



Arkansas Battlefield Update

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SWACWHT recounts efforts, prepares for future projects

By Jim Hale
SWACWHT Chair

The SWACWHT met on Aug. 22 at the historic Methodist Church in Washington, Arkansas. An excellent crowd representing numerous counties across the region met in the original Civil War era sanctuary to discuss the status of completed and upcoming projects.

Reports were received from:

1. Mark Christ, Keenan Williams and Jim Hale about the GPS mapping project on Confederate forts at Fulton and Dooley's Ferry in Hempstead County.

2. Bobby Downs about a number of sites that have been marked in Clark County.

3. Peggy Lloyd on the Sutton Mounds and Moscow Church projects in Nevada County.

4. Maurice Amason regarding the location of sites in Columbia and Lafayette counties.

5. David Wilson regarding a variety of sites along the lower Ouachita River in Ouachita and Union counties.

6. Jim Hale reported on the possibility of new sites being explored at Prairie D'Anne and Calhoun, among others.

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CACWHT moves marker to battle site

By Tom Ezell
CACWHT Chairman

Under the guidance of CACWHT members Jimmy Rice and Don Hamilton, a cement marker has been moved from its former location on Little Rock's East 21st Street to the Bayou Fourche battlefield site on Fourche Dam Pike, near the monument previously placed by the Civil War Round Table of Arkansas. A bid has been accepted for a bronze plaque commemorating the battle at Bayou Fourche and listing the units that participated, and \$1,200 has been collected toward purchase and installation of this plaque. To contribute to this effort, please contact Don Hamilton at (501) 688-1403.

We appreciate the efforts of CWHT members around the state in contacting the Little Rock Parks Department concerning the potential move of the David O. Dodd execution site marker from its current location near the UALR Law School to the grounds of the MacArthur Museum of Arkansas Military History. Sufficient interest and comments were generated, and the marker will be left in place.

The CACWHT will be electing
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Reed's Bridge, Prairie Grove at forefront of state's battlefield preservation activity

By JAY HUGHES
Associated Press Writer
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LITTLE ROCK (AP) – Efforts to preserve the Reed's Bridge battlefield just outside Jacksonville began almost by accident.

The state was spending money to put up new commemorative plaques at Civil War sites, but since the land the central part of the battle was fought on was in private hands, there was nowhere to put a marker.

Through a service club, Tommy Dupree had helped raise some matching

funds for the marker. He then helped raise money that the city matched to buy a seven-acre parcel a widow was selling to provide a site.

Fast-forward seven years. Dupree now heads the Reed's Bridge Battlefield Preservation Society, which is on its way to gaining control of the 250-300 acres it needs to properly preserve the site of one of the largest clashes in the Little Rock campaign.

"Historically, it's something that a few people out here knew about but it wasn't well known. Tourism-wise, you'd be surprised how many people come out here from all over," Dupree said. The other thing is, as far as education goes, it's been of great interest

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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
Robert Still (Harrison)
(479) 741-5443

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) 474-4781
wcacwht@aol.com

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
jim.hale@sbcglobal.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.

WCACWHT will work with UAFS students

By Tom Wing
WCACWHT Chair

The West Central Arkansas Chapter did not meet in September in lieu of a living history workshop the same day at Fort Smith National Historic Site. The executive committee met and discussed upcoming events and projects.

The driving tour brochure, which has been expanded to include Van Buren and Crawford County as well as Fort Smith and Sebastian County, will also benefit from students in the new Historical Interpretation program at the University of

Arkansas, Fort Smith. This program will train entry level interpreters and the first students will contribute to the brochure as a class project. GIS mapping will also be provided from staff at UA Fort Smith.

Tom Wing, chairman of the WCACWHT, presented a program at the annual Civil War symposium at the Old State House Oct. 9. The topic was Confederate Indians and action around Fort Smith. The next meeting will be at 7 p.m. Nov. 2 at the Gardner Lecture Hall at UA Fort Smith. Call (479) 788-7805 for directions.

Battlefield economic survey available at CWPT web site

"Economic Study on Value of Battlefields," a study by the Civil War Preservation Trust (CWPT), demonstrates that communities preserving Civil War battlefields encounter substantial economic benefits.

With the help of the consulting firm Davidson Peterson Associates, the Civil War Preservation Trust surveyed battlefield visitors. They were asked several questions about the duration of their stay, the amount of money they were spending, their age, income, and education level.

The study demonstrated that preserving Civil War battlefields has a ripple effect on a community's economy. Battlefields attract tourists, who in turn pay for services in the community. The demand for services creates more local jobs and higher incomes for the community's residents.

For more information on the study contact Chris Kolakowski at ckolakowski@civilwar.org or visit www.civilwar.org/ei.htm.

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.

CWPT assisting in Arkansas preservation

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to people in the area and the school kids.”

Reed’s Bridge was one of three Arkansas sites among the top 25 Civil War sites most endangered by development, according to a list compiled last year by the Civil War Preservation Trust. The others are Helena and Prairie Grove.

The Reed’s Bridge project has attracted the attention of the Civil War Preservation Trust, which works to help gain control of land to preserve sites.

“What we try to do is identify lesser-known sites where land values are still relatively low so we can get in there and protect those sites before a developer gets in there and tries to develop a core part of the battlefield,” said spokesman Jim Campi.

Campi said although the sites of the largest battles, many preserved as national parks, get most of the attention, interest in smaller fields goes far beyond local curiosity.

“What we’ve discovered is a lot of interest in Civil War battlefields is people who have ancestors who fought in the war,” he said. “When they research their ancestors they find that they didn’t fight at Gettysburg or Shiloh, they fought at these lesser-known sites.”

Arkansas has plenty of those. Mark Christ, spokesman for the state Historic Preservation Program, said the National Park Service has identified more than 770 spots where fights occurred in Arkansas, ranging from brief skirmishes between small parties to full-scale battles like the one at Helena.

Christ said the state has identified about 45 sites of battles, fortifications or camps that could conceivably be preserved.

“The trans-Mississippi is the forgotten Civil War. We didn’t have battles as grand as some that occurred east of the river, but any guy who was shot in Arkansas was just as dead as somebody who was shot in Gettysburg,” he said. “The ground here is as hallowed as it is there.”

The Pea Ridge and Prairie Grove battlefields are the best preserved in Arkansas, Christ said, with Prairie Grove



Reed's Bridge Battlefield in Jacksonville, Pulaski County, Arkansas.

presenting a particular success story.

In 1993, the congressionally appointed Civil War Sites Advisory Commission designated Prairie Grove one of the 50 most-endangered Civil War battlefields in the country, something the battlefield’s manager calls “probably the best thing that happened.”

Ed Smith, manager of Prairie Grove Battlefield State Park, said the park consisted of 165 acres in 1995 and is 838 acres today. He said the advisory panel’s endangered designation prompted a push to acquire land, which was ideally timed because the years since have seen housing developments sprout right up to the park’s present borders.

Smith said the money to acquire land came from a hodgepodge of private and corporate donations coupled with state and federal funds, some of them relatively obscure. He said the public-private partnership worked well.

“I think in an effort like this, a partnership is definitely the best route. Early on there was some resistance. Not everybody thought it was a good idea and it would have looked heavy-handed for the government to just come in and start buying land,” Smith said. “Individually, the private sector would never have been able to raise all the money.”

Today, Smith said, the park has right of first refusal on the one last parcel of land it still needs and he’s working on an

audio program to illustrate the driving tour. He said it’s impossible to preserve a battlefield as large as Prairie Grove, where 25,000 soldiers clashed, so capturing the most critical part of the field is important.

“What I think is practical is to get enough of the battlefield to be able to interpret what happened there,” he said.

Campi said that’s the core mission of the Preservation Trust, which helped save 268 acres at Prairie Grove. He said the organization prefers to work with local groups and uses donations and federal and state grants to either buy land outright and donate it or purchases easements that prohibit development.

Dupree has high hopes for the Reed’s Bridge battlefield, which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. He hopes the organization can get a federal grant for interpretation to help determine where walking trails and informative plaques should go. Once the land is paid off, the preservation society plans to give it to the city.

A native of the area, Dupree remembers that in the 1950s, several cypress trees had to be cut down at the Bayou Meto crossing when an old bridge was demolished. One of the trees had a cannonball lodged near the top.

“That stuff just goes away. Once it goes away, you don’t ever get it back,” Dupree said.

NEACWHT getting close to placing markers at several sites throughout area

By *Danny Honnoll*
NEACWHT Chair

The NEACWHTC held its annual meeting at Colt this year. Jimmy Steven of Trumann was in charge of the meeting. The Stone House Pioneer Days Celebration was going on at the same time. Stevens reported that the group talked about the Pineville marker being moved to a new location where the public can view it more easily than in years past. It is located across the road from the Bledsoe family home. This new location is close to the original location along the county road going from Vandale to Wittsburg.

Walter and Ann Meals told the group that they would still like to put a marker at Colt for the Battle of Taylor's Creek. They are getting information together so they can apply for a grant to help fund this project.

The marker for Martin Creek/Morgan's Mill is on order and the dedication will take place late this fall or early next year just east of Hardy. Our group is going to get with the Sharp County Historical Society to pick the best date for both groups. We will keep you posted on the time and place.

We are still raising money for the Pocahontas marker and might be able to meet our goal this year if we get some more donations for this very worthwhile project. Chairman Danny Honnoll is going to send out letters to some of the businesses in Pocahontas to see if he can raise the rest of the money for the marker. We will keep you posted.

We have been in contact with individuals in the town of Marmaduke who want to place a marker in their town recognizing that it was named after Confederate General John Sappington Marmaduke, who later became the governor of the state of Missouri. His name was bestowed upon the town to commemorate a camp that was established by Marmaduke for his troops.

After crossing the St. Francis River at Chalk Bluff in Clay County, the troops had traveled south into Greene County to find a suitable campsite on level ground in the area. The camp was occupied for several weeks and used by Marmaduke as his headquarters while the troops pursued Quantrill's men, a tough band of lawless guerrillas who preyed on residents along the borders of Kansas, Missouri and Arkansas. They murdered and pillaged both Northern and Southern families.

The success of Marmaduke's scouts is attested to by a small cemetery of about 30 graves five miles east of Rector where the marauders lie buried, presumably killed in skirmishes with General Marmaduke's troops. There is also evidence that Marmaduke, with his troops, had cleared much of the land on their way to Pine Bluff and other areas in advancing the attack on Federal troops.

Another factor in naming the towns along this new branch line seemed to be related to the names of the men connected with the railroad or to men with interests in the railroad construction, as in the case of Paragould. John S. Marmaduke had served on the Missouri Railway Commission from 1875 until

1880 and no doubt would have served as a resource of information in developing the new line and probably gave information regarding the terrain and accessibility. Too, it seems reasonable that many railway employees and personnel would have heard of the exploits of Marmaduke during the Civil War.

Judge Gary Howell and others from Clay County have started a group called the "Friends of Chalk Bluff." Their regular meeting time is the second Sunday of every month at the Chalk Bluff Park, near the town of St. Francis. Their charge is to raise interest in Chalk Bluff and they are talking about expanding the size of the Chalk Bluff Park. Also, they are talking about putting water lines close to where the reenactors camp to make it easier for them to get water. For years there has been talk of working with Missouri and the other side of the St. Francis on a park on the northeast side of the river.

The next meeting of the NEACWHTC will be held at 11 a.m. on Feb. 5 at the Craighead County Public Library in Jonesboro. For more information on the NEACWHTC, contact Danny Honnoll at (870) 935-9830 or by e-mail at wdhonnoll@prodigy.net.

Mark your calendar!

Northeast Arkansas Civil War Heritage Trail meeting

11 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 5, Jonesboro Public Library, Jonesboro

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

6 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 11, Pine Bluff/Jefferson County Historical Museum

Southwest Arkansas Civil War Heritage Trail meeting

To be announced

West Central Arkansas Civil War Heritage Trail meeting

7 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 2, Gardner Lecture Hall, UA Fort Smith

Northwest Arkansas Civil War Heritage Trail meeting

To be announced

Kingsland man's poem inspires monument to soldiers killed in Battle of Marks' Mills

This article originally appeared in the Cleveland County Herald on June 16, 2004.

New Edinburg – A new rose granite marker bearing the poem of a Kingsland man was recently erected near the graves of some unknown Confederate soldiers buried at the Marks' Mills Cemetery and Park near New Edinburg.

The soldiers were killed in April 1864 during the Battle of Marks' Mills in what is today southern Cleveland County.

"I was so moved when I received the poem from Scott Temple, I thought how fitting it would be to put these words in stone," said Edgar Colvin of Pine Bluff, who engraved the marker and several others that are erected at the battle-ground site.

"My wife (Sue Marks Colvin, a descendent of the Marks family) suggested to place the marker close to the unknown Confederate graves and near

SW to continue survey activity

Continued from Page 1.

7. Paul Beard of Hot Springs County reported on the status of what was initially thought to be fortifications north of Princeton in a new clear cut. Mark Christ and his team investigated the site, but determined it was not related to the Civil War.

With winter and cold weather approaching, much field work will be done to identify and mark as many additional sites as possible. Thanks to local historians Keenan Williams (who is also the pastor of the Washington Methodist Church) and Bryan McDade of Old Washington State Park for their insights into the region.

The next meeting of the SWACWHT will be announced later this fall. Anyone with information on Civil War sites in the region are encouraged to contact Jim Hale at (501) 760-2566 in order to have the sites properly preserved for future generations.

enough to the road so the poem could be read from a car," he said.

Temple's poem is entitled "April '64," and is written from the perspective of a Confederate soldier in the battle.

In the battle, Confederate forces captured a Union supply train trying to return to Pine Bluff during the Red River Campaign.

Temple said he wrote the poem as tribute to the soldiers who died there.

"First of all, I've never written a poem or anything else," said Temple. "However, I do enjoy the peace and tranquility of Marks' Mills."

"I tried to visualize what it must have been like to have fought in the battle that took place there," he said.

"The words to the poem 'April '64' just appeared to me. I went home and wrote the poem down within 10 minutes."

While the poem is written from a Confederate soldier's perspective, Temple said it could very easily be interpreted from a Union soldier's point

of view.

"It's meant to be a memorial to the soldiers that fought and died for their individual beliefs at the Battle of Marks' Mills," Temple said.

He thanked Colvin, Jimmy Boney and others who work to preserve the battle-field area.

Colvin said military records indicate about 250 soldiers were wounded or killed during battle, and among those were the unknown Confederate soldiers buried at Marks Cemetery Park.

In a family letter written by Elenor Marks, the oldest child of John Harvey Marks, on whose plantation the battle was fought, she wrote that "we buried a Confederate flag bearer and two or three others of the wearers of the gray in the garden."

She went on to say that 99 Union soldiers were buried in the orchard.

Temple was on hand when the marker was put up on May 31, Memorial **Continued on Page 6.**

Plans underway to recreate crisis at Little Rock Arsenal in 1861

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new officers at the November meeting of the Civil War Roundtable of Arkansas, held on the fourth Tuesday in November.

Plans are underway in coordination with the MacArthur Museum of Arkansas Military History to hold a living history presentation commemorating the 1861 seizure of the Little Rock Arsenal by state troops. The program will be held on Feb. 5, 2005 and will include reenactments of key events in the Arsenal crisis as well as a historic presentation on the event, its causes, and aftermath.

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. The Civil War Roundtable

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

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 Dr., and are open to the public. Donations can be made, and checks payable, to the Reed's Bridge Preservation Society, 600 Lynx Ln., Jacksonville, AR 72076.

Volunteers work together, use donated materials to create new marker for SE Arkansas site

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Day.

Colvin, Jimmy Boney and Tim Reaves of New Edinburg, Butch Wilson of Fordyce, William Wilson of San Antonio, Texas, and Temple volunteered to help erect the monument.

Colvin said the marker was donated by Mike Murphee of Camden Monument Co., and Arlene Watson of Sulphur Springs supplied the bricks for the base.

While the cemetery and park receive visitors year round, the area is actually on private property owned by the Anthony Lumber Co. Colvin thanked Anthony Lumber Co. and O.D. Cathey for allowing the area to be developed.

Last year, a large black granite monument was unveiled that lists the names of Confederate and Union soldiers killed at the battle. Colvin said the markers have been placed at the site to add interest and denote its historical meaning during the Civil War.

April '64
By Scott Temple

*On that fateful day April sixty four
Somethin' weren't right so I prayed to the Lord
Yeah, on that day their guns rang true
I was shot dead in my tracks by the Union blue*

*I fell to the mud where I once had stood
Reckon I gave it all with my Confederate blood
And such ended the life this southern brave
Didn't know nothin' about no slaves
We were just kids fightin' for our land
Everything else was in God's own hands*

*They say "Break faith and we die in vain"
But there's so much blood and so much pain
Now I'm dead and with peace at last
It bodes my spirit well that folks preserve the past*

*Cause my ghost still marches this valley and hill
This is hallowed ground that's known as Marks Mill*

Text of Rondo National Register nomination

On June 12, 1862, Brig. Gen. H.E. McCulloch ordered all Confederate troops located east of Tyler, Texas, to march to Little Rock, which was threatened by Samuel Curtis's Union army. These troops included the 19th Texas Infantry Regiment under Col. Richard Waterhouse. At least seven companies of the 19th were stationed at Rondo, just past the Arkansas-Texas state line, from July through early September. A fellow Texan encountered them there on September 6, 1862, noting that "we passed through a little village named Rondo. Near this place we encamped alongside the camp of Waterhouse Regiment for the night. They did us the honor of presenting arms as we passed their camp."

While camped at Rondo measles struck, killing dozens of Waterhouse's Rebel soldiers. (The 19th Texas later

transferred to Camp Nelson near Cabot, where still more died of measles. (Camp Nelson Confederate Cemetery, National Register listed May 3, 1996). After the war, the remains of 85 Confederate soldiers who died in the measles epidemic were disinterred and reburied side by side in a common grave in the Old Rondo Cemetery.

The Albert Pike Chapter of the United Daughters of the Confederacy was organized in Texarkana in 1931 and immediately began efforts to recognize the unknown soldiers in the Old Rondo Cemetery. Working with Congresswoman Effiegene Wingo, a granddaughter of Confederate soldiers, the group sought federal funding to acquire the plot in which the dead Confederates were buried, as well as marble markers for the grave. There were seventeen markers placed, one for every five of the unknown soldiers.

The Confederate Section—Old Rondo Cemetery was sold for \$1 to the Albert Pike Chapter on Dec. 7, 1934; the deed was recorded on July 1, 1938. The first Rondo dedication cemetery was conducted in 1934 and featured a speech by Confederate veteran T.T.C. Anderson.

In 1962, the Albert Pike Chapter placed a sandstone and marble marker in the center of the Confederate Section in honor of the 85 disease victims buried there. The chapter also holds a memorial service at the cemetery every May.

The Confederate Section—Old Rondo Cemetery is the historic property most closely associated with the efforts of the Albert Pike Chapter 2057 of the United Daughters of the Confederacy to honor Confederate war dead. As such, it deserves recognition on the National Register of Historic Places.

Text of Dooley's Ferry Register nomination

In mid-September 1864, Confederate Maj. Gen. Sterling Price led a force of 12,000 men – including most of the cavalry serving in the state – on a raid into Missouri. In addition to stripping Arkansas of some of its most experienced soldiers, Price left only a few infantry divisions around Washington to defend southern Arkansas. When he returned to Arkansas on Dec. 2, there were only 3,500 haggard survivors of his quixotic attempt to conquer Missouri.

The remaining Confederate troops in Arkansas were under the command of Maj. Gen. John Bankhead “Prince John” Magruder, who was exiled to the Trans-Mississippi Theater after a less-than-stellar career in Virginia. Magruder faced the challenge of defending southwest Arkansas as aggressive Federal patrols probed the region in the absence of Price and the Rebel cavalry. His ability to defend the region was further complicated by a lack of labor – particularly slave labor – to construct fortifications as Arkansans took their human property to refuge in Texas, where there was less chance of their escaping to Union lines or being freed by Yankee patrols. “I am told that over 150,000 negroes have gone from Missouri and Arkansas into Texas, and leaving out all considerations of fairness, I fear that if the few that remain here are impressed, those who would otherwise sow and plant would emigrate to Texas, and through the depopulation of the country we should not be able to support an army through another season,” Magruder wrote in a Nov. 5, 1864, letter to Confederate Sen. Robert W. Johnson. “I am the only officer I know of in the Trans-Mississippi Department who causes his troops to labor on fortifications.”

Regardless of the lack of labor, Magruder recognized the need for fortifications on the Little Missouri and Ouachita Rivers “and certainly Fulton and Dooley’s Ferry.” Strategically, the Rebel general felt that holding the line of the Ouachita was essential to the defense of the Red River, and he would make efforts to establish supply depots for Confederate troops in that area. He also applied to have slaves sent from the District of Texas to construct fortifications on the Ouachita and Little Missouri, contending that Confederate law allowed him to impress only 85 local slaves as laborers and that calling others into forced labor would lead their owners to flee to Texas.

On Nov. 7, 1864, he ordered Maj. Gen. John Horace Forney to move his division to the Spring Hill area, adding that “it would be well to place the artillery as near Dooley’s Ferry,

on Red River, as possible.” Dooley’s Ferry, located south of Spring Hill, had long been an important crossing point on the Red River, being situated where two important early roads through Arkansas – the Southwest Trail and Trammell’s Trace – intersected. Lafayette County Sheriff George Dooley saw the value of the site and in March 1835 applied for and received a license to operate a ferry. Dooley’s Ferry would remain an important crossing of the Red until a highway bridge was constructed in the early 1930s.

The ground above Dooley’s Ferry also provided excellent locations for defensive fortifications, with high ground flanked by lakes and swampy areas commanding the road network leading to the ferry. By mid-December, Magruder announced that the works at Fulton and Dooley’s Ferry were “about to be constructed by troops.” That construction apparently began in January when troops under Brig. Gen. Alexander T. Hawthorn were ordered to Dooley’s Ferry, “bringing all of their axes, spades, &c, for working upon fortifications.”

The impressive works at Dooley’s Ferry would never be tested under combat conditions. Many Union troops would be transferred east of the Mississippi River to take

Pea Ridge National Military Park

preparing to revamp museum exhibits

*By John C. Scott
NWACWHT Chair*

With a visit to Pea Ridge National Military Park, one can experience elements of the past in more ways than one. Not only can a visitor experience the 1862 landscape of forests and fields but they can also experience the 1962 museum with its shades of green and orange and its outdated exhibits. Planning to bring this latter experience to an end is now underway. The park received funding in 2004 to start the planning process that will lead to the renovation of the museum exhibits.

In August the park conducted a historian’s round table in which several local, regional and national Civil War historians met in a two-day workshop to discuss interpretive themes, important concepts and information that the new exhibits should include. Such things as

part in operations against Confederate troops in Alabama and elsewhere. Rebel troops in Arkansas, stationed in a region that was stripped bare by four years of occupation by men of both armies, lacked both the will and the supplies to mount a substantial offensive operation. After the collapse of Confederate armies in the East, the major Confederate armies in the Trans-Mississippi would themselves lay down their arms in June 1865.

After the war, an African-American cemetery was established adjacent to the southernmost of the three artillery emplacements at Dooley’s Ferry. Though burials took place there during the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, the cemetery was not officially established until Henry and Ruby Hunt deeded the property to the Dooley Hill Cemetery Association on April 15, 1946.

While they never witnessed a shot fired in anger, the network of fortifications at Dooley’s Ferry remain today as silent witnesses to Confederate strategy in Arkansas during the waning days of the Civil War. Their extensive nature and remarkable state of preservation make them the largest and best-preserved surviving set of fortifications in all of southern Arkansas.

how the exhibits can help visitors understand the complexities of both armies and the various reasons that different people participated in the battle, how the battle and war impacted the civilians of the area and the challenges that the leaders on both sides faced that had to be considered in their decision making were discussed. At the end of the workshop there were enough ideas and concepts to fill up several museums.

All of this information will now be put into various design concepts and it will be at least another 18 months until fabrication of the new exhibits takes place. But they are underway.

The NWACWHT was somewhat inactive over the summer months. I guess it was such a pleasant summer it was hard to think about much else. We will hold our fall meeting in October with the dates and place to be announced later.

Confederate cemetery to be considered for National Register; two sites are listed

The State Review Board of the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program will consider a Confederate cemetery in Jefferson County for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places when it meets Dec. 1.

In addition, two Civil War-related sites in Arkansas have been listed on the National Register.

The board will consider the Camp White Sulphur Springs Confederate Cemetery for nomination in December. The Camp White Sulphur Springs Confederate Cemetery is located on Luckwood Road at Sulphur Springs and contains approximately 180 burials, most dating from its period of use as a burial place for Confederate disease victims during the Civil War.

The cemetery is noteworthy “for its association with the efforts of the David

O. Dodd Chapter of the United Daughters of the Confederacy to reflect members’ perception of the noble character and valor of their veterans and their cause,” according to the National Register nomination.

The Dooley’s Ferry Fortifications Historic District in Hempstead County and the Confederate Section – Old Rondo Cemetery at Rondo in Miller County were recently listed on the National Register.

The Dooley’s Ferry Fortifications Historic District is a network of artillery emplacements and associated trenches constructed by Confederate soldiers in the winter of 1864-65.

“While they never witnessed a shot fired in anger, the network of fortifications at Dooley’s Ferry remains today as silent witness to Confederate strategy in

Arkansas during the waning days of the Civil War,” the National Register nomination says. “Their extensive nature and remarkable state of preservation make them the largest and best-preserved surviving set of fortifications in all of southern Arkansas.”

The Confederate Section-Old Rondo Cemetery at 1612 Smith Road in Rondo is a burial plot containing the remains of 85 Confederate soldiers who died of disease in the area in 1862.

“The Confederate Section-Old Rondo Cemetery is the historic property most closely associated with the efforts of the Albert Pike Chapter 2057 of the United Daughters of the Confederacy to honor Confederate war dead,” the National Register nomination says.

(The text of the Dooley’s Ferry and Rondo nominations is on pages 6 and 7.)



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

info@arkansaspreservation.org

www.arkansaspreservation.org

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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