

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 Civil War Heritage Foundation, Inc.

**Original Dedication Date** June 2009                      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**

N37° 50' 19.2" W94° 21' 27.1"

The Memorial is *currently* located at:  
 Street/Road address or site location 140 North Main Street  
 City/Village Nevada                      Township unknown                      County Vernon

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 Vernon County                      Dept./Div. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Street Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City Nevada                      State MO                      Zip Code 64772  
 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.) ☐ unknown

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 = wood and plastic

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 24.5 Width 36.5 Depth \_\_\_\_\_ 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 \_\_\_\_\_

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 attachment

## 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> "Town Square"	<input type="checkbox"/> Post Office	<input type="checkbox"/> School
<input type="checkbox"/> Municipal Building	<input type="checkbox"/> State Capitol	Other: _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Courthouse	<input type="checkbox"/> College Campus	_____
<input 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.

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

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

	<b>Sculpture</b>	<b>Base</b>
Black crusting	_____	_____
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

**Overall Description**

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

Appeared in good 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. Thank you.

**Inspector Identification**

Date of On-site Survey 28 May 2011

Your Name Daniel Tuck

Address 728 SE 10th Terrace City Lee's Summit

State MO Zip Code 64081 Telephone ( 816 ) 554-0565

Please send this completed form to:

Bruce B. Butgereit, PDC, Chair  
 1691 Summerfield Street, SE  
 Grand Rapids, MI 49508-6499  
 (616) 827-3369  
 civil-war@comcast.net

Thank you for your help, and attention to detail.

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

# Location

GPS N37° 50' 19.2" W94° 21' 27.19"

Nearest Address:

140 North Main Street  
Nevada, Missouri 64772

# Description

The memorial is a 36 inch high by 24 inch wide document with text and photos. It is in a metallic frame, with a clear protective covering. The frame is mounted, at slant (31 inches at the front and 44 inches at the back), on two square metal legs which are set at the edge of the concrete sidewalk. The memorial is on the north side of the Vernon County courthouse under or very near several large trees.

The document has three columns with the center column subdivided into two columns. The transcript is given below. The left column has the heading "Hot and Heavy Hand of War". The middle columns have the heading "Missouri's Civil War: And the right column is "DeWitt Hunter" and the continuation of the left column.

The document has seven images. The left column has an image of a black-and-white map of Vernon County, with the southern portion of Bates County and the northern portion of Barton County. The map does not have a date. The map shows towns, rivers, and roads.

At the bottom left of the left column are two photos. The sepia toned photo on the left is labeled "William and Rebecca Gabbert" without a date. The black-and-white photo to the right is labeled "Capt. Anderson Morton" without a date.

There is a circular logo between the two middle columns, with the words "Missouri's" at the top, "1861 ★[a five point star] 1865" at the bottom and the words "Civil" and "War" centered between. The trademark symbol [™] at the lower right below the "1865".

There is a company logo, centered below the two middle columns, with stylized initials "MBC". This is probably for the company, credited with the grant used for the memorial, "Metz Banking Company".

The right column has a photo at the top right with out a label or date but is next to an article titled "DeWitt Hunter".

The last graphic, midway of the right column, is a black-and-white photo labeled "Reconstructed southwest corner of Nevada square circa 1869 showing location of original courthouse."

# Transcript

## ***Hot and Heavy Hand of War***

In burning the town, the militiamen spared the homes of Thomas Austin and James Moore, who had cared for the bodies of the two dead militiamen and promised to return them to their homes.

The day after the burning, the two men disinterred the bodies and started by wagon for Cedar County. When Austin reached the former home of one of the men, he found his house in ashes and his widow and

children cowering in the bushes. In the same neighborhood they saw the smoldering ruins of other cabins and cottages burned by the Bushwhackers. On their way home after burning Nevada City, Morton and his men cut the trail of the very Bushwhackers who had burned their homes. These were a band of some 25 led by William “Old Man” Gabbert, including his own family and his inlaws the Mayfields. Among the family members were Eliza Gabbert and Ella Mayfield, two of Vernon County's adventurous “Lady Bushwhackers.” Fearing they had been on a raid into Cedar County Morton ordered that none of them be left alive. *Continued on right panel*

## **Missouri's Civil War**

### **DeWitt Hunter**

DeWitt C. Hunter built the first house in what would become Nevada, he named the town (a tribute to his experience in the 1849 gold rush) and he was the town's first postmaster. At the beginning of Missouri's Civil War, Hunter raised a regiment for the Missouri State Guard and went to fight for the South. Hunter's regiment of cavalry was on a reconnaissance mission when they ran into Gen. Nathaniel Lyon's infantry on Bloody Hill, signaling the beginning of the Battle of Wilson's Creek, August 10, 1861. Hunter would go on to command the 11th Missouri Infantry, CSA, and Hunter's Missouri Cavalry, CSA. A lawyer, he returned to Nevada after the war where he practiced and continued his role in public life.

Hunter performed one other service to Nevada during the war. As incumbent county clerk, in 1862 Hunter visited the area and spirited away the county records in a Confederate army wagon. Vernon County is as a result one of the few counties on the Missouri-Kansas border that has property and probate records that predate the war.

### **Hand of War**

*(continued)*

Surrounding the Gabbert house in complete surprise the militiamen left seven bushwhackers dead and burned the house. Old Man Gabbert escaped on an unsaddled and unbridled horse.

Such was the neighbor-against-neighbor war of which the burning of Nevada was part – not the glamorous war of major battlefields and immortal warriors, but the gritty sordid, suffering war of ordinary folk caught in a storm as inexplicable to them as a whirlwind.

Sources: All photos courtesy of the Bushwhacker Museum

Brown, *History of Vernon County, Missouri 1877*, Brown & Co., St. Louis, MO. 1887

Johnson, *History of Vernon County, Missouri 1911*, C.F. Cooper & Co., Chicago, IL 1911

[at the bottom right of the document]

Copyright © [copyright symbol] 2009 Missouri's Civil War Heritage Foundation, Inc.

[at the bottom left of the document]

Made possible by grants from Metz Banking Company and I.M.P.A.C.T. Nevada Tourism

**End Transcript**

# Additional Information

<http://www.nevadadailymail.com/story/1691090.html>; viewed 09 June 2011



## ***June: New historic marker placed on Square; NFD marks 125 years***

Wednesday, December 29, 2010

Nevada Daily Mail

June began with a special citation for Nevada firefighters Lt. Noah Webber, engineer Taylor McKlentic and Engineer Brandon Leer, who used a thermal imaging camera to locate a fire victim at a fire in June 2009. The three were recognized during a June 2, 2010, meeting of the Nevada City Council.

Summer fun was just around the corner, and the Vernon County Youth Fair Rodeo helped kick off June's events.

Makenzie Melton, a third-grader from El Dorado Springs, Mo., returned from New York, N.Y., having won a regional contest "Doodle 4 Google" and went to New York, N.Y., to take part in the national competition and ceremony. In addition to the trip, Makenzie also won a \$15,000 scholarship in the contest.

Meanwhile, Vacation Bible School season was in full swing, and area residents were busy preparing for Nevada's annual Bushwhacker Days celebration. During the celebration, a new plaque commemorating the burning of Nevada, which took place May 26, 1863, was dedicated. The plaque was sponsored by Metz Bank and Nevada Tourism and was placed by the Missouri Civil War Heritage Foundation. The plaque is located on the west side of the courthouse lawn in Nevada.

The Nevada R-5 school board reviewed the results of a controversial drug testing policy. The board had enacted a requirement that those involved in extracurricular activities agree to be subject to random drug testing. Three students, or 1 percent of the 300 students had "non-negative" results, two of which were attributed to prescription medications the students were taking at the time.

The city of Nevada's Planning Commission conducted a series of meetings requesting public input to update a master plan for the city.

[portions removed for brevity]

© Copyright 2010 Nevada Daily Mail. All rights reserved. This material may not be published, broadcast, rewritten or redistributed.







# The Burning of Nevada

## Missouri's CIVIL WAR

Nevada City was laid out as Vernon County's seat of government in 1855, and was named for a California town prominent during the Gold Rush. Founding spirit DeWitt C. Hunter had spent some years mining there before returning to western Missouri. ("City" was dropped on incorporation in 1869).

At the time of the 1860 census, Nevada City was a thriving hamlet of some 450 people. Three years later, war had cut the population at least by half, leaving mostly women, children and old men. County officials had fled south with the Confederate forces. The courthouse, a frame building on the southwest corner of the square, sat locked and deserted.

The town had an early brush with war when General Sterling Price of the Missouri State Guard marched his 12,000 men north from his victory at Wilson's Creek toward Lexington, Mo. On September 2, 1861, Price's army confronted jaywalking Kansas forces over Big Drywood Creek south of Deerfield. For the following two years, though unoccupied, Nevada City lay more or less at the mercy of marauding Union and guerrilla forces.

On May 24, 1863, nineteen Bushwhackers led by Capt. William Marchbanks followed a small pro-Union militia party heading home to Cedar County, Mo., from Ft. Scott, Ks. The militiamen had stopped to rest in Nevada. Dashing in on horseback, the guerrillas scattered them and left two dead.

When the survivors reached home, a cry for retaliation went up among the militia of Cedar and St. Clair counties. Two days later, Taberville's Capt. Anderson Morton led some 100 pro-Union Missouri

to burning the town, he named the town (a tribute to his experience in the 1849 gold rush) and he was the first postmaster. At the beginning of the Civil War, Hunter raised a regiment for the United States Cavalry and went to fight for the South. Hunter was on a reconnaissance mission when he learned of the burning of Nevada City. He returned to Nevada after the war where he practiced and continued his role in public life.

Hunter performed one other service to Nevada during the war. As a prominent county clerk, in 1862 Hunter visited the area and spirited away a number of the few courtesans on the Missouri-Kansas border that had properly and prudently records that predate the war.

By 11 o'clock, Morton and his militiamen were riding out of town along the Montevillo road. Behind them, volumes of black, thick smoke rolled up into the blue May sky. Women and children sat crying in the street, surrounded by their scattered worldly possessions. Until the end of the war Nevadans were to sit solitary amid the ashes.

At the war's end, all Vernon County lay fire-blackened, blood-stained and desolate. Of the majority of ex-Confederates who returned "it may be rightfully said that they made as good citizens as they had made soldiers." With them and incoming Union veterans, "there was neither clash nor collision. Instead, there was a mutual alliance for the rebuilding of the county." Within a year or two, business had begun to revive. The railroad came in five years and within two decades Nevada was prosperous and growing.

When the survivors reached home, a cry for retaliation went up among the militia of Cedar and St. Clair counties. Two days later, Taberville's Capt. Anderson Morton led some 100 pro-Union Missouri

When the survivors reached home, a cry for retaliation went up among the militia of Cedar and St. Clair counties. Two days later, Taberville's Capt. Anderson Morton led some 100 pro-Union Missouri

### DeWitt Hunter



DeWitt C. Hunter built the first house in what would become Nevada, he named the town (a tribute to his experience in the 1849 gold rush) and he was the first postmaster. At the beginning of the Civil War, Hunter raised a regiment for the United States Cavalry and went to fight for the South. Hunter was on a reconnaissance mission when he learned of the burning of Nevada City. He returned to Nevada after the war where he practiced and continued his role in public life.

Nathaniel Lyon's infantry on Bloody Hill, during the beginning of the Battle of Wilson's Creek, August 10, 1861. Hunter was ordered to command the 11th Missouri Infantry, CSA, and Hunter's Missouri Cavalry, CSA. A lawyer, he returned to Nevada after the war where he practiced and continued his role in public life.

Hunter performed one other service to Nevada during the war. As a prominent county clerk, in 1862 Hunter visited the area and spirited away a number of the few courtesans on the Missouri-Kansas border that had properly and prudently records that predate the war.



Reconstruction-era illustration of Nevada square circa 1860 showing location of original courthouse.

### Hand of War

Surrounding the Gallbert house in complete surprise the militiamen left seven bushwhackers dead and burned the house. Old Man Gallbert escaped on an unsaddled and unbridled horse.

Such was the neighbor-against-neighbor war of which the burning of Nevada was part — not the glamorous war of major battlefields and immortal warriors, but the gritty, sordid, suffering war of ordinary folk caught in a storm as inexplicable to them as a whirlwind.

Sources: All photos courtesy of the Bushwhacker Museum, Nevada, *History of Vernon County, Missouri 1867*, Brown & Co., St. Louis, MO, 1887; Johnson, *History of Vernon County, Missouri 1911*, C.E. Conquest & Co., Chicago, IL, 1911.



# Hot & Heavy Hand of War

In burning the town, the militiamen spared the homes of Thomas Austin and James Moore, who had cared for the bodies of the two dead militiamen and promised to return them to their homes.

The day after the burning, the two men disinterred the bodies and started by wagon for Cedar County. When Austin reached the former



home of one of the men, he found his house in ashes and his widow and children cowering in the bushes. In the same neighborhood they saw the smoldering ruins of other cabins and cottages burned by the Bushwhackers. On their way home after burning Nevada City, Morton and his men cut the trail of the very Bushwhackers who had burned their homes. These were a band of some 25 led by William "Old Man" Gabbert, including his own family and his inlaws the Mayfields. Among the family members were Eliza Gabbert and Ella Mayfield,

two of Vernon County's adventurous "Lady Bushwhackers." Fearing they had been on a raid into Cedar County Morton ordered that none of them be left alive. *Continued on right panel*



William and Rebecca Gabbert



Capt. Anderson Morton

# C

Nevada City seat of government California town Founding spirit 1 years mining th Missouri. ("City on incorporation

At the time census, Nevada thriving hamlet people. Three had cut the pop by half, leaving children and officials had f the Confederal courthouse, a on the southw square, sat lock

The town brush with w Sterling Price his 12,000 m Creek toward 1861, Price's forces over Bi For the follo Nevada City marauding U

On Ma led by Capt. pro-Union County, Mo stopped to r the guerrilla

When retaliation St. Clair co Anderson



# The Burning of Nevada

## Missouri's

# CIVIL WAR

Nevada City was laid out as Vernon County's seat of government in 1855, and was named for a California town prominent during the Gold Rush. Founding spirit DeWitt C. Hunter had spent some years mining there before returning to western Missouri. ("City" was dropped on incorporation in 1869.)

At the time of the 1860 census, Nevada City was a thriving hamlet of some 450 people. Three years later, war had cut the population at least by half, leaving mostly women, children and old men. County officials had fled south with the Confederate forces. The courthouse, a frame building on the southwest corner of the square, sat locked and deserted.

The town had an early brush with war when General Sterling Price of the Missouri State Guard marched his 12,000 men north from his victory at Wilson's Creek toward Lexington, Mo. On September 2, 1861, Price's army confronted jayhawking Kansas forces over Big Drywood Creek south of Deerfield. For the following two years, though unoccupied, Nevada City lay more or less at the mercy of marauding Union and guerrilla forces.

On May 24, 1863, nineteen Bushwhackers led by Capt. William Marchbanks followed a small pro-Union militia party heading home to Cedar County, Mo., from Ft. Scott, Ks. The militiamen had stopped to rest in Nevada. Dashing in on horseback, the guerrillas scattered them and left two dead.

When the survivors reached home, a cry for retaliation went up among the militia of Cedar and St. Clair counties. Two days later, Taberville's Capt. Anderson Morton led some 100 pro-Union Missouri

State Militiamen over into Vernon, meaning to wipe out the Bushwhackers "and then march on to the 'Bushwhacker capital,' as they called Nevada City, and give it to the torch." The nickname was unjust. According to *The History of Vernon County, Mo* (1887), none of the Bushwhackers involved was a Nevadan.

On the morning of May 26, 1863, Nevadans awoke to the sound of horsemen riding into town. At midmorning the soldiers separated into small squads and began knocking on doors. "We are going to burn this house," they told residents, so said survivors. "Get your things out in twenty minutes. If you want any help, we will help you, but the house must be burned. This damned rebel den shall be destroyed!"

By 11 o'clock, Morton and his militiamen were riding out of town along the Montevallo road. Behind them, volumes of black, thick smoke rolled up into the blue May sky. Women and children sat crying in the street, surrounded by their scattered worldly possessions. Until the end of the war Nevadans were to sit solitary amid the ashes.

At the war's end, all Vernon County lay fire-blackened, blood-stained and desolate. Of the majority of ex-Confederates who returned "it may be truthfully said, that they made as good citizens as they had made soldiers." With them and incoming Union veterans, "there was neither clash nor collision. Instead, there was a mutual alliance for the rebuilding of the county." Within a year or two, business had begun to revive. The railroads came in five years, and within two decades Nevada was prosperous and growing.





# Nevada WAR

Vernon, meaning to wipe  
then march on to the  
they called Nevada City,  
the nickname was unjust.  
of Vernon County, Mo  
one of the Bushwhackers  
as a Nevadan.

The morning of May 26,  
Nevadans awoke to the  
horsemen riding into  
the morning the soldiers  
into small squads and  
knocking on doors. "We  
burn this house," they  
said, so said survivors.  
Things out in twenty  
you want any help,  
you, but the house  
burned. This damned  
will be destroyed!"

Lock, Morton and  
out of town along  
them, volumes of  
into the blue May  
living in the street,  
worldly possessions.  
Nevadans were to sit

County lay fire-  
desolate. Of the  
who returned "it  
made as good  
With them and  
as neither clash  
mutual alliance  
within a year or  
The railroads  
cades Nevada

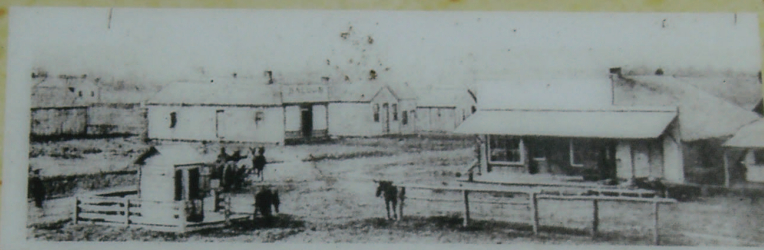
## DeWitt Hunter

DeWitt C. Hunter built the first house in what would become Nevada, he named the town (a tribute to his experience in the 1849 gold rush) and he was the town's first postmaster. At the beginning of the Civil War, Hunter raised a regiment for the Missouri State Guard and went to fight for the South. Hunter's regiment of cavalry was on a reconnaissance mission when they ran into Gen.



Nathaniel Lyon's infantry on Bloody Hill, signaling the beginning of the Battle of Wilson's Creek, August 10, 1861. Hunter would go on to command the 11th Missouri Infantry, CSA, and Hunter's Missouri Cavalry, CSA. A lawyer, he returned to Nevada after the war where he practiced and continued his role in public life.

Hunter performed one other service to Nevada during the war. As incumbent county clerk, in 1862 Hunter visited the area and spirited away the county records in a Confederate army wagon. Vernon County is as a result one of the few counties on the Missouri-Kansas border that has property and probate records that precede the war.



Reconstructed southwest corner of Nevada square circa 1869 showing location of original courthouse.

## Hand of War

*(continued)*

Surrounding the Gabbert house in complete surprise the militiamen left seven bushwhackers dead and burned the house. Old Man Gabbert escaped on an unsaddled and unbridled horse.

Such was the neighbor-against-neighbor war of which the burning of Nevada was part — not the glamorous war of major battlefields and immortal warriors, but the gritty, sordid, suffering war of ordinary folk caught in a storm as inexplicable to them as a whirlwind.

Sources: All photos courtesy of the Bushwhacker Museum  
Brown, *History of Vernon County, Missouri* 1887, Brown & Co.,  
St. Louis, MO. 1887  
Johnson, *History of Vernon County, Missouri* 1911, C.F. Cooper & Co.,  
Chicago, IL 1911



