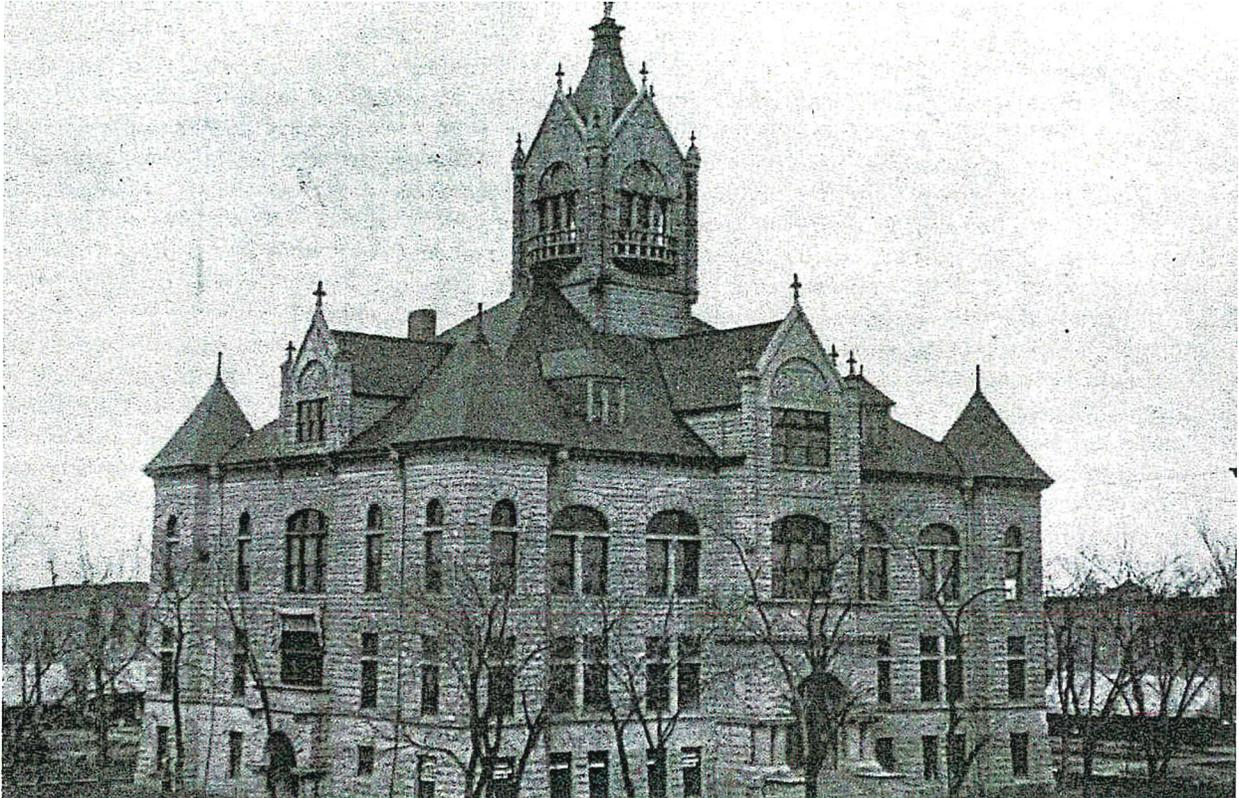


ADAIR COUNTY



AUGUST 2025 NEWSLETTER

PICTURED IS THE COURTHOUSE AS SEEN FROM THE SW CORNER.

ANNIVERSARIES.

DEREK HEAD	1 YEAR	JAKE VICE	1 YEAR
ANDREW MITCHELL	2 YEARS	LISA OPAL	7 YEARS
DIANA THOMAS	11 YEARS	DAVID GORING	14 YEARS
BETTY SHAHAN	14 YEARS	SONJA HARDEN	16 YEARS
SCOTT VANWYE	23 YEARS		

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS.

KIM KRIEGEL	8/03	GARY HUNTER	8/04
JAYDEN TIBERI-OROZCO	8/11		
HOPE HINKLE	8/12	WANDA SIZEMORE	8/13
ROBERT MCCARTY	8/19	KHADIJAH BARNES	8/21
KENT BRYANT	8/25	JOE NICOL	8/30
MARY WALITSHEK	8/30		

WELCOME NEW EMPLOYEES!

CORRECTIONS OFFICERS:

JESSE SHOEMAKER JUSTIN PETERSON

ROAD AND BRIDGE:

ROGER SPEAK

PUBLIC ADMINISTRATORS' OFFICE:

ALLISON HARDEN SHERRY SIZEMORE

GARY HUNTER IS RETIRING FROM ROAD AND BRIDGE.

ENJOY YOUR RETIREMENT GARY.

AUGUST DATES TO REMEMBER:

AUGUST 1-3, TAX FREE Back to school supplies.

AUGUST 11, Classes begin Kirksville High School

AUGUST 13, Truman's Freshman students move in.

AUGUST 18, Classes begin for Truman and the Middle School.



KIRKSVILLE arts Association 2023

SUMMER ON THE SQUARE

EVERY FRIDAY JUNE - AUGUST | 7:00 PM
DOWNTOWN KIRKSVILLE | FREE TO PUBLIC
LOCATION: COURTHOUSE SQUARE, DOWNTOWN KIRKSVILLE
106 W. WASHINGTON
RAIN VENUE: CLUB ONE, 301 W. MCPHERSON

June 6: Deadwood
(Blues/Rock) Sponsor: Deadwood

June 13: Renewed
(Southern Gospel)

June 20: Keota
(Bluegrass/Country/Rock) Sponsor: DuKum Inn

June 27: No Apology
(Country/Classic Rock)

July 4: Aaron Russell Band
(Country/Rock/Gospel) Sponsor: Lovegreen, Chariton Valley Associates/Human Services, City of Kirksville Tourism

July 11: Kirksville Community Band
Sponsor: City of Kirksville Tourism

July 25: Jimmy Campbell & Friends
(Bluegrass) Sponsor: Ameren

August 1: Fully Loaded
(Rock/Country/Classic)

August 8: Carolyn Vincent & Bluegrass Friends
(Bluegrass/Country/Gospel)

August 15: Mercy's Bridge
(Southern Gospel)

August 22: Little Known Fact
(Country/Pop Originals)

August 29: Truman Steel
Sponsor: City of Kirksville Tourism

KIRKSVILLE city of TOURISM

LOVEGREEN WWW.LOVEGREEN.COM

Missouri Arts Council The State of Missouri

CVA

CENTER FOR HUMAN SERVICES Life Beyond Limitations

Ameren

DuKum Inn Park & Grille

THE FOLLOWING ARTICLE IS REPRINTED FROM

“THE CHARITON COLLECTOR” FROM 1982.

The Battle of Kirksville

By Jennifer Noyes

On a hot August day in 1862, a group of 500 Confederate sympathizers galloped into the streets of Kirksville, Mo., a village of about 700. At the head of the band was an Adair County farmer, Captain Tice Cain, a successful Confederate recruiter in northeast Missouri. The occupation of Kirksville was an easy task for the Confederates because the detachment of Union soldiers in Kirksville had been called to Macon. Upon arriving and taking over the town, Cain sent word to Colonel Joseph Porter, a Confederate recruiter in Missouri, that he was occupying Kirksville and that he should join him there.

The Civil War in Missouri was a turbulent time. Because it was a border state, Missouri was torn between the Loyalty and the Rebellion. As a result, Missourians saw a lot of action and recruiting campaigns were strong in the state with numerous clashes between the rival bands.

Adair County was no exception. Although Union sympathy was strong, there were also Confederate sympathizers in the county. It was almost completely surrounded by Confederate counties, the only exception being Putnam County.

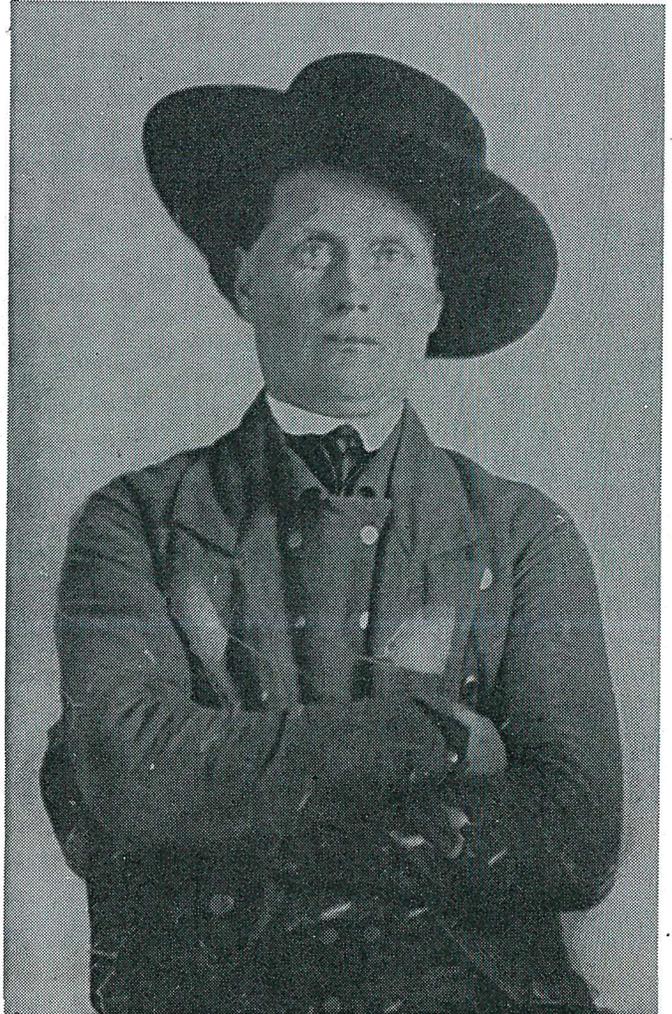
Both groups held mass demonstrations in Kirksville which included speeches. In May and June of 1861, E. M. C. Morelock, the editor of the Kirksville Weekly Democrat, was one of the organizers of the Confederate companies in Adair County. When a section of the Third Iowa Regiment entered Kirksville, Morelock left town and the regiment took over the paper. August 23, 1861, the Iowa soldiers put out a special edition in which they dared Morelock to return and continue publishing the Democrat. Morelock did not return and Kirksville was left without a paper until 1864.

There were several home guards organized in the summer of 1861. The Adair County Home Guard Company Infantry was organized in August to guard the fords of the Chariton River and it saw duty at Hartford, Putnam County. This unit was disbanded in October 1861. The Adair County Home Guard Company Mounted Infantry was formed in May 1861. This company saw duty in Adair, Shelby, Monroe, Mercer,

Marion, Linn, Livingstone, Caldwell, Clinton and Clay Counties. In August 1861 they joined the Third Iowa Infantry in pursuit of Colonel Green, a Confederate recruiting officer. August 19, 1861, a squad of men from the Home Guard Company under Corporal Hervey Dix stopped at a farm 10 miles northeast of Kirksville. There they were attacked by a company of Confederate scouts under Captain Bob Hagar. The first blood was shed in Adair County when Hagar shot and killed Corporal Dix.

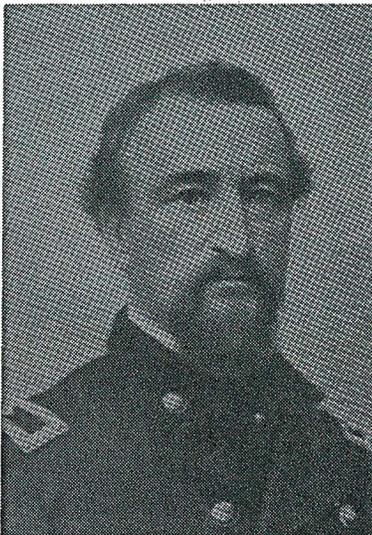
The Battle of Pea Ridge, Ark., March 6-8, 1862, marked a turning point in Missouri history. Confederate General Sterling Price's defeat at Pea Ridge ended the possibility of Missouri joining the Confederacy by military force. Therefore, guerilla bands were organized in Missouri to recruit and hinder federal forces wherever possible.

One of the most successful recruiters in northeast Missouri was Colonel Joseph Porter, who had been with Price at Pea



Tice Cain

Captain Mathias (Tice) Cain was an interesting and mysterious character. According to Mrs. Kenneth Swann, a descendant of Cain, he disappeared during the Battle of Kirksville and his family never heard from him again.



John McNeil
Colonel John McNeil of St. Louis was in charge of one of the five major Union divisions of Missouri, and his unit had been chasing Joseph Porter for months. They met at Kirksville Aug. 6, 1862, and McNeil's force routed the Confederates in less than three hours.

Ridge. He and his company were involved in skirmishes in several places in northeast Missouri. After receiving the message from Captain Cain, Porter made his way toward Kirksville. He had been pursued since July by a Union force under Colonel John McNeil and the chase continued to Kirksville.

Porter's decision to meet McNeil at Kirksville could have been a crucial mistake. According to Joseph A. Mudd's book, "With Porter in North Missouri," Comrade J. T. Wallace of Oakland, Calif., said about Porter's decision to take a stand at Kirksville, "I think it was unfortunate that he chose to fight in a town where, on the high open ground, the enemy with their artillery and their long range guns had all the advantage. If he had gone on to the breaks of the Chariton we, with our inferior arms, would have had nearly an equal chance."

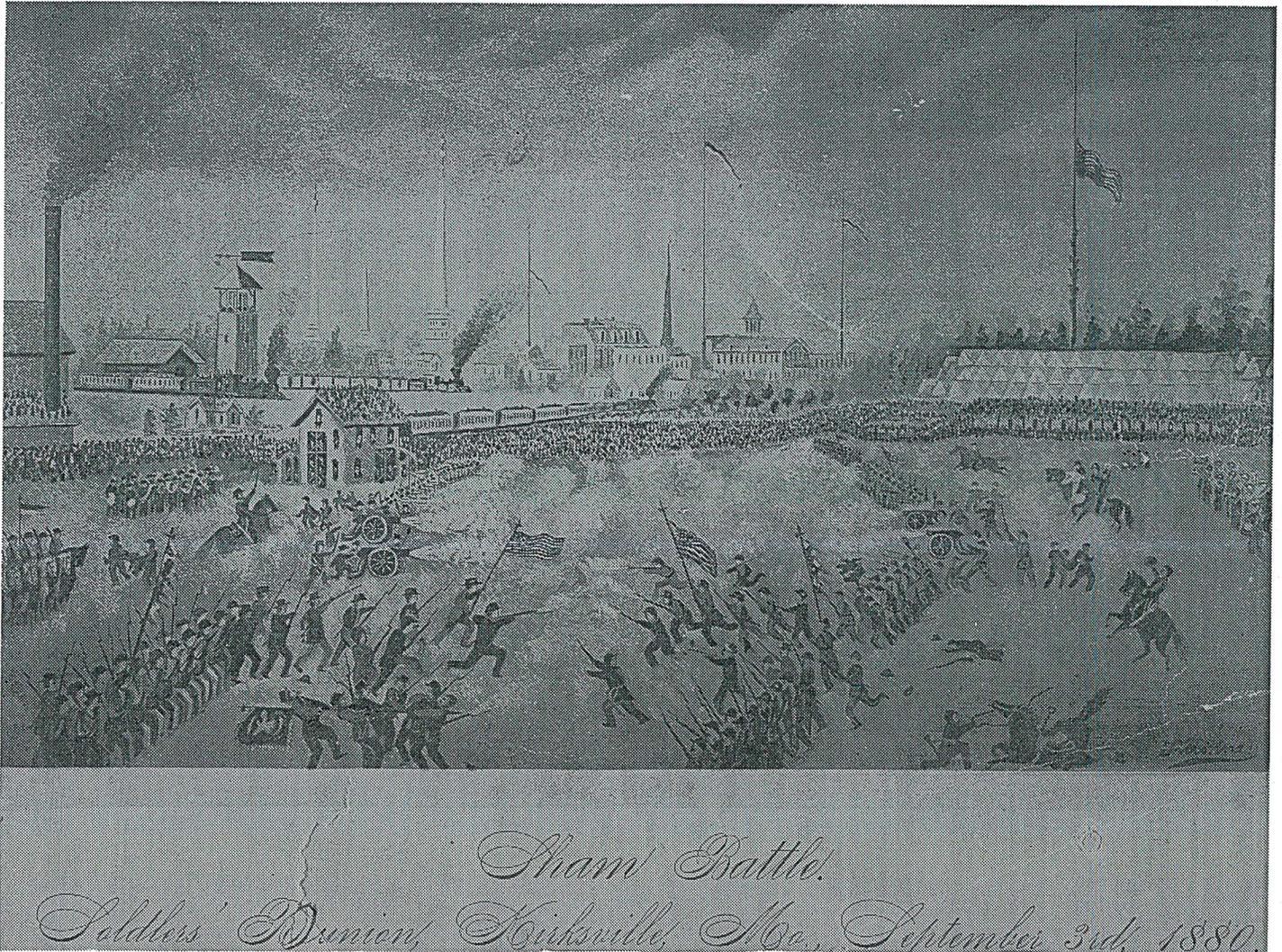
Upon arriving in Kirksville around 8 o'clock on the morning of August 6, 1862, Porter deployed some men from his combined force of 2,200 to positions in the courthouse. Anticipating an attack from the north and east, Porter ordered men to take up positions behind houses in the northeast side of town, and along a rail fence that ran west of the square. Most of the 2,200 men were inexperienced and without arms so they were sent to the woods west of town.

McNeil's force of 1,000 men and five cannons approached Kirksville from the northeast about 10 o'clock the same morning. Of the 1,000 men only 500 would actually fight in the battle. They set up headquarters in the Cumberland Academy building located where Memorial Park now stands. McNeil's men were drawn up in a line from their headquarters to the present site of Washington School.

When the Union preparations were completed around 11 o'clock, the next problem was to discover where the enemy was hiding. Nine men volunteered to ride into town and circle the square to find the position of the Confederates. They drew fire from the northeast part of the square. Therefore the federals then knew where to aim their cannons.

The federals advanced fighting from house to house. They closed in around the town forcing the Confederates to flee toward the Chariton River. Porter and perhaps 20 men escaped by heading toward the river. Within three hours the Confederates were routed.

The Confederate losses were much greater than the Federals'. One hundred fifty Confederate men were killed and 300 to 400 wounded. Only six Federal soldiers were killed and 32 wounded. The Union wounded were taken to hospitals that were set up in the Cumberland Academy building and in a home just outside of town called the



SHAM BATTLE

Kirksville artist John W. Tinsman made this lithograph of an 1880 Sham Battle commemorating the Battle of

Kirksville that took place August 6, 1862. (Lithograph courtesy of Mabel Willbanks)

Parcell's Place. The Confederate wounded were placed in a hospital set up in the Ivie Hotel, which stood where the J. C. Penney store stands, and in a church south of the square.

After the battle McNeil and his men began interrogating the prisoners. Fifteen of the 47 captives had been paroled. This meant they had already been prisoners once and had taken an oath not to fight against the Union again. Since they had violated their oath, they were sentenced to be shot. The sentence was carried out by a firing squad at the future site of the Wabash Railway Station.

After the war a monument was erected by the GAR to mark the grave in Forest-Llewellyn Cemetery of 26 Confederates killed in the Battle of Kirksville and buried in a mass grave. Memorial Park in part also commemorates the battle.

Although the Battle of Kirksville was not a major battle (in fact it was only a skirmish), it was significant in two ways.

First, it showed the splitting of families that was found in Missouri during this time. Mrs. Mabel Willbanks said in reference to her grandfather, "He (Enoch Rinehart) was in the Battle of Kirksville and fought on the northern side and his two brothers fought on the other side." There was also a man by the name of Lycurgus Bozarth from Adair County who was killed in the Battle of Kirksville. He had fought on the southern side while his family were Union sympathizers.

Second, the Battle of Kirksville marked the end of Confederate recruiting efforts in Northeast Missouri.

The skirmishes connected with the pursuit and overthrow of Colonel Porter were the most important of the encounters between the state militia and the Confederate guerillas.

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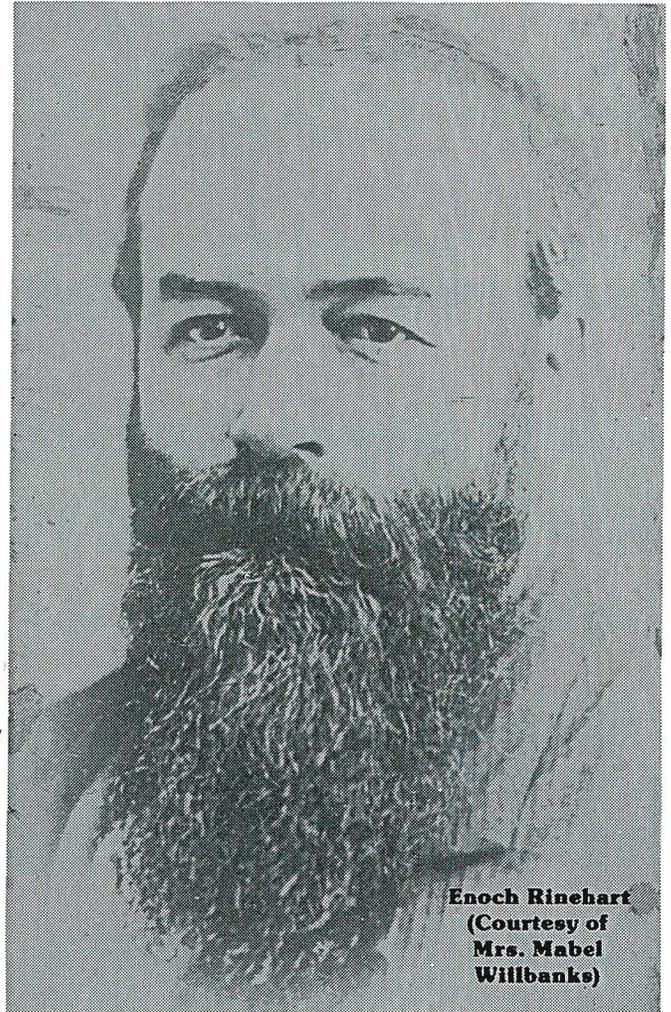
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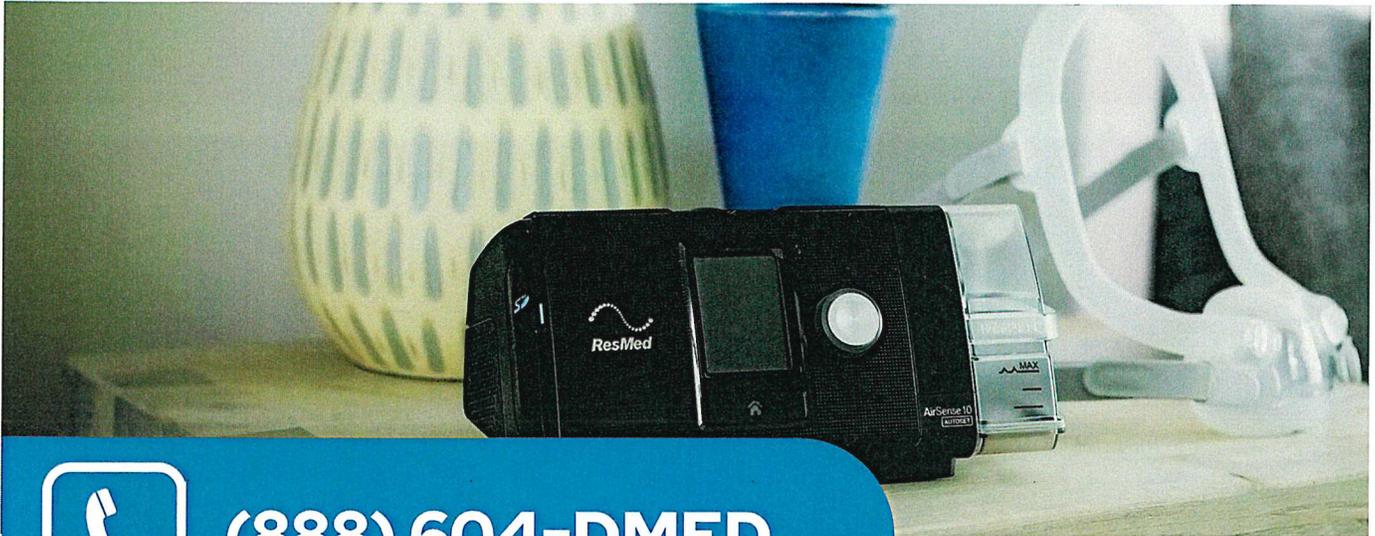
Interviews with Mrs. Mabel Willbanks and Mrs. Kenneth Swann



Enoch Rinehart
(Courtesy of
Mrs. Mabel
Willbanks)



This monument was erected in Forest-Llewellyn Cemetery to mark the mass grave of 26 Confederate soldiers killed in the Battle of Kirksville in 1862. The left photo shows the monument as it appears now, with the stone ball on top missing, while the above photo was taken in the 1950s as part of a project for Mrs. Jean Hanks' English class.



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