



# Arkansas Battlefield Update

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## Sesquicentennial Commission sets themes for annual observances

The Arkansas Civil War Sesquicentennial Commission has developed interpretive themes for each year of the observance of the 150th anniversary of the war between 2011 and 2015, ACWSC Chairman Tom Dupree announced recently.

“The Arkansas Civil War Sesquicentennial Commission developed the themes to provide guidance for local observations during the commemoration,” Dupree said. “We felt that it might be useful to local governments, historical societies, museums and other organizations as they begin planning local events.”

The themes for each year are:

2011: “Why Commemorate the Civil War?”  
As we enter the 150th anniversary of a war that changed the social, economic and political nature of Arkansas forever, it is vitally important to reflect on the reasons for war and its impacts. It is even more important to explore the relevance of the events of 1861-1865 to us as a people a century and a half after the close of hostilities.

2012: “A Divided Arkansas” War came to Arkansas in 1862 as Union armies invaded the northwest portion of the state and Confederate leaders authorized formation of bands of guerrilla fighters to oppose them.

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## Annual meet of Foundation sees progress

By Peggy Lloyd  
*Recording Secretary*

The Arkansas Civil War Heritage Trails Foundation held its annual meeting on February 14. Mark Christ of AHPP, Peggy Lloyd and Tom Beam of SWACWHT, Tom Dupree and Jack Danielson of Reed’s Bridge Battlefield Preservation Society, M. Danny Honnoll and Ray Jones of NEACWHT, and Rick Meadows of CACWHT attended.

Discussion included reports on the Arkansas Civil War Sesquicentennial Commission, Reed’s Bridge Battlefield, and the regional Arkansas Civil War Heritage Trail organizations.

A progress report of the 2008 priorities indicates that the Reed’s Bridge Battlefield site is making good progress and has received moral support from the other chapters. The possibility of acquiring portions of the Elkins’ Ferry National Historic Landmark has made progress in the past year. Approaching Arkansas State Parks about the care and management of its Camden Expedition Parks remains an ongoing goal. Establishing contacts with regional tourism organizations  
**Continued on Page 2.**

## Two Arkansas battle sites see action for National, Arkansas Register listing

An expanded boundary for Battery D in Helena has been nominated to the National Register of Historic Places, and the Ashley’s and Jones’s Stations Battlefield in Lonoke and Prairie counties has been listed in the Arkansas Register of Historic Places.

The Battery D Boundary Expansion, located between Highway 49 and Military Road, contains land over which Gen. James Fagan’s Confederate brigade attacked the Union defenders of Battery D on July 4, 1863.

“The Battery D Boundary Expansion is noteworthy by virtue  
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*Battery D Boundary Expansion*

## For Information

### General Information

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The Arkansas Civil War Heritage Trail is a network of regional private, nonprofit, volunteer organizations seeking to identify, protect, interpret and promote Arkansas properties related to the state's Civil War experience. General guidance for the groups is provided by the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program, an agency of the Department of Arkansas Heritage.

### Northwest Arkansas CWHT

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

### West Central Arkansas CWHT

Kim Myers (479) 926-1566

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Larry Puckett (479) 459-5412

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

### Southwest Arkansas CWHT

Tom Beam

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Peggy Lloyd (870) 983-2633

[peggy.lloyd@arkansas.gov](mailto:peggy.lloyd@arkansas.gov)

The Southwest Arkansas Civil War Heritage Trail serves Polk, Montgomery, Garland, Howard, Pike, Clark, Hot Spring, 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](mailto:captk1ark@hotmail.com)

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

### Central Arkansas CWHT

Rick Meadows (501) 843-9090

[rmeadows@aaamissouri.com](mailto:rmeadows@aaamissouri.com)

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](mailto: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.

# Themes to provide help for local observances

## Continued from Page 1.

Families were split as members chose allegiance to the Union or the Confederacy while other Arkansawyers simply tried to stay out of it. It became apparent that every community in the state would be affected by the war.

2013: "Big War, Little War" Thousands of Arkansas soldiers were shipped to fight battles east of the Mississippi River, while thousands of Union soldiers occupied Arkansas. The theme focuses on the anguish of those serving far from home and the hardship faced by those who stayed behind, as well as the choices faced by the state's African-American population as they decided whether to remain with their owners or escape to Union lines.

2014: "Under Two Governments" The people of Arkansas faced unparalleled

hardship during 1864 as food and other supplies dwindled and much of Arkansas existed in a lawless state. Roving bands of armed men killed and stole with impunity as both Union and Confederate governors sought to conduct the business of the state.

2015: "Emancipation and Reconstruction" As the war wound down, the Confederate armies surrendered and soldiers returned to a blighted landscape and Union rule. Slavery officially ended in the state as Arkansas ratified the 13th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution on April 14, 1865.

For more information on sesquicentennial plans, visit [www.arkansascivilwar150.com](http://www.arkansascivilwar150.com) or e-mail [acwsc@arkansasheritage.org](mailto:acwsc@arkansasheritage.org).

# Foundation sets priorities for group's 2009 activities

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and getting an ACWHT Foundation website up have been accomplished.

Priorities for 2009 remain the preservation of Reed's Bridge, the acquisition of Elkins' Ferry lands and improved care of Camden Expedition parks by Arkansas State Parks. Additional priorities included were the increased involvement of Arkansas students in the study of Civil War and assistance for the WCACWHT Chapter at Fort Smith.

Rick Meadows urged discussion of greater opportunities for communication and participation by other groups in ACWHTF activities. The board members decided the website may improve the possibilities for networking. Rick also urged greater student involvement in ACWHTF activities. His suggestion was adopted as a priority for 2009.

The next annual meeting was set for February 13, 2010, at 10 a.m.

## Civil War Arkansas on the Internet!

Log onto these sites to learn more:

[www.arkansascivilwar150.com](http://www.arkansascivilwar150.com)

[www.arkansaspreservation.org](http://www.arkansaspreservation.org)

[www.civilwarbuff.org](http://www.civilwarbuff.org)

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

# Nevada County projects are underway

By Peggy Lloyd  
and Tom Beam  
SWACWHT Chairs

Joe and Maria Brent of Versailles, Kentucky, have been selected as historical consultants for the American Battlefield Protection Program grant in Nevada County. After completing a phase of their work in Helena, they visited Nevada County for a tour on February 12.

The Brents met with Mayor Howard Taylor of Prescott at the Prescott/ Nevada County Economic Development Partnership for discussion. After meeting with the mayor, they took a driving tour of Civil War sites in the county with Max Phillips, a volunteer at the Nevada County Depot Museum, and Peggy Lloyd of the Southwest Arkansas Regional Archives at Washington.

The group visited Elkins' Ferry, the Nubbin Hill area, Smyrna Cemetery, Prairie D'Ane, the site of the Fowlkes Plantation, Moscow Church and Cemetery, the purported site of Moscow and the Depot Museum. The Brents took notes and photographed the sites. They will return in late April for additional in-depth study and public meetings.

The Civil War Preservation Trust is also investigating the possibility of purchasing portions of the Elkins' Ferry National Historic Landmark in Nevada County. Hopefully, these plans will come to fruition in the coming months. The grants for these purchases are matching grants. Additional funds will be sought from private foundations and individuals.

On February 14, Tom Beam and Peggy Lloyd, co-chairs of the Southwest Region, attended the annual ACWHT Foundation summit meeting at Little Rock to discuss developments related to the Civil War throughout the

state. Peggy serves as recording secretary.

On March 1, the SWACWHT met at the Southwest Arkansas Regional Archives in Washington. The group had planned to caravan to the Civil War earthworks in and around Fulton, but the weather was too cold and windy to accomplish an outdoor tour. Josh Williams, the new curator of Historic Washington State Park, took the group on a tour of the park's curatorial facilities which are in the same building with SARA. The nine attendees viewed items particularly of Civil War interest.

On January 29, 2009, a section of Nevada County Road 10 in Nevada

County was placed on the National Register of Historic Places. This is a segment of the old Camden to Washington Road which went into use circa 1825. Elements of the Confederate Army used this road to march from the vicinity of Washington to Poison Spring in the spring of 1864. At the time of the Civil War, it was in western Ouachita County.

Plans for a spring meeting in late April or May will be announced later. For information or inquiries call or e-mail Tom Beam in Hot Springs at 501-509-5600 or tombeam@hotsprings.net or Peggy Lloyd in Hope/Washington at 870-983-2633 or peggy.lloyd@arkansas.gov.

## ARKANSAS CIVIL WAR HERITAGE TRAILS FOUNDATION, INC.

### Financial Report Jan 1, 2008 – Dec 31, 2008

01/01/2008	Beginning balance.....	\$ 927.47+
01/17/2008	ck #1017 voided to Graphics Plus..... (not received by Graphics Plus)	\$ 725.00+
01/17/2008	Graphics Plus (NWACWHT grant)..... ACWHTF, Inc. ck #1012	\$ 725.00-
02/15/2008	Deposit..... (SEACWHT, NEACWHT, CACWHT dues)	\$ 150.00+
08/19/2008	Deposit..... (Memorials for Chuck Durnett)	\$ 645.00+
10/21/2008	Deposit..... (Memorials for Chuck Durnett & \$100 from NWACWHT for Cane Hill Project)	\$ 685.00+
Annual total as of 12/31/2008.....		<b><u>\$ 2,407.47+</u></b>

- No 2008 dues received from WCACWHT
- No 2007 or 2008 dues received from NWACWHT
- No 2007 or 2008 dues from SWACWHT
- SEACWHT paid for P.O. Box from 2009 dues

Submitted by Mark Kalkbrenner, Treasurer, ACWHTF, Inc.



# NEACWHT participates in many events

By *Danny Honnoll*  
*NEACWHT Chair*

The Northeast Arkansas Civil War Heritage Trails Committee has been working very hard of late. W. Danny Honnoll was one of the keynote speakers at the Arkansas Genealogy Road Show. His talk was on Razorback Rebels and it covered Arkansas and the Civil War. Honnoll had a Powerpoint presentation with numerous visual effects that helped tell the story. This event was very well attended with over 125 present at the Arkansas Genealogy Road Show and we all learned a lot from the speakers.

Our group was represented at the David O. Dodd dedication when a new historical marker was placed at MacArthur Park in Little Rock.

Also members of the NEACWHTC helped Jonesboro celebrate its 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and Arkansas State University its 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary by marching in their 100<sup>th</sup> ASU/150<sup>th</sup> Jonesboro-Craighead County. Participating were Dr. Vance Sales, Jerry McAfee, Will Silas and Eugene Wittlake in Revolutionary War uniforms; M. Ray Jones in a pre-Civil War uniform and Doyle Yearata, Jackie Stevens, and W. Danny Honnoll in Confederate uniforms. This parade went for over a mile and a half down Main Street in Jonesboro past the Battle of Jonesboro Civil War marker and the original site where Jonesboro was to be laid out.

The North East Arkansas Civil War Heritage Trails Committee held its winter meeting on January 20 in Jonesboro. We had 27 in attendance for the meeting. President W. Danny Honnoll gave an updated report to the gathering.

The NEACWHT's current bank balance is \$405.34.

We will attend the April 29 meeting of the ACWSC in Little Rock as the group continues to gather information and plan for the celebrations of the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Civil War.

Ray Jones and Danny Honnoll attended the February 14 annual meeting of the Arkansas Civil War Heritage Trails Foundation at Little Rock.

Bad weather caused the cancellation of the annual Christmas party and auction scheduled for December 16. We held our meeting on January 20 and have taken in over \$11,500 since our last meeting. Our Christmas Auction by the SCV and supported by the UDC raised over \$1,600. The Southern Confederate Heritage Park now has over \$14,000 in its bank account.

## SEACWHT continues projects

By *Mark Kalkbrenner*  
*SEACWHT Chair*

This spring the Southeast Arkansas Civil War Heritage Trail has been busy with many of its ongoing projects as well as a few new ones. As previously reported, the Camp White Sulphur Springs Historical Preservation Endowment was started in October with \$10,000. Since that time we have collected over \$400 in donations. Camp White Sulphur Springs also participated in the Annual Civil War Preservation Trust Park Day on March 28.

Members of the SEACWHT have been working at restoring the Wright Cemetery on the campus of the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff. The Wright Plantation was established in the early 1850s and Confederate forces garrisoning Fort Pleasant were encamped on the plantation's grounds. Several of the soldiers who died in camp are buried in the cemetery, along with the

You can email me at [danny@honnoll.com](mailto:danny@honnoll.com), call me at 870-926-2985 or mail me at 216 Hillpoint Cove, Jonesboro, Arkansas 72401-5992 if you have any information on any Civil War happening that you would like the NEACWHTC to help with.

The next meeting of the NEACWHTC will be on June 16 at 6 p.m. at the Fishboat Restaurant in Jonesboro. See you there!

family. Just a few years ago the university was building their new football stadium when the remains of a slave cemetery were uncovered. Known as the "Jane Oliver Cemetery," after a well-known former slave in Pine Bluff who had lived at the Wright Plantation and was believed to be buried in the slave cemetery, the remains were moved and placed in the Wright Cemetery. After much work, restoration and marker placement, on Saturday, April 4, 2009, members of the SEACWHT, the Arkansas Division Sons of Confederate Veterans, the 1<sup>st</sup> Arkansas Civil War Living Historians, and the Jefferson Guard, along with members of the Wright family and UAPB, rededicated the Wright Cemetery in a service attended by approximately 60 people.

Work is continuing at Marks' Mills, Mt. Elba, Jenkins' Ferry, and Lake Village. We have been contacted about helping with stone placements in Lake Village and Monticello.

## Arkansas battlefields designated

**Continued from Page 1.**

of its status as part of a significant aspect of both the Vicksburg Campaign and the subsequent operations that led to the capture of Little Rock in 1863, as well as its importance in the July 4, 1863, Battle of Helena," the National Register nomination says.

The Ashley's and Jones' Stations Battlefield is located along U.S. Highway 70 between Carlisle and Hazen and was the scene of an 1864 battle between J.O. Shelby's Confederates and Union troops defending hay-cutting operations.

"No vestiges of the five fortifications that were present at the time of the battle are known to survive today, having been destroyed by generations of rice and other types of farming, or buried under the city of Carlisle," the nomination says. "Though not eligible for National Register recognition, the Ashley's and Jones' Stations Battlefield retains sufficient integrity to deserve listing on the Arkansas Register, which will acknowledge this little-known battle and the men of both sides who fought it."

# CACWHT plans expanded area networking

By Rick Meadows  
CACWHT Chair

Two of the goals that I hope to accomplish are networking and communicating with other organizations concerning the Civil War in Central Arkansas. By doing so, additional information about this historic time is made available.

Mark Christ and I made a presentation to the DeValls Bluff City Council on February 23 about the history of the town during the Civil War. Special thanks to newly elected Alderman Bill Arnold, who invited us. Discussion centered on how the town might gain tourism dollars. Council members were interested in telling their story. Mark discussed the importance of DeValls Bluff in the war and the action that

occurred at Ashley's and Jones' Stations on August 24, 1864. During the war, DeValls Bluff served as a supply depot, linking Little Rock to the White River by railroad. This section was the first segment of the Memphis to Little Rock line.

A new brochure about Camp Nelson Confederate Cemetery near Cabot will soon be available. Thanks to the leadership of Mayor Eddie Joe Williams, the Cabot Advertising and Promotion Commission has authorized the printing of 1,500 copies of this new brochure. With a limited drinking water supply, lack of personal hygiene, and confined quarters, conditions were ripe for illness. During the fall of 1862 an epidemic spread thru the camps. Diseases such as measles, typhoid fever,

and dysentery ran rampant. Approximately 1,500 Arkansas and Texas soldiers died of disease, including Nelson himself on October 7, just three weeks after his promotion. Camp Hope was renamed Camp Nelson in his memory. The remains of these men were buried in unmarked graves in the surrounding hills. Nelson was buried in Mount Holly Cemetery in Little Rock. Approximately 500 bodies were reburied from shallow graves throughout the area, and a dedication service was held in 1906. Camp Nelson Confederate Cemetery is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and is located on Rye Drive, just off Cherry Road about 2 miles east of Cabot between Campground Road and Mount Carmel Road (Hwy 321) in northern Lonoke County.

# NWACWHT works with efforts to preserve historic Kidd's Mill site near Cane Hill

By Alan Thompson  
NWACWHT Chair

The sesquicentennial is creeping up on us. One of the programs that has been discussed for the event is to create a Civil War byway so that people may travel the routes, as close as possible, that soldiers took. Staff members from Pea Ridge and Prairie Grove met with Mark Christ to discuss goals for the project and possible funding sources.

Park Day was a success at Prairie Grove as 49 volunteers showed up to help clean buildings, pick up litter, prepare the heritage garden for planting and clean up limbs left from the ice storm.

A group from Cane Hill is working to restore the ruins of Kidd's Mill just south of town. The mill is shown as Billingsley's Mill on the original survey of the area but by the time of the war it was owned by Tandy Kidd. Kidd was killed in Cane Hill during the war in a personal dispute and is buried in the cemetery just across the creek from the mill. General

*Kidd's Mill  
Site, Cane  
Hill vicinity*



Marmaduke had his headquarters at the mill prior to the Battle of Cane Hill. Destroyed during the war, J.R. Pyeatte and his son-in-law William S. Moore moved their milling operation to the previous site of Kidd's Mill and the ruins are there today. The group would like to restore the mill and put in a small museum and gift shop. Anybody wanting more information or wishing to make

donations can contact Doris Williams of the Cane Hill Restoration Society at 479-824-3924 or [doris@ozarkmountainmemories.com](mailto:doris@ozarkmountainmemories.com).

The Cane Hill Harvest Festival will be September 19-20 and Heritage Trail Partners will be sponsoring a small Civil War event in affiliation with the festival. More details to come.

# Reed's Bridge projects include boating ramps, efforts to expand bicycle route into region

March 6, 7 and 8, 2009, saw some 80 plus Boy Scouts and leaders camped at Reed's Bridge for a camporee. As part of the event, Steve Shore gave lessons on hatchet throwing and did a good job because there were no casualties. Also, as part of the event, the Scouts spent part of their time helping to clear land.

Each weekend since February has seen some volunteers working on the Reed's Bridge park site clearing and cleaning. One more weekend and the site will be ready to start laying a grid to have metal detecting done over the area in an organized manner. More on this later.

The City of Jacksonville has put gravel down for a parking lot and canoe and boat ramp on the southwest side of Reed's Bridge.

The "Keep Jacksonville Beautiful" Committee, Reed's Bridge Battlefield Preservation Society, East Lab at North Pulaski High School and the City of Jacksonville are working together on this project. With time, plans are to have a water route of some three or four miles that can be floated. Tom Ezell is working on extending a bike trail from North Little Rock along the old Military Road route, present day Highway 161, through Reed's Bridge battlefield and into Lonoke County. There seems to be a lot of interest in getting the bike trail established.

RBBPS has two log cabins that will be placed on site. Also, George McCain, Jr. has donated cypress from two houses that are being torn down with the help of RBBPS volunteers. This lumber will be used to construct buildings on

site. All structures will be built on piers so they can be moved when necessary.

With the passage of the Trail of Tears Bill by Congress, and President Obama signing it into law, it has made the Military Road a national designated route. Also with the passage of the Heritage Trails System Act, passed by the state legislature and signed into law by Governor Beebe, RBBPS has both national and state recognition and that is great. Yes! Yes! Yes!

Last, but not least, signs have been put up by the entrance ways at the triangle lying between Trickey Land and Military Road designating the piece of property as Heritage Park. Official Heritage Trail signs are also being installed along the Military Road from Brownsville through Jacksonville and North Little Rock.



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The Arkansas Historic Preservation Program is an agency of the Department of Arkansas Heritage. Other DAH agencies are the Arts Council, the Old State House Museum, the Historic Arkansas Museum, the Delta Cultural Center in Helena, the Mosaic Templars Cultural Center and the Natural Heritage Commission.

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