



Missouri Department
of Natural Resources
Division of State Parks

Lesson Plan Attachments

The Battle of Lexington

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Susan McCausland Photograph
Joseph Wilson Quote

Battle of Lexington State Historic Site
1101 Delaware Street
Lexington, MO 64067
660-259-4654
800-334-6946
800-379-2419 TDD

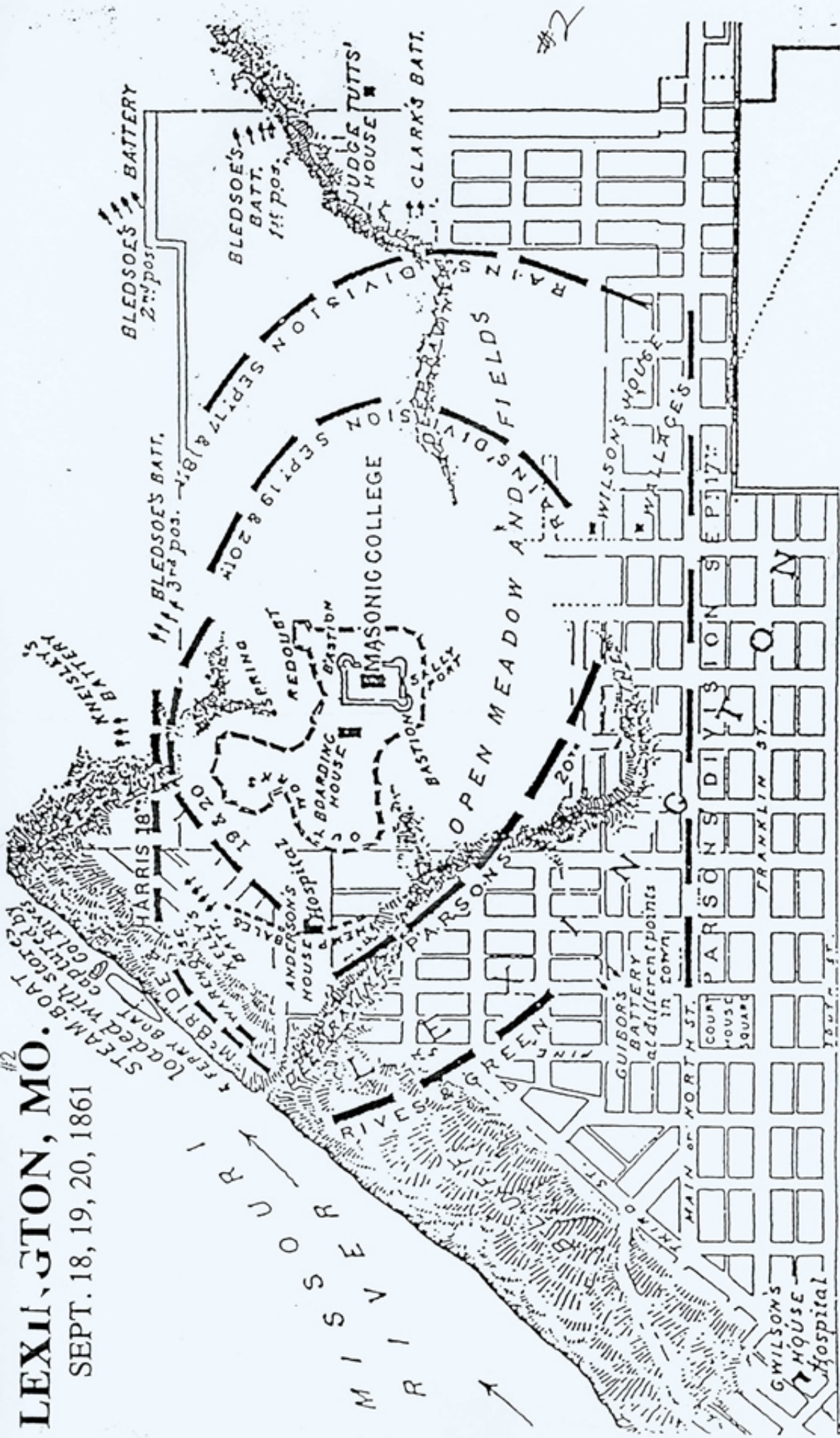


Kansas
City

• Lexington

LEXINGTON, MO.

SEPT. 18, 19, 20, 1861



Old Map Shows Positions of Southern and Union Forces During Battle

The various positions of Sterling Price's attacking southerners (in heavy lines) and the earth fortifications of James Mulligan's federals around the Masonic College outlined on this map of Lexington which appeared in "Battle and Leaders" a few years after the Civil War.

Quote #1

Immense breastwork commenced moving forward -- not by detachments or singly, but in one cast body, unbroken and steady...behind it were hundreds of men pushing and urging with levers, while others still, whose numbers were almost indefinite (sic) firing between the crevices and over the top.

Northern Newspaper Correspondent

George Palmer Quote

On the 19th the rebels took our hospital just outside our west line. The house was built of brick and afforded a good location for them to fire from the upper story. They fired directly into our trenches and after killing and wounding a number of our men, Colonel Mulligan said that they must be dislodged.

He sent two companies of his regiment down through our works on the charge to drive them out. They came along on the run and just as they emerged from our line I joined them in the charge. We reached into the building and drove the men from the lower floor some of them running toward the river and some running up the stairs.

I saw the officers trying to get their men to go up the broad stairway to drive the enemy from the upper story. With urging and ordering, no one offered to take the lead up the stairs. It looked like a desperate attempt. I was now filled with dash and enthusiasm. I ran forward and jumped onto the head step of the stairs and turned to the men and said, "if you will follow me I will lead you! We must drive them out!"

We went to the landing without opposition and rushed at the doors which were closed and locked. I knocked open one door with the butt end of my musket and stepped into the room. There were five Rebs there of whom raised their guns to shoot me. I yelled at them to surrender which they at once did after seeing the men behind me.

I succeeded in getting them down the stairs, when the soldiers below seeing them and being maddened by their numbers killed rushed at them and shot and bayoneted the whole five -- I was powerless to save them. It was horrible sickening butchery. I pushed aside bayonets and said that prisoners should not be killed, The Irishmen answered, "See our men they have killed."

The George Henry Palmer papers, U.S. Military History Institute.



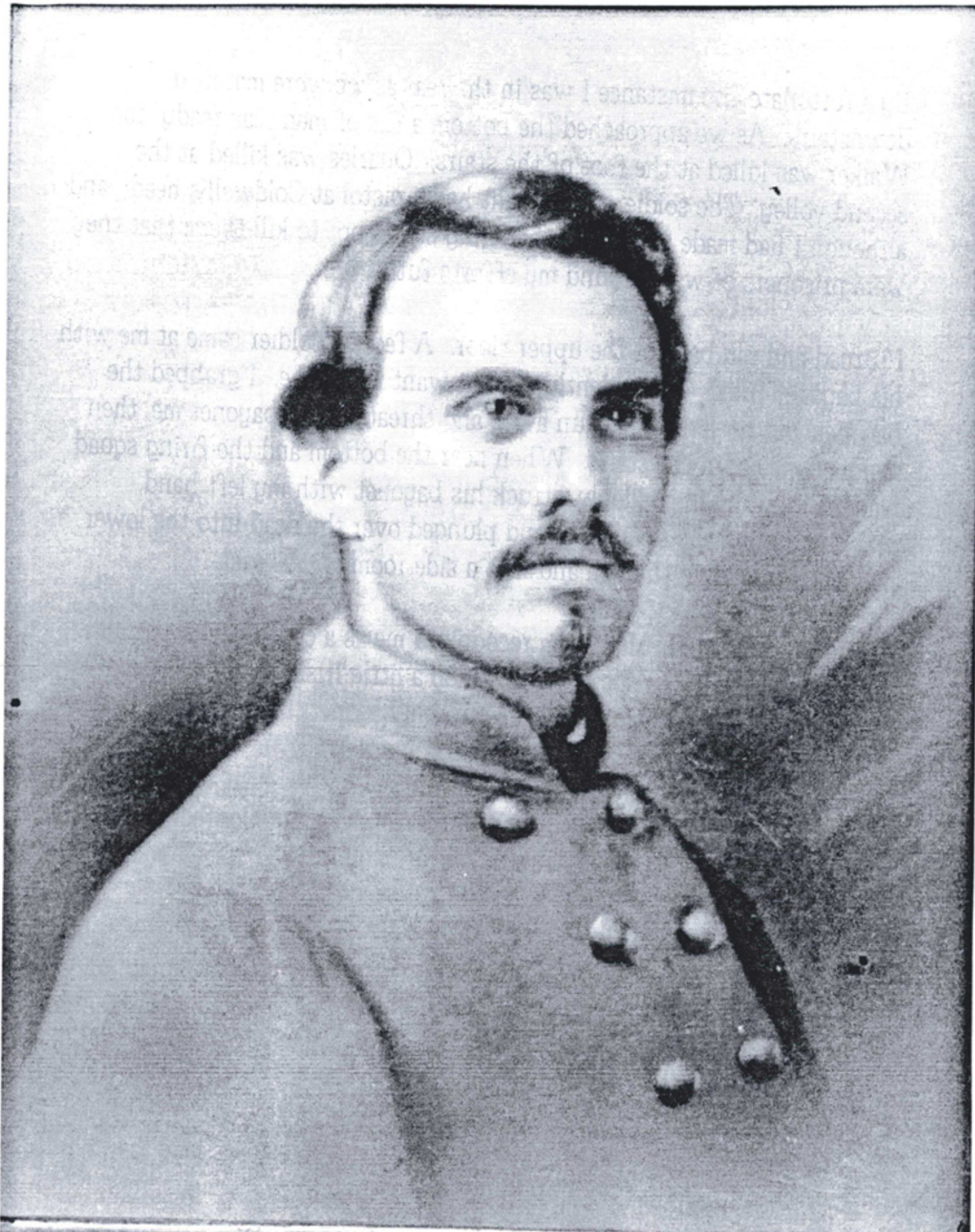
Mansur Quote

By a fortunate circumstance I was in the rear as we were marched downstairs. As we approached the bottom a file of men was ready, and Walker was killed at the foot of the stairs; Quarles was killed at the second volley. The soldier at my right had a pistol at Coldwell's head; and although I had made appeals to the firing squad not to kill them, that they were prisoners of war, I found my efforts futile.

I turned and ran back to the upper floor. A federal soldier came at me with his bayonet fixed. He evidently did not want to kill me. I grabbed the bayonet, but he jerked the gun away and threatened to bayonet me, then marched me down the stairs. When near the bottom and the firing squad was ready, I turned suddenly, struck his bayonet with my left hand, grabbing him at the same time, and plunged over the dead into the lower hall, then ran down the hall and into a side room on the east.

One of the soldiers in this room recognized me as a confederate, put his gun up and was in the act of firing when a little Irishman by the name of Brown or Bowen ran in and knocked up his bayonet. Then calling in one of his comrades, he said: "We will take you out."

Incident of the Battle of Lexington, Mo, W.H. Mansur, Confederate veteran, November 19, 1915.



McCausland Quote

At this time, I was standing at my post of observation from where I could see the Anderson House, the long line of earthworks behind it, and the beseiging column on the west. I had been there but a very short time when I saw a double line of union soldiers rush over the top of the embankment, followed by the serried ranks of others, all firing upon the house as they hurtled down upon it, charging right through Mrs. Anderson's great, old-fashioned flower-garden trampling the still blooming poppies and tiger lilies. and how the men fell as they charged. The forms of the fallen lay motionless and the poppies nodded their blood-spattered heads about the now silent soldiers.

Susan McCausland



Joseph Wilson Quote

They (Mulligan's Irish Brigade) marched around the inner side of the fort, with colors and music then forming in a hollow square, they stacked arms, furled the flag, and were paroled with the others.

Joseph Wilson