

Following in history's footsteps

■ Before the Civil War divided a nation, the man who would become one of its top generals was getting the lay of Muscatine County's land

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WILDCAT DEN STATE PARK, Iowa — Before Robert E. Lee became a Confederate General in the Civil War, he used his engineering skills to plat land in Muscatine County.

The young U.S. Military Academy in West Point graduate was a supervising engineer for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in the 1830s when he plated the one-time city of Iowa near what is now Montpelier.

This was one of the surprising facts Muscatine resident Rick Bierman discovered after anticipation of a local, celebration of history — Heritage Day — prompted him to do some research.

The former city of Iowa has a link to the restored 162-year-old Pine Creek grist Mill, a central icon in the celebration of Heritage Day, scheduled for Saturday, Sept. 18.

The city of Iowa was situated on Pine Creek, a tributary of the Mississippi River, near Wildcat Den State Park.

Heritage Day, coordinated by the Friends of the Pine Creek Grist Mill and the Friends of Melpine

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