

# Camp Nelson National Monument

National Park Service

U.S. Department of the Interior



# Junior Ranger Activity Guide







# Become a Junior Ranger

As a Junior Ranger, you become part of an American tradition. Your effort shows that you've made a commitment to explore, learn about, and protect the things that make Camp Nelson a National Monument.



As you watch the video, go through the museum, and walk the trails outside, test your knowledge with the activities throughout this booklet.

Any **bold words** you find are included in the glossary in the back of the book.

- ☐ Junior Rangers ages 5-6, check here and complete at least 4 pages/activities.
- ☐ Junior Rangers ages 7-10, check here and complete at least 6 pages/activities.
- ☐ Junior Rangers ages 11 & older, check here and complete at least 10 pages/activities.

---

Camp Nelson National Monument  
6614 Danville Road, Nicholasville, Kentucky 40356  
Phone (859) 881-5716

Significant funding for this project provided by:



NATIONAL  
UNDERGROUND RAILROAD  
NETWORK TO FREEDOM

Thanks to the Jessamine County Fiscal Court for supporting this project.  
Cover photo and graphic design by Jeff McDonald. Activity pages coordinated by Denise Waggoner.

# Welcome to Camp Nelson!

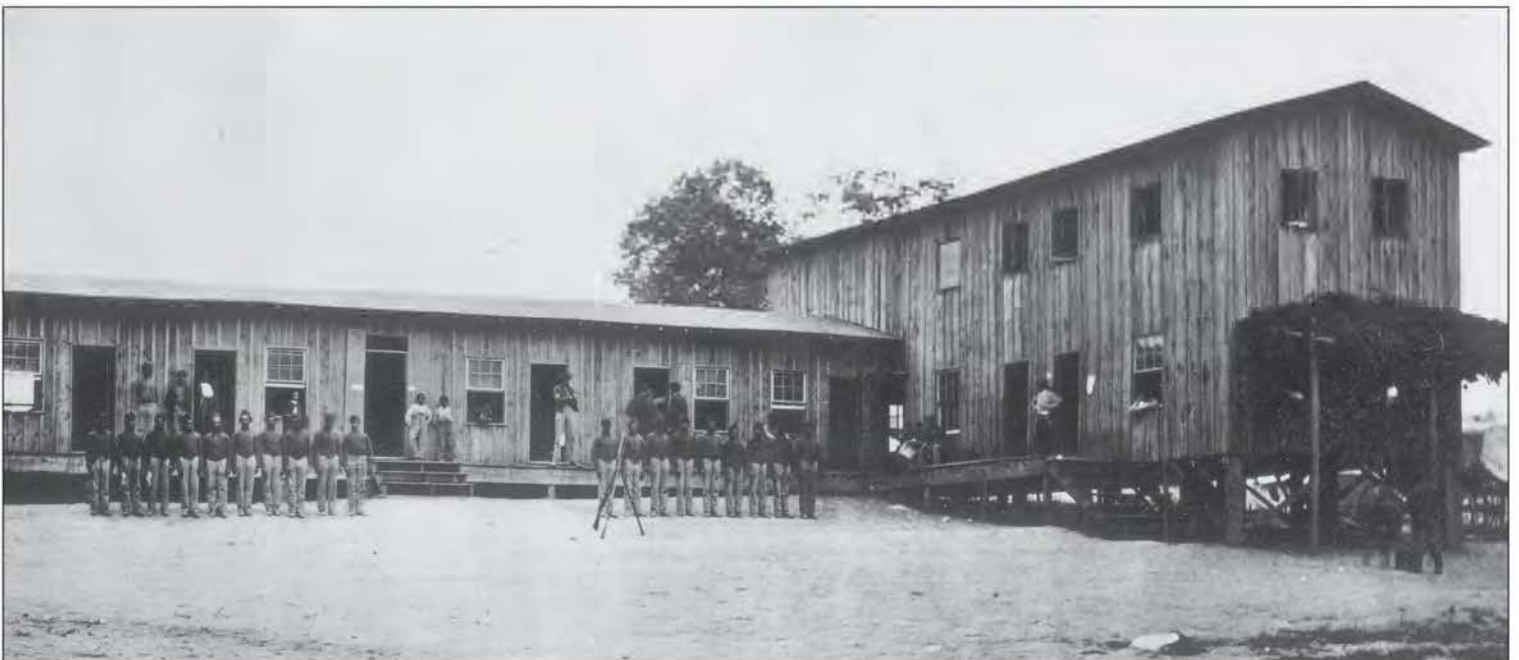


## Camp Nelson National Monument

Camp Nelson was established in June of 1863. It served as a United States Army (**Union**) supply center, training camp, and hospital during the Civil War.

In the spring of 1864, the camp's mission grew to include an **enlistment** and training center for African American soldiers. Camp Nelson quickly became the largest enlistment and training center for Black soldiers in Kentucky, and the third largest site in the country. These soldiers formed what was known as the United States Colored Troops (USCT).

During this time, Camp Nelson was also an encampment area for the wives and children of USCT soldiers. Between 1864 and 1865 several thousand African American men, women, and children entered Camp Nelson seeking freedom from slavery. These brave African Americans played a vital role in ending slavery by fighting for their freedom. Although Kentucky was a loyal Union state, slavery was still legal here. Slavery was the main issue that divided the nation leading to **secession** of southern states, and the Civil War. After the Civil War, the 13th Amendment to the Constitution forever abolished slavery in the United States.



**Barracks for United States Colored Troops, Camp Nelson.** *National Archives Photo.*





## Buildings - Word Search

Camp Nelson had more than 300 buildings and tents! In addition to offices, there were twenty warehouses, five hospitals, waterworks for indoor plumbing, stables for 14,000 horses and mules, six large workshops, a sawmill, two large housing **barracks**, **mess halls**, and a bakery that made 10,000 rations of bread each day.

*Directions:* Locate and circle all of the buildings hidden in the puzzle below.

T	M	A	C	H	I	N	E	S	H	O	P	E	Y	C
F	C	Y	M	A	C	P	L	D	D	Y	S	G	Z	O
M	E	O	U	G	Q	W	X	S	N	Z	A	A	P	Q
E	W	A	M	I	G	M	B	T	T	V	W	T	G	T
Y	F	A	H	M	M	K	Z	A	S	E	M	T	F	T
N	G	E	R	O	I	V	D	B	J	W	I	O	W	V
M	M	E	S	E	S	S	O	L	T	M	L	C	A	B
Q	E	R	D	U	H	P	S	E	K	V	L	E	T	A
K	D	S	L	N	O	O	I	A	W	F	E	E	E	R
G	Z	H	S	Y	M	H	U	T	R	T	H	G	R	R
J	T	F	B	H	R	O	E	S	A	Y	T	U	W	A
K	K	N	E	W	A	W	K	T	E	L	A	F	O	C
R	Y	F	S	A	E	L	K	Y	I	X	C	E	R	K
B	S	C	A	J	I	H	L	S	O	H	S	R	K	S
U	E	X	Y	R	E	K	A	B	H	V	W	Y	S	U

bakery

mess hall

warehouse

barracks

hospital

waterworks

white house

sawmill

machine shop

commissary

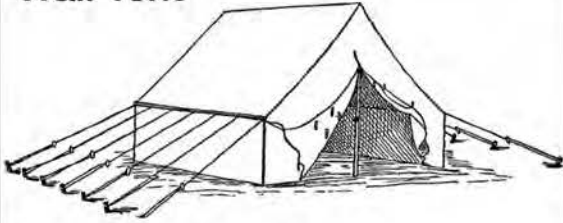
stable

refugee cottage



# Soldier Housing - Tent Identification

## Wall Tent



Largest tent - could shelter over 20 soldiers. Used by officers or for a field hospital. So large and bulky, it had to be moved using horse-drawn wagons.

Some soldiers at Camp Nelson lived in buildings called barracks. Unfortunately, the barracks were not big enough for everyone. Most soldiers had to live in tents. There were 4 main kinds of tent, all made of canvas, but different in size and use.

*Which type of tent would be your choice to stay in and why?*

---

---

---

## Sibley Tent



2nd Largest tent - could shelter 12-20 soldiers. Used by soldiers in the field. Also so big and heavy that it had to be moved using horse-drawn wagons.

*If you could redesign a shelter, what would it look like? Give 2 reasons why you like your design. Please draw a picture of your new shelter in the space below.*

---

---

---

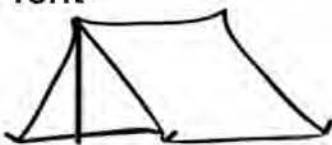
## Wedge Tent



Could shelter 4-6 soldiers. Used by soldiers in the field. Smaller, but still difficult to transport.

## My Tent

## Dog Tent



Could shelter 2 soldiers, each carried one half. Used by soldiers on the move because it was easy to carry and easy to assemble. Soldiers stuck their rifles in the ground, then tied the tent to it.





# Camp Nelson - Tic Tac Toe

Camp Nelson National Monument became the National Park System's 418th site on October 26, 2018. Explore the museum and grounds to discover why Camp Nelson is significant to U.S. History and the role this site played during the Civil War.

*Directions:* Look at the items on the game board below. Try to cross out as many boxes that you can while exploring Camp Nelson. Keep looking until you have crossed out at least one straight or diagonal line of boxes.

WALK A TRAIL	VISIT THE BARRACKS BUILDING	LOCATE A CANNON
WALK TO THE MONUMENT AT CEMETERY #1	WATCH THE VIDEO	VISIT THE OLIVER PERRY HOUSE
WALK TO THE OFFICERS' SPRING	TOUR THE MUSEUM	VISIT FORT JACKSON

What was your favorite activity? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_





## African American Refugees

In 1864, hundreds of wives and children of the U.S. Colored Soldiers also entered Camp Nelson seeking freedom from slavery. They initially lived in tents and homemade huts within camp but were not welcomed by the army and were ejected in late November 1864. Later, after many ejected refugees died, the army changed their policy, welcomed the refugee families back, and built the Home for Colored Refugees for them to live in.



**African American Refugee Cottages at Camp Nelson.** *National Archives Photo.*

*Directions:* According to the film and the museum exhibits, circle the jobs or activities below that were likely performed by the refugee women and/or children while at Camp Nelson.

- Cooking    •Laundry    •Firing cannons
- Learning to read and write    •Shoeing horses
- Eating in the Home Mess House
- Raising broom corn



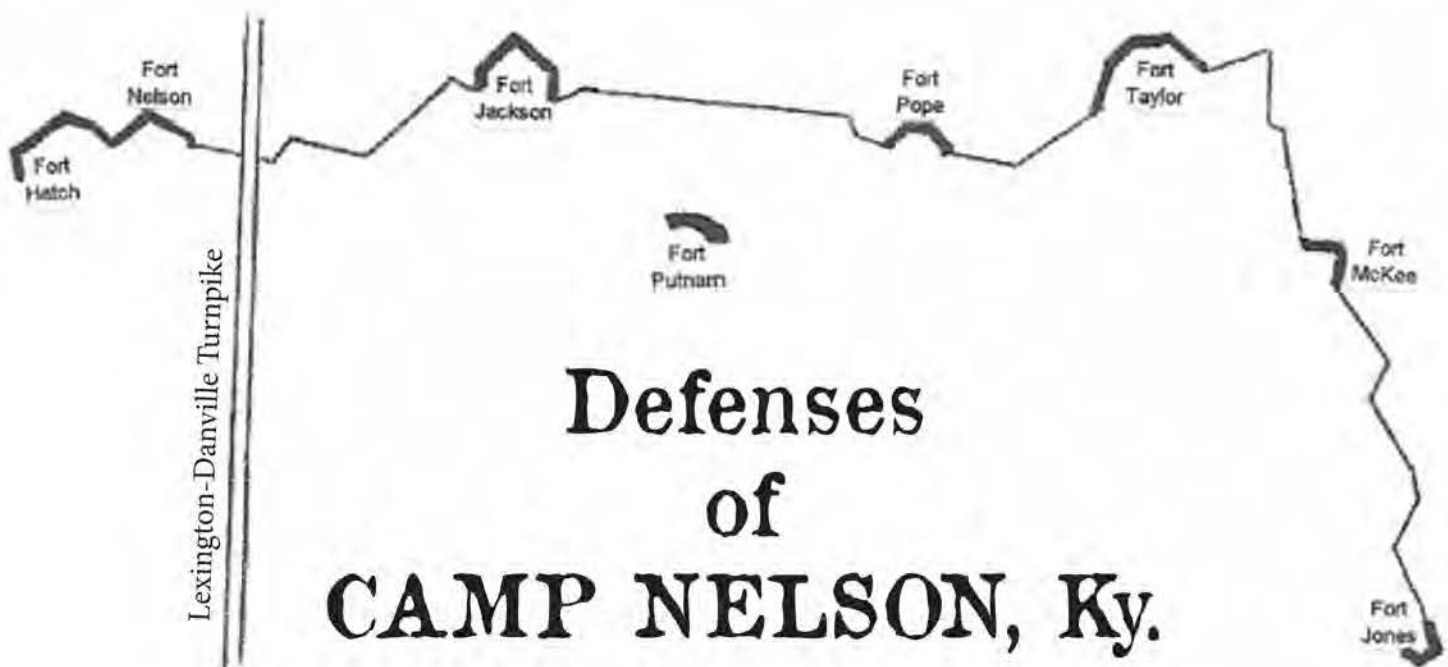


## Defenses - Word Scramble

The army had three important reasons for choosing this specific location in southern Jessamine County for Camp Nelson.

1. It was near a major turnpike and a river.
2. There was already a bridge over the Kentucky River.
3. It was naturally protected on three sides by the cliffs of the Kentucky River and Hickman Creek.

The unprotected side of Camp Nelson was its northern side, where the army built a line of **fortifications**.



### Defenses of CAMP NELSON, Ky.

Use the sketch of Camp Nelson's northern line of fortifications to unscramble the names of the forts.

AJSKOCN \_\_\_\_\_

EOPP \_\_\_\_\_

NSEOLN \_\_\_\_\_

YALTRO \_\_\_\_\_

MTANPU \_\_\_\_\_

HAHCT \_\_\_\_\_

NSEJO \_\_\_\_\_

EMECK \_\_\_\_\_

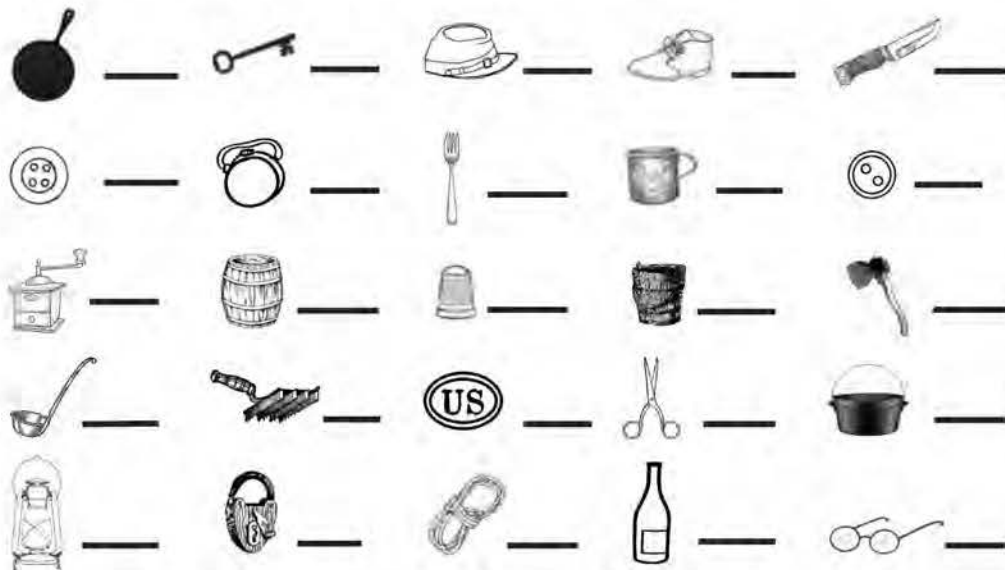
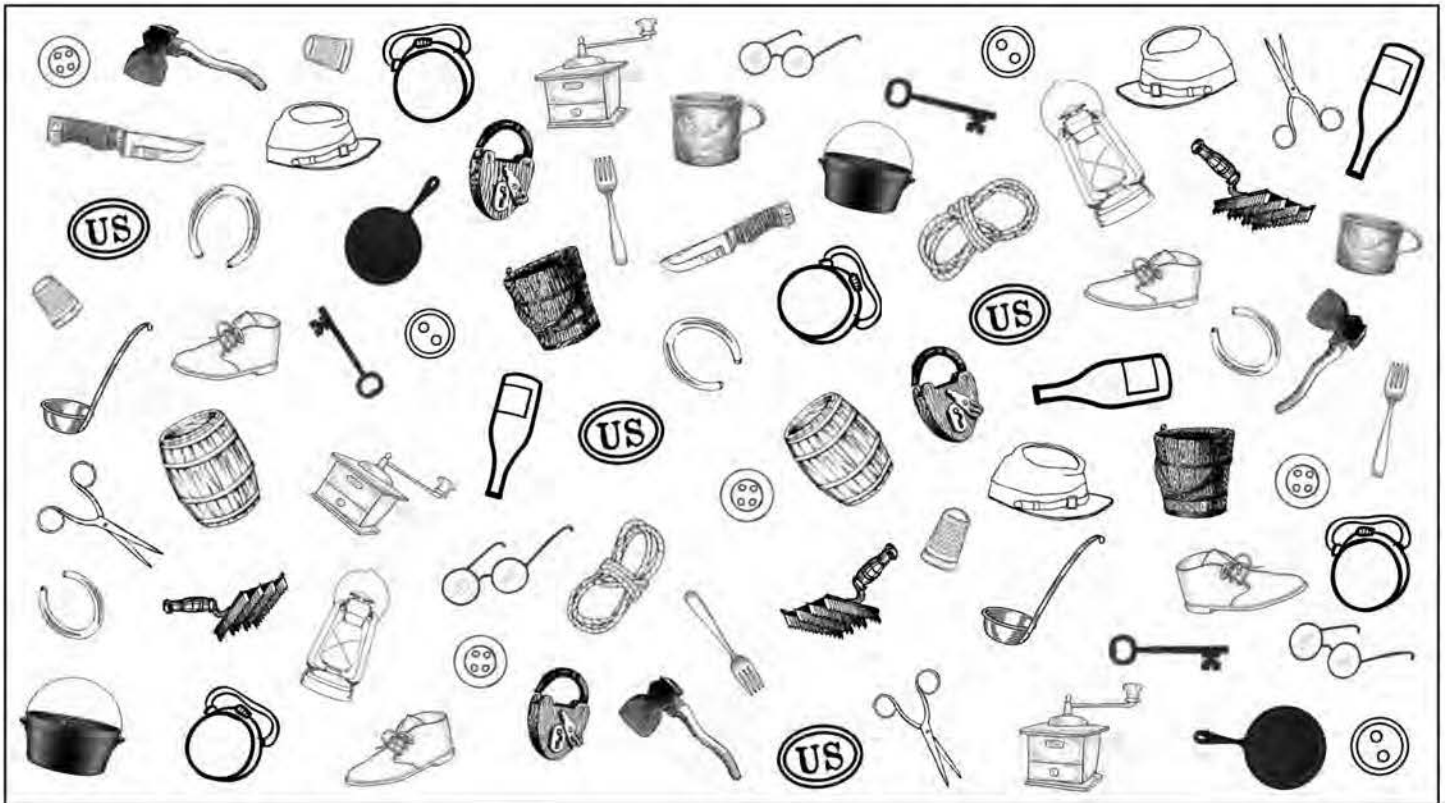


# Artifacts - I Spy



**Artifacts** provide very important clues about the culture of those that lived long ago. Most of the artifacts at Camp Nelson are discovered through archeological investigations. Once excavated, each artifact must be carefully washed, examined, and documented. Thousands of artifacts have been found through the **archeology** at Camp Nelson.

*Directions:* Help the archeologist count the artifacts.  
Write the amount on the line next to each item.



**\*\* Challenge:** How many artifacts are there in all? \_\_\_\_\_



# U.S. Colored Troops - Matching

Beginning in the spring of 1864, African American men were allowed to join the United States Army in Kentucky. Camp Nelson became a large center for African American **enlistment** and training. Eight regiments of United States Colored Troops (USCT) were formed at Camp Nelson and five other regiments of the USCT trained here.

*Directions:* Draw a line connecting the soldier to the fact about him. Use information found in the interpretive signs in the Museum USCT display or found in the park handout, "Soldier Stories."

Sgt. Elijah P. Mars

served as a chaplain in the U.S. Army and in the Illinois State Senate

Pvt. Peter Bruner

his regiment was sent to Eastern Virginia where it became part of the 25<sup>th</sup> Corps, Army of the James

Sgt. Major William Warfield

spent time in a hospital at New Albany, Indiana due to a foot and an ankle injury

Pvt. Samuel Truehart

was promoted to regimental sergeant major on January 1, 1866

Pvt. William Wright

escorted refugee women and children from Bowling Green to Camp Nelson

Sgt. Major George Thomas

author of *A Slave's Adventures Toward Freedom*

Sgt. Washington Willis

moved his family to Kansas as part of the Exoduster movement

Sgt. Angus Burleigh

spoke of the responsibilities of attaining freedom and citizenship



# Refugee Cabins - Compare and Contrast



When African American women and children first came to stay at Camp Nelson, they had to make their own shelter out of whatever materials they could find. These cabins or huts were usually very small. After the November 1864 ejection of refugees from camp, the army built larger duplex cottages for the African American families.



*Directions:* Look closely at the refugee cabin display in the museum or the drawing of a refugee cabin found here in the booklet. In the shapes below write how your home and a refugee cabin are the same in the middle and how they are different on each side.

Your Home	Both	Refugee Cabin



an article below detailing your trip to Camp Nelson and meeting the families and soldiers at Camp Nelson. What would you see? How would you feel? What would be your experiences?





# Ready! Set! DRAW!



Art played a very important role during the Civil War. Artists were hired by major newspapers of the time to go out and visit battlefields to sketch what they saw. Remember, the use of photography was in its early days so it was not widely used as it is today. Imagine you are hired by Leslie's Illustrated, a Civil War-era newspaper from New York City. You have been instructed to travel to Camp Nelson and sketch a scene that you see there. What would you see? Who would you encounter? Draw what you imagine in the space below.





# "Hard Times Come Again No More"

Music played a very important role to both soldiers and civilians during the Civil War. Spirituals played an important role in the lives and culture of enslaved and free African Americans. Music can give us a glimpse into the life and thoughts of those who lived, fought and died during the Civil War. A few of these songs might have even been heard at Camp Nelson.

## Battle Cry of Freedom

Oh we'll rally round the flag, boys, we'll rally once again,  
Shouting the battle cry of freedom,  
And we'll rally from the hillside, we'll gather from the plain,  
Shouting the battle cry of freedom.  
The Union forever, hurrah! boys, hurrah!  
Down with the traitor, up with the star;  
While we rally round the flag, boys, we rally once again,  
Shouting the battle cry of freedom!



## Swing Low, Sweet Chariot

Swing low, sweet chariot, Comin' for to carry me home;  
Swing low, sweet chariot, Comin' for to carry me home.  
I looked over Jordan, And what did I see, Comin' for to carry me home,  
A band of angels comin' after me, Comin' for to carry me home.  
Swing low, sweet chariot, Comin' for to carry me home;  
Swing low, sweet chariot, Comin' for to carry me home.  
If you get there before I do, Comin' for to carry me home,  
Tell all my friends I'm comin' too, Comin' for to carry me home.  
Swing low, sweet chariot, Comin' for to carry me home;  
Swing low, sweet chariot, Comin' for to carry me home.  
Sometimes I'm up, sometimes I'm down, Comin' for to carry me home.  
But still my soul feels heavenly bound, Comin' for to carry me home.  
Swing low, sweet chariot, Comin' for to carry me home;  
Swing low, sweet chariot, Comin' for to carry me home.

## Hard Times Come Again No More

Let us pause in life's pleasures and count its many tears  
While we all sup sorrow with the poor.  
There's a song that will linger forever in our ears,  
Oh, hard times, come again no more  
'Tis the song, the sigh of the weary.  
Hard times, hard times, come again no more.  
Many days you have lingered all around my door.  
Oh, hard times, come again no more.  
While we seek mirth and beauty and music light and gay.  
There are frail forms fainting at the door  
Though their voices are silent, their pleading looks will say,  
Oh, hard times, come again no more.



## Home Sweet Home

'Mid pleasures and palaces though I may roam,  
Be it ever so humble, there's no place like home;  
A charm from the sky seems to hallow us there,  
Which, seek ghro' the world, is ne'er me with elsewhere.  
Home! Home! Sweet, sweet home!  
There's no place like home, There's no place like home.  
An exile from home, splendor dazzles in vain,  
Oh, give me my lowly thatched cottage again;  
The birds singing gaily, that come at my call;  
Give me them, with that peace of mind, dearer than all.

**Directions:** Now try your hand at writing a song in the space below. Imagine you are a soldier serving at Camp Nelson, or a family member of a soldier who is seeking their freedom. What would inspire you to write your song? Often soldiers would write songs to the music of their favorite tune. Which of your favorite songs today would help inspire your song about Camp Nelson?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---



# How Do YOU Want to Be Remembered?



**T**he past helps to remind us of the people, places and events that happened long ago. In the past, people have placed monuments and memorials at the site of great battles or significant occasions. Other monuments, such as those in cemeteries, mark the spot where individuals are buried.

In the photo at left, you can see the monument at Cemetery #1 where family members of many of the soldiers who served at Camp Nelson are buried. Many of these individuals came to Camp Nelson as enslaved persons who were seeking their freedom.

How do you want to be remembered? What do you want people in the future to remember about you? What would your monument look like?

*Directions:* In the space below make a drawing of your monument or write a poem saying how you want to be remembered.



# Archeology - Maze

Archeological investigations at Camp Nelson have revealed important information about the daily life of those that were here during the Civil War. These investigations are conducted through careful research, site excavation, and **artifact** analysis.





# Sutler - Outdoor Scavenger Hunt



*Directions: Use the interpretive signs along the trails to find the information that is missing.*

## THE COMMERCIAL DISTRICT

Many artifacts were discovered through archeological investigations at the commercial district. List at least four of these artifacts.

- 
- 
- 
- 

## THE POST SUTLER

1. \_\_\_\_\_ was the official post sutler for Camp Nelson.

2. Circle at least three items that soldiers could purchase at the sutler store.

peanut butter      thread      popsicles

playing cards      candy      ink      deodorant

sewing needles      flashlight      shaving soap

## THE NORTHERN LINE OF FORTIFICATIONS

Draw a circle around the three largest forts of Camp Nelson.

Nelson

Hatch

Jones

Jackson

Pope

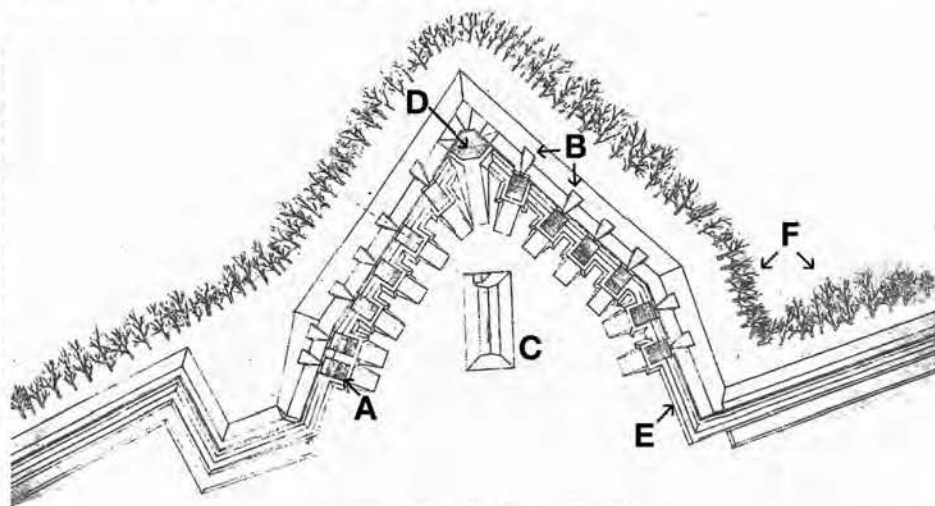
Taylor

McKee

## FORT JACKSON

Write the letter that identifies each part of the fort.

- \_\_\_\_ embrasures
- \_\_\_\_ abatis
- \_\_\_\_ powder magazine
- \_\_\_\_ salient
- \_\_\_\_ cannon platform
- \_\_\_\_ wooden revetment



FORT JACKSON

# CAMP NELSON NATIONAL MONUMENT



THIS IS TO CERTIFY THAT

---

HAS COMPLETED THE REQUIREMENTS OF A  
JUNIOR RANGER OF  
CAMP NELSON NATIONAL MONUMENT

*As a Junior Ranger, I promise to **Explore** National  
Park Sites; **Learn** and teach others about what makes  
them special; and do my part to help **Protect** them for  
future generations to enjoy.*

---

PARK RANGER SIGNATURE

---

DATE



# Glossary



**archeology** - the scientific study of historic people and their cultures through artifacts and other material remains.

**artifact** - an object made by human beings that is characteristic of an earlier time.

**barracks** - a building or group of buildings used to house soldiers.

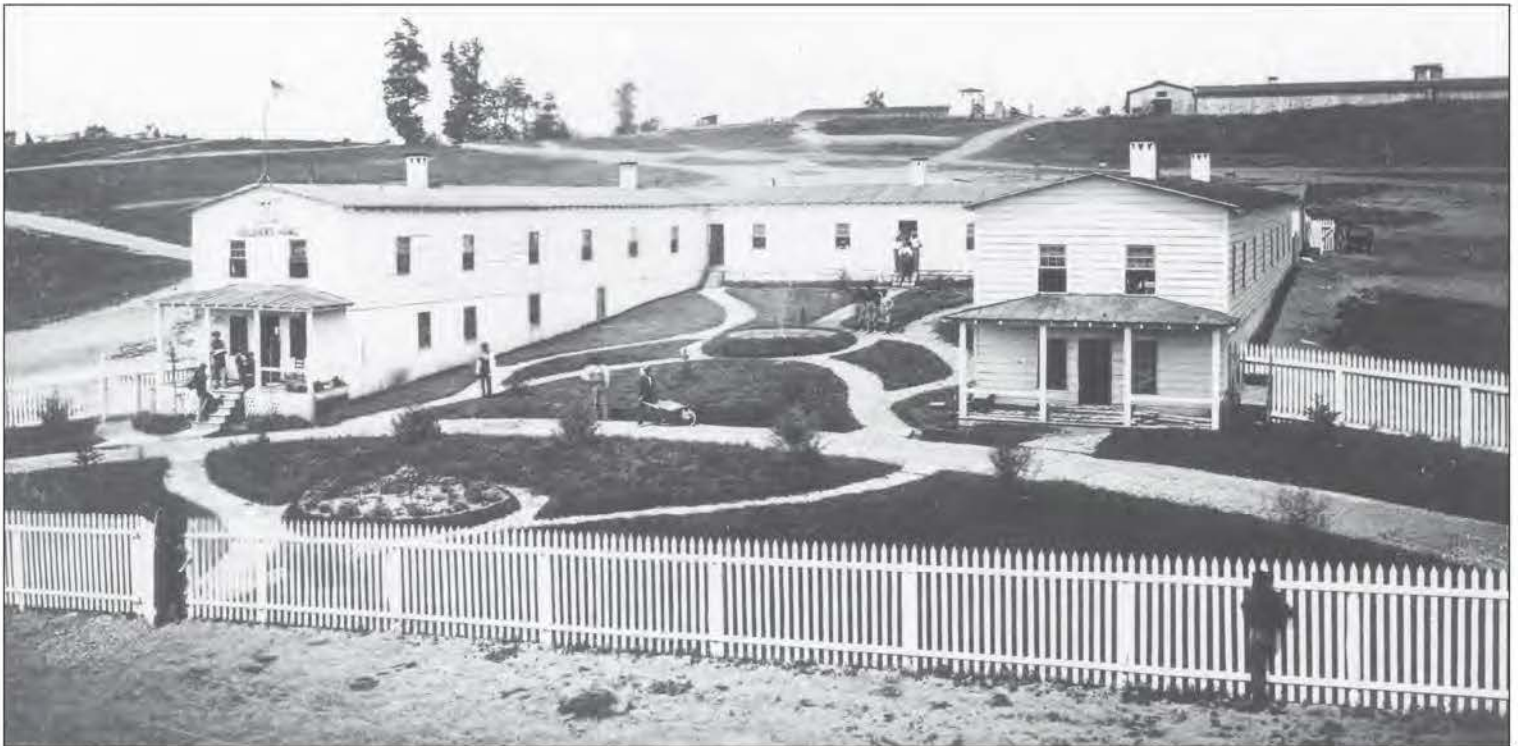
**enlistment** - the act of joining the armed forces.

**fortifications** - structures used to defend against attack.

**mess halls** - rooms or buildings where groups of soldiers eat together.

**secession** - the act of a state separating itself from the United States.

**Union** - the group of states that remained loyal to the United States government during the American Civil War.



**Soldier's Home at Camp Nelson.** The U.S. Sanitary Commission established a Soldier's Home near the hospital "for the accommodation of soldiers temporarily sojourning the Camp enroute to join their Regiments at the front." National Archives Photo.

Back cover: **Tents at Camp Nelson.** National Archives Photo.



