

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

## Type of Memorial (check all applicable)

☒ Monument ☐ with Sculpture ☒ without Sculpture ☐ with Cannon ☐ standalone Cannon  
☐ Historical Marker ☐ Plaque ☐ Other ( flag pole, G.A.R. buildings, stained glass windows, etc.)

## Affiliation

☐ GAR ☐ MOLLUS ☐ SUVCW ☐ WRC ☐ ASUVCW  
☐ LGAR ☐ DUVCW ☐ Other

If known, record name and number of post, camp, corps, auxiliary, tent, circle or appropriate information of other groups:

Original Dedication Date October 12, 2014

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 Y Hwy, 1,000ft south of I-70 (exit 62) on the north side of Holy Cross Lutheran Church on N. Elm  
 (Y and Elm street are the same).

City/Village &/or Township Emma GPS Coordinates \_\_\_\_\_

County Lafayette State Missouri Zip Code 65327

The front of the Memorial faces: ☐ North ☒ South ☐ East ☐ West

## Government Body, Agency, or Individual Owner

Name Holy Cross Lutheran Church is maintaining the monument

Dept./Div. \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address P.O.Box 140

City Emma State MO Zip Code 65327

Contact Person Ruth Haesemeier Telephone ( 660 ) 463-2151 ext \_\_\_\_\_

Is Memorial on the National Register of Historic Places ☐ Yes ☒ No ID # if known \_\_\_\_\_

## For Monuments with/without sculpture:

### Physical Details

Material of Monument or base under a Sculpture or Cannon = ☐ Stone ☐ Concrete ☐ Metal ☐ Other

If known, name specific material (color of granite, marble, etc.) Grey Granite

Material of the Sculpture ☐ Stone ☐ Concrete ☐ Metal ☐ Other Is it hollow or solid? \_\_\_\_\_

If known, name specific material (color of granite, marble, etc.) \_\_\_\_\_

**For Historic Marker or Plaque:**

Material of Plaque or Historical Marker / Tablet = \_\_\_\_\_

**For Cannons with/without monument:**

Material of Cannon = \_\_\_\_\_ Bronze \_\_\_\_\_ Iron Type of Cannon (if known) \_\_\_\_\_

Rifled \_\_\_\_\_ YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO

Markings: Muzzle \_\_\_\_\_ Base Ring/Breech \_\_\_\_\_

Left Trunion \_\_\_\_\_ Right Trunion \_\_\_\_\_

Is inert ammunition a part of the Memorial? \_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No

[For camp/department monuments officer's use: Cannon on list of known ordnance] \_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No

**For Other Memorials:** (flag pole, G.A.R. buildings, stained glass windows, etc.)What best describes the memorial Memorial is 2 pieces of Grey Granite sitting on 2 concrete bases. A Concrete sitting bench sit on the north (back) of the memorial. A concrete sidewalk leads from the drive to the monument.Materials of the Memorial Granite and Concrete Bases.**Complete for All Memorials****Approximate Dimensions** (indicate unit of measure) - taken from tallest / widest points6 ft tall \_\_\_\_\_ Height 6 ft wide \_\_\_\_\_ Width 8 1/2" thick \_\_\_\_\_ Depth or \_\_\_\_\_ Diameter

For Memorials with multiple Sculptures, please record this information on a separate sheet of paper for each statue (service, pose, etc) 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 &amp; location found

Kidwell Granite from Versailles, MO. No mark on monument. At a cost of \$6,336.87.

Please attach legible photographs of all text &/or Record the text in the space below. Please use the addendum – narrative sheet if necessary.

Attached.

**Environmental Setting**

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

**Type of Location**

☐ Cemetery      ☐ Park      ☐ Plaza/Courtyard      ☐ "Town Square"      ☐ Post Office  
☐ School      ☐ Municipal Building      ☐ State Capitol      ☐ Courthouse      ☐ College Campus  
☐ Traffic Circle      ☐ Library      Other: Rolling hillside on north side of church.

**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 \_\_\_\_\_

[To detail the condition of a monument used the addendum form for *Monument's Condition*]

**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.

Addendums attached to this electronic file are the *Monument's Condition* and the *Narrative* forms. Only the *Monument's Condition* form is required if you are requesting grant money using form CWM-62 *SUVCW Memorial Grant Application Form and Instructions*.

Thank you.

**Inspector Identification**

Date of On-site Survey 25 November 2017

Your Name Kenneth Bailey, Sr. Commander, SUVCW Camp #64

Address 298 NW 1441 rd

City Holden

State MO

Zip Code 64040

Telephone ( 816 ) 850-8684

E-Mail Baileywool@aol.com

Are you a member of the Allied Orders of the G.A.R.? If so, which one?

Not yet. Working on it.

Please send this completed form to:

Walt Busch, PDC, Chair  
 1240 Konert Valley Dr.  
 Fenton, MO 63026  
 (314) 630-8407  
 webusch@hotmail.com

Thank you for your help, and attention to detail.

**SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR – CIVIL WAR MEMORIALS COMMITTEE.**



SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR  
CIVIL WAR MEMORIAL ASSESSMENT FORM  
ADDENDUM – MONUMENT'S CONDITION

Completion of this form is required when requesting grant money using form CWM-62 *SUVCW Memorial Grant Application Form and Instructions.*

### 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.

	Sculpture	Base
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)

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

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

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

*It sets in a calm grassy area, surrounded by deco. grasses. Clean and well manicured. With sidewalk leading to it.*

Inspector's Name Kenneth W. Bailey

Date 11/25/2017



SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR  
CIVIL WAR MEMORIAL ASSESSMENT FORM  
ADDENDUM – NARRATIVE

[Generally used to record the text of monuments, but may be used for any other useful information, such as if the monument has been moved or if you have information about the day of dedication. May repeat use of page as often as necessary.]

The Memorial is *currently* located at:

Street/Road address or site location Y Hwy. 1,000ft south of I-70 (exit 62) on the north side of Holy Cross Lutheran Church on N. Elm.

(Y and Elm street are the same).

GPS Coordinates \_\_\_\_\_

City/Village and/or Township Emma

County Lafayette State Missouri Zip Code 65327

TEXT

Continued:

On the north side of I-70 on the outer road is St. Johns Cemetery is a Bronze marker stating: BURIED IN THIS VICINITY OF ST. JOHN CEMETERY ARE EIGHT VICTIMS OF BUSHWACKER ACTIVITY DURIN THE CIVIL WAR KILLED ON AUGUST 23, 1864, WAS CHRISTIAN HEINRICH EHLERS, KILLED ON OCTOBER 10, 1864, WERE FR. WILLIAM DICKENHORST, HEINRICH DIERKING, CONRAD SCHARNHORST, WILHELM BODENSTAB, HEINRICH WREDE, HEINRICH DIERS, AND PETER HEINRICH BEERMANN.

Sponsored by Concordia area heritage society.

Photo is attached.

Inspector's Name Kenneth W. Bailey

Date 11/25/2017

# Emma Massacre Memorial Dedication

—  
October 12, 2014



Pot Luck Dinner | 12:00 Noon  
Drinks & Tableware Provided  
Holy Cross Multi Purpose Facility



Memorial Dedication | 1:30 PM  
North Drive | Holy Cross Lutheran Church Grounds







## Memorial commemorates German immigrants' role in massacre

October 29, 2014 in **NEWS, REPORTER**

*By John Patrick Niles*

EMMA, Mo. — About 150 people attended a special dedication Oct. 12 for a memorial here commemorating 26 German immigrants who defended their homes and families from South-sympathizing guerrillas during the Civil War.

The Emma Massacre Monument was dedicated on a cloudy and cool Sunday on the grounds of Holy Cross Lutheran Church.

The celebratory dedication — featuring music, the presentation of colors and speeches — stood in stark contrast to the massacre it recognized.

The stone memorial recounts the details from that day in the quaint town between Kansas City and Columbia, Mo.:

*On Monday morning, October 10, 1864, a band of William G. Quantrill's guerrillas, led by Dave Poole and George M. Todd, started west from Brownsville (now Sweet Springs). An alarm system was activated by the blowing of a series of cow horns alerting neighboring farmers and the local Germans of serious threat. A Home Guard unit gathered near this spot and the battle became a massacre. The Home Guard was poorly armed and greatly outnumbered by the guerrillas. Eleven year-old Louis A. Meyer observed the battle from behind a corn shock in an adjacent field. In 1888, Meyer named this community Emma and was appointed its first postmaster.*



About 50 men over the age of 40 and teenage boys fought against the more numerous and better-armed guerrillas.

Many of those who attended the dedication are related to the immigrants who were killed that day 150 years ago.

The men put the safety of their families and neighbors ahead of any fears they had for their own lives, said David Hemme, chairman of the 150th Emma Massacre Memorial Dedication Committee.

"Each and every year we celebrate Veterans Day and there are articles written in the local newspapers recounting the bravery of those who died in battle," Hemme said. "We have cemetery services. The names are read. Finally, these men are finally being recognized for their bravery and commitment to freedom. They were older men and boys. And they died. They died so their families would be kept safe."

The hourlong ceremony included speeches by Chaplain Craig G. Muehler, director of the LCMS Ministry to the Armed Forces, retired U.S. Air Force Col. Joe Connell and several historians.

The names of those who were killed were read followed by the tolling of the bell at Holy Cross.

One story told by several people at the dedication centered on the Rev. *Franz Julius Biltz*, pastor of St. Paul Lutheran Church in Concordia, Mo., (about 3 miles from Emma) at the time of the massacre.

"It is rumored that Pastor Biltz was encountered by one of the German settlers involved in the skirmish and asked to borrow Biltz's horse to get back into the action," Muehler recalled. "Pastor Biltz obliged and walked the rest of the way home that day."

Muehler also pointed out that Biltz essentially became a military chaplain to those who were involved in the massacre. He provided care for its survivors and for the families of those who gave their lives.

The Emma Massacre Monument can be seen about 1,000 feet south of Exit No. 62 off Interstate 70 in Missouri, north of Holy Cross Lutheran Church in Emma.

"Just as the stories of many who fight for the freedoms of our country go untold," Muehler said after the Oct. 12 dedication, "the stories of chaplains and their ongoing

care for soldiers often go untold. Day in and day out, chaplains work to provide spiritual care to those who protect our nation. Many of these stories are never told.

"Just as many answered the call on that day in 1864," he continued, "the call has not ended. The church continues to provide care for those who defend our nation. This is a work that never ceases.

"As soldiers come back from war, they bear wounds and scars that remain long after any physical injury has healed. The LCMS Ministry to the Armed Forces helps to provide assistance for those who suffer these injuries.

"The latest statistics state that every day a veteran commits suicide," Muehler pointed out. "This is a statistic that should wake up the church at-large to the ministry that is before it. The work of these men of remarkable valor and the chaplains that seek to serve them does not need to go unnoticed. There are ways to be involved right now."

For more information about military chaplains and how to become involved in care for veterans, contact Muehler at 800-248-1930, ext. 1346.

*The Rev. John Patrick Niles is associate pastor of St. Paul Lutheran Church in Concordia, Mo.*

*Posted Oct. 29, 2014 / Updated Oct. 30, 2014 / Updated Oct. 31, 2014*

*Reporter Online is the Web version of Reporter, the official newspaper of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. Content is prepared by LCMS Communications.*



## EMMA MASSACRE SITE

On Monday morning, October 10, 1864, a band of William C. Quantrill's guerrillas, led by Dave Poole and George M. Todd, started west from Brownsville (now Sweet Springs). An alarm system was activated by the blowing of a series of cow horns alerting neighboring farmers and the local Germans of a serious threat. A Home Guard unit gathered near this spot and the battle became a massacre. The Home Guard was poorly armed and greatly outnumbered by the guerrillas. Eleven year-old Louis A. Meyer observed the battle from behind a corn shock in an adjacent field. In 1888, Meyer named this community Emma and was appointed its first postmaster.

EMMA MASSACRE - 1864

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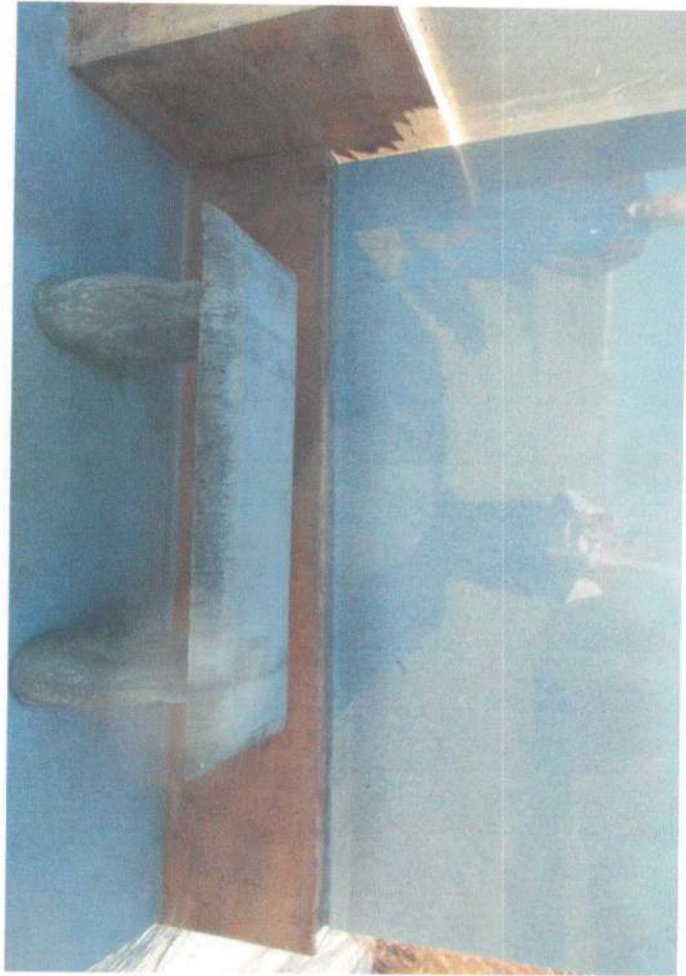


## EMMA MASSACRE SITE

On Monday morning, October 10, 1864, a band of William C. Quantill's guerrillas, led by Dave Poole and George M. Todd, started west from Brownsville (now Sweet Springs). An alarm system was activated by the blowing of a series of cow horns alerting neighboring farmers and the local Germans of a serious threat. A Home Guard unit gathered near this spot and the battle became a massacre. The Home Guard was poorly armed and greatly outnumbered by the guerrillas. Eleven year-old Louis A. Meyer observed the battle from behind a corn sheck in an adjacent field. In 1888, Meyer named this community Lupton and was appointed its first postmaster.







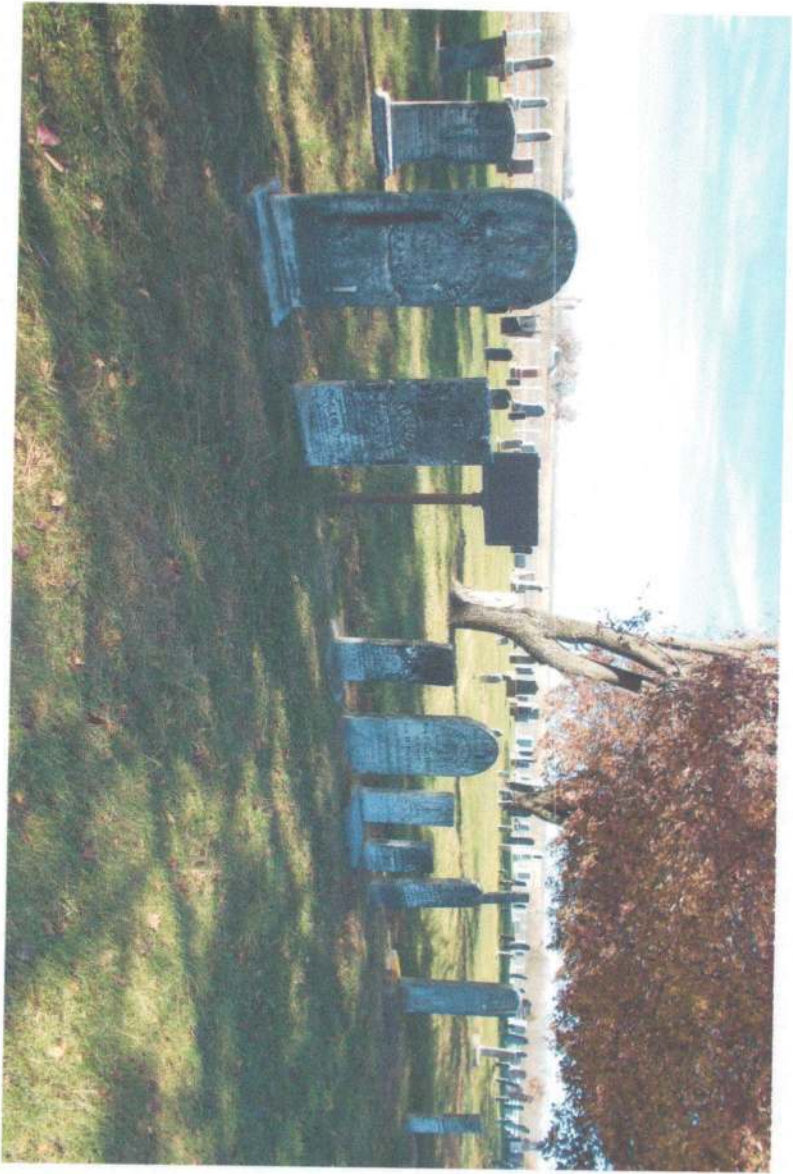




## CIVIL WAR CASUALTIES

BURIED IN THIS VICINITY OF ST. JOHN CEMETERY ARE EIGHT  
VICTIMS OF BUSHWHACKER ACTIVITY DURING THE CIVIL WAR.  
KILLED ON AUGUST 23, 1864, WAS CHRISTIAN HEINRICH  
EHLERS. KILLED ON OCTOBER 10, 1864, WERE FR. WILLIAM  
DICKENHORST, HEINRICH DIERKING, CONRAD SCHAEKHORST,  
WILHELM BODENSTAB, HEINRICH WREDE, HEINRICH DIERS, AND  
PETER HEINRICH HEERMANN.

ERECTED BY CONCORDIA ALMA MATER SOCIETY







## Special Thanks

our program participants and everyone who helped  
make this event a success.

Tri-Co Community Foundation

Emma Civic Club

Concordia Lions Club

Rob & Bev Henning

Thrivent Financial

Holy Cross Lutheran Church

St. John United Church of Christ

St. Paul's Lutheran Church

American Legion - V.F.W. Honor Guard

Lauren Heermann (*Memorial Design/Landscape Architecture*)

Mitchel Dittmer (*Concrete Contractor*)

Stan Oetting (*Kidwell Granite Company*)

Steve Krause (*Grass Seed*)

Tom Kreisel (*Gravel*)

Jimmy Storck (*Boom Truck*)

St. Paul's High School (*Stage*)

150<sup>th</sup> Emma Massacre Memorial Dedication Committee:

David Hemme, Chairman

Randy Bredehoeft

Ruth Haesemeier

Lyn Heermann

Ed Nierman

Dennis Oetting



## Emma Massacre Memorial Dedication

October 12, 2014

Emma, MO



Dear Heavenly Father, we come before you today and ask your blessing upon all of us gathered here this afternoon and upon this ceremony. Lord, we often take for granted all the freedoms that we have today. Freedom to worship, freedom to exercise our religious beliefs without fear, freedom to assemble and many more. Today, we are pausing to take time to dedicate a memorial for our fallen heroes who died protecting their freedoms, their families, and their neighbors from evil men. They shed their blood to protect others. May we never forget their sacrifices and may this memorial always remind us that peace and freedom comes with a price. May we never take our freedoms for granted. Lord now we ask that you bless this ceremony and all who are present here. Protect us from all danger of both body and soul. Lord, into Your hands we commend our Nation, our Families, ourselves, trusting in Your Mercy, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who died to give us eternal life. Amen.

We are thankful for the sacrifice so many throughout our history have made, for the men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice and for their families who had to carry on without them. It is a sacrifice that is easy to forget. Many will not understand just how precious true freedom is until they are at risk of being taken away. There are encroachments being made on our freedoms right now by those who think they know better. Today, we remember a sacrifice made and a debt we cannot repay. Today we pray for You to bless the families of those who have lost loved ones. I pray for our Heavenly Father to bless and comfort the walking wounded who are still with us, and bless their families, ~~as well~~. It is also our that we remember their sacrifice and the precious gift of freedom every day, not just once a year or when they are in danger of being taken away. Lord as we know end this ceremony, we give thanks to You for our Savior, Jesus Christ, who died to give us true freedom and true peace, which the world cannot give. Now we ask that you bless us and keep us in your loving arms all the days of life. Lord, this we pray in Jesus' holy and precious name



## Emma Massacre Site

On Monday morning, October 10, 1864, a band of William C. Quantill's guerrillas, led by Dave Poole and George M. Todd, started west from Brownsville (now Sweet Springs). An alarm system was activated by the blowing of a series of cow horns alerting neighboring farmers and the local Germans of a serious threat. A Home Guard unit gathered near this spot and the battle became a massacre. The Home Guard was poorly armed and greatly outnumbered by the guerrillas. Eleven year-old Louis A. Meyer observed the battle from behind a corn shock in an adjacent field. In 1888, Meyer named this community Emma and was appointed its first postmaster.

### — Common Men - Uncommon Valor —

The 22 victims of the battle include Friedrich Grottmann, Friedrich D. Brackmann, Louis Stuenkel, Friedrich Meyer, Heinrich Bruns, Friedrich Bruns, Herman Wolters, Weller Paeper, Heinrich Freitag, Friedrich Dittmer, Dietrich Dreyer, Bernhard Rippert, Conrad Scharnhorst, Peter Heermann, Wilhelm Bodenstab, Heinrich Wiede, Henry Diers, Henry Meins, Franz Walkenherst, Kasper Wahrenbrock, Heinrich Rueter and Dietrich Droege. Other known guerrilla victims in this general area that day include Wilhelm Brackmann, Friedrich Dickenhorst, Heinrich Dierking and William Prigmore.



## Opening Remarks

*Randy Bredehoeft*

## Invocation

*Pastor Craig Mueller*

## Guest Speaker

*Joe Connell*

## Historical Account

*Robert Frizzell*

## Reading of the Names

*Don Dittmer*

## Honor Guard Salute

## Closing





## EARLY STRUGGLE

In order to write the history of this struggle you should know all the particulars whether you make use of it or not.

In 1861, when the war began, every farm was fenced separate and there was wild prairie or woodland between the different farms around the parsonage, where you spent your boyhood years. There was but 8 acres fenced, on the west side it was all prairie, on this spot there was a Home Guard Camp, with Mr. Becker as Captain. Mr. Becker was from Lexington, but all the others were home people who were no regular soldiers, but received ammunition and guns and uniforms from the Government.

Up on the hill on the south side of the Concordia road, due north from Kleffmans place, there was a country store owned by Hy Meinecke. This store was broken into and some goods stolen. The Home Guards made a search for the goods, and found some newly bought goods in the possession of a man living across Davis Creek whose name was Grissim. His wife was sick in bed with a new born baby. This man claimed that he bought the goods in Sweet Springs and that he would prove it to them, but they took him along to their camp, in spite of the piteous begging of his wife, they passed judgement on him and dispatched three men to take him to Lexington, but instead of taking him to Lexington they took him down on Davis Creek and shot him and then put him in a ditch and covered him with brush. A search was instituted by his brother and it was some time before they found him.

This was the beginning of trouble, for the brother of Mr. Grissim swore that he would kill as many Germans as drops of blood that his brother lost. Sometime after this, the raids began. They were always a small bunch. They came quick and disappeared quick, as it was thought that they were friends from Mr. Grissim.

The first raid occurred July 13, 1862. They took four men as prisoners in the neighborhood of Concordia. Louis Fiene, Dietrich Carsten, Conrad Bruns and Wm. Scharngorst, they took them where to-day is the Central Park of Concordia and there these men were killed.

The next killing occurred Oct. 5, 1862, at the baptismal ceremony of twin brothers, Julius and Fritz Vogt. This whole party was taken prisoners, put in line and shot to death, except Rev. Biltz's life was spared on account of the pitiful begging of his wife. Those killed were, Chris Oetting, Hy. Brockhoff, Hy. Hartman, Hy. Roepe and Julius Vogt Sr. were wounded but recovered later on.

From the writings of L.A. Meyer

## EARLY STRUGGLE (cont.)

On Aug. 14, 1864, a small bunch of Bushwhackers made a raid on Hy. C. Ehlers hemp factory, killing Mr. Ehlers the proprietor, and Wm. Walter. the rest had a narrow escape.

On Oct. 10, 1864, was the last raid and the worst one. It was claimed that it was the Guandrel gang, which committed the most horrible attractions the world ever heard of during this war.

It was a terrible sight, among the moaning of the dying, the popping of guns, the shrieking of the women folk, who were vainly fighting to keep these beasts from assaulting them. All women were criminally attacked, some had to serve five men. Some old woman 75 years of age were attacked, and to make Hell complete, a dozen houses were set on fire. Many houses were saved by the women after the Bushwackers were gone. Old men of 80 were killed and boys of 10 years of age were shot. Hy, Dierking and an old man crawled under a corn pen after he was wounded. The corn pen was set fire, and Mr. Dierking roasted alive. Dickenhorst also an old man was sick in bed, he was shot in bed and the house set fire.

The terrible time which followed this massacre cannot be described in words. A scare came over men which was unspeakable. All men camped deep in Blackwater timber. Some three families came together each night. The children slept on the floor, and the women kept watch at the windows, and such howling and whinnying of the dogs all through the night. They also seemed to bemoan the dead, and sympathize with the living. What these women suffered these long dreary nights and no man near to protect them, only the day of judgement will reveal.

## THE BATTLE AT EMMA, MO. AS SEEN BY AN EYE WITNESS.

It was one of those hazy beautiful autumn mornings when you can hear a sound afar off. The sun rose like a red vall and the breezes whispered soft and low. No one was dreaming what this day had in store for him.

Way down from the east came the toot from a horn which was a sign thet something was doing, presently the next horn was tooting further up the road, and in less than five minutes, every horn was blowing from Sweet Springs to Concordia, that was the sign when Bushwhackers were in sight. Everybody took his old shotgun or anything which looked like a gun, and those who had no guns, went anyhow.

Night before the battle, a gang of Bushwhackers had put up their camp near Sweet Springs. It was claimed that there were a hundred of them, and it was thought that it was the Quantrell gang.

Mr. Graham who was running a water mill on Blackwater Creek, discovered them and gave the first warning by blowing his horn. When they started in the morning, they said that they wanted to clean up the Dutch. The first encounter took place where Louis Pinkepank lives now, but that land was all woodland at that time. The Bushwackers rode slowly through the timber road unaware of any danger. The Germans who had hid along this road suddenly began fireing on them, but most of them were aiming in the direction to the moon, (for there was no one hit), claiming that they couldn't have a mans life on their conscience. It scared the Bushwhackers terribly for they came out of that woods as fast as the horses would carry them and swinging around in a close circle outside of the woods in a little prairie, stopping for a moment, as if to await orders from their captain. Then everyone started heading for the woods. In the meantime, the Germans had all escaped to Davis Creek Timber, except Hy. Deke who stood behind a tree and kept firing on them. There was no possible way for him to escape, as every Bushwhacker was firing in that direction. Mr. Deke stood close to the tree and prayed to God for help. When one of the Bushwhackers tried to dislodge by sudden dash, Mr. Deke shot him promptly from his horse, and then ran for a hazel bush. Bullets were whistling around him in great numbers,,but he reached the brush without being hit. Then a regular hunt was made through the brush for him. One of the Bushwhackers horse nearly stepped on him.



## THE BATTLE AT EMMA, MO. AS SEEN BY AN EYE WITNESS (cont.)

In the meantime, the Home Guards from Concordia had come down to help them. When they came as far as Holy Cross Church, they split up, half of them were dispatched to guard the northern outlet at Rocky Ford so that none would escape and the other half went through the field by the Hy. Heerman place. When the Bushwhackers heard them coming they quit the hunt for Hy. Deke and all were heading towards the Home Guards. In the meantime the Home Guards had reached the gate where Fritz Hazesemeyer and Jacob Peper's land join together.

There was a long hill where one party could not see the other. The Bushwhackers were approaching from the east and the Gome Guards from the west, the hill was a half mile stretch of plowed ground. The first Bushwhacker came over the hill all alone, his big black horse was going in a slow lope over the plowed ground. Just as soon as he reached the top of the hill, he began firing on the Gome Guards. The Captain of the Guards gave order to ertreat to the Heerman place and give battle. After the first Bushwhackers was over the hill, two more of them followed. 200 hundred yards behind these, four more followed, in a slow lope. It seemed as if they couldn't make any speed in the plowed ground. All were riding fine black race horses. After these were fairly over the hill, the whole gang came up the hill in a bunch in a terrible speed, their bodies leaning forward to the horses mane. They looked like a set of demons, just simply a flying.

## THREE YEARS WITH QUANTRELL

One of the guerrillas has left a record of the day's events. It was Monday, Oct. 10, 1864. The guerrilla and a companion, Dave Poole, had been provided with food and a bottle of whiskey by a friendly lady of the town. Then the two headed for Concordia, leading an advance guard of twenty with the large body some distance behind. When the leaders had arrived in the vicinity of Emma and a spot near where the Lutheran church stands, the road skirted a thicket and a cornfield. A friendly citizen having given notice of the presence of the large guerrilla band, some of the militia had hurriedly left their homes, in the direction of the enemy and secreted themselves in the brush near the roadway. Some shots in the direction of the riders disclosed the presence of the militia in the brush. It was quickly surrounded, at the same time the entire band under Captain Todd came up and all engaged in finding the men who were concealed. They were driven out and in attempting to escape were all killed. The advance guard then continued toward Concordia, observing a small group of mounted militia. These were mounted on farm animals, for the most part poorly armed and equipped and greatly outnumbered by the guerrillas. The best mounted escaped, others were overtaken by the fleet horses of the enemy, the best the country afforded and armed with the best weapons. Few of the militia escaped, some were killed in the act of dismounting and were pursued on foot. One Henry Dedeke did escape after shooting a guerrilla and then found safety in the brush.

The enemy had suffered very little and after some marauding in the community continued westward as a screen for a screen for the main army until they reached the Kansas line, where they met with defeat and were driven south into Arkansas. Some of the guerrillas were killed in the battle along the border, the rest scattered and continued their forays in that part of the state.

Concordia emerged from the day's slaughter with twenty-six dead. The number may possibly not be quite exact as the records sometimes conflict.

Three Years With Quantrell

by John McCorkle, Armstrong, Mo.

(1914) pp 119 - 122.

## Grissom

Local tradition and reference to another incident is noted in Higginsville paper years later concerning a resident of Saline County named Grissom, who was charged with having stolen some merchandise from a business man in Concordia. Some militia with Captain Frederick Bruns in command, in searching the Grissom home, found the articles. The wife of the accused declared they had been purchased in Sedalia, also in part received as a gift. The officer, nevertheless, insisted that the accused be taken to Lexington. On this errand the accused man was shot and his body was found in the Davis bottoms, presumably murdered by the militia. The lawless act further embittered the feelings of the non-Germans towards the people of Concordia.

Concordia Hisstorical Institute Quarterly

St. Louis, Mo. Vol. VI, No. 2

(July, 1933) pp. 41 - 52.

Letter of Rev. Biltz, Concordia, Mo.



## CONCORDIA CASUALTIES IN THE GUERRILLA RAIDS OF THE CIVIL WAR PERIOD

Sept. 18, 1862 (date of burial)

Heinrich Steinbrueck

Heinrich Eickhoff

These two men were killed at Wellington, but were brought back to Concordia and buried in St. Paul's Cemetery.

Oct. 5, 1862

Joh. Heinrich Otto Brockhoff

Heinrich Hartmann (died 5 days later)

July 13, 1863

Christian Oetting

Lewis Friene

Wm. Scharnhorst

D. Karstom

Conrad Bruns

Aug. 4, 1863

August Brockhoff (see Young p. 601)

Brockhoff was killed accidentally. While hiding under a building, he poked at a vicious dog with the butt of his gun, and it discharged accidentally and killed him.

Aug. 23, 1864

Friedrich Ehlers and a thirteen year old boy were shot to death in their home. Name of boy is unknown. A Heinrich Ehlers, aged 34 and buried in St. John's Cemetery apparently also killed on this day. William Kuecker is also reported to have been killed this day.

Sept. 3, 1864

Herman Brinkhoff, aged 44 years, was killed in an engagement between Federal troops, who were coming through, and civil guards who mutually believed they were facing bushwhackers.

October 10, 1864

Wm. Bodenstab (St. John's) 18 yrs. old.

Wilhelm Brackman, son of Joh. Heinrich. (St. Paul's) 16 yrs. old.

Friedrich D. Brackman (St. Paul's) 57 yrs. old.

Friedrich Bruns (St. Paul's) 35 yrs. old.

Heinrich Bruns (St. Paul's) 39 yrs. old. (or 36?)

D. Carsons

Fritz Dittmer (St. Paul's) 27 yrs. old.

(H) Fr. Dickenhorst (St. John's) 52 yrs. old.

Heinrich Dierking (St. John's) 59 yrs. old.

H. Diers (Deus?) (St. John's)

Fr. Dreper

Dieterich Dreyer

Heinrich Freitag

Fritz Grottmann

Henry Grottmann

Peter H. Heerman (St. John's) 65 yrs. old.

Henry Meins

Joh. Friedrich Meyer (St. Paul's) 40 yrs. old.

Wm. Paper

Capt. Geo. Pepper

Judge Wm. Prigmore

Henry Reiter

Bernhard Rippert (St. Paul's) 24 yrs. old.

Cour. Schornhorst (St. John's) 57 yrs. old.

Lieut. Louis Stunkel (St. Paul's) 43 yrs. old.

Gustave Wahrenbrock

Fred F. Walkenhorst

Herman Wolters, son of Juergen (St. Paul's) 49 yrs. old.

Henry Wrede (Wrede?) (St. John's) 72 yrs. old.

Probable casualties

Henry Brandt, July 4, 1864

George H. Brockman, Oct. 30, 1863

Henry Brockman, Oct. 20, 1864

August Bruns, March 13, 1862

Christian H. Ehlers, Aug. 29, 1861

Louis Walter, Aug. 16, 1864

The above roster of casualties has been taken chiefly from the 1881 "History of Lafayette County" pp. 413, 426 and 427. Young's "History of Lafayette County", pp. 357, and 358. The Rev. Oscar Heilman checked the church records of St. Paul's and Rev. Paul W. Kasper checked the church records of St. John's for the writer. The name of Brinkhoff was obtained in conversation with Henry (Dick) Oetting. It is commonly reported that twenty-four were killed on the Oct. 10, 1864 massacre while the above list was twenty-nine names. It can be rightly assumed that the "twenty-four" were those who were in the running battle east of town and the rest were murdered in their homes. Mr. Knipmeyer's research also turned up a few names not found in the sources mentioned here.

## BUSHWHACKERS STORIES

The following story appears in a letter sent to the writer by Emil Deke, director of the Concordia Municipal Band, who lives south of town on a farm which was passed by the old stage coach road:

In 1862-65 Henry Deke and Herman Kueck, Sr., bought hemp in Concordia and then hauled it to Dresden, Mo. On one trip home from Dresden, they were attacked by bushwhackers. They surrounded their wagon and demanded their money. Herman Kueck took his pistol and fired several shots at them and then jumped into the brush. In so doing he sprained his ankle, but he hid all night in the brush. Henry Deke jumped over into the timber and got lost during the night. Fritz Fierking, who was also with Deke and Kueck, made his escape somehow and notified the Home Guard. The next morning the Home Guard came out to fetch them safely home.

It was at this time that they brought home a wagon load of store goods, and this store later turned into the Deke and Bergman Store.

Several days before the battle of Lexington, which was fought Sept. 18, 19, 20, 1861, Col. Mulligan's army camped one night south of Concordia while General Price's army was moving along north of the Missouri River.

Mrs. Adolph Runge relates the following story:

The bushwhackers were robbing and killing men whenever it pleased them. Old Grandmother Kammeier saw them coming and quickly shoved her husband into an opening in the floor in front of a fire place and closed the lid and put a rug over it and her spinning wheel and kept busy spinning yarn when the men came in and asked for the man of

house. She told them he was not in the house. So they finally left.

Mrs. Runge explained that the Kammeier house is the one now owned by Mark Adams. Mrs. Runge's letter continues:

Another incident happened in my Grandpa Bruns' house now occupied by Wilbert Riesterer west of town. They were awakened by a yelling mob. Grandpa in his excitement could not find his socks in the dark. (They had only a light from oil or grease). So Grandmother Bruns had to go out to see what they wanted. They told her to fetch them some light, and she said that she had to go to the cellar first and get some more lard. (Outdoor cellar). The man who followed her had a bloody hand, and said he had just killed a man. They did not ask anymore and drove away. They were drunk.

One story was told us by our mother which happened at that time too on the farm where Henry Hensick now lives. It happened in the old brick house which still stands there. It was Grandfather Bruns' home. (Not related to my grandfather). In that brick house there was an opening into the attic where a man could not stand upright. There the grandfather waited outside for three days and nights. The bushwhackers were waiting outside for him to return home if he was not at home. They fed him just in moments when they weren't watched. So that time he was saved but later lost his life with the others who were shot near Emma on Oct. 10.

The writer remembers stories related by Mrs. Bruns of Higginsville in 1831. At that time she was over eighty years old and as a child had lived northeast of Concordia. She related that the bushwhackers burned many houses and in some cases tied the occupants of the houses in their beds and burned them up with their houses.

Henry Lampe tells the story that in the "Freund House" on St. Louis St. next to the tracks there is still a trapdoor in the floor, covering a space where the man of the house hid from the bushwhackers. The house at the time was a saddlery. As a child Henry had lived there.

Tradition also has it that when Vogt and Westerhaus were shot down on the fearful night of Oct. 5, 1862, although badly wounded, they feigned death, and when the raiders had ridden off, Vogt called to Westerhaus, "Westerhaus are you dead?" The reply came back, "No; are you?"

One father and son were riding over the prairie when they saw some bushwhackers in the distance. They quickly dismounted and hid in the tall prairie grass, lying very still so that the movement of the grass would not reveal them. The bushwhackers stole their horses. Some time later the father and son were shopping in Alma, and there the son saw his pony saddled and tied to a hitching post. "Look that's my pony," the son shouted. "Quiet, quiet!" the father cautioned. They quickly finished their business and went home. Thus they were cowed by the fear of their neighbors from the north.

Julius Vogt, Sr., in the bushwhacker raid of October 5, 1862 received two shots, one in the thigh and one in the shoulder. One of his would-be murderers walked over and kicked him, and said, "The son-of-a-bitch isn't dead. I'll shoot him again." And he did. Even though it was dark, the profile of this man's face was indelibly impressed on Vogt's mind. Imagine his feelings when some years later he saw this same man, an itinerant photographer, taking pictures on the streets of Concordia.

Interview with Mrs. Kessner (aged 88) that throws more light on the October 5, 1862 raid. Christian Oetting was her grandfather and Henry Oetting, his son, was her father.

Christian Oetting had received a letter notifying him that back taxes were due on their farm. This they wanted to clear up, so they wrote a letter to Lexington and rode to Cook's Store on that fateful Sunday afternoon of Oct. 5, 1862 to mail it. Here they were urged by Mr. Cook to stay for supper. They at first declined, but because they didn't wish to offend their English neighbors, they accepted the invitation. While they were sitting at the table, the house was surrounded by bushwhackers. Christian Oetting and his son Henry (and presumably another German who was there) were taken captive, and were led away to the village where there was a baptism at Vogt's. The continuation of this account can be read in Mrs. Biltz's letter. Traditionally, the belief is that Mr. Cook tipped off the bushwhackers. The Oettings were not put on their own good horses, but on some old nags as they rode back to the settlement. Christian Oetting was killed that night together with son-in-law J. Heinrich Brockhoff and one other. Heinrich Oetting, who was riding on the same horse with one of the bushwhackers, pleaded for his life and was permitted to slip off the horse and escape. He ran to a house near by, but was unable to tell the terrible news, so frightened was he.

One of the men at Vogt's baptism successfully hid himself in a workshop and escaped.

Another account of the October 5, 1862 incident is found in a letter written by Pastor Biltz's wife, Marie Wurnb Biltz, dated October 6, 1862, the day after the raid. Translation of the letter follows:

Dear Parents!

Oh where shall I begin to relate to you the terrible happenings of the past night? I feel compelled to write you immediately. First of all thank God with me; for my Biltz was lost and is found again; he was dead and is alive again. Oh thank Him, thank our God. Had He not sent His angel, I would now be a widow. Oh, the godless bushwhackers have again committed murder. What will happen to us? We are in fear and dread, and almost on the verge of despair. Yet as disturbed as I am, I shall try to describe to you our terrible plight. Last night, Sunday, we were all at the Bank, as the place is called where there are two stores and several dwellings, celebrating a baptism at Vogt's. As we were happily sitting at the table, a man called out, "Soldiers are coming!" Before we could even think, we heard crying and



shouting; the whole house was encircled, and a bunch of cursing armed men stormed into the house. What a tumult! The many children cried out, and the women shouted to their men to run. One, Mr. Roepe, tried to jump out of the door but was shot down; he stumbled into the cellar badly wounded. Vogt, Moeller, Biltz and others were immediately taken captive. Now the plundering began. Anything that they had use of was taken. They took the men along into the stores where they continued their plundering. I asked, "What do you want with our men?" They answered, "As you have done to us, so we will do to you." Ah, they were not humans, they were devils in the form of men—nothing but cursing and beating. "Make the children be quiet or we will shoot them down. You damned Union people. We'll let no one live." And so on they shouted. Those who couldn't speak well with them were knocked aside with their gun butts. I asked again and again as other raiders came in, "Oh you surely will not harm my husband." Alas, we begged and pleaded all. One said, "Shut up, nothing will happen to you." At this another one laughed and uttered a terrible curse. I continued my pleading: "Oh, please don't hurt my husband." Who is your husband was always asked. "The preacher, the big man, is my husband." We were always hoping for the best. After they had packed their horses with as much plunder as they could carry, the command was given, "Forward!" Mrs. Vogt and I ventured to go to the store, but we found that our men were gone.

Suddenly we heard several shots. We went further. There we saw a man swaying toward us. "Hartman, is that you?" "Alas, I'm shot. Over there lie others." We looked and cried, "Oh, those are our men! The one in the middle of the road is surely dead." He was shot in the face. I fell over him and thought it was my Biltz, but as I looked at his shirt, I saw it wasn't. It was Mr. Brockhoff. The other one we didn't find. We ran further and filled the prairie with our cry of woe.

We came to the next farm. There we saw our next-door neighbor, Fred Stuenkel, panting and laved with sweat. "Oh, where are our men?" He replied, "They had me along too, but I have escaped through a miracle." "Was the Pastor with them?" He said he couldn't tell in a crowd of sixty people at night, but said, "Oh, you poor women, get ahold of yourselves—your men are all dead! I saw Vogt fall, and you can be sure they will not let the Pastor live."

We cried, "Look for them!" O God, what a lamentation and crying! We ran back; no comforting passage from God's word came to my mind. My mind seemed blank except for the one verse from Papa's letter that I had received that same morning: "Not one hair shall fall from our heads without His will." The children were crying. If only a stone could have cried out in sympathy, "Your good father is dead!"

Suddenly we saw Vogt coming slowly toward us. "I am not yet dead, but I have two bad wounds. They still had the Pastor when they shot me."

The other one who was shot with Vogt was dead. That is the way they did it, always told two to dismount and shot them down; then they went on a little piece and repeated the same thing, till at last Biltz and another man on the same horse were the last ones left. They saw how it had happened to the others, and resigned to die, they tried to comfort each other. Now they were also given the command, "Dis-

mount!" Biltz dismounted and stood before them. Then one of them said, "Don't shoot him; he is a good man." Another shook hands with him and said, "I have promised your wife that nothing would happen to you. Now run." The other man did not want to dismount and begged to be taken along. They released this man later.

Meanwhile I lay outside on my knees with the children. I knew no comfort; I saw nothing but chastening. We all prayed aloud, overly loud. Everyone complained and cried: "Alas, our Pastor is dead." But then he came without having a hair on his head crimped. Thank, Oh thank our God.

We now have two dead and five wounded and of those one will very likely soon die—all of them fathers of families. Biltz was completely unclothed. He had had his best clothes on, his only decent coat, his watch, a little money, and other things. They offered him an old ragged coat, but when he declined to put it on, they forced him at the point of a gun to do so. Oh, how happy we were to get home again and didn't complain about the fact that our house was plundered. They didn't take everything. My beautiful tea cups, all silver and other spoons, all kinds of clothing belonging to me and the children, wool coats and the like, my two good dresses and the children's they did not find. And they left us the feather beds. God be thanked. He hears my prayer. But what we must still await, only God knows.

The same evening that they were here they came to an American named Mr. Braden, shot and killed him and forced his wife to set the house on fire. He however shot back at them and hit their leader, who was later found by the militia lying in a house badly wounded. The militia didn't find this band, and as soon as our soldiers are gone, they will be here again. Biltz will also write, but he is terribly disturbed. May God strengthen him so that he will be able to speak at the burial of the two men who were killed. All around you hear complaining and crying: What will happen to us next. Oh, how dear to us now is the comfort of God's Word. On the same day that all this happened Biltz had preached a funeral sermon and we had sung the hymn, "Who Knows How Near My End May Be," without having any inkling of what was to come. But many said that they had a feeling of an unexplainable anxiety. Oh, may the Lord stand by us and do unto us according to His mercy! When you can, let the relatives in Perry County know how it goes with us. Pray, pray for us! That is the plea of

Your Marie

NOTE: Marie von Wurnb Biltz was a talented, well educated woman. She was the daughter of a missionary, and was born in Johannesburg, South Africa. She was probably the only woman in the house during the raid who could speak the English language. Tradition in some families has it that one of the raiders asked her to play the organ for them, and she complied, and upon that the officer promised to spare her husband. This, however, seems unlikely.

Another story says that Pastor Biltz had attended a sick man, an Englishman, who lived north of town, and that the raider who spared the Pastor's life, was a friend of this man who had been ministered to by Pastor Biltz.



The Civil War was noted for lawless bans of men, known as bushwhackers and guerrillas, who did not enter either army, but kept up a constant annoyance by their senseless efforts and general sympathy and aid to the Confederacy. Among these bands were men without patriotism or character, and who devastated the country, killing innocent people, and burning the houses and farm buildings largely for plunder . . . It would take a good sized volume to mention the many operations and bloody crimes perpetrated by the bushwhackers in Missouri . . . (Young p. 127). On June 23, 1862, General Schofield, the Union commander issued the following general order No. 2, a part of which reads as follows:

The sum of five thousand dollars for every soldier or union citizen killed; from one thousand dollars to five thousand dollars for every wounded person; and full value of all property destroyed or stolen by guerrillas, will be assessed and collected from the rebel sympathizers residing in the vicinity of the place where the act is committed. (Young p. 127). This order was impossible to carry out, for Young says, "At that day, not one third of the population of this county was on the side of the Union cause, and the workings of the above orders in such a community can scarcely be imagined. At every man's door stood glaring and scowling grim-visaged warfare."

Mrs. Henry Kessner, a niece of J. Heinrich Brockhoff who was killed by bushwhackers on October 5, 1862, told the writer that the shooting was done mostly by fifteen year old boys. It cannot be assumed, however, that this was generally the case; as was seen in another chapter, many of the aggressors were hardened military men under the command of officers.

The writer remembers hearing the Rev. J. H. C. Kaepfel, president of St. Paul's College, in one of his chapel talks (ca. 1924) using an illustration from bushwhacker times to show how God provided for His own. Rev. Biltz had been hiding under a hay stack for a week while his place was watched by bushwhackers awaiting his return. Even as ravens fed Elijah of Bible days, so a hen came and laid her daily egg which Pastor Biltz used for his nourishment.

Fourteen year old John Kammeyer was driving cows to water at Davis Creek near the Fuchs Bridge. A man wearing two shiny pistols and riding a beautiful slick horse met him and asked him if he was from the "settlement", meaning Concordia. John replied that he was. The man asked if there had been any robbing and shooting going on there, and John replied that there had been a great deal of it. Then the man asked if he had ever heard of Dave Poole, and John replied he had, and that Dave Poole was one of the bad bushwhackers. Thereupon the man answered, "You can go home and tell your folks that you have just talked to Dave Poole." (This story is told by Alvin Kammeyer, son of the boy who talked to Dave Poole).

Fifteen year old H. C. Bruns of the Home Guards in Captain Pepper's Company saved his life in the overwhelming bushwhacker

er attack on October 10, 1864 by dismounting and crawling under a corncrib. He held his gun in readiness, determined to sell his life dearly should they discover him. On the other side of some bushes he heard the bushwhackers arguing over who should shoot 49 year old Herman Wolters who had been captured. A youthful voice, that sounded like that of a fifteen year old boy, said, "Aw let me shoot him, I haven't shot anyone today yet." (In part related by Ed. Runge and in part found in the 1881 History, p. 608).

Two men in their sixties and seventies told the writer the following story which happened long years after Civil War days. A certain Mr. B. . . L. . . from north of Davis would come to town with his farm wagon and load up on supplies and at the same time load himself up on spirits in the several saloons of the town. Then he would go around bragging that he was a bushwhacker. As a final bit of celebration, he would race his team down Main Street, reins and whip in one hand, spurring curses at the "Dutch" and giving out the rebel yell, he would race out of town.

This man truly was a bushwhacker in the full sense of the word. His military record on file in the Adjutant-General's Office in Jefferson City, reveals that he had been a member of the Confederate Army, and that he had deserted just before the Battle of Pea Ridge. He came back to his home near Concordia and engaged in guerrilla activities.

The usual method employed by the settlers to warn the community of the approach of bushwhackers, was the blowing of a large cow horn.

It should be mentioned to the casual reader that it was not only the Germans, nor only the Concordia community, that suffered. Professor Brownley, in his "Ghosts of the Confederacy", describes the guerrilla activities in the western part of our county and in adjoining Jackson County.

McCorkle has several accounts of raids on Concordia. On page 71 he says:

In a few days, we went with Captain Todd down on the Sni and joined Quantrell. Dave Poole took forty of us with him and went down in what was known as the Dutch Settlement in Lafayette County, near Concordia. There was stationed there a company of Dutch militia, who had a fort or blockhouse near the town, and, whenever strangers were seen in that neighborhood, they would blow the dinner horns and ring the bells all running for the blockhouse. Having only side-arms with us, we let them alone, and securing a number of extra good horses, we returned to the Sni. In a few days we went over to Olathe, Kansas . . .

Above story was contributed by Thomas Hooper. P. O. Box 199, Maryville, Mo. Mr. Hooper has recently published a book on the massacre at Centralia, Mo., which took place just a few days before the last raid on Concordia. Some of the Guerrillas participated in both raids.

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# Emma Massacre

## A DAY OF DEATH

### PART ONE

*Every man and boy  
took their shotguns,  
or anything which  
looked like a gun, and  
those even who had  
no guns went anyhow.*

It was a sunny, clear sky on October 10, 1864. The day began as any other day, but then a horn sounded! And another horn sounded, and soon every horn was blowing from Sweet Springs to Concordia. That was the sign of Bushwackers being sight. Every man and boy took their shotguns, or anything which looked like a gun, and those even who had no guns went anyhow.

About 100 German immigrants and boys gathered at St. Paul's Church near the town of Concordia. Fifty men that came without mounts stayed behind to guard the church. The mounted Germans rode east to where Holy Cross Lutheran Church was erected a couple years later and divided into two groups. Some went northeast in order to

cutoff the raiders before they crossed Davis Creek and others rode east. The group heading east encountered the enemy, a 100 strong, and at once turned to retreat. The outlaw band closely followed, shooting down the German immigrants along the way, all being killed but five or six, according to 'Young's History of Lafayette County - 1881'.

The night before October 10, Bushwackers camped somewhere near Brownsville (renamed Sweet Springs), who were led by David Poole and George Todd, part of William Quantrell's gang. It is reported that when the Buschwackers started in the morning, they said that they wanted to clean up the Dutch (the local immigrants). Confederate guerrillas knew the community only as the 'Dutch Settlement'.

The Buschwackers rode slowly through a timber road unaware of any danger, but German immigrants had been hiding along this road and suddenly began firing on the Buschwackers, but

most of the Germans were "aiming at the moon, claiming that they couldn't have a man's life on their conscience," according to 'The Battle of Emma' as seen by an eyewitness.

Louis A. Meyer, 11 years old at the time of the battle, observed the massacre from behind a corn shock in an adjacent field. In 1888, a town was established by Meyer and named Emma. Mayer became the first postmaster of Emma.

In Part Two of the Emma Massacre, the aftermath of the 'day of death' will be reviewed, along with the names of those who were killed. A Memorial Dedication is being planned for October 12th to honor those killed in the battle. The dedication will be made at the Holy Cross Church Grounds. Part Two will feature more information on the dedication ceremony.

**Thank You For Reading!**



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*From Sweet Springs Herald*

# Emma Massacre-

## A DAY OF DEATH

### PART TWO

*In the days that followed the massacre, the women and surviving men lived in fear.*

"The terrible time which followed this massacre cannot be put in words," stated an eye witness of the Emma Massacre according to 'The Early Struggle', Emma, Mo. The October 10, 1864 massacre at Emma was the last raid and the worst.

Bushwhackers David Poole and George Todd, both of the Quantrill gang (Confederate guerrilla fighters), led the attack on

the German immigrants living in and around where Emma is today. The bushwhackers rode in on black horses. According to the eye witness, "They looked like a set of demons, just simply a flying." Old men 80 years of age and boys, ten years of age, were shot. The dying were moaning and the women were fighting to keep the bushwhackers from sexually assaulting them. To complete the horrific act, the bushwhackers burned a dozen homes. Immigrants met at the grounds of where Holy Cross Church was located a few years later and divided into two groups. The first group encountered the hundred guerrillas near the present town of Emma.

Only one of the Germans survived. The bushwhackers smashed each of the 24 victim's skulls with a gun butt or club. Personal accounts tell the horrors that occurred as the day of death unfolded. Old men being beaten and burned alive, children being harassed, women sexually assaulted and homes burned to the ground. Record conflict on the exact number who were killed during the Bushwhackers' raid, and is reported to be 25 to 30.

The days that followed the massacre were filled with fear for the women and surviving men. As the eye witness reported, "What these women suffered these long dreary nights with no man near to protect them,

on the day of judgment will reveal."

Those killed in the raid near Emma on Oct. 10, 1864 include F.D. Brauckman, Wm. Brauckman, Friedrich (Fred) Bruns, Heinrich (Henry) Bruns, George Bender, Wm. Bodenshtab, F.W. Dickenhorst, Wm. Prigmore, Heinrich (Henry) Dierking, Henry Diers, Fritz Dittmer, Dietrich Dreyer, W.H. Freitag, Fritz (Fred) Grottmann, Henry Peter Heerman, J.W. Fred Meyer, Henry Meins, Wm. Paper, Weller (George) Peper, Ben Rogers, Louis Stuenkel, Conrad Scharnhorst, Herman Wolters, Franz Walkenhorst, Casper Wahrenbrock,

**See Day of Death, page 3**

Henry Wrede, Henry Rueter, D. Carsons, Fr. Dreper, Bernhard Rippert, and Peter Heinrich Heerman.

Henry Dedeke was the last survivor of the Emma Massacre. Mr. Dedeke was found dead in his bed on his farm, according to an obituary from The Sweet Springs Herald, dated Dec. 20, 1912. The obituary read: "He was the last of the survivors in that bloody combat with bushwhackers near Emma during the Civil War on Oct. 10, 1864, in which twenty-six inhabitants were killed; the bushwhackers leaving no wounded, but in making sure of their job, they broke the skulls of their victims with the butt-end of their guns or with clubs.

Mr. Dedeke was engaged in the early encounter of that morning and he was the only man who didn't take to his heels when fir-

behind a tree and fired until a bushwhacker tried to rout him by taking a sudden dash behind the tree, but Mr. Dedeke shot him from his horse and then started to run, heading for the hazel brush with bullets whistling about him. Dozens of bushwhackers searched through the brush, one horse nearly stepping on his body when the battle suddenly began at another end of the field and they all headed for that point.

Mr. Dedeke in his latter days led the life of a recluse, his wife having died some time ago and his

children grown and gone. He was about 75 years old and very weak and broken. He leaves one son, Gustave, who lives east of Sweet Springs and four daughters, Mrs. Hy. Johnson, Mrs. John Harms, Mrs. L. Meyers and Mrs. Veights.

He was buried Monday in the Cross church cemetery, Rev. Demetrio officiating at the house."

A memorial dedication is scheduled for October 12th at 1:30 p.m. at the Holy Cross Lutheran Church grounds north drive. The memorial will honor the early German immigrants

who died in battle with the bushwhackers on October 10, 1864 in the Emma Massacre.



# History points to 'Emma Massacre'

by Robert Frizzell, Historian  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Under a sunny, clear, morning sky, 50 men rode out as a body from St. Paul's Lutheran Church near the future town of Concordia, Mo., on Oct. 10, 1864. They aimed to defend their community. From farm to farm the cow horns had been blowing. That was the agreed signal that the bushwhackers — the armed enemy — were approaching. Someone had seen them and sounded the alarm. Hard to tell exactly where they were coming from — where the first horns had sounded — but most thought the toots had started in the east. Altogether about 100 men gathered at St. Paul's church, the center of the 25-year-old German immigrant community.

Only half the Germans who responded to the alarm came mounted. Good horses were becoming more and more scarce in this fourth year of the war. The bushwhackers stole the best they could find for their own use; moreover, both Union and Confederate armies would commandeer good horses they

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*From Concordian*

## Area history points to 'Emma Massacre'

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might need — mules, too. Some units preferred mules for pulling army wagons and sometimes even artillery pieces and caissons. Mules did not need so much high-quality forage in order to keep going. If a farmer had a good team of horses or mules — either one — he tried to keep them hidden if soldiers were expected to be on their way.

The 50 men who came without mounts stayed at the church to protect it and the line of stores and houses half a mile south on what would later be named South St. Louis Street. The blacksmith shop was closed. The blacksmith, Mr. Vogt after recovering from wounds two years earlier, had gone to St. Louis to build wagons for the Union Army.

"The mounted men rode eastward over the prairie to meet the intruders. They did not make good time. They had to move at the speed the nags, plough horses and mules could travel."

The mounted men rode eastward over the prairie to meet the intruders. They did not make good time. They had to move at the speed the nags, plough horses and mules could travel. As they rode, some men probably worried about their firearms. Three years earlier, the Confederates had come through the community confiscating the arms and powder they could find. In 1861 and again in 1862, Army muzzle-loading Enfield rifles had been issued to community militia units, but those weapons had to be returned to the Union Army when the short-term militia units were deactivated. Most farms had a shotgun or an

old musket and some may have been able to retain the more carefully-made weapons many had brought along from Germany. They knew the bushwhackers each generally carried three, four, or five percussion-cap revolving pistols — the Navy Colt being most favored. A group of dismounted men armed with rifles or even smooth-bore muskets could fire a volley into a body of men riding toward them before the enemy could get into pistol range. But if the initial volley from the rifles did not kill or wound enough enemy men and horses to make the remainder of the group turn and run, the original riflemen were in great danger. At least 20 seconds was required by even the most experienced riflemen to reload, aim and fire his muzzle-loader for a second time. And the reloading had to be done while standing up instead of while crouching in a ditch or behind a log. While the reloading was going on, the enemy horsemen often could ride into pistol range and shoot down the riflemen with their six-shot revolvers. A few Union Army regiments in the east were being equipped with new repeating rifles, but no German farmer out in what was still called the "Far West" had a repeater.

They rode along, the old and the young — men in their

40s, 50s and older, along with the boys of 16, 17, 18 and 19 — teenagers they would have been called in the next century. The community's men of military age were mostly on duty in the Union Army or state militia units, all of which were elsewhere trying to defend against former Gov. Sterling Price's 12,000-man Confederate invasion force, which was on raid across Missouri. At the moment Price's army was strung out between Jefferson City and Boonville. Later that morning, Price's advance guard, commanded by Waverly's own Joseph O. Shelby, entered the town of Boonville.

When the German riders got to the spot where Holy Cross Lutheran Church would later be erected, they divided into two parts. Half went north to guard the ford over Davis Creek. What happened when the group which went east encountered the bushwhacker could not be reconstructed with absolute certainty in later decades. But it was clear nearly all the German men and boys were killed whether, upon seeing that they were outnumbered about 4 to 1 by the enemy, they stood and fired or ran for their lives. At least one and perhaps more bushwhackers were wounded. Only a handful of Germans survived the day. Either they were killed in battle or lost their lives as the bushwhackers killed the wounded on the battle site. (The bushwhackers had also killed the wounded at the Centralia Massacre in northern Boone County two weeks earlier.) When the battle was over, the bushwhackers rode through the community shooting men, setting houses afire, and probably assaulting women, as well.

Although this was one of the most significant events of the entire guerrilla war in Missouri, later generations very nearly forgot it. Few of the German participants survived the morning. When Richard Brownlee, in 1958, published his classic account of Missouri's Civil War guerrilla fighting, "Gray Ghosts of the Confederacy," he said nothing of this massacre along the county line between Saline and Lafayette counties. The sources were few and sometimes in a language later generations did not read.

Despite the chaos in western Missouri accompanying Price's invasion, the Lexington *Union* newspaper on the day after the event did publish an account of this massacre at the far corner of the county. But no copies of the *Union* were preserved for future historians. However, 10 days later, one of the St. Louis German language newspapers, the *Anzeiger des Westens*, published an account based on the story in the Lexington paper. That issue of the *Anzeiger* has been preserved, although it has not been translated into English.

Two diarists noted the massacre. Pastor F. J. Biltz of St. Paul's Lutheran Church briefly noted in his diary that 24 men of his community had been killed, this diary was not rediscovered and made available to researchers until 2009. Past and future Missouri Supreme Court Justice William B. Napton had left his farm in Saline County for the safety of St. Louis. There he heard about the massacre a few days after it happened and noted in his diary that he hoped the report would prove to be false, despite his fervent support of the legality of slavery. But Napton's diary was not edited and published until 2005.

John Newman Edwards, Colonel Shelby's Adjutant during the war and afterward editor of the *Kansas City Times*,

included an account of the massacre in his 1877 book, "Noted Guerrillas," but later scholars quickly learned to distrust Edwards' accuracy and overblown rhetoric. Two surviving bushwhackers published memoirs four or five decades after the war, but by that time their memories were failing and the books, both published in small, backcountry towns, attracted little attention. Later historians also gave scant notice to the short account in the 1881 Lafayette County history book.

Local writers continued to keep memory of the massacre alive for more than just the descendants of the victims. In 1893, the German language newspaper for Lafayette County, at that time published in Higginsville, the *Thalbote*, ran an article on the subject. This account would have been lost but for the fact that Ferdinand Reith, perhaps sometime in the 1920s or 1930s, typed a copy of the newspaper clipping onto good paper which was

saved by his family. The clipping was saved in the archives of Concordia Historical Institute in St. Louis, but by the 1970s, it had become so brittle that only a portion of the article could be read.

A different two-page account of the massacre was written by R. P. Sevin and published in 1914 in Sedalia in a new German-language periodical entitled "Deutsche Geschichtsforschung für Missouri (German Historical research for Missouri). But with onset of World War I and the stigmatizing of all things German, this periodical found few subscribers and is extremely rare in libraries today.

The last attempt to gather information about the massacre from people who had been present at the time began in 1921 when Professor William G. Bek at the University of North Dakota decided to publish an account. He had lived near Emma as an adolescent in the 1880s when his father had pastored St. John Church. Bek sent a letter to his old friend, Louis A. Meyer, at Emma who claimed that as an 11-year-old boy he had witnessed the massacre while hiding in a shock of corn. Meyer was asked to send Bek all the information about the massacre that could be recovered. Bek never managed to complete his intended project, but Meyer's correspondence and short written accounts of the information he gathered were preserved by his family.

The present author published an article about the massacre in the "Missouri Historical Review" in 1977 and rewrote it after 30 years of additional consideration to become a chapter in a book that appeared in 2007.

And so 150 years have passed. Now this community of German heritage on both sides of the Lafayette-Saline county border is erecting and dedicating a monument to men who were killed trying to defend their homes and their community so long ago. Nothing could be more fitting.

"When the German riders got to the spot where Holy Cross Lutheran Church would later be erected, they divided into two parts."