



In Search of Eldorado

Link to the Eldorado Song: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VczD1olutQ8>

Day 4

*Wednesday
November 6th*

*On my way to Houston to
visit Morgan & Matt*

Weather

50's Rain/Mist/Clouds

In Search of Eldorado

By Edgar Allan Poe

Gaily bedight,
A gallant knight,
In sunshine and in shadow,
Had journeyed long,
Singing a song,
In search of Eldorado.

But he grew old—
This knight so bold—
And o'er his heart a shadow—
Fell as he found
No spot of ground
That looked like Eldorado.

And, as his strength
Failed him at length,
He met a pilgrim shadow—
'Shadow,' said he,
'Where can it be—
This land of Eldorado?'

'Over the Mountains
Of the Moon,
Down the Valley of the Shadow,
Ride, boldly ride,'
The shade replied,—
'If you seek for Eldorado!'



Hello to Family & Friends

Well, the furnace stopped running again. Fortunately it was relatively warm overnight so no big deal. But, when I switched house power off and on, and I tried it twice, the furnace still would not kick on. I just went over and checked it again. No luck. It's ok right now, still 67 degrees in the RV. But the forecast is calling for 37 overnight even though its 56 right now (8:00 p.m.). Tomorrow morning I will look for a Winnebago dealer in Houston and make an appointment.

As promised, my next stop is the George Washington Carver National Monument. Now, I have heard the name, I knew he was famous for something, but I never quite knew what. I don't remember anything in school specifically about him, except maybe in history class along with Booker T Washington, Rosa Parks, Martin Luther King Jr, Harriet Tubman, and so on. Maybe a paragraph or a chapter in that history book. So I was pleasantly surprised to learn of the number of patents and agriculture based achievements Carver is responsible for. I hope you agree.

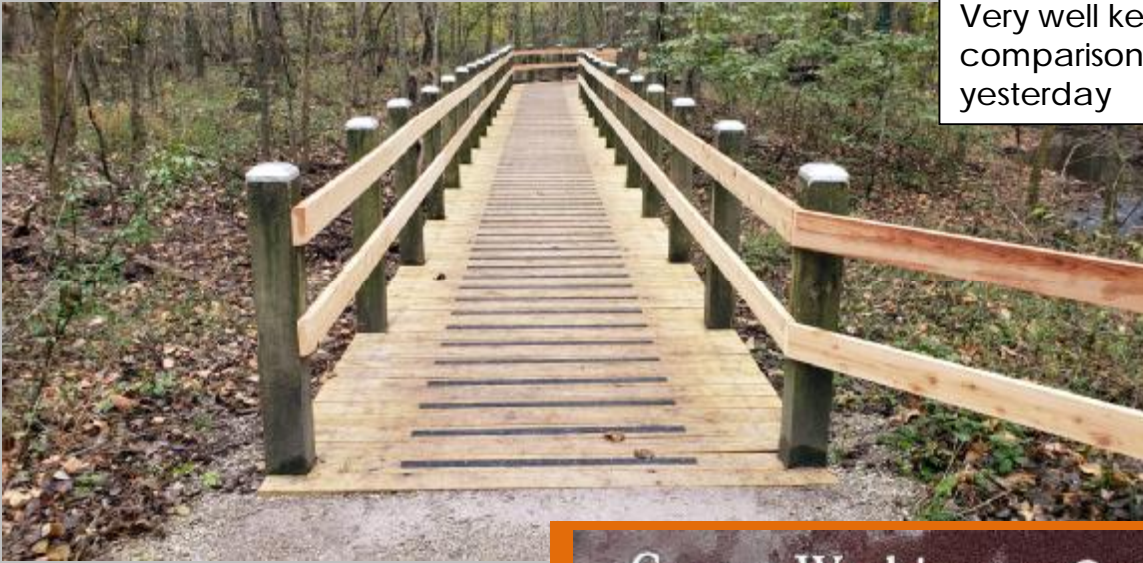




A fantastic Visitors Center which I will have more pics of later. Carver was born on site in 1864, his mother was a slave for the Carver's. I won't dwell on the mystery of his birth. He and his mother were kidnapped when he was very young. Carver was found and returned, his mother was never found. He was taken in by the Carver's and raised as their own. But he set off by himself somewhere around 8 years old to get an education. There's a walking trail that takes you to some of the sites of his childhood.



There were two school groups there, so I was able to get a little more education if I stopped and listened to the Ranger for a few minutes. It also made sure the house where he was a child (not original) was open for inspection.



Very well kept grounds in comparison to Wilson's Creek yesterday

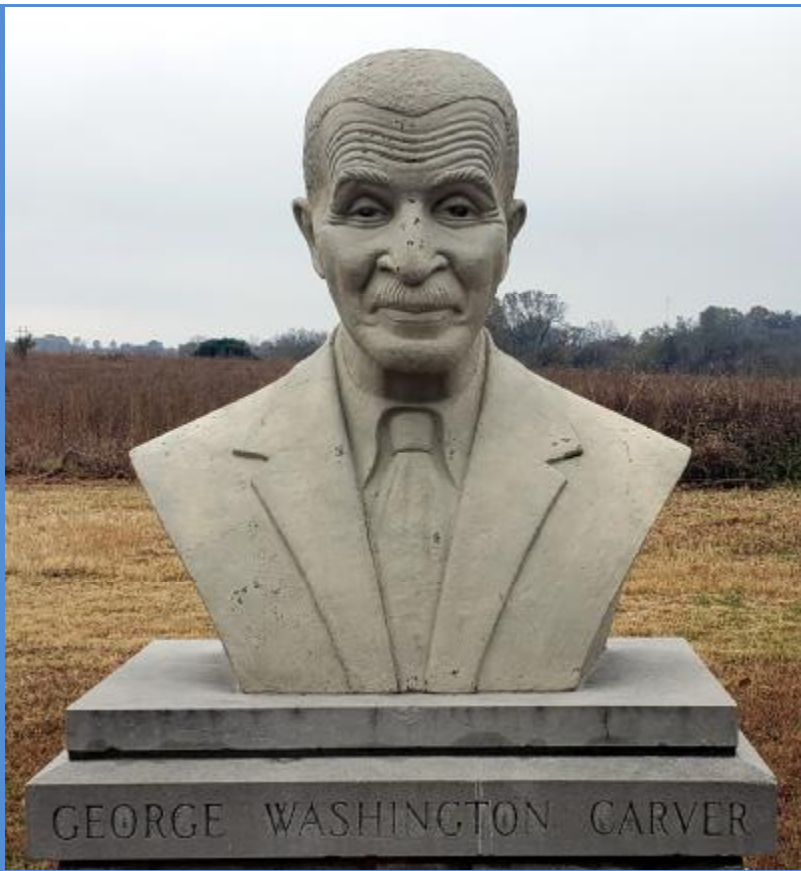
George Washington Carver discovered that Alabama clays produced beautiful, long-lasting pigments when mixed with starches, pastes or oils. He patented a process for creating over 500 colors.



That is Susan and Moses Carver's home on the previous page.

Small cemetery - Unfortunately about 80% of the graves are for children under 10.





No wonder Jimmy Carter was a peanut farmer

PEANUT BY-PRODUCTS FROM GEORGE WASHINGTON CARVER (AS COMPILED BY THE CARVER MUSEUM)

<p>BEVERAGES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Beverage for Ice Cream Blackberry Punch Evaporated Peanut Beverage Cherry Punch Normal Peanut Beverage Peanut Beverage Flakes Peanut Lemon Punch Peanut Kuomias Beverage Peanut Orange Punch #1 Peanut Punch #2 <p>COSMETICS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All Purpose Cream Antiseptic Soap Baby Massage Cream Face Bleach and Tan Remover Face Cream Face Lotion Face Ointment Face Powder Fat Producing Cream Glycerine Hand Lotion Oil for Hair and Scalp Peanut Oil Shampoo Pomade for Scalp Pomade for Skin Shampoo Shaving Cream Tetter and Dandruff Cure Toilet Soap Vanishing Cream <p>DYES, PAINTS and STAINS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dyes for Cloth (30) Dyes for Leather (18) Paints Wood Stains (17) Special Peanut Dye <p>STOCK FOODS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hen Food for Laying (peanut hearts) Molasses Feed Peanut Hay Meal Peanut Hull Bran Peanut Hull Meal Peanut Meal Peanut Stock Food (3) <p>FOODS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bar Candy Breakfast Food (5) Risque Powder Butterine Butter from Peanut Milk Caramel Cheese Cream Cheese Nut Soap Cheese Pinac Cheese Sandwich 	<p>FOODS (Continued)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cheese Tutti Frutti Chili Sauce Chocolate Coated Peanuts Chop Suey Sauce Cocoa Cooking Oil Cream Candy Cream from Milk Crystallized Peanuts Curd Dehydrated milk Flakes Dry Coffee Flavoring Paste Golden Nuts Instant Coffee Lard Compound Malted Substitutes Mayonnaise Meal Substitutes Milk (32) Mock Sausa Mock Chicken Mock Meat Mock Oyster Mock Veal Cutlet Oleomargarine Pancake Flour Peanut Bar #1 Peanut Bacon Flour Peanut Brittle Peanut Butter, regular (3) Peanut Cake (2) Peanut Chocolate Fudge Peanut Dainties Peanut Flakes Peanut Flour (11) Peanut Hearts Peanut Kisses 	<p>FOODS (Continued)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Peanut Meal, brown Peanut and Popcorn Bars Peanut Relish (2) Peanut Sausage Peanut Surprise Peanut Tofu Sauce Peanut Walers Pickle, plain Salted Oil Salted Peanuts Shredded Peanuts Substitutes Asparagus Sweet Pickle Vinegar White Pepper, from Vines Worcestershire Sauce <p>MEDICINES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Castoria Substitute Exsultion for Bronchitis Gollar Treatment Iron Tonic Laxatives Medicine similar to Castor Oil Oils, Emulsified with Mercury for venereal disease (?) Rubber Oil Tannic Acid Quinine <p>GENERAL</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Acid Grease Charcoal from Shells Cleaner for Hands Coke (from hull) Diesel Fuel Fuel Brickets Gas Gasoline Glu Burning Oil Insecticide Insulating Boards (8) Linoleum Lubricating Oil Nitroglycerine Paper (colored) from skins Paper (kraft) from vines Paper (white) from vines Printers Ink Plastics Rubber Shoe and Leather Blacking Stain for Walls Soap Stock Soil Conditioner Wall Boards (from hulls) (11) Washing Powder Wood Filler Laundry Soap Sweeping Compound
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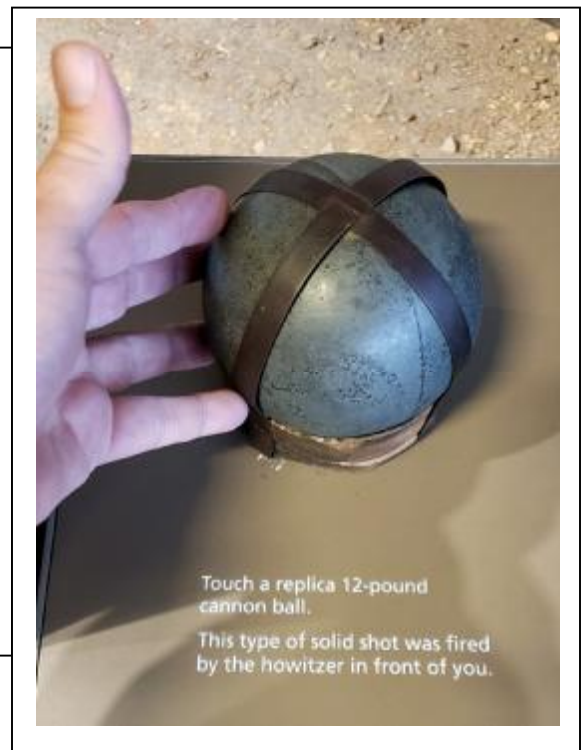
Carver was a world renowned scientist, so as part of the fun for the school field trips, they get to perform some of his experiments in this lab right in the visitor's center. How cool is that?

... some day I will have to leave this world. And when that day comes I want to feel that I have an excuse for having lived in it. I want to feel that my life has been of some service to my fellow man.

George Washington Carver



I know, I know, another boring military park. And the weather sucks. Well, let's see what we can see.



Actually the howitzer is the one above. Smaller than a regular cannon, it can be carried on the backs of three men. Yup, I want that job.

2nd Cherokee Mounted Rifles

Colonel Stand Watie's Volunteers



Loyalties in the Five Nations were sharply divided between North and South. Slavery was legal and widespread in Indian Territory. Hundreds of Cherokees volunteered to fight for the Confederacy as early as July 1861. The Cherokee Rifles served as a "home guard" unit inside Indian Territory for most of the war.

When Van Dorn gave the order to march north into Missouri in 1862, he asked General Albert Pike to mobilize as many Indian troops as possible and meet him in Bentonville. Because Van Dorn's army moved so fast, only two Cherokee regiments had joined him before battle broke out. Choctaw, Chickasaw, and Creek troops were still on the way.

Interesting fact. There was a plaque later that mentioned how the Indians switch to the Union side later in the war.

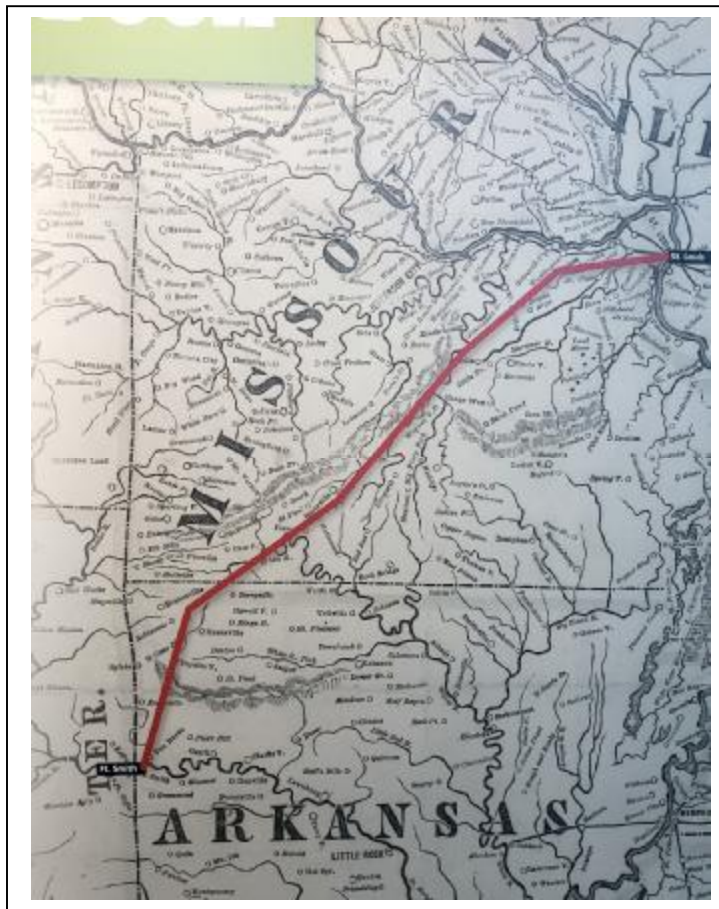
One Trail—Many Names

Remote Pea Ridge seems very far away from the centers of business and government that existed at the time of the Civil War.

But this Arkansas battlefield stands astride one of the most important land transportation conduits of the 19th century—several hundred miles of unpaved, little improved highway.

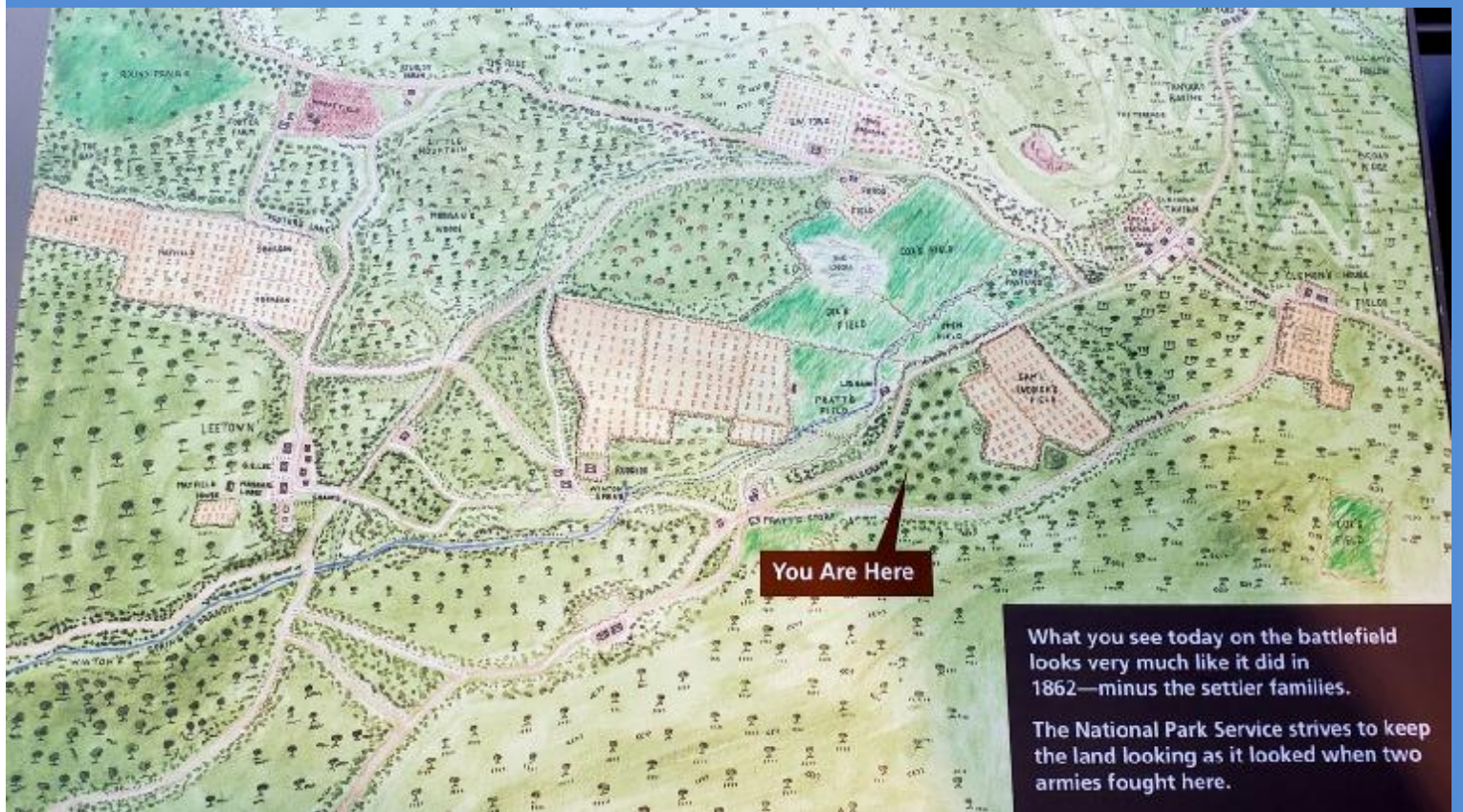
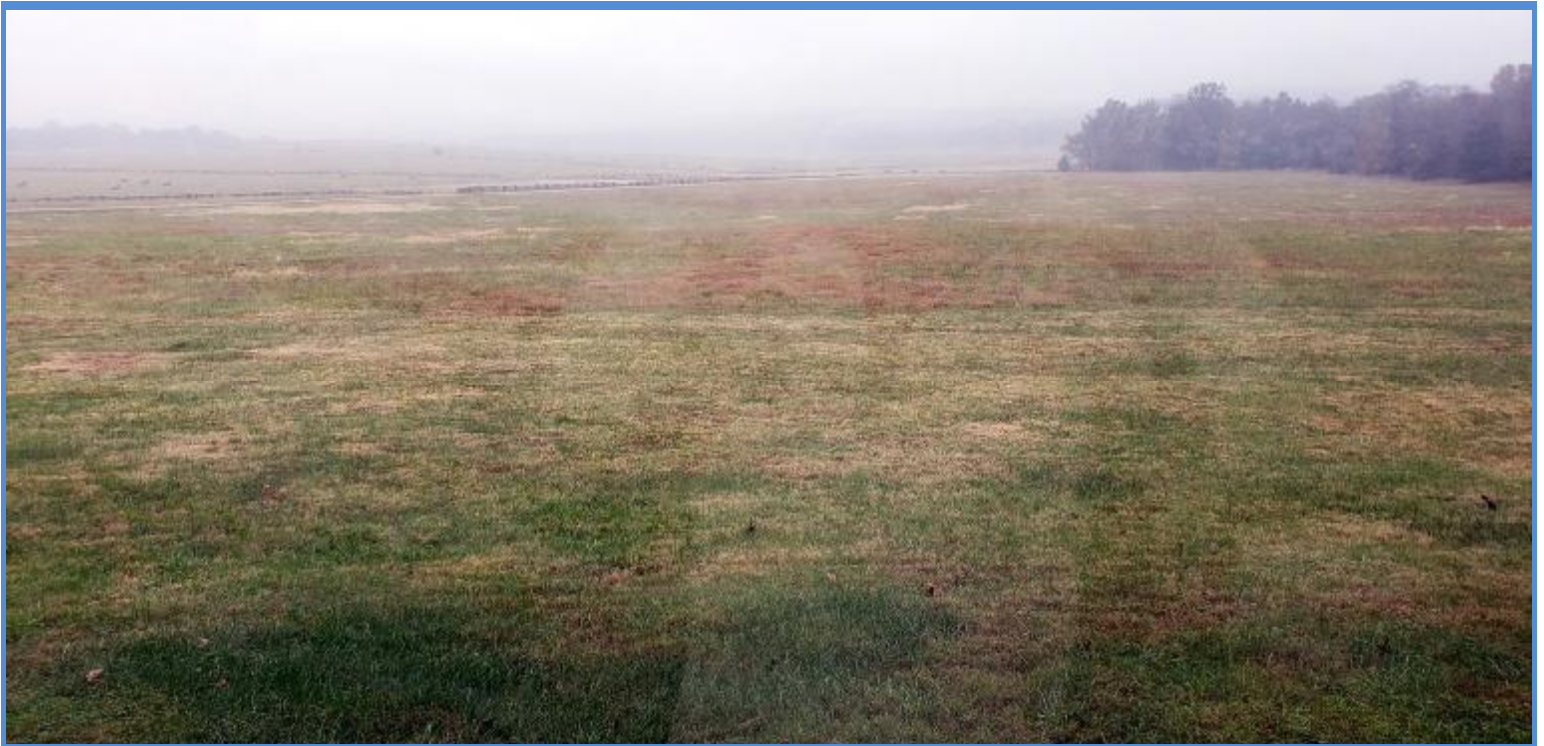
The first road that ran near this visitor center and Elkhorn Tavern linked the United States Army's headquarters at St. Louis and its facilities at Fort Smith, Arkansas.

It was called many different names: the Military Road, the Wire Road, Telegraph Road, the Stage Road. Regardless of what the soldiers of Pea Ridge and the citizens of Missouri and Arkansas called it, this was a highway where the history of this region was decided, time and time again.



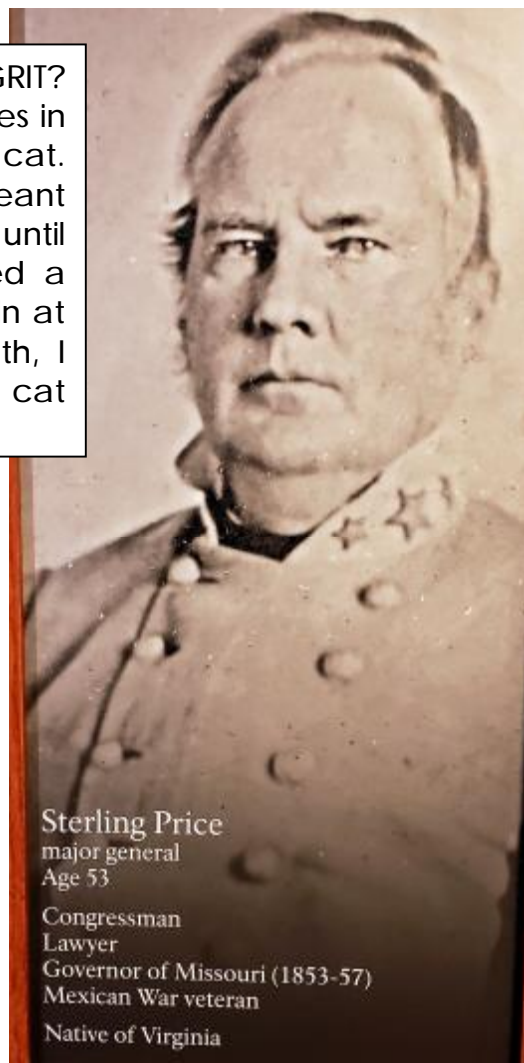
This is the same 'Wire Road' I crossed at Wilson's Creek. I told you then it was an important byway in the history of the U.S. I find it interesting that Interstate 44 and 49 follow almost the identical path today.

I have to admit, this visitor center was really nice also. Great displays, good movie, cannons, uniforms, maps – really nice maps. I'm a map guy.



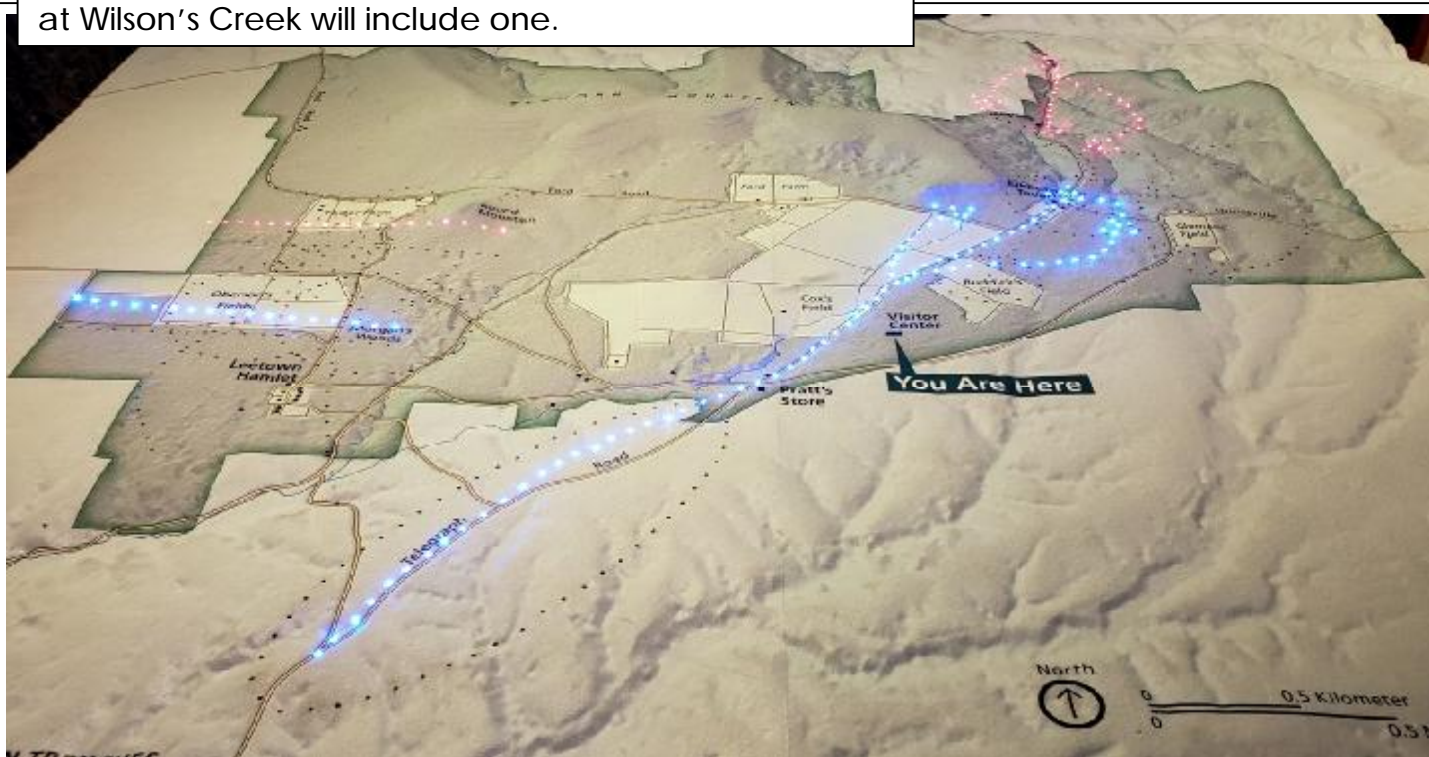
The top photo is looking out of the window right behind the map above. Man I wish it was a sunny day.

How many of you have seen the John Wayne version of TRUE GRIT? Come on, admit it, I bet you all have. In the movie Rooster lives in the back of a Chinese Butcher shop with the butcher and a cat. The cat is named General Sterling Price. The name never meant much to me, and I never thought overly much about it – until yesterday when I read that Major General Sterling Price led an action of the confederates at Wilson's Creek, then here again at Pea Ridge. I guess if I would have been raised in the south, I probably would have attached more significance to why the cat is named the way he is.



Sterling Price
major general
Age 53
Congressman
Lawyer
Governor of Missouri (1853-57)
Mexican War veteran
Native of Virginia

Talk about cool maps – I think there was one like this at the Gettysburg Visitor Center. As the TV on the wall relates what is happening, the Union blue lights move the same way the troops did. Then the Rebel red lights counter-attack or retreat. You really understand the battle when you can see it like this, almost as if you were watching from an airplane or hot air balloon. There are two of these in the VC, one for each day's battles and troop movements. Hopefully the remodel at Wilson's Creek will include one.

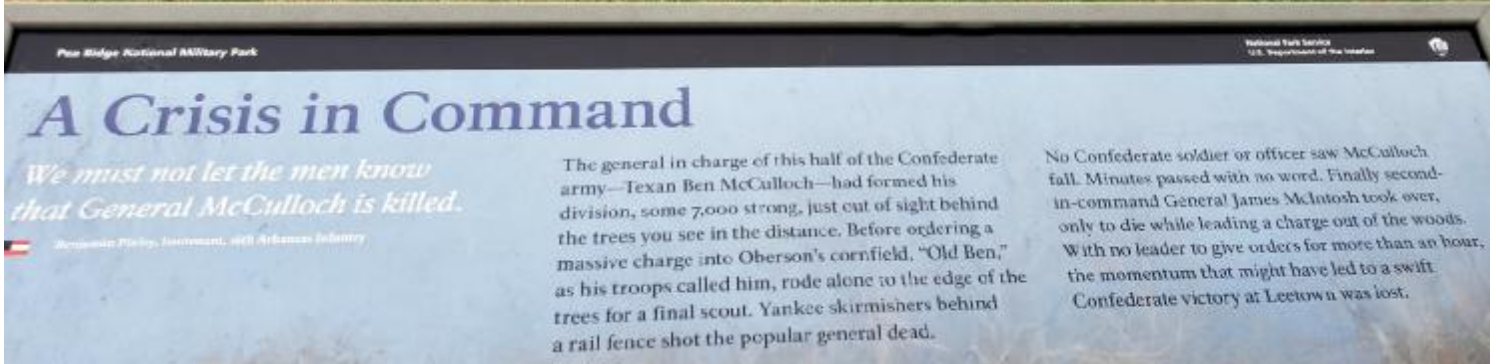


Ok, off we go on the 7 mile loop drive around the Pea Ridge Battlefield

The Trail of Tears - Land Route

After passage of the Indian Removal Act of 1830, the United States government forced tens of thousands of American Indians to leave their ancestral lands in the southeast for new homes in Indian Territory (present day Oklahoma). They traveled over established land and water routes, all of which led through Arkansas. Rather than risk disease and other hazards of summer travel, many groups left in the fall and faced, instead, treacherous winter weather. Thousands died during the ordeal - remembered today as the Trail of Tears.

Despite the hardships of the journey, the people of the five tribes of the Southeast established new lives in the West. They stand now as successful sovereign nations, proudly preserving cultural traditions, while adapting to the challenges of the 21st century.



I'm not sure if you can read the above or not - Basically the Rebels were behind the trees, and the Union here at the plaque. Two of the Rebel Generals were killed in short order on this field, which threw the rebel forces into chaos. Some troops just sat there for the next 24 hours because they had no leader and no orders of what to do.


Save the Cannon!

Like maddened hornets, Confederate infantrymen boiled out of Morgan's Woods, crossed Leetown Road, and swarmed toward the six Federal cannon that had unlimbered in this corner of Oberson's cornfield. Captain William Black stood in front of the cannon and fired his Colt repeating rifle to single-handedly delay the fierce assault until he fell wounded. Black bought the artillerymen time to save four of the six guns from being captured.



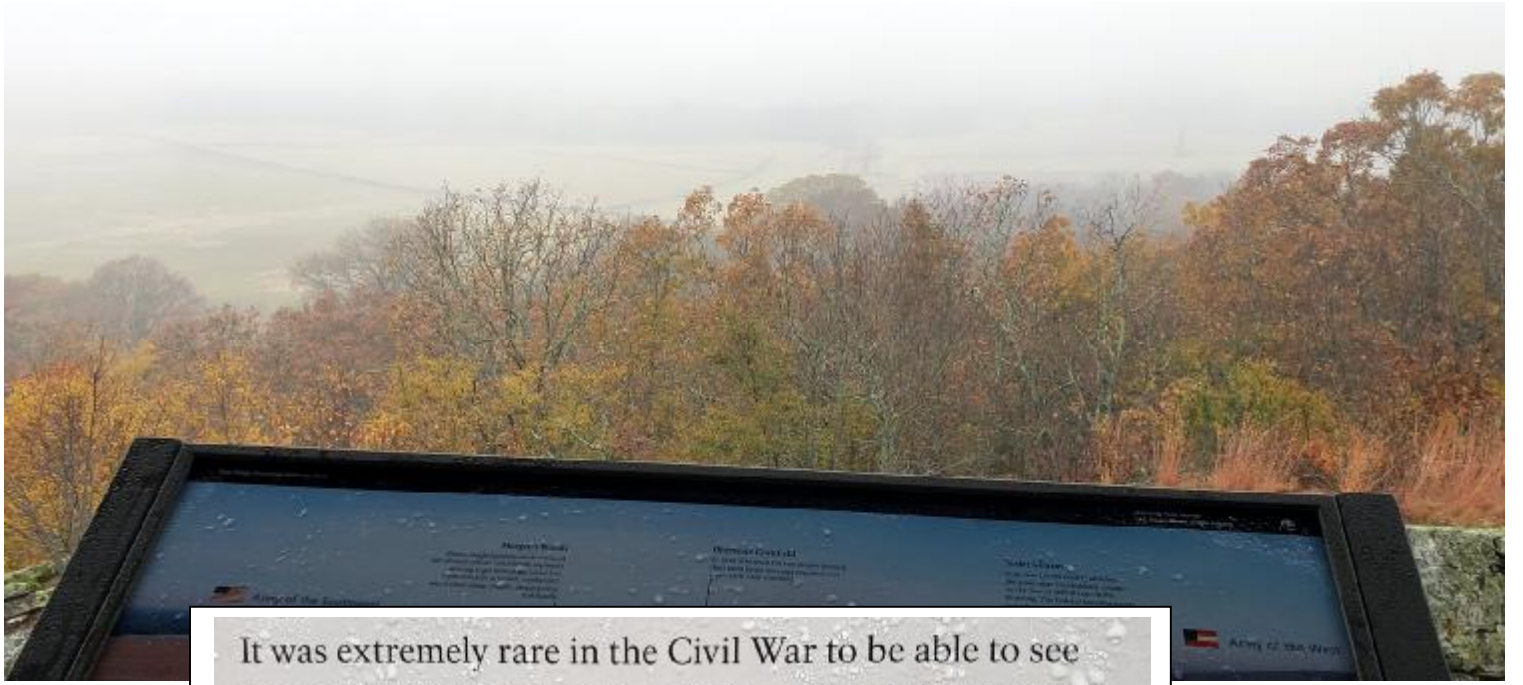
William Black was 19 years old when he fought here with the 37th Illinois Infantry Regiment. Years later he received the Congressional Medal of Honor for his valor at Pea Ridge, one of four men so honored. Black survived the war and practiced law in Chicago.

I saw two rebel officers rush toward Captain Black with drawn swords and demand his surrender...he struck the nearest with his sword...and leaping over his prostrate form with the agility of a tiger, he struck the other full in the face with his already empty revolver, and he fell like a stone.

 Samuel McKay, private, 37th Illinois Infantry Regiment



Drafted weather again. Stop 7 is the East Battlefield Overlook. This is the best view of the battlefield in the park. You can just make out the open fields in the photos. Just think what a sight it would be on a clear day – 10,000 blue clad troops lined up across the floor of the valley.



It was extremely rare in the Civil War to be able to see an entire army lined up for a fight, with all the regiments within sight of each other.

Had you stood here on Saturday, March 8, 1862, you could have seen 10,000 Union men in battle lines stretching for a mile over the open fields below. It was a sight that few veterans of the battle of Pea Ridge ever forgot.





From Pea Ridge I headed over to Bentonville, Arkansas. What is Bentonville famous for? Anyone? Kali you can't answer. That's right, the home of WalMart and Sam's Club. When I saw the WalMart Museum was open until 9:00, I decided to give it a look.

Sam Walton started his empire with Ben Franklin Stores just after WWII. Then more Ben Franklins; then a WalMart; then more WalMarts; then a Sam's Club; then more Sam's Clubs; which led to a lot more... \$\$Ben Franklins\$\$.



Sam Walton's office



SAM'S

WHOLESALE CLUB



This one's for you kali

There was a lot of interesting facts, it was free to visit and I wouldn't mind going again if I am ever in town. I also didn't realize just HOW big they are.

By the Numbers

By 2018, the company has a total of 11,277 stores, including 4,755 Walmarts and 597 Sam's Clubs in the United States and 5,925 international stores. The company employs 2.3 million associates worldwide.

Number of Associates † ≈ 25,000



Annual Sales

\$500,343,000,000.00

That's a LOT of numbers!!!

I did hear back from Erin & Morgan, they both remember being at the top of the arch, so I guess I'm just getting old and forgetting things. However, as I may have mentioned in the past, I have been pretty lucky in my travels. I have probably forgotten more places I've been than some people have ever been to. Thanks Dad!!

Kali, who has been to Bentonville a couple times, recommended a place here to visit. They don't open til 11, so I will have time to find a Winnebago dealer in Houston tomorrow morning, a Mercedes dealer to do the 20k maintenance and someplace to rotate the tires. I hope I have enough time for Morgan. JK JK

Until next time.....