

Guerilla Raid marker a must see

On an October day near the end of the Civil War, ruthless riders crossed the Missouri border into Davis County to terrorize, plunder and kill.

Driven by their allegiance to the Confederacy and motivated by blind loyalty and a misplaced desire for vengeance, these malcontents created a special place for Davis County in American history.

Little did they know or care, but their guerilla mission pushed them farther north than any other Confederate insurgents dared to go. More than 140 years later, a monument has been erected, and an annual re-enactment marks their creation of Davis County's most frightening day.

On October 12, 1864, about a dozen heavily-armed Missouri Partisan Rangers, wearing stolen Union uniforms, crossed into Davis County, taking prisoners, stealing money, breaking guns, and killing three local citizens. Two of them were Union soldiers home on leave. Those who died were Thomas Hardy, Eleazor Small and Philip Bence.

Up until 2004, the story they wrote that day was mostly legend, particularly that their excursion was the northernmost penetration into Union territory by Confederate sympathizers. Nearly 140 years later the Davis County Civil

War Guerilla Raid Society was formed.

The Society began with the idea of promoting Davis County Civil War history. The group held its first re-enactment in 2004.

A year later it hosted a dedication ceremony for a monument, which marks the northern most point of a Confederate incursion from the south.

The group has a goal of having the entire trail marked so current and future generations may follow the path of the raiders. Currently, one-third of the raid trail is marked by signs, and the remaining two-thirds of the trail is scheduled to be complete before October 2008. A brochure with a map, directions and descriptions of each stop will be available at the Davis County Welcome Center and various businesses throughout the county when the trail marking is complete.

The annual Davis County Civil War Days and Living History Encampment is held in October on the weekend closest to the actual date of the raid. Shooter's Roost, located five miles south of Bloomfield, is the host site for the re-enactment. This site is nicely isolated from the hustle and bustle of everyday modern life and is an ideal setting for the reenactment. Shooter's Roost is also on the route taken by the raiders in 1864.

HISTORICAL MUSEUM COMPLEX



Built in the mid 1800's, the Dr. William Findley House is the site of the Davis County Historical Museum and a place where many unusual and interesting items from the past can be viewed Saturday afternoons or by appointment. Also on the grounds is a cabin which the Mormons built of hand-hewn logs in 1848. Of special interest to children is an old-fashioned, one-room school. It has been restored and equipped with the furnishings, right down to a dunce's stool, of the era. A beautiful rural church built in 1902 rests stately among the complex, which now completes a representation of the three institutions which have helped to make Davis County great...the home, the school and the church.

Summer Hours:

Saturdays 1 p.m. to 4 p.m., or by appointment.

Please Call:

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