



Wilson's Creek National
Battlefield Foundation
1351 N. Belcrest
PO Box 8163
Springfield, MO 65801-8163

NEWS RELEASE—FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Contact: April McDonough, Executive Director
Wilson's Creek National Battlefield Foundation
Office (417) 864-3041, Cell (417) 849-4057

Battle of Springfield Marker#1 Relocated

On Thursday, January 8, 2009, at 1:30 p.m., a ceremony to commemorate the Battle of Springfield will be held on the Springfield square. Marker #1 for the self-guided Battle of Springfield Tour has recently been relocated to the city square, where Union Brigadier General Egbert B. Brown organized defenses to protect the square from approaching southern troops on January 8, 1863.

Speakers at the ceremony to commemorate the battle and highlight the new location of Marker #1 include Kenneth McClure, President of the Wilson's Creek National Battlefield Foundation, and Frederick Goman, author of *Up From Arkansas*, which tells the story of the battle.

The Battle of Springfield Historic Marker Tour, dedicated on May 19, 2001, was a cooperative effort of the Wilson's Creek National Battlefield Foundation and the City of Springfield. Design and construction of the twelve markers describing events during the Battle of Springfield on January 8, 1863, were funded by the Foundation. Illustrations of battle events are from paintings by Col. Darrell L. Combs, USMC Retired, and layout and design of the markers was provided by Foundation board member Steve Ross of S-R Graphics. City officials agreed to install the markers at suitable locations in the downtown area and maintain them in perpetuity. Marker #1 was originally placed at the corner of Jefferson and Water Streets, near the present location of Founder's Park. This marker has now been moved to a more appropriate site on the southwest corner of the square.

Battle Summary: Brig. Gen. John S. Marmaduke's expedition into Missouri reached Ozark, where it destroyed the Union post, and then approached Springfield on the morning of January 8, 1863. Springfield was an important Federal communications center and supply depot so the Rebels wished to destroy it. The Union army had constructed fortifications to defend the town. Their ranks, however, were depleted because Francis J. Herron's two divisions had not yet returned from their victory at Prairie Grove on December 7. After receiving a report on January 7 of the Rebels' approach, Brig. Gen. Egbert B. Brown set about preparing for the attack and rounding up additional troops. Around 10:00 am, the Confederates advanced in battle line to the attack. The day included desperate fighting with attacks and counterattacks until after dark, but the Federal troops held and the Rebels withdrew during the night. Brown had been wounded during the day. The Confederates appeared in force the next morning but retired without attacking. The Federal depot was successfully defended, and Union strength in the area continued. Estimated battle casualties totaled 403. *See attached pdf file for additional background and descriptions of the markers.*

Please distribute this news release to all media outlets and post on calendar listings for local events.

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