



Arkansas Battlefield Update

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ACWHT chairs set 2005 goals at annual summit meeting

By Tom Wing
ACWHTF Secretary

On February 12, the annual summit meeting of the Arkansas Civil War Heritage Trails was held at the Central Arkansas Library building in downtown Little Rock.

Tom Dupree, Troy Banzhaf, Steve Black, John Scott, Dave Lewis, Mike Loum, Charles Durnette, Paul Beard, Jim Hale, Edgar Colvin, Jimmy Stevens, Terry Bandy, Danny Honnoll, Tom Wing and Mark Christ attended.

Regional updates were given by the chairmen followed by discussion of dues

and old business. New business centered on the discussion of setting regional priorities for the coming year. Each region gave five goals in order of importance; the regional trails will decide which goals will be pursued actively as common priorities.

The Northeast listed work at Chalk Bluff as the main goal for 2005, while the West Central listed interpretive markers for Dripping Springs and the Van Buren raid as most important. The Central Chapter placed Reed's Bridge atop their list, and the Southeast continued plans for a colonels' monument at Marks' Mills. The Southwest made plans to identify and mark the Lee Plantation at
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NEACWHT plans meeting, reenactment at Chalk Bluff park in Clay County

By Danny Honnoll
NEACWHT Chairman

Spring has sprung and the flowers are in bloom! The uniforms are being brushed and ready to wear. The NEACWHT main event for the year is coming together quite well: Chalk Bluff, and the interest in the reenactment is growing day by day.

This is a nearly perfect place to watch a reenactment. The rolling hills and willingness of the locals to help tell the story of Chalk Bluff/Gen. John Marmaduke/Gen. Jeff Thompson make this a very special place. With the

walking trail and the greenness of this area of Arkansas, it is a very beautiful setting. This will make the third year that the NEACWHT will help sponsor a living history/reenactment of the Battle of Chalk Bluff in partnership with Clay County, Gen. James Fleming Fagan Camp #280-Military Order Stars and Bars, the Col. Robert G. Shaver Camp #1655-Sons of Confederate Veterans of Jonesboro and Clay County Judge Gary Howell. This will mark the 142nd anniversary of the Battle of Chalk Bluff.

Over 75 people attended last year's NEACWHT meeting at Chalk Bluff. The subject of this year's meeting will be about
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New map targets sites in 4 states

Civil War sites in northwest Arkansas, southeast Kansas, southwest Missouri and northeast Oklahoma are highlighted in a new driving tour map, *A Guide to Trans-Mississippi Civil War Sites*.

The map includes information and driving instructions to 15 sites in northwest Arkansas, including Fort Smith National Historic Site, the Headquarters House in Fayetteville, Pea Ridge National Military Park, Prairie Grove Battlefield State Park and the National Cemeteries in Fayetteville and Fort Smith. Copies of the map will be available at each of those sites and at all Arkansas Tourist Information Centers, in addition to sites in the other three states.

Funded through a grant from the National Park Service's American Battlefield Protection Program, the project was led by Ralph Jones of the Oklahoma Historical Society. The editorial committee included representatives of the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program, Fort Scott National Historic Site, Fort Smith National Historic Site, Pea Ridge National Military Park and Wilson's Creek National Battlefield.

For information

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The Arkansas Civil War Heritage Trail is a network of regional private, nonprofit, volunteer organizations seeking to identify, protect, interpret and promote Arkansas properties related to the state's Civil War experience. General guidance for the groups is provided by the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program, an agency of the Department of Arkansas Heritage.

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The Northwest Arkansas Civil War Heritage Trail serves Benton, Carroll, Boone, Marion, Washington, Madison, Newton, Searcy and Van Buren counties.

West Central Arkansas CWHT

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The West Central Arkansas Civil War Heritage Trail serves Crawford, Sebastian, Franklin, Johnson, Logan, Yell, Pope and Scott counties.

Southwest Arkansas CWHT

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The Southwest Arkansas Civil War Heritage Trail serves Polk, Montgomery, Garland, Howard, Pike, Clark, Hot Spring, Grant, Dallas, Sevier, Little River, Hempstead, Nevada, Ouachita, Calhoun, Miller, Lafayette, Columbia and Union counties.

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The Southeast Arkansas Civil War Heritage Trail serves Jefferson, Arkansas, Phillips, Cleveland, Lincoln, Desha, Bradley, Drew, Ashley and Chicot counties.

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The Central Arkansas Civil War Heritage Trail serves Conway, Perry, Saline, Faulkner, Pulaski, White and Lonoke counties.

Northeast Arkansas CWHT

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The Northeast Arkansas Civil War Trail serves Baxter, Fulton, Izard, Stone, Cleburne, Independence, Sharp, Randolph, Clay, Lawrence, Greene, Jackson, Craighead, Poinsett, Mississippi, Woodruff, Cross, Crittenden, Prairie, Monroe, Lee and St. Francis counties.

SEACWHT will hold April meeting at Marks' Mills

By Mark Kalkbrenner
SEACWHT Chairman

The Southeast Arkansas Civil War Heritage Trail has several projects in the works for the coming year and several projects already completed.

The White Sulphur Springs Confederate Cemetery was placed on the National Register of Historic Places on Jan. 19. This comes after years of hard, diligent work by many groups and individuals. Now, new projects at the site and in the surrounding area can begin.

The headstone has been placed on the grave of the "Fagan Six" at Helena. A government Confederate stone was donated by Maurice Amason of Magnolia

and engraving was done by Edgar Colvin of Pine Bluff. The stone was set before the annual Cleburne Memorial service on March 195 and dedicated later that day.

Two areas within the SEACWHT participated in the Civil War Preservation Trust's National Park Clean-up Day on April 2. They are White Sulphur Springs and Marks' Mills.

The SEACWHT will be co-hosting the Battle of Marks' Mills Civil War Reenactment April 23-24 at Marks' Mills State Park.

The next meeting of the SEACWHT will take place at Marks' Mills State Park near the pavilion on Saturday, April 23 at 1p.m.

ACWHT web site a top priority in 2005, chairmen decide

Continued from Page 1.
Poison Spring.

Each region listed four other points of action for the coming year which are described in detail elsewhere in this issue.

Establishing a website for the Arkansas Civil War Heritage Trails Foundation was named a top priority for the ACWHT groups. John Scott and Tom Wing were appointed to pursue the project.

The last main focus of the meeting included a discussion of reenactments as a possible fundraiser for the foundation. Tom Wing and Terry Bandy were chosen to start a dialogue with reenactment groups, interested sites, and national and state parks. Details on this topic will follow in future issues of the *Update*.

The next summit meeting of the ACWHT groups and their foundation will be held Feb. 11, 2006.

Battlefield Preservation News?

If your group is working to preserve a Civil War-era battlefield or site, is planning a major reenactment, or has other news of interest to the battlefield preservation community, send it to *Arkansas Battlefield Update*. The newsletter is published quarterly. Send articles to: *Arkansas Battlefield Update*, Arkansas Historic Preservation Program, 1500 Tower Building, 323 Center Street, Little Rock, AR 72201 or to mark@arkansasheritage.org.

CACWHT focuses on two LR cemeteries

By Charles Durnette
and Mike Loum
CACWHT

With close to 200,000 Confederate dead and more than 130,000 wounded, the Civil War was devastating to the southern states. This devastation stretched over Arkansas, as an occupied state, and during that occupation a small parcel of land east of Little Rock was set aside for Union encampments. Still occupying the city in 1866, the U.S. government purchased some of the land to serve as a new cemetery and it was set aside for military interments.

The government purchased additional acreage in 1868, making it 12.3 acres, and designated it as a national cemetery with the stated purpose of concentrating the remains of Union dead buried throughout Arkansas. There were 5,425 interments (3,092 known dead and 2,333 unknowns) of Union soldiers transferred to the site. In addition, 1,482 remains removed from area battlefield graves were re-interred here. Confederate soldiers had no official cemetery at that time.

The Little Rock area became the site for a Confederate Veterans Home, housing many Arkansans. In addition, there were 42 hospitals and long-term care facilities in the area housing Confederates. As death overtook these Confederates, they were buried in an area south of the city and in Mount Holly Cemetery in Little Rock.

As Mount Holly became the burial site for dignitaries of Little Rock and Arkansas, space became a premium and in 1884, 640 Confederate dead were moved to a new 11-acre Confederate Cemetery and reburied in a mass grave. The cemetery was south and adjacent to the national cemetery. The monument reads: "Here lies the remains of 640 Confederate Soldiers From Arkansas, Missouri, Texas, & Louisiana Who died in the war 1861 62 & 63."

The marble Confederate Monument was erected by trustees of the Mount Holly Cemetery in honor of the 640 Confederate soldiers originally buried in



The burial site and marble Confederate Monument erected by trustees of the Mount Holly Cemetery in honor of the 640 Confederate soldiers originally buried in that cemetery and later re-interred in Little Rock National Cemetery.

that cemetery and later re-interred in Little Rock National Cemetery. The soldiers died in Arkansas, Missouri, Texas and Louisiana between 1861 and 1863.

In 1913, Congress authorized the Secretary of War to accept a deed from the City of Little Rock for the Confederate cemetery, with the restriction that only Confederate veterans could be interred on the newly acquired land. By 1938, this restriction was removed and the Confederate cemetery became the Confederate Section of Little Rock National Cemetery.

The cemetery south of Little Rock became of interest for development of what is today known as the State Fair Grounds. In a corner of the Oakland Fraternal Cemetery, 900 remains from that area were reburied in a mass grave. The area was walled off with a masonry boundary to designate the graves. In 1913, a monument was erected that reads: "In memory of the nine hundred Confederate Soldiers buried within this enclosure, most of who died in the hospitals in Little Rock in 1863." As a significant sculpture of the post-Civil War period (1886-1934) in Arkansas, the monument was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1996.

The grave of the 640 has always been well maintained by the National Cemetery, but the mass grave has fallen into jurisdictional disrepair. In the 1960s a group from the Sons of Confederate Veterans maintained the site of the 900. Also about 138 graves east of the obelisk have the remains of relatives of the Confederates buried there.

The oral history says that in the late 1980s, the grounds crew got tired of mowing around some of the markers and concrete boundaries and just scooped them up in a front-end loader and hauled them off to the east, dropping them off the edge of a cliff. Custodians reportedly threw the headstones into a gully and covered them over. Only a few remain.

In 1990, the National Expansion Corp. purchased additional land from the adjoining Oakland Fraternal Cemetery and formally donated it to the United States for expansion of the national cemetery. Part of that area encompasses the grave of the 900.

In November 1999, the City of Little Rock donated one additional acre. Little Rock National Cemetery, encompassing a little over 31 acres, was then listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1996.

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NEACWHT working to place markers at Fitzhugh's Woods, Pocahontas, others

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Capt. Henry Harnden of the 1st Wisconsin Cavalry U.S. (He was in northeast Arkansas and at the end of the war was with the 1st Wisconsin when they captured Jefferson Davis, the president of the Confederate States of America.)

On Saturday and Sunday at 2 p.m. reenactments are scheduled to be on the Dalton Farm, which is just south of the Chalk Bluff Natural Area Park. This is a nearly perfect site to hold a reenactment with most of the action in the valley between two hills that make up part of Crowley's Ridge. Last year we had seven period cannons that thundered on both days to the enjoyment of those in attendance. The Chalk Bluff Park will open to the public at 9:30 a.m. on both days of the Chalk Bluff living history weekend. Activities will be for all ages and men/women alike - refugee camps and military camps for all to enjoy. Other events are still being planned and will be announced at a later date. No registration fees for reenactors! Walk-ons must be at the site and registered two hours before any listed event. Artillery Contact: Delbert Hughes, phone (870) 598-3942, email, dhughes@piggott.net; Infantry Contact: Capt John Malloy; phone (870) 269-5573, email, jjmalloy@mvtel.net. or Danny Honnoll, (870) 935-9830, email, WDHONNOLL@prodigy.net.

We are still working with a group wanting to place a marker at Fitzhugh's Woods. I am not sure that we will be able to complete this project this year but the planning will continue until we have some type of marker placed at the site.

Phillips County is in the SEACWHT's area but I want to thank Edgar Colvin for his work on placing a military style marker for the "Fagan Six." This new stone marks and complements the marker that he helped place last year. The Cleburne Camp of the SCV, along with the Arkansas Reenactors, Parsons Battery of Louisiana, Newton Camp of Little Rock and Shaver Camp of Jonesboro helped dedicate the marker

during the Cleburne Memorial on March 20 of this year.

The date for the marker dedication for the town of Marmaduke has been changed to July 2. The committee at Marmaduke is raising funds now and we hope to meet our goal and our due date for placement of the marker. We will keep you posted on the matter.

Our 2006 project marker for Pocahontas is still on go and we are now communicating with individuals on the sesquicentennial committee at Pocahontas. Jim Kincade of Pocahontas has helped with the planning of the placement of the marker.

Jimmy Stevens of Trumann stopped by the Forrest City Museum and reported back to the committee that the original Civil War marker for St. Francis County has been placed in front of the museum. The museum director would like to do a living history and rededication of the marker. We are going to set a date and see if we can do the marker honor sometime this year. If you would like to visit the museum the directions are: from I-40, take Arkansas 1 south through town to Front Street; turn one block east; located at the corner of Front and IZARD streets. They do have a "War Between the States" room for your viewing

pleasure.

The North East Arkansas Southern Heritage Foundation, a subcommittee of the NEACWHT, is making plans for a memorial to be placed at Jonesboro at the corner of Southwest Drive, Main Street and Highland. Ed Dudley reported to the committee that the group was planning on bringing in fill dirt and doing yard work some time in April to help dress up the site as planning continues on the development of the site.

Plan on attending the next meeting at Chalk Bluff on April 30. We will meet at the pavilion in the middle of the park at 10 a.m. See you there! For more information on the NEACWHTC contact Danny Honnoll at 870-935-9830 or by email at whonnoll@prodigy.net.

DeGray Park schedules event

DeGray Lake Resort State Park will hold its ninth annual Civil War Weekend at the park on Oct. 29-30. Planning for the event is underway, and re-enactors are being sought to participate. For more information, contact Jason Parrie at (501) 865-4436.

Mark your calendar!

Northeast Arkansas Civil War Heritage Trail meeting

10 a.m. Saturday, April 30, Chalk Bluff Natural Area

Central Arkansas Civil War Heritage Trail meeting

7 p.m., fourth Tuesday of each month,

John Gould Fletcher Branch Library, Little Rock

Southeast Arkansas Civil War Heritage Trail meeting

1 p.m. Saturday, April 23, Marks' Mills Battlefield State Park

Southwest Arkansas Civil War Heritage Trail meeting

To be announced

West Central Arkansas Civil War Heritage Trail meeting

To be announced

Northwest Arkansas Civil War Heritage Trail meeting

11 a.m. Saturday, May 21, Pea Ridge National Military Park

Van Buren area sites are focus of WCACWHT

By Tom Wing

WCACWHT Chairman

The West Central Arkansas Civil War Heritage Trail has already been at work in 2005 helping to preserve Civil War sites. The Dripping Springs site, on private property in Crawford County, was documented and determined to be eligible for the National Register.

One marker, commemorating the action in 1862, is located on the corner of Highways 59N and 220E. Federal troops pursued retreating Confederate forces following the Battle of Prairie Grove. An action was fought at Dripping Springs north of town and resulted in Rebel pickets falling back to Van Buren. Federal troops occupied Van Buren after skirmishing with Confederates on the south side of the Arkansas River.

Additional waysides are planned closer to the battle site, to interpret the closing action of the Prairie Grove Campaign. The West Central ACWHT will also work to interpret newly marked United States Colored Troops graves in Fairview Cemetery in Van Buren. Fairview has been recently nominated to the National Register. Additionally, the Confederate section of Fairview could benefit from interpretation as well.

Johnson County has been identified as an area of interest and the West Central is planning to hold a late spring meeting to generate support in site identification and preservation. Lastly, the Crawford County Courthouse in Van Buren was the site of Confederate and Federal camps during the war. An interpretive marker is planned for the courthouse. The next meeting will be announced by the chairman; contact Tom Wing (479) 788-7805 for details.

Got News?

Send information about your upcoming Civil War-related activity to: *Arkansas Battlefield Update*, AHPP, 1500 Tower Building, 323 Center Street, Little Rock, AR 72201.

SWACWHT helps document region's Civil War properties

By Jim Hale

SWACWHT Chairman

SWACWHT volunteers Jim Hale of Hot Springs, Paul Beard of Malvern, Maurice Amason of Magnolia and Peggy Loyd of Prescott, along with Mark Christ, Tony Feaster and Holly Hope of the Department of Arkansas Heritage staff, have spent part of the winter identifying and surveying various Civil War sites within the region, as listed below:

1. **Camp Lee**, a Confederate winter camp in 1863-65. Located on private land near Lewisville, the sites of nearly 100 huts were marked. Even though logging operations have destroyed some of the original camp, using modern GPS technology transferred onto topographic maps, the arrangement of the huts into streets are clearly visible.

2. **Mack Springs**, another Confederate camp site in Lewisville, was identified for future survey.

3. **Soldiers Ridge**, a Confederate camp site near Bradley, was documented.

4. **Artillery emplacements** on private land between Elkins' Ferry and Prairie DeAnn were identified and marked, using the same GPS technology. Transferred onto topographic maps, the telltale concentric circles of entrenchments overlooking an abandoned roadbed tell the tale of Confederate defenses seeking to delay the southwestern Union advance during the spring of 1864.

5. Similar surveys on private land at Camden seem to have identified a **new fortification**, with several rings of entrenchments. This site when placed upon modern topographic maps reveals that it may have overlooked the Camden-Lewisville Road.

Numerous readers of this newsletter continue to contact SWACWHT volunteers with new information and leads into additional sites that will be surveyed and marked next winter. These new sites range from Columbia to Garland to Montgomery counties.

Persons desiring to have their sites researched should contact Jim Hale at (501) 760-2566.

Sign me up!

I want to find out more about battlefield preservation in Arkansas. Send me future issues of [Arkansas Battlefield Update](#).

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E-mail address (optional): _____

Name of Friend: _____

Address: _____

Jacksonville's Reed's Bridge is listed among the country's most endangered

By Noel E. Oman
Arkansas Democrat-Gazette
(Reprinted by Permission)

Tommy Dupree of Jacksonville remembers from childhood the big cypress tree that sat on the banks of Bayou Meto near Arkansas 161, distinctive not only for its size but also for the Civil War cannon ball embedded in one of its large limbs.

The projectile was a remnant of an intense day-long skirmish that took place nearly 142 years ago, part of the campaign that resulted in the Union occupation of Little Rock.

The tree and cannon ball are gone now, but Dupree, now 67, and others want to preserve what became known as the Reed's Bridge battlefield.

But the proximity of Interstate 440 — 2 miles away — combined with sprawl from Jacksonville and North Little Rock threaten their effort, prompting the Civil War Preservation Trust to name it among the organization's Top 25 "most at-risk" Civil War battlefield sites in the United States.

The trust report, "History Under Siege," bases its rankings on geographic location, military significance and the immediacy of current threats.

The most endangered sites include the location of the Nov. 30, 1864, Battle of Franklin, Tenn., one of the most agonizing defeats by the South during the Civil War.

Another is just outside Charleston Harbor, Morris Island, S.C., the scene of fighting during the siege of Charleston and noted for the participation of the 54th Massachusetts, the famed black regiment immortalized in the 1990 film *Glory*.

Virginia's Manassas Battlefield, less than an hour's drive from Washington, D.C., and the site of two crucial battles in 1861 and 1862, leads the list.

"Across the country, hallowed ground, where more than 600,000 Americans gave their lives, is being paved over for

shopping malls and housing tracts," Trust President James Lighthizer said at a recent Washington, D.C., news conference.

"Without swift and decisive action, many of the sites listed in this year's report will soon be little more than a memory."

Dupree, president of the Reed's Bridge Preservation Society, welcomes the national attention, noting that until lately the Reed's Bridge battlefield nearly was

forgotten. "Hopefully, this will give us a shot in the arm," he said.

The battle, though minor, deserves the attention, said Thomas A. DeBlack, a Civil War historian.

"It's a significant part of a major campaign that resulted in the capture of Little Rock," said DeBlack, an Arkansas Tech University history professor

and author of *With Fire and Sword: Arkansas 1861 to 1874*, an account of the state during the Civil War and Reconstruction. "And that people are trying to preserve it is a very worthy cause."

Further, not much remains from the Little Rock campaign, which also saw a pitched battle on land near what would become Little Rock National Airport, Adams Field.

"Reed's Bridge, or Bayou Meto battlefield, is the most intact site" from the Little Rock campaign, said Mark Christ, a spokesman for the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program.

His agency produced a report on the site, concluding, "Despite modern intrusions immediately adjacent to Highway 161, the majority of the core battlefield is in remarkable ... condition, approximating its appearance on Aug. 27, 1863."

While growing up on the outskirts of Jacksonville, Dupree was only faintly aware that "some action took place" nearby during the Civil War.

"I grew up right down the road [from] where the Confederate gun emplacements were at the time," Dupree said recently during a visit to the battlefield site. "Of course I didn't know that at the time. I was more interested in



Arkansas Democrat-Gazette/Photo by Karen E. Segrave
Tommy Dupree is leading the effort to preserve the Reed's Bridge Civil War battlefield site near Jacksonville.

playing."

The pivotal battle took place at the bridge, then the Bayou Meto crossing for the old Military Road, which was the main thoroughfare between Little Rock and Memphis for a journey that took 20 days by wagon.

A small Confederate force, backed by artillery fire, managed for a while to beat back a superior Union force marching on Little Rock. Federal casualties included seven dead and 38 wounded, according to the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program report. Confederate losses were undisclosed, but the report said at least two officers were killed and numerous soldiers were wounded.

The battle marked the last serious

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Group raising funds to save battlefield

Continued from Page 6.

Confederate opposition to the Union advance on the state capital, which fell on Sept. 10, 1863.

It also helped spark a duel between two feuding Confederate generals, Lucius M. Walker and John Sappington Marmaduke, who had been at odds since the Battle of Helena earlier that year. They met at dawn on Sept. 6 at the Godfrey Lefevre plantation on the north side of the Arkansas River. Both fired once and missed. Marmaduke fired again, mortally wounding Walker.

Reed's Bridge was recognized in the 1970s when a plaque was placed on Arkansas 161 marking the site. Several years ago, a proposal for a more elaborate marker surfaced. Dupree heard about it when his civic club was approached for \$1,000 in matching money. He was hooked.

Dupree's group is trying to acquire as much of the original 450 acres of the battlefield as it can. So far, the group has bought about 150 acres, which it turns over to Jacksonville for preservation.

In 2002, the site was placed on the National Register of Historic Places. A Nashville, Tenn., consultant has been hired to develop recommendations for a long-term preservation plan. That report is due this year.

The site is part of the brochure illustrating the Little Rock Campaign Tour, which depicts the route Union forces took to capture Little Rock. It's also included in a guide to the Arkansas Civil War Heritage Trail.

Still, it remains threatened by development.

Supporters of Reed's Bridge have helped steer a proposed water tower

away from a site within the battlefield. A cellular telephone tower on the battlefield has been modified to minimize its effect.

The site draws about four visitors a day, said Jack Danielson, a member of the bridge society. Its register book contains the signatures of people from almost every Arkansas county and 37 states.

"I don't know how they find out about it," Danielson said.

Getting the site on the at-risk list will garner even more attention, Danielson said, noting that it will be discussed in the national organization's newsletter and magazine.

"They can talk about this with people from all over the world," he said. "The impact of the Civil War was not just in the South or the United States. It was all over the world."

CACWHT selects five top projects for 2005; Reed's Bridge effort receives highest priority

Continued from Page 3.

In the late 1990s, a group of Confederate descendents undertook a mission to mark the grave of the 900. Working with the director of the national cemetery next door, they measured the corner boundaries and drove steel rods at the corners. The next phase of the project is to have four aluminum round caps made. The caps were designed to be round, featuring the Confederate iron cross in the center with the letters SCV inside it and wording circling it reading, "Mass Grave - 900 Confederate Soldiers — 1864." The caps will then be mounted on four posts and placed at the corners of the mass grave. The project continues, but no deadline has been set for completion.

In addition to watching the progress of this project, the Central Arkansas Civil War Heritage Trail (CACWHT) has selected the following five areas as project priorities. Each is progressing at its own speed.

1. Reed's Bridge Battlefield project

2. Confederate Soldiers' Home

3. Confederate Cemetery

4. Bayou Fourche panel

5. Monument identification, location, condition, National Register status.

A 140-year-old civil war cannon on display at the Lonoke County Courthouse has come to the attention of the CACWHT. It is deteriorating according to reports; age, neglect, exposure to the elements and insect damage have combined to weaken and destroy some of the wood parts of the artillery piece. The "cannon" is not a cannon, but a three-inch ordnance rifle. Stories surrounding the weapon include links to the Brooks-Baxter War of 1874. Its history was researched for the Lonoke County Historical Society and the CACWHT is looking into the possibilities of restoration.

The CACWHT meets at 7 p.m. on the fourth Tuesday of each month, jointly with the Civil War Roundtable of Little Rock (except in December, when there is no meeting) at the John Gould Fletcher

Library at H and Buchanan streets in Little Rock. The Civil War Roundtable programs are excellent and guests are encouraged and welcome to attend. For more information, contact Mike Loum at 61shelbysmule65@comcast.net.

For more information on the Reed's Bridge Preservation Society, call Tommy Dupree at (501) 833-0265. The Society's meetings are held each month at 12:30 p.m. at the new Jacksonville Chamber of Commerce building at 200 Dupree Drive, and are open to the public. Donations can be made, and checks payable to the Reed's Bridge Preservation Society, 600 Lynx Lane, Jacksonville, AR 72076.

The *Arkansas Battlefield Update* newsletter is available online at the AHPP web site at arkansaspreservation.org.

NWACWHT plans to focus on markers, increasing membership during 2005

By Troy Banzhaf
NWACWHT Chair

The dreary days of winter have passed us by and I don't know about you, but I am looking forward to some sun and warmer weather. Our summit meeting in February was a success and since it was my first summit meeting, it was a pleasure to see some people I knew and meet many others I did not. I look forward to working with everyone.

The NWACWHT came up with a handful of priorities for 2005 and our top priority is the Head's Crossing marker on the White River. Our second priority is member and partner participation. Membership/partnership in the NWACWHT is low and is definitely in need of some new recruits to help fill the ranks. As fast as the area is growing, we

need to work hard to identify, mark and help acquire sites before they are gone.

For those that did not make it to the Pea Ridge battlefield for their 143rd battle anniversary, you missed a great event. On Saturday, March 5, the park hosted living historians from around the area who did artillery and small arms demonstrations for over 1,000 visitors. The highlight was a horse-drawn artillery program that was very popular. It is the first horse-drawn artillery program done on any NPS civil war battlefield in several years.

Artist Andy Thomas also unveiled 10 new paintings of the battle and campaign in the visitor center and gave two programs on his work. These paintings will be used for the park's new wayside exhibits throughout the battlefield and will hopefully be installed in the next couple of

years. If you missed seeing the originals, you can see pictures of them at his web site at www.andythomas.com.

The next NWACWHT meeting will be held on Saturday, May 21, at 11 a.m. at the Pea Ridge NMP administrative office building adjacent to the visitor center. We will discuss the 2005 priorities and a handful of expressed ideas on how we can achieve our goals for this year. Anyone who is interested in joining or helping the NWACWHT is invited to attend this meeting. If you have any questions, suggestions, or need directions to the meeting please feel free to call me at (479) 451-8122 or e-mail me at troy_banzhaf@nps.gov.

The Northwest Arkansas Civil War Heritage Trail serves Benton, Carroll, Boone, Marion, Washington, Madison, Newton, Searcy and Van Buren counties.



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The Arkansas Historic Preservation Program is an agency of the Department of Arkansas Heritage. Other DAH agencies are the Arts Council, the Old State House Museum, the Historic Arkansas Museum, the Delta Cultural Center in Helena, the Mosaic Templars Cultural Center and the Natural Heritage Commission.

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