



Wilson's Creek National Battlefield
Junior Ranger Booklet



Six Hours at Wilson's Creek

August 10, 1861





To become a Junior Ranger, complete as many activities as your time in the park permits. If you have only an hour, complete the pages with the pocket watch. If you have longer than an hour, do as many pages as possible, especially those with the mantle clock. Begin your visit in the exhibit area of the visitor center, completing the activities there as you go. If time permits, and we encourage you to do so, watch the twenty-eight minute film then begin your trip into the park. Be sure to get a token to enter the tour road. When you have finished your booklet, ask a ranger (or volunteer) to look it over. You will then be awarded a Junior Ranger Badge. Learn, have fun and do a fantastic job.

How much time do you have?

If you have an hour



If you have more than an hour



Visitor Center

The Arrowhead is the symbol of the National Park Service. Look for the Arrowheads in the Visitor Center.



What do you think each symbol on the Arrowhead represents?

1. The Bison _____
2. The Sequoia Tree _____
3. The Water _____
4. The Mountain _____
5. The Arrowhead _____

Exhibit Area

As you enter the exhibit area, find the photo of the slave with the scarred back.

What do you think happened to him? _____

Who do you think might have done this? _____

How do you feel about that? _____

Exhibit Area

As you walk among the exhibits, you will pass many photos with really good stories. As you read them, match the person to an important part of his or her story.



A. Claiborne Jackson

___ Mrs. Ray's daughter who died the spring after the battle.



B. Franz Sigel

___ Medal of Honor Recipient at Wilson's Creek



C. Samuel Sturgis

___ Missouri State Guard Commander



D. Nathaniel Lyon

___ Treated the wounded at Wilson's Creek



E. Sterling Price

___ First Union General killed in the Civil War



F. Anna Elizabeth Steele

___ Took command after General Lyon was killed



G. Samuel Melcher

___ Led the German troops at the Battle of Wilson's Creek



H. William Wherry

___ Missouri Secessionist Governor

Into the Park

Make sure you have plenty of water as you walk the trails at Wilson's Creek.



Remember: Take Only Pictures & Leave Only Footprints

Tour Stop #1

Take a side trip on the trail at Tour Stop #1. While hiking the trail, look for plants and animals along the way. Describe different things that you see along the trail and try to identify them. Put an X on each one you see. Try to locate the mill race and look for the cellar foundation.

Civil War battlefields host a wide range of wildlife that may or may not have been here more than 150 years ago.

Today you can find white-tailed deer along the tour road. View wildflowers, including the threatened Missouri bladder-pod, growing along the trails. Search for migrating warblers and hawks throughout the park.





Stop #2 - The Ray

Olivia's Story

“Papa, Papa!” screamed the two children in unison. “A soldier just rode by and told us that there is going to be fighting in 10 minutes!”

Mama stepped out on the porch where Papa was sitting with the baby in his lap. “Come in quickly, John! Let’s get the children into the cellar!”

“Oh, Roxanna,” Papa said. “He was trying to scare the children.”

But, moments later we saw a black line on the ridge across the valley which could only be soldiers on the march. My name is Olivia, and I was only seven years old on that hot, August day. I knew something very big was about to happen.

Mama rushed us children and Aunt Rhoda our slave, with her children to the cellar. We hadn’t even had breakfast yet! Mama grabbed the biscuits from the hearth and all 14 of us headed for the cellar where we stayed until the fighting was over. When we came back up around noon, what a sight met our eyes! There were wounded and dying men all over our house and yard. Mama and Aunt Rhoda quickly began to help with bandages and we children spent the day running back and forth to the springhouse for water. When the day was over, I had seen things that I will remember if I live to be 82!

Draw a picture of what you think Olivia and her brothers and sisters saw and did when they came out of the cellar that day.





Rhoda

As a wedding gift for her first marriage, Roxanne was given two small children, Rhoda and Wiley. Rhoda would continue being Mrs. Ray's slave until she was freed in 1865. She and her children were present along with the Ray children during the Battle of Wilson's Creek. They would all spend the morning of the battle hiding in the cellar under the Ray's house.

What do you think it would be like to be a slave?

After being granted her freedom, why would Rhoda come back to help Mrs. Ray when she was sick in 1876?

Ray House Search (if you get to go on a tour)

What items would the children have been in charge of?

What items would Mrs. Ray or Rhoda have probably used?

What would have been your favorite item to use and why?

What would you have least wanted to be in charge of?

Do you have any similar chores?



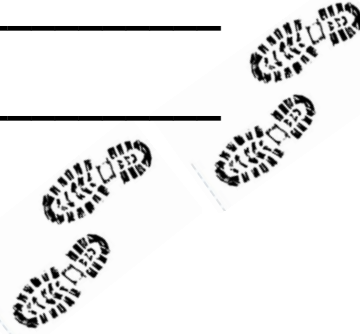


Tour Stop #3

Hike up the hill to the Pulaski Battery and read the Wayside.

What was the purpose of this cannon battery?





Now, hike down the hill to the Edwards Cabin. You will cross the Iron Bridge, built about 1910, fifty years after the battle.

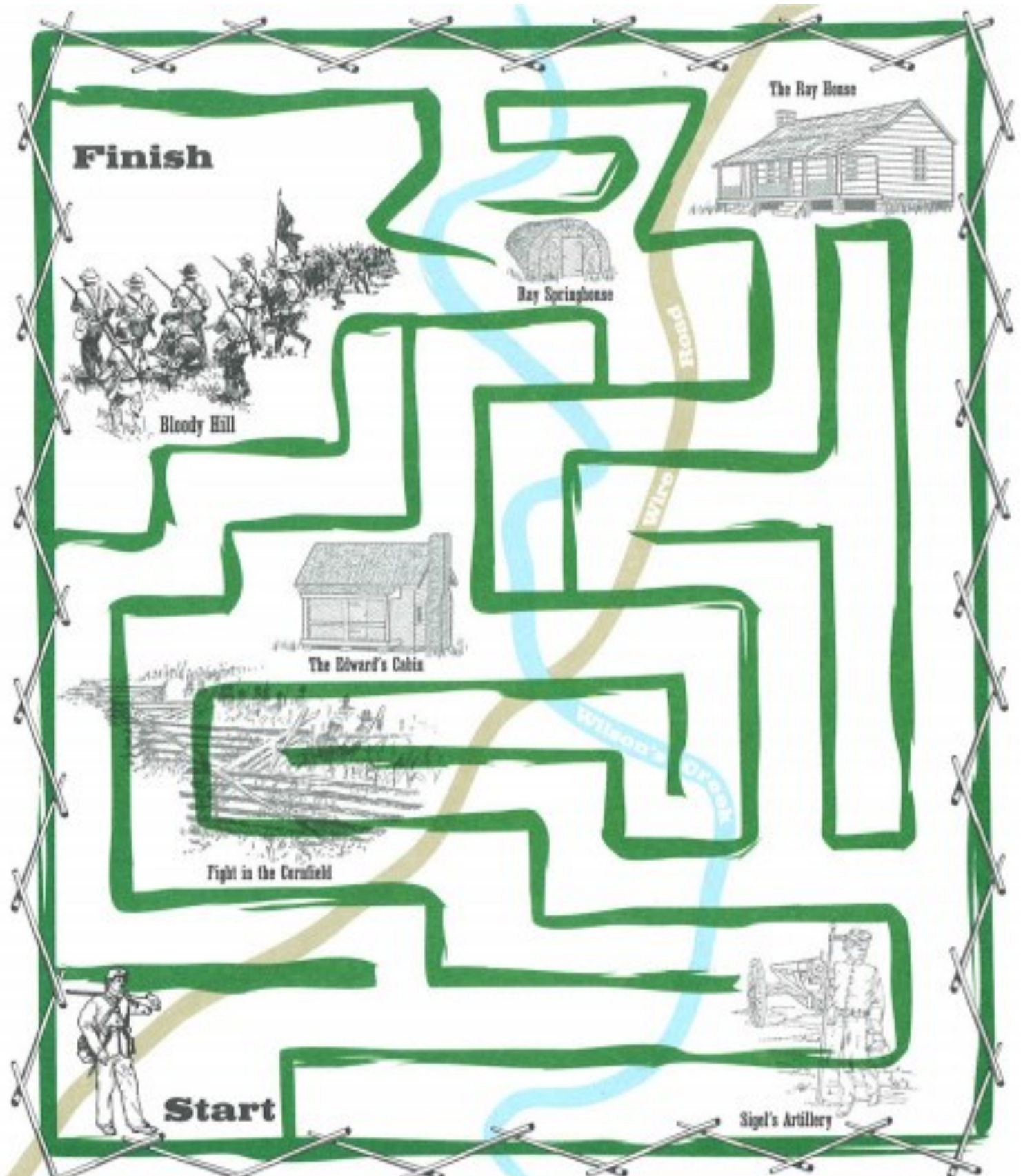
Who did the cabin belong to, who used it during the battle and what was it used for?

Tour Stop #6

Look at the two cannons. One has a number of markings on it. After looking at the markings, what do you think the letters H.N.H. & CO stand for?

A Battlefield Maze

Help the lost soldier find his way back to his unit on Bloody Hill.



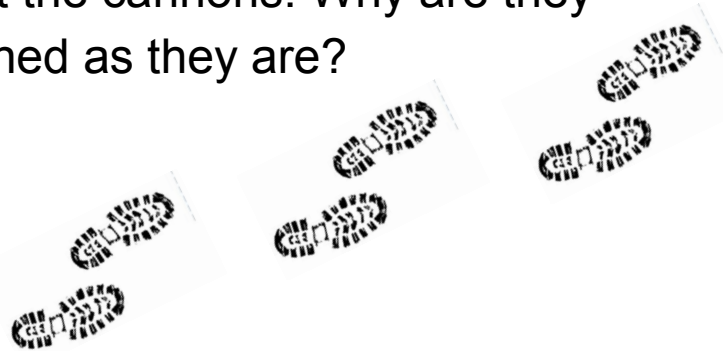
Tour Stop #7 Bloody Hill

As you stand at the top of Bloody Hill, think about a hot August day with cannons blasting, rifles flaring, people screaming and dying, and horses galloping around the battlefield. Think about what it would have been like for those people.





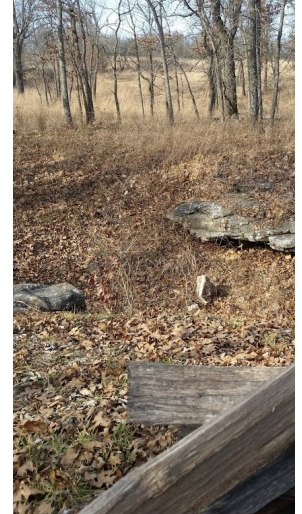
Now walk the trail to Totten's Battery. Look at the cannons. Why are they positioned as they are?

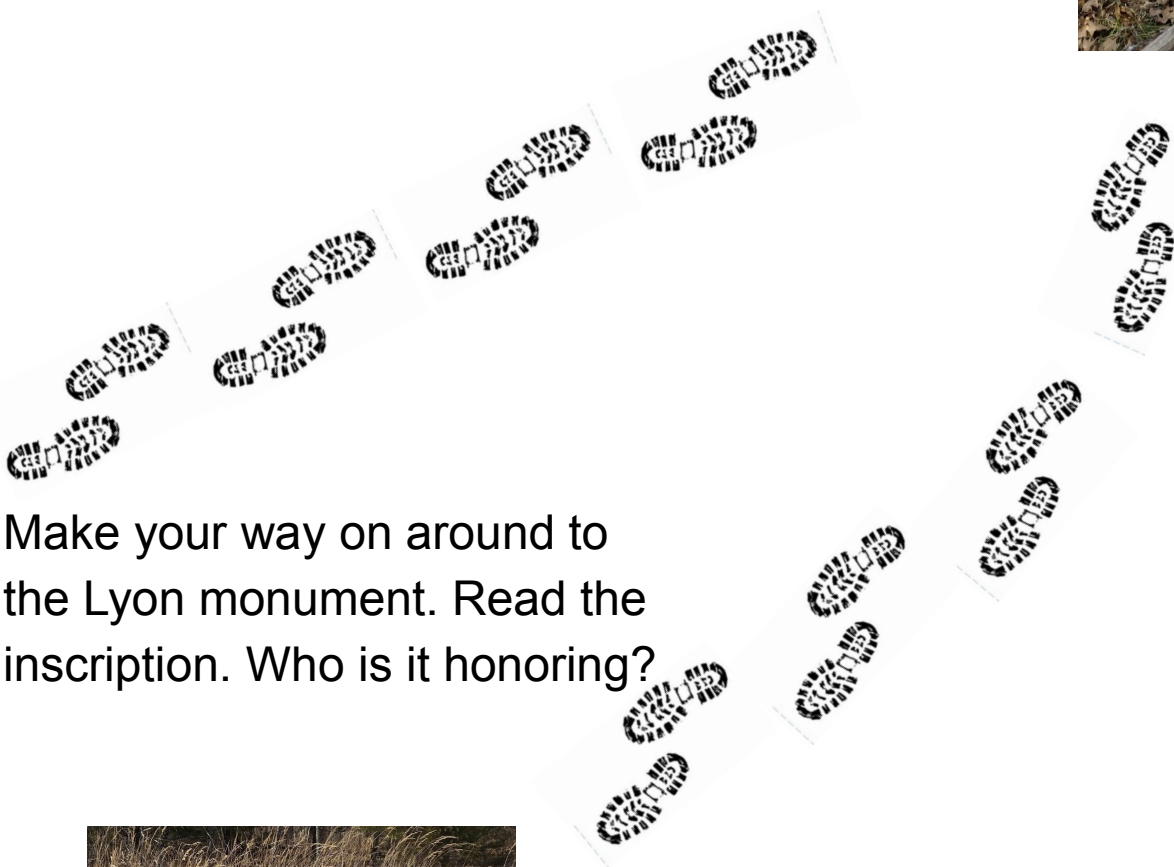


How different would it sound and smell on Bloody Hill that day than it is does today?



Continue your walk to the sink-hole. Read the sign and write what it was used for on that August day. Why do you think it was used?





Make your way on around to the Lyon monument. Read the inscription. Who is it honoring?



A Letter From A Very Young Soldier

After visiting Bloody Hill, finish this letter that the soldier might have written to his mother telling her what he saw,



Evening, August 10. 1861

Dearest Mother,

It has been a most exciting and exhausting day! We started our march from Springfield toward the Confederate lines near Wilson's Creek under the stars and lay down only for a short while on the dew damp prairie grass. Just before dawn, we resumed the march with a boy's enthusiasm and anticipation of a big time and opportunity to fire all the cartridges I chose. Just as the sun's first rays were gilding the tips of the scrub-oaks, we heard the opening of the fire from Sigel's guns, which we answered with a cheer. Then we

Do you know?

Write the number of the item next to the Civil War slang name that it matches.



_____ 40 Dead Men

_____ Pig Sticker

_____ Bones

_____ Johnny Reb

_____ Grub

_____ Housewife

_____ Greenback

_____ Minié Ball

_____ Standard

_____ Billy Yank

_____ Haversack

_____ Hardtack



Glossary (Important words you should know)

Battery	A grouping of cannons
Billy Yank	Slang name for a Union soldier
Bones	Dice
Cannon	A large, heavy piece of artillery usually mounted on a carriage
Cellar	A room below ground typically used for storage
Chamber Pot	A bowl kept under the bed used for a toilet, usually at night
40 Dead Men	A cartridge box holds 40 cartridges (<i>ammunition</i>)
Grub	Soldiers' term for food
Hardtack	Dry cracker used for rations (food for the soldiers)
Haversack	Canvas bag used by soldiers to carry food and personal items
Housewife	Homemade sewing kit
Johnny Reb	Slang name for a Confederate soldier
Lucifers	Matches
Minié Ball	Type of bullet invented by Claude-Étienne Minié
Pig Sticker	Slang for a knife or short sword
Slave	A person who is the property of another person, must obey them and has no freedom to move about as they choose
Shackles	Heavy metal rods or chains used to fasten a slave's wrists or ankles together
Sawbones	Surgeon
Slum	Soup made of pork, hardtack, etc.
Slum Burner	Army Cook

For more Civil War sites in the area:

If you have time, go into Springfield to the National Cemetery located at 1702 E. Seminole (corner of Glenstone and Seminole)
www.cem.va.gov/cems/nchp/springfield.asp



Find the Civil War section of the cemetery.

Locate the section that represents the Battle of Wilson's Creek.

How are the gravestones of the unknown soldiers different from the other stones?

Find the Confederate section and look for Sterling Price's statue.

What does the inscription say?

The Battle of Springfield, January 8, 1863

Guides are available in the
Wilson's Creek Visitor Center
www.springfield1863.org



As a Junior Ranger, I promise to:

1. Learn more about different battles in the Civil War.
2. Show respect for those who made sacrifices for their country during wartime.
3. Leave plants, animals and historical objects in the park as I found them.
4. Explore other National Parks and take pride in them! Help keep them clean, safe and beautiful for everyone.

Junior Ranger

This Award is Presented to:

For participation and commitment to the Junior Ranger Motto:

“Explore, Learn, Protect”

Park Ranger

Date

Most National Park Service sites have Junior Ranger programs. Make sure that you ask when you visit one of the over 400 National Park sites. If you cannot visit them all, continue your adventure by going to WebRangers at www.nps.gov/webrangers for more fun, games and activities.