

## CIVIL WAR SITES OF INDEPENDENCE

Welcome to the latest addition to the City of Independence Walking Trail Series. The Civil War Walking/Driving Trail guides adventurers into the footsteps of those who fought to defend their state and the ideologies by which they lived. Literally a battle of brother against brother, many of Missouri's citizens stood eye to eye against their family and neighbors when positioned on the battlefield lines. The sites listed here, located within the boundaries of modern-day Jackson County as well as the City of Independence, Missouri will take you through two of those battles. Begin on the Independence Square and walk step by step through the Battle of Independence in 1862. Start your tour in eastern Jackson County and you begin with the Battle of the Little Blue in 1864.

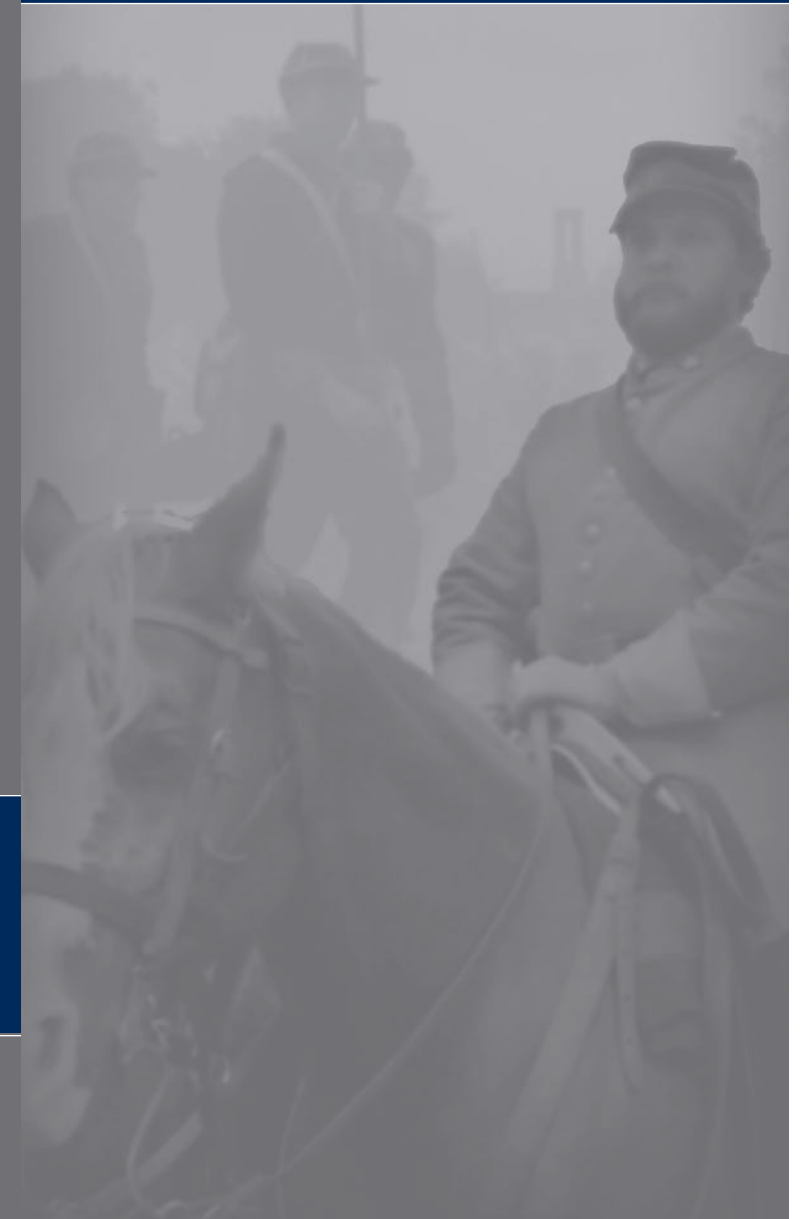
Only a portion of the sites were chosen for the tour due to space constraints for this brochure. For additional information about Civil War sites and additional tourism information contact the Independence Tourism Department at [www.visitindependence.com](http://www.visitindependence.com) or 800-748-7323.

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It is often said that the American Civil War began with the Border Wars between Missouri and Kansas. In fact, skirmishes between pro-slavery and anti-slavery factions took place as early as the 1850s. These polarizing ideologies could not have been more scrutinized than in the Midwest where the entry of new states into the Union became a nationwide debate and drove tensions high. This national division led to battles between Union and Confederate troops, evidence of which can still be seen throughout every corner of Missouri. Included in that are two major battles that took place within the City of Independence and Jackson County, Missouri.

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800-748-7323 • [www.visitindependence.com](http://www.visitindependence.com)

# CIVIL WAR sites of INDEPENDENCE



### FIRST BATTLE OF INDEPENDENCE

**August 11, 1862**  
As part of the Boston Mountain Incurison of 1862, the First Battle of Independence was one of the earliest urban battles of the Civil War and marked the first time that William Clarke Quantrell and his band of guerrillas cooperated with organized units of the Confederate Army. Since June, Colonel John T. Hughes and Colonel Upton Hays had been in the Jackson County area on a recruiting mission for the Confederate Army. Gathering their 400 men on the Cowherd farm they planned the attack on Union Lt. Colonel James T. Buel's 500 men stationed in Independence.

### STOP 1 1859 JAIL & MARSHAL'S HOME

Looking much like it did the morning of the battle, this building served as headquarters for the Union Provost Guard under the command of Lt. Charles Menhew. As the rest of the Confederate command continued on to the Union Headquarters George Todd and Headquaters George Todd and his men stopped at the jail to their advance on Buel's Courtthouse Square, began firing their horses around the second story, Rodewald led his men into the street where they fired into the rebels incarcerated in his own jail on a murder charge. Todd promptly killed Knowles as revenge for Rodewald held this intersection for two hours repulsing three attacks. Buel ordered him into the headquarters building across Koger and John Little.

### STOP 2 HEADQUARTERS GUARD BUILDING

Under the command of Captain W.H. Rodewald this is the site of the headquarters guard.

### STOP 3 COMPANY HEADQUARTERS The McCoy Bank Building

At approximately 6:30 am when all of the Federals were inside the building Quantrell completed his encirclement.



William Clarke Quantrell

Firing was deadly to anyone showing himself to the enemy. At 7:30 am Buel ordered that the headquarters flag be raised to signal the camp. Discovering the flag was left in the guard room, 16 year old bugler William Buefo volunteered to retrieve it and in a barrage of bullets he made a barefoot dash across the street returning with the flag. The fight continued for another hour and a half until Federals out. Settling fire to an adjacent wooden structure Quantrell waited. With his position untenable at 9 am Buel surrendered and sent a messenger to the camp with orders to surrender.

1859 Jail & Marshal's Home



### FIRST BATTLE OF INDEPENDENCE SITES



**STOP 4  
THE UNION ENCAMPMENT**  
The Union camp—under the command of Captains Jacob Axline and Aaron Thomas—consisted of two companies of the 7th Missouri Cavalry and three companies of the 2nd Battalion Missouri Provisional Militia. It was located where the Confederates approached the Shrine building sets today. The Confederates approached the camp from two directions, Colonel Hughes on Walnut Street and Colonel Thompson on Lexington Street. Taking positions at a board fence behind the houses on Pleasant Street, the Confederates fired a volley into the sleeping Federals. Pandemonium erupted. Captain Axline yelled "Boys get your guns and rally behind the rock fence."

### STOP 5 UNION RALLYING POINT

Stretching for a mile the rock wall was located down the center of Walnut Street. At the Mormon Visitors Center a gully behind the wall became the Union rallying point. The Confederates charged from the west. Colonel Hughes was killed. Colonel Thompson took command ordering another charge. He fell wounded. Now in command, Colonel Hays ordered five charges against the wall. The Federal position held. Axline, forming his troops to go to the relief of Buel received the surrender order. The First Battle of Independence ended.



**AFTERMATH**  
Union died; 150 surrendered; 26 dead; 74 wounded; 11 later Confederate 23 dead, which included 3 Colonels, 2 Majors, 3 Captains, 2 Lieutenants; 9 mortally wounded; 20 wagonloads of much needed supplies were captured. Colonel's Hughes, Chiles and Boyd were all buried at Woodlawn Cemetery, Hughes and Boyd next to each other.

**BATTLE OF THE LITTLE BLUE - 2nd Battle of Independence**  
**"They fought us on the blue grass ridges."**

On October 21-22, 1864, some 15,000 Union and Confederate forces fought along the banks of the Little Blue River in eastern Independence. It is estimated there were about 500 Union casualties and 500 Confederate casualties on this "hallowed ground." It was hoped by the Confederacy that this push by General Price into Missouri would take pressure off the Eastern Front. However, by virtue of its failure, Price's raid assisted in bringing closure to the Civil War by 1865. This two-day battle slowed the advances of the Confederates and served as a prelude to the Second Battle of Independence, Byram's Ford (Big Blue) and the Battle of Westport (the largest Civil War battle west of the Mississippi River). Let us not forget, "we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain."



Little Blue Bridge Site



24 Highway & Blue Mills Road

**1. COVERED BRIDGE**  
**Start of the Battle, Lexington Road at the Little Blue River**

An old covered bridge once spanned the Little Blue River here on the Lexington Road. The morning of October 21, 1864, The Battle of the Little Blue began at this point. In this river and along its banks, men fought and men died. Confederate Generals Shelby, Marmaduke and Fagan initiated the battle from the east side of the river. Union pickets and artillery were positioned in the field and on a rocky ledge to the west. Here, "The hapless Captain Palmer" was sewing a rip in his only pair of pants when the battle began and he had to fight in his drawers.

**2. FORT OSAGE HIGH SCHOOL PARKING LOT**  
**24 Highway & 7 Highway**

From this ridge in the morning darkness of October 21, 1864, Confederate forces could see the flickering of camp fires in Union positions in the valley below. Soon, the calm stillness of the morning would end in a violent, chaotic battle. Evidenced from this view, indeed, "They fought us on the blue grass ridges." Looking west, the covered bridge on the Lexington Road was to the left; Jackman's artillery charge and the Lawson Moore Home, to the right. Straight ahead was Shelby's second charge, Jennison's battle line, the Salem Church and cemetery.

**3. JACKMAN'S ARTILLERY CHARGE**  
**Blue Mills Road, west of the Little Blue River**

After an argument with Jackman, Shelby sent him on a looping movement to investigate the Confederate's far right flank along Blue Mills Road. Jackman felt he was being punished for disagreeing with Shelby and sent on a wild goose chase. Within earshot of the fighting, Jackman stopped his column and took a break. Later, Jackman remounted and continued west on Blue Mills Road. As he rounded the curve, his troops were unexpectedly fired upon by Federal artillery and infantry from a rocky ledge. Jackman was so sure Shelby sent him on a worthless mission, which he had, he did not bother to send scouts ahead.

**4. LAWSON MOORE HOME**  
**Private Residence at 20309 E. Blue Mills Road**

This antebellum home was vacated due to Order Number 11 in 1863. During the war the house was used as a field hospital and an upper room became the operating room. It also served as cover during the fighting and was damaged by minnie balls, cannon balls and an attempt to burn it to the ground. An account of the battle reports that soldiers used the stone fence by the road for breastworks. It still stands under a few feet of earth. Several officers are believed to be buried near the dairy barn and enlisted men in an area of the front yard.

**5. SHELBY'S SECOND CHARGE / JENNISON'S BATTLE LINE**  
**24 Highway & Blue Mills Road**

Behind and north of New Salem Baptist Church and cemetery, Shelby and Jackman charged Ford and Jennison in the final engagement of the battle. Reports state over 6,000 Union forces were in place in a line that stretched over a mile in length along this road. To the south, Marmaduke's Division moved against Blunt and Moonlight. Charge and counter-charge took place with hand-to-hand fighting. The

Federals were forced to fall back and did so in an orderly fashion. Between the Little Blue and the Independence Square, Confederates and Federals were "stubbornly contesting every inch of ground."

**6. CABELL'S DEFENSIVE LINE**  
**Truman Road & Main Street, northwest corner**

After heavy fighting at the Little Blue, Price's Confederate army forced Blunt's cavalry to retreat to the Big Blue River, leaving a rear guard in Independence. Shelby's Confederates reached town late in the afternoon on October 21, 1864. After a brisk fight here, Union troops were driven to the west end of town. Some of Price's army and wagon train then camped at this location. The next day, Pleasonton's Union cavalry, pursuing Price from the east, made a mounted charge through Independence, driving Price and Fagan's Confederate Division further west.

**7. BINGHAM-WAGGONER ESTATE**  
**313 W. Pacific**

Mrs. Robert Hill observed the battle from an upper porch and wrote her observations: "From the balcony, which is very high, we had a clear view of the

battle for more than a mile. We saw the Federals capture a battery in Noah Miller's field. It was magnificently defended and no less bravely attacked. We could see the far-off flash of red fire coming out of the guns and pistols and men fell by the dozens. It was one of the most sublimely thrilling sights that no one could imagine...What the issue of this tremendous battle will be, God alone knows."

**8. CONFEDERATE LINE AT INDEPENDENCE**  
**River Blvd. & Walnut Street, southeast corner**

Near this spot, Fagan's Division of Price's Confederate Army was defending against the advance of Union General Pleasonton. Two of Fagan's Brigades were driven from the Battle of the Little Blue to the edge of town. The Union attack was made from the northeast with Phillips' Brigade and the 2nd Arkansas, both on foot. McNeil's mounted Brigade then charged through town. Cabell's Brigade came to stop the Union advances but was driven back and many of his men surrounded. Here, two of his large guns were captured with Cabell himself barely escaping.

**9. UNFINISHED RAILROAD CUT**  
**Lexington & Crysler, south of bridge/west side**

During the Battle of Independence this area was an unfinished railroad cut. As darkness approached the evening of October 21, 1864, the Confederate advance from the east stopped here for the night while Union troops withdrew to the Big Blue River. The Confederate divisions consisting of Marmaduke, Shelby and much of Price's wagon train advanced to Rock Creek and camped there. The next morning Pleasonton's Union cavalry pursued the Confederates through town and were confronted by Marmaduke's division. Fierce hand-to-hand fighting continued as the Confederates withdrew to Byram's Ford.

**10. PRICE'S CAMP AT ROCK CREEK**  
**Rotary Park, Westport Road & 24th Street**

Fighting around the Independence Square continued until evening. The Federals then fell back to the Big Blue River in Kansas City as Price and his Confederate Army of 10 to 15 thousand men entered Independence. At Rock Creek, in the vicinity of Rotary Park, Price stopped and made camp for the night before taking up his march to meet the enemy the next day, first at Byram's Ford at the Big Blue River and then the Battle of Westport. After Westport, Price fell back in full retreat to Mine Creek on October 25th and Newtonia on October 27th.



Bingham-Waggoner Estate



**TIMELINE**

<b>May 30, 1854</b> Kansas-Nebraska Act	<b>May 24 -25, 1856</b> John Brown's Pottawatomie Massacre	<b>January 29, 1861</b> Kansas enters as a free state in the Union (34th).	<b>July 21, 1861</b> First Battle of Manassas (aka Bull Run), Manassas, Virginia. Confederate victory.	<b>November 7, 1861</b> Brigadier General Ulysses S. Grant's first maneuver in Belmont, Missouri. Union victory.	<b>August 11, 1862</b> First Battle of Independence, Independence, Missouri. Confederate victory.	<b>January 13, 1863</b> The First Kansas Colored Infantry is mustered into Union service.	<b>August 25, 1863</b> Brigadier General Thomas Ewing's Order Number 11 issued.	<b>September 27, 1864</b> Battle of Pilot Knob (aka Fort Davidson). Union victory.	<b>April 9, 1865</b> Lee surrenders to Grant in Appomattox Courthouse, Virginia.
<b>August 1, 1854</b> Lawrence, Kansas founded by the anti-slavery Massachusetts Emigrant Aid Society.	<b>October 16, 1859</b> John Brown's Raid at Harper's Ferry, Virginia	<b>April 12-13, 1861</b> Conflict at Fort Sumter, Charleston, South Carolina. The American Civil War officially begins.	<b>Sept. 13-20, 1861</b> Battle of Lexington, Missouri. Confederate victory.	<b>November 28, 1861</b> Confederate Congress recognizes the State of Missouri as the 12th State of the Confederacy.	<b>September 22, 1862</b> The Emancipation Proclamation is issued by President Abraham Lincoln	<b>August 21, 1863</b> Quantrill's Lawrence Raid	<b>November 19, 1863</b> Gettysburg Address is given by President Abraham Lincoln.	<b>October 21, 1864</b> Battle of the Little Blue, Independence, Missouri. Confederate victory.	<b>June 2, 1865</b> Smith surrenders the Confederate Department of the Trans Mississippi to Canby.