



Arkansas Battlefield Update

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ACWSC, NPS seminar will focus on Trans-Mississippi

The Arkansas Civil War Sesqui-centennial Commission and the National Park Service will sponsor “An Empire in Extent”: The Civil War West of the Mississippi, a seminar to be held August 9-11 at the University of Arkansas Global Campus in Fayetteville, ACWSC Chairman Tom Dupree announced today.

Topics include the vital issues that were at stake and the Civil War experiences of people living west of the Mississippi River, including Arkansas. Nationally known scholars from across the country will offer presentations on the war, life on the home front, and the experiences of the diverse peoples of the Trans-Mississippi. In addition, historians will discuss the legacy of the Civil War west of the Mississippi and



its meaning today. The symposium also will include guided tours to Pea Ridge National Military Park and Prairie Grove Battlefield State Park.

Speakers will include:

* Dwight T. Pitcaithley, professor at New

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ACWSC releases new cell phone tours

The Arkansas Civil War Sesqui-centennial Commission has added seven new Arkansas Civil War cell phone tours with associated “sidebars” for visitors to the state’s Civil War sites.

The cell phone tours can be accessed by calling (501) 203-3015 or by visiting <http://www.arkansascivilwar150.com/civil-war-sites/audio/>.

The new tours and “sidebars” include:

* Bayou Meto (Reed’s Bridge) Battlefield at Jacksonville in Pulaski County (Stop 102), with General John Wynn

Davidson, U.S.A. (Stop 103) and the Marmaduke-Walker Duel (Stop 104)

* Battle of Fayetteville at Fayetteville in Washington County (Stop 105) with Colonel Marcus LaRue Harrison, U.S.A. (Stop 106) and General William “Old Tige” Cabell, C.S.A. (Stop 107)

* Battle of Fitzhugh’s Woods near Augusta in Woodruff County (Stop 108), with General Dandridge McRae, C.S.A. (Stop 109) and Third Minnesota Infantry Regiment (Stop 110)

* Battle of Massard Prairie at Fort Smith in Sebastian County (Stop 113), with Action at

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Archeologists dig for secrets of ferry site

By Peggy Lloyd
And Tom Beam
SWACWHT Chairs

Many activities related to the Civil War have begun in Southwest Arkansas or will commence in the coming months.

Archeological work began at Dooley’s Ferry south of Spring Hill in Hempstead County during spring break in March. Carl Carlson-Drexler, assistant to Dr. Jamie Brandon at SAU in Magnolia, planned and is overseeing the work at Dooley’s Ferry, an important early crossing on the Red River. Carlson-Drexler has completed his graduate work at William and Mary University in Virginia and is conducting these excavations for his dissertation on this site in Trans-Mississippi Civil War. Civil War fortifications including a fort and earthworks are at the site.

Volunteers opened several units and dug down at 10 centimeter intervals to test the area. Evidence of structures or features was analyzed and photographed. Loose soil was put through quarter-inch wire screen to locate artifacts which were gathered and bagged. Later, in a lab setting, they will be cleaned, sorted,

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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, a Department of Arkansas Heritage agency.

Northwest Arkansas CWHT

Alan Thompson (479) 846-2990

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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

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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

Peggy Lloyd (870) 983-2633

peggy.lloyd@arkansas.gov

Tom Beam (501) 760-1116

The Southwest Arkansas Civil War Heritage Trail serves Polk, Montgomery, Garland, Howard, Pike, Clark, Hot Spring, Dallas, Sevier, Little River, Grant, Hempstead, Nevada, Ouachita, Calhoun, Miller, Lafayette, Columbia and Union counties.

Southeast Arkansas CWHT

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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) 843-3279

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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

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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 participates in Pea Ridge anniversary

By Larry Puckett
WCACWHT Chair

I attended the Pea Ridge National Military Park's 150th battle anniversary on March 10. According to Superintendent, John Scott they estimate there were more than 21,000 people in attendance and he thinks "it is fair to say that the last time there were that many people gathered there was during the battle itself."

I spoke representing the Arkansas Civil War Heritage Trails and the McPherson Camp #1 of the Son of Union Veterans of AR. Also speaking were J. Troy Massey with the Sons of Confederate Veterans and Pea Ridge Mayor Jackie Crabtree, who spoke about what the park means to Northwest Arkansas and he announced the winners of the podcast project. The next speaker was Michael Reynolds, the Midwest regional director for the National Park Service. The most interesting speaker was Dr. Walter Brown, the professor who started the process of setting aside property and getting it approved through Congress as a national park with the help of Wilbur Mills and J. William Fulbright. The keynote speaker was Captain Kyle Key of Camp Robinson in

Little Rock.

We did a program for the gifted and talented class at West Elementary in Greenwood and took them on a tour of Devil's Backbone battlefield in Sebastian County. Four other schools will be having Civil War Heritage Days in May.

The Fort Smith Heritage Festival was well received by many people up and down Garrison Avenue who saw Indian dancers, Civil War soldiers, Judge Isaac Parker, Belle Starr and the Wells Fargo Stagecoach. We had a Pow Wow sponsored by the Natchez Nation down at Kelley Park on the riverfront.

Beginning July 17, the Civil War Traveling Exhibit will be at the Fort Smith Museum of History. The opening day will include Dr. W. Stuart Townes of Forrest City, author of a new book, "Enduring Legacy."

Wanda Gray of Waldron has written a new book on Scott County during the Civil War.

On September 1-2, the Battle of Devil's Backbone will be commemorated in Greenwood with a tour to the site and Labor Day celebration at the Old Jail Museum.

Seminar to feature top experts

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Mexico State University and former National Park Service chief historian

* Ernesto Chavez, professor of history at the University of Texas at El Paso

* Steven E. Woodworth, professor of history at Texas Christian University

* Daniel Sutherland, distinguished professor of history at the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville

* Jerry Thompson, regents professor at Texas A&M International University

* Wilma King, Strickland professor in African American history and culture at the University of Missouri-Columbia

* Bradley R. Clampitt, assistant

professor of history at East Central University

* Elliot West, distinguished professor of history at the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville

* Linda Reed, associate professor at the University of Houston

* William C. Davis, professor of history at Virginia Tech

* Mary Jane Warde, independent historian.

Registration for the conference is \$25, and registration information and a full agenda are available at <http://www.arkansascivilwar150.com/symposium/>.

Cell phone tours, new grants for projects, school group podcasts on ACWSC agenda

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Fort Smith (Stop 114) and General Stand Watie, C.S.A. (Stop 115)

* Battle of Pine Bluff at Pine Bluff in Jefferson County (Stop 116), with Civilians in the Cross-Fire (Stop 117), Fighting for Freedom (Stop 118) and Two Future Governors (Stop 119)

* Battle of St. Charles at St. Charles in Arkansas County (Stop 120), with U.S.S. Mound City (Stop 122) and Marching Across Arkansas (Stop 123)

* Battle of Whitney's Lane near Kensett in White County (Stop 124), with A Retreat to Hot Springs (Stop 125)

Other tours include the Fourche Bayou Battlefield (Stop 11) in Little Rock, with Dissent Among Confederate Leaders (Stop 112) and A Lackluster Pursuit (Stop 111); Cane Hill Battlefield (Stop 10) in Washington County, General James G. Blunt, U.S.A. (Stop 101) and General Joseph O. Shelby, C.S.A. (Stop 100); Elkins' Ferry (Stop 12) and Prairie D'Ane (Stop 13) Battlefields in Nevada County, with Action at Okalona (Stop 121) and Confederate Capital at Washington (Stop 131); Poison Spring Battlefield (Stop 14) in Ouachita County, with The Red River Campaign (Stop 141); Fort Southerland (Stop 18) in Camden; Marks' Mills Battlefield (Stop 15) in Cleveland County, with Action at Mount Elba (Stop 151); Jenkins' Ferry Battlefield (Stop 16) in Grant County, with Steele's Retreat to Little Rock (Stop 161), and Ditch Bayou Battlefield (Stop 17) in Chicot County, with Fighting on the Greenville Bends (Stop 171).

The Arkansas Civil War Sesquicentennial Commission has awarded four grants totaling \$7,089 for projects that will commemorate the war in the state.

Recipients of the Civil War Sesquicentennial Grants were:

* Job S. Neill Camp #286, Sons of Confederate Veterans, \$1,314 for a Lunenburg skirmish re-enactment

* Mississippi County Historical and Genealogical Society, \$2,000 for a "Living Walk Through History" event

* The Arts and Science Center for Southeast Arkansas, \$1,775 for a Pine Bluff Civil War history theatrical performance

* Community Services Clearinghouse of Fort Smith, \$2,000 for Civil War programming at Heritage Festival IV.

The winners of a northwest Arkansas student Civil War sesquicentennial podcast contest have been added to the Arkansas Civil War Sesquicentennial Commission website.

Several Northwest Arkansas museums and historical organizations sponsored a podcast contest for K-12 students in Benton, Boone, Carroll, Madison, Newton, and Washington counties. In the contest, students were asked to create a short, non-fiction, audio podcast about the Civil War in the Arkansas Ozarks. Both individuals and groups could enter. First place winners received a cash prize of \$100; second place winners received \$50.

The winners were:

* Elementary School category (grades K-5): First place, Kingston Elementary School 3rd and 4th grade gifted and talented class, Kingston, for "A Civil War Tragedy in Huntsville, Arkansas"; second place, Lauren Ada, Forest Heights Elementary School, Harrison, for "The Flag, as Told by Jane Bailey."

* Middle School category (grades 6-8): First place, Maggie Weber and Sarah Strickland, Hellstern Middle School, Springdale, for "The Battle of Pea Ridge"; second place, Rebekah Love, Trevor Clark, and Alex Eremiev, Hellstern Middle School, Springdale, for "Dr. Keller and the Civil War in Arkansas."

* High School category (grades 9-12): First place, Sophia Calzada, home school, Fayetteville, for "The Girl I Left Behind Me and the Battle of Pea Ridge"; second place, Rachel Brewer and Ryan Gunter, Benton County School of the Arts High

School, Rogers, for "Elkhorn Tavern."

* The podcasts can be heard at <http://www.arkansascivilwar150.com/research-education/podcasts/>.

The ACWSC has approved several new historical marker applications. They are:

No. 28: The Civil War in Wittsburg, Wittsburg, Cross County

No. 29: Boone-Murphy House, Pine Bluff, Jefferson County

No. 30: Holcomb's Spring in the Civil War, Springdale, Washington County

No. 31: Skirmish at Rolling Prairie, Harrison, Boone County

No. 32: Action at Des Arc Bayou, Gum Springs, White County

No. 33: Mill Burning in Northwest Arkansas, Johnson, Washington County

No. 34: C.S.S. Pontchartrain, North Little Rock, Pulaski County

No. 35: Huntersville, North Little Rock, Pulaski County

No. 36: Confederate Fortifications, North Little Rock, Pulaski County

No. 37: General Dandridge McRae, Searcy, White County

No. 38: Naval Combat at West Point, West Point, White County

No. 39: Searcy Landing in the Civil War, Searcy, White County.

Civil War Arkansas on the Internet!

Log onto these sites to learn more:

www.arkansascivilwar150.com

www.arkansaspreservation.org

www.civilwarbuff.org

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

Tens of thousands visit Pea Ridge NMP for 150th of largest Trans-Mississippi battle

By Alan Thompson
NWACWHT Chair

The Civil War sesquicentennial in northwest Arkansas started off with quite a bang during events at Pea Ridge National Military Park. The commemoration kicked off on March 9 with a cavalry reenactment on the Bentonville Square. That evening guests were entertained by Civil War song and storytelling legend Bobby Horton. Saturday and Sunday the park had a number of guided walks, living history demonstrations and talks. A number of organizations sponsored a podcast contest for school-aged kids and the winners were announced during

events on Saturday. The topic had to relate to the war in northwest Arkansas and the winning podcast can be heard on the Civil War Sesquicentennial Commission's webpage <http://www.arkansascivilwar150.com/research-education/podcasts/>. Saturday, the park held a luminary event with more than 3,000 candles, one for each casualty in the battle and one set of to the side for longtime Pea Ridge and Prairie Grove volunteer C.W. Webb, who recently passed away. Over the course of the weekend, the park had 22,000 visitors and the gift shop raked in over \$16,000 in sales. The bar has been set.

A pair of sesquicentennial markers

have been approved for northwest Arkansas. One marker will be placed at Johnson Mill and will talk about wartime gristmill destruction in northwest Arkansas and the rise of the Johnson Mill immediately after the war to replace one destroyed during the war. The other will be placed near Shiloh Museum in Springdale and will talk about the Holcomb's Spring area, which served as a Confederate camp early in the war and saw skirmishes with guerrillas.

Grant applications are being filled out in an attempt to get the Cane Hill Driving Tour as complete as we can by the time that battle's sesquicentennial rolls around in November.

DeValls Bluff, CWRTs busy in central region

By Rick Meadow
CACWHT Chair

Central Arkansas has been busy with activity this spring. The second Fort Lincoln Freedom Festival in DeValls Bluff held April 28 was a tremendous success. Thanks to the Bill and Sharon Arnold Foundation for their leadership in this event. This year a main stage, which was used by the various musical acts, added entertainment. Many more vendors were present and good family entertainment was had by all. The children especially enjoyed climbing the inflatable rock wall and riding the train out to Fort A.

The Arnold Foundation was able to have many more groups participate. The highlight was the essay contest, which was held among 5th and 6th graders. Their topic was the Underground Railroad. Awards were given to 10 honorable mention contestants and the top three finishers. Schools from Hazen, Lonoke, and Stuttgart were well represented.

Three additional interpretative markers were also dedicated that depict the rich history of DeValls Bluff in the Civil War.

The week before, the Arnold

Foundation hosted a Gala Event at the old school gym in DeValls Bluff. Dinner guests were entertained with Civil War period music. For those brave souls who dared, Karen Duffy from St. Louis led the group in period dances. Everyone had smiles on their faces!

The Civil War Roundtable of Arkansas, which meets at the Second Presbyterian Church, continues to offer outstanding speakers. Roy Wilson, a new member from Sheridan, led a group from the Roundtable on a three-mile walking tour of the Jenkins' Ferry battlefield on Sunday, April 29. The Roundtable has also made a contribution to the Friends of Jenkins' Ferry to assist them in their preservation efforts. Meetings are held at 7 p.m. on the fourth Tuesday of each month. The public is welcome to attend. For updated information visit www.civilwarbuff.org.

The newly formed Grand Prairie Civil War Roundtable had a booth in DeValls Bluff for the Fort Lincoln Freedom Fest. Work continues on the driving tour from Lonoke to DeValls Bluff. It will depict the battles of Ashley's and Jones' Stations in the summer of 1864. Meetings are held on the second Tuesday of each month at the

Lonoke Museum.

The White County Historical Society and White County Civil War Round Table were key sponsors of three more Arkansas Civil War Sesquicentennial historical markers that will commemorate naval combat at West Point, Searcy Landing in the Civil War and Confederate General Dandridge McRae, who is buried in Searcy.

One request I am making for all who wish to save our historical battlefields, sites and buildings in Arkansas, please consider contacting your state representative and senator to help pass legislation next term to fund preservation. We have places that currently need our support: Prairie D'Ane and Elkins' Ferry in southwest Arkansas, Jenkins' Ferry in south Arkansas, and Reed's Bridge in central Arkansas, among others.

Visit the Arkansas Civil War Sesquicentennial Commission website at www.arkansascivilwar150.com for information on upcoming activities!

SWACWHT area to host July symposium; AHA, Jenkins' Ferry events successful

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numbered and analyzed. One of the remarkable features located was an old cistern.

Work will continue at the Dooley's Ferry site in the coming months and at Block 6, the old commercial district, at Historic Washington State Park during the June Annual Training Program to be held at Washington again this year. Labor at both sites is provided by members of the Arkansas Archeological Society under the supervision of professional archeologists. Brandon will supervise the Washington dig.

Josh Williams and the staff at Historic Washington State Park provided a bus tour to the Dooley's Ferry site on March 24 to interested members of the public. The archeologists were excavating a site believed to be the house site of the ferryman. The ferry remained active until a bridge was built over the Red River at Fulton for highway traffic in the 1930s.

Williams is planning the 6th Annual Red River Heritage Symposium for July 28. The theme this year is "Why We Fight." The symposium will focus on individual regiments and soldiers. The

cost of the symposium, which includes the afternoon presentations and dinner with speaker, is \$30. A Teachers' Workshop will be held in conjunction with the symposium on July 27 and 28. Attendance at the workshop will earn a total of 12 credit hours for teachers. The cost for the Teachers' Workshop is \$60. It includes the Workshop, the Symposium, two lunches and a dinner. For further details contact the Visitor Center at Historic Washington State Park at 870-983-2684.

The Arkansas Historical Association held its Annual Meeting in Fayetteville April 12-14 with the focus on Civil War and the theme "Divided Arkansas." Josh Williams from Historic Washington State Park spoke on "Washington 1862: A Community Grapples with Change," highlighting the effects of the war on the town and its citizens. Peggy Lloyd of Hope spoke on "E. W. Gantt," emphasizing new information on the early life and early career in Arkansas of the state's most prominent Secessionist turned Unionist. Jamie Brandon of SAU served as chair of the Annual Conference Committee and oversaw local arrangements in Fayetteville. Carl Carlson-

Drexler, also of Magnolia, was the program chair. Other attendees from southwest Arkansas included Ben Johnson of the SAU faculty, David Sesser of Henderson State in Arkadelphia, and Gary Walker of DeQueen—SARA Foundation board member as well as member of the Arkansas Archeological Society—and his twin brother from Texarkana.

Tom Beam of Hot Springs has been working with the Friends of Jenkins' Ferry and attended the annual commemoration of the battle on April 28 at the Grant County Museum in Sheridan. The event was well-publicized and had a good turnout. Re-enactors were present and gave demonstrations. A local church provided church bus transportation to the battlefield site. The Friends group had cleaned up the Jenkins' Ferry park site prior to the event. Tom reported that D. J. Wallace, the director of the Grant County Museum in Sheridan, is doing an excellent job in promoting the battle site and that there is a great deal of interest in this Civil War site in the region. The museum has a Jenkins' Ferry Room with exhibits.

Humanities Council sponsors library talks

Libraries in four Arkansas towns will host "Making Sense of the American Civil War" discussions during 2012.

"Making Sense of the American Civil War" is a scholar-led reading and discussion program for public audiences, presented by the Arkansas Humanities Council, the National Humanities Council and the American Library Association's Public Programs Office. The Arkansas Humanities Council will host this state-wide reading and discussion program in Arkansas. Programs will take place at four sites in 2012, with additional programs to be offered in subsequent years.

The discussions will be led by Dr. George Lankford in Batesville, Dr. Tom DeBlack in Russellville, Dr. Trey Berry

in El Dorado and Dr. William Shea in Pine Bluff. Schedule information can be found at <http://www.arkansascivilwar150.com/events/>.

Each program site will host a series of reading and discussion sessions over a four-to-five week period. Sessions will take place every two to four weeks, depending on program site preferences. At each session, the conversation will focus on a different facet of the Civil War experience, using one or more common texts as a foundation and touchstone.

The reading list includes works of historical fiction and interpretation, speeches, diaries, memoirs, biographies, and short stories. Readings also include

an introductory essay, which provides context for the entire "Making Sense of the American Civil War" series and for each of the five sessions. The essay was written by the national project scholar: Edward L. Ayers, president of the University of Richmond, historian of the American South, and digital history pioneer. Ayers also selected the reading materials and topics of conversation for the program.

Similar programs, sponsored by the American Library Association and the National Endowment for the Arts, were already held in Fayetteville (led by Dr. Daniel Sutherland) and Jonesboro (led by Dr. Gary Edwards).

NEACWHT keeps busy in projects, events

By *Danny Honnoll*
NEACWHT Chair

It is already getting hot and so has been the activity of the NEACHT. Below you will see numerous dates and activities that the members from north-east Arkansas have taken part in so far this year.

On January 7, members of the Northeast Arkansas Civil War Heritage Trails took part in the annual David O. Dodd Memorial in Little Rock.

Danny Honnoll spoke to the Jonesboro Ladies Book Club on January 9 and talked about the book he wrote on the veterans of Craighead County. It has numerous sections on the Civil War and the men who fought during the war from Craighead County.

On January 17, Honnoll spoke to the Jonesboro Rotary Club on the Civil War Battle of Jonesboro. More than 100 Rotarians were in attendance. That night Honnoll gave his annual talk on General Robert E. Lee.

Arkansas State University and the Dean B. Ellis Library hosted a Civil War Talk discussion with Dr. Gary Edwards as the moderator. Several NEACWHT members took part in the very lively talks on January 31, February 14, February 28, March 13, and March 27.

ASU professor Louis Interes gave a presentation on the sinking of the Sultana on February 24 at the ASU Ellis Library. More than 15 members of the NEACWHT attended the exhibit, which had artifacts from the Sultana itself.

The annual Patrick Cleburne Memorial took place at Helena on March 17, Cleburne's birthday. Eight NEACHT members attended this memorial as well as the General Thomas C. Hindman Memorial that took place at his gravesite in Helena's Maple Hill Cemetery.

On March 20, Jay Kaffka of Mountain View led a discussion on the Marmaduke-Walker Duel in 1863.

A ceremony honoring soldiers buried in the Old Dogwood Cemetery near Griffithville was performed on March 24. The Old Dogwood Cemetery, near the possible site of a Confederate military



Barrett's Battery fires during the Lunenburg skirmish re-enactment.

hospital during the Civil War, has the distinction of having one of the highest known concentrations of burials of Civil War casualties in White County. There are 33 marked graves of Confederate soldiers at least six known unmarked, and a possible mass-burial site as well. In addition, there is one known Union soldier buried on this site.

On March 31, the Lawrence County Historical Society Banquet was held near Powhatan and Honnoll gave a talk on the Civil War in Arkansas and its ties to Lawrence County.

The Jonesboro 20th Century Club heard Honnoll talk on David O. Dodd, the "boy martyr of Arkansas." This club is the oldest civic club in Jonesboro.

On April 14, Pvt. Nicholas Marion Fortune was honored with a Southern Cross of Honor by the Neil Camp of Batesville. Fortune served in Forrest's Cavalry unit – Co. E, 7th Regiment Tennessee Cavalry — during the war. He is buried at Chalebete Cemetery. Honors for Pvt. John Pemberton, Co. E, 11th Tennessee Infantry were performed at the Oakland Cemetery in Little Rock as part of the annual Arkansas Division Sons of Confederates reunion.

Fort Lincoln Days at DeValls Bluff was held April 28. ACWSC members George Lankford, Tom Dupree, M. Ray

Jones and Honnoll were present, as well as Will Silas and Joe May of Jonesboro. After Little Rock fell to Union forces in September 1863, they fortified the port at DeValls Bluff until the end of the war. Federal troops were also stationed at DeValls Bluff throughout the remainder of the conflict.

A Southern Iron Cross dedication for Mississippi Governor John Jones Pettus (B: Oct 9, 1813 – D: Jan 25, 1867) was held north of Pine Bluff. Colonel Pettus served with the 1st Foote's Mississippi Infantry State Troops after leaving the office of Mississippi governor. Three Arkansas Civil War Sesquicentennial Commissioners were present at the event: DeeLois Lawrence, M. Ray Jones and Honnoll. Bill Turney of the Military Order Stars and Bars had his cannon there to do the honors. Mary Jackson, president of the Arkansas Division, United Daughters of the Confederacy, was present to bring greetings. Pettus served as governor of Mississippi. The David O Dodd #212 Chapter, United Daughters of the Confederacy, hosted the memorial for Pettus on April 28. Pettus is buried in Flat Bayou Cemetery near Wabbaseka.

The Lunenburg reenactment held on May 5 was hosted by the Neil Camp of

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Reed's Bridge activities win tourism award

By Tommy Dupree
RBBPS Vice-President

The first quarter of 2012 has been a very positive one for Reed's Bridge Battlefield Preservation Society. A Henry Award was presented to the RBBPS at the 2012 Arkansas Governor's Conference on Tourism in West Memphis at its most recent meeting. Ann Hooper, president of the organization, accepted the award for the Society. So, I want to thank, on behalf of

the Society, all the worker bees who have been involved over the years as well as the Jacksonville Advertising and Promotion Commission, the city administration's Department of Public Works, Parks and Recreation, and the Jacksonville City Council. When people network together good things happen.

Worker bees have been cleaning up the area where two houses were taken down. Materials were salvaged for use for improvements that have been constructed or are to be constructed on

the site.

New fencing has been extended on Highway 161 as well as around the boundary lines of McGraw Cemetery.

Two more cannons have been ordered. Thanks to the Jacksonville Advertising and Promotion Commission, paying for the first one, and Representatives Mark Perry, Jane English, Barry Hyde and Jim Nickels along with Mike Wilson, John Vanderhoof, Tommy Bond, Tommy Dupree and Jim and Janelle Mongno, who are paying for the second.

Commission, writer, students honored with prizes

Civil War Arkansas projects have been honored recently with several awards.

The Arkansas Civil War Sesquicentennial Commission received the Diamond Award from the Arkansas Historical Association, the highest honor given to organizations from the AHA. The commission was honored for its efforts to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the war in Arkansas.

David Casto won the Charles

O. Durnett Award for his article "We are all right but may need assistance: The 8th Missouri Volunteer Cavalry and a forgotten skirmish near Augusta." The Durnett award, sponsored by the Arkansas Civil War Heritage Trails Foundation and the AHA, honors the best article on Arkansas Civil War history and includes a \$250 prize. It is named for Chuck Durnett, a former chair of the CACWHT and member of the ACWSC.

Two student projects won

Arkansas state National History Day awards sponsored by the late Sam Wang and ACWSC member Mark Christ. Winners were "The War with the War: Arkansas's Reaction To the American Civil War," an individual website by Samantha Wiggs of Riverview High School, and "The Brooks-Baxter War," a group website by Ryan Bullis, Edgar Suarez and Wesley Butler of Lisa Academy North.

Lunenburg re-enactment livened by cannons' roar

Continued from previous page.

Batesville. The SCV Shaver Camp #1655, of Jonesboro and the Gen. James F. Fagan Chapter #280, Military Order Stars and Bars, of Jonesboro. Three cannons took part in the re-enactment and roared over and over. Roger Harvell of Barrett's Battery did an excellent job of putting on this year's re-enactment.

Honnoll led the Southern Iron Cross dedication for Pvt. William Asa Hinkle, Co. F, Freeman's Regiment Missouri Cavalry, who was killed during the skirmish at Lunenburg on January 20, 1864. The combat at Lunenburg illustrates the war's true nature: Most of the men in both forces were residents of Izard County.

You can email Honnoll at danny@honnoll.com, call him at 870-926-2985 or write him 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 at 6 p.m. August 21 at the Fishboat Restaurant in Jonesboro. (See you there!)

Civil War song cycle released

Charley Sandage and the trio Harmony are happy to announce the release of "Arkansas Stories, Volume III," which contains sixteen original songs about the experiences of Arkansas people in the Civil War. Fourteen new songs were written for this project, and two previously recorded but relevant pieces were added for this CD.

"We are honored," Sandage says, "that the Arkansas Civil War Sesquicentennial Commission has allowed us to display its logo on this CD jacket. We've tried to be thorough in the research

behind the songs, and several leading Arkansas historians have been generous with their guidance."

Harmony, based in Mountain View, includes Mary and Robert Gillihan and Dave Smith. They are available for performance at observances throughout the course of the sesquicentennial period, and they are on the Arkansas Arts Council's list of touring artists.

For more information about the CD or about live performances, email Charley Sandage at cvsandage@gmail.com or call 870-585-2496.

Walton grants will help Helena projects

Construction of Civil War Helena sites Fort Curtis and Freedom Park will continue throughout 2012, thanks to two Walton Family Foundation grants. A \$242,000 grant was awarded to complete the construction of Fort Curtis, which will be the largest earthen-walled Civil War fort in the region and was dedicated on May 11. A \$385,000 grant was given for the creation of Freedom Park, the first official "Network to Freedom" Underground Railroad Site in Arkansas. Both grants were sought by the Delta Bridge Project in Phillips County, Arkansas.

Fort Curtis and Freedom Park are two of the three new anchor Civil War Helena sites and the key recommendations of the Phillips County Strategic Community Plan. When completed, the Civil War Helena initiative is expected to attract more than 60,000 annual visitors to Phillips County and create at least 44 tourism-related jobs.

Featuring five main exhibits, Freedom Park will interpret and showcase the experiences of African Americans during



the Civil War from fugitive slavery to freedom. Fort Curtis was instrumental to the Union Army's seizure of Helena during the Civil War, while also serving as a site for African American men to receive training for the United States Colored Troops.

Thus, both sites have the potential to support and enhance multiple Civil War development projects also in the Civil War Helena tourism plan, including the restoration of Estevan Hall (a Union hospital during the Civil War), the revival

of Battery C, and 25 other Civil War sites throughout Phillips County.

Upon the close of both projects, the Delta Cultural Center, an agency of the Department of Arkansas Heritage, has agreed to take ownership of Fort Curtis and Freedom Park. The expected completion date for Freedom Park is October 2012.

Those interested in

learning more about Civil War Helena are encouraged to visit the Delta Cultural Center and Helena Museum of Phillips County in downtown Helena. To find out about the latest Civil War Helena developments, please visit www.civilwarhelena.com.

The Delta Bridge Project is a community-led effort that unifies citizens to spur development in the Delta region. It has helped leverage over \$99 million in new investments for Phillips County, Arkansas.



Arkansas Historic
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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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