

JULY-SEPTEMBER 2013

**SPECIAL
POINTS OF IN-
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The Sentry

VOLUME I, ISSUE VII

PEA RIDGE NATIONAL MILITARY PARK

‘SUPER’ THOUGHTS WITH JOHN SCOTT, SUPERINTENDENT

Greetings from the Superintendent’s office, I thought you might enjoy this 1902 article from the Washington Post about the Elkhorn Tavern Bear, and it is much more enjoyable than talking about budget complaints. Have a safe and enjoyable summer!

Washington Post,
October 8, 1902

“That Elkhorn Tavern Bear”

There must be among the veterans gathered here many who participated in the battle of Pea Ridge during the winter of 1861-’62. If so, they will remember the old Elkhorn Tavern, almost on the summit of the Ozark range, a familiar caravansary for travelers

between Missouri and Arkansas.

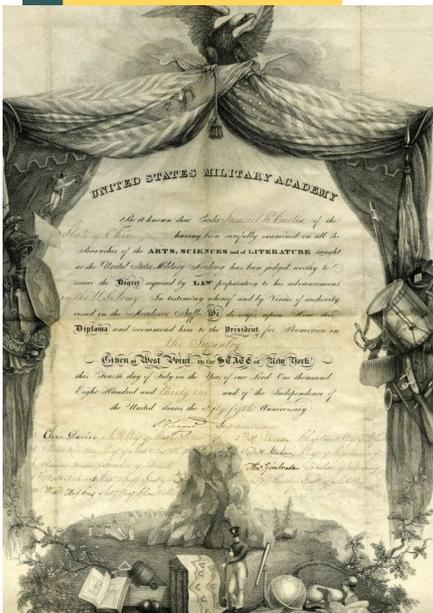


**John Scott, Superintendent
Pea Ridge National Military Park**

It is no part of our purpose to describe the tragic events which mad eup the history of Price’s retreat from Springfield, MO., his junction in the Ozark Mountains with Van Dorn, McCullough, McIntosh and Cooper; the two days’ battle of Pea Ridge, the Confederate

defeat, and the subsequent march across Arkansas to take boats on White River for Memphis and thence to Corinth, Miss., to join the forces of Bragg and Beauregard. All this belongs to history—the deaths of McCullough and McIntosh; the dramatic duel between Marmaduke and Walker; all the incidents of that remarkable episode. What we want to know is whether any of the Union troops engaged in that campaign ever came across a drunken and disreputable old bear which followed the Confederates fro a few days on their retreat to the South, and which was so ill-mannered and unscrupulous a beast that the Confederates who drove him

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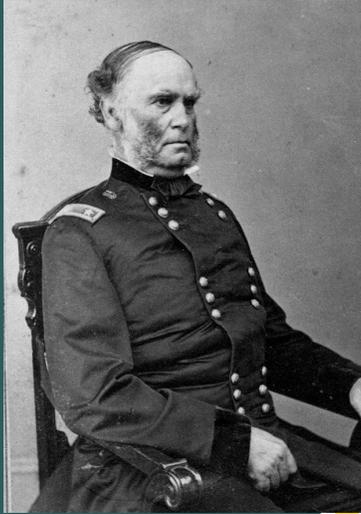


Cannoneer’s Corner— Interpretation Division

New Curtis Artifacts

Thanks to the generous support of Eastern National, the park was able to purchase the original 1831 West Point diploma of Brigadier General Samuel R. Curtis. The diploma is in very good condition and has the signatures of Superintendent Sylvanius Thayer and 8 professors including D. H. Mahan. The diploma will have to undergo treatment before it can be placed on permanent exhibit. The park also acquired an original Matthew Brady CDV of General Curtis. This image is clipped but is extremely clear. The photo will be conserved as well. The park is in the process of acquiring original photos of as many battle participants as possible.

Samuel Curtis, U.S.A.



Brigadier General
Samuel R. Curtis

Samuel Ryan Curtis, born February 3, 1805, was the overall commander of Federal forces here at the Battle of Pea Ridge. In 1832, a year after graduating West Point, Curtis resigned his commission. Ardent pro-Union and a founding member of the Republican Party, when the Civil War broke out Curtis resigned his seat in Congress and formed the Second Iowa Volunteers. By late 1861, Curtis was in St. Louis supervising all military activities there. In November, Major General Henry Halleck took command of the Department of the Missouri and by December, placed Curtis in command of the Military District of Southwest Missouri. Curtis left St. Louis for the railhead at Rolla and took charge of the Federal Army of the Southwest. Although faced with issues regarding the movement of supplies and men during winter and personality clashes with fellow officers, Curtis managed to move his Federals towards Springfield, Missouri. This movement forced the Missouri State Guard to retreat towards Arkansas with the hope of uniting with Confederates under Brigadier General Benjamin McCulloch. When the Federals arrived in Arkansas, they encountered some resistance but forced the Southern armies southward. Curtis entrenched his Federals at Little Sugar Creek and spread his 10,500 men out to hold Northwest Arkansas.

News From The Trenches—Maintenance Division

Is it hot or is it just me?

How many times have you said or heard someone say that? Here we are halfway through June and it's hot here and I do not think it is just me! Could be climate change? Remember we even had snow in May this year! According to the EPA (Environmental Protection Agency), "the Earth's climate is changing. Temperatures are rising, snow and rainfall patterns are shifting, and more extreme climate events—heavy rainstorms and record high temperatures—are already affecting society and ecosystems." Whether we believe in global warming or the effects of greenhouse gas emissions to our climate, the facts are in the news most every day. Record setting high temperatures in Yosemite Valley (102 degrees in June), wildfires, declining snow pack, hurricanes and monster tornados across the nation are indicators that global warming is real and we see it all around us. So now, the question "So what can I do about it" begs to be answered. There are many actions you can take to reduce your carbon footprint as well as a trove of information on the internet to help you along the way. The first and most important step is to make a commitment to reduce your carbon footprint. The next step would be to figure out what emissions you are producing. This is one of many actions Pea Ridge NMP is taking is to become a more climate friendly park. To do this, we measure our carbon footprint and then take actions to reduce it. One of these actions is to drive less. All of us, including the park service, burn fossil fuels such as gasoline, oil, coal and natural gas to run our vehicle engines and to heat and light our buildings. Burning these fuels increase the amount of carbon dioxide (CO₂) in the atmosphere. Carbon Dioxide is a major contributor to climate change, or "global warming." How are we driving less? The park staff carpools, bikes or walks whenever possible and we have implemented alternative work schedules and idle reduction methods. Did you know that for every mile of driving you eliminate that you save one pound of carbon dioxide from entering our atmosphere? Because of the alternative work schedules we have implemented, Pea Ridge NMP has reduced our carbon footprint. Our employees may work a compressed work schedule like four, ten-hour days that keeps them from driving to work five days a week. If an employee drives ten miles to work there

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Volunteer News

It is with a heavy heart that I report the passing of long- time volunteer Trooper Repass (pictured right) on Monday, June 17, 2013. John Thomas “Trooper” Repass was born in Washington, DC on April 20, 1949. He proudly served in the US Army during the Vietnam War where his comrades gave him the nickname “trooper”. He had a great passion for military history and shared his knowledge with everyone. Troop was always here for battle anniversary events and living history weekends with the Missouri State Guard living historians. He could always be found in period uniform, talking with

visitors (especially kids) underneath the tree in the front yard of the Elkhorn Tavern. Troop had a great sense of humor and was very kind and generous. The one thing I will always remember about him was that in all the years I knew him I never heard him make fun of or speak ill of anyone. Troop was one- of- a kind and the Missouri State Guard and Pea Ridge NMP have a hole in their ranks that will never be filled. RIP friend.



‘Super’ Thoughts cont...

(Continued from page 1)

forth in disgrace have long wondered over the fate which subsequently overtook him.

This bear was the property of the man who conducted the Elkhorn Tavern. When the establishment was dismantled and deserted— it may have been destroyed, for all we know— he transferred his presence and his affections to the Confederate camp. When Price and Van Dorn and their armies turned South, the bear followed. He took up especially with Price’s body-guard—as fine a company of cavalry as ever went to battle—and his scheme, which he soon made plain enough, was to ride all day in one of the baggage wagons and to paint the camp red every night until he became too drunk to walk. The country was full of mountain whiskey. The liquor wasn’t what a careful man would call velvety, but it went to the spot, as the boys said, and it seemed to be exactly the article to which the bear was used. It

was funny at first. The spectacle of a 300-pound black bear reeling about with his ears laid back and his eyes like a pair of Lynnhaven oysters was diverting enough as a novelty; but it soon became evident that the camp would have to sit up all night or else get rid of that bear. His hours were terribly irregular. Nobody knew where he would bunk. And experience had convinced everybody that until the bear went to sleep no one else could do so with safety. Moreover, he set a bad example to the young. It was no only that he got drunk every day, but he seemed to have such a roaring good time about it. Altogether, the camp resolved to leave him behind, and this was done about the fourth day out from Elkhorn Tavern. He was encouraged to a helpless state of intoxication and chained to a tree by the road. That was the last the Confederates saw of him.

Did any of the Union boys ever hear of that Elkhorn Tavern bear? We wonder.

SINGING SEAMSTRESS

Happy Summer to all! As the Civil War progressed, hard times fell on civilians in the north and south. In the south, goods became very scarce due to few manufacturing plants and the blockade of southern ports. People had to become creative when it came to the things they needed and things that they could not buy or trade for. It soon became very hard to come by fabrics for new clothing. When a woman’s dress would start to show wear, they would “turn” the dress. By taking the dress apart, and then cutting a new one out of the skirt, one could have a new dress with less fullness in the skirt. A dress could be “turned” twice becoming a “twice turned dress.” Shoes became hard to replace as well. Leather was hard to come by to make new shoes. Women would wear their house slippers or bedroom slippers also; they would make shoes out of carpet, canvas or even wood. Some things could not be replaced, like sewing pins and needles. After a battle, soldiers would search the dead bodies for things, like needles, to trade with civilians for food. Tobacco was hard to come by in the north and coffee was hard to come by in the south. Other things like lamp oil, candles, paper, ink, pens, pencils, glue, soap, fishing hooks, nails, and toothpowder had to be made at home.



Park Guide, Sirena Evans

Good Luck Serena!



Pea Ridge National Military Park says goodbye and good luck to Serena Rothfus, our Eastern National Site Supervisor. Serena began working as a seasonal National Park Visitor Use Assistant here at Pea Ridge in 2008 and moved over to Eastern National in 2010. Serena spent ten years as the Pea Ridge National Military Park Foundation's secretary. A recent graduate of Johns Hopkins University in

Baltimore, Maryland, Serena received a Master of Arts degree in Museum Studies. Serena is a native of northwest Arkansas and received her Bachelor of Arts in History from the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville. Serena is leaving Pea Ridge to pursue a museum career.

All the staff here at Pea Ridge NMP wish her the best of luck. We will miss you!!!!!!!!!!!!

The Sentry

News From the Trenches cont...

(Continued from page 2)

will be twenty pounds of carbon dioxide saved from the atmosphere. Multiply by fifteen (the total number of full time employees at Pea Ridge NMP) and the park can reduce our carbon dioxide emissions up to 300 pounds. This is just one of many methods to reduce our carbon footprint. If we think about carbon and the climate, we realize that everything an individual, organization, business or government does or uses needs some form of carbon. It may be in the products themselves or in the energy and materials needed to make them. Integrating climate friendly

criteria into decision-making can trigger a ripple effect. The National Park Service is hoping our actions will create this ripple effect all throughout our communities. Pea Ridge NMP is but one small ripple in the pond. By doing our part we can all benefit from the results of a cleaner, greener world and just possibly we will preserve the planet for our children and grandchildren to enjoy. Let's all make the choice to do what we can to reduce our carbon footprint. Because "Together we Can"!