



# 12th USCHA Visit Arlington Cemetery for 145th Anniversary

*Also on hand for Lincoln Memorial Rededication.*

**T**he members of the Reactivated 12th United States Colored Heavy Artillery received a special invitation to the Washington D.C. area to participate in the 145th Anniversary of Arlington National Cemetery and the Rededication of the Lincoln Memorial which were held in May.

The 12th USCHA, which call Camp Nelson their home base, were invited to participate by Lincoln-Cushing Camp 2, Department of Maryland, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War. The 12th USCHA was hosted by Stribling's Battery from Virginia.

At the National Mall, the 12th USCHA participated in the Lincoln Memorial Rededication, which was part of the Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Celebration.

In addition, the 12th USCHA participated in a ceremony to honor Sgt. Major Milton Hollan, Company C, 5th United States Colored Infantry. Sgt. Major Holland received the Medal of Honor for his actions on September 29, 1864 during the assault of Chaffin's Farm in Virginia. During a time when all white officers of the 5th were killed or wounded, Sgt. Major Holland took command of his company and successfully repulsed the enemy and captured the breastworks from the Confederates.

The Arlington property was originally the ancestral home of Robert E. Lee, but became a military cemetery in 1864 when the U.S. Government appropriated the 200 acre farm to bury Union dead. In 1877 the Lee family won a Supreme Court Decision to reclaim ownership of the property, then resold the property back to the government for \$150,000.



You are invited to  
Camp Nelson

## Civil War Days

Saturday, Sept. 12 &  
Sunday, Sept. 13

Read more about the  
Civil War Days Event on  
Page 3.



*Members of the 12th USCHA fired the Napoleon near the Tomb of the Unknowns at the 145th Anniversary of Arlington National Cemetery.*

# Annual Meeting Notes

*Oney steps into Foundation leadership post.*

**H**arold Oney was installed as Board Chair at the annual meeting of the Camp Nelson Restoration & Preservation Foundation in March. Oney, a Jessamine County resident, is Commander of the 7th Kentucky Infantry Reenactors.

Other officers selected by the nominating committee are James Hunn, 1st Vice-Chair; Gary Denton, 2nd Vice-Chair; Ruby Mason, Secretary; and Jeff McDanald, Treasurer.

Current board members are Margaret Morgan, George Dean, outgoing board chair Michael Crutcher, Bob Bell, Wayne Hayden, Tracy Lucas, Mike Eaton and Burt Ladd.

Annual meeting attendees heard a presentation from playwrights Georgie Riddell and Donna Phillips about the Camp Nelson historical drama *"Blow Ye the Trumpets, Blow!"* The play, which is subtitled *"The African American Refugees Struggle for Freedom at Camp Nelson During the Civil War,"* will have its first performances in Spring 2010.

The dramatic production is made possible through a grant from the KY Arts Council in partnership with the Bluegrass Arts Assoc., Jessamine County Fiscal Court, and the Camp Nelson Foundation. For more information contact Mary Kozak at (859) 492-3115.



*Playwrights Georgie Riddell (left) and Donna Phillips shared laughs and tears as they explained their inspirations for "Blow Ye the Trumpets, Blow!" at the Camp Nelson Annual Meeting.*

## Visiting Camp Nelson

Camp Nelson Heritage Park is located along US 27 about 20 miles south of Lexington (6 miles south of Nicholasville.) The Park entrance is on KY 3026, which runs parallel to US 27, one mile north of the Camp Nelson National Cemetery.

**White House Tours:** Tuesday - Saturday, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.  
Call Alice at 859-881-5716

**The Heritage Park** is open for guided tours Tuesday through Saturday from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. The **Interpretive Trails** are open daily from dawn to dusk.

## The Camp Nelson Story (Capsule Version)

Camp Nelson was established along the Kentucky River in 1863 by the Union Army; serving first as a 4000 acre supply and training camp for the Army of the Ohio and District of Kentucky. In May of 1864 Camp Nelson became a recruitment point for black soldiers and later a refugee camp for other freed slaves and their families. Today the story continues to be told at the Camp Nelson Civil War Heritage Park.

## Foundation Meetings

The Camp Nelson Restoration and Preservation Foundation meets the first Monday of every month in the Interpretive Center at the Camp Nelson Heritage Park at 7:00 p.m. The public is welcome to attend the meetings and provide their input.

## More Information

For vendor, reenactor, and tourism information contact Mary Kozak at 859-881-9126.

## Send newsletter comments or submissions to:

Jeff McDanald  
Camp Nelson Dispatch Editor  
P.O. Box 1170  
Nicholasville, KY 40356  
Email: info@campnelson.org

## Website:

www.campnelson.org



Camp Nelson Heritage Park is proud to be designated a Kentucky Lincoln National Bicentennial Site & part of the Kentucky Lincoln Heritage Trail.

Camp Nelson Civil War Heritage Park is grateful for the support of the National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom Program.





# CAMP NELSON CIVIL WAR DAYS

Saturday, September 12 &  
Sunday, September 13, 2009  
at Camp Nelson Heritage Park



Six miles south of Nicholasville, Kentucky on US-27. Gates open 9:00 a.m.  
\$3.00 per carload. Reenactment of Skirmish at 2:00 p.m. both days.

Everyone is welcome to experience military & civilian life during the Civil War on one of the best-preserved Union Army Supply Depot and Recruitment sites in the nation.



Drills/Demonstrations from Infantry & Cavalry, Lectures, Period Music, Museum, Barracks Replica, Artisans, Guided River Excursions, Tours of Original Officers' Quarters Building, Fortifications, and Trails to Explore.

For more information: (859) 492-3115 or (859) 881-5716  
[www.campnelson.org](http://www.campnelson.org)



*A black clad Mary Todd Lincoln (a.k.a. Camp Nelson Tour Guide Susan Miller) grieved during the Lincoln Funeral Memorial Event on April 19, 2009. The ceremony was modeled after the actual 1865 memorial service held at Camp Nelson and included a 21-gun salute.*

## *Camp Nelson 2010 Event Plans Underway*

*Presence of cavalry will tie in with World Equestrian Games*



*The cavalry sport of "tent-pegging" is one of ten equestrian disciplines officially recognized by the World Equestrian Games.*

The focus for next year's 2010 Camp Nelson fall event will be on Civil War Cavalry and the important role they played in the Civil War. The high-profile event is expected to attract cavalry regiments from throughout the U.S. The timing of the event will coincide with the FEI World Equestrian Games to be held in Lexington. Look for more information soon at [www.campnelson.org](http://www.campnelson.org)

## Stimulus Money Sought for Camp Nelson Projects

The Friends of Camp Nelson, a volunteer group that supports the park, hopes to tap into millions in unused federal stimulus money to build replicas of 1800s-era buildings at Camp Nelson Civil War Heritage Park and create as many as 270 construction jobs.

Hopes are to secure \$5 million to \$20 million in federal, state and private money to put up buildings at what was once the third-largest recruiting and training station for black Union soldiers in the country, said Dean Richards, chairman of the Friends of Camp Nelson Committee, who are pursuing the money.

“A lot of these projects that got stimulus money have turned out not to be feasible, so the money goes back into the U.S. Treasury,” said Richards, an author and Civil War historian. “That’s what we’re going to try to hook onto.”

Jessamine County Fiscal Court, which owns the 600-acre park property, gave its approval to the Friends to pursue funding from federal, state and private sources. But the fiscal court made it clear that it does not want to contribute any matching dollars into the effort or be obligated financially in any way.

Among the construction projects: a replica of the 272-foot-long Hickman Creek Bridge across the Kentucky River, which Richards said would become the largest single-span covered bridge in the world. (The current record-holder is 232 feet long in Blenheim, N.Y.) The original bridge was built in 1838 and lasted until 1928, when a heavily laden furniture truck fell through the bridge and into the river. The bridge was condemned and dismantled.

The replica bridge would be used by pedestrians only, not by traffic, Richards said, and it would not affect boat traffic. The existing four-lane bridge over the Kentucky River is just west of the former covered-bridge site.

The replica of the bridge would cost an estimated \$15 million alone, but Richards says he thinks that money could come from the National Historic Covered Bridge Preservation Act, which has been active since the early 1980s. The replica bridge would be made not of wood but of “cement fiber” with iron underpinnings. It would be put on the same limestone-block foundation that held the original bridge, Richards said.

# JOIN UP!

## Camp Nelson Foundation

The Camp Nelson Restoration and Preservation Foundation is the primary support organization for Camp Nelson Civil War Heritage Park.

The Foundation is a private, nonprofit organization that works to enhance preservation and understanding of the heritage and lasting significance of Camp Nelson.

### Membership for 2009 – \$25.00

#### Stars & Bars Lifetime Membership

- \$500 per individual
- \$650 per individual & spouse
- \$650 per business

#### Friends of Camp Nelson

- \$100 per individual
- \$150 per individual & spouse
- \$150 per business

I would like to make a tax deductible contribution. \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Street \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Send this form with your check to:

Camp Nelson Foundation, P.O. Box 1170, Nicholasville, KY 40356

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**Camp Nelson Foundation**  
P.O. Box 1170  
Nicholasville KY 40356