



The Civil War Museum (left), formerly known as General Sweeney's Museum of Civil War History, was founded in 1992 by Dr. Thomas Sweeney and his wife Karen. The museum, acquired by the National Park Service in August 2005, contains an outstanding collection of artifacts relating to the Civil War west of the Mississippi River. Exhibits trace the story of the war from Bleeding Kansas in the 1850s, when bitter fighting between pro- and antislavery forces erupted over passage of the Kansas-Nebraska Act, to the final Confederate surrender in 1865. Your park entrance fee includes admission to the museum.

### By Way of Introduction

The battlefield is located three miles east of Republic and 10 miles southwest of Springfield, Mo. From I-44: take Exit 70 (Mo. MM) south to US 60. Cross US 60 and drive ¼-mile to Mo. ZZ. Turn south on ZZ. From US 60 and US 65: take the James River Expressway to the US 60 exit, then west on US 60 to Mo. M. Turn south on Mo. M to Mo. ZZ. Turn south on Mo. ZZ. A park entrance fee is charged.

The visitor center features a film, a battle map, and exhibits to provide an introduction to the battlefield and its relevance to the Civil War. Guided tours, historic weapons firing demon-

strations, and other interpretive services are provided in spring, summer, and fall. Check at the visitor center for current schedules. A picnic area and trails are available.

### Regulations

Wilson's Creek National Battlefield is committed to the protection of our resources, as well as providing visitors with a safe park experience. For these reasons, firearms, other weapons, and the use of metal detectors are prohibited; buildings, plants, and natural features should not be disturbed; pets must be on a leash and are not allowed in buildings; horses are restricted to authorized trails; and speed

limits and other traffic laws must be obeyed. All accidents should be reported to park personnel in the visitor center.

### More Information

Wilson's Creek National Battlefield  
6424 West Farm Road 182  
Republic, MO 65738-9514  
417-732-2662  
email: [wicr\\_superintendent@nps.gov](mailto:wicr_superintendent@nps.gov)  
[www.nps.gov/wicr](http://www.nps.gov/wicr)

Wilson's Creek National Battlefield is one of over 380 areas that are examples of the nation's natural and cultural heritage. See [www.nps.gov](http://www.nps.gov).

## Stops Along the Tour Route

The auto tour of the Wilson's Creek battlefield is a 4.9-mile, one-way loop road that takes you to all the major historic points on the battlefield. Each stop has wayside exhibits with maps, artwork, and historical information concerning the battle. There are also walking trails at Gibson's Mill, the Ray House, the Pulaski Arkansas Battery and Price's Headquarters, Bloody Hill, and the Historic Overlook (tour stop 8). Exhibits are provided at specific locations on the trails. A detailed, 42-minute audio tour of the battlefield can be purchased at the visitor center.

**Special Note:** The one-way tour road is 18 feet wide. The 12-foot-wide left lane is for vehicular

traffic; the six-foot-wide right lane is for walking, jogging, and bicycling. Please drive carefully.

Constructed about 1852, the Ray House (right) is the only surviving dwelling in the park associated with the battle. It served as a local post office from January 1856 until September 1866, with John A. Ray as postmaster. The house also served from November 1858 until March 30, 1860, as a flag stop on the Butterfield Overland Stage route. On August 10, 1861, the Battle of Wilson's Creek placed the Civil War squarely on the Ray doorstep. From here throughout the next four years the Rays watched soldiers and the tools of war march past on the old Wire Road before peace finally returned to their lives and the nation.

ly's source of water and the only other surviving wartime structure in the park. The only major fighting to take place on this side of Wilson's Creek occurred on the hill northwest of here in the Ray cornfield, from which Union forces were driven back across the stream. The wooded eminence on the western horizon beyond Wilson's Creek is Bloody Hill, where the most intense and savage fighting took place.

**3 Pulaski Arkansas Battery and Price's Headquarters** From the wooded ridge to the northwest, the cannon of the Pulaski Arkansas Battery opened fire on Bloody Hill, halting the Union advance and giving Confederate infantry time

man force into line of battle to oppose a Confederate cavalry regiment positioned in the north end of this field. After a 20-minute artillery bombardment, the Southerners withdrew and Sigel continued his advance.

**5 Sigel's Final Position** Sigel halted his advance on this hillside and formed his men into line of battle across the Wire Road. Here he was attacked and defeated by Confederate troops, whom he mistook for a Federal regiment. This critical error proved very costly, as it turned the tide of the battle in favor of the Confederates.

**6 Guibor's Battery** Not far from here Capt. Henry Guibor placed his battery in position with the Confederate line of battle. From its position, the battery dueled with Union artillery on the crest of Bloody Hill. On three separate occasions Confederate infantry mounted attacks through these fields and woods, but the Union line held and each attack was defeated. When the Southerners made their fourth assault up this hill, they found the Federals had abandoned the crest and were retreating.

**7 Bloody Hill** Throughout the battle General Lyon's 4,200-man command held this high ground against repeated attacks. At the peak of the fighting, the entire south slope of the hill was covered with battle smoke. When the fighting ended, more than 1,700 Union and Confederate soldiers had been killed or wounded here. Among the fatalities was General Lyon himself. A 0.75-mile walking trail leads past the site of Totten's Battery, the Lyon marker, and a sinkhole where 30 Union soldiers were hastily buried.

**8 Historic Overlook** The Union army crossed this field both upon their advance to and retreat from Bloody Hill. To guard against a Confederate attack, the 2nd Missouri Infantry Regiment and Du Bois's artillery battery were formed in line of battle in this area. The John Ray house is clearly visible to the southeast.



to form into line of battle and attack Lyon's forces. This battery from Little Rock, Ark., fired on Lyon's forces on Bloody Hill throughout the battle. Near here to the west, Maj. Gen. Sterling Price, commander of the Missouri State Guard, established his headquarters in the yard of William Edwards's home in the middle of the 12,000-man camp of the Southern army. It was here that Price and Gen. Benjamin McCulloch first learned of the Union attack.

**4 Sigel's Second Position** On the ridge across Wilson's Creek to your left, Col. Franz Sigel's Union artillery heard Lyon's attack to the north and opened fire on the 1,800 Southern cavalry camped in this field. The Confederates were routed and fled into the woods to the north and west. Crossing to this side of the creek, Sigel halted about a quarter mile in front of you and formed his 1,200-

This concludes your auto tour of Wilson's Creek National Battlefield. Follow the tour road to return to the visitor center parking lot.

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To Springfield, 60, and 44

Museum

Elm Street 182  
To Republic

Visitor Center

Picnic area

Tour Road

Route of Union Advance and Withdrawal

1

GIBSON OATFIELD

Gibson's House site

Gibson's Mill site

RAY CORNFIELD

RAY ORCHARD

Ray Springhouse

Ray House

Sokalski's Section

Totten's Battery

BLOODY HILL

Sinkhole

Lyon Marker

Pulaski Arkansas Battery

Guibor's Battery

3

East Battlefield Overlook

Edwards Cabin/  
Price's Headquarters

Shuyler Creek

Manley Uphill Trail

Sigel's Final Position

5

Sharp Farm site

Historic route of Wire Road

SHARP CORNFIELD

SHARP STUBBLEFIELD

Sigel's Second Position

Sigel's First Position

Terrell Creek

Wilson Road

Manley Ford

Tour stop

Trail

Historic fence line



0 0.25 Kilometer  
0 0.25 Mile