area. They wore the uniforms of the Federals, so Moses, seemingly suspicious, rode to the front of his group and made the signal used by Union troops. After a brief exchange, and a gunshot from the larger force, it was quickly determined that they faced Confederate guerillas led by Capt. John Thrailkill.

A small advance band of 70 led by Capt. "Fletch" Taylor opened fire and charged Moses' outnumbered troops. Moses was prepared, however, having dismounted some of his troops and standing ready to fire. As the Confederate irregulars charged, the Federals opened fire. It wasn't long before a chaotic hand-to-hand melee ensued. After about 20 minutes, Moses ordered his men to fall back, but they were pursued and routed. In order to escape, they were forced to release their equipment and fresh horses, which had been commandeered earlier that day.

Moses lost eight men and four were injured, including himself. When Maj. Prichard's 250 reinforcements returned the following day, two of Capt. Moses' eight men were found alive. The other six had been killed in the battle of the previous day and stripped

of all their uniforms, weapons, and equipment. Confederates. Citizens of the area admitted to bury 16 dead Confederates in a small family cemetery near the battlefield behind Seybold Tavern, a layover point along State Road. Its owner, L. Seybold, was a Southern sympathizer.

The six Union soldiers were hauled in a wagon to Pisgah Cemetery, where they would be buried in a mass grave. General store proprietor "J.C." Isley was hired by Fredericksburg citizens to bury the dead soldiers. They were laid out on a table inside Pisgah Baptist Church, organized by Herbert James in 1849, until the grave was ready. During their burial, a natural red granite stone, about 12 inches in diameter, was placed in the ground over their grave.

In 1936, not too far from the cemetery, a plaque with a plaque was dedicated to the soldiers who were killed in battle near Fredericksburg, Mo., on July 17, 1864, nearly a month after the battle in which the 2nd Colorado Calvarymen lost their lives. In all of the newspaper accounts leading up to the dedication did not mention the five soldiers of the Enrolled Missouri Militia killed in the battle on July 12, but instead the six unnamed soldiers buried in a mass grave in Pisgah Cemetery. The two battles became one over the years. Only through dedicated research by a local historian had the error been realized. He attempted to correct the problem through periodic newspaper articles printed in several newspapers.

With the information extracted from those articles—the leader's name, the regiment, the date, the place of the battle—it became possible to determine the names of the six soldiers buried in a mass grave in Pisgah Cemetery in present-day Wood Heights. Names of Civil War casualties were extracted from the Colorado State Archives website and filtered to only soldiers from Companies C and M were created. A list of 27 names was forwarded to Brother Perry Mosley, who was Commander of the Department of Colorado and Wyoming at that time. He forwarded the list to Brother William Ward, PDC, whose home was across the street from the Family History Center in Salt Lake City, Utah.

Discovered

Within two weeks, six names had been returned to me. One of the names had been determined by process of elimination since there was no card on file. To make a long story short, he was not one of the six men. The sixth man was determined by requesting information from the Colorado State Archives. They confirmed five of the six found by Brother Ward and provided the sixth name as well.

The six soldiers of the 2nd Colorado Calvary killed in action on July 17, 1864, near Fredericksburg, Mo., and subsequently buried in a mass grave in Pisgah Cemetery are Sgt. Truman C. Greenslit of Co. C; Pvt. Charles H. Godfrey, Pvt. David Good, Pvt. John H. Picard, Pvt. William H. Robson, and Pvt. Simeon Simpkins, all of Co. M.

Further research put me into contact with relatives and additional information about most of the soldiers. My first contact was with a namesake of Pvt. Godfrey. His name was Charles "Chuck" Godfrey of Amsterdam, The Netherlands. Chuck visited during the first week of May, 2005, because he would be unable to attend the scheduled memorial dedication ceremony in July. He also attended the May, 2005, meeting of Westport Camp #64 as a special guest.

On the 141st anniversary of the battle, a memorial dedication ceremony was hosted by SUVCW Westport Camp #64 of the Dept. of Missouri. Like the battle, it was during the early afternoon of Sunday, July 17, but the year was 2005. Re-enactors from Westport Camp #64, the Civil War Roundtable of Western Missouri, Elliott's Scouts (galvanized as Union), the Missouri Irish Brigade, and the namesakes of those being memorialized, the 2nd Colorado Cavalry, participated in the hour-long event, braving the hot sun with no relief except for an occasional cloud blocking the sun.

The emcee of the event, Brother James Beckner, introduced many participants as the ceremony progressed, including President and Mary Lincoln (Max and Donna Daniels of Wheaton, Ill.), Boy Scout Troop 226, Cub Scout Pack 226, and Girl Scout Troop 225 from Independence leading the Pledge of Allegiance; John and Dianne Lehman leading "The Battle Hymn of the Republic," Robert Arnold and Rev. Edward Shelton of Pisgah Cemetery's Board of Trustees, Brother John Martin, Commander of

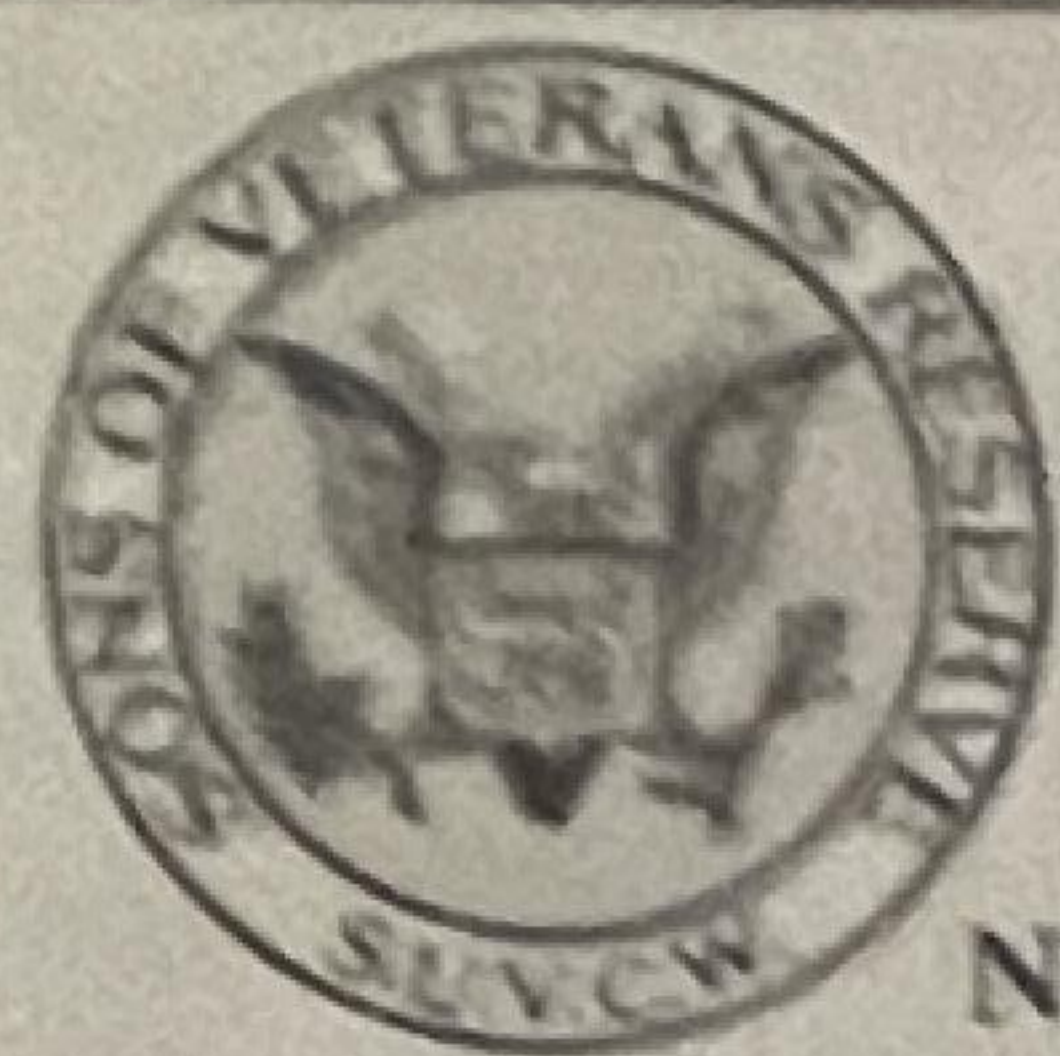
Dept. of Missouri, Missouri State Representative Bob Nance, Carol Dildine of Osage Chapter of the Daughters of American Colonists, Brothers Charles McCorkendale and myself, and the Ladies in Mourning, Sandra Martin, and JoAnn Barber.

It was my privilege to introduce the relatives of three of the soldiers who had traveled from as close as Excelsior Springs and from as far as California and Oklahoma to witness this historic event. Representing Pvt. Godfrey were Pat Godfrey, Kendal Phipps-Burch, Patricia Phipps-Burch, Ray Close, and Michele Close. For Pvt. Picard, there were Marjorie Running, Jim Running, Bill Fowler, Vickie Fowler, Kay Betz, Georgia Douglas, Judith Hodges, Bill McConnell, Ruby McConnell, Albertyn Brown, and Trevor Brown. Finally, representing Sgt. Greenslit were Suzanne Foster, Brian Smarker, Scarlet Smarker, Caitlyn Smarker, and Jourdyn Smarker.

It was through an unusual twist of fate that I discovered my distant relationship to Sgt. Greenslit a scant 2-1/2 weeks prior to the ceremony. It was in a desperate attempt to find a relative of Greenslit's who could attend after hearing from other relatives who would not be able to make it. Other names were found, along with information about Greenslit's mother's side of the family. His fourth great-grandparents were the same as my ninth great-grandparents. We are fifth cousins, five times removed!

There were 168 attendees accounted for at the dedication ceremony. Members of the Westport Camp #64 estimate up to 200 people actually attended. Needless to say, we were very pleased with the turnout and outcome of the event. The re-enactors suffered through the heat and put on a display that would make any officer proud. Relatives of the soldiers who, at first, were contacted with unexpected information about their ancestors, experienced a sensational once-in-a-lifetime ceremony honoring those ancestors and bringing closure to this chapter in the family history.

The soldiers resting in Pisgah Cemetery now have their own monument rightfully dedicated to them to quell the confusion concerning the date they lost their lives defending what they believed was right and just. Now, 141 years later, they have been remembered and they should have been remembered.



The Guidon

News of the Sons of Veterans Reserve

GENERAL ORDER 2006-5

26 April 2006

1. Effective 26 April 2006, Second Lieutenant David F. Burkett, Commander of Co. B, 71st Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry, Sixth Military District, SVR, is commissioned a First Lieutenant, SVR.
2. This Commission will expire on 25 April 2009 unless the same shall otherwise be lawfully determined void and annulled.

GENERAL ORDER 2006-6

26 April 2006

1. Effective 26 April 2006, 1st Sergeant Harold J. Slavik, Jr., Adjutant of Co. B, 71st Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry, Sixth Military District, SVR, is commissioned a Second Lieutenant, SVR.
2. This Commission will expire on 25 April 2009 unless the same shall otherwise be lawfully determined void and annulled.

GENERAL ORDER 2006-7

26 April 2006

1. Effective 26 April 2006, Second Lieutenant Donald L. Hotchkiss, Jr., Commander of Co. B, 1st Nevada Volunteer Infantry, Sixth Military District, SVR, is commissioned a First Lieutenant, SVR.
2. This Commission will expire on 25 April 2009 unless the same shall otherwise be lawfully determined void and annulled.

GENERAL ORDER 2006-8

26 April 2006

1. Effective 26 April 2006, Private Steven E. Hauk, a member of Co. B, 1st Nevada Volunteer Infantry, Sixth Military District, SVR, having been duly promoted, is commissioned a Second Lieutenant, SVR.
2. This Commission will expire on 25 April 2009 unless the same shall otherwise be lawfully determined void and annulled.

GENERAL ORDER 2006-9

24 May 2006

1. Effective 12 March 2006, and upon action duly taken by the members of Co. D, 27th Indiana Volunteer Infantry, Third Military District, SVR, 2nd Lt. Terry G. Reid, SVR, is relieved of duty as a Second Lieutenant in Co. D, 27th Indiana Volunteer Infantry, Third Military District, SVR.
2. Effective 12 March 2006, the commission of Terry G. Reid as a Second Lieutenant in the Sons of Veterans Reserve and memorialized in General Order 2005-01 is terminated and annulled and he is reduced in rank to Private.

GENERAL ORDER 2006-10

24 May 2006

1. Effective 09 May 2006, Private J. Alan Teller, a member of Co. D, 27th Indiana Volunteer Infantry, Third Military District, SVR, having been duly promoted and having been duly appointed Adjutant, is commissioned a Second Lieutenant, SVR.
2. This Commission will expire on 08 May 2009 unless the same shall otherwise be lawfully determined void and annulled.

GENERAL ORDER 2006-11

24 May 2006

1. Effective 09 May 2006, Captain Emmett P. Taylor, III, Commander of Co. C, 5th Regiment, Missouri Volunteer Cavalry, Fourth Military District, SVR, is re-commissioned a Captain, SVR.
2. This Commission will expire on 08 May 2009 unless the same shall otherwise be lawfully determined void and annulled.

GENERAL ORDER 2006-12

5 June 2006

1. Effective 05 June 2006, 1st Lt. Donald E. Darby, SVR, Adjutant of Battery I, 1st Ohio Light Artillery, is re-commissioned a First Lieutenant, SVR.
2. This Commission will expire on 04 June 2009 unless the same shall otherwise be lawfully determined void and annulled.

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