

NATIONAL ORGANIZATION
SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR
CIVIL WAR MEMORIAL ASSESSMENT FORM

PLEASE:

- Type or print, using a ball-point pen, when filling out this form. Legibility is critical.
- Do not guess at the information. An answer of, "Unknown," is more helpful.
- Include a photograph of each viewable side and label it with name & direction of view.

- Thank You.

Type of Memorial

Monument *with* Sculpture Monument with Cannon
 Monument without Sculpture Historical Marker Plaque

Affiliation

G.A.R. (Post Name & No. _____) M.O.L.L.U.S.
 W.R.C. (Corps Name & No. _____) Other Allied Order
 SUVCW (Camp Name & No. _____) (Please describe below)
 DUVCW (Tent Name & No. _____)
 Other: Probably the State of Missouri

Original Dedication Date after 1886 _____ Please consult any/all newspaper archives for a local paper's article that would have information on the *first* dedication ceremony and/or other facts on the memorial. Please submit a copy of your findings with full identification of the paper & date of publication. Thank you.

Location

The Memorial is *currently* located at:
 Street/Road address or site location approx 30 yds SW of "A West Ave & 10th St Junct" W93°15'59" N37°10'08"
 City/Village Springfield Township _____ County Greene

The front of the Memorial faces: North South East West

Government Body, Agency, or Individual Owner (of private cemetery that Memorial is located in)...

Name Hazelwood Cemetery Dept./Div. _____

Street Address 1642 E Seminole St

City Springfield, State MO Zip Code 65804

Contact Person _____ Telephone () _____

If the Memorial has been moved, please list former location(s)...

If placed by State of Mo, as past governor, the state also takes responsibility for the care of the monument. This may not be a monument but it looks like the other state sponsored monuments to governors that it is included. If it turns out to be a private marker, it can be removed later.

Physical Details

Material of Monument or base under a Sculpture or Cannon = Stone Concrete Metal Undetermined

If known, name specific material (color of granite, marble, etc.) Gray Granite

Material of the Sculpture = Stone Concrete Metal Undetermined
 If known, name specific material (color of granite, marble, etc.) _____
 If the Sculpture is of metal, is it solid cast or "hollow?" _____

Material of Plaque or Historical Marker / Tablet = n/a

Material of Cannon = Bronze Iron - Consult known Ordnance Listing to confirm
 Markings on muzzle = n.a
 Markings on Left Trunion _____ Right Trunion _____
 Is inert ammunition a part of the Memorial? If so, describe _____

Approximate Dimensions (indicate unit of measure) - taken from tallest / widest points
 Monument or Base: Height 30 feet Width 9 feet Depth 9 feet or Diameter _____
 Sculpture: Height _____ Width _____ Depth _____ or Diameter _____

For Memorials with multiple Sculptures, please record this information on a separate sheet of paper for each statue and attach to this form. Please describe the "pose" of each statue and any weapons/implements involved (in case your photos become separated from this form). Thank you!

Markings/Inscriptions (on stone-work / metal-work of monument, base, sculpture)
 Maker or Fabricator mark / name? If so, give name & location found n/a

The "Dedication Text" is formed: cut into material raised up from material face

Record the text (indicate any separation if on different sides...) Please use additional sheet if necessary.
 Side 1: John Smith Phelps Born Simsbury Conn December 22, 1814 Died November 20, 1886
 His Wife Mary Born January 8, 1812 Died January 26, 1878 [Note: Mary saved General Lyons' Body after he died until he could be buried by the north]
 Side 2: John S. Phelps. A member of the Missouri Legislature in 1840. A Congressman from Missouri from 1844 to 1862.
 Col. of "Phelps Regiment" Military Governor of the State of Arkansas 1862. Governor of the State of Missouri 1877 to 1881.
 Side 3: John Elisha Phelps Born April 8, 1838, Col 2nd Ark. Cav. Civil War Vols. 1862-1864. Died Sept. 16, 1922
 Margaret Jane Phelps Born Feb 14, 1846 Died Mar 16, 1915
 Side 4: Thomas B. Phelps Died October 29, 1842 Aged 8 Months. Lucy Jane Phelps Died Sept. 27, 1847 Aged 3 years.
 Lucy Jane Phelps Died June 22, 1858 Aged 7 Years 3 months

Environmental Setting

(The general vicinity and immediate locale surrounding a memorial can play a major role in its overall condition.)

Type of Location

- | | | |
|--|---|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cemetery | <input type="checkbox"/> Park | <input type="checkbox"/> Plaza/Courtyard |
| <input type="checkbox"/> "Town Square" | <input type="checkbox"/> Post Office | <input type="checkbox"/> School |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Municipal Building | <input type="checkbox"/> State Capitol | Other: _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Courthouse | <input type="checkbox"/> College Campus | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Traffic Circle | <input type="checkbox"/> Library | _____ |

Surface Coating

Does there appear to be a coating? ___ Yes No ___ Unable to determine
If known, identify type of coating.

___ Gilded ___ Painted ___ Varnished ___ Waxed Unable to determine

Is the coating in good condition? ___ Yes ___ No Unable to determine

Basic Surface Condition Assessment (check one)

In your opinion, what is the general appearance or condition of the Memorial?

Well maintained ___ Would benefit from treatment ___ In urgent need of treatment ___ Unable to determine

Overall Description

Briefly describe the Memorial (affiliation / overall condition & any concern not already touched on)

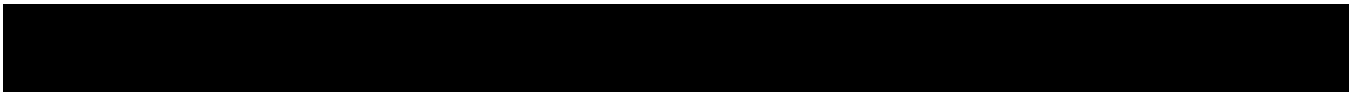
Supplemental Background Information

In addition to your on-site survey, any additional information you can provide on the described Memorial will be welcomed. Please label each account with its source (author, title, publisher, date, pages). Topics include any reference to the points listed on this questionnaire, plus any previous conservation treatments - or efforts to raise money for treatment. Thank you.

Inspector Identification

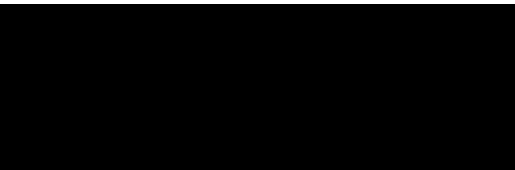
Date of On-site Survey April 17, 2008

Your Name Walter F. Busch, US Grant Camp 68



Please send this completed form to:

Kevin P. Tucker, PDC, Chair



Thank you for your help, and attention to detail.

SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR
National Civil War Memorials Committee

Mary Whitney Phelps

by Vincent Tyndall

In many ways Mary Phelps is better remembered than her husband. His accomplishments were significant, yet it is Mary who seems to have captured history's heart.

Born Mary Whitney in Portland, Maine, in 1812, she was orphaned at a young age (while her year of birth is often shown as 1813, 1812 is the date shown on her monument in Hazelwood Cemetery). Her first marriage was a failure and she eventually found her way to Connecticut. There she met and married a young lawyer, John S. He was from a prominent Connecticut family that may have objected to his marriage to a divorced woman, who was his senior by almost three years. As a consequence, in 1837 they sought their fortunes on the frontier of the Ozarks in Springfield, Missouri.

John and Mary Phelps worked hard and prospered. As a circuit attorney he was absent from home much of the time and she devoted herself to her home and children. A story is told that, during one of John's long absences, Mary surprised her husband by building the couples' first log home on the corner of St. Louis and short Benton, in Springfield. Of the five children born to the Phelps, only two survived past the age of seven, John Elisha and Mary Anne.

By the 1850's the family had acquired over 1000 acres south of Springfield and Mary was occupied with managing a farm, or plantation. She also operated a subscription school, an endeavor she had pursued in the east prior to meeting her husband. When the civil war broke out, John was serving in the U.S. House of Representatives and Mary was left to deal with the events during and following the battle of Wilson's Creek. Her farm was taken over by Confederate troops and "our house (was) filled with Confederate officers". Her son, John E., retreated to Rolla, along with their trusted slave, George. George returned a few days later and helped her bury General Lyon.

To some, Mary Phelps' greatest achievement was yet to come. By late 1861 her husband was now Colonel John S. Phelps, commanding a regiment of Missouri volunteers, soon bound for Arkansas and the battle of Pea Ridge. At this battle, fought in March 1862, Mary was present attending the needs of the wounded and dying. At times, near her husband and son who were both engaged in the battle, Mary Phelps seemed to be everywhere. R.P. Matthews wrote in his journal: "Regardless of all impending danger, with that indomitable will, which ever characterized her, Mrs. Phelps set to work to bring system out of chaos. She at once constituted herself medical supervisor, nurse, quartermaster and commissary, and with all her strength of mind and body, strove

to alleviate the suffering around".

Matthews continues: "(T)he court of heaven has no seat too high for, nor the Eternal Temple no crown too bright, to deck the brow of Mary Phelps... the historian could find no nobler theme than to record the work and self denial, the heroism and suffering, the self abnegation, and the self sacrifice of such loyal and devoted hearts as that of Mary Phelps." (By some quirk of historical fate, in spite of the fact she was first lady of Missouri, there are no known pictures of Mary Phelps).

The battle at Pea Ridge is one of the few biographical accounts where John and Mary are on the same stage at the same time. He rode the circuit as a lawyer, went to Jefferson City as a state legislator, spent many years in and out of Washington as a congressman, served in the Civil War and was appointed Governor of Arkansas by Lincoln. In 1868 he campaigned for governor in Missouri, but was defeated. He ran again, successfully, in 1876. Mary had little interest in politics, traveled very little with her husband and, in fact, did not attend his gubernatorial inauguration. "Whether it was because of illness or domestic discord, Mrs. Phelps did not come to Jefferson City, not even for her husband's inauguration". (Carnahan, Jean, *If Walls Could Talk*). Their daughter, Mary Phelps Montgomery, filled her mother's shoes as first lady. Estranged or not, Mary Phelps was not in good health when John was inaugurated in 1877, and she died in January of the following year.

For her loyalty to the Union and for her heroic efforts during the war, Mary Phelps was awarded \$20,000

from Congress, which was used to establish an orphanage in Springfield. In 1870 Mary Phelps was elected vice-president of the National Woman Suffrage Organization and worked on a national level to bring the right to vote to women. She was a woman both of the time and ahead of the time.



John S. & Mary Phelps Monument
Hazelwood Cemetery,
Springfield, MO

Photo by Vincent Tyndall

ABOUT 30 YDS SW
FROM: "A WEST AVE" & 10TH ST 20

1642 E. SEMINOLE

Creek, other officers and soldiers, the two family members, and two reporters through whom the historic cortege was publicly documented).

Throughout the trip east, crowds gathered and there was:“(E)vidence of the love and devotion which the heroism of General Lyon had awakened in the hearts of the people. At different stations where the cars made but a brief stop, maidens and matrons reverently and tearfully placed upon the coffin wreaths of fresh flowers... Old men dropped upon the crape many a tear.”

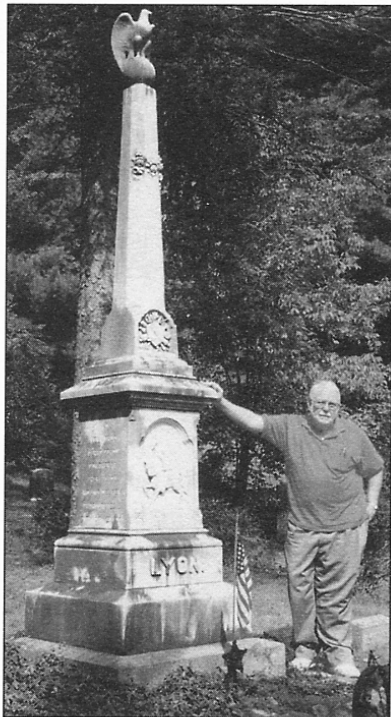
On the 29th Lyon's body lay in state in Cincinnati, where it was visited by thousands. The train moved on to Columbus, Pittsburgh, and Philadelphia. At every opportunity there were crowds, honor guards, escorts, solemn ceremonies, and patriotic music. Finally, General Lyon reached New York City, “where the most distinguished honors were shown,” and his remains lay in state for three days.

Flags waved at half-staff on buildings as well as on ships in the harbor.

On a single day, September 2, fifteen thousand people viewed the flag-draped coffin. On September 3, the cortege reached Hartford, Connecticut, and lay overnight in the Senate Chamber of the Capitol. Bells were tolled, guns were fired and the band played dirges. By now, those who were accompanying the fallen hero must have been overwhelmed at the historic significance of their odyssey.

At last the solemn party reached Eastford, Connecticut; and, on September 5, 1861, last rites were performed over the body of General Nathaniel Lyon. Governors, congressmen, justices, mayors, military heroes, and ordinary citizens of every stripe attended the service, held in Eastford's Congregational Church. For miles around the small village, roads were clogged with horses and vehicles. Thousands came from miles. Inside the church, Lyon's coffin, in front of the pulpit, had upon it “the hat which he waved aloft when rallying his brave but shattered ranks to smite the rebel host on the field of Wilson's Creek”. The coffin bore his sword. (There seems to be doubt as to whether General Lyon carried a sword at Wilson's Creek. In later years Dr. Melcher wrote he had been with General Lyon from May 7, 1861, until after his death, and had never seen him wear either a sword or sword belt. See *Whose Sword Is It-Not General Lyon's, Personal Reminiscences and Fragments of the Early History of Springfield and Greene County, Missouri*).

Finally, about 4 in the afternoon, September 5, 1861, the horse-drawn hearse entered the cemetery at nearby Phoenixville. After twenty-six days, dozens of conveyances, hundreds of miles and tens of thousands of



Gen. Nathaniel Lyon Grave Marker
Phoenixville, CT

Photo by Vincent Tyndall

mourners, General Nathaniel Lyon was home.

“To THE LION-HEARTED GEN. NATHANIEL LYON,

*“Thy name is immortal;
Thy battles are o'er-
Sleep, sleep, calmly sleep,
On thy dear native shore.”*

(Anonymous)

Where is Lyon's Coffin?

by Vincent Tyndall

Mary Phelps, frustrated at the inaccuracies she observed in the story of Lyon's death, and in an effort to tell the real story, wrote a letter to the Springfield (Mo.) Advertiser in October 1874. This letter was reprinted in the Boonville Weekly Eagle, November 20, 1874. She wrote, “I take the liberty of giving a true history of the case, as every reader of history looks for truth”.

This letter provides details of her role as Lyon's caretaker not seen in the conventional accounts. Of particular interest is her statement that the walnut casket crafted by Presley Beal was used for Captain Cary G. Gratz' body after Lyon's remains were removed from it at her farm.

Captain Gratz, from St. Louis, was a native of Lexington, Kentucky, and a son of Benjamin James Gratz, the head of a prominent Lexington family. Young Gratz was born August 8, 1829, and had just turned thirty-two when he was killed at the battle of Wilson's Creek. He was commanding Company E, of the First Missouri Infantry. The latter regiment had been formed in St. Louis and was under the general command of Francis P. Blair, Jr. who was serving in Congress at the time and not present at Wilson's Creek.

Lieutenant Colonel George L. Andrews, then commanding the 1st Missouri regiment, wrote in his report that the brave Captain Gratz had encountered a Confederate officer carrying the Union flag. “Captain Gratz, drawing his revolver, fired and knocked him off his horse...Gratz fired a second shot...The enemy now opened fire, and Captain Gratz fell, pierced by five shots”.

Mary Phelps wrote that the body of Captain Gratz was found on the battlefield three weeks after the battle and his body placed in the walnut coffin. From Springfield Gratz' remains found their way to Lexington, Kentucky. He was buried September 11, 1861, in the large Lexington Cemetery, in the shadow of the towering monument to Henry Clay. The stone of Captain Gratz reads: “Killed at the Battle of Wilson's Creek Missouri Nobly Defending His Country August 10, 1861”.

Perhaps others may one day determine that he is indeed at peace in the remarkable walnut coffin, which was once protected by the stalwart Mary Whitney Phelps.





JOHN SMITH PHELPS

BORN SIMSBURY CONN.

DECEMBER 22, 1814

DIED NOVEMBER 20, 1886

HIS WIFE MARY

BORN JANUARY 8, 1812

DIED JANUARY 26, 1878



JOHN S. PHELPS.

A MEMBER OF THE MISSOURI
LEGISLATURE IN 1840.

A CONGRESSMAN FROM MISSOURI
FROM 1844 TO 1852.

COL. OF "PHELPS REGIMENT"
FEDERAL ARMY 1861.

MILITARY GOVERNOR OF THE
STATE OF ARKANSAS 1862.

GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF
MISSOURI 1877 TO 1881.

PHILIP



JOHN ELISHA PHELPS

BORN APR 6 1826


COL AND ART. DURING WAR 1862-1864

DIED SEPT 16 1882

MARGARET JANE PHELPS

BORN FEB 14 1846

DIED MAR 16 1915



THOMAS B. PHELPS
DIED OCTOBER 29, 1842
AGED 8 MONTHS.

LUCY JANE PHELPS
DIED SEPT. 27, 1847
AGED 3 YEARS.

LUCY JANE PHELPS
DIED JUNE 22, 1858
AGED 7 YEARS 3 MONTHS.

PHELPS