



## News Release

October 9, 2024

### 160<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY COMMEMORATION EVENT (BOW 160) FOR BATTLE OF WESTPORT ON HISTORIC BATTLEFIELD

October 19, 2024  
10:00 AM to 3:00 PM  
BYRAM'S FORD BIG BLUE BATTLEFIELD PARK  
60<sup>th</sup> Street at Colorado Avenue, Kansas City, Missouri

The Monnett Battle of Westport Fund announces the upcoming commemoration events marking the 160<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Battle of Westport (BOW 160) in Kansas City, Missouri in conjunction with the Kansas City Parks and Recreation Department. The Battle of Westport of October 21-23, 1864 was the largest Civil War battle fought west of the Mississippi River.

The BOW 160 commemoration features guided tours of the battlefield, exhibitions and demonstrations of Civil War era daily life and military camp life and living historians.

The events are free and open to the public on Saturday October 19, 2024 from 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM. All events will be held on the grounds of the historic battlefield at Byram's Ford over the Big Blue River in the Big Blue Battlefield Park maintained by the Kansas City Parks and Recreation Department. The Big Blue Battlefield Park is on the National Register of Historic Places as the Byram's Ford Historic District.

The BOW 160 events in the Big Blue Battlefield Park will be accessed from the intersection of 60<sup>th</sup> Street and Colorado Avenue in Kansas City, Missouri.



A living historian will recreate the persona of a notable figure from the battle, Lt. Patrick Henry Minor, an African American, (1829-1865) who commanded Douglas' Independent Colored Battery as the first regularly commissioned Black officer to command Black troops in combat on 22 and 23 October 1864.

In addition to the military history, BOW 160 will show visitors the aspects of the times that make the Civil War relevant for a 21<sup>st</sup> century audience. There will be a series of Chautauqua style presentations. Families will have the opportunity to interact with the soldiers and other living historians throughout the event.

## Big Blue Battlefield Guided Walking Tours during BOW 160

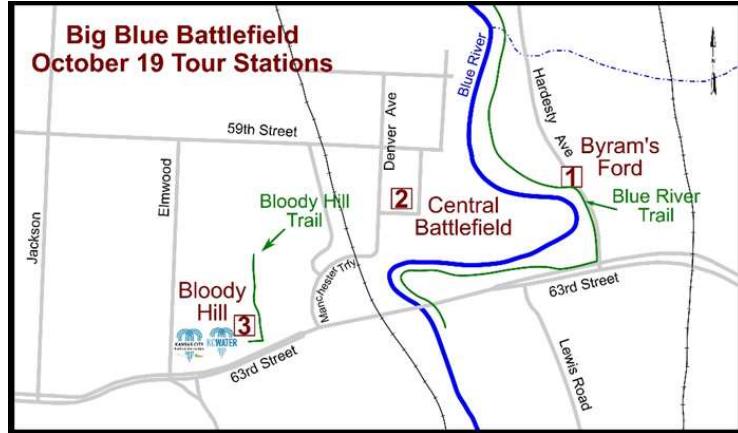
There will be three guided tour stations: 1. Byram's Ford, 2. Central Battlefield 3. Bloody Hill

Each station is hosted by an expert tour guide. Tours at each station will be given at 10:00 AM, 11:30 AM and 1:00 PM.

**Byram's Ford Tour Station:** starts 1/4 mile north of E 63<sup>rd</sup> Street on Hardesty

**Central Battlefield Tour Station:** starts at parking at 5951 Manchester Trafficway

**Bloody Hill Tour Station:** start at artillery piece located at 4800 E 63rd Street



Westport is one of only two battles in the state of Missouri designated by the National Park Service as a Class "A" battle because of its decisive effect upon the outcome of the war.

*The Monnett Battle of Westport Fund, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization which preserves and interprets the Battle of Westport.*

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