



Arkansas Battlefield Update

Spring, 2006 Volume 14, Number 1

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An agency of the Department of Arkansas Heritage

ACWHT Foundation outlines strategies for 2006 activities

The Arkansas Civil War Heritage Trails Foundation held its annual meeting on Saturday, February 11, 2006, in the Department of Arkansas Heritage Conference Room in Little Rock.

Attending the meeting were W. Danny Honnoll and M. Ray Jones, NEACWHT; Dave Lewis, NWACWHT; Elizabeth Gaines and Mark Kalkbrenner, SEACWHT; Jeremy Lynch and Justin Huss, WCACWHT; Tom Dupree and Jack Danielson, Reed's Bridge Battlefield

Preservation Society; Tom Beam and Peggy Lloyd, SWACWHT; Charles Durnett and Mike Loum, CACWHT; and Mark Christ, AHPP.

Foundation President Danny Honnoll reported that the ACWHTF received its non-profit status during 2005 and can now accept tax-deductible donations. The Foundation will serve as an umbrella non-profit for the six ACWHT groups. He reported that the ACWHT already has received one grant from the Arkansas Humanities Council. Mark
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NEACWHT to hold Chalk Bluff event

By *Danny Honnoll*
NEACWHT Chair

As our todays turn to our yesterdays and pass into history, the Northeast Arkansas Civil War Heritage Trails Committee is moving forward to preserve the history of the individuals that fought in the Civil War.

We have been very busy working in northeast Arkansas. Ray Jones, Terry Bandy and Danny Honnoll attended the Arkansas Civil War Heritage Trails Foundation meeting at Little Rock on February 11. This was a very productive meeting recording what the different groups from all over the state are doing. As usual we enjoyed the company and the subject of the meeting. We all set goals for 2006 and we all can be



The Arkansas Highway and Transportation Department recently placed directional signs at Chalk Bluff Battlefield Park.

proud to be a part of a group of like-minded individuals serving history and the men and women that lived during the war years in Arkansas.

Well, it is May and time for our annual Chalk Bluff
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SEACWHT meetings set Helena goals

By *Mark Kalkbrenner*
SEACWHT Chair

The South East Arkansas Civil War Heritage Trail has held two meetings since the first of the year. At the January meeting held at Arkansas Post State Park we had a total of four present, including chairman Mark Kalkbrenner, two park staff, and one visitor to the park that came in to get warm. Not much was accomplished at this meeting, but the new park staff members do look forward to working with us in the future.

The second meeting was held on March 18 in Helena at the Delta Cultural Center after the annual Cleburne Memorial Service. Six were in attendance, but for the first time in several years, many were actually from the Helena area. Much was discussed and things are looking hopeful for the area.

Gibson Turley reported that his father several years ago had donated to the city the land on which Battery C at Helena is located for a park. Due to vandalism and illegal activities, that park is now closed. It was asked if the Trails Foundation could do something with the battery site, possibly tying it into a project with the other
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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

Troy Banzhaf (479) 451-8122, ext. 310

Troy_Banzhaf@nps.gov

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@gmail.com

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

Southwest Arkansas CWHT

Tom Beam (501) 760-1116

mbeam@hotsprings.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

Mike Loum (501) 835-9649

61shelbysmule65@comcast.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 focusing on Crawford County Civil War properties

By Tom Wing
WCACWHT Chair

The WCACWHT is working on a number of projects in western Arkansas. As of the time of this writing, the group is working to identify sites in Crawford County.

Van Buren witnessed an artillery duel between Confederate troops on the Fort Smith side of the river and Federal troops following the Battle of Prairie Grove. Sites related to this action include Cove Creek, Dripping Springs, downtown Van Buren, Phillips Landing, and the Drennen-Scott Home. Additional investigation may confirm the remains of rifle pits on the heights overlooking the ferry crossing between Van Buren and Fort Smith. The WCACWHT will assist the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program to list the sites that are not included on the National or Arkansas Registers of Historic Places.

In other news, the long-awaited diary of Private Henry Strong of the 12th Kansas Infantry is being printed and will be available soon. Strong's diary begins with his enlistment in southeast Kansas and includes most of his duty from 1863-1865 in the state of Arkansas. Strong describes soldier life at the garrison in Fort Smith as well as the ill-fated Red River Campaign with new details concerning the Camden Expedition, Poison Spring and Jenkins' Ferry. Strong was also on board the steamboat *J.R. Williams*, which was captured on the Arkansas River by Stand Watie. The diary is being printed through the Butler Center for Arkansas Studies.

The next meeting of the WCACWHT will be at 1:00 pm April 15 at Massard Prairie Battlefield Park in Fort Smith. Call (479) 788-7805 for details.

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Mail form to Battlefield Update, AHPP, 1500 Tower Building, 323 Center Street, Little Rock, AR 72205

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone number (optional): _____

E-mail address (optional): _____

Name of Friend: _____

Address: _____

NEACWHT working throughout region

Continued from Page 1.

Living History Event. The dates set for this year's event is May 6 and 7, 2006. Clay County Judge Gary Howell, First Sgt. Louis Riggs, Capt. John Malloy, Sgt. Terry Lee Bandy and Capt. Delbert Hughes are working on this project for us. Clay County and the NEACWHTC held a chili cookoff on March 31 to help raise the money to buy powder for use in this year's event. They do a good job every year!

Also good news for the Chalk Bluff Battlefield Park at St. Francis north of Piggott. Something special for the ladies: This year Bobbie Barnett and Dale Barnett are hosting a ladies tea at noon on Saturday. They will be in period attire and have guards posted to give the authentic setting for the ladies tea. Here is the short press release on Chalk Bluff and the activities for the Chalk Bluff Living History weekend. Any ladies who want to help, please contact Bobbie Barnett at (870) 351-7696.

The Chalk Bluff event will take place on the actual battle site, a rare event now days. Amenities include powder for artillery, cavalry and infantry, water, firewood and hay, and a meal on Saturday evening. The schedule is as follows: Friday, May 5: 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. - sign in for reenactors and living historians. Saturday, May 6: 9:30 a.m. - Officer's Call; 9 a.m. - camp life demonstrations; 10 a.m. - talk on Arkansas in the Civil War by W. Danny Honnoll; 11 a.m. - cannon demonstrations; noon - ladies tea, demonstrations of refugee camp; 1 p.m. - marching and rifle-firing demonstrations; 2 p.m. - reenactment followed by grand review parade of troops returning to camp; 3:30 p.m. - ladies demonstrations of refugee camp. Sunday May 7: 10:00 a.m. - officer's call; 10:30 a.m. - open to the public; 11 a.m. - church service by Rev. Terry Bandy; 1 p.m. - memorial service for Gen. John Sappington Marmaduke; 2 p.m. - reenactment followed by grand review parade of troops returning to camp.

Re-enactors of all branches of the military are welcome. This event is hosted annually by Clay County, the Northeast Arkansas Civil War Heritage Trails Committee, the SCV Shaver Camp #1655 of Jonesboro and the Gen. James F. Fagan Chapter #280 Military Order Stars and

Bars of Jonesboro. No registration fees for reenactors, sutlers or living historians. Walk-ons must be at site and registered 2 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, phone 870-935-9830, or send an email WDHONNOLL@prodigy.net.

The Arkansas Highway and Transportation Department placed a brown historical marker locator sign at the highway turn off on March 27. Tony Sullivan, staff traffic engineer, was the main contact for getting the marker placed at St. Francis. Others involved in this project were Sen. Tim Wooldridge, Rep. Travis Boyd, Judge Gary Howell, Sally Howell, **Clay County Sheriff Ronnie Cole, Ed Dudley, Jenny Hancock**, Adj. M. Ray Jones, Joe Barnett, David Lambert, Sgt. Terry Lee Bandy, and Chairman Danny Honnoll. We want to salute the state of Arkansas and the Arkansas Highway Department for their help in bringing the Chalk Bluff Battlefield Park more attention. The public for years has said that they have trouble finding the turnoff for Chalk Bluff. This should help the attendance at this years event and throughout the years at the Chalk Bluff Battlefield Park.

The tornado that hit Marmaduke spared our historical marker to General John S. Marmaduke. Ed Dudley and I visited Marmaduke on April 5 and are happy to report the sign is OK, though the flagpole next to the marker is bent at about a 25-degree angle and will have to be replaced. The damage to the town started at the site of our sign and went north. We are glad to report that the committee members that helped with the placement of the Marmaduke marker are OK. That is the main thing; it is a bonus that we still have our sign.

The Pocahontas historical marker project is a living, breathing project we have been working on for over three years now. Dr. Michael Dougan, Mark Christ, Jim Kincade, Derek Clements and Danny Honnoll are very close to completing the wording. We want to make sure that we have it as complete as possible.

Our application for a grant from the Arkansas Humanities Council for \$1,500 has been accepted, and the next step after the wording is to order the Pocahontas/Randolph County Historical Marker. The date of the dedication has been set for Sept. 23, 2006, at the Black River Overlook Park at Pocahontas. This event will be part of the sesquicentennial activities at Pocahontas.

This project is supported in part by a grant from the Arkansas Humanities Council and the Department of Arkansas Heritage. Other funding of this project is from northeast Arkansas living historians, Shaver Camp SCV of Jonesboro and 7th Arkansas Infantry re-enactors of northeast Arkansas. The city of Pocahontas and Mayor Gary Crocker are helping with the planning of the weekend event to place another historical marker in northeast Arkansas. This will be our third in three years!

The Northeast Arkansas Southern Heritage Park at Jonesboro has taken the next step: the flag poles have arrived and the group has contacted Mark Silas, a Jonesboro architect, to help with the drawings of the layout. Ed Dudley, chairman of the project, and the Shaver Camp #1655 Sons of Confederate Veterans of Jonesboro are selling tee-shirts as a fundraiser for the park. Anyone wanting to contribute to this project can mail a donation to M. Ray Jones, III; 1306 Oakdale St.; Jonesboro, AR 72401.

Jimmy Steven, Bobbie Barnett and Dale Barnett gave a Civil War presentation for the Maynard school on Feb. 27. Over 100 students learned about soldier duties, cooking, flags and local military history. The students received gingerbread cookies and Arkansas Civil War Trail pamphlets.

On the Fitzhugh's Woods project, the City of Augusta received the requested Arkansas Humanities Council grant and we are now ready to move forward on the project to install interpretive panels near the Fitzhugh's Woods battle site. Lynn Warren, landscape architect for Arkansas State Parks, went to Augusta on April 11 and went out to the site to look it over and give the city advice on how to set up the area.

The next meeting of the NEACWHTC will be on May 6 at 10:30 a.m. at the Chalk Bluff Civil War Battlefield Park. See you there!

Reed's Bridge, Elkins' Ferry protection among goals of ACWHT Foundation

Continued from Page 1.

Kalkbrenner, ACWHTF treasurer, reported that the foundation began 2005 with a balance of \$318.90 and ended the year with a balance of \$350.26, with most of the year's financial activity associated with a reenactment at Marks' Mills. Several of the regional trails are delinquent in paying their 2005 dues. (See full report on Page 5.)

Mark Christ reported that the Department of Arkansas Heritage is working toward acquiring and developing Battery A in Helena; that the Civil War Preservation Trust reported that the effort to acquire additional land at Jenkins' Ferry appears to be at an end; and that the Vicksburg Campaign study has not progressed within the National Park Service. Mark Kalkbrenner announced that the national reenactment in April 2009 will focus on the Camden Expedition.

Regional reports followed:

Tom Dupree reported that Thomason and Associates had completed a preservation plan for the Reed's Bridge battlefield and that the RBBPS will begin pursuing the short-term priorities identified in the plan, including acquisition, trail development and interpretation.

Danny Honnoll reported that the NEACWHT is working on getting historical markers at Pocahontas, Fitzhugh's Woods and Taylor's Creek and that the group's subsidiary is working to create a heritage area in Jonesboro.

Dave Lewis reported that the NWACWHT is working toward increased interpretation at Pea Ridge National Military Park and that the interpretive panels for Head's Crossing are progressing.

Mark Kalkbrenner reported that the SEACWHT is working to reinvigorate efforts in the region. Work at Marks' Mills is continuing and the White Sulphur Springs Confederate Cemetery has been listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The group will work through the Foundation to try to acquire land adjacent

to the cemetery. The group hopes to place markers at the Mitchell Plantation near Stuttgart, the Rough and Ready site near Monticello, the river crossing near Warren, and Stinking Bay near Crockett's Bluff. The SEACWHT also hopes to do more work at St. Charles, Helena and Fort Pleasants.

Tom Beam reported that the SWACWHT wants to develop a regional driving tour map, that it remains concerned about Jenkins' Ferry and Elkins' Ferry, and that it wants to raise funds and increase consciousness-raising about the region's Civil War sites. Peggy Lloyd reported that she has contacted International Paper about acquiring about 160 acres of the Elkins' Ferry Battlefield, which is a National Historic Landmark.

Mike Loum reported that the CACWHT is supporting the Reed's Bridge preservation effort and is also investigating the reported burials of 900 Confederate soldiers at Little Rock's Oakland Cemetery. The group finished identifying Civil War-related National Register properties in the area during 2005. The group also is interested in preserving the records of the Confederate Soldiers' Home, continuing work at Bayou Fourche, promoting membership in the CACWHT, and working with the Whitney's Lane battlefield and the Capitol grounds.

The ACWHT groups established the following regional priorities for 2006:

NEACWHT – Finish historical marker projects at Fitzhugh's Woods and Pocahontas, create additional pamphlets on regional sites, and participate in a heritage ceremony in Jonesboro.

CACWHT – Properly mark the 900 burials in Oakland Cemetery, continue work with the Confederate Soldiers' Home and republish the Little Rock Campaign Tour map.

SWACWHT – Work toward acquiring land at Elkins' Ferry, develop regional tour map, and increase membership.

SEACWHT – Reinvigorate preserva-

tion participation in the region, expand interpretation at Mount Elba, buy land adjacent to the White Sulphur Springs Confederate Cemetery, and place markers at Rough and Ready, Warren and Stinking Bay.

WCACWHT – Achieve National Register status for the Dripping Springs battle site, encourage further city development at the Massard Prairie battlefield, and plan a small commemoration for the Van Buren Raid in December.

NWACWHT – Increase membership in the group, install the Head's Crossing wayside exhibits and create a new NWACWHT brochure.

The groups set the short-term goal of creating a website for the ACWHTF, which has been a priority for the past two years. Danny Honnoll said he would approach a probable volunteer about the project. The groups also discussed looking at ways to note the sesquicentennial of the Civil War, which will begin in 2011.

The ACWHTF set the following goals for 2006:

- 1) Assist in preservation of the Reed's Bridge battlefield
- 2) Work to acquire part of the Elkins' Ferry battlefield
- 3) Approach local advertising and promotion Commissions about producing regional Civil War maps
- 4) Explore the use of reenactments for fund raising
- 5) Approach Arkansas State Parks about improving the care and management of its Camden Expedition parks
- 6) Establish contacts with regional tourism organizations
- 7) Compile data on visitation, volunteerism and fund-raising by the CWHT groups.

The next annual meeting of the ACWHTF will be held on Saturday, February 10, 2007, at the Jacksonville Museum of Military History.

Arkansas Civil War Heritage Trails Foundation, Inc.

**Financial Report
Jan 1, 2005 – Dec 31, 2005**

01/ 01/ 2005	Beginning balance.....	\$ 318.90
04/ 18/ 2005	Deposit for Marks' Mill Reenactment.....	\$1000.00+
04/ 18/ 2005	Jones Feed (straw for Marks' Mill) ACWHTF, Inc Ck# 1003.....	\$ 250.64-
04/ 21/ 2005	Mauser Industries (Water Barrels of MM) ACWHTF, Inc Ck# 1004.....	\$ 65.00-
04/ 23/ 2005	Andy Taylor (meal for MM) ACWHTF, Inc Ck# 1005.....	\$ 72.00-
04/ 30/ 2005	Powder, Inc (powder for MM) ACWHTF, Inc 1006.....	\$ 488.00-
05/ 05/ 2005	Deposit	\$ 225.00+
	(\$125 for Marks' Mill; \$100 SE & NE Dues)	
05/ 05/ 2005	Brenda's Portable Toilets (MM) ACWHTF, Inc Ck# 1007.....	\$ 250.00-
11/ 03/ 2005	P.O.Box Rental ACWHTF, Inc Ck# 1008.....	\$ 68.00-
	Account total as of 12/ 31/ 2005	\$ 350.26

** WCAWCHT dues paid through 2007

** no 2005 dues received from CACWHT, SWACWHT, NWACWHT

** \$40 filing fee for On-Line Amendment to Art. of Incorporation paid by
Mark Kalkbrenner by credit card

Submitted by:

H. Mark Kalkbrenner

Treasurer

ACWHTF, Inc

CACWHT keeps battle site on "A" list

By Mike Loum
CACWHT Chair

Spring is here and the CACWHT's projects continue to progress. The Reed's Bridge Battlefield project continues to be on our "A" list. With the leadership of Tommy Dupree and the other members and volunteers of the Reed's Bridge Preservation Society, Reed's Bridge Battlefield will become an attraction that any WBTS devotee must visit when in the Central Arkansas area. As the project progresses, we will continue to keep you updated.

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 the new Jacksonville Military History Museum and are open to the public. Donations can be made to the Reed's Bridge Preservation Society, 600 Lynx Lane, Jacksonville, AR. 72076.

Field work is on-going in the identification, and location of monuments and memorials dedicated to participants of the WBTS.

Talks are being set up with the Arkansas School for the Blind historian to look into the preservation of rosters, registrations and other original documents pertaining to residents at the Arkansas Confederate Soldiers' Home.

We hope soon to have permission to search

the area around the known plot of 900 unknown Confederate soldiers buried in a section of Oakland Cemetery in Little Rock.

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

Reed's Bridge plan completed; goals scheduled

By Tom Dupree
RBPS President

Having received the final preservation plan from Phil Thomason and Associates, Reed's Bridge Preservation Society met on March 7, 2006 to organize an implementation of the plan.

Short-Term Goals (1-3 Years)

1. Conduct a workshop with property owners on the advantages of conservation easements.
2. Purchase or obtain easements on the remaining core battlefield lands with the highest priority.
3. Continue to design and install additional historic markers and wayside exhibits at the existing battlefield property, near the railroad crossing and on the south side of the Bayou at Wilson's Ford and artillery locations.
4. Produce a walking and driving tour brochure for the Reed's Bridge Battlefield.
5. Enhance and improve the existing parking lots at the bridge site.
6. Clear and create a trail system which connects with the east side of the Bayou Meto and extends to near the railroad track. Examine the feasibility of connecting with the Dupree Park trail across the tracks or under the railroad bridge.

7. Build new snake rail fences along roadbeds and property lines if supported by archaeological evidence.
8. Acquire and install reproduction cannon at appropriate locations on the battlefield.
9. Fund archaeological investigations at Reed's Bridge.
10. Placement of signage on I-40 before the State Route 440 exit and the U.S. 67 exit 8 in Jacksonville.

Long-Term Goals and Implementation (3 to 10 Years)

1. Create a Reed's Bridge website.
2. Build a pedestrian bridge across the Bayou Meto south of Dupree Park or adjacent to the existing SR 161, Reed's Bridge.
3. Produce a feasibility study for the

creation of an interpretive center on the battlefield.

4. Incorporate the Reed's Bridge Battlefield in the Jacksonville City Park System.
5. Fill in the artificial lake along Lakeshore Drive and restore the landscape back to its Civil War-era appearance.

A committee was formed from those members attending the meeting to begin work on new goals and to continue work on those goals that are ongoing.

The next meeting of the Society will be Tuesday, May 9, 2006 at 6:30 and will be held at the Museum of Military History located at 100 Veterans Drive in Jacksonville.

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 the information to *Arkansas Battlefield Update*. The newsletter is published quarterly. Send submissions to: *Arkansas Battlefield Update*, Arkansas Historic Preservation Program, 1500 Tower Building, 323 Center Street, Little Rock, AR 72201 or to mark@arkansasheritage.org.

SWACWHT promotes region's museums

By Tom Beam
SWACWHT Chair

Our thanks to Peggy Lloyd for her tireless efforts to preserve the Elkins' Ferry battle and river crossing sites on the Little Missouri River in Nevada County. This property has now been sold by International Paper Company. It is my belief that Jenkins' Ferry in Grant County will face the same fate in the near future.

I wish to thank those of you who have helped the Southwest Arkansas group with the membership fees of \$12 annually. This has made it possible for us to pay our membership fees for 2005 and 2006. With your continued financial support we will be able to mail out a newsletter with Southwest Arkansas Civil War articles for the SWACWHT members. Mailing and production will cost money, so we need your financial support.

Some family members and I have been touring the southwest Arkansas museums and state parks, and I am proud to recommend these to my fellow Arkansans and visitors to the state. Old Washington State Park is always splendid. The Nevada County Depot and Museum in Prescott, with its new director, is a great spot and offers a warm welcome for all to enjoy. White Oak Lake State Park near the Poison Spring Battle Site is a relaxing restful stop. Also visit Camden in Ouachita County and see its beautiful homes and Civil War sites, and take in the wonderful southern hospitality. Arkadelphia in Clark County is another of the cities rich in Civil War history, with a beautifully restored Missouri Pacific Depot/Museum that remembers a large amount of Clark County history. Be sure to see the C.S.A. cannon in front of the library. A C.S.A. armory was located near the river and large salt pots were used to collect the salt after an evaporation process. The city of Fordyce has a museum, but I have not had an opportunity to visit there.

The Grant County Museum in Sheridan is very interesting with a very friendly

Elkins' Ferry a key site in Nevada County

By Peggy Lloyd
SWACWHT Member

Efforts are underway to document or acquire sites in Nevada County related to Gen. Frederick Steele's Camden Expedition in the spring of 1864. The county has two National Historic Landmarks: Elkins' Ferry Battle site and the Prairie D'Ane Battle site.

The Nevada County Depot and Museum, along with the Arkansas Civil War Heritage Trail group, hopes to acquire lands that are part of the Elkins' Ferry site either by donation or purchase sometime this year. Portions of the Elkins' Ferry site are part of a large land sale that is underway at the moment as International Paper divests itself of its real estate holdings in the continental United States.

The Elkins' Ferry battle occurred in the early days of April 1864. Steele's forces had been skirmishing along their line of march from Little Rock to Benton and on to the vicinity of Okolona in Clark County. While advancing into the bottoms along the Little Missouri River they encountered stiffening resistance from Confederate forces as they attempted to cross into Hempstead County – now Nevada County. Washington, Arkansas, was

Hempstead's county seat and the Confederate capital of the state. When Steele's forces took Little Rock in the fall of 1863, the Confederate state government fled briefly to Hot Springs and then to Washington in southwest Arkansas. Steele's spring offensive threatened Washington. Fighting at Elkins' Ferry claimed 92 lives on both sides as Steele's force advanced.

Moscow Church and Cemetery are also going to be nominated to the National Register of Historic Places. The church and its cemetery are all that remains of the scattered antebellum village of Moscow on the outskirts of Prescott. Prescott, a railroad town, was not platted out until August 1873 with the construction of the Cairo and Fulton Railroad. Moscow was the site of a rear guard action after the Battle of Prairie D'Ane. Prairie D'Ane, near present day Prescott, was the decisive point in the expedition when Steele, short on supplies for men and animals, decided to turn his force toward Camden. The Confederate forces were in pursuit, and there was fighting in the vicinity of Moscow. The nomination should be completed for the August meeting of the State Review Board.

staff. A small village of relocated buildings is situated on the property. The museum features many facets of Grant County life, such as early settlers, the Civil War and World War II. The museum displays articles from a World War II army air force bomber that crashed in the woods near Tull with no survivors.

With so much to see and do close to home, why travel outside of Southwest Arkansas? We've got it all!

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

SEACWHT reports activities at Stuttgart, Helena, Mount Elba, and on Park Day

Continued from Page 1.

batteries in the town. He was informed that work is going on now to secure some of the other sites and that Battery C would be brought to the proper authorities' attention.

Don Roth of Stuttgart reported on the project to erect a marker at the Camp Mitchell site in Stuttgart. The site is located next to the hospital and permission has been obtained to place a marker there. Wording and plans for the marker have been finalized and work should begin soon with an estimated dedication date in the fall.

Charles Maggio of Helena brought several artifacts recovered from a camp site next to the Helena Hospital. Two of the pieces were artillery projectiles of the type known to have been used by the 2nd Arkansas U.S.A.D. (African Descent). The third artifact was part of a veterans

badge worn by Union troops at reunions after the war, with the word "Arkansas" on it. It was found in the same location as the projectiles. We are now trying to see if we can verify this site as the camp of the 2nd Arkansas U.S.A.D., making it an important find for the African-American community.

Jennie Turley, with the Phillips County Historical Museum also attended the meeting and is going to work on getting our literature out into the Helena region and to get an area with a lot of Civil War history active again. Her help is greatly appreciated. Also, two women on the staff of the Delta Cultural Center, who had to work and could not attend the meeting, are very interested in working with the Trail in the work of preserving and interpreting the area's Civil War Heritage. They have expressed an

interest in the possibility of holding another re-enactment in Helena. Plans are being discussed.

Edgar Colvin and Doyle Taylor recently erected a new marker at Mt. Elba on the Saline River. More details will be forthcoming.

Two sites in the SEACWHT region participated in the History Channel's and Civil War Preservation Trust's annual Park Day. Many projects are in store for both Marks' Mills Battlefield and White Sulphur Springs Confederate Cemetery.

The SEACWHT will hold two meetings in June. The first will be at noon on June 10 at the Bradley County Museum at Warren. Then we will hold a second meeting at noon on June 17 in McGhee. Look for the Civil War encampment, find the 1st Arkansas, and they will direct you to the meeting site.



Arkansas Historic
Preservation Program
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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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