

Failure to reapprove the tax would severely impact the operations of this site.

Although Fort Davidson does not charge an admission fee, a voluntary donations box has provided funds for the site to begin a research library. This highly desirable educational spin-off has proved to be a popular resource.

**Glasgow.** The State of Missouri has recently erected an informative Price's Raid interpretive marker from funds originally appropriated in 1988. This is part of a Civil War signs program which will eventually see signs at 23 sites around the state.

**The Sites Around Westport.** The most significant sites in the raid are also the most threatened, due to the growth of Kansas City. The majority of the sites of the battle of Westport are in a high income neighborhood. **The Civil War Roundtable of Kansas City** and its nonprofit arm, **The Monnett Battle of Westport Fund**, have been the driving force to mark and preserve the battlefield.

The results are impressive. The Roundtable has published brochures for both driving and walking tours of the events in and around Westport. The brochures are printed at no cost by **Burns and McDonnell Engineers-Architects-Consultants**. With a notable exception, a 25 marker interpretive trail is well kept. Most of these signs were paid for by local merchants. Unfortunately, in Loose Park, an excellent series of interpretive signs are suffering from water damage. Plans are underway to restore the signs. A 10-pound Parrott Rifle is the centerpiece of the stop.

The Roundtable has also worked in conjunction with the **Association for the Preservation of Civil War Sites** to acquire the Byram's Ford crossing and battle site which has been turned over to the *Kansas City Department of Parks and Recreation*. There are cooperative agreements with industrial park owners and businesses for options to remove obtrusive buildings when they become uninhabitable. This action, when consummated, will clear a considerable viewshed.

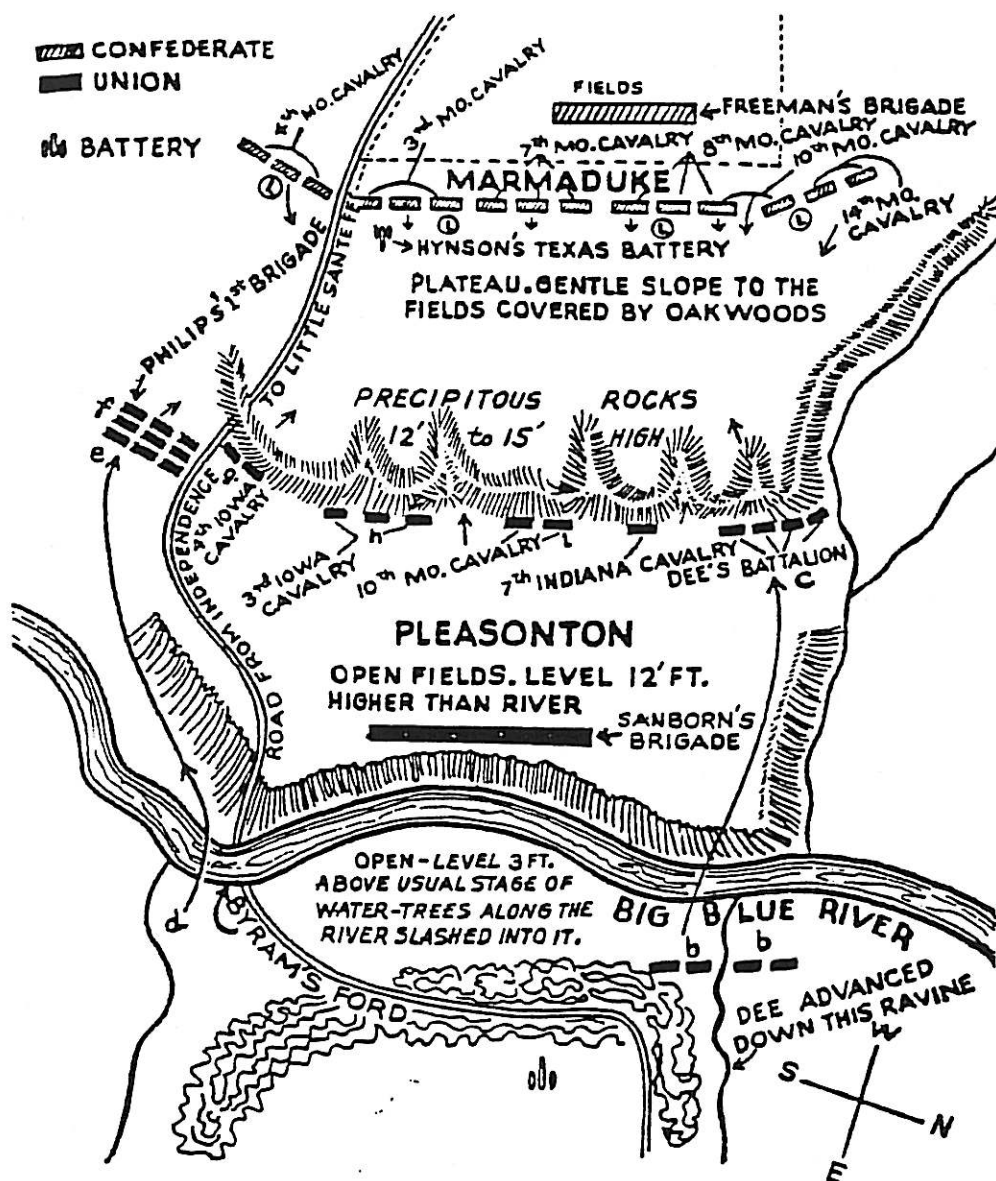
Unfortunately, there are several frustrating problems:

- ♦ The Cities of Kansas City and Westport have shown no interest in promoting the sites. None of the city's tourist brochures mention anything about the battle. In fact, although invited, neither city sent representatives to this meeting.

# RATTLE OF THE LITTLE L

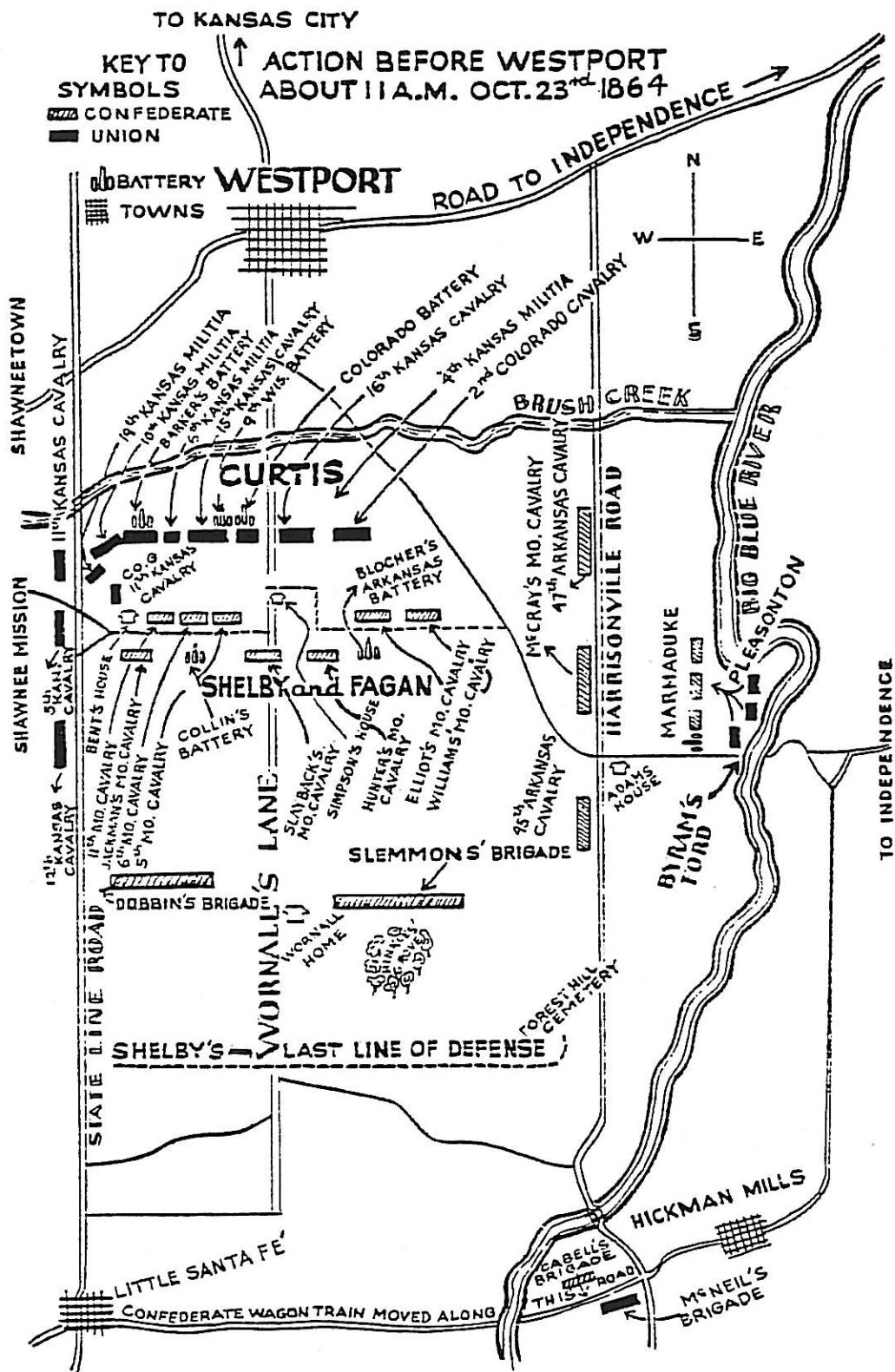
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4th MO CAV (C.S.)  
UNDER LT.  
COL. PRESTON  
WENT THROUGH  
HERE - THEN  
THOMPSON'S BRIGADE



## BYRAM'S FORD 11 A.M. OCT. 23<sup>rd</sup> 1864

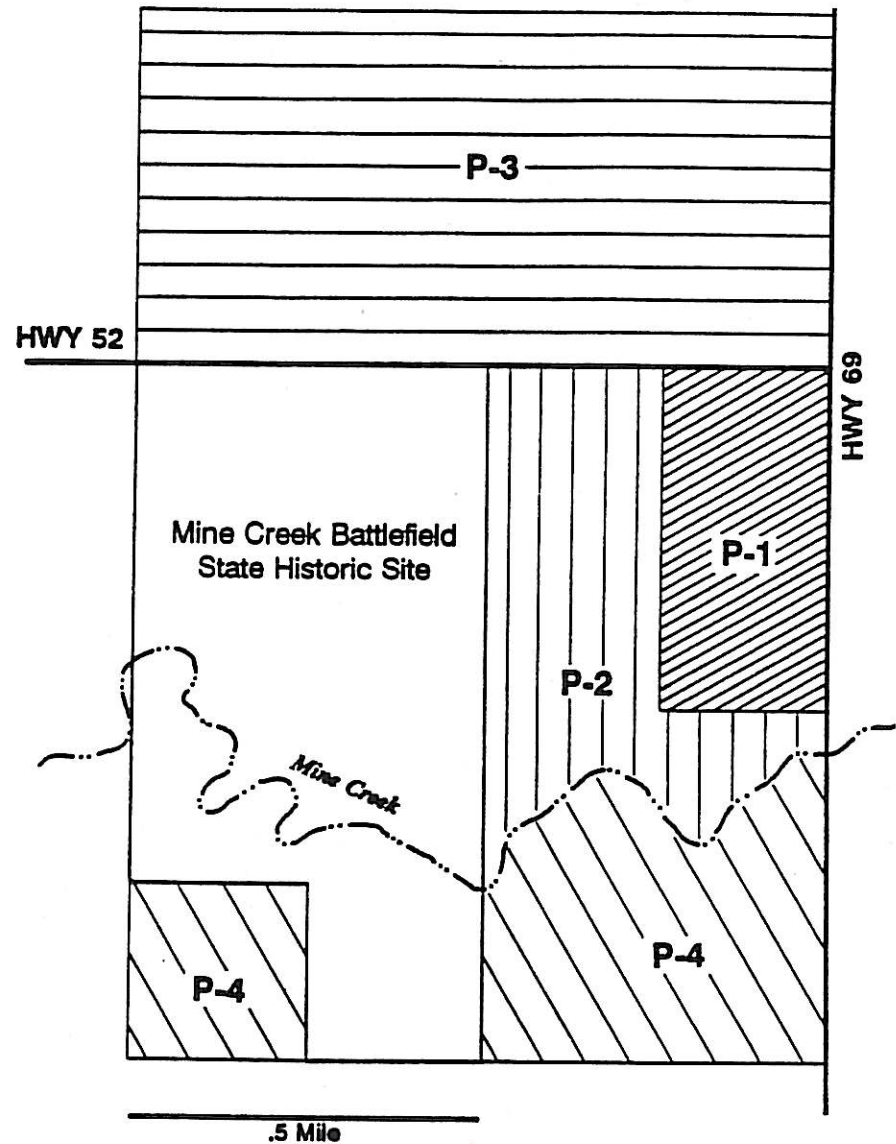
- |                                      |  |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| a. BATTERY PLANTED BY                | g 4 <sup>th</sup> IOWA CAVALRY (h) 3 <sup>rd</sup> |
| PLEASONTON                           | (h) IOWA CAVALRY (i) 10 <sup>th</sup>              |
| b DEE'S 1 <sup>st</sup> ADVANCED     | MISSOURI CAVALRY (j) 7 <sup>th</sup>               |
| POSITION                             | INDIANA CAVALRY                                    |
| c DEE'S 2 <sup>nd</sup> POSITION     | (f) PHILIP S 1 <sup>st</sup> BRIGADE               |
| d PHILIP S' 1 <sup>st</sup> POSITION | (L) MAIN LINE OF REBELS                            |
| e PHILIP S' 2 <sup>nd</sup> POSITION |  |



♦ Constant vigilance by the Roundtable is necessary to ensure the city's Parks and Recreation Department keeps the sites clean and mowed. Parks and Recreation officials were invited but they declined to attend.

♦ The Loose Park presentation does not have reasonable access.

**Mine Creek.** Price's retreat from Missouri followed the track of modern US Route 69. The area is still relatively undeveloped but



Land acquisition plan showing priority 1 (P-1) through 4 (P-4).

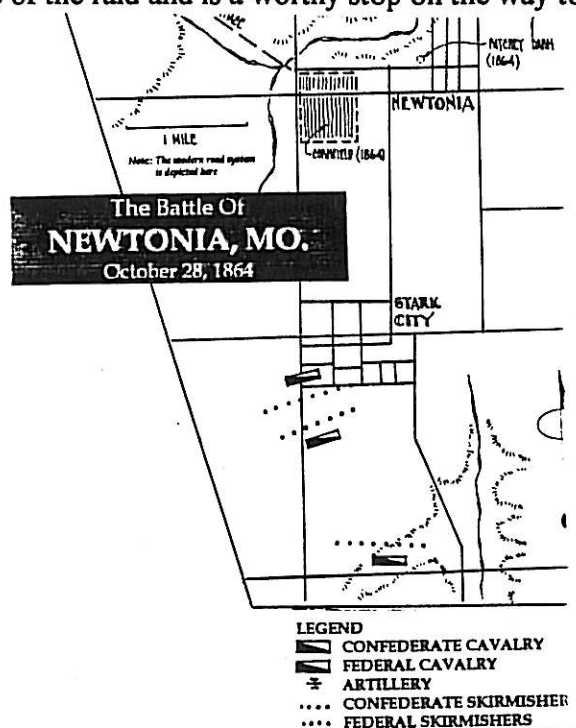
for how long? The action surrounding Mine Creek involved a pair of mounds which still exist. Property on one has recently been purchased by an individual who says he intends to maintain a "farm-like" atmosphere. However, he declined a request for a historic easement. Clearly, as the growth pattern from Kansas City moves south along the route, this property might be sold to support incompatible development.

The battlefield is in pristine condition, with a fair portion already preserved. An archeological study has identified other parts of the field which should be acquired to preserve the integrity of the complete site.

The state of Kansas has recently completed an interpretive walking trail and will start construction of a Visitors' Center in the spring of 1996. The **Kansas Historical Society** has the lead in this effort.

A shadow has been cast over the success of this project by state funding cuts. It now appears the new Visitors' Center will be unmanned or supervisory personnel will have responsibility for multiple sites. This would be a shortsighted decision.

**Fort Scott.** The National Park Service Site at Fort Scott is a popular destination for tourists. The site was an active US Army post at the time of the raid and is a worthy stop on the way to Newtonia.



**Newtonia.** The final stop in Missouri on this trail is at Newtonia. This small and pivotal battlefield is unmarked, uninterpreted, and

unprotected. As the site of at least two separate combat actions during the Civil War, it is vulnerable and must be protected. A "friends" group was successful in acquiring **ABPP** grants to do an archeological study. The report of **Garrow & Associates** was published in July 1995. The Richey Mansion is the most historic site on the field; however, it is deteriorating. The owners have indicated they might be willing to sell the home. However, the asking price is exorbitant. A much more realistic figure might encourage serious negotiations.

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## Publications

The literature currently available to support tourism is more than sufficient. A June 1991 *Blue and Gray Magazine* was devoted to Price's Raid. Site brochures exist for Pilot Knob, Westport, Mine Creek, and Fort Scott. An overall public brochure titled "*A State Divided: Missouri and the Civil War*" is produced by the **Missouri Department of Natural Resources**.

On the reverse side, sites such as Leavenworth (KS); Arrow Rock, Sedalia, Kansas City, Westport, and Boonville all fail to mention their Civil War connections.

Distribution of all brochures was seen to be a problem.

The **Missouri Department of Natural Resources** publication "*Missouri Masterpieces, State Parks and State Historic Sites*" makes mention of Lexington on page 16, Arrow Rock on page 23, Carthage on page 31, and Pilot Knob on page 37. This would be an outstanding publication in which to include the story of Price's Raid.

**Missouri DNR** also publishes the "*Missouri Resource Review*." The nature of this magazine is to provide informative articles on the various resources of the state. A 1993 feature on "*The War Within The State*" by Jim Denny is both informative and useful for whetting appetites about the Civil War.

The **Missouri Department of Tourism** published the "*1995 Missouri Getaway Travel Guide*." There is basic information on some Civil War sites located within various site inventories; however, there is no thematic development of Price's Raid or any other Civil War related topic.

Road maps are of no help to heritage tourists. *Gousha's Missouri Road Atlas* follows the lead provided by official publications.



**Ozark Map Company** does not provide any Civil War-related information. The practical impact of this is frustration for anyone who might like to plan a heritage tourism trip. Ironically, while many other *frontier related trails are more highly publicized, none have the potential to expose visitors to the range and wealth of Missouri sites* south of I-70. A close look at the **Virginia Department of Transportation's** *"A Map of Scenic Roads in Virginia"* would be extremely instructive. Panels on *"The Civil War in Virginia"* include *Manassas battlefields, The Shenandoah Valley 1862 and 1864, and The Route of Lee's Retreat: Petersburg to Appomattox Court House.*

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## Studies

Substantial professional information exists to assist in the preservation and presentation of various sites related to Price's Raid. **ABPP** has awarded funds to do a Preservation Plan for the Fort Davidson area. **ABPP** has also assisted both **The Civil War Roundtable of Kansas City** and **The Friends of Newtonia Battlefields** in preparing plans. The state of Kansas has produced the *"Mine Creek Battlefield State Historic Site Preservation and Interpretive Development Plan."*

The **National Park Service** at both Fort Scott and Wilson's Creek have been very supportive. There are both Preservation Plans and Planning Guidelines available. Two interesting publications completed by Wilson's Creek National Battlefield Park are *"A Guide to Historic Landscape Restoration, Wilson's Creek National Battlefield"* and *"Planning Guidelines for Big Blue (Byram's Ford) Battlefield."*



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**The Kansas City  
Conference  
Nov 30- Dec 1, 1995**

The **Association for the Preservation of Civil War Sites (APCWS)** engaged the **Blue and Gray Education Society (BGES)** to plan and conduct a campaign preservation/education conference for Price's 1864 Missouri Raid. The primary purpose of the conference was to bring together interested parties to analyze and discuss the state of preservation and interpretation of the sites.

The **American Battlefield Protection Program, APCWS, and The Department of History, University of Missouri at Kansas City** were cosponsors.

**BGES** designed the conference to address a concern of the Congressionally chartered **Civil War Sites Advisory Commission (CWSAC)**. The **CWSAC** noted that *Price's Missouri Expedition* was one of the major campaigns not presented in the National Park System (**CWSAC** Report, dated July 10, 1993, table 4 page 32).

Pre-conference research revealed extensive local efforts to preserve and interpret portions of the campaign; however, there was no overall effort to link the sites in any type of a thematic scheme. Consequently, the conference was organized with these objectives:

- Exchanging information on the status of past, ongoing, and projected preservation efforts,
- Identifying the sites required/desired to start a Price's Raid Trail,
- Determining what vehicles exist to assure the historic integrity of the site is preserved while overcoming obstacles to the development of a national historic heritage trail,
- Determining possible resources for the development of an educational heritage trail and,
- Identifying key players and agencies for the development of an educational heritage trail.

The conference was structured to provide a common base of information, followed by directed discussion leading to a compendium of challenges as determined by the conferees. These challenges were then synthesized into **Issues, Discussion, and Recommendations**. The agenda is in attachment 2.

Seventy people/agencies were invited, the attendance list is in attachment 1.

**Academic Freedom.** The conference could not have been successful without the synergy which comes from unrestricted discussion. *Participants were guaranteed non-attribution in exchange for complete candor.* There are no quoted comments nor notes of what any individual said. Report readers are asked to respect the rules of the conference and focus on the issues and recommendations which BGES developed from the discussions and through personal observation.

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## Issues, Discussion, Recommendations

### **Issue #1. The length of Price's Raid makes a cogent interpretive trail difficult.**

Price's Raid may be the longest campaign trail of the Civil War, measuring 1,488 miles from its start in Arkansas to its finish in Texas. There are sites in Arkansas, Missouri, Kansas, Oklahoma, and Texas. The raid started August 4, 1864 and concluded on December 2, 1864.

While serious students of the Raid claim a total of 43 engagements, most were of low intensity and would be of little interest to heritage tourists. This is not to suggest the Raid is insignificant; in fact the raid is a splendid classroom for understanding a multitude of frontier themes such as:

- ♦ The "Border War,"
- ♦ Guerrilla Warfare,
- ♦ Slavery on the Frontier,
- ♦ 19th Century American Politics,
- ♦ Missouri and Kansas politics,
- ♦ Trans-Mississippi operations and,
- ♦ Army organization.

The trail really reflects three distinct phases of operations and may best be divided into segments which would constitute individual