

NATIONAL ORGANIZATION
SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR

CIVIL WAR MEMORIAL ASSESSMENT FORM

PLEASE:

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

- Thank You.

Type of Memorial

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

Affiliation

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

Original Dedication Date 29 April 2008 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 Stoddard Co Courthouse 307 So. Prairie W89 °55'47" N36 °53'05"

City/Village Bloomfield Township _____ County Stoddard

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 Stoddard County Dept./Div. _____

Street Address _____

City Bloomfield State MO Zip Code _____

Contact Person _____ Telephone () _____

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

Physical Details

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

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

Material of the Sculpture = Stone Concrete Metal Undetermined
If known, name specific material (color of granite, marble, etc.) _____
If the Sculpture is of metal, is it solid cast or "hollow?" _____

Material of Plaque or Historical Marker / Tablet = Plastic Compound

Material of Cannon = Bronze Iron - Consult known Ordnance Listing to confirm
Markings on muzzle = _____
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 ft} _____ Width ^{4 in} _____ Depth ^{2 1/2 ft} _____ 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 n/a

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 due to length

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> School |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Municipal Building | <input type="checkbox"/> State Capitol | Other: _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Courthouse | <input type="checkbox"/> College Campus | <u>School Marked in error</u> |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Traffic Circle | <input type="checkbox"/> Library | _____ |

General Vicinity

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

Immediate Locale (check as many as may apply)

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

Condition Information

Structural Condition (check as many as may apply)

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

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

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

Surface Coating

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

Gilded Painted Varnished Waxed Unable to determine

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

Basic Surface Condition Assessment (check one)

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

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

Overall Description

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

Printed wording on this type of monument starts showing age after about 5 years. Recommend reinspection in 2014

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 11/17/2008

Your Name Walter E Busch, US Grant Camp 68

Address PO Box 381 City Arcadia

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

Please send this completed form to:

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

Thank you for your help, and attention to detail.

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



THE CIVIL WAR IN BLOOMFIELD



A STATE DIVIDED: THE CIVIL WAR IN MISSOURI

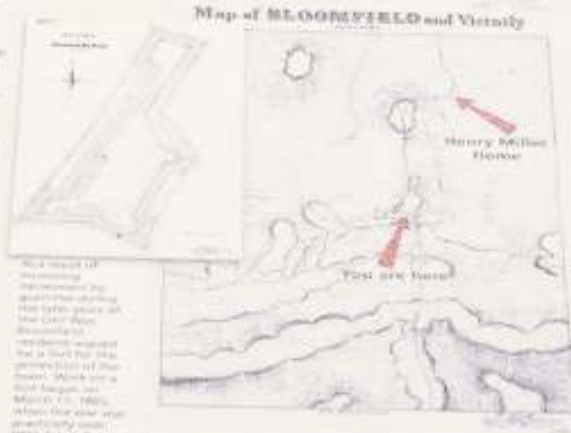
During the Civil War, Bloomfield was a geographically unimpressive point in southeastern Missouri by virtue of its location along Crowley's Ridge, the only high ground separating the state's two major river valleys. Whether these held Bloomfield was critical to movements on the ridge and east to Arkansas, and to a secure supply line to the west. The town's regional importance waned in the Civil War and recommissioned that Union troops occupy the town.

On June 11, 1861, Thompson's "Swamp Fox Brigade" of the 1st Confederate Missouri State Guard struck first, seizing the town in late July 1861. Thompson set up his headquarters at Bloomfield and made the town a military center with gunsmith shops, hospitals, and enough supplies to accommodate some 1,000 southern Missourians in his command.

In early November 1861, Union troops captured six Bloomfield from Pike Knob and Cape Girardeau, Mo., and Cairo, Ill. In January Thompson's command, two of the Federal columns moved into Bloomfield on November 8, only to find that Thompson and the Swamp Fox Brigade had gone. Unable to connect with these forces, Thompson had retreated to New Madrid. The occupying Union soldiers ransacked some stores before making camp. That evening Federal commanders read the press of the *Bloomfield Herald*. With its printers from the ranks published a camp newspaper titled the *Star and Knives*. This was the first edition of this famous military newspaper. The next morning brought word of Grant's defeat at Belmont, Mo. and orders from Grant for the Union columns to return to their bases at Cape Girardeau and Cairo, Ill. Elements of Thompson's army reoccupied the town the following day.

Union forces recaptured Bloomfield again in January 1862, and captured a number of discharged Guardsmen enjoying a dance at the courthouse. In May, the 1st Wisconsin Cavalry rode into town once more and surprised Col. William G. Phelan's recruitment camp south of town. The Wisconsin troops captured Phelan and several officers and scattered the recruits. Detachments of the 1st Wisconsin retained possession of the town throughout the summer.

On Sept. 6, 1862, Capt. William L. Jeffers' Confederate command attacked Bloomfield, which was lightly defended by only a company of the 1st Wisconsin and a few Enrolled Missouri Militia. Jeffers drove the Union



Map of Bloomfield and vicinity showing Henry Miller House and Post Oak House. The map includes a compass rose and a scale bar. A note at the bottom left reads: 'A note at the bottom left of the map reads: "Map on a scale of 1 inch to 1 mile. March 11, 1862. When the map was published the Union troops had just captured the town from the Confederates."'

Photo: John S. Marmaduke is (and into southern Missouri in April 1862, but eventually drove to capture Moberly and its environs, and they had occupied to Cape Girardeau. Marmaduke followed for one captured at Cape Girardeau on April 26, 1862. The Confederates, now pressed, retreated south along Crowley's Ridge through Bloomfield on their way to Arkansas. Marmaduke initially intended to make a stand in the northern part of town near the Henry Miller home, but reconsidered and continued his withdrawal rather than face a superior Federal force.



After several relatively quiet months, Jeffers attacked Bloomfield for a second time on September 24, 1862. This was during Gen. Sterling Price's celebrated "Raid" through Missouri.

With a force also not available to defend the town, the Union command started for Cape Girardeau with wagons filled with supplies. Jeffers attacked the fleeing Unionists near the Cairo River east of Bloomfield. The Union troops offered only feeble resistance, but enjoyed good fortune when their wagons jammed the bridge over the river, preventing Jeffers' men from crossing. The Confederates shelled the stranded wagons into the Cairo, but the Union troops just paced them and escaped across Little River after a brief pursuit and some minor skirmishing. The Confederates captured weapons and wagons, inflicted several casualties without loss, and burned the bridge over the Cairo River. Returning to Bloomfield, Jeffers' command destroyed the Union Confederates before marching to rejoin Price's army.



Col. William L. Jeffers

troops from the town and captured a large cache of weapons and ammunition including two pieces of artillery. The next day, Union reinforcements shelled the town and sent Jeffers retreating into Dunklin County.

The town changed hands again later in 1862, but by the spring of 1863, Gen. John McNeill's Union troops occupied Bloomfield. During Confederate

headquarters. The following morning soldiers fired on Montgomery's headquarters and placed him in custody although he refused to recognize their authority. When the ministers reported their actions to Col. J. B. Rogers at Cape Girardeau, he dispatched an officer to Bloomfield to assume command and to arrest the mutiny participants. Military authorities summarily dismissed the ringleader of the mutiny from the army and court-martialed four additional officers. As for Montgomery, he continued in command at Bloomfield. After the war, he remained in the community with his "yacht" wife, where he served as a judge of the county court, a school board member, and as town mayor.



Martha Walker Montgomery

The Bloomfield Mutiny

Mr. Samuel Montgomery, 1st Missouri Cavalry Regiment (Union), commanded the post of Bloomfield in 1862. During his assignment, Montgomery associated freely with the local populace and eventually married Martha Owen Walker, a Confederate sympathizer. Some of Montgomery's officers were offended by his associations and courtship. They believed he was a traitor who might not hold the town against the Confederates. During the evening of Oct. 24, 1862 the disgruntled officers plotted to arrest Montgomery and forward their complaints regarding his conduct to district



Mr. Samuel Montgomery

Guerrillas commanded by Polk Conyers arrived shortly after Jeffers' regiment left Bloomfield. Conyers was a notorious free-bowler who usually operated in New Madrid and Pemiscot Counties. His guerrillas looted and destroyed much of the war-ravaged town, torching the courthouse along with several businesses and residences. Most of the property destroyed belonged to men serving in the Confederate army. After the devastation, Conyers boldly joined Price's army near Ironton, but when Price learned of the guerrilla's actions he ordered him arrested. Although taken into custody, Conyers escaped and returned to his Pemiscot County haunts where Union militia later killed him.

Bloomfield changed hands sixteen times during the war. The different occupation forces, the raids, guerrillas, and finally the burning of the town in 1864, made the town another casualty of the long and bitter struggle for control of southeast Missouri.

The Civil War In Bloomfield

[US Shield]

[Picture of Gen. John McNeil]

A State Divided:

The Civil War in Missouri

Missouri Department of Natural Resources

[Picture: Gen. M. Jeff Thompson]

[Confederate Shield]

[Picture: Brig. Gen. John S. Marmaduke]

During the Civil War, Bloomfield was a geographically commanding point in southeastern Missouri by virtue of its location atop Crowley's Ridge, the only high ground separating two nearly impenetrable swamps. Whichever force held Bloomfield controlled movements on the ridge in and out of Arkansas, and to a lesser degree blocked passage of the swamps on an east-west axis. Brig. Gen. Ulysses S. Grant first noted the town's regional importance early in the Civil War and recommended that Union troops occupy the town.

But Gen. M. Jeff Thompson's "Swamp Fox brigade" of the pro-Confederate Missouri State Guard struck first, seizing the town in late July 1861. Thompson set up his headquarters at Bloomfield and made the town a military center with gunsmith shops, hospitals, and enough supplies to accommodate some 3,000 southeast Missourians in his command.

In early November 1861, Union troops converged on Bloomfield from Pilot Knob and Cape Girardeau, Mo., and Cairo, Ill. To destroy Thompson's command. Two of the Federal columns marched into Bloomfield on November 8, only to find that Thompson and the Swamp Brigade had gone. Unable to contend with these forces, Thompson had retreated to New Madrid. The occupying Union soldiers ransacked some stores before making camp. That evening Federals commandeered the press of the *Bloomfield Herald*. With it, printers from the ranks published a camp newspaper titled the *Stars and Stripes*. This was the first edition of this famous military newspaper. The next morning brought word of Grant's defeat at Belmont, Mo., and orders from Grant for the Union columns to return to their bases at Cape Girardeau and Cairo, Ill. Elements of Thompson's cavalry reoccupied the town the following day.

Union forces raided Bloomfield again in January 1862, and captured a number of discharged Guardsmen enjoying a dance at the courthouse. In May, the 1st Wisconsin Cavalry [sic] rode into town once more and surprised Col. William G. Phelan's recruitment camp south of town. The Wisconsin troopers captured Phelan and several others and scattered the recruits. Detachments of the 1st Wisconsin retained possession of the town throughout the summer.

On Sept. 11, 1862 Capt. William L. Jeffers' Confederate command attacked Bloomfield, which was lightly defended by only a company of the 1st Wisconsin and a few Enrolled Missouri Militia. Jeffers drove the Union troops from the town and captured a large cache of weapons and ammunition including two pieces of artillery. The next day, Union reinforcements shelled the town and sent Jeffers retreating into Dunklin County.

[Insert Photo: Maj. Samuel Montgomery Courtesy James Mayo]

[Insert Text with Photo:
The Bloomfield Mutiny]

Maj. Samuel Montgomery, 6th Missouri Cavalry Regiment (Union), commanded the post of Bloomfield in 1863. During his assignment, Montgomery associated freely with the local populace and eventually married Martha Owen Walker, a Confederate sympathizer. Some of Montgomery's officers were offended by his associations and courtship. They believed he was a traitor who might not hold the town against the Confederates. During the evening of Oct. 21, 1863 the dissatisfied officers plotted to arrest Montgomery and forward their complaints regarding his conduct to district headquarters. The following morning soldiers forcibly took Montgomery's headquarters and placed him in custody, although he refused to recognize their authority. When the mutineers reported their actions to Col. J.B. Rogers at Cape Girardeau, he dispatched an officer to Bloomfield to assume command and to arrest the mutiny participants. Military authorities summarily dismissed the ringleader of the mutiny from the army and court-martialed four additional officers. As for Montgomery, he continued in command at Bloomfield. After the war, he remained in the community with his "rebel" wife, where he served as a judge of the county court, a school board member, and as town mayor.

[Insert Picture: Martha Walker Montgomery Courtesy James Mayo]

[End of Insert Text]

[Map of Bloomfield and Vicinity]

[Insert Text For Map] As a result of increasing harassment by guerrillas during the later years of the Civil War, Bloomfield residents argued for a fort for the protection of the town. Work on the fort began on March 11, 1865 when the war was practically over. With funds for construction coming from assessments levied on the local populace, hired hands and militiamen began building a fort on the courthouse square. Primarily an earthen work, but also incorporating some timbers, the fort was 570 feet long and 270 feet wide. Work on the unfinished fort ceased due to the end of hostilities. The location of the fort is shown on this map, dated Sept. 24, 1865. A more detailed drawing of the fort is shown on the left. Map and drawing courtesy National Archives.

[End Insert Text]

The town changed hands again later in 1862, but, by the spring of 1863, Gen. John McNeil's Union troops occupied Bloomfield. During Confederate Gen. John S. Marmaduke's raid into southeast Missouri in April 1863, he dispatched troops to capture McNeil and his command, but they had escaped to Cape Girardeau. Marmaduke

followed but was repulsed at Cape Girardeau on April 26, 1863. The Confederates, now pursued, retreated south along Crowley's Ridge through Bloomfield enroute back to Arkansas. Marmaduke initially intended to make a stand in the northeast part of the town near the Henry Miller home, but reconsidered and continued his withdrawal rather than face a superior Federal force.

After several relatively quiet months, Jeffers attacked Bloomfield for a second time on September 22, 1864. This was during Gen. Sterling Price's celebrated "Raid" through Missouri. With a mere 200 men available to defend the town, the Union commander started for Cape Girardeau with wagons filled with supplies. Jeffers attacked the fleeing Unionists near the Castor River, east of Bloomfield. The Union troops offered only feeble resistance, but enjoyed good fortune when their wagons jammed the bridge over the river, preventing Jeffers' men from crossing. The Confederates shoved the abandoned wagons into the Castor, but the Union troops out paced them and escaped across Little River after a brief pursuit and some minor skirmishing. The Confederates captured weapons and wagons, inflicted several casualties without loss, and burned the bridge over the Castor River. Returning to Bloomfield, Jeffers' command destroyed the Union fortifications before marching to rejoin Price's army.

[Picture: Col. William L. Jeffers Courtesy James E. McGhee]

Guerrillas commanded by Polk Conyers arrived shortly after Jeffers' regiment left Bloomfield. Conyers was a notorious free-booter who usually operated in New Madrid and Pemiscot Counties. His guerrillas looted and destroyed much of the war-ravaged town, torching the courthouse along with several businesses and residences. Most of the property destroyed belonged to men serving in the Confederate army. After the devastation, Conyers boldly joined Price's army near Ironton, but when Price learned of the guerrilla's actions he ordered him arrested. Although taken into custody, Conyers escaped and returned to his Pemiscot County haunts where Union militia later killed him.

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[DNR Logo & Missouri Department of Natural Resources]



THE CIVIL WAR IN BLOOMFIELD

STATE DIVISION OF HISTORICAL MONUMENTS



The Civil War in Bloomfield was a significant event in the history of the town. It was fought on September 17, 1862, between the Union Army and the Confederate States Army. The battle was a tactical draw, but it had a major impact on the local population. Many men from Bloomfield fought in the war, and many more were killed. The town was left in a state of devastation, with many homes and businesses destroyed. The war also had a lasting impact on the local economy, as many men were away from work for long periods of time. The Civil War in Bloomfield is a reminder of the sacrifices made by the men and women of the town during this difficult time in our nation's history.



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The Battle of Bloomfield
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Women in the Civil War
Women played a significant role in the Civil War, both on the home front and in the field. Many women worked in factories and mills, producing the supplies needed for the war. Some women served as nurses, caring for the wounded soldiers. Others worked as spies, gathering intelligence for the Union Army. The Civil War was a time of great change for women, as they proved their ability to do the same jobs as men. The Civil War in Bloomfield is a reminder of the sacrifices made by the men and women of the town during this difficult time in our nation's history.





Gen. John McNeil

THE CIVIL WAR IN

A STATE DIVIDED
THE CIVIL WAR IN MISSOURI
MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

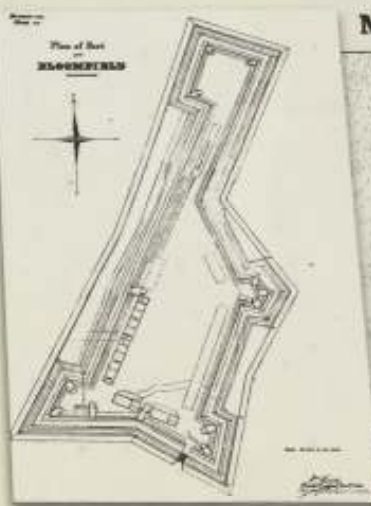
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As a result of increasing harassment by guerrillas during the later years of the Civil War, Bloomfield residents argued for a fort for the protection of the town. Work on a fort began on March 11, 1865, when the war was practically over. With funds for construction coming from assessments levied on the local population, building a fort on the courthouse square. Primarily of logs and some timbers, the fort was 570 feet long and 270 feet wide. Work ceased due to the end of hostilities. The location is shown on a map of Missouri, dated March 24, 1865. A more detailed drawing of the fort is shown to the left. Map and drawing courtesy National Archives.

southeast Missouri in April 1863, he followed Marmaduke and his command, but they were repulsed. Marmaduke followed but was repulsed in May 1863. The Confederates, now pursuing their strategy of crossing Crowley's Ridge through Bloomfield en route to the north, initially intended to make a stand at the Henry Miller home, but reconvened for a withdrawal rather than face a superior force.

After several relatively quiet months, the Confederates returned a second time on September 22, 1862. Price's celebrated "Raid" through Missouri was available to defend the town, the Unionists near the Castor River offered only feeble resistance, but the Confederates jammed the bridge over the river. The Confederates shelled the town and destroyed the bridge crossing. The Confederates shelled the town and destroyed the bridge crossing.

THE CIVIL WAR IN BLOOMFIELD



Gen. John McNeil



Gen. M. Price

A STATE DIVIDED:
THE CIVIL WAR IN MISSOURI
MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Bloomfield was a geographically commanding position due to its location atop Crowley's Ridge. The ridge separating two nearly impenetrable fields controlled movements on the north-south axis. Brig. Gen. Ulysses S. Grant noted in his report early in the Civil War and advised that the Union should occupy the town.

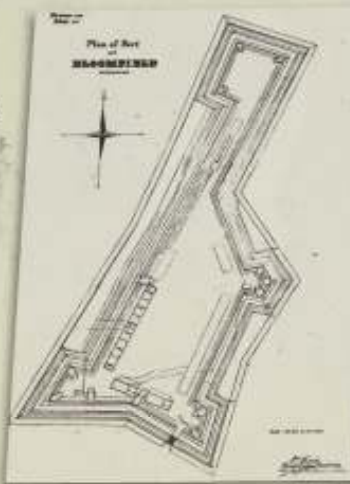
The "1st Fox Brigade" of the Missouri State Guard seized the town first, in late 1861. They made headquarters at Bloomfield and made gunsmith shops, hospitals, and some 3,000 southeast Missourians

Troops converged on Bloomfield from Hannibal, Mo. and Cairo, Ill. to destroy the town. Federal columns marched into the town to find that Thompson and the Missouri State Guard contend with these forces, and the town is in a state of confusion. The occupying Union forces are making camp. That evening the Bloomfield Herald. With it, a camp newspaper titled the Stars and Stripes of this famous military newspaper. The Union's defeat at Belmont, Mo. and the Missouri State Guard's return to their bases at Cape Girardeau and Thompson's cavalry reoccupied the

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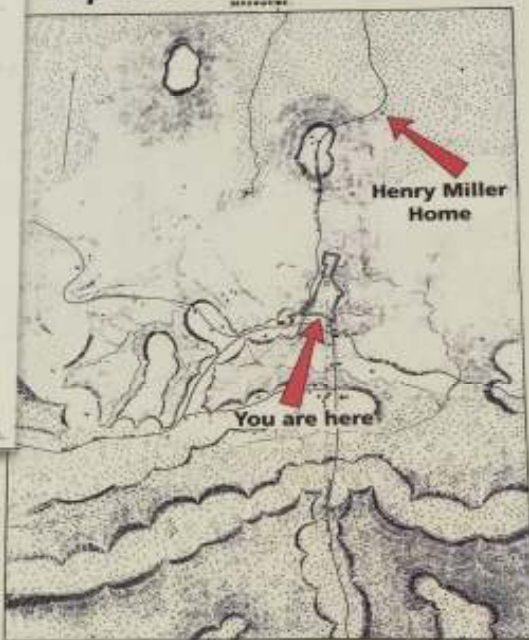
Col. William L. Jeffers
Courtesy James E. McGhee



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Map and drawing courtesy National Archives.

Map of BLOOMFIELD and Vicinity



139-25

In southeast Missouri in April 1863, he dispatched troops to capture Gen. John McNeil and his command, but they had escaped to Cape Girardeau. Marmaduke followed but was repulsed at Cape Girardeau on April 26, 1863. The Confederates, now pursued, retreated south along Crowley's Ridge through Bloomfield en route back to Arkansas. Marmaduke initially intended to make a stand in the northeast part of town near the Henry Miller home, but reconsidered and continued his withdrawal rather than face a superior Federal force.

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fortifications before marching to Price's army.

Guerrillas commanded by Polk arrived shortly after Jeffers' retook Bloomfield. Conyers was a notorious free-booter who usually operated in Madrid and Pemiscot Counties. He looted and destroyed much of the war-ravaged town, torching the town along with several businesses. Most of the property destroyed was men serving in the Confederate army. Boldly joining Price's army near the guerrilla's actions he ordered the guerrilla's actions he ordered in custody, Conyers escaped at the time he haunts where Union militia

Bloomfield changed hands several times during different occupation forces. The burning of the town in 1864 was a long and bitter struggle for

The

Maj. Samuel Montgomery, 6th Missouri Cavalry Regiment (1861-1862) commanded the post of Bloomfield in 1863. During his assignment Montgomery associated freely with the local populace and even married Martha Owen Wall, a Confederate sympathizer.

Some of Montgomery's officers were offended by his association with the local courtship. They believed he was a traitor who might not hold his ground against the Confederates. On the evening of Oct. 21, 1863 the dissatisfied officers plotted against Montgomery and forwarded complaints regarding his position as district headquarters. The following morning soldiers forcibly

Maj. S

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MISSOURI
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Gen. M. Jeff Thompson



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fortifications before marching to rejoin Price's army.

Guerrillas commanded by Polk Conyers arrived shortly after Jeffers' regiment left Bloomfield. Conyers was a notorious free-booter who usually operated in New Madrid and Pemiscot Counties. His guerrillas looted and destroyed much of the war-ravaged town, torching the courthouse along with several businesses and residences. Most of the property destroyed belonged to men serving in the Confederate army. After the devastation, Conyers boldly joined Price's army near Ironton, but when Price learned of the guerrilla's actions he ordered him arrested. Although taken into custody, Conyers escaped and returned to his Pemiscot County haunts where Union militia later killed him.



Gen. John S. Marmaduke

Bloomfield changed hands sixteen times during the war. The different occupation forces, the raids, guerrillas, and finally the burning of the town in 1864, made the town another casualty of the long and bitter struggle for control of southeast Missouri.

The Bloomfield Mutiny

Maj. Samuel Montgomery, 6th Missouri Cavalry Regiment (Union), commanded the post of Bloomfield in 1863. During his assignment, Montgomery associated freely with the local populace and eventually married Martha Owen Walker, a Confederate sympathizer.

Some of Montgomery's officers were offended by his associations and courtship. They believed he was a traitor who might not hold the town against the Confederates. During the evening of Oct. 21, 1863 the dissatisfied officers plotted to arrest Montgomery and forward their complaints regarding his conduct to district headquarters. The following morning soldiers forcibly took

Montgomery's headquarters and placed him in custody, although he refused to recognize their authority.

When the mutineers reported their actions to Col. J. B. Rogers at Cape Girardeau, he dispatched an officer to Bloomfield to assume command and to arrest the mutiny participants. Military authorities summarily dismissed the ringleader of the mutiny from the army and court-martialed four additional officers.

As for Montgomery, he continued in command at Bloomfield. After the war, he remained in the community with his "rebel" wife, where he served as a judge of the county court, a school board member, and as town mayor.



Maj. Samuel Montgomery and Martha Walker Montgomery
Courtesy James Mayo