

THE ULTIMATE TRIVIA

How many actors does it take to get from Kevin Bacon to Bruce Willis? The game, *Six Degrees of Kevin Bacon*, is a common past-time for movie fanatics and many are good at making the connection. Well, history buffs like to play games as well, so how many people does it take to get from our current President Barack Obama to the Battle of Pilot Knob? The answer is seven (7).

- 1) President Obama is the son of Shirley Ann Dunham and Barack Obama, Sr.
- 2) Shirley was the daughter of Madelyn Lee Payne and Stanley Armour Dunham.
- 3) Madelyn was the child of Leona McCurry and Rolla Charles Payne.
- 4) Leona's parents were Margaret Bell Wright and Thomas C. McCurry
- 5) Margaret was the daughter of Frances A. Allred and Joseph Samuel Wright.
- 6) Frances' mother and father were Samuel Allred and Ann Bunch.
- 7) Ann Bunch's brother was Captain Larkin Bunch of Hill's 7th Arkansas Cavalry, CSA, who fought and died at Pilot Knob.

According to Goodspeed's History of Northwestern Arkansas:

Larkin Bunch was a young man when he came to Arkansas ... became a farmer and stockman, and when the Civil War came up he left home and joined the command of Gen. Price, with whom he took part in the Missouri raid. He assisted in organizing one of the first companies in Newton County, of which he was elected captain, and died while serving the Southern cause, at Pilot Knob.

A memorial stone at the Liberty Cemetery in Arkansas indicates that Larkin Bunch is buried on the battlefield here, which is possible as the other known officer casualty from the 7th Arkansas is also known to be buried on this field. From Hill's 7th Arkansas Cavalry, we currently know that two officers were killed in the assault (Bunch being one of them) and 17 soldiers were taken prisoner (mostly injured) after the battle.

By the way, the answer to the Kevin Bacon question is that Kevin Bacon was in *Tremors* with Fred Ward who was in *The Player* and that had Bruce Willis in a cameo role.