



# Arkansas Battlefield Update

Fall 2003, Volume 11, Number 3

Published quarterly by the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program  
An agency of the Department of Arkansas Heritage

## SWACWHT to help document area's forts, camps, cemeteries

By Jim Hale  
SWACWHT Chair

The SWACWHT will undertake an exhaustive project this winter to identify Civil War sites along the Red, Little Missouri, Caddo, and Ouachita Rivers and mark them using a GPS. These sites will include artillery emplacements, fortifications and entrenchments, river road crossings, camps and battlefields. Once these site identifications have taken place, future work can be undertaken to preserve and mark them for historical purposes.

Jim Hale and Keenan Williams met with Mark Christ and Zac Cothren on Oct. 29 to develop a list of possible sites to be mapped, including cemeteries, fortifications and camp sites in South-

west Arkansas.

With the recent grand reopening of the Nevada County Museum in Prescott, efforts are underway to assist to enlarge and improve their small Civil War display from the battles of Prairie DeAnn and Moscow Church. We are currently working to locate and place relics from those battles in the museum display. Those interested in helping should contact Jim Hale at (501) 760-2566.

Similar efforts are in the initial stages to set up a Civil War display in the Prattsville community relating to the Yankee retreat from Jenkins Ferry. Again, those interested in helping with this project should contact Jim Hale at (501) 760-2566.

Excellent Civil War displays from the Poison Springs/Camden sites are available to the public at the White Oak State Park visitor **Continued on Page 2.**

## WCACWHT growing closer to brochure on Fort Smith's Civil War attractions

By Tom Wing  
WCACWHT Chair

The WCACWHT met on Oct. 5 at Fort Smith National Historic Site. A draft of the Civil War driving tour brochure was discussed as the main item of business. The tour includes 5 stops and 3 points of interest concerning action around Fort Smith. The entire route is 17 miles long and takes about an hour to complete.

The tour begins with a stop at the site

of the fortification line constructed by the order of Samuel Curtis. The tour also includes a stop and information on the camp of the 14th Kansas Cavalry, near the present day Fort Smith airport, as well as The National Cemetery where soldiers Blue and Gray are buried.

A driveby of Fort # 2 on the fortification line is included. This site, with Massard Prairie, was recently listed on the Arkansas Register of Historic Places. Soldiers of the 1st Kansas Colored Infantry defended the **Continued on Page 4.**

## AHPP seeking NHL status for battlefield

The Arkansas Historic Preservation Program is seeking to have Prairie Grove Battlefield State Park designated a National Historic Landmark, the highest honor awarded that the National Park Service affords to historic properties.

The Dec. 7, 1862, battle pitted Confederate troops under Thomas C. Hindman against Union divisions led by James G. Blunt and Francis Herron in brutal day-long fighting that caused 1,261 Federal casualties and 1,485 Confederate casualties out of the 17,000 or so soldiers involved.

In assessing the significance of the Battle of Prairie Grove, historian William Shea wrote: "The second and final Confederate attempt to recover Missouri and turn the tide of the Civil War in the Trans-Mississippi was stopped at Prairie Grove. Had the Confederates triumphed at Prairie Grove, there was nothing to stop them from marching deep into Missouri and threatening St. Louis. The hard-fought Union victory was a tactical draw, perhaps even a tactical defeat, but it was a crushing strategic defeat for the Confederates. When the Confederate army retreated to the south side of the Arkansas River after Prairie **Continued on Page 4.**

## For information

### General Information

Mark Christ (501) 324-9880  
mark@arkansasheritage.org

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

John Scott (Pea Ridge)  
(479) 451-8122  
John\_C\_Scott@nps.gov  
Suzie Rogers (Harrison)  
(870) 741-5443, ext. 153

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

### West Central Arkansas CWHT

Tom Wing (479) 783-3961  
Tom\_Wing@nps.gov  
The West Central Arkansas Civil War Heritage Trail serves Crawford, Sebastian, Franklin, Johnson, Logan, Yell, Pope and Scott counties.

### Southwest Arkansas CWHT

Jim Hale (501) 760-2566  
[haleje@attglobal.net](mailto:haleje@attglobal.net)  
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

Mark Kalkbrenner (870) 247-2394  
captk1ark@hotmail.com  
The Southeast Arkansas Civil War Heritage Trail serves Jefferson, Arkansas, Phillips, Cleveland, Lincoln, Desha, Bradley, Drew, Ashley and Chicot counties.

### Central Arkansas CWHT

Tom Ezell (501) 961-1937  
tomezell@aristotle.net  
The Central Arkansas Civil War Heritage Trail serves Conway, Perry, Saline, Faulkner, Pulaski, White and Lonoke counties.

### Northeast Arkansas CWHT

Danny Honnoll (870) 935-9830  
wdhonnoll@prodigy.net  
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.

# Two trails in NW Arkansas work to preserve area history

By John C. Scott  
NWACWHT Chair

Not to be confused with the Northwest Arkansas Civil War Heritage Trail (NWACWHT), the NWAHT stands for the Northwest Arkansas Heritage Trail.

The Northwest Arkansas Heritage Trail Plan is amendment Five to the 2025 Regional Transportation Plan for Metropolitan Northwest Arkansas. The trail will become a regional network of bicycle and pedestrian facilities that connect Northwest Arkansas citizens and visitors to the rich heritage, recreational and cultural assets and a healthier lifestyle to each other.

Historical routes that were used as a part of the Trail of Tears (1838-39), Butterfield Stage

Coach Route (1858) and Civil War troop movements (1861-1865) will be the main focus of the trail. The Telegraph Road through Benton and Washington Counties was a very important route to the armies on both sides in Northwest Arkansas. The partnering of the two groups will further provide a platform for education and the protection of Civil War related sites in this part of the state.

In other news NWACWHT members are working on developing text for new markers to be placed at Heads Crossing (known as the two rivers crossing to some) and at Camp Stevens.

Our next meeting will be in late November in Harrison, AR. The date and time will be announced later.

## SEACWHT has busy summer

By Mark Kalkbrenner  
SEACWHT Chair

The Southeast Arkansas Civil War Heritage Trail has been busy since July. Marker erections, dedications, memorials, and workshops have kept us busy, and there is still so much more to do.

On July 20, 2003, a marker with the names of all those killed (that we have so far) was dedicated at Marks' Mills battlefield. In late August, a marker was erected at Longview on the Saline River interpreting the skirmish there. A dedication service followed on September 12.

Late September saw the erection of a monument at the Camp White Sulphur Springs Confederate Cemetery to the charter members of the David O. Dodd Chapter of the United Daughters of the Confederacy for their work in originally preserving the site in 1913.

On September 20, a memorial and dedication service was held at the Springhill Cemetery near Grapevine. And on October 11-12, the

annual White Sulphur Springs Civil War weekend was held. Mark Christ of the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program was the keynote speaker at the memorial service.

On September 12-13, 2003, Mark Kalkbrenner and Edgar Colvin represented the SEACWHT at the American Battlefield Preservation Program's Mid-West Conference at Wilson Creek National Park. Much was learned about what steps the federal government is looking for in funding sites. We will be actively pursuing several grants in order to acquire property in the Southeast part of the state in the next year.

Our next meeting will be the annual Christmas potluck at the Pine Bluff / Jefferson County Museum at 6:00 p.m. on Saturday, December 13, 2003. everyone is invited. Our next regular meeting will be at Arkansas Post State Park on Saturday, January 17, 2004, at 2 p.m., in conjunction with their Civil War Weekend.

## 'Special Places in the Forest'

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center, the Camden Chamber of Commerce, located in the old railroad depot, and at the Chidester House annex in Camden.

Finally, recent contact has been made with International Paper Company for their assistance in helping to mark and preserve Civil War battle sites located on their

property through their "Special Places in the Forest" program.

The next meeting of the SWACWHT will take place this winter in conjunction with the GPS river project. Dates and times will be announced; volunteers will be welcome to help with this important project.

# CACWHT reports more trouble with vandals

By Tom Ezell  
CACWHT Chair

Vandals struck again at the Little Rock Campaign marker noting the site where the Federal infantry crossed the Arkansas River in September 1863. The marker, located near the Main Street Bridge in Little Rock's Riverfront Park, was vandalized at some time during the Columbus Day weekend, when a rock concert was held at a nearby amphitheater. Repair and replacement were completed on October 16, at a cost of approximately \$300. This is the second time this particular marker has been damaged, and CACWHT members are seeking suggestions to better protect these sites against vandalism.

Central Arkansas chairman Tom Ezell, along with Tommy Dupree and Jack Danielson of the Reed's Bridge Preservation Society, attended the American Battlefield Protection Program's Midwest Regional Workshop on September 12-13 at Wilson's Creek National Battlefield.

Local reenactor groups have formed the Central Arkansas Civil War Preservation Association as a non-profit corporation to

further battlefield preservation and public outreach and education through living history and other activities. Member units currently include the 37th Illinois Infantry and the 6th Arkansas Infantry.

The groups held living history presentations in support of the Bridge Battlefield Preservation Society at the Reed's Bridge battlefield on September 6 and October 4, and took part in preservation fundraisers for Save The Franklin Battlefield in Franklin, TN on October 17-19. Future activities will include a living history program and commemorative services on the 140th anniversary of the trial and execution of David O. Dodd, to be hosted by the MacArthur Museum of Arkansas Military History in Little Rock on January 10, 2004.

The R.C. Newton Camp, Sons of Confederate Veterans, of Little Rock hosted a motorcycle trail ride on September 27, which featured key Civil War sites in Lonoke and Pulaski counties, among them the Camp Nelson Confederate Cemetery in Cabot, the Reed's Bridge battlefield at Jacksonville, the Ashley's Mills battlefield near Scott, Bayou Fourche battlefield and the old U.S. Arsenal

building in MacArthur Park in Little Rock. More than 70 riders participated.

Coordination is ongoing to relocate a marble marker to the Bayou Fourche battlefield site near the current Civil War Round Table of Arkansas marker on Frazier Pike. The new marker will be dedicated to the memory of the soldiers, Union and Confederate, who fought at Bayou Fourche – the decisive battle for the final defense of Little Rock.

Requests for Little Rock Campaign driving tour brochures can be sent to the City of Little Rock Convention and Visitors Bureau, P.O. Box 3232, Little Rock, AR 72203.

The CACWHT meets at 7:00 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.

CACWHT volunteers are very much needed to help with projects, including summer maintenance of the existing nine interpretive panels located in Little Rock, North Little Rock, Brownsville, and Scott. For more information, call Tom Ezell at (501)682-0876 or (501)961-1937.

# NEACWHT learns of St. Francis County actions

By Danny Honnoll  
NEACWHT Chair

The NEACWHTC had its September meeting at Colt, Arkansas, on September 6. Due to rainy weather that weekend there was a low turnout at the festival.

While at Colt we learned more about troop movement in St. Francis County. We even heard old war stories about a brass cannon in the nearby river. I think every battle has a cannon in the river that the old-timers used to dive off of when swimming in their favorite swimming hole. I wish we could find one of those old cannons, don't you? It sure would make a great display tool!

Jacksonport State Park has shared good news with our group in that they are going to exhibit the Confederate regimental flag of the "Jackson Guards." It will be on loan from the Museum of the Confederacy in Richmond, Virginia. Jacksonport will have it for a year, so make plans to travel to Jacksonport and see a part of northeast Arkansas's Civil War history first hand. Mark Ballard, the park superintendent, told us that the flag should be at Jacksonport in early 2004. We will keep you posted on when it goes on display. We are also working on a pamphlet project with the Jacksonport State Park.

The NEACWHTC is going to try to work out a future meeting at Jacksonport. They have a great museum and staff at Jacksonport.

Rob MacGreger of Little Rock sat in on our meeting. He exchanged information about William Loudermilk of Jonesboro. Mr. Loudermilk was the last living Confederate in Arkansas.

More interest has surfaced at Marianna concerning the Battle of L' Anguille Ferry. Some of the local historians are helping plot the battle site so we can tell what went on August 3, 1862. It is a very hard site to get to and has been forgotten to the ages until the NEACWHTC pamphlet on the battle was printed two years ago. The pamphlet sparked new interest in this site like the other pamphlets have developed more interest in other sites in our area.

Chairman Danny Honnoll gave a talk on the Civil War at Pocahontas in August. The local Rotary Club group showed interest in having a marker placed at Pocahontas. The committee has over \$1,300 earmarked for this project when a location and enough money are available for this project.

Parker's Homestead was a success again this year in that we handed out numerous Arkansas Civil War pamphlets and met a lot

of good individuals that were interested in the 1860s and Arkansas.

One of our committee members, Jim Lair, is publishing a book on the Civil War and Arkansas. The book "Pillars of Power" is one of a series of five books. If you would like to pre-order a copy of this book send your name, address, phone number and how many books you would like to: The Arkansas American Civil War Association, P. O. Box 2004, Jonesboro, AR 72401. The cost of the book will be about \$30. For information you can contact Lair at Jblcivilwar@cox.net.

The committee is looking forward to returning to Chalk Bluff for our annual reenactment fundraiser. Last year's event was a success. The date for this year's meeting and reenactment is May 1 & 2, 2004. If you are interested in taking part in this event contact Delbert Hughes at 870-598-3942. Clay County Judge Gary Howell is still working on getting the road work done to Chalk Bluff. This is a long hard project and he and his road crews are doing an excellent job.

Another project still being worked on is the marker at Martin's Creek/Morgan Mill. We have money but still lack a site for placement.

The next meeting of the NEACWHTC will be at 11 a.m. January 17, 2004, at the Jonesboro Public Library.

# Prairie Grove had far-reaching consequences

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Grove, all of Missouri and most of Arkansas were permanently lost to the Confederacy.”

The battle at Prairie Grove effectively ended the Rebel dream of securing Missouri as part of the Confederate States of America “and consequently reduced the strategic importance of Arkansas in the eyes of military planners in both Washington, D.C., and Richmond,” historian Thomas A. DeBlack has noted, both considerations that had far-reaching implications for the Transmississippi Theater.

The battle thwarted Confederate efforts to transport Hindman’s First Corps to aid efforts east of the Mississippi. “Practically speaking,” historian Shelby Foote wrote, “[Hindman] had no army. So much of it as did not lie in shallow graves at Prairie Grove was scattered over northern Arkansas, hiding from conscription agents in Ozark coves and valleys. Thus it was that the battle lost in Northwest Arkansas had repercussions far beyond the theater in which it was fought.” Theophilus Holmes formally declined to send troops east on December 29, the day after Blunt and Herron chased Hindman from Van Buren and Fort Smith, writing “such a

reinforcement would be useless, while such a diversion would enable the enemy to penetrate those portions of the Arkansas Valley where the existence of supplies of subsistence and forage would afford them leisure to overrun the entire state.”

“By virtue of the role of the Dec. 7, 1862, Battle of Prairie Grove in closing Northwest

Arkansas as an avenue of Confederate invasion of Missouri and in altering the strategic importance of Arkansas and the Transmississippi Department in the thinking of Eastern war planners, the Prairie Grove Battlefield is deserving of designation as a National Historic Landmark,” the proposed NHL nomination says.

## New WCACWHT driving tour includes Massard Prairie site

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position from Confederate attack in July and August of 1864. Fort Smith National Historic Site and Massard Prairie round out the tour stops. We are hoping to have the brochure published by the spring tourist season. Many thanks go to Judith McGee for her work on this project.

I am happy to report after attending the battlefield preservation conference in Missouri that there is a possibility of adding Massard Prairie to the American Battlefield

Preservation Program list of sites. This would increase the possibility of funding future projects. We also recently got the news that the Arkansas Historical Association spring meeting will be held in Fort Smith. Tentative plans include a day of presentations devoted to the Civil War in Western Arkansas.

The next meeting of the WCACWHT will be held at 1 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 6, in the Visitor Center at Fort Smith National Historic Site. Call Tom Wing at 479-783-3961 for details.



Arkansas Historic  
Preservation Program  
1500 Tower Building  
323 Center Street  
Little Rock, AR 72201  
(501) 324-9880

[info@arkansaspreservation.org](mailto:info@arkansaspreservation.org)  
[www.arkansaspreservation.org](http://www.arkansaspreservation.org)

The AHPP 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, the Mosaic Templars Cultural Center and the Natural Heritage Commission.

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