



Arkansas Battlefield Update

Spring, 2007 Volume 15, Number 1

Published three times each year by the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program
An agency of the Department of Arkansas Heritage

ACWHT Foundation sets goals, objectives for 2007

By Peggy Lloyd
ACWHTF Secretary

The Arkansas Civil War Heritage Trails Foundation held its annual meeting on Saturday, February 10, at the Jacksonville Museum of Military History in Jacksonville.

Those attending were Peggy Lloyd of the South Arkansas Regional Archives and SWACWHT, Tom Dupree and Carolyn Kent of Reed's Bridge Battlefield Preservation Society, Charles Durnette of CACWHT, M. Danny Honnoll of NEACWHT, Mark Kalkbrenner of SEACWHT, Tom Beam of SWACWHT, Alan Thompson of NWACWHT, Danna Kay Duggar and

Vince Maes of the Jacksonville MMH, Mark Christ of AHPP and David Fike of Graphic Past.

Mark Christ called the meeting to order at 10:15 a.m.. He immediately requested that the election of two new officers, a recording secretary and vice-president, be addressed before proceeding to the printed agenda. Tom Beam nominated Peggy Lloyd for secretary with Mark Kalkbrenner seconding the nomination. She was unanimously elected. Danny Honnoll nominated Charles Durnette for vice-president with Tom Beam seconding the nomination. He was elected unanimously.

There were several updates:

Reed's Bridge—Tom Dupree reported
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NWACWHT plans interpretive effort at sprawling 1862 Cane Hill battlefield

By Alan Thompson
NWACWHT Chair

The NWACWHT has been busy working on a driving tour for the Battle of Cane Hill.

Currently there is only one inadequate marker in the town of Cane Hill that you have to be looking for to find. On January 25, members of the NWACHT, AHPP, Heritage Trail Partners, Inc., the Cane Hill College and Cemetery boards and staffers from Congressman John Boozman's office met and went over the plans for the

tour. The tour will have eight or nine wayside exhibits along the route of the 12-mile running battle, and a grant request has been submitted for funding on the first four panels.

Two will be placed at the Cane Hill Cemetery with the other two being placed on the modern Cane Hill College grounds. The boards of both organizations have been met with and approved the placing of the markers. The remainder of the panels will be placed as we go and a driving guide for the tour is also being written.

Ideas for future NWACWHT projects are being solicited.

Ohio tourist offers picks, pans of state's Civil War sites

(Editor's Note: Dave Mowery, an engineer from Cincinnati, and his wife visited Arkansas last November and toured Civil War sites in central and south Arkansas. He sent the following assessment of Arkansas's Civil War offerings. The Arkansas Battlefield Update is printing Dave's assessment as valuable, insightful guidance for future efforts in the state.)

As a fellow history enthusiast and tourist, I wanted to give you my opinions, first impressions, and observations regarding the Arkansas Civil War sites I recently visited, while they are still fresh in my mind. I want you to know that these are just my opinions, with the goal of giving your Civil War Heritage Trail teams one tourist's views of what he had seen. My wife and I visited these sites together, so I incorporate some of her thoughts on this as well, but most of them are mine. As a trustee of the Ohio Civil War Trail Commission, I realize the value of receiving opinions of travellers visiting from out of state. They often bring an impartial view of where things are going well, and
Continued on Page 8.

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

Alan Thompson
(479)846-2990
alan.thompson@arkansas.go

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
tombeam@direclynx.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

Charles Durnette
milhistory@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
danny@honnoll.com

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

SEACWHT will assist with Helena exhibit event

By Mark Kalkbrenner
SEACWHT Chair

The Southeast Arkansas Civil War Heritage Trail is gearing up for a big year, we hope. Many projects and dedications are in the planning stages or underway.

We held our annual Christmas potluck on December 10 at the Pine Bluff/Jefferson County Historical Museum in conjunction with the David O. Dodd Chapter UDC, Patrick R. Cleburne Camp SCV and 1st Arkansas Civil War Living Historians. A wrap-up of each group's activities for the year was given. After dinner, Dr. James Willis, author of *Arkansas Confederates in the Western The-*

ater, spoke on his upcoming book, a novel of historical fiction.

Our first meeting of 2007 was held on January 13 at Arkansas Post State Park. It was a short meeting attended by only four people because of severe weather. Talk of plans for White Sulphur Springs and Stuttgart were the main topics of discussion.

Our next official function will be the dedication of a marker on the levee in Helena. This will take place on Saturday, March 24, immediately following the annual Patrick Cleburne Memorial Service, which begins at noon. A time and place for a meeting in May will be announced at dedication service.

WCACWHT welcomes co-chair

By Tom Wing
WCACWHT Co-chair

The West Central Arkansas Civil War Heritage Trail welcomes the assistance of Kim Myers, director of the Chamber of Commerce in Greenwood, as co-chair.

She is a UA-Fort Smith historical interpretation student and has internship experience at the South Sebastian County Historical Society and the Old Jail Mu-

seum. Among other duties, Kim will explore opportunities at Devil's Backbone for preservation and interpretation. With the upcoming sesquicentennial and the fact that Devil's Backbone is recognized by the American Battlefield Protection Program, Sebastian County will have numerous opportunities for Civil War events, programs, and preservation. We welcome Kim to the WCACWHT.

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.

CACWHT continues cemetery project, plans to remember 1911 UCV reunion

By Charles Durnette
CACWHT Chair

A combination of continuing projects as well as recently inaugurated projects fill the annual report from the Central Arkansas Civil War Heritage Trail. The longest continuing project is the identification of the outer markers for the 900 unknown Confederate Soldiers buried at Oakland Fraternal Cemetery in Little Rock. Some years ago, those markers were destroyed and the General Robert C. Newton Camp of the Sons of Confederate Veterans seeks to identify the boundaries and place new markers at the site. This has been a long-term project of the camp, and their members continue to monitor all of the cemeteries in the area.

An offshoot of that project is the development of an online graves registration site. The purpose is to bring the information from the headstones of both Confederates and Union soldiers buried in Arkansas to a web page as an easily accessible resource. This project comes as a joint project of the CACWHT, the Civil War Roundtable of Arkansas, reenactors in the state, and the Arkansas Division of the SCV.

Civil War enthusiasts come together a few times a year to celebrate the rich heritage of the state. One such gathering is for the annual David O. Dodd Memorial at Mount Holly Cemetery each year. This year's 143rd commemoration of the death of the "Boy Martyr of the Confederacy" brought more than 100 spectators to the cemetery, many in period garb. Over 40 reenactors formed a company, marching from the Little Rock Arsenal to Mount Holly. A firing ceremony concluded the day's activities.

The CWRT of Arkansas formed a task force last year to look into the sites making up the Battle of Little Rock and the protection of the signage at each of the sites. The task force is starting with the three segments from Brownsville through Furlow to Reed's Bridge. Initially



Camp Shaver was home to hundreds of Confederate veterans during their 1911 reunion in Little Rock.

they are looking at land off Watson Lane that has been marked and is located just south of the old Brownsville town site. An interpretive walking trail would be very suitable at this site. Wayside markers explaining the battle and the old town would work nicely on this property.

Even though the battle did not occur at the property off Watson Lane, the bridge over Two Prairie Bayou, which Confederate troops used to retreat through Brownsville, is located only 100-400 yards north of the proposed site. Interpretive hiking trails could be constructed to the actual site of the bridge, with owner's permission. All roads that were used in the battle are funneled into this section. Part of the Trail of Tears was along the Military Road. This has additional historical and preservation importance. This is a new project off to a good start with some

enthusiastic participants.

Plans have begun for a 2011 committee to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the 1911 reunion of the United Confederate Veterans. That gathering continues to be one of the largest meetings ever held in the city and state. More than 100,000 attended the event. A recent book by Ray and Steven Hanley remembered the reunion as well as all Arkansas Confederates. That year will also be the sesquicentennial of the start of the Civil War, and a great many events will be planned around the state.

A living history project is also being developed, centering on the Battle of Little Rock as the target project centering on a weekend encampment. Part of that development would include a heritage project featuring a period musical artist like Bobby Horton. The whole event may be scheduled as a fundraiser for the ACWHT.

Civil War Arkansas on the Internet!

Log onto these sites to learn more:

www.arkansaspreservation.org

www.civilwarbuff.org

<http://history-sites.com/cgi-bin/boards/arcwmb/>

NEACWHT to hold Chalk Bluff event, assist at Fitzhugh's Woods dedication

By *Danny Honnoll*
NEACHWT Chair

The Northeast Arkansas Civil War Heritage Trails Committee is honored to have James Langley of Jonesboro join the executive committee as trustee. Langley accepted the vacancy after Terry L. Bandy resigned as trustee in January for personal reasons. The officers of the NEACWHTC are W. Danny Honnoll, chairman, M. Ray Jones, III, trustee and Langley.

The Chalk Bluff reenactment is back on the schedule. We had so many people wanting to do the Chalk Bluff reenactment/living history this year that Judge Gary Howell has agreed to support this very worthwhile project again this year. This is a fun event and if you have never been to Chalk Bluff you need to come see the action.

This year's event will be held May 5 and 6 at Chalk Bluff Natural Area 10 miles north of Piggott. Amenities include powder for artillery, cavalry and infantry, water, firewood and hay, and a meal on Saturday evening. All branches of military and period impressions welcome. This event is hosted annually by Clay County, the Northeast Arkansas Civil War Heritage Trails Committee, the SCV Shaver Camp #1655 of Jonesboro, the Gen. James F. Fagan Chapter #280, and Military Order Stars and Bars of Jonesboro. There are no registration fees for reenactors, sutlers or living historians.

For information, contact Delbert Hughes at (870) 598-3942 or dhughes@piggott.net regarding artillery, John Malloy at (870) 269-5573 or jjmalloy@mvtel.net regarding infantry or Danny Honnoll at (870) 935-9830 or danny@honnoll.com.

Judge Gary Howell, Louis Riggs, John Malloy and Delbert Hughes are working on this project for us. Clay County and the NEACWHTC held a chili cookoff last spring 6 to help raise the powder for use in this year's event.

A special event at Chalk Bluff will be hosted by Bobbie Barnett, Jeannine Thompson, and Dale Barnett. They will be hosting a ladies tea at noon on May 5. They will be in period attire and have guards posted to provide an authentic setting. Anybody who wants to help can contact Bobbie Barnett at (870) 351-7696.

April 1 has been set for the dedication of the Fitzhugh's Woods markers. Augusta Mayor Jimmy Rhodes said that the markers should arrive on March 15 and be placed at the site shortly after that. The Lunday family has led the research and Bay Fitzhugh has supported the development of the Battle of Fitzhugh's Woods site since day one. Mark Christ and his agency have guided and helped with this ongoing project.

This project is funded in part by the Arkansas Humanities Council like our project in Randolph County last year. Woodruff County and the city of Augusta have stepped forward with labor on this project for the matching in-kind work. This should help pinpoint this site for tourists traveling through Arkansas. The

dedication will be held at 2 p.m. on April 1. We will need Union and Confederate reenactors to help with the dedication. If you are willing to help, please e-mail Danny Honnoll at danny@honnoll.com or call me at (870) 935-9830.

Our NEACWHTC has developed a new logo for the group. It is a combination of the American and Confederate Flag with a white star on the north east corner of Arkansas.

We had our annual Christmas party with the SCV and UDC and held an auction that raised \$500 towards the monument to be placed at the Confederate Park in Jonesboro. The dedication is to be held on March 31; I will keep you posted on this event. If you would like to donate to this project, you can send a donation to NEASHF, 1306 Oakdale St. Jonesboro, AR 72401. If you would like more information, you can call Ed Dudley, project chairman, at (870) 0-2460.

The next meeting of the NEACWHTC will be on May 5 at 11 a.m. at the Chalk Bluff Civil War battlefield site. See you there!

Sign me up!

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

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: _____

Phone number (optional): _____

Reed's Bridge Battlefield Preservation Society developing multi-layered interpretation at site

By Tom Dupree
RBBPS President

The Reed's Bridge Battlefield Preservation Society has projects to put wayside exhibits up on three different sites, thanks to grants from the Arkansas Humanities Council.

Site one is where the Federal cannon sat on the afternoon of August 27, 1863, during the final stages of the all-day battle.

Site two is between Old Military Road and Trickey Lane. Five panels will be located there. These panels will not only cover the 1863 battle of Reed's Bridge, but will also highlight the Indian removal that took place along this route. Another panel will cover the Military Road itself and show the importance the road played in the settling of the West and providing men and supplies for the forts on the frontier. A fifth panel will be provided by the DAR covering Samson Gray and his family who settled close to the site in the

1820s. Samson Gray was also the person who contracted to build not only parts of the Military Road, but Reed's Bridge itself. Gray also was a Revolutionary War veteran.

Site three is located about a mile and a quarter east of site two. This is the home site and family cemetery of Pleasant McGraw, whose home and cemetery were here during the 1863 battle of Reed's Bridge.

Completion of all three projects is anticipated by late summer.

Museum to publish '03, '04 seminar essays

The Old State House Museum will introduce its newest publication: *"The Earth Reeled and Trees Trembled": Civil War Arkansas, 1863-1864*, in early summer. This publication, edited by Mark K. Christ, is a compelling portrayal of Arkansas's involvement in this conflict as conveyed through lectures given during the museum's Civil War symposia that were held in 2003 and 2004.

Essays in the book include:

* Michael Dougan, Say "Au Revoir" but not "Good-Bye:" The Enduring Confederate Government of Arkansas

* Mark K. Christ, "As Much As Humanity Can Stand": The Little Rock Campaign of 1863

* Douglas E. Larson, *Alfred Gales and the Third Minnesota in Arkansas*

* Cynthia DeHaven Pitcock, *Gunpowder, Lard and Kerosene: Civil War Medicine in the Trans-Mississippi*

* Bobby Roberts, *Rivers of No Return*

* Gary Dillard Joiner, *Fred Steele's Dilemma and Kirby Smith's Quest for Glory*

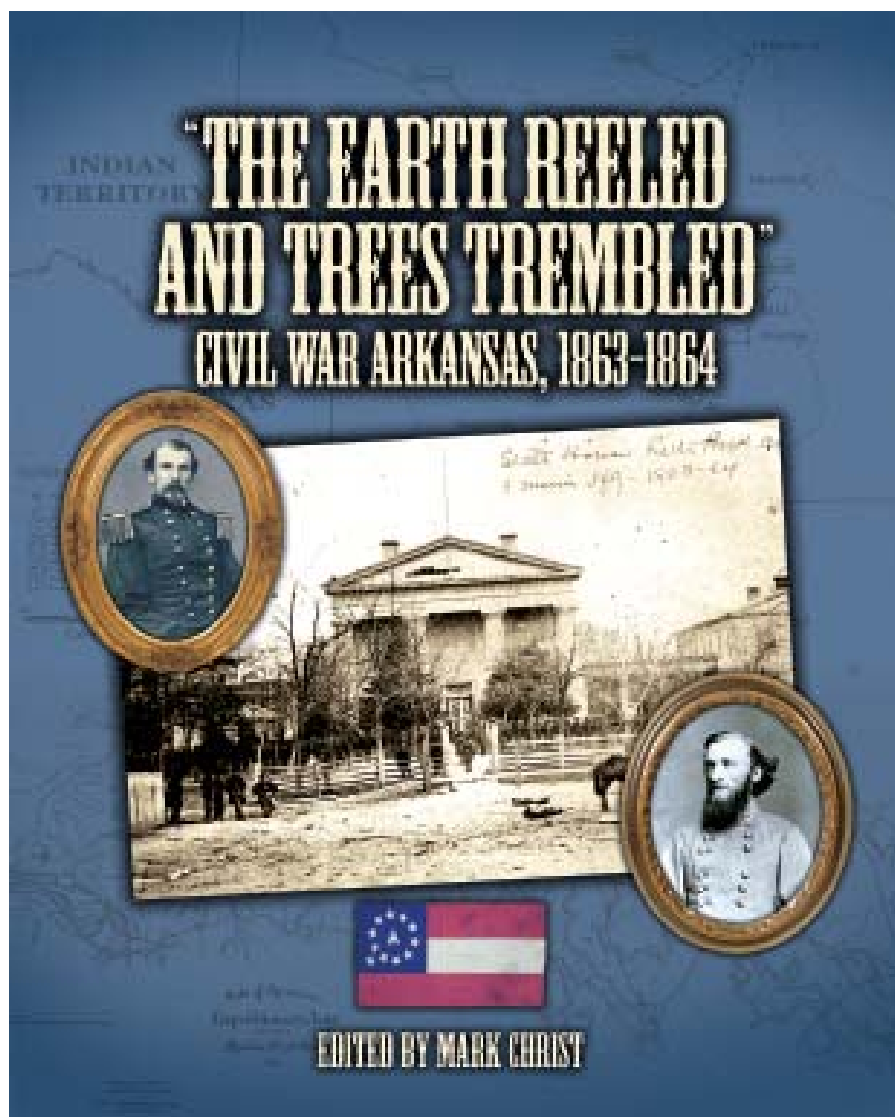
* Billy Gurley, *The Civil War Journal of Dr. Henry Dye: Texas Surgeon in the District of Arkansas*

* Tom Wing, *A Sink of Iniquity and Corruption: The Civil War in Fort Smith and Indian Territory*

* Mark K. Christ, "The Queen City Was a Helpless Wreck": *J.O. Shelby's Summer of '64*

* Daniel Sutherland, *Guerrilla Conflict in 1864: Day of the Outlaw*

The book will be available through the Old State House Museum store or online at https://www.arkansasheritage.com/oldstatehouse/museum_store/ for a cost of \$24.95.



Foundation discusses goals for 2007

Continued from Page 1.

that the Reed's Bridge group had received grants from the Arkansas Humanities Council. The group wants markers for the Federal artillery on Trickey Lane, for Indian removal and for the Military Road. They are working with the Daughters of the American Revolution and Jacksonville city officials. They have approached the mayor for help with paving the ingress and egress areas. They will apply for a major grant for additional markers. Mark Christ noted that AHPP Historic Preservation had commissioned a study from Rutgers University on the economic impact of preservation and will produce a brochure on heritage tourism.

Helena—Mark Christ reported on the sites of Battery A. Much of the site of Battery A is owned by the Helena Improvement District. He is working with the Delta Cultural Center in Helena on a grant for a study to stabilize and interpret the Helena Battlefield. DCC is also involved in getting wayside markers on the levee and a series of waysides in town for a driving tour. He was questioned as to whether there were plans to mark General Hindman's home and other sites but said there were no plans at the this time.

Fitzhugh's Woods—Mark Christ reported that the project is moving ahead and the panels are near completion. They are shooting for an April 1 completion date. There are also plans for a re-enactment.

Civil War Sesquicentennial—Mark Christ reported that state government will have to formalize these plans and appoint a CWS committee. Other states are working on their sesquicentennials, and it will be a good heritage tourism opportunity. The sesquicentennial proposal should go in as part of a legislative package.

Other business:

Arkansas Civil War Heritage Trails Foundation President Danny Honnoll reported that he hoped to get a website up. They are using the Arkansas Tooth-

pick site to reduce costs. He noted that the Sons of Confederate Veterans has grave registration for CSA deceased. He wants one for Union veterans as well. He also mentioned plans for a Jonesboro site with flag and historical display.

ACWHT Treasurer Mark Kalkbrenner presented his treasurers report. The foundation concluded 2006 with a balance of \$490.26. (See full report on Page X.)

Regional Roundups—ACWHT Chairs
Northeast: Danny Honnoll reported that activities in his area in northeast Arkansas were going well and were well received by the general public.

Central: Charles Durnette reported that the Central Arkansas group is continuing their projects and planning a 2011 project—the centennial of the 1911 reunion. They are pursuing monuments and are investigating the moving of the David O. Dodd monument to make it more accessible to the public. Their brochure has been delayed. Their group will study the Little Rock battle sites and place their GPS readings on the website www.civilwar.buff.org.

Southwest: Tom Beam asked Peggy Lloyd to report on activities in the area. She reported that International Paper had sold much of the Elkins' Ferry site to TimberstarSW. The transaction was completed in late October, and she has remained in contact with TimberstarSW at their Shreveport and Hope offices. She nominated the Moscow Church and Cemetery near Prescott to the National Register of Historic Places in August 2006. Mark Christ wrote a grant to the Arkansas Humanities Council for a wayside sign at Moscow, the site of a rearguard action after Prairie D'Ane. The grant was successful and the project is underway. Mark has also written an American Battlefield Protection Program grant for Elkins' Ferry, Prairie D'Ane and Moscow Church and Cemetery (as a non-contiguous part of the Prairie D'Ane site). This grant was submitted to ABPP on January 12, 2007, and is pending. Lloyd also asked for assistance in clean-

ing portions of Moscow cemetery prior to archeological examination and mapping of the cemetery.

Northwest: Alan Thompson reported on activity at Prairie Grove and Cane Hill. Steve Burgess is preparing a driving tour guide. Two markers will be placed in the cemetery and eight or nine panels prepared for the driving tour. A grant application is in that will cover Civil War, Trail of Tears and Butterfield Stage Road sites.

Southeast: Mark Kalkbrenner reported on the Mitchell Plantation at Stuttgart and White Sulphur Springs. White Sulphur Springs is a complex site with evidence of a raid. Mark's group may change their focus and consider a re-enactment. He wants somebody to take over the Civil War cemeteries. His group cleans up Marks' Mills.

Progress Report and 2007 regional priorities:

- * Continue work on Reed's Bridge preservation.
- * Continue work to acquire Elkins' Ferry.
- * It was suggested that the group approach state parks about improving care of sites such as Poison Springs.
- * E-mail addresses of regional tourism groups will be distributed.
- * We hope to have a ACWHT website up by July.

Raising money through re-enactments with local groups was deemed too difficult and it was scratched as a goal.

New business discussed over lunch. Mark Christ urged everyone to have their articles in by the February 26 deadline. February 9, 2008, was set for the next annual meeting with the Arsenal in Little Rock as a possible site. Mark Christ passed out a detailed plan for a National Heritage Area for the Red River Campaign and an Arkansas Civil War Scenic By-Ways Program. Mark showed a map prepared by LSU/Shreveport professor Gary Joiner on the Camden Expedition and distributed Civil War brochures. After lunch, the group toured nearby Civil War sites and adjourned in the early afternoon.

Arkansas Civil War Heritage Trails Foundation, Inc.

Financial Report

Jan 1, 2006 - Dec 31, 2006

01/ 01/ 2006	Beginning balance.....	\$ 350.26
02/ 11/ 2006	NEACWHT — (Pocahontas Marker) ACWHT, Inc. Ck# 1009.....	\$1,500.00-
02/ 13/ 2006	Deposit for NEACWHT (Dues and Grant)..... (\$20 dollars toward SWACWHT)	\$1,570.00+
02/ 23/ 2006	Returned check	\$ 20.00-
09/ 25/ 2006	Deposit SWACWHT (2005 & 2006 Dues plus \$12 check) & SEACWHT 2006 Dues	\$ 162.00+
10/ 30/ 2006	P.O. Box Rental ACWHT, Inc. Ck# 1010.....	\$ 72.00-
11/ 22/ 2006	Deposit from SEACWHT (WSS Event)	\$ 170.00+
11/ 22/ 2006	Brenda's Portable Toilets (WSS event) ACWHT, Inc. Ck# 1011	\$170.00-
Account total as of 12/ 31/ 2006		\$ 490.26+

** WCACWHT dues paid through 2007

** no 2005 or 2006 dues received from CACWHT, NWACWHT

Submitted by:

H. Mark Kalkbrenner

Treasurer

Little Rock Campaign Tour guide, Mount Holly Cemetery get high marks

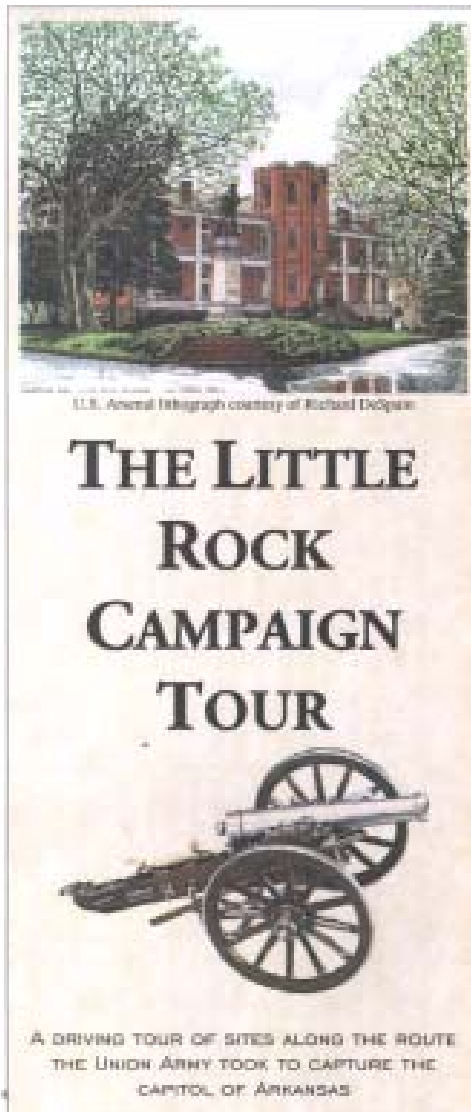
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where things might improve. Because of the outstanding assistance the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program staff gave me in providing me the most recent Arkansas Civil War pamphlets and brochures prior to going to Arkansas, and because of the access to the top-notch web sites www.civilwarbuff.org and www.arkansaspreservation.com, I only feel it is fair that I let you know how that material helped me, and what I saw when I visited the sites.

My wife and I visited Arkansas November 3 - 11, 2006. We just returned home last Sunday. My wife and I toured 46 battlefields (mostly skirmishes) throughout Central and Southeast Arkansas. Most of these battlefields were unmarked, of course, and were not mentioned in any of the materials given to me by the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program. Some of these unmarked sites are gems, but most are not. However, I will not comment on them. I will only remark upon those places that the literature and web sites talk about.

The civilwarbuff.org and arkansaspreservation.com web sites are outstanding. They are amongst the best I have ever seen in the area of state Civil War Heritage Trail web sites. Not only do they cover the tourist sites for people to visit, but they also give notes about what is actively happening amongst the preservation organizations within Arkansas. I especially find unique that the civilwarbuff.org site gives details about all of the small skirmishes fought in the state (I suspect this list was largely derived from Frederick Dyer's *Compendium of the Civil War*), with an excellent search engine to help out. I consider Arkansas's Civil War Trail web sites comparable to those of Maryland and Virginia, which are considered the premier statewide Civil War Heritage Trail web sites in the USA. Please keep up the great work on your internet sites!

The brochure *A Guide to the Arkansas Civil War Heritage Trail: A Scenic*



Tour Map of Arkansas was colorful and very helpful. I really enjoyed the smaller, lesser-known, out-of-way sites that it mentioned. The *Arkansas Civil War Discovery Trail Guide* pamphlet was also very well done in this respect. Both of these publications excited me to visit Arkansas Civil War sites. I thought these were much better done than, for example, Tennessee's equivalent brochure named *A Path Divided: Tennessee's Civil War Heritage Trail*.

The *Little Rock Campaign Tour* pamphlet was also excellent. The stops were well directed, up-to-date, and accurate in their historical facts. The interpretive panels at each stop, though their clear laminate covers are cracking

so badly that they are now difficult for people to read, are very well placed, are unbiased, and are quite informative. The panel texts are complementary to the brochure text, which is also great. Furthermore, the stops covered the most important sites of the campaign, based upon my research from the *Official Records of the War of the Rebellion* and from Dyer's *Compendium of the Civil War*. Awesome!

As a side note, Mount Holly Cemetery in Little Rock provides free pamphlets for visitors who want to find all of the Civil War general's graves there, as well as David O. Dodd's grave. The cemetery caretaker, Steve, was extremely kind and helpful (he deserves an award for most caring caretaker!). He gave me the pamphlet, which he grabbed from a stack of pamphlets on the outside wall of the memorial structure situated in the middle of the cemetery on the main entrance road. Any visitor can pick one up at any time without having to find Steve or go to the office. I recommend all historically-minded visitors of this cemetery to pick up this pamphlet. It's free, it's accessible at all hours the cemetery gates are open, and it's a gem of information! I only wish Maple Hill Cemetery in Helena would do the same thing.

My best experiences on the Civil War Heritage Trail in Central and Southeast Arkansas:

* St. Charles. This place was beautiful, especially at the public boat landing and at the gravel road that runs along the west river bank on the northeast side of the Broadway silos. It would be even better to have an interpretive panel here or at the museum next to the monument on Broadway. What is the meaning of the fake siege cannon that is sitting in a private yard on the road leading to the public boat landing, just across from the metal historic sign for the battle?

* Marks' Mills Cemetery Park. The work done here by the local history/nature buffs (particularly the Colvins) is
Continued on Page 9.

Visitor appreciates Colvin family's work in southeast

Continued from Page 8.

outstanding. The Marks Mill Battleground State Historical Memorial park is disappointing, because it only contains the area of the second position of the 43rd Indiana regiment. However, the Marks Mill Cemetery Park adds lots of value to this stop, because it takes people on a journey back into time, with excellent markers, monuments, and trails. The Battle Trail was



Reed's Bridge Battlefield, Jacksonville

my favorite. Some of the battlefield is preserved at the Cemetery Park, too.

* Mount Holly Cemetery in Little Rock. The free brochure made this visit memorable. The helpfulness of Steve, the caretaker, also added for a great visit.

* History Pavilion in Riverfront Park, Little Rock. This place provided a nice walk through the history of Little Rock, and a fantastic view of the Arkansas River.

* Bayou Fourche battlefield at Rammel Park. The view of Bayou Fourche from the history pavilion is excellent. It has not changed much in 140+ years, except that the grounds are mowed. This stop, combined with the battle monument stop at the bridge near where the Confederate artillery was placed, made for a great experience and a good start at interpreting this key battle of the Little Rock Campaign.

* Ashley's Mills and Terry's Ford stops on the Little Rock Campaign tour. The interpretive panels were well-placed and easily accessible, and definitely gave the visitor a feel for what happened at each of these places. We enjoyed the

conglomeration of old buildings from the town of Scott at Ashley's Mills. We could see the battlefield clearly from this location.

* Reed's Bridge Battlefield. This is certainly the BEST "small-action" battlefield in Arkansas that I have visited so far. It is not as good as Parkers Crossroads in Tennessee, for example, but it is better than small-action battle parks like Britton's Lane and Jackson in Tennessee. To make Reed's Bridge battlefield better, it would need to have more markers, trails, and lands to visit. A museum would be wonderful, but not necessary. I know these things are trying to happen at Reeds Bridge, based upon what I read from the *Battlefield Updates*. Please keep up the awesome effort here!!!

* Mount Elba Battlefield. Again, the Colvins made this stop somewhat worth the drive down the long gravel road to Mount Elba. I liked the monument and marker that they placed on the north side of the river. There were lots of deer hunters there the day we visited, and we

could not get down to the river ford due to it being on private property (Keep Out signs all over the place), but the visit was nice. It would be great to have some battlefield land here preserved just east of the ford, on the north side of the river, where the heaviest fighting occurred.

* Clark County's Civil War markers. Clark County made great strides by placing small historic plaques at the major Civil War sites within its borders. I really found these useful, especially at the remote 1864 Camden Expedition battlefields of Bozeman's House, Terre Noir Creek, and Okolona ("Battle of the Bees"). The Elkins' Ferry marker is too far north of the ferry, but I know the road to the ferry is too awful to place it any closer (I experienced the drive down to the northern bank of the ferry first-hand – I'm glad I had a 4WD vehicle that day, or I would have had to call a tow truck). The sites in Arkadelphia are well-marked, too. Great job by Clark County!

* Fort Southerland (Fort Diamond) Park in Camden. This park was a great
Continued on Page 10.

Camden fort site a highlight for tourists

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stop, because the earthworks are well preserved and open to the public. I also liked the new markers at each of the Fort sites (Simmons, Pickett, Lookout, Southerland). I hope someday that Fort Lookout could be opened to the public, too.

* Arkansas (Confederate) State Capitol marker on Central Avenue, Hot Springs. This monument took me by pleasant surprise when I first saw it. The marker is located just a few steps north of the northernmost bathhouse in the Hot Springs National Park.

* Ditch Bayou Battlefield markers. These markers were placed perfectly on the Confederate line at Ditch Bayou. It was easy to visualize the battle from here. Despite the modern buildings on the battlefield, there are still lots of battle-ground adjacent to the bayou that has not been disturbed, and could be made into a battlefield park.

* Arkansas Post National Memorial. Simply wonderful! Much of the battlefield is preserved, although some of it is inundated. We hiked the Confederate Trenches trail, as well as many of the other park trails. My wife really liked this place. So did I.

* Longview Battlefield markers. These markers did not show any battle maps, so it was hard to tell where the actual fighting occurred, but the markers exhibit the extra efforts on the part of local historians to mark a significant skirmish of the Longview & Mount Elba Campaign. It was worth the long drive to see the site.

My disappointing experiences on the Civil War Heritage Trail in Central and Southeast Arkansas:

* Jenkins' Ferry Battlefield. This was the MOST disappointing Civil War site I have visited in Arkansas. Just like at Marks' Mills and Poison Spring, the State Battleground Memorial at Jenkins' Ferry is deficient in properly interpreting a major battle of the Civil War. Battlefield interpretation is much more than just reading markers – battlefield interpretation requires one to be able to walk (or at



Earthwork at Camden's Fort Southerland Park

least stand upon) the field and visualize the terrain that the soldiers fought and died upon. What makes this site so bad is that the Memorial Park is not even on the battlefield! The actual battlefield is north of SR46 about halfway between Leola, AR, and the Battleground Memorial. It is impossible, even from the SR46 roadside, to see where the battle took place. It is heavily wooded and is all on private property. The day we went there, bulldozers were clear-cutting trees in the combat area just south of where Cooper's Field once was located. Jenkins' Ferry was Arkansas's fifth bloodiest battle, behind Pea Ridge, Prairie Grove, Arkansas Post, and Helena (if one excludes the captured number from the casualty lists at Marks' Mills). It is a shame that preservation and interpretation of this battlefield has not been achieved. Yet, the battlefield land has not been disturbed too much, so this makes for the greatest battlefield preservation opportunity in the state.

* Poison Spring Battlefield. The kiosk markers here were good, but the Battleground Memorial Park itself is only a small piece of the battlefield and it lies mainly behind the center of the Union lines. There are no "battle" trails with interpretation, only nature trails, and those are cut in the area of the Union retreat. The good thing is that the battlefield (across the street

from the Battleground Memorial) is mostly on State Park land. The next step would be to open up that land to public entry with the addition of trails and markers in the areas of the heaviest fighting.

* Helena's Battery C. Because the town of Helena has changed so much from 1863, I did not set my expectations very high for this battlefield, but I did expect that Battery C, where the most intense action occurred, would be accessible. However, when I arrived in Helena, no one could tell me where Battery C Park was located. We visited the Phillips County Museum & Library, and the docent there did not know how to get to Battery C, and she admitted that she had lived in Helena all of her life! The brochure entitled *A Guide to the Arkansas Civil War Heritage Trail: A Scenic Tour Map of Arkansas* said that Battery C is located "near Clark and York Streets," but Clark and York do not intersect. York Street goes only as far west as College Street, and there is no public driveway there, only an old plaque in the midst of a dense residential neighborhood. None of the material that was given to me from the Helena Chamber of Commerce helped me either. The city of Helena has seen

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Battlefield preservation opportunities seen

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better days, for sure, but that should not discourage visitors from receiving proper directions to battlefield sites.

* *Prairie D'Ane Battlefield.* I saw no markers for this battlefield and no signs directing the visitor to it. The directions in the *Guide to the Arkansas Civil War Heritage Trail* were ambiguous, saying that the battlefield is located "northwest of I-30 at Prescott." Where is it northwest of I-30? On which roads? I know this is privately owned land, but a marker in the public right-of-way would be helpful, and more specific directions would have been good. The Depot Museum was closed, so we could not ask about it there. However, it should not be a requirement that the visitor must go to the museum in order to know where the actual battle took place.

* *Pine Bluff's Courthouse Square.* I expected an interpretive panel to be here, at the least, but I saw only a plaque describing the Oct 25, 1863, battle. Interpretation could be made better here for this battle that cost so many Confederate lives.

* *L'Anguille Ferry Battlefield* could use a marker or interpretive panel, located along SR1. None of the brochure information told exactly where the battle occurred.

Best opportunities I observed for Civil War battlefield land improvement in Southeast and Central Arkansas:

Being a battlefield preservationist, I know that battlefield land purchase requires (1) funding, (2) willing sellers, (3) a fair market price on the land, and (4) a dedicated group of persons to work out the details, like at Reed's Bridge. I was told that the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program does not perform land purchasing. However, if there are folks in the state that are handling battlefield land acquisitions in Central and Southeast Arkansas, the comments below are meant for them.

The greatest opportunity for improvement is at Jenkins Ferry, if the land upon which the battle was fought could be purchased and opened to the public. I

assume a logging corporation owns this land, based upon what I saw from the clear-cutting operations going on there last week.

Poison Spring State Park could open up its state-owned lands and allow visitors to walk around the true battlefield land, located across the street from the current Battleground Memorial. It would be appropriate to be able to walk the ground where the 1st Kansas troops fought.

Marks' Mills Battleground Park would be better if the two parcels west of SR8 and east of SR97, both directly across these roads from the current Battleground Memorial, could be purchased and

Elkins' Ferry could be much improved by purchasing and opening up land south of the ferry, where the heaviest combat occurred.

Purchasing and opening up the fields just east of the Ditch Bayou bridge on US82, on both the north and south sides of the highway, would add a lot to the interpretation of Arkansas's last major battle. These fields are where most of the Union casualties were inflicted. Also, there is undisturbed land adjacent to the bayou where the Confederate lines were placed that could be saved. US82 is very busy, which implies residential and commercial growth is not far behind.



Jenkins' Ferry Battlefield State Park

opened up for tourists. These lands appear to be leased by hunting clubs. There are some lands that still could be saved at Bayou Fourche that would add value to this battlefield. Namely, I saw a large hay field on the north side of Fourche Dam Pike and just east of the bridge over the bayou. The Union lines stretched through here. Also, it would be great to allow visitors to access the small parcel of land where the Confederate artillery was placed, on the south side of Fourche Dam Pike, just across the street from the battle monument. Access to the lands between the bayou and the Arkansas River would be good, too.

A small battlefield park at Prairie D'Ane would be appropriate.

Thanks very much for reading. Overall, I feel that Arkansas is doing a great job in interpreting and trying to preserve its Civil War sites. It certainly should receive an 'A' for effort in this area compared to some other states I have visited. That's why I wrote this note in the first place. If I hadn't thought there is any active effort going on to save and mark Civil War sites, I would not have bothered. By the way, I will be coming back to Arkansas again for more Civil War visits!

SWACWHT plans meeting at Washington; assisting with exhibit for Moscow battle site

By Peggy Lloyd and Tom Beam
SWACWHT Chairs

The year 2006 in the Southwest region was busy and 2007 appears to have more in store. Tom Beam has set a meeting date for the SWACWHT at the Southwest Arkansas Regional Archives in Washington for 2 p.m., Sunday, April 15.

The Archives, or SARA, is located one half mile south of the intersection of Highway 278 and Highway 195, the major intersection in Washington. If you have questions, call Peggy Lloyd at 870-983-2633 or e-mail peggy.lloyd@arkansas.gov.

Much of the focus in 2006 was on sites related to the Camden Expedition, especially those in Nevada County.

Moscow Church and Cemetery, the site of a rearguard action after the Battle of Prairie D'Ane, was listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The Arkansas Humanities Council awarded a grant for a wayside sign at Moscow. Mary Godwin, director of the Prescott Chamber of Commerce, is the project director and has begun work.

Much of the Elkins' Ferry site changed owners in 2006. The National Historic Landmark is located on lands partially owned by International Paper and was part of their 6.3 million acre divestiture in the continental United States. The new owner is TimberStarSW. They are establishing offices in the region, and they have been contacted by our group.

Mark Christ wrote an American

Battlefield Protection Program grant for a study of the Elkins' Ferry, Prairie D'Ane and Moscow battlefields. It was submitted on January 12, 2007. The review board for the grant will meet on March 22.

David Sesser, a history graduate student at Henderson State University in Arkadelphia, is the new curator of the Nevada County Depot and Museum at Prescott. He has interned at Vicksburg and is a Civil War enthusiast. He is making plans for new Civil War exhibits at the Prescott Museum.

Efforts are already afoot to raise funds towards acquiring the Elkins' Ferry Battlefield and toward establishing a National Scenic By-Ways program in the region. Bring your ideas and suggestions to the April meeting.



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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