The Poison Springs Historic Trail

Battle of Poison Springs

18th Iowa

198 Wagons

1st Kansan

Wood

Marmaduke

Green

Cabell

Wacker

Texas Brigade

Artillery

De Soto Area Council
This trail has been developed and is maintained by the De Soto Area Council, Boy Scouts of America, so that the Youth of today may literally walk in the paths of their forefathers whose sacrifices and struggle for the values in which they believed might not only enrich the history of Southern Arkansas, but also of its future.
ACKNOWLEDGMENTS AND RECOGNITIONS

We are deeply grateful to the following for their contributions toward the development of the Poison Springs Historic Trail.

FOR HIKING PRIVILEGES - LANDOWNERS

Thomas Gaughan
The International Paper Company
Mary Lou Parker
E. L. Harris
Cora Lager
W. A. Graves, Jr.
Kate Bragg
Jim Neely
Doyle Harvey
M. P. Watts Brothers
Jesse Harris
B. R. Hildebrand

FOR CAMPING PRIVILEGES

The International Paper Company

FOR TRAIL BLAZING

We are grateful to the following troops who helped in the early stages by marking, cutting, and improving the trail.

Troop 12, Fairview Methodist Church, Camden
Troop 96, Central Baptist Church, Magnolia
Troop 88, St. Marks Methodist Church, Camden
Troop 6, First United Methodist Church, Camden
Troop 313, First Presbyterian Church, Camden
Troop 35, Cullendale First Baptist Church, Camden
Troop 17, First United Methodist Church, El Dorado
Troop 29, St. Mary's Episcopal Church, El Dorado
Troop 32, First Methodist Church, Magnolia
Troop 49, First Presbyterian Church, Magnolia
Troop 68, First United Methodist Church, Dumas

FOR TRAIL MARKERS

Treated Posts used to mark the trail were provided by:

The Camden Junior Auxiliary
FOR HISTORIC INFORMATION

Mr. Leon Hardin - for information about the Early Indian Culture of Arkansas.

Mr. B. T. Mosley and the Ouachita Historic Society - for the resume of the Battle of Poison Springs.

Mr. Thomas Gaughan - for the early Arkansas History.

MEDAL DESIGN AND GENERAL ARTWORK

Southwest Technical Institute

At present, additional improvements are underway and complete recognition is impossible; however, we appreciate the Scouters responsible for the Adirondack shelter and the well.

WATER WELL AND PUMP

Hartley Adams

Adirondack Shelter At Half-Way Point

Pine Belt Scouters
A PERSONAL NOTE TO THE LEADER:

Greetings, and welcome to the Poison Springs Historic Trail!

The benefits of well planned and executed hikes and campouts last long after the campfires grow cold and the tired muscles are rested; because it is what actually happens (or doesn't happen) between the planning stage and the final arrival at trail's end that really counts.

Therefore, you are urged to plan well with the purpose of making a positive contribution to the lives of the young people who follow your leadership. . . . a contribution that will extend beyond the end of the trail . . . . into the following week, or month, and perhaps into the years to come.

Natural beauty and our attitude toward it may be neither the greatest nor the only consideration in planning, but it's preservation is becoming more important each day.

"There's grandeur in the mountain's rugged face,
    Fantastic pattern never shaped by man—
Naught but God himself could do this wondrous thing,
    But who, Oh who, left that tomato can?

I see the rippling stream, cold, clear, and swift,
    Leaping and bounding over crystal rocks—
I stoop to taste its nectar and I see
    Two bottle tops, a shoe, and an old lunch-box.

Why spend a million years to build a world,
    To mold it, shape it, give it tone and punch
When one poor thoughtless pic-nic'er can spoil
    The whole shabang with what is left from lunch?"

If we are to enjoy a clean trail, it will be necessary for us to keep it clean even if this means picking up after others; if so, this should not be too big a price to pay for the courtesy of the use extended to us by the landowners.

Mr. Leader, as you plan ahead try to include foods and beverages that do not require cans or bottled containers; also build your fire only in the place provided.
This type of planning will make this trail experience more enjoyable both to you and to those who follow.

Personal discipline prevents more problems than any other one characteristic, and it starts with leadership! --nuf sed.

Welcome again, and good hiking.

Sincerely,

The De Soto Area Council
PROCEDURE TO QUALIFY FOR TRAIL MEDAL

The De Soto Area Council has secured landowners' permission for registered troops and posts to hike and camp on this historic trail under the auspices of the council.

1. Make hike application with the De Soto Area Council. Applications will be considered in order of date received. Normally, two or more groups will be discouraged from using the same dates, but exceptions can be made upon agreement of all leaders involved. Applications will not be made during deer (gun) seasons.

2. Leaders promise to adhere to the following rules:

   (a) Sufficient adult leadership at all times.
   (b) Hike with Full Pack on back.
   (c) Overnight required: Stay at Half-way Station (no exception).
   (d) Firebuilding permitted only at Half-way Station and at Poison Springs State Park.
   (e) Tell the story of early Arkansas and Battle of Poison Springs at campfire program during overnight stay at Half-way Station.
   (f) No litter; pack out any and all trash and residue for which responsible.
   (g) Bury nothing except human excretion, which must be at least 100 feet off trail or 300 feet from camp.
   (h) Chopping or cutting of any green wood prohibited, except brush. Use only down or dead wood for fire.
   (i) Kill fire - dead out after each use. Do not let fire burn during night. Kill it. Rebuild from scratch the following morning if fire is needed for breakfast.
   (j) No firearms permissable.
   (k) Hike authorized dates only.
   (l) Exercise every conceivable trail courtesy to loggers, foresters, landowners, and others met on the trail.
After completing trail, the leader certifies qualification of all hikers under his leadership by making application for their medals and enclosing $2.50 for each medal ordered. (Certification and application blanks in back of booklet).

**NOTE:** Historic Trail Awards are not allowed in addition to other recognition. If interested in Historic Trail Award, see enclosed information and application.
CABAGE DISPOSAL AND FOODS

Food suggestions are deliberately pointed away from canned and bottled items to minimize danger of trail litter.

Please set the example in your unit, and encourage others to refrain from canned and bottled food stuff. Also, please encourage the disposal of used gum and candy wrappers into pockets instead of along the trail.

The rule is: everything carried in must be carried out.

Please inspect each hiker's menu (actual food stuff) prior to taking the trail. Eliminate everything that in your judgment may become a litter problem.

Nothing will be buried except human excretion.

All garbage must be packed out. Several brands of small, inexpensive, leakproof garbage bags are available at all grocery stores and are recommended for this purpose.

Recommended Hiking Speed - Schedule of a hiking group must be based on the speed of the slowest member. A good rule of thumb for hiking with a pack is two miles per hour plus one hour for every 1,000 ft. gain in elevation.

Recommended Pack Weight - Total pack weight should not exceed 1/5th of the hiker's desirable body weight. If overweight, subtract amount overweight from maximum recommended pack weight.

A pack weight of less than 18 lbs. is impractical.

NOTE: Water available at the Half Way Station need to be purified until a well is completed. To each quart of H2O add 3 drops of Clorox; or 2 fresh Halizone Tablets; or boil 5 minutes (add tiny dash of salt, and pour back and forth to aerate.)
PLAN YOUR MEALS TO ELIMINATE GLASSWARE AND CANNED FOOD. MEATS SHOULD BE EITHER DEHYDRATED OR FROZEN SOLID AND INSULATED. DO NOT CARRY MAYONNAISE.

IDEAS FOR MENUS

BREAKFASTS

Carnation instant breakfast with powdered milk
CR
OATMEAL (Packed in paper "hot" cup), TANG, TOAST, COCOA MIX, BUTTER AND JELLY
CR
Dry Cereal (Packaged with sugar)
Tang (pre-measured in "baggies")
Pre-measured Quick Chocolate and dry milk in "baggies" (Just add H2O)
Butter and Jelly in "Beggie"
Toast
Coffee, sugar, cream
Salt, pepper
Bacon (in baggie)
Pre-measured dry milk for Cereal Eggs, (raw in olive jar - or powdered)

UTENSILS REQUIRED

cup, canteen

cup, spoon, match

Coffee pot or #10 can
Small Skillet
Cup, Spoon, Bowl
Boraxo, paper towel,
Match

TRAIL LUNCHES

Cheese and apple
Peanut butter and jelly sandwhich
Tang, tea, or coffee in thermos
Mixture of equal parts of raisins, nuts, and "fruit loops" in sack
Candy bar
Lipton's Dehydrated Soup (could have been prepared after breakfast and carried in thermos bottle)

NO UTENSILS REQUIRED

Do not litter, Do not litter, Do not litter.
## EVENING MEALS

### Menus

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Salt, pepper</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lipton's Stroganoff or Soup</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 oz. Pemmican or jerky</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 oz. dried fruit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Candy bar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hot Chocolate, tea, coffee, sugar</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Utensils

| 1 stew pan |
| 1 bowl, spoon |
| 1 coffee pot or |
| #10 can |
| 1 Cup |

OR

### Stew or Soup

| 1 stew pan |
| 1 skillet |
| Foil (must be packed out) |

#### Baked banana or apple (prepared ahead of time)

#### Coffee, tea, or chocolate

#### Butter, salt, pepper

#### Cinnamon, Sugar (package ahead of time)

#### Crackers, Ry-Krisp, Triscuits, Melba Toast, etc.

### Don't forget

As soon as stew pot is empty, fill it with water and place on fire to be heating while meal is eaten. Otherwise, the cleaning chore after supper will be delayed until after scalding water is heated. (Wash with cold water and scald).

### After meals:

Wash pots, bowl, cup, & spoon and repack immediately. Put trash, garbage, etc. in plastic bag and place in pack. DO NOT leave out overnight: coons will scatter garbage.
"Pemmican the Authentic Way"

Pound and shred an amount of jerky equal to the same amount of raw animal fat (preferably domestic animal) or suet which has been cut into small chunks.

First try out the fat in a pan over a slow fire, being careful it does not boil. When ready, pour the hot melted fat over the shredded jerky and mix together thoroughly and quickly. Do not use any salt or condiments. If a flavor is desired mix in raisins, dried blueberries, service berries, or even dried chopped peaches or apricots.

Pack the pemmican in commercial sausage casings or in suitable plastic bags.

Pemmican is a trail food that has never been equaled by modern science. It contains every necessary mineral, vitamin, or food element to sustain active physical life except vitamin C. Since a healthy man can last about fifty or sixty days without this-- and in the northern hemisphere, it is readily available in such plants as rose hips-- there is no real problem. Several rose hips will supply all the necessary vitamin C for the hardest day, and prevent scurvy.

Pemmican will keep for weeks and months without refrigeration, and indefinitely in a cool, dry place.

It should be stressed that although jerky is a wonderfully nourishing trail food, it is not good alone for long periods of strenuous activity for it lacks fats and certain food elements.
"BE A FREQUENT NIBBLER"

Active people find that they feel better and stay stronger if they nibble frequently while expending energy; they save the big meals until supper time when they can relax around the campfire afterward. Here are some suggestions for foods that are easy to prepare ahead of time and store until needed. They are especially designed to supply the extra energy and balanced nourishment necessary while engaged in outdoor living. These trail snacks fall into three categories: fruit and nut bars, quick breads, and dried meats. They are considered trail food— that is, to be nibbled along with a liquid from the canteen while expending energy. In addition to these snacks the hiker or camper will need more substantial foods for breakfast and supper if he is away from civilization for more than a few days.

The best canteen beverage is a non-carbonated, dilutely-sweetened fruit juice. Carbonation merely serves to lower the temperature of the drink and usually leaves one with an aftertaste that can only be quenched by water. When slung over the shoulder for a day's hike in the hot sun, a carbonated beverage will warm up and lose its carbonation anyway. The commercially prepared fruit drinks sweetened with glucose are especially good, however, one can prepare any fruit drink with table sugar and dilute it by adding about one third more water to make an equally satisfying drink.

**Honey Bread.**

3/4 cup honey  
1 cup granulated sugar  
1 1/2 cup flour  
1 cup whole wheat flour  
1 tsp. soda  
1 tsp. cinnamon  
1 cup boiling water  
1 pinch nutmeg  
1 cup slivered almonds  
1/2 cup chopped dried apricots

Put honey in large bowl and add the previously mixed dry ingredients. Mix well and add one cup boiling water. Line a loaf pan with wax paper and fill 2/3 full with the mixture. Bake for 1 1/4 hours at 350-375° F. Allow to cool before removing from pan. Slice and butter and wrap in plastic putting four slices in each packet.
PAT'S GORP

2 twelve oz. packages of semi-sweet chocolate bits (tropical chocolate is preferable)
2 eight oz. packages of butterscotch bits
1/2 cup honey
1/2 cup chopped dates
1/2 cup seedless yellow raisins
1/2 cup chopped dried apricots
1/2 cup shredded coconut
1/2 cup cashews
1/2 cup walnuts
1/2 cup wheat germ
1/2 cup uncooked oatmeal

Melt chips in the top of a double boiler, add honey. Pour over rest of dry ingredients in a large bowl; mix well. Pour mixture into greased pans and cool. Cut or break into hand-sized chunks. Wrap tightly in plastic wrap and seal with tape if necessary. Store in refrigerator until needed.

Bircher Muesli or Fini is an imported Swiss cereal, obtainable in most supermarkets, which contain dried apples, oat flakes, shredded wheat, millet, dry skim milk, crushed hazel nuts, almonds, dried apricots, raisins, and unrefined sugar. It tastes very good with milk as a cold cereal or it can be used in cookie recipes as uncooked oatmeal. If tropical chocolate can be obtained use it instead of the semi-sweet bits.
MOUNTAIN BARS

2 cups crushed vanilla wafers
1 1/2 cups finely chopped nuts
2 cups powdered sugar
1/2 pound finely chopped dates
1 cup finely chopped dried apricots
1 cup seedless yellow raisins
2 tbls. light corn syrup
6 to 8 tbls. honey
1/2 tsp. vanilla or maple flavoring
enough water to blend together

Combine all ingredients in a large bowl. Add liquids and knead to mix. Press and shape into small log rolls about 2 by 5 inches. Roll in powdered sugar and wrap in plastic. Store in refrigerator until ready for use.

JERKY.

1 - 2 lbs. round steak
1 quart water
1 cup salt

Freeze a piece of well trimmed round steak and slice it very thin across the grain. Prepare a brine solution from the water and salt and soak the meat slices in it for at least an hour but for no more than 8 hours. Place meat slices on a wire rack in the oven and dehydrate for 24 hours on lowest heat (200° F.). Cool and store in refrigerator in sealed plastic bags.
FLOAT AND HIKE IN DE SOTO AREA COUNCIL

General Information: LIGHTWEIGHT check list for 6 days and nights during Dry Season.

BASIC GEAR - 36 LBS.
(carried in back pack)

1. Plastic Cup
2. Fork
3. Spoon
4. Two nesting cookpots
5. Boraxo (for washing greasy pots)
6. Paper towels
7. Plastic "baggies" (food packaging)
8. Paper plates
9. Toilet articles
10. Toilet soap in container
11. Toilet paper
12. Face Towel
13. Under shorts, extra
14. Socks, extra (& moccasins)
15. Poncho (doubles as tent)
16. Jacket, sweater (seasonal)
17. Wool gloves (seasonal)
18. Salt and pepper in holder
19. Sugar in container
20. Pocket (folding) knife
21. Bow saw (optional)
22. Hiking staff
23. Waterproof matchsafe, emergency use
24. Matches for normal use
25. Nylon cord (30 feet)
26. Flashlight, extra bulb and batteries
27. Snakebite kit
28. Mosquito dope
29. Salt tablets
30. Cellophane tape (poncho repair)
31. Compass
32. Wallet (with razor blade and band aids)
33. Sleeping bag, bed roll
34. Ground cloth
35. Canteen (2 quart)
36. Water purification tablets
ADDITIONAL ITEMS FOR COLD WEATHER OR MOUNTAINS

(7 1/2 lbs.)

1. Tent (also for use during "wet" season)
2. Longjohns
3. Parka
4. Woolen helmet
5. Woolen gloves
6. Heavy woolen shirt
7. Heavy woolen socks
8. Heavy woolen scarf

BASIC FOOD LIST
for 6 days - WT.: 10 lbs. 4 oz.

1. Dried fruit
2. Dehydrated soup
3. Dehydrated diced potatoes
4. Dehydrated vegetables
5. Block pemmican
6. Dried milk
7. Sugar
8. Salt and Pepper
9. Dry cereal
10. Tea and coffee
11. Raisins
12. Chocolate

BASIC MENU

1. Breakfast: 4 oz. dehydrated fruit, 2 oz. dehydrated cereal

2. Lunch: 1 1/2 oz. dried soup, tea, crackers, candy

3. Dinner: 4 oz. potatoes, 2 Oz. vegetables, 2 oz. pemmican or bacon bar

PLUS an adequate water supply.
TO: MY FELLOW HIKER AND CAMPER

Dear Friend,

Just a note about historic trails, or hiking into history.

If I may say so, I find that most history is like trail foods; it's nourishing, but it must be made palatable if enough is to be absorbed to be beneficial.

Some 20,000 years of South Arkansas history have been condensed into several very brief notes on the following pages for your consumption. We started as near the beginning as historical evidence will justify, only touching the highlights as we know them, and mentioning only the activities and facts that are likely to hold a young person's attention.

The emphasis is on immediate pre-civil war culture and those events leading up to and including the battle of Poison Springs.

Understanding the facts that shaped history may well be the starting place for younger people to understand why today is like it is, and this understanding can provide some measure of control over each person's own future; therefore, it is important that the information noted on the following pages be presented in a setting that is most conducive to commanding undivided attention.

It is believed that a good job of plain old-fashioned
story telling around a campfire that is located near to where most of the events occurred will do much to stimulate and maintain interest.

This is why a planned campfire program during the overnight stay at the half way station must include telling the story of South Arkansas up to and including the Battle of Poison Springs.

Mr. Leader, help your best story teller get the facts from the enclosed information that follows and present them in a setting that has the aroma of an Indian campfire and the imagined sounds of whizzing minie’ balls.

Your campfire will smell the same, the sounds in the woods will be much the same, and your camping spot will be very near to where these exciting events occurred.

Who knows; authenticated history presented in the above fashion around your campfire may develop the understanding that will help narrow tomorrow’s generation gap.

Best wishes,

-Weuchsowagen, Vigil Honor
Abooikpaagun Lodge, O. A.
RESUME OF SOUTH ARKANSAS'S HISTORY
AND THE BATTLE OF POISON SPRINGS

(To be studied in advance and presented to your
Troop or Post at a campfire program during your overnight
stay at the halfway station.)

Very little is known about the early inhabitants of
South Arkansas, except that they were Indians of the Paleo
Indian period who were hunters of the giant bison and the
mastodon. These were among the truly "big game hunters".

We do know that as time evolved, the Indian culture
developed more in South Arkansas than it did in the Northern,
more mountainous, section of the state.

These Indians wove baskets and made pottery. They
made stone instruments, including arrowheads, dart points,
spear points, bannerstones, boatstones, celts, grooved
axes, adzes, double bitted axes, and clay balls for cooking.

The Indian society here changed from one of hunters to
farmers. As they discontinued moving in pursuit of game and
started farming, their villages became larger and more stable.

Walled villages grew to encompass ten to twenty acres
of closely spaced houses.

Arrowheads have been found on the Trail and there is
evidence that Indians both camped and hunted here.

In 1541 the Indians first came in contact with European
culture when Hernando DeSoto (after whom the council is
named) led a ragged band of explorers into this region.
Resume of South Arkansas's History
And the Battle of Poison Springs

The report of "The United States DeSoto Expedition Commission" states that DeSoto traveled the east bank of the Ouachita River from the site of Arkadelphia down to the neighborhood of what is now Camden, where he spent the Winter of '41 with his men.

There is strong evidence that the early French and Spanish occupation of the Old Province of Louisiana had a lasting influence on the Southern part of Arkansas. As a result, this part of the state is closer to the "deep South tradition" than is any other part of Arkansas.

Camden had a port on the Ouachita, and by way of New Orleans was in contact with the Caribbean and Gulf of Mexico. Through Camden, the greater part of all South Arkansas dealt with cotton factors and merchants of New Orleans.

Camden was the economic and cultural center of South Arkansas and the second largest town in the state at the beginning of the Civil War.

In 1832 the Army Engineers surveyed the Middle Washington Road which provided a route for horseback, stagecoach, and wagon transportation between Camden and Washington, Hempstead County (which was to become the Confederate capitol of Arkansas during the Civil War).

The original road is easily identified today. The part that the historic Trail follows runs due East and West, sometimes along a 12' wide roadbed. In most places the road has been eroded, not just by rain and water shed, but first by the iron-shod hooves and steel-bound wheels.
of stagecoaches and later mule drawn wagons and logging equipment.

The roadbed today is now several feet below the surrounding terrain in many places. Troops will intersect it about 15 minutes from the beginning point of the Trail and travel west until departing northwesterly toward the battleground site.

The Middle Washington Road was crossed by General Sterling Price's Confederate Army April 16 and 17 in 1864 enroute to ambushing and defeating General Frederick Steele and his Federal troops in the historic engagement on the 18th.

In the War Between the States, the Battle at Poison Springs was forgotten as Civil War history books remembered the feats at Chickamauga, Manassas, Vicksburg, Sharpsburg, and Gettysburg.

It was in the early Spring of 1864 and the Union forces were planning to invade the Red River - Ouachita River basin. This was an isolated stronghold of the Confederates of the Trans-Mississippi Department.

General Nathaniel Banks, moving his Federal armies up Bayou Teche and the Red River, and General Frederick Steele moving another Federal army from Little Rock into southwestern Arkansas, planned to join forces and take Shreveport, Louisiana, with the aid of a naval force commanded by Rear Admiral David D. Porter.

However, the column of General Steele, moving on its way south, began to run into problems very soon. The
Resume of South Arkansas's History
And the Battle of Poison Springs

Confederate Army in south Arkansas, under the command of Major General Sterling Price, began to oppose the Union Column almost as soon as it left Little Rock. The Confederates were unable to stop the Union column, but they slowed it down so much that the shortage of food began to be a big problem. After skirmishes near the small towns of Hollywood and Okolona, General Steele could see that it was going to be impossible to join his column with General Banks. So he turned his column toward Camden in hopes that he could get supplies for his army there.

On the way from Okolona to Camden, the Blues were to make contact with the Confederate Grays several times: at the Battle of Prairie DeAnn, the Battle of Moscow, and a brief artillery engagement at Poison Springs. The Union column occupied Camden on April 15, 1864.

On the night of the 16th, the steamer, Homer, loaded with 3,000 bushels of corn, was captured by a Union patrol 30 miles below Camden on the Ouachita River. This would help General Steele’s food supply, but not nearly enough. General Steele then gave orders that a forage train of 198 six-mule wagons and 695 men with two cannons under the command of Colonel James M. Williams be sent into the area of White Oak Creek, near the location of the present White Oak Lake, where Captain Henry, the Union Chief Quartermaster, had learned there were 5,000 bushels of corn.

In the meantime, the Union forces were under constant surveillance by the Confederates, and Brigadier General John S. Marmaduke, a Confederate Officer with about 500 men, realized that the wagon train would return loaded with
supplies, and that this foreknowledge could provide an opportunity to ambush the Federals. Because he had only 500 men, he asked General Price, located at Woodlawn, for reinforcements.

While the Union forces were gathering corn in the White Oak area, the Confederates, under the leadership of General Price, force-marched across the Middle Washington Road from Woodlawn to reinforce Brigadier General Marmaduke and his 500 men near Poison Springs.

General Price sent Cabell's and Crawford's brigades from General Fagan's division. General Samuel B. Maxey joined them with Gano's Texans and Colonel Tandy Walker's war-painted Choctaws from Indian Territory (now Oklahoma).

Major General Samuel B. Maxey, Senior Officer with the Confederates, relinquished his command in the field to Brigadier General Marmaduke, who was more familiar with the terrain.

On the morning of the 18th, with most of the wagons full and the other wagons still out gathering corn, Colonel Williams and his Union forces started the column back toward Camden and were reinforced by Captain Duncan and 383 Infantry from the 18th Iowa; 91 troopers from the 2nd, 6th, and 14th Kansas Cavalry; and two 12-pound mounted howitzers. With the addition of these men, Colonel Williams now had over 1,100 men in his column.

The wagon train and the Union column, moving toward Camden made contact with the Confederates near Poison Springs about 9 o'clock on the morning of the 18th when they
Resume of South Arkansas's History
And the Battle of Poison Springs

were confronted by a roadblock.

The Confederate General, Marmaduke, had 12 cannons. He set up his front line of skirmishers across the road. These included Brigadier General W. L. Cabell's Brigade, Colonel W. A. Crawford's Brigade, Wood's Battalion, Captain S. S. Harris's Battery (four cannons), and Captain W. M. Hughley's Battery (four cannons).

On the left (south) side of the road he placed Lieutenant Colonel T. M. Gunther's Battalion, General Walker's Brigade, Colonel Charles DeMorse's Brigade, Colonel Colton Greene's Brigade, and his other battery of four cannons under the command of Captain W. B. Krumbhaur.

General Marmaduke ordered his front line to open fire, thereby drawing the attention of the Union forces so that the Grays could employ their men to attack the Union right (south) flank.

Upon contact with the Rebels, Colonel Williams rushed his First Kansas Regiment to the front and set up his line of skirmishers. Along with the First Kansas he sent Lieutenant W. W. Haines with his two artillery pieces. The First Kansas skirmish line also covered part of the Blue's right (south) flank.

The 18th Iowa was placed along the South side of the road extending the skirmish line formed by the First Kansas. Lieutenant A. J. Walker's two guns were placed near the rear of the column with the 18th Iowa. To protect his left (north) flank, Colonel Williams used the detachment of the 14th Cavalry under command of Lieutenant J. Utt.
After being repulsed twice, the Union right (south) flank began to give under the pressure exerted on them by excellent artillery fire along with the use of infantry and cavalry assaults.

Once the Union right flank began to waiver, the Grays frontal attack began to crush the First Kansas. At this time Colonel Williams, the Union Commander, could see that he was going to be unable to protect the wagon train. His thoughts turned to his men, and in order to set up a retreat he ordered the 18th Iowa to act as rear guard.

The Rebels reached the wagon train which was virtually unguarded, and the few men they encountered were either killed or scrambled to safety along with the retreating Union column.

The Union soldiers were unable to save their four artillery pieces which they could not move across the deep revines. The guns were spiked and abandoned.

The last phase of the battle was fought as the Union forces fell back from ridge to ridge pursued closely by the Choctaw Indians. This running engagement covered about two miles and at this time the Senior Officer on the field for the Confederates, Brigadier General Samuel B. Maxey, reassumed command from General Marmaduke and ordered a halt of the pursuit so that they could assemble their captured wagon train and the four artillery pieces and make their way back to General Sterling Price's headquarters at Woodlawn.

Of the approximately 3,000 men the Grays had on the field that day, their losses were small: 16 killed, 88 wounded, and 10 missing. The Union forces lost 180 killed, 100 wounded, and 25 missing.
Resume of South Arkansas's History
And the Battle of Poison Springs

Three days later, April 21, General Steele sent a burial detail to Poison Springs.

The Poison Springs Historic Trail ends at Poison Springs State Park. This is a memorial to those men whose shed blood no less hallowed this ground than did the blood of those at Gettysburg.

Note: Legend says that the name "Poison Springs" originated when overheated horses were watered at the springs and subsequently died due to mistreatment.

The water is not poison; however, purification is recommended before drinking.
APPLICATION
FOR
POISON SPRINGS HISTORIC TRAIL MEDAL

DATES OF HIKE
NO. OF HIKERS
NO. TO QUALIFY
NO. OF MEDALS ORDERED
TOTAL COST AT $2.50 EACH

I hereby certify that the hikers listed on the attached sheet hiked the Poison Springs Historic Trail on the above date and that those so indicated did qualify under my personal leadership for Historic Medals in recognition of this accomplishment.

(Grupo) ____________________ (Signed) ____________________

(Mailing address)

(This certification must be completed by leader after hiking Trail. Hikers' being certified must be named on an attached sheet.)
APPLICATION TO HIKE THE POISON SPRINGS HISTORIC TRAIL

NAME OF GROUP MAKING APPLICATION
__________________________________________________________

APPLICANT (Leader):
__________________________________________________________
(Name)
__________________________________________________________
(Address)
__________________________________________________________
(City, State & Zip)
__________________________________________________________
(Phone Number)

CHOICE OF DATES:
1st __________________________________
2nd __________________________________
3rd __________________________________

NUMBER OF PERSONS IN GROUP:
Girls or young ladies ________
Boys or young men ________
Adult Women (over 20) ________
Adult Men (over 20) ________

AGE OF GROUP:
Youngest Hiker ________ (Age)
Oldest Hiker ________ (Age)

WILL AT LEAST 2 VEHICLES BE AVAILABLE TO SHUTTLE FROM BEGINNING TO END OF TRAIL? ________ (yes or no)

WOULD YOU OBJECT TO SHARING THE TRAIL WITH ANOTHER GROUP ON THE DATE OF YOUR CHOICE? COMMENTS-----------------------

(To be filled in at the De Soto Area Council office)

Received by_____________ Date Received_____________

ACTION TAKEN: ____________________________