



# Arkansas Battlefield Update

Spring 2013 Volume 21, Number 1

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## As with battle 150 years ago, Chalk Bluff a soggy affair

It is spring and the business of preserving the history of our ancestors, city, counties, states and nation is at hand. We have already been very busy this year and it looks like it is not going to slow down. Most of the activities have been related to the Civil War's Sesquicentennial.

The ACWSC Event at Chalk Bluff took place on May 4 and 5, the - 150th Anniversary of the Battle of Chalk

## Coloring book notes leaders of Civil War era

In celebrating Black History Month, the Arkansas Martin Luther King, Jr., Commission presented its Arkansas African American History Makers, IV: Civil War and Reconstruction Era coloring book in February.

Arkansas children will benefit from this edition of the coloring book by receiving knowledge of African Americans who bravely served Arkansas and the United States during the Civil War and Reconstruction, yet lie in relative obscurity. Children will learn of these individuals, many of whom paid the ultimate price to fight for and protect the freedoms they were denied before the war,

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Bluff. The event took place on the actual battle site, a rare event now a days.

My report starts off with the words rain, rain, more rain, some mud, more rain, showers, drizzles, sprinkles, then more rain, followed by rain.

The turnout of re-enactors was very low, as well as the public. Clay County Judge Gary and Sally Howell did an excellent job of providing items and their talents to those who  
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## Helena event will recall 1863 battle

The Arkansas Civil War Sesquicentennial Commission and the Delta Cultural Center will co-host with the Helena Advertising and Promotion Commission a 150th anniversary commemoration of the July 4, 1863, battle of Helena. The re-enactment will take place May 24-26 and will feature living history and lectures in downtown Helena-West Helena.

The ACWSC awarded grants for projects in Washington, Lonoke and Prairie counties in February.

The Washington County Historical Society received a \$1,050 grant for a commemoration of the 150th anniversary of the Battle of Fayetteville. The Grand Prairie Civil War Roundtable received a \$681 grant to publish a driving tour of the 1864 Battle of Ashley's and Jones' Stations, which was fought between modern-day Carlisle and Hazen.

Civil War Sesquicentennial Grants of up to \$2,000 are awarded four times per year, as funding is available.

The ACWSC approved 10 Arkansas Civil War Sesquicentennial Historical Markers. They are:

No. 51: Seven Confederate Generals, Helena-West Helena, Phillips County

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### Arkansas African American History Makers Civil War and Reconstruction Era



A Project Coordinated by the  
**Arkansas Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission**  
501 Woodlane Drive, Suite 122 South  
Little Rock, AR 72201  
(501) 683-1300 or (888) 290-KING  
[www.arkingdream.org](http://www.arkingdream.org)



This project is supported in part by grants from the Arkansas Humanities Council and the National Endowment for the Humanities and the Arkansas Department of Education

## 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, a Department of Arkansas Heritage agency.

### Northwest Arkansas CWHT

Alan Thompson (479) 846-2990

alan.thompson@arkansas.gov

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

### West Central Arkansas CWHT

Larry Puckett (479) 769-4738

larrypuckett@email.com

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

Mark Kalkbrenner (870) 247-2394

deovindice@suddenlink.net

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

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

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.

# Paris activities center on 1864 battle on prairie

By Larry Puckett  
WCACWHT Chair

At noon on September 27, 1863, General Joseph Shelby and eight hundred confederate cavalry trotted down the Old Military road just north of what is now the Paris Airport.

Advance troops under Captain "Tuck" Thorpe encountered 80 men from the First Arkansas Infantry (U.S.), who were camped at Haguewood Prairie. Many of the men of the First Arkansas had been recruited from the area and they were busy visiting with family as well as providing supplies to local guerilla forces known as "Mountain Feds." A fierce two-hour battle ensued resulting in more than thirty casualties. The federal troops were eventually routed by the Confederate troops and many of them were captured. The skirmish was a part of Shelby's

famous Missouri raid of 1863. A complete description of the battle can be found in the Encyclopedia of Arkansas History and Culture at [www.encyclopediaofarkansas.net](http://www.encyclopediaofarkansas.net).

During the past two years, Mrs. Joyce Friddle, Dr. Curtis Varnell and others have extensively researched and documented the site. The Arkansas Civil War Sesquicentennial Commission awarded a matching grant to place a historical marker near the site at the corner of Airport Road and Highway 22. The historical marker and native stone memorial will be placed on site during the summer of 2013. Future plans include dedicating the site during the fall of 2013, developing a historical CD about the area, and staging a remembrance and re-enactment during Frontier Days 2013, the 150th anniversary of the battle.

# CW 150 historical markers now placed in 39 counties

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No. 52: U.S.C.T. in Helena, Helena-West Helena, Phillips County

No. 53: Isaac Murphy, Huntsville, Madison County

No. 54: Huntsville Massacre, Huntsville, Madison County

No. 55: Royston Factory Mill/Henry Merrell, Murfreesboro, Pike County

No. 56: Scott County in the Civil War, Waldron, Scott County

No. 57: Fifth Arkansas Infantry Regiment, Paragould, Greene County

No. 58: Judge David Walker, Fayetteville, Washington County

No. 59: Camp Halleck at Osage Springs, Rogers, Benton County

No. 60: Shelling of Jacksonport, Jacksonport, Jackson County.

Arkansas Civil War Sesquicentennial Historical Markers are now located in 39 Arkansas counties, and the commission hopes to see markers in all 75 Arkansas counties before the commemoration ends in 2015. Marker applications can be downloaded at <http://www.arkansascivilwar150.com/historical-markers/markers.aspx>.

## Civil War Arkansas on the Internet!

[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/>

# ACWHTF leaders meet in Little Rock, note accomplishments, set goals for 2013

*Minutes of February 2, 2013, annual meeting of the Arkansas Civil War Heritage Trails Foundation:*

Attendees: Peggy Lloyd (SWACWHTF), Jack Danielson (Reed's Bridge), M. Ray Jones (NEACWHTF), W. Danny Honnoll (NEACWHTF), Rick Meadows (CACWHTF), Tommy Dupree (ACWSC), Mark Christ (Little Rock).

## 1) Arkansas Civil War Heritage Trails Foundation

a) President Danny Honnoll called the meeting to order at 10:15 AM. The minutes of the 2012 meeting were read and approved. Instead of a President's Report, President Honnoll deferred to Tommy Dupree who serves as chair of the Civil War Sesquicentennial Commission and would be reporting on its activities.

b) Financial report and discussion—Treasurer Mark Kalkbrenner was not present and had not submitted a report.

c) Report on the Durnett Award—Mark Christ reported that one submission had been received and that other items might yet arrive. Dave Casto, the 2012 winner, had made three presentations with his winning paper. There were suggestions that the paper might be published locally.

## 2) Arkansas Civil War Sesquicentennial Commission

Tommy Dupree gave an update on the activities of the Sesquicentennial Commission. \$400,000 has been allotted for battlefield improvement and acquisition. State employees cannot lobby legislators but can provide information. There was discussion of representatives in the State House who are helpful. Mark Christ reported on battlefield preservation efforts and future events. A symposium is planned for May. Publicity for events was also discussed, and the involvement of elementary students was encouraged.

## 3) Regional Roundups—ACWHTF Chairs



*From left: Peggy Lloyd, Rick Meadows, M. Ray Jones, Danny Honnoll the 2013 officers of the Arkansas Civil War Heritage Trails Foundation*

SWACWHTF—Peggy Lloyd reported the installation of two markers in Nevada County. The marker at the Missionary Grove Baptist Church commemorates Elkins Ferry National Historic Landmark and the Cornelius Farm. The marker at the T/A Truck stop at Exit 44, US Highway 371 and I-30, commemorates the Prairie D'Ane National Historic Landmark. Other markers are planned for the region. The 7th Annual Red River Heritage Symposium at Historic Washington State Park on July 27, 2013, will have "The Home Front" as its subject. The Symposium on July 26, 2014, will be "Conflict at the Doorstep" with speakers discussing the Red River Campaign and the Camden Expedition. CACWHTF—Rick Meadows reported that he is working with Scott Akridge on roads and the Ten-Mile House. The Arnold Foundation has provided substantial support in Central Arkansas. Two events are planned at the Arsenal. The Central Arkansas group is also working with the Reed's Bridge group and is preparing a driving tour brochure for

Lonoke and a marker at Hazen. They are hoping to acquire land mentioned in a 1990 report and will participate in an event at Reed's Bridge.

NEACWHTF—Danny Honnoll reported on attending the 150th anniversary of the Battle of Arkansas Post and participating in the memorial service. Symposia at Ash Flat and grave markers are part of the future plans of his region. He is also organizing a Confederate Flag Day on March 30.

Reed's Bridge—Jack Danielson felt that events in his region had been adequately covered in other reports and declined further commentary.

WCACWHTF, NWACWHTF and SEACWHTF—Three regional chairs could not be present. Mark Christ reported for their regions. There is interest in markers in the West Central region to commemorate the Devil's Backbone. The Northwest region is planning three markers for Cane Hill and refurbishing a marker at Dunagin's Farm. The Southeast group wants to com-

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# NEACWHT participates in events commemorating Civil War in state

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attended both days. We had three sutlers selling their wares and they did OK on sales.

On Saturday, May 4, we opened the site to the public at 9 a.m. with Civil War Life Demonstrations around the Chalk Bluff Natural Area. Officer's Call was held at 10:30 a.m. with Sgt. Tom Bird (artillery), Capt. Louis Riggs (infantry), Lt. Col. Rick Fortune of Sikeston, MO (dismounted cavalry) and Colonel W. Danny Honnoll (staff commander) discussing the sequence of events for the two days. At noon, Jeannine Thompson of Greene County and Bobbie F. Barnett of Ravenden co-hosted the Ladies Tea and Demonstrations of Refugee Camp; Dale Barnett and Jack Stevens helped with the set up and layout of tea. At 12:30 p.m. Fortune held a demonstration on the use of the carbine. Sgt. Ron Kelley of Helena played his cigar banjo and then demonstrated the use of the Enfield rifle to the gathering. Honnoll gave a program on the Battle of Chalk Bluff.

The Chalk Bluff re-enactment took place at 2 p.m. Sunday, May 5. A local Methodist church held its Sunday service at the Chalk Bluff battlefield at 11 a.m. Honnoll led the memorial service honoring Confederate General Stonewall Jackson in this the anniversary of Jackson's death 150 years ago. The Re-enactment was moved up to 1:30 p.m. due to rain in the area.

The event is hosted by Clay County with help from the North East Arkansas Civil War Heritage Trails Committee, the SCV Shaver Camp #1655, of Jonesboro and the Gen. James F. Fagan Chapter #280, Military Order Stars and Bars, of Jonesboro.

It was announced at the event that in 2015 on the 150th Anniversary of the end of the Civil War and the 150th Anniversary of the surrender of troops by Brig. Gen. M. Jeff "The Swamp Fox" Thompson our next reenactment will take place the last weekend in April. – See you



*W. Danny Honnoll, M. Ray Jones, III, Jimmy Stevens, Will D. Silas, Dale Barnett, Jack Stevens, Bobbie Barnett, and Joe C. May at Cleburne statue dedication in Helena-West Helena on March 16, 2013.*

there.

The first action of spring 2013 was at Little Rock at the Annual David O. Dodd Memorial on January 5, 2013. Ray Jones, Joe May and Jimmy Stevens took part in this very important remembrance of the life and times of Arkansas's "Boy Martyr," David Owen Dodd. Ray Jones, representing the SCV as Commander and as a Commissioner for the ACWSC, did an excellent job.

A Lee-Jackson Banquet was held at Mountain Home on January with W. Danny Honnoll the keynote speaker. He gave a program on Gen. Thomas Jonathan "Stonewall" Jackson. The SCV, UDC and the NEACWHTC were present with a total of about 20-25 in attendance.

The Shaver Camp of Jonesboro was asked to take the lead at the Sesquicentennial event at Arkansas Post on January 19. The National Park Staff and community put on a first rate re-enactment followed by the memorial service to all that fell during the war and

at Arkansas Post. Jackie Stevens, Bobbie Barnett, Dale Barnett, Jimmy Stevens, M. Ray Jones, and W. Danny Honnoll of NE Arkansas were honored to do the memorial at Arkansas Post.

Our two Commissioners Honnoll and Jones attended the quarterly ACWSC meeting in Little Rock on January 30 in Little Rock.

It was another trip to Little Rock for Honnoll and Jones to attend the annual ACWHTF meeting on February 2. The group reelected Honnoll as president, Rick Meadows as Vice President and Peggy Lloyd as Secretary. M. Ray Jones was elected to the position of Treasurer at the meeting. We want to thank Mark Kalkbrenner for his years of service to the ACWHTF as treasurer.

On February 7 at Jonesboro the NEASHF (part of the NEACWHTC and ACWHTF) met to discuss items for the upcoming year. Ernestine Layton, Jean Pasmore, Joe C. May, Harold Hunt, Jimmy Stevens, Pete Harmon, Ray Jones  
**Continued on next page.**

# NEACWHT members take part in event at Capitol, note programs held in region

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and Danny Honnoll attended the meeting.

One of the big events that our trails group supports is the 28th annual Gen. Patrick R. Cleburne Memorial. It was held on March 16 this year with a healthy turnout by the public. The smell of powder filled the hills surrounding the town of Helena/West Helena. Vernon Cloos of Little Rock was the keynote speaker this year and his talk on Cleburne brought back the spirit of Cleburne on a sunny March Saturday for all of us. While we were at Helena we had the opportunity to dedicate a new statue to General Cleburne. The local historical preservation group headed by Cathy Cunningham and her husband Ernest did a fine job of feeding us and making us feel welcome. Bagpipe music filled the air and the sound of bugles playing Tattoo and Taps was part of the ceremony with Honnoll performing the sword drill honors for Cleburne at the statue dedication. Honnoll honored Cathy by presenting her with a Second National Confederate Flag that had flown over Cleburne's grave. Jack Myers was there supporting the events on that Saturday. Ron Kelley a new resident of Helena, has already made an impact on preserving the history of the Civil War in the area. Thanks to Cathy, Ernest, Jack and Ron on your fine work. Members in our group that helped with the memorial and statue dedication were: Will D. Silas, M. Ray Jones, Joe May, Jimmy Stevens, Jackie Stevens, Bobbie Barnett, Dale Barnett, W. D. Honnoll and Jim Kincade.

As part of the Arkansas Sesquicentennial remembrance the SCV held its annual Confederate Heritage/Flag/Memorial Day at the Capitol on March 30. This year's rain did not dampen the group as they moved their observance in to the Capitol's rotunda. Honnoll was master of ceremonies for the event. Kay Tatum of Little Rock, president of the Gen. T. J. Churchill Chapter #1373 of the UDC, was the keynote speaker and she observed the 100th anniversary of the dedication of the Confederate Women's

Monument on the Capitol grounds.

In April the SCV held its annual Reunion at Fayetteville Honnoll and Jones attended and visited the battlefields at Pea Ridge and Prairie Grove. Jones was presented the group's Capt. Isaac Brown Award for his work on the Arkansas Civil War Sesquicentennial and the Arkansas Civil War Heritage Trails Foundation. The Brown Award is a lifetime achievement award and the highest that the organization awards.

Dr. Michael Dougan gave a program on Confederate women to the group on April 16. He was presented the SCV's Gen J.O. Shelby Medal for his numerous years in preserving the history of Arkansas and northeast Arkansas.

On April 20, Honnoll, Jackie Stevens and M. Ray Jones presented the colors at the Greene County Historical Genealogi-

cal Seminar. Honnoll gave the first program at the event, on David O. Dodd, to a group of about 35 attendees.

On April 21, Jones and Honnoll traveled to Batesville to present a program on "The Swamp Fox," Gen. M. Jeff Thompson, to the Independence County Historical Society. They had a good meeting and in attendance was ACWSC Commissioner Dr. George Langford.

You can email Honnoll at 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 August 20 at 6:00 p.m. at the Fishboat Restaurant in Jonesboro. See you there!

## 100,000 coloring books to be given

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often fighting battles while ill equipped, with little food and inadequate clothing, and yet they bravely forged ahead.

Some of these brave individuals were:

\* 46th Regiment Infantry- This regiment was attached to the post of Milliken's Bend, LA, District of Vicksburg, MS, and saw combat at Mound Plantation, MS

\* 54th US Colored Infantry- This regiment saw combat at Fort Gibson, Cabin Creek, and Cow Creek, KS

\* 57th US Colored Infantry- They participated in a skirmish near Little Rock and in operations against Shelby north of the Arkansas River.

They will also learn of those who paved the way for civil rights after the Civil War, many becoming prominent leaders in government, educators, businessmen, doctors and community leaders during and after the Reconstruction Era, like Charlotte "Lottie" Andrews Stephens, first African American teacher in the Little Arkansas school district; Reverend Joseph A. Booker, the first president of the newly established

Arkansas Baptist College; and Mifflin Wistar Gibbs, the first elected African American municipal judge in the United States.

AMLKC will distribute 100,000 (5,000 in Spanish) copies of the coloring book to children throughout Arkansas.

"I truly believe every child in Arkansas will learn and appreciate the contributions African Americans made in Arkansas in education, politics, business, military, science/medicine, sports, and the arts, once they read the remarkable stories about African Americans in Arkansas," DuShun Scarbrough, executive director of AMLKC, noted.

This project is supported in part by grants from the Arkansas Humanities Council and the National Endowment for the Humanities and the Arkansas Department of Education. Special thanks go out to Cathy Cunningham, Mark Christ, designated scholar, Archie Moore, Linda McDowell, Dr. Patricia McGraw, and Brian Robertson. For more information, contact the Arkansas Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission at 501-683-1300.

# SWACWHT group active in many events

By Peggy Lloyd  
SWACWHT Chair

The winter of 2012 and the spring of 2013 have been busy in Southwest Arkansas with many Civil War Sesquicentennial events.

A marker commemorating the Battle of Prairie D'Ane was installed in front of the T/A Truck Stop at Exit 44 near the junction of US Highway 371 and Interstate 30 just outside Prescott on December 18, 2012. The marker was sponsored by the Depot Museum in Prescott. Museum, city and county officials attended the dedication ceremony. Billy Nations, chief interpreter at Historic Washington State Park, spoke on the Battle of Prairie D'Ane, a National Historic Landmark. The battle was the turning point of the Camden Expedition as General Steele commanding the Union forces turned his troops toward Camden and away from the Confederate forces guarding the road to Washington.

The Nevada County Depot and Museum in Prescott has artifacts and exhibits of interest to students of the Civil War. The museum board is interested in developing the Civil War sites in Nevada County. The Depot Museum is one of the points on the Civil War Passport Program. Recently the museum hired Melinda Newberry as its new director. Melinda, who is from Greenville, Mississippi, has completed a BA in history and recently an MA in history at Louisiana Tech University in Monroe, LA. She has also served an internship at Vicksburg and volunteered at the Chennault Museum in Monroe. She took up her duties in Prescott on April 22.

Peggy Lloyd from SWACWHT attended the dedication of Freedom Park at Helena on February 24. Other members of the Arkansas Civil War Heritage Trails groups who were present were Mark Christ, Jack Danielson and Rick Meadows. The event included a reception at nearby Estevan Hall and a visit to the newly-constructed Fort Curtis.

The Arkansas Historical Association also met in Helena April 11-13. Speakers attending from the Southwest region were Josh Williams and Leita Spears of Historic Washington State Park, Peggy Lloyd of the Southwest Archives at Washington and David Sesser of Henderson State University in Arkadelphia. Josh spoke on "Washington 1863: Full Support for the Cause." Leita spoke on "Uneasy Freedom: A Look at the Freedmen's Bureau Records of Southern Arkansas." David spoke on "Clothing

Confederate Arkansas." Peggy spoke on "E. W. Gantt in 1863." David Sesser also won the Charles O. Durnett Award for his essay on "Disease in Civil War Helena." Dr. Jamie Brandon of the Arkansas Archeological Survey Station at SAU in Magnolia and a member of the Civil War Sesquicentennial Commission served on the AHA local arrangements committee that planned and organized the annual meeting in Helena.

The Arkansas United Daughters of the Confederacy held a Civil War Sesquicentennial marker installation at the Tulip Community Center in Dallas County on May 4 to commemorate Civil War activity at Tulip and the remarkable Tulip community.

Josh Williams, the curator of Historic Washington State Park, is busy organizing the 7th Annual Red River

Heritage Symposium. It will take place on July 27, 2013, at Washington. This year's theme will again be Civil War with focus on "The Home Front."

Carl Carlson-Drexler of the SAU Archeological Station in Magnolia has completed his dissertation on Dooley's Ferry in the Civil War and has submitted a first draft to his Ph.D. committee at William and Mary in Virginia. Dooley's Ferry was an important crossing point on the Red River for moving supplies from Texas into Arkansas and points east. A Civil War earthen fort and trenches are nearby. Warehouses stored food for the Confederate forces in the vicinity, and the ferry provided an escape point for the Confederate Army to Texas and points west. The ferry remained in use until well into the twentieth century.

## ACWHTF meeting minutes

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memorate the battle crossroads in Pine Bluff. A panel exhibit is in the works. Events are being planned for October. A meeting has also been requested on Pine Bluff.

4) Review of 2012 Priorities and setting of priorities for 2013

a. To assist in the preservation of Reed's Bridge Battlefield: The blacksmith shop is complete. Markers have been moved back because of flooding. New cannons are in place.

b. To work to acquire part of the Elkins' Ferry and Prairie D'Ane battlefields: The installation of markers has spurred interest in the county and region.

c. To encourage involvement of students in the study of Civil War and battlefield preservation including competing for the Durnett Award. This project is on-going.

d. To build the WCACWHTF Chapter. Progress is uncertain.

e. To preserve the Devil's Backbone Battlefield. Work continues.

f. To place Arkansas Civil War Sesquicentennial historical markers in every county in each region. The work is on-going. NCRC money is available for matching grants of \$1,030 to \$1,300 for local markers.

g. To identify Civil War soldiers buried in every Arkansas county. The work is on-going.

h. Podcasts for kids in Northwest Arkansas. This project has been completed.

5. New Business

a. Deadlines for the Arkansas Battle Update schedule are April 30, August 30 and November 30.

b. Election of officers: Tommy Dupree moved that Danny Honnoll, Rick Meadows and Peggy Lloyd be re-elected president, vice-president and recording secretary respectively and that Ray Jones be named treasurer. His motion was seconded and unanimously approved. Funds will be transferred to the care of Ray Jones.

c. Woodruff House—A meeting was held in November and a Quapaw Quarter group is working on the project.

d. Reed's Bridge and Updated ABPP Report. Reed's Bridge is now in the report but not eligible for funding at this time. Reed's Bridge Battlefield Preservation Society members are working with Arkansas members of Congress to seek to remedy the situation.

6. Date of next ACWHTF meeting.

The members voted to meet next on February 1, 2014.

7. Adjournment

The members voted unanimously to adjourn at 1:40 PM.

# CACWHT at work in Cabot, DeValls Bluff

By Rick Meadows  
CACWHT Chair

J. O. Isaac from the Camp Nelson Confederate Cemetery Board reports that a local funeral home will clean and reset the 428 headstones at the cemetery. Many have settled over the years.

In the fall of 1862 as many as 1,500 Confederate soldiers from Texas and Arkansas died from disease. Their bodies were scattered throughout the rolling hills east of Cabot. Originally named Camp Hope, the name was changed soon after the death of Allison Nelson. Nelson died of disease in Little Rock on October 7, 1862, just a few days after receiving his commission as brigadier general. Nelson is buried in Mount Holly Cemetery in Little Rock. In 1905, a group of Confederate veterans established a burial ground for the unknown dead. As the remains of their comrades were found, they were reinterred at Camp Nelson.

Over the years the cemetery was forgotten and soon was overgrown with trees and vegetation. In 1981, Isaac, who was then the ROTC instructor at Cabot High School, organized the restoration of the cemetery with the aid of the ROTC students, Future Farmers of America students, and several other teachers. In the spring of 1982 a formal rededication ceremony was held.

In the winter of 2012, Camp Nelson was hit hard again. Not by disease, but snow and ice. Many trees at the cemetery were damaged. Local historian R.D. Keever removed the broken and damaged limbs around the cemetery with his chainsaw. The

damaged trees were hickory, wild black cherry, and hawthorn. Keever saved much of the wood, and has crafted a memorial pen that pays tribute to those Confederate soldiers who died 150 years ago. The pocket clip is a nicely detailed model 1861 Springfield Rifle Musket. A rare Confederate 50 caliber Minnie ball was used in replicas as the pen cap. A replicas 44 caliber 1860 Colt Army bullet was used as the pen tip.

For additional information about these pens, contact Keever at [convertiblecowboy@suddenlink.net](mailto:convertiblecowboy@suddenlink.net)

The Third Annual Ford Lincoln Freedom Fest was held at DeValls Bluff in April. This year events included:

- A Miss Fort Lincoln Pageant on April 6
- Freedom Fest Ball with period dancing on April 20
- Living History Day for 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade area students on April 26<sup>th</sup>. Between 250 and 300 children from area schools attended.
- A 5K run and walk on Saturday, April 27

The festival ran from 9:00 to 4:30 on Saturday. Three wayside exhibits on DeValls Bluff's Civil War history, funded in part by the Arkansas Humanities Council, were dedicated followed by speakers David Ware, Mark Christ and Judge Jim Rhodes. During the day the main stage was the scene for period music and entertainment. Miss Arkansas, Sloane Roberts, announced the winners of the Essay Contest. Trolley tours to Fort Lincoln were conducted during the day. Re-enactors conducted cannon volley

and small skirmish on the playground of the old DeValls Bluff School.

DeValls Bluff held strategic importance during the war. It served as a major supply center. Goods would come by boat up the White River and forwarded west by rail to Huntersville (now North Little Rock). This was the first railroad in Arkansas. After Little Rock fell in September 1863, Confederate forces continually tried to disrupt shipment of goods and supplies along the river and the railroad. The White River was a major communication highway during the war. DeValls Bluff also served as a hospital during the war for the troops. Large stores of hay were stored for the thousands of horses and mules needed by Federal forces throughout Arkansas. After the war, the Freedmen's Bureau assisted in establishing a school for the former slaves in DeValls Bluff.

The festival concluded with a Memorial Service for those of both sides that paid the ultimate sacrifice during the war. Included were prayers offered for the soldiers, widows, and the orphans.

The Reed's Bridge Battlefield Preservation Society has also been busy. They sponsored a Little Rock Campaign Bicycle Ride that attracted 31 riders for the trek from Jacksonville to Lonoke. The Society also held a well-attended Civil War seminar at the Jacksonville Museum of Military History that featured Alan Thompson, Tom Ezell, Jamie Brandon and Mark Christ. The RBBPS is now making plans for the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary commemoration of the Battle of Reed's Bridge, which will be held in September.

## Cane Hill battle driving tour moves ahead

By Alan Thompson  
NWACWHT Chair

The next three panels for the Battle of Cane Hill Driving Tour have been received, putting us at the halfway point. One panel will be placed at the Cane Hill Cemetery and outlines the events and movements that brought the opposing armies to Cane Hill. A previous panel at the cemetery discusses the opening shots during the battle.

The remaining two panels will be placed at Cane Hill College. One contains an order of battle and introduces some of the key commanders in the fighting while the other relates the fighting through the village and around the college. A dedication

ceremony will be held once the panels are in the ground. Plans are for 3-4 more panels to be placed along the route of the 12-mile running fight.

Several organizations have come together and are working together to restore the panel placed in the 1960s noting the Battle of Dunagin's Farm. The panel is very difficult to read and we have applied for a grant to have it sent off for a "makeover." Also related to Dunagin's Farm, Swepco has plans to run a new transmission line across Benton and Carroll counties and one of the possible routes is right through Dunagin's Farm. The situation is being monitored.

A re-enactment commemorating the 151<sup>st</sup> anniversary of Pea Ridge was held just

north of the park on March 22-24. Unfortunately Mother Nature wasn't very cooperative and many re-enactors had to cancel due to wintry conditions and others had to leave early. Several hundred spectators braved the weather on Saturday but the Sunday activities had to be canceled.

The Rogers Historical Museum has applied for and received a grant for a sesquicentennial marker that will discuss Camp Halleck and Union activity at Osage Springs. A number of groups have come together to successfully apply for a marker to be placed in Fayetteville near the Confederate Cemetery to honor David Walker, president of the state secession convention.

# Helena, Jenkins' Ferry projects go forward

By Ron Kelley  
SEACWHT Member

The Civil War experience in Helena-West Helena has only begun. With the completion of Fort Curtis a year ago and the recent dedication of Freedom Park, the city is poised for three more sites to include in the Civil War Helena interpretation. Site 1, called "The Union Army Marches into Helena," will be located on Biscoe Street just south of Freedom Park. This site will interpret General Curtis's decision to occupy the port town following a 700-mile trek from Missouri and the thousands of slaves that were liberated by the Army of the Southwest.

Another site slated for interpretation is Site 4, "General Curtis Confiscates the Hindman House." This site, which will be located at the corner of Arkansas and Biscoe Streets in historic downtown Helena, will interpret the commandeering of Confederate General Thomas C. Hindman's residence. Historical consultants Mudpuppy and Waterdog related in

the interpretation plan for Helena that, "The Federal commander taking the home of the Commander of Confederate forces in Arkansas as his headquarters was not only expedient, it was a personal statement of the Union victory that the occupation of Helena symbolized."

The historic Battery C will also be one of the next sites included on the Civil War Helena tour. Following a visit from archeologist Steve McBride, the exact location of the original hilltop artillery fort has been identified through several days of sifting through layers of loess and kudzu. The archeology team was able to recover a few artifacts spanning from square-shaped nails to bullets allowing for an accurate interpretation of the exact dimensions of the battery.

The Battle of Helena 150 will take place in downtown Helena on May 24-26. Re-enactors are coming in from over a dozen states to recreate the assault on Fort Curtis and Battery C that took place on the morning of July 4, 1863, under the commands of General Holmes (CSA) and

General Prentiss (US). The battle will begin about 10 a.m. and spectators will get a front row seat at the event. Spectators will be able to walk through camps, visit with the artillery, infantry, and cavalry. They will also be able to enjoy shopping downtown at some of the local shops, vendors, sutler, and restaurants.

Elsewhere in Southeast Arkansas, the Friends of Jenkins Ferry Battlefield officially announces the selection of their historical consultants to provide the FOJFB a preservation plan financed by a grant from the American Battlefield Protection Program of the National Park Service. Mudpuppy and Waterdog, Inc., over the next few months, will be holding public meetings and conducting historical research and fieldwork; they will assess interpretative opportunities on the battlefield, and evaluate usage of the land and other plans that may impact the battlefield. Their next focus will be on KOCO military terrain analysis of the battlefield this summer.



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

[info@arkansaspreservation.org](mailto:info@arkansaspreservation.org)

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