



After 144 Years, Fallen Cavalry Unit Gets Memorial Service

Marker placed at 'Simpsonville Slaughter' site.

The sacrifices of nearly 30 Camp Nelson soldiers killed in an ambush 144 years ago have finally been recognized.

A roadside historical marker to the war dead was unveiled on Sunday, January 25 at a ceremony at the Whitney M. Young Job Corps Center in Simpsonville.

The marker describes the battle and the mass grave where the men were buried and will be installed on U.S. 60 near where the "Simpsonville Slaughter" occurred.

On Jan. 25, 1865, soldiers of the 5th U.S. Colored Cavalry were moving a herd of cattle from the Camp Nelson Union Army Supply Depot to a railhead near Louisville when Confederate guerrillas ambushed them. Twenty soldiers died during the battle and another six later died of wounds.

According to a newspaper account, about 15 guerrillas ambushed the soldiers and attacked "yelling like very devils and shooting their pistols in the air." The guerrillas escaped after attacking the column's rear guard.

The citizens of Simpsonville helped care for the wounded and buried the dead nearby in a mass grave.

The Union army, encamped in Louisville, was indifferent to the ambush. No ambulances were sent until three days after the battle and the dead soldiers are still listed as missing in action.

Jerry Miller, a member of the Shelby County Historical Society who helped spearhead the effort to fund a memorial marker, learned about the event only three years ago while conducting genealogy research.

"I've lived in this area 50 years and I'd never

heard of this," Miller said. "I'm a Civil War buff and I've never heard of this. I couldn't believe it."

About 150 attended the dedication Sunday, which included musical performances and several historical presentations. The reactivated 12th Colored Heavy Artillery, which is based at Camp Nelson, was color guard for the ceremony.



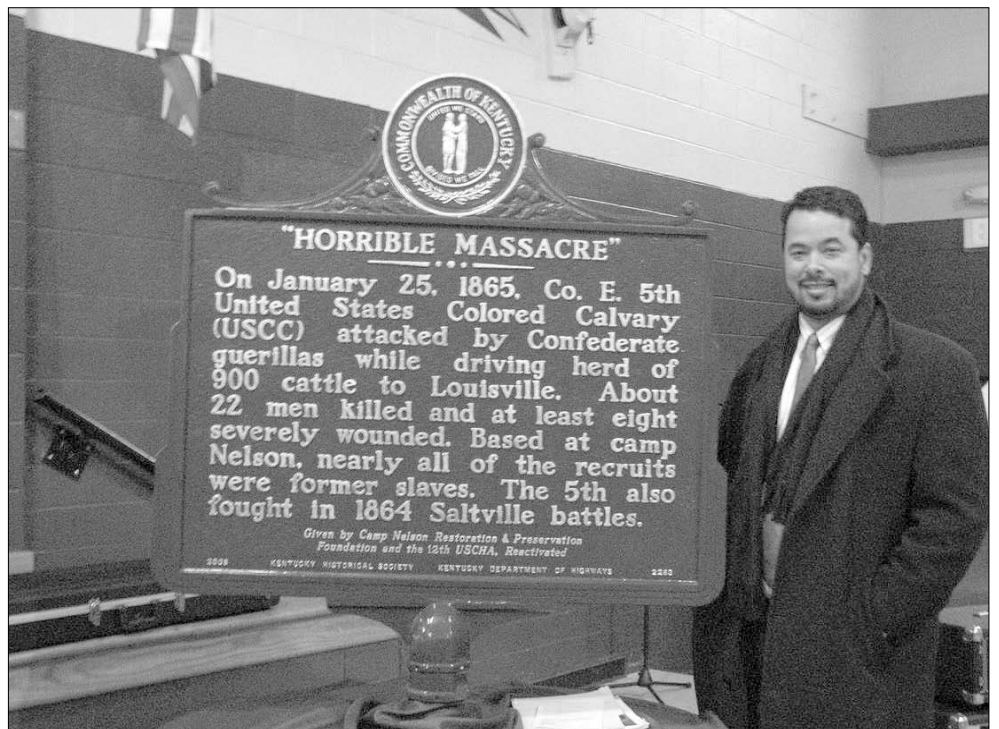
You are invited to
Camp Nelson's

Annual Meeting

Saturday, March 28

10:00 a.m.

See other upcoming events
on page 3.



David E. Brown, a guest speaker at the event, poses with the highway marker. Brown's g-g-grandfather, Private Samuel Truehart, served with Company E of the 5th United States Colored Cavalry. Photo credit: David E. Brown



The Old Mailbag: Pvt. Wm. H. McCarty

Dear Camp Nelson,

My G. Grandfather, Pvt. Wm. H. McCarty, was enrolled on July 12, 1863, in Co. "H" 9th Reg't. of Tenn. Cav. Vols. He was mustered into service at Camp Nelson on August 15, 1863.

Sincerely,
David Lyke

Regiment, Tennessee Cavalry.

Co. B, 9th Tn. was organized at Camp Nelson and was in service in that state during the Summer and Fall of 1863. On their return to East Tn. in Oct. 1863, after a long absence from their homes, a short leave of absence was given the men to enable them to look after their families.

The siege of Knoxville, where the Co. was at the time of it with the Reg't. closed them out.

The Reg't. was ordered away immediately after, leaving a good number of them in the enemy's lines unable to join their command.

McCarty was 19 years old when he enrolled for 3 years. He was enrolled on the 12th day of July, 1863, at Camp Nelson, (In another place it shows that he enlisted at Barberville, Kentucky.)

He was mustered out with that Co. on Sept. 11, 1865. Pvt. McCarty died July 6th, 1872, "with disease of the stomach and bowels contracted while in the service of the United

States while on raid from Ky to East Tenn. caused by horse kicking him at Knoxville sometime in the Summer of 1863."

All the best,
Dave Lyke



Pvt. McCarty died July 6th, 1872, "with disease of the stomach and bowels contracted while in the service of the United States while on raid from Ky to East Tenn. caused by horse kicking him."

Dear David,

Thank you for contacting Camp Nelson. I hope that you can visit sometime. Do you have any additional information about your ancestor? Do you have any photos? Also, what part of the country do you live in? --Editor

Dear Camp Nelson,

Thanks for the note and would you believe I visited Camp Nelson on Wednesday on my way back from Clinton, Tenn. What a beautiful place. I bought the DVD that was shown and also the Map showing the location of bldgs., etc. I live in Monroe, Michigan.

I have put together some bits & pieces about

Pvt. William McCarty from my research at the National Archives in Washington, D.C. He served with Capt. Peterson's Co., 1st Batt., E. Tenn. Cav. Also served in Co. B, 11th Reg. Tn. Cav. and with Co. H, 9th

Visiting Camp Nelson

Camp Nelson Heritage Park is located along US 27 about 20 miles south of Lexington (6 miles south of Nicholasville.) The Park entrance is on KY 3026, which runs parallel to US 27, one mile north of the Camp Nelson National Cemetery.

White House Tours: Tuesday - Saturday, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Call Alice at 859-881-5716

The Heritage Park is open for guided tours Tuesday through Saturday from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. The **Interpretive Trails** are open daily from dawn to dusk.

The Camp Nelson Story (Capsule Version)

Camp Nelson was established along the Kentucky River in 1863 by the Union Army; serving first as a 4000 acre supply and training camp for the Army of the Ohio and District of Kentucky. In May of 1864 Camp Nelson became a recruitment point for black soldiers and later a refugee camp for other freed slaves and their families. Today the story continues to be told at the Camp Nelson Civil War Heritage Park.

Foundation Meetings

The Camp Nelson Restoration and Preservation Foundation meets the first Monday of every month in the Interpretive Center at the Camp Nelson Heritage Park at 7:00 p.m. The public is welcome to attend the meetings and provide their input.

More Information

For vendor, reenactor, and tourism information contact Mary Kozak at 859-881-9126.

Send newsletter comments or submissions to:

Jeff McDonald
Camp Nelson Dispatch Editor
P.O. Box 1170
Nicholasville, KY 40356
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Website:

www.campnelson.org



Camp Nelson Heritage Park is proud to be designated a Kentucky Lincoln National Bicentennial Site & part of the Kentucky Lincoln Heritage Trail.

Camp Nelson Civil War Heritage Park is grateful for the support of the National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom Program.



NATIONAL UNDERGROUND RAILROAD NETWORK TO FREEDOM

★ 1809 - 2009 ★



KENTUCKY ABRAHAM LINCOLN BICENTENNIAL

Lincoln and Liberty

A unique program of music and lecture held in the barracks at Camp Nelson Heritage Park

Celebrating President Lincoln's Bicentennial, the Jessamine County Fiscal Court, Camp Nelson Foundation, and Bluegrass Arts Association provided a program of President Lincoln's favorite songs and a lecture on Lincoln. The special program was held Saturday, February 21 in the newly constructed barracks replica building at Camp Nelson Civil War Heritage Park.

During the musical program, it was noted that Lincoln's favorite song was not a Northern song like "Battle Hymn of the Republic" or "Battle Cry of Freedom," although he was fond of those. Instead, it was a favorite song of the Confederacy. As told in the president's own words in April 1865, "I propose now closing up by requesting you play a certain piece of music or a tune. I thought 'Dixie' one of the best tunes I ever heard... I had heard our adversaries over the way had attempted to appropriate it. I insisted yesterday that we had fairly captured it... I presented the question to the Attorney-General, and he gave his opinion that it is our lawful prize... I ask the Band to give us a good turn upon it."



Kelly Sikorki shows his hammer dulcimer skills.

The musical program was presented by: University of Kentucky student vocalist Nick Davis; Jessamine County Schools Orchestra Director Kelly Sikorski along with some of his students; and keyboard accompanist Larry Crawford. The musical program was sponsored by the Bluegrass Arts Association.

The lecture was provided by Dr. W. Stephen McBride, Director of Interpretation and Archaeology at Camp Nelson Civil War Heritage Park. Dr. McBride discussed Lincoln's role as it related to Camp Nelson.



Of the Confederate favorite 'Dixie,' Lincoln thought it "one of the best tunes I ever heard." Photos courtesy Bluegrass Arts Association.

Upcoming

Annual Meeting

Saturday, March 28

Membership dues and the upcoming Docudrama will be discussed. Time: 10 a.m.. Lunch to follow.

Lincoln Funeral Memorial

Saturday, April 18

A ceremony modeled after the actual 1865 memorial service held at Camp Nelson as the country grieved. Will include a reading of the original order and a 21-gun salute. Plans call for three artillery units to each fire 7 rounds in this dramatic reenactment. Time: Noon.

Education Days

May 27, 28 & 29

Hundreds of 5th graders from across central Kentucky will have a field day of history and fun.

Camp Nelson Docudrama

Auditions: April 25

Performance Date: Sept. 19 & 20

"Blow Ye the Trumpets Blow" is an original docudrama written by Georgie Riddell and Donna Phillips. The play is subtitled "*The African American Refugees Struggle for Freedom at Camp Nelson During the Civil War.*"

The first casting call is scheduled for April 25 when auditions will start at 10 a.m. Auditions can be a prepared monologue or read from the script. For more information contact Mary Kozak at (859) 492-3115.

Civil War Days

September 12 & 13

In Brief

Curlin Named Horse of the Year 2nd Time

For the 2nd year in a row, Curlin was honored as Horse of the Year. He's the first since Cigar to win back-to-back honors at the Eclipse Awards. Curlin is named for Charlie Curlin, an African-American Camp Nelson soldier and great-grandfather of Shirley Cunningham, a part-owner in the thoroughbred. Cunningham grew up hearing stories about his Civil War ancestor.

Letter Purchase

The Camp Nelson Foundation has acquired a letter dated November 15, 1864 sent from Charles Atkin to his wife Sarah in Lake County, Ohio. He was a Sgt. and then 2nd Lt. in the 2nd Ohio Heavy artillery, at Camp Nelson and then moved to Athens Tn. The letter is written from Athens, Tn. and mentions part of the battery moving to Knoxville while he stayed in Athens. He appears to be stationed at headquarters and performs administrative and clerical duties. He also writes about family matters with his wife and requests that she mail him some worsted gloves, collars, and stamps. Also, his Captain seems to be on leave or on a trip home and is getting him a military vest.

Wreaths Across America

Christmas wreaths were laid on the graves of those in all branches of service in a ceremony at Camp Nelson National Cemetery on Saturday, December 13, 2008. The Jessamine County ceremony was one of 350 Wreaths Across America events conducted across the country at noon. Local coordinator for the project was Julie Curry, president of the Bluegrass VFW Post 680 Ladies Auxiliary. The national event began more than 16 years ago when Worcester Wreath Co. donated Christmas wreaths to be placed on headstones at Arlington National Cemetery.



Wreaths Across America at the Camp Nelson National Cemetery

JOIN UP!

Camp Nelson Foundation

Members receive the publication, *The Camp Nelson Dispatch*. Because the Camp Nelson Restoration and Preservation Foundation is a not-for-profit organization, all donations are tax-deductible and will go 100% toward restoration and preservation. "Friends of Camp Nelson" and "Stars & Bars" will be recognized on a permanent plaque at Camp Nelson.

Membership for 2009 – \$25.00

Stars & Bars Lifetime Membership

- \$500 per individual
- \$650 per individual & spouse
- \$650 per business

Friends of Camp Nelson

- \$100 per individual
- \$150 per individual & spouse
- \$150 per business

I would like to make a tax deductible contribution. \$ _____

Name _____

Street _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Send this form with your check to:

Camp Nelson Foundation, P.O. Box 1170, Nicholasville, KY 40356

Camp Nelson Foundation
P.O. Box 1170
Nicholasville KY 40356