

The Jefferson Barracks Gazette



June 2014

The Official Newsletter of The Friends of Jefferson Barracks

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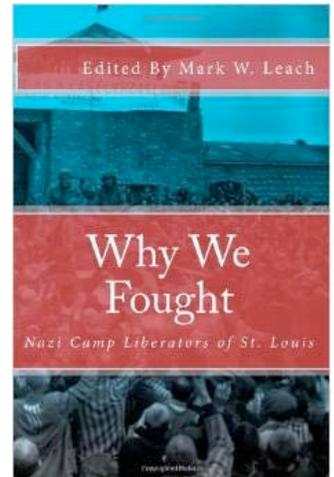
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GENERAL MEETING

Thursday June 19, 2014 at 7:00 PM
 Jefferson Barracks Park Visitors Center

Why We Fought: Nazi Camp Liberators of St. Louis

The victorious spring of 1945 unexpectedly brought two vastly different groups together in the midst of battle. One group consisted of soldiers from the most powerful and affluent nation in the world. The other was Hitler's "undesirables," mostly impoverished people who'd been born and raised under persecution and oppression. On the surface, the two groups couldn't have been more different. In reality, they had a great deal in common. Both had been torn away from lives and dreams by powerful forces beyond their control. Both had suffered their own versions of hell, complex mixtures of horrors, lost lives, and noble acts of bravery and sacrifice. Quietly they've lived among us, rarely, if ever talking about the war. Sadly many have since passed taking with them their wisdom and their stories. The soldiers rarely talk about the war. Yet, as some people have begun to deny the horrors of the Holocaust, the liberators of St. Louis have come forward to set the record straight. This is their story.



Mark W Leach has worked in the pharmaceutical industry for over 20 years. In his spare time he writes books, documentaries, and websites featuring local history. All of the proceeds from these efforts are donated to charity.

He will present this new book at the general meeting of The Friends of Jefferson Barracks on Thursday, June 19, 2014 at 7:00pm in the Visitors Center. The meeting is free and open to the public.

The Friends of Jefferson Barracks is a 501(c) 3 organization and a part of the St Louis County Historic Sites Foundation. Membership in The Friends of Jefferson Barracks is open to all interested individuals, organizations, and corporations. Questions and comments concerning The Friends of Jefferson Barracks or any item in this newsletter should be directed to The Friends of Jefferson Barracks, 345 North Road, St. Louis, MO 63125-. The Friends of Jefferson Barracks, St. Louis County Department of Parks and Recreation, and the editorial staff of this newsletter assume no responsibility for the accuracy of items submitted for publication. *The Jefferson Barracks Gazette*, published three times a year for our members, is the official publication of The Friends of Jefferson Barracks.

Saturday, May 3rd, 2014

The Children's Garden Club at Jefferson Barracks



This club is designed to educate and bring delight in gardening and horticulture through projects that participants begin themselves and take home to grow and enjoy. The Children's Garden Club meets in April, May, June, July, August, and September at various locations around the County.

On May 3rd the Club met at the Old Ordnance Room to plant a Victory Garden to help illustrate the museum display of "The Home Front." Doug Wolter, a horticulturist for St. Louis County who coordinates the Children's Garden Club, was recognized at that time for his many efforts to involve people of all ages in gardening. He directs various garden programs and writes a column for *The Ladue News* and *The Gateway Gardener Magazine*, specializing in floral and landscape design and installation.

All Children's Garden Club events are free. For more information call (314) 822-9095 or email dwolter@stlouisco.com.



Many thanks to Wiethop Greenhouses who supplied the plants for our Victory Garden

and many thanks to Doug for his efforts and inspiration. *"Keep 'em growing!"*

Missouri, Saint Louis, Jefferson Barracks, and the Civil War - Part 10

By Marc E. Kollbaum, former Curator, Jefferson Barracks Historic Site

Continued from previous newsletter.....

Several battles were fought in out-state Missouri between 6 August and 7 November of 1862. The first of these took place at Kirksville between August 6 and 9.

Joseph Chrisman Porter had recruited between 1,500 and 2,500 troops in the Macon area, south of Kirksville, but they were ill-trained and poorly-equipped. Confederate sympathies in the Kirksville area were high and Porter had been urged to come to Kirksville by Captain Tice Cain, an Adair County farmer who claimed to be holding Kirksville with 500 fresh recruits.

Union Colonel John McNeil, with 1,000 troops of the 2nd Missouri Cavalry, had been pursuing Porter for more than a week. Before noon on 6 August, McNeil attacked Porter in the town of Kirksville, where the Confederates had concealed themselves in homes and stores, especially in the commercial buildings on the town square, in the county courthouse, and among the crops in the nearby fields. Their presence was discovered by a Union detachment that volunteered to ride around the square in order to draw fire and cause the Confederates to reveal themselves. McNeil deployed his artillery before moving in a broad line towards the town square. The subsequent cannon fire demoralized the Confederates, some of whom retreated behind a rail fence, west of the square.

The Union troops then advanced in two wings, with Lt. Colonel William F. Shaffer, 2nd Regiment, Missouri Cavalry in command of the Union right wing and Major Henry Clay Caldwell, 3rd Iowa, in charge of the left. As the wings met, they succeeded in driving the Confederates from the courthouse. Porter's remaining forces yielded ground and joined the others behind the rail fence. From this position, the Confederates poured heavy fire into McNeil's men, but were ultimately overwhelmed. The battle began at 11:00 a.m. and was over by 2:00 in the afternoon. The Federals then secured the town, capturing numerous prisoners and driving away the rest. Three days later, another Union force arrived and finished the work begun at Kirksville, virtually destroying Porter's command.

According to a letter by local resident J. Martin, written a week after the battle, Confederate dead numbered about two-hundred and Union dead about thirty. McNeil's official tally was six Union killed and thirty-two wounded, with one-hundred-fifty Confederates killed and three- to four-hundred wounded.

The Union victory at Kirksville helped to consolidate Federal dominance in northeastern Missouri. During the summer of 1862, many Confederate and Missouri State Guard recruiters headed north out of Arkansas into Missouri to replenish the depleted ranks of their Trans-Mississippi forces. Among these were Captain Joseph Shelby, Colonel Jeremiah "Vard" Cockrell, Colonel John Trousdale Coffee, Colonel Upton Hays, Colonel Gideon Thompson, and Colonel John Taylor Hughes.

Various guerrillas and bushwhackers, most notably those under William Quantrill, had gathered in Missouri to assist these recruiters. For example, Upton Hays was aided by thirty men from Quantrill's command under the infamous George Todd. By the first of August, Hays was camped near Lee's Summit with 150 men. Additional Confederates continued to infiltrate the area in the days that followed.

Union forces were bivouacked in Independence, the county seat of Jackson County, under the command of Lt. Colonel James T. Buel.

Missouri, Saint Louis, Jefferson Barracks and the Civil War, Part 10

By Marc E. Kollbaum, Former Curator, Jefferson Barracks Historic Park

(.....Continued from previous page)

John Hughes intended to cross the Missouri River to recruit around his hometown in Clinton County. He and Gideon Thompson rode to Hays' camp with 75 men. Quantrill arrived soon after with an additional 25 men. The officers conferred and decided that since they were desperate for ammunition and needed a victory to stir recruitment, they would make a surprise attack against Lt Colonel James T Buel, the commander of the garrison, before he could attack them. Cole Younger and another man conducted a successful reconnaissance of the town on the day before the scheduled Confederate attack.

Buel became aware of Hays' camp and prepared to attack it. On the evening of 10 August, several citizens warned Buel of an impending assault on the city. Indeed, many Unionist residents had already fled the city. Buel ignored these warnings, but one of his officers, a Captain Rodewald, did not. The Federals were positioned in three main concentrations: in their camp by a rock wall, at the bank (which served as Buel's headquarters), and at the county jail.

John Hughes' Confederate force, which included William Quantrill, attacked Independence before dawn on 11 August. They came in two columns using different roads. The Confederates drove through the town to the Union camp, delivering a deadly volley into the sleeping men. Union Captain Breckenridge suggested surrender, but Captain Axline formed the Federal troops behind the rock wall and in a nearby ditch while the Confederates rifled through their camp. The Confederates made several attacks against Axline's wall, but never succeeded in taking it. Here Colonel Hughes was killed, while colonels Thompson and Hays were wounded.

Buel attempted to hold out with part of his force in the bank building, but he was forced to surrender after an adjacent building was set on fire. Through a flag of truce, Buel arranged a meeting with the new Confederate commander, Gideon W. Thompson. Buel surrendered, and about 150 of his men were paroled. The rest had either escaped, were hiding, or had been killed.

Realizing that they would be overwhelmed, the Federal troops defending the jail fired a volley and fled. Confederate guerrilla leader George Todd freed the prisoners at the jail, among them City Marshal James Knowles, who had been jailed for killing a rowdy citizen. Todd also captured a Union captain named Thomas. These two men had successfully ambushed Todd's command in an earlier engagement, killing several of them. Todd and his men summarily executed Knowles and Thomas.

Union casualties came to approximately 344. Confederate losses are unknown. Most of the Union command in Independence was captured, with only a few units able to escape. The Confederate victory was costly however, because ten experienced officers, among them John T. Hughes, were killed and Upton Hays and Gideon Thompson were wounded. Having taken Independence, the Confederates headed for Kansas City, but heavy Union fortifications held the area.

Buel's performance and his failure to heed warnings of impending attack were widely condemned. Captain Breckenridge's inability to find any guerrillas in the preceding 11 days, together with his eagerness to surrender his forces, were also considered disgraceful. Both men were court-martialed and the soldiers who had been captured were mustered out of service. Since the two officers had been dismissed with their men, ultimately nothing came of the court martial proceedings.

(To be continued...)

Information for Part 10 is taken from the Jefferson Barracks Post Returns, *The History of St. Louis City and County* by J. Thomas Scharf, *Lion of the Valley* by James Neal Primm, *Missouri Sketch Book* by Clifton C. Edom, and other sources.

What's Going On at Jefferson Barracks?

World War II Weekend 2014 was April 26-27. Two battle re-enactments took place on Saturday and one on Sunday. Our Canteen Dance was held Saturday night in the new building on the National Guard base since our usual venue, the Grant Shelter, is being replaced by the Lemay Community Center (now under construction). Once again music was provided by Michael Lacey and his New Orleans Swing Band. As far as we could tell, a good time was had by all. Hope to see everyone next year at World War II Weekend !!



Upcoming Events

JB Blast at Jefferson Barracks Park, Friday July 4 – 7pm; Music by the USAF Band of Mid-America in the Veterans Memorial Amphitheater, followed by a brilliant fireworks display. Concessions are available. Free admission. Call 314-615-4386 for information.

Scavenge Through the Night at Jefferson Barracks Park, Saturday July 19 – 7:00pm to 10:00pm. Search the trails and historic buildings of Jefferson Barracks Park in this scavenger-style hunt for all ages. Begin with a weenie roast at the Old Ordnance Room and end with prizes for the best teams. Bring a flashlight and a pencil. \$10.00 per person. Advance registration required. Call 314-615-8472 for information and to register.

Living History Hayrides at Jefferson Barracks Park, Saturday & Sunday, September 6 & 7 - Saturday: 10am, 1pm, 3pm; **Sunday:** 12:30pm, 2:30pm. \$7 per person. Enjoy a hayride through historic Jefferson Barracks with re-enactor vignettes throughout the park that explain their time period, uniforms and equipment during stops. Advanced reservation is required - email [jmagurany @ stlouisco . com](mailto:jmagurany@stlouisco.com) or call (314) 544-5714.

For more information on these and other events, see our website: [www. friendsofjeffersonbarracks .com](http://www.friendsofjeffersonbarracks.com); call 314-544-5714; or email [dgonzales @ stlouisco. com](mailto:dgonzales@stlouisco.com).

StL250 Cakeway to the West

The Cakeway to the West program highlights places of note throughout the St. Louis region, providing residents and visitors with an interactive almanac of locations that tell the story of St. Louis's past, present and future. There are three cakes within Jefferson Barracks Park. This one is located at the trail head north of the Old Ordnance Room. Another cake is located by the ramp on the west side of the Visitors Center. The third cake is in front of the Missouri Civil War Museum. Happy Birthday, Saint Louis!!!



Join the Board of the Friends of Jefferson Barracks

There are vacancies on the Board of the Friends of Jefferson Barracks for two regular board members and one alternate board member. If you would consider joining the Board, please speak to a current Board member, or call (314) 544-5714, or come by the Visitors Center at the park during regular hours: Wednesdays through Sundays, noon until 4pm. The Board meets at the Visitors Center on the second Tuesday of the month at 3:45pm and the meetings usually last about an hour or so. Any interested parties must be a member in good standing of the Friends of Jefferson Barracks.