

Bio - Ellen Reichert

- Retired in October 2021, after a professional career of 32 years in marketing and advertising, then wrapping up her career as a business coach for 8 years with Edward Jones.
- Ellen is a member of the Wildwood Historical Society, Missouri Archaeological Society, Missouri Historical Society, Missouri Preservation, Archaeological Society of America, James Madison's Montpelier, and The National Trust for Historic Preservation.
- She is also a Volunteer at Faust Park, St. Louis County Parks serving as a docent and historical research volunteer. Recent research has been focused on:
 - Archaeological sites within the Faust property and the
 - African Schoolhouse #4
- In retirement, Ellen is an avocational archaeologist and historian, enjoys traveling, hiking, yoga, reading, and the arts. Her most recent trips took her to Charleston's Spoleto Festival, the Crested Butte Wildflower Festival, and on an archaeological dig with SIU-Carbondale.

USCT – Research

Meramec and Bonhomme Townships/Wildwood, MO/STLCo

Presented by: Ellen Reichert, member Wildwood Historical Society and volunteer at Faust Park

Prepared for Wildwood Preservation Commission Meeting

07/19/2023

The following is a brief on the methodology of the research into the enslaved men who enlisted (or who were substitutes for their enslavers) in the US Colored Troops during the Civil War from the Wildwood area. Please note that all records cited below are handwritten and in their original form and have been accessed via online digital collections from the Missouri History Museum and Library and FamilySearch, as well as from the book, Celebrate the History of Wildwood, MO by Jill VonGruben.

Methodology:

Census and slave rolls:

1. Review 1960 census and slave rolls for Meramec and Bonhomme Townships.
2. Document each slaveholder (enslaver) by township for easy reference.
3. Note large enslavers – those with more than the Missouri state average of 4.5 or less than 10, who might have been more likely to agree to slaves joining the troops.
4. Use plat maps as clarification of handwritten names of residents in census records.
5. Based on loose age requirements for enlistment, made notes on which enslavers would have had a male slave who was eligible to enlist. (roughly between the ages of 13 and 40) The enslaved are documented only by age, sex, and color (Black or Mulatto). Names are only provided when an enslaved person is over 100 yoa. Rolls also include manumitted or fugitive (escaped) slaves.
6. Reference Celebrate the History of Wildwood, MO for the research and documentation by Jill VonGruben of the men who served in the USCT (2 substitutes and 7 enlisted).

United States, Missouri, Volunteer Enlistment Records – USCT:

7. First, searched on Resident County of Owner to find St. Louis County residents.
8. Then, looked at name of enslaver and compared to 1860 census records for Meramec and Bonhomme Townships. Document only those found on the census for Meramec and Bonhomme, others in enlistment records would be from other areas within St. Louis County.
9. Next, look at the name of the enslaved who enlisted. Consider familial names and relationships among the enslaved – look for brothers, father/son, etc. based on genealogical research done for the African Schoolhouse and in researching Westland Acres.
10. Document enlistment records for those found from the Wildwood area (Meramec and Bonhomme).

Presenters Note: All documents are hand written and difficult to search. I went through each record line by line following the above process. Also, it is possible that an enslaved person may have been recruited while in residence at another person's farm, as hired out labor, or at his enslaver's property in another county. And, there are potentially some freedmen for whom we do not have resident's county. Therefore, given all of the above, there is a chance that there are other enslaved or previously enslaved from Meramec and Bonhomme townships that my research has not uncovered. It's important to share all of this with the descendant community and to gather any additional information from them with regard to ancestors who enlisted in the USCT.

Name	Page	Age	Complexion	State Born	County Born	Date Enlisted	Where Enlisted	Slave of	Citizen of	Recruiting Officer/Enlisted by	Station
Anderson, Henry		47	21 Yellow	Missouri	St. Louis	March 22, 1864	Benton Barracks	Judge Perry (Perrigrine)Tippett	St. Louis	D. Densmore LT	Benton Barracks
Brown, Lewis		53	21 Black	Missouri	St. Louis	March 17, 1864	Benton Barracks	Robert Tyler	St. Louis	D. Densmore LT	Benton Barracks
Brown, Robert		53	19 Black	Missouri	St. Louis	March 17, 1864	Benton Barracks	Robert Tyler	St. Louis	D. Densmore LT	Benton Barracks
Galloway, Clinton		98	21 Black	Missouri	St. Louis	March 4, 1864	Benton Barracks	George Higgins (Bonhomme)	St. Louis	D. Densmore LT	Benton Barracks
	Celebrate the History of Wildwood, Missouri ancestry.com										
Green, James (subst)		unknown				Dec. 7, 1864	Benton Barracks	Joseph Brown (Bonhomme)	St. Louis		
Hawkins, Warren			18 Black	Missouri	St. Louis	Dec. 6, 1864	Benton Barracks	James Pleasant	St. Louis		Benton Barracks
	Celebrate the History of Wildwood, Missouri										
Hawkins, Norman (subst)			22 Black	Missouri	St. Louis	Dec. 6, 1864	Benton Barracks	James Pleasant	St. Louis		
Hicks, Henry		107	25 Black	Missouri	St. Louis	March 17, 1864	Benton Barracks	Henry Tyler	St. Louis	D. Densmore LT	Benton Barracks
Hughes, Richard		107	21 Black	Missouri	St. Louis	March 17, 1864	Benton Barracks	William Coleman	St. Louis	D. Densmore LT	Benton Barracks
Madison, Elijah		141	21 Brown	Missouri	St. Louis	March 17, 1864	Benton Barracks	Robert Coleman	St. Louis	D. Densmore LT	Benton Barracks
Madison, Stapleton		141	25 Brown	Missouri	St. Louis	March 17, 1864	Benton Barracks	Robert Coleman	St. Louis	D. Densmore LT	Benton Barracks
Randall, Thomas		166	16 Dark	Missouri	St. Louis	Dec 10, 1863	Benton Barracks	Thomas Nichols (Bonhomme)	St. Louis	G. Clemen? LT	Benton Barracks
Rollins, Louis		302	20 Black	Missouri	St. Louis	March 23, 1864	Benton Barracks	Henry Tyler	St. Louis	D. Densmore LT	Benton Barracks
Smith, Alfred		176	24 Black	Missouri	St. Louis	March 17, 1864	Benton Barracks	Robert Coleman	St. Louis	D. Densmore LT	Benton Barracks
West, Reuben		201	22 Brown	Missouri	St. Louis	March 17, 1864	Benton Barracks	Henry Tyler	St. Louis	D. Densmore LT	Benton Barracks