



Arkansas Battlefield Update

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NEACWHT places marker, holds Chalk Bluff meeting

By *Danny Honnoll*
NEACWHT Chair

The citizens of Marmaduke contacted the Northeast Arkansas Civil War Trails Committee group about placing a marker to honor the town's namesake and within 10 months the marker was placed.

The town of Marmaduke, Northeast Arkansas Civil War Heritage Trails Committee, Col. Robert G. Shaver Camp #1655, Sons of Confederate



Left to right: Gene Bennett, Jimmy Stevens, Danny Honnoll, Terry Bandy, Gavan Stevens, Ray Jones, Jim Burton, James Langley and Jerry McIntosh at Marmaduke marker ceremony.

Veterans and the Gen. James F. Fagan Chapter #280, Military Order of Stars and
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CACWHT working closely with effort to preserve Reed's Bridge Battlefield

By *Mike Loum*
CACWHT Chairman

The spring and summer of 2005 have started out and continue to be a very busy first half of the year for members of the Central Arkansas Civil War Heritage Trail. While all five projects are seeing some progress, two in particular are well underway.

Reed's Bridge Battlefield or Bayou Meto, adjacent to Hwy. 161 just south of Jacksonville, was a significant part of a major campaign that resulted in the

Union army's capture of Little Rock in September 1863. The Civil War Preservation Trust, a national watchdog on Civil War battlefield threats, has designated the Aug. 27, 1863, battle site on its list of top 25 "most at risk" in the United States. Nearby interstate-class traffic and urban development still pose a threat to the remaining acreage of the original site. Fortunately, much of the core of the battlefield is in remarkable condition and is greatly as it appeared in August 1863. The site registers several visitors daily and has received signatures of people from most
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AHC grant to fund two NW exhibits

By *Troy Banzhaf*
NWACWHT Chairman

The NWACWHT, in conjunction with the Northwest Arkansas Heritage Trail Partners, received a \$1,500 grant from the Arkansas Humanities Council that will help to develop two markers that will address the historical significance of Head's Crossing on the White River.

The first of the markers will describe the use of Head's Crossing by Union Generals Francis Herron and James Totten in October 1862, as they advanced toward Confederate General James Rains' troops reportedly in and around Huntsville. The Confederates fled the area and the Union troops returned to Cross Hollow and Osage Springs. The second marker will discuss what life was like on the White River in the 19th and early 20th centuries. The markers will be completed in the late fall or early winter and will be placed near the boat ramp off U.S. Highway 412, east of Springdale. A ceremony will be held when they are installed.

Our meeting on May 21 was cancelled due to an accident and large fuel spill that forced the
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CACWHT addresses issues of mass grave, cannon

For information

General 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.

Northwest Arkansas CWHT

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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.

Southeast Arkansas CWHT

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

Central Arkansas CWHT

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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.

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counties in Arkansas and some 40 states, according to Jack Danielson, a member of the Reed's Bridge Battlefield Preservation Society.

Plans are to continue to work with Tommy Dupree, president of the Reed's Bridge Battlefield Preservation Society, and a Nashville, Tenn., consulting firm that has been hired to develop a long-term preservation plan. That report is due later this year.

In May, members of the CACWHT met at Oakland Cemetery in Little Rock to look over the boundaries that at one time sectioned off the mass grave of some 900 Confederate veterans. Plans are to reestablish the four corner pins set by the descendents of the veterans in the late 1990s. Each of the corners will be marked with a round aluminum cap featuring the Confederate Iron Cross and will read, "Mass Grave-900 Confederate Soldiers-1864." The caps are to be placed at the four corner posts. Talks with the cemetery director continue. Ceremonies dedicating the markers for the "900" are moving toward a fall 2005 date.

Anne McSwain, Lonoke County Historical Society officer, met with members of the CACWHT the first weekend in June on the grounds of the Lonoke County Courthouse. The purpose of the meeting was to survey the possibility of the erection of a panel with information concerning the Model 1861, 3-inch Ordnance Rifled muzzle-loader located on the courthouse grounds.

The 140-year-old artillery piece is of the type used heavily by both sides. The second most common rifled artillery piece in both armies generally, and the most common on the Maryland Campaign, the 3-inch ordnance gun was made of hammer-welded, formed, machined iron. It was popular because of its accuracy and reliability, at least those examples built in Federal shops. Less precise machining and lower grade iron gave their Confederate counterparts more trouble. Those built by the firm of Burton and

Archer were known to be problematic.

There were probably 87 3-inch Ordnance Rifles in Federal service on the Maryland Campaign, and at least 48 in Confederate batteries. The 3-inch rifle normally fired Hotchkiss or Schenkel shells that weighed between eight and nine pounds. In an emergency it could use 10-pounder Parrot ammunition. It could also be used to fire canister but, as a rifle, was not as effective with this as were howitzers or Napoleons. Manufactured by the Phoenix Iron Company of Phoenix, Pa., the piece weighed in at 1,720 pounds with a maximum range of 1,830 yards. Maximum range was figured for one pound of black powder charge behind solid shot at five degrees elevation. The Lonoke cannon is said to have historical ties to the Brooks-Baxter War of 1874. Plans are to work with the Lonoke County Historical Society for a panel after the restoration of the rifle is complete.

Our three other CACWHT 2005 projects, the Confederate Soldiers Home in Little Rock, the Bayou Fourche panel, and Confederate and Union monument identification, location, condition and National Register status are in their early stages and will be reported on in future editions of the *Battlefield Update*.

For more information on the Reed's Bridge Battlefield 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 should be payable to the Reed's Bridge Battlefield Preservation Society, 600 Lynx Lane, Jacksonville, AR 72076.

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.

NEACWHT holds event at Chalk Bluff

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Bars, conducted a historical marker dedication on Saturday, July 2.

The marker dedication took place at the Marmaduke City Park at 10 a.m. following the parade at Marmaduke, which began at 9 a.m. The events were part of the Annual Marmaduke Fourth of July weekend that is held on the weekend nearest the Fourth of July.

After the dedication, the Marmaduke marker was placed at the corner of Arkansas Highway 49 North and Arkansas Highway 34 on the northeast corner of the Marmaduke post office property.

The ceremony included the dedication and the unveiling of a new historical marker at Marmaduke. The NEACWHTC, Sons of Confederate Veterans members, Military Order Stars and Bars, 30th Arkansas and Seventh Arkansas Infantry reenactors and Hubbard's Battery reenactors were outfitted in full Confederate regalia during ceremonies and conducted a three-volley gun salute at the side of the marker. Over 30 reenactors from all over the region filled the ranks of the honor guard.

U. S. Congressman Marion Berry, State Representatives Dustin McDaniel and Travis Boyd, and State Senator Tim Wooldridge attended the marker dedication. Over 500 people watched as Terry Bandy unveiled the new marker to honor Marmaduke.

For the third year the Northeast Arkansas Civil War Heritage Trails Committee held its meeting at Chalk Bluff battle site on April 30 and May 1. They helped sponsor a Living History/ Reenactment of the Battle of Chalk Bluff with Clay County and the Col. Robert G. Shaver Camp # 1655; Sons of Confederate Veterans of Jonesboro. They marked the 142nd Anniversary of the Battle of Chalk Bluff.

On Saturday at the pavilion over 55 people attended the meeting of the NEACWHTC.



Participants in reenactment and NEACWHT meeting at Chalk Bluff in Clay County

On Saturday and Sunday at 2 p.m. reenactments were held on the Dalton Farm, which is just south of the Chalk Bluff Park. More than 350 attended this historical event even though it was raining. Seven period cannons thundered on both days to the enjoyment of those in attendance. More than 50 reenactors took part in the events.

A memorial was held Sunday for those who fell at Chalk Bluff. More than 200 turned out to witness this event. Reenactors dressed in Federal and Confederate uniforms took part in the memorial. Trustee Rev. Terry Bandy conducted a church service on Sunday. More than 50 attended this religious service.

Some of our guests and reenactors were Mark Kalkbrenner, Edger Colvin, the Taylor boys and others from the Southeast Arkansas Civil War Heritage Trails Committee.

The ladies of the Northeast Arkansas Living Historians set up a demonstration of a Civil War refugee camp. This was to show the lives of the civilian population after they were displaced by the actions of both armies.

Judge Howell announced at the meeting that he would help host the event in 2006 on May 6 and 7, so mark your calendar for this event.

We had a meeting with the Woodruff County Judge and the mayor of Augusta

on May 12. The Lunday brothers, Larry and Herbert, are spearheading the drive to mark the site of this battle. The county and city committed to the project and are going to apply for a grant for the site.

NEACWHTC took part in Memorial Day services in Jonesboro.

The Northeast Arkansas Southern Heritage Foundation, a subcommittee of the NEACWHTC, has had three meetings this year and has raised over \$3,000 toward the placement of a monument to Southern heritage in Craighead County.

A Pocahontas marker is scheduled to be placed by September 2006. This will be part of the 150th anniversary of Pocahontas. Jim Kincade and Derek Clements are working with us on a place to locate the marker for the events that took place in Pocahontas during the war.

Jimmy Steven reported that the historical marker at Pineville may be moved to the Cross County Courthouse grounds.

Ann and Walter Meals want to invite everyone down on Friday, Sept. 9, from 5-8 p.m. for gospel singing. Then, on Saturday from 9 am to 5 p.m., join the Stone House Pioneer Days Celebration. The NEACWHTC will have a sign up on Saturday to let everyone know where we are to hold our meeting.

It will start Saturday, Sept. 10, at 11 a.m., at the Stone House at Colt, Arkansas. See y'all there!

Pea Ridge Historian Doug Keller dies

Pea Ridge National Military Park lost a valuable member of its staff with the death of Park Historian Doug Keller. Doug died suddenly in his sleep Sunday April 24, 2005. As his death was unexpected, the park is in quite a state of shock.

While Doug was thrown many curve balls at birth and in life and may have been short in stature, he cast a giant shadow and was well respected in the Civil War and historian communities. A native of Colorado, Doug cut his NPS teeth at what is now Little Bighorn Battlefield National Monument. After five summers on the high plains of Montana, Doug got his permanent status and returned to Colorado as a Museum Technician at Bent's Old Fort National Historic Site in 1988 and eventually worked his way east in 1991 to Arkansas and Pea Ridge NMP.

Doug became the master of the Pea



Doug Keller, 1964-2005

Ridge story and was a much-sought-after commodity. People from across the United States and from around the world came to Doug whenever a question about this important battle arose. He was instrumental in all minor and major projects the park did during his tenure and was the leading force behind the return of General Samuel Curtis's coats to the battlefield. He will be fondly remembered for his wicked sense of humor, his passion for knowledge, his love of Las Vegas, his generosity and his friendship.

The family asks that in lieu of flowers donations be made to help finish what Doug started and help the Pea Ridge National Military Park Foundation complete the purchase of the Curtis

Coats. Donations can be sent to the Pea Ridge National Military Park Foundation, P.O. Box 700, Pea Ridge, AR 72751.

Next NWACWHT meet is Aug. 6

Continued from Page 1.

highway to be closed for several hours. For those of you who were turned back, we will try again to have a meeting on Saturday, Aug. 6, at 11:00 a.m. at the administration building at Pea Ridge National Military Park. The building is across the parking lot from the visitor center. The park itself is located on Highway 62 east, 10 miles east of Rogers.



The Pea Ridge NMP Foundation is accepting donations in memory of Doug Keller to buy these uniform coats.

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.

Mark your calendar!

Northeast Arkansas Civil War Heritage Trail meeting

11 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 10, Stone House, Colt

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

To be announced

Southwest Arkansas Civil War Heritage Trail meeting

To be announced

West Central Arkansas Civil War Heritage Trail meeting

3 p.m. Saturday, July 23, Massard Prairie Battlefield, Fort Smith

Northwest Arkansas Civil War Heritage Trail meeting

11 a.m. Saturday, Aug. 6, Pea Ridge National Military Park

Old State House plans Mexican War seminar

Each year the Old State House Museum hosts its annual Civil War Symposium. This year the museum focuses on the less-studied involvement of Arkansas troops in the U.S.-Mexican War. The U.S.-Mexican War is often viewed as a training ground for men who later fought one another in the Civil War—men like Robert E. Lee and Ulysses S. Grant who served alongside Arkansas volunteers and enlisted men in Mexico.

The symposium, entitled *Ready, Booted and Spurred: Arkansas and the U.S.-Mexican War*, will take place at the Old State House Museum on Saturday, Aug. 20, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Reservations for the symposium are required before Aug. 15. The cost to attend is \$20 and includes lunch and refreshments. Those who are interested in participating should call (501) 324-8641 to register.

Speakers for this year's symposium include Dr. Elliot West, Dr. Donald Shaw Frazier, Dr. Pedro Santoni, Dr. C. Fred Williams and Bill Frazier, guest curator of the museum's newest exhibit *Try Us: Arkansas and the U.S.-Mexican War*.

The exhibit details Arkansas's role in the war between Mexico and the United States from 1846 to 1848.

This two-year conflict, although overshadowed in American history by the Civil War, found its roots in the pursuit of Manifest Destiny. The conflict also revolved around disputes with Mexico over its border with Texas, as well as the South's quest for new lands suitable for slavery and the plantation system in order to maintain its balance of power in the U.S. Congress. Many in Arkansas were also eager to fight for more personal reasons: to avenge the death of a fellow Arkansan, to test their mettle in battle or to cover themselves in glory to further their political careers. "Try us" was the motto of one Arkansas company organized in Crawford County.

The exhibit features artifacts from the Old State House Museum's collection, as well as those on loan from other institutions. Items include U.S. and Mexican



Connections between the U.S.-Mexican and Civil Wars will be explored in the August 20 seminar. Pictured here are images from the "Try Us" exhibit. At left is Thomas J. Jackson, later to be known as "Stonewall." At right is George Thomas in Mexican War garb; he would earn fame as "The Rock of Chickamauga." Photos are from the collection of Dr. William Schultz.

artifacts: military uniforms, weaponry, original flags from Arkansas units, as well as an extensive collection of daguerreo- types of soldiers who fought in the war, including many who later achieved prominence in the Civil War.

SWACWHT visits groups, identifies Camden fort sites

*By Jim Hale
SWACWHT Chairman*

Jim Hale, chairman of the SWACWHT, has been busy throughout various counties within the region speaking to local historical societies and encouraging them to continue their efforts to locate, identify and mark Civil War sites within their counties. Recent efforts have focused on the rich heritage of Clark, Ouachita, Montgomery and Garland counties.

At Camden, almost ten fortifications have been identified and funds are being raised to properly mark those sites. While some of the sites have been built upon, several remain very visible as they were 140 years ago.

As the fall and winter weather arrives,

an intense amount of fieldwork will be resumed to locate additional sites throughout the region as has been accomplished the past two winters. Results of these efforts will be posted in the future.

Residents and property owners within the area of the SWACWHT may contact Jim Hale at (501) 760-2566 if they know of sites that should be investigated.

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.

The time and place for the next meeting of the SWACWHT will be announced later.

WCACWHT will help tell river valley's Civil War story in work at Drennen House

By Tom Wing
WCACHT Chairman

This spring has been busy for the West Central Arkansas Civil War Heritage Trail with many exciting developments.

In addition to the activity at Dripping Springs, heritage tourism in Western Arkansas received a boost from the Arkansas Natural and Cultural Resources Council. The University of Arkansas at Fort Smith will be given a grant to purchase and begin planning the restoration of the Drennen-Scott Home in Van Buren. The historic house will be used as an interpretive training center for the Historical Interpretation Program at UAFS. Additionally, the university will offer visitation on some level to the

public. John Drennen, one of the founders of present-day Van Buren, built the house in 1836. It is believed to be one of the oldest houses to be continuously occupied by the same family west of the Mississippi River.

Civil War preservation is a major issue at the location as Drennen owned slaves, some of whom escaped and were aided by the Underground Railroad. Charles Scott, Drennen's son-in-law, owned slaves as well and was a well-known Confederate supporter. Scott is mentioned in "With the Light Guns," the story of the Confederate Pulaski Battery from Little Rock. Before Wilson's Creek, the Pulaski Battery camped in Van Buren and was given horses by Scott. James Stuart, John Drennen's stepson, was a

captain in the 1st Cherokee Mounted Rifles under the leadership of Brigadier General Stand Watie. Stuart survived the war and is buried in Fairview Cemetery, recently added to the National Register of Historic Places. Additionally, family history speaks of a Federal battery camped in the yard of the house from 1863-65. The Drennen House will offer many important Civil War connections as the site is developed.

The next meeting of the WCACWHT will be July 23 at the Massard Prairie Battlefield Park. The meeting will start at 3 p.m.

Bring lawn chairs; refreshments will be served. For further information, contact Tom Wing at (479) 788-7805.



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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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