

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: University Club of Drury College

Original Dedication Date 6 May 1931 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.

Moved to Zagonyi Park 650 So Park Ave N 37.204232,W-93.321233 in 2018

Location

The Memorial is *currently* located at:
 Street/Road address or site location 1724 Mt. Vernon, W. of Kansas Expressway & E. of RR Tracks W93°18'51" N37°12'16"
 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 Greene County Historical Society Dept./Div. _____

Street Address P.O. Box 3466 GS

City Springfield State MO Zip Code 65808

Contact Person Unknown Telephone (417) Unknown

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

Legal Description: Sec. 22, 23, T 29N, R 22W, Springfield Quad. The marker was located northeast corner of Frisco Station, Main at Phelps Streets.
The Frisco Station was later razed and the marker moved to 1724 Mt. Vernon Street, east of Zagonyi Park which more accurately locates the action.

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.) Grey Granite

Material of the Sculpture = Stone Concrete Metal Undetermined
 If known, name specific material (color of granite, marble, etc.) not applicable
 If the Sculpture is of metal, is it solid cast or "hollow?" _____

Material of Plaque or Historical Marker / Tablet = Grey granite

Material of Cannon = Bronze Iron - Consult known Ordnance Listing to confirm
 Markings on muzzle = not applicable
 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 4 1/2 feet Width 3 feet Depth 1 foot 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 not applicable

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.

This marker commemorates one of the most daring and brilliant cavalry charges of the Civil War. Late at night, Oct. 24, 1861, Maj. Charles Zagonyi, commander of Fremont's Bodyguard, with 300 men, including 130 of Maj. White's Prairie Scouts, left Fremont's camp near Bolivar to attack a Confederate force at Springfield. On the 25th they detoured about a mile west of the present Frisco Station to effect a surprise from the west. The Confederates, probably 1500, encamped on the hill and in this valley, were warned and ready. But Zagonyi, dividing his forces, repeatedly charged until the enemy retreated to the east and south. Zagonyi reorganized the remnant of his force on the public square and provided care for the wounded before leaving to rejoin Fremont's command. On this stream, 12 m. s. w. was fought the Battle of Wilson Creek, where Gen. Lyon was killed. University Club Historical Marker No. 17. Erected May 6, 1931

~~This marker donated by the Historic Preservation Society of Springfield and Greene County~~

Environmental Setting

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

Type of Location

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| <input 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: <u>Private Parking Lot</u> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Courthouse | <input type="checkbox"/> College Campus | <u>Inside Fenced in Compound</u> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Traffic Circle | <input type="checkbox"/> Library | _____ |

General Vicinity

- Rural (low population, open land)
 Suburban (residential, near city)
 Town
 Urban / Metropolitan

Immediate Locale (check as many as may apply)

- Industrial
 Commercial
 Street/Roadside within 20 feet
 Tree Covered (overhanging branches)
 Protected from the elements (canopy or enclosure, indoors)
 Protected from the public (fence or other barrier)
 Any other significant environmental factor _____

Condition Information

Structural Condition (check as many as may apply)

The following section applies to Monuments *with* Sculpture, and Monuments without Sculpture - including the base for Monuments with *Cannon*. Instability in the sculpture and its base can be detected by a number of factors. Indicators may be obvious or subtle. Visually examine the sculpture and its base.

	Sculpture	Base
If hollow, is the internal support unstable/exposed? <small>(look for signs of exterior rust)</small>	___	___
Any evidence of structural instability? <small>(look for cracked joints, missing mortar or caulking or plant growth)</small>	___	___
Any broken or missing parts? <small>(look for elements (i.e., sword, musket, hands, arms, etc. - missing due to vandalism, fluctuating weather conditions, etc.)</small>	___	___
Any cracks, splits, breaks or holes? <small>(also look for signs of uneven stress & weakness in the material)</small>	___	___

Surface Appearance (check as many as may apply)

	Sculpture	Base
Black crusting	___	___
White crusting	___	___
Etched, pitted, or otherwise corroded (on metal)	___	___
Metallic staining (run-off from copper, iron, etc.)	___	___
Organic growth (moss, algae, lichen or vines)	___	___
Chalky or powdery stone	___	___
Granular eroding of stone	___	___
Spalling of stone (surface splitting off)	___	___
Droppings (bird, animal, insect remains)	___	___
Other (e.g., spray paint graffiti) - Please describe... <small>Good Shape</small>	___	___

Does water collect in recessed areas of the Memorial? ___ Yes ___ No ___ Unable to tell

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).

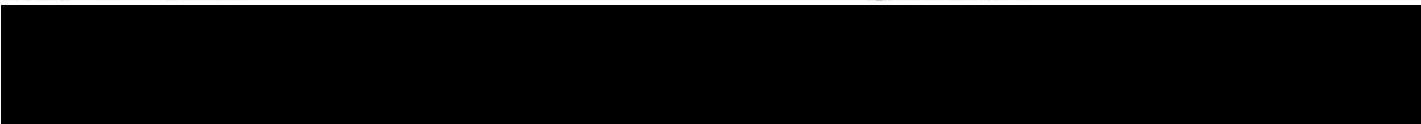
Supplemental Background Information

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

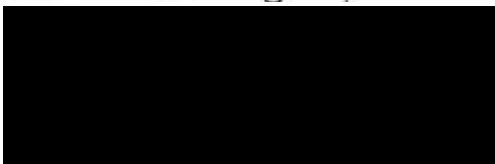
Date of On-site Survey 19 Dec 2006

Your Name Walter E. Busch, US Grant Camp #68 Commander



Please send this completed form to:

Todd A. Shillington, PDC



Thank you for your help, and attention to detail.

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

THIS MARKER COMMEMORATES ONE OF THE MOST DARING AND BRILLIANT CAVALRY CHARGES OF THE CIVIL WAR.

LATE AT NIGHT, OCT. 24, 1861. MAJ. CHARLES ZAGONYI, COMMANDER OF FREMONT'S BODY GUARD, WITH 300 MEN, INCLUDING 130 OF MAJ. WHITE'S PRAIRIE SCOUTS, LEFT FREMONT'S CAMP

NEAR BOLIVAR TO ATTACK A CONFEDERATE FORCE AT SPRINGFIELD.

ON THE 25TH, THEY DETOURED ABOUT A MILE WEST OF THE PRESENT FRISCO STATION TO EFFECT A SURPRISE FROM THE WEST. THE CONFEDERATES, PROBABLY 1500, ENCAMPED ON THE HILL AND IN THIS VALLEY, WERE WARNED AND READY;

BUT ZAGONYI, DIVIDING HIS FORCES, REPEATEDLY CHARGED UNTIL THE ENEMY RETREATED TO THE EAST AND SOUTH.

ZAGONYI REORGANIZED THE REMNANT OF HIS FORCE ON THE PUBLIC SQUARE AND PROVIDED CARE FOR THE WOUNDED BEFORE LEAVING TO REJOIN FREMONT'S

COMMAND. ON THIS STREAM, 12 M.S.W. HE FOUGHT THE BATTLE OF WILSON

WHERE GEN. LYON WAS KILLED.
UNIVERSITY CLUB HISTORICAL
NO. 17. ERECTED MAY 6, 1931.

HISTORICAL MARKERS OF SPRINGFIELD & GREENE COUNTY, MISSOURI

MARKER NUMBER SEVENTEEN

ZAGONYI'S CHARGE

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This marker is in reference to a cavalry attack carried out in Springfield during the Civil War. It is located at 1724 Mount Vernon Street (at Park Avenue), the site of "Zagonyi's charge." The text of the marker reads as follows:

"THIS MARKER COMMEMORATES ONE OF THE MOST DARING AND BRILLIANT CAVALRY CHARGES OF THE CIVIL WAR. LATE AT NIGHT, OCT. 24, 1861, MAJ. CHARLES ZAGONYI, COMMANDER OF FREMONT'S BODY GUARD, WITH 300 MEN, INCLUDING 130 OF MAJ. WHITE'S PRAIRIE SCOUTS, LEFT FREMONT'S CAMP NEAR BOLIVAR TO ATTACK A CONFEDERATE FORCE AT SPRINGFIELD. ON THE 25TH THEY DETOURED ABOUT A MILE WEST OF THE PRESENT FRISCO STATION TO EFFECT A SURPRISE FROM THE WEST. THE CONFEDERATES, PROBABLY 1500, ENCAMPED ON THE HILL AND IN THIS VALLEY, WERE WARNED AND READY: BUT ZAGONYI, DIVIDING HIS FORCES, REPEATEDLY CHARGED UNTIL THE ENEMY RETREATED TO THE EAST AND SOUTH. ZAGONYI REORGANIZED THE REMNANT OF HIS FORCE ON THE PUBLIC SQUARE AND PROVIDED CARE FOR THE WOUNDED BEFORE LEAVING TO REJOIN FREMONT'S COMMAND. ON THIS STREAM, 12 M. S.W. WAS FOUGHT THE BATTLE OF WILSON CREEK, WHERE GEN. LYON WAS KILLED. UNIVERSITY CLUB HISTORICAL MARKER NO. 17. ERECTED MAY 6, 1931."



As a result of the defeat of Union forces at the Battle of Wilson's Creek, the death of General Nathaniel Lyon, and the September, 1861 losses at the Battle of Lexington, General John Fremont (to save his reputation) set forth for southwest Missouri in order to run the rebels out of Missouri for once and for all.

Major Charles Zagonyi, in command of Fremont's body guard, with 300 troops, attacked the Confederates in Springfield in advance of Fremont's main forces. Major Zagonyi soon returned to Fremont's encampment near Bolivar. Three days later, on October 29, Fremont reached Springfield, marching about 30 miles in 12 hours. On November 2, General Fremont was relieved of his command by order of General Winfield Scott.

Several members of the University Club were dissatisfied with the text of the marker, claiming that it contained inaccuracies, as follows: The Confederate camp in west Springfield had only about 1000 "men", many of whom were just boys in their early teens. The majority of these soldiers-in-training were armed only with old farm shotguns and muzzle-loading rifles. Also, Zagonyi did not divide his forces. They became divided because of the battle and the rough, unfamiliar terrain. Zagonyi's men rode the "finest bay horses they could steal in Kentucky." Each man was armed with a brace of revolvers and with a new type of Colt six-shooter which was said to be effective at ranges up to a mile.

General John C. Fremont was in charge of Union forces in Missouri and, at the time of this incident, was stationed in Bolivar.

Major Charles Zagonyi was a Hungarian soldier of fortune who headed General Fremont's personal guard. He apparently served in various conflicts in Europe before he came to America and "sold his sword" to the Union forces.

Fremont had moved into southwest Missouri in October, 1861 and established a camp on the Pomme de Terre River about fifty miles north of Springfield. Most of southwest Missouri was in southern hands and the Confederate flag flew over the Springfield Public Square. However, there were some

Unionists in the area and some of these made their way into Fremont's camp and told him of the disorganized and poorly-armed condition of the Southern forces in the Springfield area. Fremont decided that an attack on those forces was in order and selected his own personal guard, under Major Zagonyi, to carry out the mission. The 300 men (three companies) of the guard, plus about 100 members of Major Frank White's "Prairie Scouts" left the Fremont camp on the evening of October 24, 1861. Next day, the guard personnel angled to the west as they approached Springfield so as to attack the Confederates from the west. Major White's men missed a turn at a fork in the road and White himself was captured by Confederates, taken down into Christian County and imprisoned overnight in the home of D. A. Dryden. However, Dryden was a Union sympathizer; he sent his 13-year-old son out to enlist help from other Unionists and several did come and rescued Major White.

Zagonyi and his forces attacked the Confederates west of Springfield. The Southerners with their shotguns and muzzle-loaders did some damage but for the most part the guard prevailed. Each of Zagonyi's men could fire eighteen consecutive shot with his rifle and two revolvers while the rebels had to reload after each shot.

The Zagonyi guard personnel galloped on into Springfield, pulled down the Confederate flag at the Square, gave encouragement to the Unionists present and then headed back to Fremont's camp. Zagonyi claimed, falsely, that he personally raised the Union flag over the courthouse. This was actually done next morning by a Dr. Melcher who had borrowed a flag from Mrs. Sophia Worrell. Two days later, the courthouse was burned down by an arsonist but the flag was saved.

Zagonyi reported the attack to Fremont, embellishing the events, as the following account will show:

Near Bolivar, 10 A.M.

October 26th

General: I respectfully report that yesterday at 4 P.M., I met at Springfield about 2000 rebels, formed in line of battle. They gave me a warm reception, but your guard, with some feeling, made a charge, and, in less than three minutes, the enemy was completely routed. We cleared the city of every rebel and retired, it being near night and not feeling able to keep the place with so small a force. Major White's command did not participate in the charges. I have seen charges, but such brilliant bravery I have never seen, and did not expect. Their war cry, "Fremont and the Union", broke forth like thunder.

Charles Zagonyi,

Major Commanding Body Guard

One might wonder who wrote this report for Zagonyi. He was Hungarian, as previously noted, and illiterate in English although reputedly well-lettered in his own language.

References:

Bane, James E., [Historical Markers Tell of Springfield's Past](#), OZARKIN, Ozarks Genealogical Society, Vol. I, No. 1, Springfield, 1979.

Fairbanks, Jonathan and Tuck, Clyde Edwin, [Past and Present of Greene County, Missouri](#), Vol. I, A.W. Bowen & Company, Indianapolis, 1915.

Hoover, Lee, M.D., [The University Club Historical Site Markers](#) (Mimeographed), Springfield, 1959.

Ingenthron, Elmo, [Borderland Rebellion, A History of the Civil War on the Missouri-Arkansas Border](#), Book III, Ozarks Mountaineer.

Inmon, James B., Noted provided to James E. Bane.

Kennell, Everett, [Signs of History](#), The News-Leader, Springfield, Missouri, Sunday, February 12, 1989.

Meyer, Duane G., [The Heritage of Missouri](#) (3d ed), River City Publishers, St. Louis, Missouri.

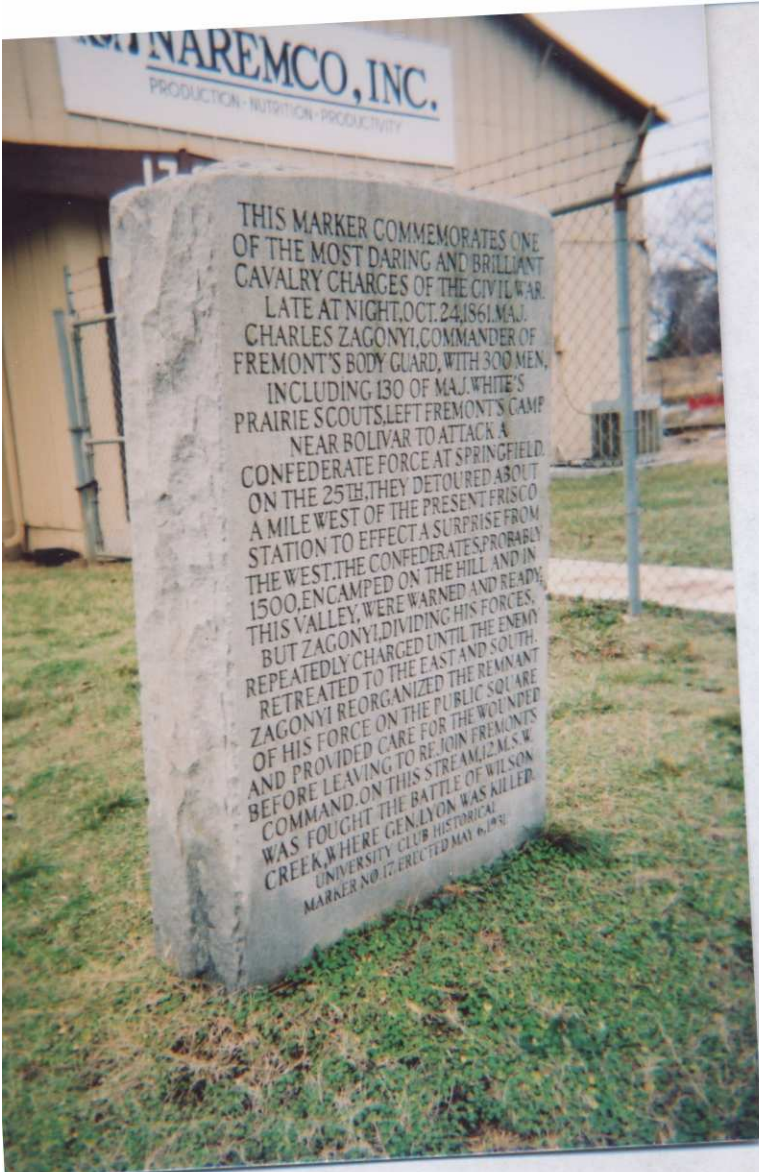
--Prepared by James E. Bane and Charles Sheppard

[Next Marker](#) | [Previous Marker](#)

[Historical Markers Home](#) | [Local History Home](#)

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PRODUCTION - NUTRITION - PRODUCTIVITY

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UNIVERSITY CLUB HISTORICAL MARKER NO. 17, ERECTED MAY 6, 1939



ZAGONYI 'S CHARGE NEW MARKER LOCATION AT ZAGONYI PARK,
630 S Park Ave, Springfield, MO 65802 N 37.204232,W-93.321233



*Please join the Springfield-Greene County Park Board
in partnership with the University Club and
Westside Neighborhood Betterment Association at*

Zagonyi Park

630 S. Park Ave, at West Mt. Vernon St

Friday, Oct. 25, 4 p.m.



for the dedication of a new
children's play feature and
the rededication of a

Civil War Historical Marker

On the 158th anniversary of
Zagonyi's Charge

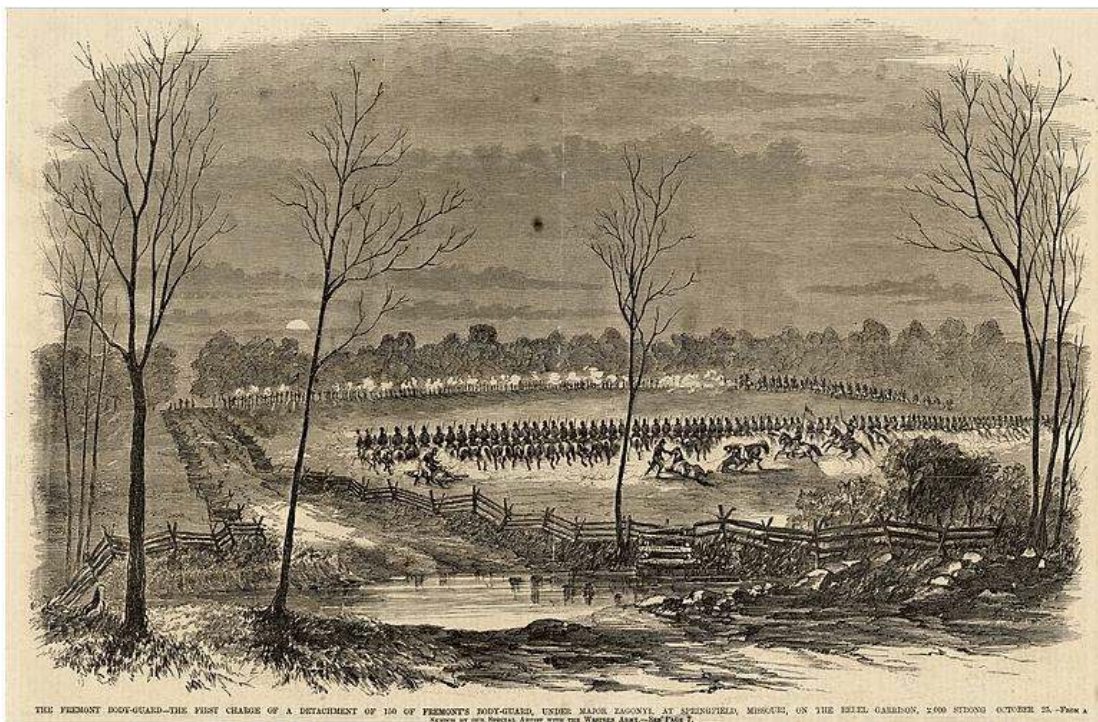
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OLD LOCATION

