

New monument honors dead from battle of Marks' Mills

By Britt Talent
Cleveland County Herald

NEW EDINBURG – Benjamin Bennett, a professional teamster from Iowa, was driving the lead wagon of a Union wagon train when gunfire erupted near Marks' Mills on the morning of April 25, 1864.

It's possible that Bennett, the 38-year-old father of two, was one of the first killed in the Battle of Marks' Mills that took place outside New Edinburg in what is today southern Cleveland County.

Bennett's name is among 251 listed on a new monument honoring soldiers from both sides who died in the battle or died from



Edgar Colvin (right) speaks at dedication of monument to casualties at Marks' Mills.

wounds suffered in the battle.

The 12-foot wide, black granite monument was
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Remains of Confederate casualties found at Helena; to be reburied near Cleburne

In May, a team of archeologists and volunteers recovered human remains believed to be those of Confederate soldiers who died during the Battle of Helena on July 4, 1863. Remains of at least five people were found buried in a single grave.

The remains will be reburied in the Helena Confederate Cemetery, near the graves of other casualties of the Battle of Helena and Maj. Gen. Patrick Cleburne, who was killed at Franklin, Tennessee.

The grave came to light in fall 2002 when a hunter came across what appeared to be human skeletal remains in a heavily wooded tract within the Helena city limits. The find was reported to the Helena Police Department. Investigating, Lt. Marshall Ramey found scattered fragments of bone along a logging road that had been bulldozed a few months earlier as part of timber harvesting operations. Ramey sent the remains and some buttons found with them to the State Crime Lab in Little Rock.

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CWHT chiefs discuss goals, set priorities

Representatives of five of the six Arkansas Civil War Heritage Trail organizations met at the Cox Building in Little Rock beginning at 10 a.m. Saturday, July 26, 2003.

Those in attendance were: Mark Kalkbrenner, Elizabeth Gaines, Edgar Colvin and Doyle Taylor, SEACWHT; W. Danny Honnoll and M. Ray Jones, NEACWHT; John Scott, NWACWHT; Tom Beam, SWACWHT; Tom Ezell and Tom Dupree, WCACWHT; and Mark Christ, AHPP. Representatives of the WCACWHT were involved with the commemoration of the 140th anniversary of the Battle of Massard Prairie and were unable to attend.

Christ discussed efforts to work with the Civil War Preservation Trust (CWPT) on battlefield preservation efforts in Arkansas. Possible projects include land acquisition at the Reed's Bridge Battlefield in Jacksonville, Helena in Phillips County, and Jenkins' Ferry in Grant County. He mentioned that Civil War-related property at Pitman's Ferry in Randolph County was sold to a private party despite efforts by Gary Gazaway of Pocahontas to bring it into public ownership. Tom Dupree apprised the group of
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For information

General Information

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mark@arkansasheritage.org

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

Northwest Arkansas CWHT

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(870) 741-5443, ext. 153

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

West Central Arkansas CWHT

Tom Wing (479) 783-3961
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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

Jim Hale (501) 760-2566
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The Southwest Arkansas Civil War Heritage Trail serves Polk, Montgomery, Garland, Howard, Pike, Clark, Hot Spring, Grant, Dallas, Sevier, Little River, Hempstead, Nevada, Ouachita, Calhoun, Miller, Lafayette, Columbia and Union counties.

Southeast Arkansas CWHT

Mark Kalkbrenner (870) 247-2394
captk1ark@hotmail.com
The Southeast Arkansas Civil War Heritage Trail serves Jefferson, Arkansas, Phillips, Cleveland, Lincoln, Desha, Bradley, Drew, Ashley and Chicot counties.

Central Arkansas CWHT

Tom Ezell (501) 961-1937
tomezell@aristotle.net
The Central Arkansas Civil War Heritage Trail serves Conway, Perry, Saline, Faulkner, Pulaski, White and Lonoke counties.

Northeast Arkansas CWHT

Danny Honnoll (870) 935-9830
wdhonnoll@prodigy.net
The Northeast Arkansas Civil War Trail serves Baxter, Fulton, Izard, Stone, Cleburne, Independence, Sharp, Randolph, Clay, Lawrence, Greene, Jackson, Craighead, Poinsett, Mississippi, Woodruff, Cross, Crittenden, Prairie, Monroe, Lee and St. Francis counties.

Fund-raising effort yielded \$16,000 for new monument

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dedicated Sunday near the Marks Family cemetery located between Kingsland and New Edinburg.

The monument is the culmination of a five-year effort spearheaded by Edgar Colvin and his wife, Sue Marks Colvin, who were inspired for the project after seeing the Vietnam Veteran's Wall in Washington D.C.

"We took a vacation and saw the Vietnam Veteran's Wall. It was so moving. You could hear a pin drop," Edgar recalled about his visit to the wall. "There were hundreds of people walking past the wall, but you could hear a pin drop."

Upon his return home, the Colvins began working on the Marks' Mills Monument project. Edgar said he applied for several grants but most of the funding for the project came from private donations, including many from descendants of those killed at the battle.

He said the entire project cost about \$16,000.

"We've had a lot of people from up North (who visited the privately-funded battle site)," said Edgar. "They'll send us their ancestor's names and money too."

On that April morning in 1864, a Union supply wagon train more than two miles long was trying to make its way back to Pine Bluff from Camden when the Confederates attacked it near Marks' Mills.

The five-hour battle ended in a complete Confederate victory, with the Union losing approximately 1,300 men, most of whom were captured, and the entire wagon train, including horses, wagons, supplies and some artillery pieces.

Colvin said a second smaller monument was also placed nearby at Salty Branch. That monument includes a quote from an article written by the late Anita Knowles that was published in *The Cleveland County Herald* in 1937.

Knowles, whose grandfather Benjamin F. Knowles was ordered to shoot the lead horses of the first wagon, wrote that, "So many horses and soldiers were wounded

or killed that Salty Branch ran red with blood."

Local Civil War reenactors from the Sons of the Confederate Veterans saluted those killed with a couple of rounds from their muskets, while two cannon crews from Malvern fired shots from replica cannons that reverberated through the woods around the remote site.

Maurice Amason, regional commander of the Sons of Confederate Veterans, spoke at the dedication and led the ceremony where visitors spread ashes of burned American and Confederate flags in front of the monument while a bagpipe rendition of Amazing Grace played in the background.

Colvin said during the ceremony he hoped the monument would make an impression on young people. "Maybe our children will learn from this monument what is and what is not worth fighting for," he said.

Colvin said he received donations for the project from people with a wide variety of backgrounds: descendants of those who fought in the battle, Civil War buffs, reenactors and people who are simply interested in honoring those killed.

Two local historians, Jimmy Boney of New Edinburg and Doyle Taylor of Pine Bluff, both contributed to the project, Colvin said.

This article previously appeared in the July 23, 2003, issue of the Cleveland County Herald.

Battlefield Preservation News?

If your group is working to preserve a Civil War-era battlefield or site, is planning a major re-enactment, or has other news of interest to the battlefield preservation community, send it to [Arkansas Battlefield Update](#). The newsletter is published quarterly. Send articles to: [Arkansas Battlefield Update](#), Arkansas Historic Preservation Program, 1500 Tower Building, 323 Center Street, Little Rock, AR 72201.

ACWHT chairs to pursue 501(c)3 status

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recent activities of the Reed's Bridge Battlefield Preservation Society and upcoming possibilities for further acquisitions of core areas of the battlefield, and the group discussed the possibility of getting the CWPT involved in the project.

Christ discussed a proposal for the Department of Arkansas Heritage to establish a partnership with the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission to create and place wayside exhibits at AGFC boat docks located in places with connections to the Civil War and the Cherokee Trail of Tears. The proposal is currently in the earliest discussion phase between the two agencies. He provided a list of 35 potential sites for placement of exhibits. John Scott requested that Head's Crossing in Benton County be added to the list.

Christ reminded the group of the Midwest American Battlefield Protection Program Workshop at Wilson's Creek National Battlefield on September 12-13, 2003, and urged each ACWHT group to try to send a representative to learn about battlefield preservation and to meet the people who represent the national groups involved in battlefield protection.

SWACWHT Chairman Jim Hale, who was unable to attend, had requested that the group discuss the possibility of holding a reenactment next spring to mark the 140th anniversary of the Battle of Jenkins' Ferry. Reenactors in the group noted that a full-scale reenactment is unlikely since several events already are planned for the spring, but the group said members would work with the SWACWHT to commemorate the Jenkins' Ferry fight, the last battle of the Camden Expedition of 1864.

This led to a discussion of the possibility of using reenactments as fund-raisers for battlefield preservation in the state. Tom Ezell, noting that it takes a year to 18 months to set up a fund-raising march, noted the success of such marches at Port Gibson, Mississippi, and Mansfield, Louisiana. The group voted to establish a committee to plan fund-raising marches in Arkansas to assist battlefield preservation, citing Reed's Bridge and Jenkins' Ferry as possible locations. The committee will consist of Ezell, Mark Kalkbrenner and Tom Beam.

Christ noted that the AHPP will be seeking to expand the number of Civil War sites in its database and hopes to document the fortifications along the Red River, something the agency had previously discussed with the SWACWHT, this winter. He urged all of the groups to work with the AHPP to identify these sites so that the agency can seek to protect them from incompatible alterations. Danny Honnoll noted that the Fitzhugh's Woods battlefield was documented last year and Christ mentioned work in Northwest Arkansas that identified several Civil War sites, as well as documentation work at Pitman's Ferry.

The group discussed at length the need to move forward with the incorporation of the ACWHT Foundation and to gain non-profit status for the Foundation so that the group can receive tax-deductible donations for projects in Arkansas. Ezell noted that a reenactment group with which he is involved has recently completed the paperwork for such designation, which can provide a template from which the Foundation can work. The group voted to establish a task force

consisting of Honnoll, Ezell and Christ to complete the paperwork before the next ACWHT chairmen's summit.

The group reviewed the priorities established at last year's ACWHT chairmen's meeting and found that the majority of the tasks have been accomplished. John Scott said that he would work with Steve Burt in northwest Arkansas to establish a web page for the ACWHT Foundation and there was some discussion of possible content for such a page.

Tom Beam, Tom Dupree and Doyle Taylor noted the need to promote teaching of Arkansas's Civil War history in the state's public schools. Christ noted that the Department of Arkansas Heritage has a curriculum on Civil War Arkansas that was developed in cooperation with the NWACWHT and that the AHPP is developing a battlefield preservation lesson plan.

The group voted to hold the next meeting of the ACWHT chairmen on Feb. 28, 2004, in Little Rock, hoping that the early spring date will enable members from all six organizations to attend.

Reed's Bridge sees new purchases

*By Tom Dupree
RBBPS President*

The Reed's Bridge Battlefield Preservation Society has purchased an additional two lots with a double-wide mobile home using bank financing. These lots are located in the Lakeshore Subdivision in the core area of RBBPS. This gives the group six lots out of a total of 13 in the overall subdivision. This subdivision is located on the southwest side of Reed's Bridge adjacent to Highway 161 and was the heart of the fighting that took place there August 27, 1863.

The Military Museum Committee, which is a separate organization from RBBPS, has voted to remodel the lower part of an existing building that the Military Museum Committee owns. They are also going to build a new 7,000-foot structure for the purpose of housing

and displaying items from the Civil War, Spanish-American War, World War I, World War II, Korean War and Vietnam. A portion of this museum has been allocated for Civil War purposes and primarily for displaying Reed's Bridge artifacts. Hopefully construction will be completed by early 2004 and the displays can be in place by mid-2004.

Our next Reed's Bridge Battlefield Preservation Society meeting will be at 11:30 a.m. Thursday, September 4, 2003, at the Jacksonville Chamber of Commerce conference room. This meeting will be in conjunction with the Jacksonville Historical Society and the Military Museum Committee. Mark Christ of the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program will be the program speaker. Anyone wishing to attend this meeting can contact Tommy Dupree at 501-833-0265 for further information.

Helena burial site contained up to six soldiers killed during July 4, 1863, fight

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The crime lab forwarded the remains to the physical anthropology laboratory at the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville. There, forensic anthropologist Bryan Renfro confirmed that the bone fragments were human and determined that they represented an adult. The condition of the bones indicated that they were quite old and, because they had been found on a portion of the Helena Battlefield, were probably those of a Civil War soldier or soldiers. Renfro determined that the buttons found with the bones were typical of kinds manufactured from the middle 1800s through the beginning of the 1900s.

From Renfro's report, Lt. Ramey concluded that the find was not a case for criminal investigation. He agreed with Renfro that the matter should be referred to the Arkansas Archeological Survey, the State of Arkansas's designated agency for protection of human burials from unmarked graves as set forth in the Grave Protection Act 753 of 1991.

John House, the Arkansas Archeological Survey's Station Archeologist at University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff visited the grave site in December 2002. House was accompanied by other interested parties, including archeologist John Connaway of the Mississippi Department of Archives and History (a native of Helena), Mark Christ of the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program, Bill Gurley of University of Arkansas Medical Center, an avocational Civil War historian, and Jessica Crawford of the Archaeological Conservancy. They observed that the road where the remains were found, on a steep hillside, was eroding badly. In this light, House and the others, along with the owner of the property, agreed that the grave should be excavated and the remains should be recovered and later reburied in a proper cemetery.

The salvage excavation at the grave site was carried out from May 6-8. The work was directed by House with the

assistance of Kate Wright, Arkansas Archeological Survey Station Assistant at Henderson State University. Connaway, Gurley, Crawford and Christ participated in the work as did Jay Mitchell of Coldwater, Mississippi.

Exposing the bones in the grave, the team found portions of at least five adult skeletons. Some bones from disturbed soil may be portions of a sixth person. The individuals appear to have been hurriedly thrown into or rolled into the grave, one on top of another. One of the skeletons was face-down, another was lying on its side, and in some cases the arms and legs were sprawled out to the side. House speculates that the fallen soldiers were buried by Federal troops after the Confederate forces had withdrawn.

Based on the location where they were found on the Helena battlefield, the soldiers most likely served in either the 35th Arkansas Infantry Regiment or Hawthorne's Arkansas Regiment, both of which suffered heavy casualties during the battle.

The only artifacts found in the grave were twenty-five buttons that appear to have been on clothing worn by the individuals at the time they were buried. The buttons included examples of porcelain (or china), bone, and tin-plated iron varieties that were widely available in the mid-1800s. None were military uniform

buttons. A single musket ball, which had not been fired, was found in disturbed soil near the grave.

Following the disinterment, the human skeletal remains were transferred to the Arkansas Archeological Survey Coordinating Office in Fayetteville, awaiting forensic study. Following completion of those studies, the skeletons and the items found with them are to be reinterred in the Confederate Cemetery at Maple Hill Cemetery in Helena, where several other Helena casualties are buried.

The Arkansas Archeological Survey is a part of the University of Arkansas System. The Survey has its headquarters on the University campus at Fayetteville and 10 research stations throughout the state.

The Arkansas Grave Protection Act 753 of 1991, as amended in 1999, provides that, except for scientific excavations justified and authorized by the Arkansas State Historic Preservation Office, anyone who intentionally or knowingly desecrates or permits desecration of a burial ground and associated burial furniture is committing on the first offense a Class D felony and on the second or subsequent offenses a Class C felony.

A version of this article previously appeared in The Phillips County Progress.

Mark your calendar!

Northeast Arkansas Civil War Heritage Trail meeting

11 a.m. Saturday, September 8, Stone House, Colt

Central Arkansas Civil War Heritage Trail meeting

Fourth Tuesday of each month,

John Gould Fletcher Branch Library, Little Rock

Southeast Arkansas Civil War Heritage Trail meeting

2 p.m. Saturday, October 11, Camp White Sulphur Springs Cemetery

Southwest Arkansas Civil War Heritage Trail meeting

Time and location to be announced

West Central Arkansas Civil War Heritage Trail meeting

1 p.m. Saturday, August 23, Fort Smith NHS Visitor Center

Northwest Arkansas Civil War Heritage Trail meeting

Time and location to be announced

Midwest ABPP Workshop

September 12-13, Wilson's Creek National Battlefield

Old State House Civil War Seminar

August 23, Old State House Museum, Little Rock

NWACWHT notes bullet, work on markers

By John C. Scott
NWACWHT Chair

This story starts with an ending. The ending of a life and the loss of a significant Confederate general.

"I will ride forward a little and reconnoiter the enemy's position. You boys remain here. Your gray horses will attract the fire of sharpshooters." These are the last words known to have been spoken by Brig. Gen. Benjamin McCulloch before he rode into musket range of Company B of the 36th Illinois Infantry Regiment. Around 1:30 P.M. on March 7, 1862, Captain Miller, Company B's commander, gave the order to "fire." As the sound of the muskets faded, McCulloch lay dead on the ground.

Possibly the single most important bullet fired at the Battle of Pea Ridge is currently on display at the national military park visitor center. On loan from the University of Texas at Austin, the 58 cal. bullet is consistent with others recovered in recent archaeological surveys in the area where McCulloch died and also consistent with the size of weapons Union troops would have been using at the Leetown battle. Major John Henry Brown, of McCulloch's staff wrote in his diary that he gave the bullet to General McCulloch's brother Henry. Rumor has it that Brown gave another bullet to Judge Jonas M. Tebbits, a Union sympathizer who McCulloch jailed in Fayetteville and threatened to hang when he returned from the battle. Brown said, as he gave the bullet to Tebbits, that this bullet took one life so another could be saved.

In other happenings in Northwest Arkansas, the Camp Stephens marker is about ready to be replaced. The Benton County Road Department is developing the site that is located midway between Bentonville and Pea Ridge, according to a plan originally prepared for Benton County Historical Society (BCHS) by member and landscape architect Al Einert. The Camp Stevens Marker, first installed in 1962, has been freshly repainted by Win Logue in her home studio. The project was set in motion late last year when Benton County Judge Gary Black met with BCHS and me. The

Arkansas Highway and Transportation Department has agreed to install signage to alert highway travelers approaching the site and to mark Little Sugar Creek. Members of the Questers Trail of Tears Chapter #904 of Bella Vista have assisted in the site renovation and expansion project.

The NWACWHT also is working on replacing another of the 1962 Arkansas Civil War Centennial Commission markers in Washington County. The "Two White River

Crossings" marker stood on the south end of the old Highway 412 Bridge (old highway 68) between Sonora and Nob Hill. The marker was removed to make way for a new boat ramp and before it could be replaced it was stolen by persons unknown. The marker commemorated the sight near Head's crossing where General F.J. Herron's army camped on October 21, 1862 before they crossed the White River in hopes of attacking the Confederates in Huntsville. On October 22, Herron was within six miles of Huntsville when he learned that

the enemy had retreated across the Boston Mountains. Herron ordered a march back to the White River, crossing it again and reaching Cross Hollows that night. Ms. Marcella (Head) Sharum and Ms. Drucilla (Head) Morris, both of Springdale, have been instrumental in starting this project. A new boat launch is being developed and this would be an ideal location for the replacement marker.

The NWACWHT fall meeting will be in September or October. Postcards will be sent out when details are finalized.



Members of the Questers Trail of Tears Chapter #904 of Bella Vista visited the Camp Stephens Civil War historic site on Highway 72 in Little Sugar Creek Valley recently. Pictured, left to right, are Win Logue, Dianne Krolkowski, Sharon Tucker and Phyllis Janssen; Jan Stevens, and Aggie Danenhauer.

Museum sends flag for conservation, plans to preserve 2 from Mexican War

The Old State House Museum is about to undertake conservation of the flag of the 3rd Confederate Infantry Regiment and is now raising funds for the conservation of two Mexican War battle flags carried by Arkansas troops.

The flag will go to Fonda Thomsen, director of Textile Preservation Associates in Sharpsburg, Maryland. Thompson is recognized as one of the top flag conservators in the world

The museum also is raising money to conserve two flags that were carried by Arkansas units in the Mexican-American

war. One is the Van Buren Guards' "Try Us!" flags and the other from Albert Pike's company, emblazoned "Up Guards and at 'em!" These silk flags have never been conserved and are in dire need of conservation before they deteriorate beyond repair. The museum hopes to have the flags conserved in time for a planned Mexican War exhibit in spring 2005.

Tax-deductible donations can be sent to the Old State House Museum, 300 West Markham St., Little Rock, AR 72203.

CACWHT helping with LR Campaign activities

By Tom Ezell
CACWHT Chair

This summer marks the 140th anniversary of the 1863 Federal campaign to capture the capitol of Arkansas, and the Central Arkansas Civil War Heritage Trail is busy preparing for several events to mark the occasion.

Repairs and replacements have been made to the interpretive panel for the battle of Fourche Bayou, located at Pratt Remmel Park near Little Rock National Airport, and to the marker showing the location of Confederate general Sterling Price's headquarters on East Ninth Street in Little Rock. Since these markers were vandalized in late May of this year, CACWHT members have been keeping a closer eye on the maintenance of these markers. Most of the interpretive panels have been in place for five years now, and we are very pleased at how well they are holding up. If you should notice a damaged panel or marker, please contact Tom Ezell at (501)682-0876 or (501) 961-1937, or e-mail TomEzell@aristotle.net.

A surviving section of the antebellum "Military Road" from Memphis to Little Rock, located near Brownsville in Lonoke County, has been nominated for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places by the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program's State Review Board. In addition to its importance as a military road and the route of the 1863 Federal advance on Little Rock, the segment of road has connections to the Indian Removals of the 1830s and the resulting "Trail of Tears."

On Aug. 23, the Old State House Museum will sponsor its second annual Civil War seminar, "As Much as Humanity Can Stand," focusing on the Little Rock Campaign and the war in Arkansas in 1863. Guest speakers will include Mark Christ of the AHPP, Michael Dougan, professor of history at Arkansas State University, Bobby Roberts of the Central Arkansas Library System, and Cynthia DeHaven Pitcock and Bill Gurley of the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences. A \$15 fee covers registration and lunch; call the Old State House Museum at (501) 324-8641 to register for

this event.

On Sept. 6-7, local reenactors will sponsor a living history program at Reed's Bridge Battlefield Park on Highway 161 near Jacksonville. Drill, skirmish, and other demonstrations will be presented throughout the day from 9 a.m. until 6 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 8 and from 8 a.m. until noon on Sunday, Sept. 7.

On Sept. 27, the General R.C. Newton SCV Camp # 197 of Little Rock and ABATE (Arkansas Bikers Aiming Toward Education) will sponsor a group motorcycle ride covering key points of the Central Arkansas Civil War Heritage Trail, beginning near El Paso, with stops and interpretive programs at Camp Nelson Confederate Cemetery in Cabot, Reed's Bridge Battlefield Park in Jacksonville, Scott Plantation Settlement at Scott, the Bayou Fourche battlefield marker at Pratt Remmel Park in Little Rock, the MacArthur Military Museum and MacArthur Park in Little Rock before returning to El Paso for a pig roast and picnic lunch. For more information, contact George Davis of the R.C.

Newton Camp at (501) 796-8483 (evenings after 7 p.m.).

Members of the CACWHT and the Reed's Bridge Preservation Society will also be participating in the Midwest American Battlefield Protection Program Workshop held at Wilson's Creek National Battlefield on Sept. 12-13.

The CACWHT meets at 7:00 p.m. on the fourth Tuesday of each month jointly with the Civil War Roundtable of Little Rock (except in December, when there is no meeting) at the John Gould Fletcher Library at H and Buchanan Streets in Little Rock. The Civil War Roundtable programs are excellent and guests are encouraged and welcome to attend. CACWHT volunteers are very much needed to help with projects, including summer maintenance of the existing nine interpretive panels located in Little Rock, North Little Rock, Brownsville, and Scott. For more information, call Tom Ezell at (501)682-0876 or (501)961-1937, or write CACWHT at P. O. Box 2125, Little Rock, Arkansas 72203.

SWACWHT to help document Civil War sites in region

By Jim Hale
SWACWHT Chairman

The SWACWHT met on Sunday, June 1, at Ouachita Baptist University. Included on the program were updates on the excellent work recently accomplished by the Clark County Historical Society to mark several Civil War sites within the county. They are also at work to locate and mark the entire Military Road throughout the county.

It was announced that the Nevada County Museum has reopened at Prescott, and that they have a display and maps regarding the battles at Prairie D'Ane and Moscow.

Announcements were also made and interest was noted on a couple of projects this winter, including GPS mapping of sites along the Red River, and efforts to conserve the Jenkins' Ferry battlefield. It

was noted during these discussions that there may be as many as 100 Civil War sites along the Red River, some of which are more important than others. Keenan Williams of Hope has a vast knowledge in this area.

It was noted that sites that need to be identified and marked for the SWACWHT include monuments, cemeteries, political sites, quartermaster/ordnance, museums, original roads, camps, and battlefields. All of these have interest to people who spend vacation and leisure time at these sites, generating income to the local economies.

Discussions were begun as to how to best mark the 140th anniversary of the Red River Campaign and the Camden Expedition. More will be forthcoming about this.

The next meeting date will be announced in the near future.

WCACWHT sees progress on Fort Smith efforts

By Tom Wing

WCACWHT Chairman

The WCACWHT's June 21, 2003, meeting held at the Fort Smith National Historic Site included the following items for discussion, some of which have occurred by the time of this printing:

* The 139th anniversary of the battle at Massard Prairie was commemorated by a free picnic sponsored by the Mayor of Fort Smith. A block party for the neighborhood and a rededication of the United Daughters of the Confederacy monument highlighted the day's activities. The Northwest 15th Arkansas Infantry reenactors demonstrated small arms and camp life for visitors. The monument interpreting the site was originally placed in 1976 and was

located on Highway 71 near Jenny Lind. With the discovery of the battle site and subsequent establishment of a park, the Fort Smith Chapter of the United Daughters of the Confederacy agreed to the WCACWHT's proposal to move the marker to the site of the action. Around 500 people took part in the activities. Plans for commemorating the 140th anniversary in 2004 are already being discussed.

* Fort Smith Parks and Recreation reprinted an interpretive brochure for the park that the WCACWHT produced originally. Additionally, the Fort Smith Convention and Visitors Bureau has expressed an interest in covering the printing costs of the Civil War driving tour brochure being produced by the WCACWHT.

* Franklin County was discussed as a focal point for the remainder of the year. A fall Saturday event in Ozark to shed light on the Civil War in Franklin County is in the works.

* Finally, there was discussion of the upcoming Midwestern American Battlefield Protection Program conference September 12-13 at Wilson's Creek National Battlefield and the proposed dates for the annual summit meeting of the ACWHT chairmen (July 26) in Little Rock, and the fact that July 26 conflicts with the 139th Anniversary of Massard Prairie in which several Trail members are involved. (Next year's ACWHT summit meeting will be held on February 28, 2004, to better accommodate the schedules of all of the chairmen.)

SEACWHT in high gear in placing markers; group assisted in Marks' Mills reenactment

By Mark Kalkbrenner

SEACWHT Chairman

The Southeast Arkansas Civil War Heritage Trail has been active since the beginning of the year. Research into many of the sites in our region continues nonstop. Markers and monuments have been placed or are in the fabrication process. Battles have been fought. And interest in the Civil War seems to be growing in the Delta.

One major project of the SEACWHT is the Defense of the Lower Arkansas as part of the Vicksburg Campaign. In February, members of the National Park Service surveyed sites at Arkansas Post, White Sulphur Springs, Fort Pleasants, St. Charles and Helena. We have been notified that they have made numerous recommendations for acquisition at several of these sites. New information about other sites associated with this campaign is continuously being uncovered.

Marker and monument placement is in high gear for the SEACWHT. One marker has been placed at the Mt. Elba battle site on the Saline River, with another in the planning stages. The marker for the Longview battle site is nearing completion. But our proudest moment so far this year was the recent dedication of the monument to all those killed at the Battle of Marks' Mills.

This project was the brainchild of Edgar and Sue Marks Colvin. It is a large black granite marker with the names of 251 of the men killed at the April 25, 1864, battle. It was inspired by the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C., and cost \$16,000. All funds for the monument were raised through private donations. We are still planning to put markers at Redfield and Fort Pleasants in the future.

On the weekend of April 25-27, 2003, the SEACWHT co-sponsored the Battle of Marks' Mills reenactment. Over 100

infantry from five states and six pieces of artillery participated. Spectators numbered around 2,000 for the weekend. A school day was held Friday in Fordyce at the Dallas County Courthouse. Three displays were set up for the students, including a hospital, artillery camp, and "Ms. Ellie" discussing women during the War. The event was deemed a success by all those involved and plans are being made for another event in 2005.

On October 11-12, 2003, the SEACWHT will again participate in the Annual White Sulphur Springs Encampment and Memorial Service. Mark Christ of the AHPP will be the guest speaker on Sunday at 1 p.m.

The next meeting of the SEACWHT will be Saturday, August 9, at 2p.m. at the Pine Bluff/Jefferson County Museum. We will meet again on Saturday, October 11, at 2 p.m. at the Camp White Sulphur Springs Cemetery.

NEACWHT plans Taylor's Creek brochure

By Danny Honnoll
NEACWHT Chair

Our committee has been working very diligently at expanding our knowledge of the sites. It is slow going in some way and we are moving in other areas.

Next month's meeting will be held at Colt, Arkansas, the site of the Battle of Taylor's Creek. This is, as are many of our sites, only known by local or area history buffs. We are still trying to find a way to get funding for a marker on this site in St. Francis County, Arkansas. Here are the facts on the Battle of Taylor's Creek. If anyone has more information on this battle please, send me what you have.

Location: St. Francis Co., AR (at Colt, north of Forrest City).

Date: May 12, 1863

Principal Commanders: Col. Thomas N. Pace and Maj. William V. Weathers,

U.S.; Brig. Gen. John S. Marmaduke, Col. Archibald Dobbins, and Col. George W. Carter, C.S.

Forces Engaged: 1st Indiana Cavalry with light artillery (also known as the 28th Indiana Regiment) U.S.; Carter's 21st Texas Cavalry and Greene's Brigade, Gidding's Texas Regiment, Pratt's Battery, and Young's Battalion, C.S.

Craighead County and Jonesboro are exploring the possibility of placing a Southern/Confederate marker in the near future. Numerous groups have shown interest in the project. Sites are being looked at and a special local historical group is being formed to lead the project.

We have not been able to secure a location for the marker at Martin's Creek/Morgan's Mill as of yet. This is a project that we would like to have completed by next year, but without a site it is very hard to complete.

Chairman Honnoll is going to speak with the Pocahontas/Randolph County Rotary

Club on Aug. 20 and see if we can get the rest of the funds to complete a very worthwhile marker project in that area. Once the ACWHT Foundation gains its 501c3 status it will help ease some of the obstacles and make it easier for individuals and businesses to donate to all of our state projects.

The NEACWHT is still working on pamphlets on Fitzhugh's Woods, Jacksonport, The *Sultana*, generals Cleburne and Fagan, and Osceola.

It has been two years since we visited the Stone House at Colt, Arkansas. We had a great time the last time we visited Colt. Ann and Walter Meals want to invite everyone down on Sept. 7, at 5-8 p.m. for Gospel singing on Friday night and then Saturday from 9 am to 5 p.m. for the Stone House Pioneer Days Celebration. The NEACWHTC will have a sign up on Saturday to let everyone know where we are to hold our meeting. It will start Saturday, Sept. 6, 2003 at 11 a.m., at the Stone House, at Colt, Arkansas. SEE y'all there!!!!



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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 and the Natural Heritage Commission.

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