

# The Battle of Westport October 21–23, 1864

A Driving Tour of Battle Sites in Kansas City,  
Missouri

## THE TOUR

This tour will include stops that can be reached by car and cover events from October 21 through October 23, 1864.

Each tour stop follows a standard format:

**Waypoint**—a latitude and longitude pinpointing specific location(s) relating to the tour stop.

**Directions**—directions how to walk from the previous tour stop to the current tour stop.

**Orientation**—some advice of what to look for at the actual tour stop. Since more than 150 years have passed since the battle, you often have to use your imagination to think about what occurred at the tour stop.

**What Happened**—describes the specific events that occurred during the battle at the tour stop.

**Vignettes**—on some of the tour stops we may include one or more brief anecdotes or first person accounts related to the tour stop.

I will create a series of battlefield maps to depict the general positions of Union and Confederate forces during key events.

I have also created a Google Maps version of the tour. Refer to this map to find the planned location for the tour stop.

### **1. Fire Prairie Creek Encampment**

This tour stop is located along Fire Prairie Creek east of the Little Blue River and south of US Highway 24. It addresses the Confederate encampment prior to the Battle of the Little Blue.

### **2. Little Blue Battlefield Vista**

This tour stop is located at the point where Highway 7 crosses over US Highway 24 and provides an overview of the battlefield.

### **3. Engagement at the Little Blue**

This tour stop is a historical marker located just east of where US Highway 24 crosses the Little Blue River.

### **4. Moonlight's Position, 8:00 a.m.**

This tour stop

### **5. Covered Bridge over Little Blue River**

This tour stop is located in the parking area for the Little Blue Trace Trail.

### **6. Federal Defense Line, 11 a.m.**

This tour stop is located on the Little Blue Parkway about half a mile south of US Highway 24.

### **7. Upper Ford on Little Blue River**

This tour stop is located where E Bundschu Rd crosses over the Little Blue River.

### **8. Stallard Attacks Bridge**

This tour stop is located on N Ferguson Spring Rd due east of the Covered Bridge tour stop.

### **9. Blue Mills Road Ford**

This tour stop is located in the Little Blue Trace County Park where E Blue Mills Rd crosses the Little Blue River.

## **10. Old Blue Mills Road**

This tour stop is located at the intersection of Old Blue Mills Rd and E Blue Mills Rd.

## **11. Jackman Attacks Greer's Company**

This tour stop is located about one half mile down E Blue Mills Rd.

## **12. Shelby's Field Hospital**

This tour stop is located just after the E Blue Mills Rd turns to the south near the intersection with N Yocum Rd. Discusses Lawson Moore house

## **13. Moonlight Attacked by Jackman**

This tour stop is located at the northeastern corner of the cemetery behind the Royer's New Salem Funeral Home (1823 N Blue Mills Rd).

## **14. Roadside Park**

This tour stop is a historical marker located in Salem Park (19901 E Old Lexington Rd) near the intersection of E Blue Mills Rd and US Highway 24. Historical marker and interpretive sign

## **15. Confederate Rear Guard, October 22**

This tour stop is located just east of the intersection of US Highway 24 and Missouri Highway 291. Discusses the Federal withdrawal to and through Independence and the Confederate pursuit.

## **16. Second Battle of Independence**

This tour stop is a historical marker located near the intersection of N Main St and W Truman Rd in Independence, Missouri.

## **17. Confederate Line October 22, 1864**

This tour stop is a historical marker located near the intersection of W Lexington Ave and S River Blvd, just west of The Community of Christ Temple.

## **18. Battle Line At Railroad Cut**

This tour stop is a historical marker located in the island at the intersection of W Lexington Ave and S Chrysler Ave.

### **19. Confederate Encampment, October 21**

This tour stop is located in Hill Park along Rock Creek. The Confederate wagon park on the night of Oct 21/22

### **20. Fighting Ends, 10:30 p.m., October 22**

This tour stop is located at the intersection of Raytown Road and Byrams Ford Rd. Meant to be the approximate location where Winslow's Brigade continued fighting the Confederate rear guard.

### **21. Historic Byram's Ford Road**

This tour stop begins at the intersection of Sni A Bar Rd and Byrams Ford Rd. Because the bridge at the last tour stop is closed, you will drive around to a section of the Historic Byrams Ford Road south of this location.

### **22. Federals Advance on Byram's Ford**

This tour stop is located at a railroad cut at the western end of E 58th St.

### **23. Dee's Battalion Crossed Here**

This tour stop is located on Hardesty Ave about one mile south of Blue Parkway.

### **24. Byram's Ford Road Crossed Here**

This tour stop is located on Hardesty Ave just a bit south of the previous tour stop.

### **25. Byram's Ford, East Bank**

This tour stop is located an optional short walk down the Blue River Trail to the Blue River.

### **26. Cattle Ford**

This tour stop is located at western end of E 51<sup>st</sup> St on east side of Blue River

Sinisi's map shows Hinkle's Ford just upriver from the Big Blue's confluence with Brush Creek. See Sinisi pages 195-196 and 199-200.

McCoy (Blue River Channel Project) shows "Cattle Ford" just downriver from Brush Creek (p. 8).

1876 plat maps show roads crossing the Blue River both just upriver and downriver from Brush Creek.

### **27. Hinkle's Ford**

See previous tour stop, Cattle Ford.

This stop is located on Coal Mine Road just north of where Brush Creek flows into the Big Blue River

Alternate location could be on opposite bank. Looks like you can drive there.

### **28. Simmons's Ford**

This stop is located just south of the intersection of Leeds Trafficway and Stadium Drive.

### **29. Federal Defense Line, October 22**

This tour stop is located in Blue Valley Park. In directions point out the old road leading from the Main Crossing.

### **30. Curtis HQ, October 22**

This tour stop is located near the entrance of Mt. St. Mary's Cemetery on 23d St.

### **31. Curtis HQ, Early Morning, October 23**

This tour stop is located at the Gilliss House Hotel historical marker on the Town of Kansas Bridge near the River Market.

### **32. Kansas City Entrenchments**

This tour stop is location near the intersection of 20<sup>th</sup> and Main Streets.

### **33. Curtis HQ, 7:30 a.m., October 23**

This tour stop is located at the intersection of Westport Road and Pennsylvania Ave. Harris House Hotel

### **34. Federals Cross Brush Creek**

This tour stop is located near the original Battle of Westport auto tour marker #2

### **35. Union Flanking Movement**

This tour stop is located near the original Battle of Westport auto tour marker #3

### **36. Curtis Hits Shelby's Left Flank**

This tour stop is located near the intersection of Sunset Dr and 55<sup>th</sup> St.

### **37. Stop 38—Bent and Ward Houses**

This tour stop is located near the original Battle of Westport auto tour marker #4

### **38. Confederate High Water Mark**

This tour stop is located near the original Battle of Westport auto tour marker #5

### **39. McLain's Battery**

This tour stop is located near the original Battle of Westport auto tour marker #6

### **40. Stop 41—McGehee's Charge**

This tour stop is located near the original Battle of Westport auto tour marker #7

### **41. 10 Pounder Parrott Gun**

This tour stop is located near the original Battle of Westport map marker #8

### **42. Collins's Battery**

This tour stop is located near the original Battle of Westport auto tour marker #9

### **43. Wornall Homestead**

This tour stop is located near the original Battle of Westport auto tour marker #10

#### **44. Hinkle's Grove**

This tour stop is located near the original Battle of Westport auto tour marker #11 on 63d Street

#### **45. Jennison's Withdrawal**

This tour stop is located near the original Battle of Westport auto tour marker #12 on 63d Street

#### **46. Shelby's Last Stand**

This tour stop is located near the original Battle of Westport auto tour marker #13 in Forest Hills Cemetery

#### **47. Forest Hills Cemetery**

Confederate Monument, Shelby's Grave, Thoman Grave

#### **48. Byram's Ford Cemetery**

This tour stop is located in the southeast corner of Troost and Gregory

#### **49. Mockbee Farm**

This tour stop is located near the original Battle of Westport auto tour marker #14

#### **50. Harrisonville Road [Prospect]**

This tour stop is located near the original Battle of Westport auto tour marker #15

#### **51. Federals Attack Confederate Line**

This tour stop is located near the original Battle of Westport auto tour marker #16. Discuss Bloody Hill, Rock Ledge, Winslow's attack and Philips's Ravine.

#### **52. Big Blue Battlefield, West**

This tour stop is located at 5951 Manchester Trafficway

#### **53. Confederate Entrenchments**

This tour stop is located just across E 59<sup>th</sup> St from the Pepsi Bottling Plant.



#### **54. Log House and Defensive Line**

This tour stop is located near the original Battle of Westport auto tour marker #17B

#### **55. Byram's Ford Road Vista**

This tour stop is located near the intersection of Elmwood Ave and E 60<sup>th</sup> Terrace

#### **56. Pratt's Artillery**

This tour stop is located near the original Battle of Westport auto tour marker #17A

#### **57. Boston Adams House**

This tour stop is located near the original Battle of Westport auto tour marker #19

#### **58. Battle of Westport Visitor Center and Museum**

Not sure where the museum will be in 2019.

#### **59. Approach to Russell's Ford**

This tour stop is located on Prospect Ave. near Marlborough Park

#### **60. Russell's Ford**

This tour stop is located near the original Battle of Westport auto tour marker #20

#### **61. New Santa Fe Road**

This tour stop is located near the original Battle of Westport auto tour marker #21

#### **62. Red Bridge over Big Blue River**

This tour stop is located in Minor Park near the old Red Bridge.

#### **63. New Santa Fe**

This tour stop is located near the original Battle of Westport auto tour marker #22

## **64. Thomas Farmhouse**

This tour stop is located near the original Battle of Westport auto tour marker #23

THIS CONCLUDES THE TOUR