



*Marcella Sharum and Drucilla Morris unveil the Head's Crossing wayside exhibits while family members and the public look on. Kenneth Head, who is featured in the Civil War exhibit, was their great-uncle. See related article page 8.*

## CACWHT begins effort to find Civil War soldiers' burial sites

By Mike Loum  
CACWHT Chairman

Expanding one of the continuing goals of the CACWHT, we are in the process of developing the Arkansas Graves Registry in collaboration with a number of our Civil War Buff partners. While not intended to replace the larger register cemeteries on the Internet, this is intended to gather information from some of the smaller or private cemeteries in the state.

Many of us have visited these cemeteries and noticed individual graves

with Confederate or Union markings. The information from the headstone will be listed on the Registry along with the location of the cemetery. This will serve two purposes: another place to find information about an ancestor and a way to honor our ancestors who are buried in Arkansas. In the future, we will be asking everyone to submit information from the gravestones found around the state of Arkansas.

In a previous report, the Reed's Bridge Battlefield Preservation Society reported that they had finished their preservation plan. In recognition, the Civil War Roundtable of  
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## Arkadelphia's Downs marks Civil War sites

By Donna Hilton

(This article originally ran in the May 9, 2006, *Arkadelphia Daily Siftings Herald*.)

A joint project between the Clark County Historical Association and the Arkansas Civil War Heritage Trail has been completed with the placement of 10 historical markers on Civil War sites throughout Clark County. The project was funded by the Clark County Historical Association and chaired by Bobby Downs, a Civil War historian.

Downs brought the project to the historical group after agreeing to work with the Arkansas Civil War Heritage Trail, a group dedicated to recognizing all the historic Civil War sites in the state.

After receiving approval for the project from both historical groups, Downs began researching the sites, finding that 10 existed in the county. In 2000, all 10 sites were approved for distinction.

Each of the 10 sites is now marked with a black sign with gold lettering. The lettering features a small description of each site and  
**Continued on Page 4**

## For information

### General Information

Mark Christ (501) 324-9880

[mark@arkansasheritage.org](mailto: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

Troy Banzhaf (479) 451-8122, ext. 310

[Troy\\_Banzhaf@nps.gov](mailto:Troy_Banzhaf@nps.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

Tom Wing (479) 474-4781

[wcacwht@gmail.com](mailto:wcacwht@gmail.com)

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

### Southwest Arkansas CWHT

Tom Beam (501) 760-1116

[mbeam@hotsprings.net](mailto:mbeam@hotsprings.net)

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

### Southeast Arkansas CWHT

Mark Kalkbrenner (870) 247-2394

[captk1ark@hotmail.com](mailto: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

Mike Loum (501) 835-9649

[61shelbysmule65@comcast.net](mailto:61shelbysmule65@comcast.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](mailto: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.

# National Register listings, archeological investigations focus on WCACWHT sites

By Tom Wing

WCACWHT Chairman

Western Arkansas has seen a number of important developments concerning the Civil War in recent months.

A recent article in *North & South* magazine by William Shea covering the Prairie Grove Campaign and the action in Van Buren has generated local interest in the actions in Crawford and Sebastian counties. Fairview Cemetery in Van Buren has recently been placed on the National Register of Historic Places and contains a large Confederate section with casualties from both Pea Ridge and Prairie Grove. Work is under way to restore the Confederate statue at the Crawford County Courthouse. This work has been initiated by the Sons of Confederate Veterans Battle of Massard

Prairie Camp # 1830.

The Drennen-Scott House, a nationally significant National Register property owned by the University of Arkansas-Fort Smith, continues to provide important local connections to the Civil War. Archeological testing has suggested the possibility of Civil War-era earthworks and associated artifacts as well. A recent book by WCACWHT Chairman Tom Wing titled "*A Rough Introduction to this Sunny Land: The Civil War Diary of Private Henry A. Strong, Co. K, 12th Kansas Infantry*" is giving further insight to the Federal occupation in Western Arkansas.

The next meeting of the WCACWHT will be at 10 a.m. July 29, at the Drennen-Scott House in Van Buren. Call (479) 788-7805 for details.

## Western soldier's diary published

Continuing its tradition of publishing significant works in Arkansas history and literature for the general reader, the Butler Center for Arkansas Studies announces the publication of "*A Rough Introduction to This Sunny Land': The Civil War Diary of Private Henry A. Strong, Co. K, Twelfth Kansas Infantry*," edited by Tom Wing.

Written during the Civil War between 1862 and 1865, the diary of Private Henry Albert Strong provides a rare record of the experiences and observations of a western Federal infantryman. His diary covers enlistment in Kansas in 1862, duty in southwest Missouri, the march across Indian Territory to Arkansas, camp life in Fort Smith, and the Camden Expedition. He describes Confederate guerrilla operations, the execution of bushwhackers, and aspects

of civilian life in Arkansas during the war.

Editor Tom Wing's introductory and interpretive material connects Strong's accounts of life in the field to other events during the war and to people Strong describes in his diary.

"*A Rough Introduction to This Sunny Land*" will be available at area bookstores or can be ordered by mail directly through the Butler Center. The retail price for the book is \$11.95. For further ordering information, including tax and shipping costs, please call the Butler Center at (501) 918-3056, or visit the Butler Center's website, [www.butlercenter.org](http://www.butlercenter.org). Created in 1997 through an endowment by the late Richard C. Butler, Sr., of Little Rock, the Butler Center is a department of the Central Arkansas Library System.

# CACWHT adds Reed's Bridge to website

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Arkansas has added a page to their website detailing the history of the battlefield (<http://www.civilwarbuff.org/places.html>). The Society is working on its own website.

The Civil War Roundtable has been working on a heritage program for 2007. They will invite the whole Civil War community to join the event. Bobby Horton is a celebrated musician and presents a program on the "Music and Memories of the Civil War." Those who have seen his programs on PBS remem-

ber that he plays a number of instruments showing the similarity between Union and Confederate music.

Speaking of events, this past April the whole community came together for a combined celebration of their heritage celebrating Arkansas Confederate History and Heritage Month, Confederate Memorial Day, and Confederate Flag Day. This ninth annual ceremony was held April 15 on the State Capitol grounds, directly in front of the Confederate Memorial. This heritage event is

the largest commemoration held in the state.

The CACWHT meets at 7 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. For more information, contact Mike Loum at [61shelbysmule65@comcast.net](mailto:61shelbysmule65@comcast.net)

## Reed's Bridge Battlefield Preservation Society receives grant to interpret Federal artillery location

*By Tom Dupree  
RBBPS President*

The Reed's Bridge Battlefield Preservation Society applied for a mini-grant from the Arkansas Humanities Council in May and was approved. This grant will allow the Society to put in place an interpretative panel at the site where fourteen federal cannon were positioned. The site is adjacent to Highway 161 and will have a paved parking area.

More than 200 new fence rails were cut and split during the months of April and May. These rails are stacked on site and are ready to be put in place when the weather gets cooler. "Thank you" needs to go to George Ed McCain, Jr., and Jack Danielson for all their efforts in cutting, splitting and hauling these rails.

Also, the Society is working with the Jacksonville Chamber of Commerce Tourism Committee, which has asked

the Jacksonville Advertising and Promotion Commission to fund a study of all the tourism attractions in the city. The purpose of the study is primarily to get a comprehensive marketing plan for the city.

Tuesday, Aug. 1, is the next business meeting for the Reed's Bridge Battlefield Preservation Society. It will be held at the Jacksonville Museum of Military History located at 100 Veterans Circle in Jacksonville at 6:30 p.m.

## 5th annual Old State House seminar to focus on events that led to secession and war

The Old State House Museum will hold its fifth annual Civil War symposium, "The Die is Cast: Arkansas Goes to War, 1861," from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on Saturday, Aug. 19.

This year's seminar will focus on how Arkansas followed the road to war, with sessions focusing on the political, social and military activities during the first year of the war.

Sessions include:

\* "An eternal chitter chatter kept up in

the galleries": The Arkansas Secession Convention in Action, March-June, 1861 by Dr. Michael Dougan

\* Domesticity Goes Public: Southern Women and the Secession Crisis by Dr. Lisa Tendrich Frank

\* Arkansas's Confederate Soldiers: Why They Fought by Dr. Carl Moneyhon

\* A "Remarkably Strong Union Sentiment": Unionism in Arkansas in

1861 by Dr. Tom DeBlack

\* "When the Arks. boys goes by they take the rags off the bush": Arkansas Soldiers in the Wilson's Creek Campaign, 1861 by Dr. William G. Piston.

The symposium fee of \$20 includes lunch. Reservations are required by Aug. 14 and may be made by calling (501) 324-8641. Partial support of the program is provided by the Arkansas Natural and Cultural Resources Council.

# Civil War battlefields, manufacturing sites among those marked in Clark County

**Continued from Page 1.**

its historical significance. Downs worked with Wendy Richter, former archivist at Ouachita Baptist University, to ensure the information was accurate. Richter even “approved the wording” on the signs, Downs said.

Most of the signs are placed on the actual historic site, although geographical and legal restrictions prevented accurate placement of a few of them. The signs were erected at the sites by crews from the City of Arkadelphia or Clark County, Downs said.

“I’d stake and flag the location for them, then take the sign to them when it was ready,” he said. “They were good enough to put the signs up for us at no charge.”

The first marked location is at 526 Main St. in Arkadelphia, the present site of US Bank. A sign was originally mounted on the building by the Woodmen of the World in 1961. Later renovations to the building forced the sign’s relocation. It was moved again to make it easier to read, Downs said.

The sign explains the location as the site of the first Clark County Courthouse in Arkadelphia. The county seat was originally in Greenville, but in 1842 officials decided to move the center of government to Arkadelphia. A log cabin served as the courthouse from 1842 until a more permanent structure was completed in 1844. In 1860, the log structure was replaced with a “handsome, two-story brick.” The brick building was later used to manufacture shells, percussion caps and small cannons for the Confederate Army during the war.

The cannon at the Clark County Library on Caddo Street is believed to have been manufactured in that building, Downs said. The historical association has placed one of the historical markers near it. The description states the cannon

may have been used in defense of Arkadelphia during the war.

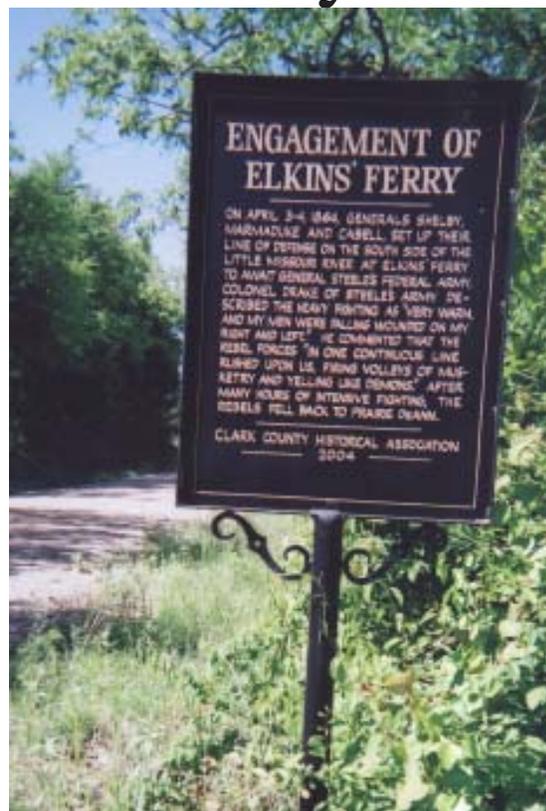
Another historical marker was erected near the Highway 7 boat ramp in the park east of the Ouachita River. The site is where salt was processed until 1864 when Union Gen Frederick Steele captured the factory and ceased operations. One of the original salt kettles from the factory is at the Clark County Courthouse.

The kettle had originally been given to Henderson State Teachers College by the family of Capt. Robert W. Huie, a friend and benefactor of the college. The kettle was later moved to the courthouse.

The historical marker describing the salt works factory, now located at the courthouse, was originally placed at the actual site. The sign was removed by the landowner “because she didn’t want people knowing where it was,” Downs said. After her death, the sign was discovered in an outbuilding, and donated back to the Historical Association. It has since been displayed at the courthouse.

What is now a piece of property along Mill Creek was the site of a powder works factory where ammunition was assembled. One of the historical signs marks the location at 1507 Millcreek Drive. According to Downs' research, work began at the facility by Maj. Gen. Thomas C. Hindman in early summer of 1862. An explosion in May 1863 killed one person and destroyed all the machinery and the building. The factory was rebuilt and back in business the next month. Later that year, the powder works operation was moved to Marshall, Texas.

Another sign is near the historical Bozeman House on Highway 26 West.



The sign marks the site of a skirmish between Confederate Gen. Joseph O. Shelby’s troops and Union Gen. Frederick Steele’s army.

Downs said one popular story of the battle includes a ladies’ tea party that was taking place that day at the Bozeman House. “The ladies were said to have come out (of the house) to cheer on the rebel soldiers,” Downs said.

That same day, both Confederate and Union troops continued from the Bozeman House en route to Washington. Now the site of Old Washington State Park, the town served as the state capital during the war. As troops marched south, General Shelby’s troops attacked the Union army at Terre Noire Creek, near Spoonville, now called Hollywood. A historical marker placed 2.3 miles south of the junction of highways 53 and 26 West tells the story.

One of the historical markers has been located on Smyrna Road near Okolona

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# Nevada County holds trove of Civil War history

By Donnie Crain  
SWACWHT Member

Within earshot of the hum of traffic off of busy Interstate 30 in Southwest Arkansas, visitors to Prescott enter another time zone — figuratively speaking, of course.

Nestled upon the rolling open terrain of Prairie DeAnn, Prescott and its environs have enticed visitors for hundreds of years. It's a beautiful, rural setting — one that an astute Civil War soldier aptly described as “an oasis... a relief for the eye of the traveler, who for many days has hardly seen anything but rocks crowned by dark pines or gloomy cypress swamps.” Despite this idyllic location, the area in and around Prescott witnessed much action during the spring of 1864 as key battles and skirmishes of the Red River Campaign transpired in this vicinity.

Back in early 1864, the American Civil War was in full fury. In the Trans-Mississippi theater, 1863 witnessed the Confederate government of Arkansas relocating its seat of government to Washington, Arkansas, following the fall of Little Rock to Union troops. Seeking to rid the state of Arkansas of its remaining Confederate stronghold, the Union devised a campaign to do just that — the Red River Campaign.

Traveling along the Old Military Road from Little Rock towards Washington, Union troops met their first organized resistance at the battles of Okolona and Elkins' Ferry. It was at Elkins' Ferry that Union troops defeated a Confederate contingent and crossed the Little Missouri River. Too late to prevent the Union troops from crossing, Confederate troops did manage to slow the Union advance and allow the Confederates to strengthen their forces 16 miles southwest of the ferry, at Prairie DeAnn.

And it was at Prairie DeAnn, just north of modern day Prescott, where the

two sides met in battle. For four days, this serene setting was the set for conflict between the Confederate and Union armies. On April 10, 1864, Maj. Gen. Fred Steele's Union forces, combined

## Meeting scheduled

Chairman Tom Beam announced that the next meeting of the Southwest Arkansas Civil War Heritage Trail will be held at 2 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 22, at Poison Spring State Park in Ouachita County. Everyone interested in preserving the region's Civil War-related properties should attend this meeting and plan future projects. 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. For more information, call him at (501) 760-1116.

with Brig. Gen. John M. Thayer's division, marched south, encountered a Confederate line of battle at Prairie DeAnn and attacked. Steele's troops drove the Confederates back about a mile before being checked. Skirmishing continued throughout the afternoon of April 11, forcing Steele to divert his troops' line of march away from their original aims and instead, Union troops turned eastward toward Camden. Additional skirmishes followed to the south of modern day Prescott in the vicinity of Old Moscow, where Confederate troops engaged Union rearguard elements in efforts to ensure the Union did not turn back towards the Confederate state capital of Washington.

After Prairie DeAnn, the Red River Campaign continued on, with battles occurring at nearby Poison Spring, Camden, Marks' Mills and Jenkins'

Ferry. Eventually, the Union troops retreated back to Little Rock — but the turning point had been Prairie DeAnn.

Shortly after the Civil War, as the nation began to heal its wounds, the railroad came to Southwest Arkansas and so sprung up modern-day Prescott. A railroad and lumber mill town from the beginning, Prescott is a charming southern community that grew up around the train depot and the railroad. Today, trains still pass through the community regularly and Prescott's restored 1912 MoPac depot serves as the home to the Nevada County Depot Museum — the ideal place to begin your exploration of the area's storied past.

Today, the museum's exhibit hall is located where the depot's waiting rooms and ticket areas were located. It is here, at the Depot Museum, that the Battle of Prairie DeAnn is interpreted. The actual battlefield is on private property north of Prescott (visible from Interstate 30) and still resembles closely the rural scene troops on both sides would have seen on those fateful days in 1864.

Northeast of Prescott, along the remote wooded banks of the Little Missouri River, is Elkins' Ferry. Now a popular put-in spot for fishermen and outdoor enthusiasts managed by the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission, it is hard to imagine the fierce fighting the Union troops encountered when crossing this tranquil, slow-moving stream over 140 years ago. Local historians are working to develop plans to interpret the Battle of Elkins' Ferry on-site and preserve this part of the community's history and heritage.

*(Donnie Crain works with the Prescott Nevada County Economic Development Office. He will become co-chairman of the Southwest Arkansas Civil War Heritage Trail on his return from a year-long deployment to Iraq.)*

# NEACWHT near end of Pocahontas effort

By Danny Honnoll  
NEACWHT Chairman

The Northeast Arkansas Civil War Heritage Trail has completed a few projects of late and is in the planning stage for a few in the future. The Pocahontas project is on schedule and the plaque will be dedicated at 9:30 a.m. on Sept. 23, 2006, at the Black River Overlook Park at Pocahontas. This event will be part of the sesquicentennial activities at Pocahontas.

If you are interested in the events of the Pocahontas sesquicentennial you can visit this site for scheduled events: <http://www.randolphcomuseum.org/sesqui/events.htm>. The marker has been ordered and will arrive sometime in late August or early September. The sesquicentennial group at Pocahontas is planning to dedicate five more historical markers with details of the events in Randolph County during the war. All of the markers are going to be dedicated at the same time.

This project is supported in part by a grant from the Arkansas Humanities Council and the Department of Arkansas Heritage. Other funding of this project is by the northeast Arkansas living historians, Shaver Camp SCV of Jonesboro, and 7th Arkansas Infantry re-enactors of northeast Arkansas.

Good news: I got an e-mail from Civil War Discovery Trail stating that the "Battle of Jonesboro" site in Jonesboro was in the final stages of being approved as a stop on the Civil War Discovery Trail. They asked a few questions and I have answered them and after further review, Jonesboro should be approved. We are currently reviewing other sites in northeast Arkansas to add to this very worthwhile trail.

Our annual event at Chalk Bluff went very well. The weather was a factor as well as gasoline prices. The rain dampened part of the events but the tempera-

ture was pleasant for the most part. Most events are down in attendance and participants due to the increase in the price of gas. We had two cannons instead of the six to eight that we normally have had over the years. They did a splendid job as usual. Capt. John Malloy of the 7th Arkansas Infantry CSA/79th New York Highlanders living historians did a great job on the field and led the honor guard at our memorial to Gen. John Sappington Marmaduke. Lt. Paul Arnold led the Confederates on the field and after narrowly being defeated on Saturday rallied his troops for a victory on Sunday.

Honorary colonelships were awarded to Capt. John Mallory, Lt. Paul Arnold, Clay County Judge Gary Howell and Clay County Sheriff Ronnie Cole for their work on this year's event.

Jim Burton was in character by being in full-dress British uniform (red, of course) playing the part of Lt. Col. Arthur Freemantle, a British military observer of Her Majesty's Coldstream Guards. That red tunic made a fine target for the Federals to fire at during Sunday's event. Burton's fine British accent helped add to the effect at the memorial.

Bobbie Barnett of Ravenden and Jeannine Thompson of Jonesboro held a ladies tea on Saturday and it was attended by some very nicely dressed ladies. Lt. James Langley and Lt. Dale "Tank" Barnett of the 30th Arkansas Living Historians were the escort/guards for the ladies' tea. Jackie Stevens of Jonesboro assisted in the ladies tea.

The dates for next year's Chalk Bluff re-enactment/living history event is set for May 5 and 6, 2007. If you would like to help, just contact Danny Honnoll at (870) 935-9830 for more details.

The Arkansas Civil War Heritage Trails were represented at the Fayetteville Southern Memorial Association's annual event at their cemetery on June 10 of this year when Danny Honnoll of Jonesboro and Dwight Williams of Sherwood took

part in this year's event. Honnoll was the keynote speaker and Williams was in the honor guard. About one hundred people attended the ceremony. The SMA decorated the graves of all of the fallen as they were remembered for the 133rd year.

Jonesboro observed Memorial Day with Danny Honnoll serving as master of ceremonies for the day's events. Doyle Yearta, Gary Glisson and Dale Barnett of the 30th Arkansas CSA/4th Arkansas US living historians stood guard at the Battle of Jonesboro marker as Bobbie Barnett laid fresh flowers on the bricks at the base of the marker. The bricks bear the names of the soldiers that fought and died at Jonesboro during the battle.

The status of the Northeast Arkansas Southern Heritage Park in Jonesboro has not changed much from our last report. Ed, Ray, and Danny are mowing the property as they get ready for progress in this project.

Progress is being made on the interpretive area at the Fitzhugh's Woods battlefield in Woodruff County. Augusta Mayor Thomas Huie and County Judge William Burl Simmons are taking the lead on the project and hope to have it complete by this fall.

The next meeting of the NEACWHT will be Aug. 15 at 6:30 p.m. at the Fishboat Restaurant in Jonesboro. See you there!

The Arkansas  
Battlefield Update  
newsletter is available online at the  
AHPP web site at  
[arkansaspreservation.org](http://arkansaspreservation.org).

# SEACWHT works the festival circuit

By Mark Kalkbrenner  
SEACWHT Chairman

The SEACWHT has several projects on-going and many more in the planning stages. We made the festival circuit in June, had a booth and distributed *Battlefield Updates* and bumper stickers at the Warren Pink Tomato Festival, McGehee Centennial Celebration, and at Tull during an encampment and marker dedication. Hundreds of people who had not known that we exist are now full of ideas on preserving history in their area and know they have an avenue to pursue those projects.

On-going projects of the SEACWHT include continued marker placement at White Sulphur Springs Confederate Cemetery and Marks' Mills. Several members of our group are researching cemeteries in our region for unmarked graves of both Confederate and Union soldiers and are ordering VA government markers to be placed on them. Eight have been placed since March and several more have been ordered. A

marker is in the works for the camp at the Mitchell Plantation at Stuttgart, which we hope to have in place and dedicated sometime this fall.

We are always looking for new projects to undertake in the Southeast region. There were many engagements, most small, in our area. But they need to be preserved and interpreted just as much as the bigger battles in our state. And remember, men spent most of their time in camp, so those sites also need marking. Let us know about them and we will help you save our history and heritage.

The SEACWHT is conducting a raffle

for a Remington 870 Express 12-gauge shotgun to raise funds to establish an endowment, primarily for the White Sulphur Springs Cemetery, but funds will also be available for other preservation projects in the region as application is made. Details will be announced once everything is in place. As of July 4, the raffle has brought in over \$700.

The next scheduled meeting of the Southeast Arkansas Civil War Heritage Trail will be at noon on Saturday, Sept. 9, 2006, at Arkansas Post National Memorial. This will be held in conjunction with their Civil War Weekend, so come out and enjoy a full day of history.

## 'Battle of the Bees' among sites receiving Clark County marker

### Continued from Page 4.

to commemorate the "battle of the bees." Downs said that the Confederate troops caught up with Union soldiers at that site on April 3, 1864, and engaged in a skirmish in a pecan grove. A severe thunderstorm caused damage to nearby beehives, causing bees to attack the soldiers. The insects eventually drove both Confederate and Union soldiers from the battlefield.

Another marker is placed on May Road, two miles north of Elkins' Ferry and the Little Missouri River Ford to mark another battle that took place on that same day. Several Confederate troops and generals set up a line of defense on the south side of the Little Missouri River at Elkins' Ferry. Fighting was very heavy and the Rebels eventually drew back to a location known as Prairie DeAnn.

The last historical marker of the project is in the Manchester community at a location known as Bullock's Plantation. The land was used as a Confederate camp during May 1864. It is believed that Confederate officers

stayed there for two to three weeks while they planned their Missouri Campaign, Downs said.

Although all the markers are similar, they were made by several different area craftsmen, Downs said. The lettering on all the signs was done by Boyd's Signs.

Downs said he became interested in studying the Civil War in the late 1960s, when he found his great-grandfather's obituary. "I never knew he fought in the Civil War until then," Downs said.

A native of the Camden area, Downs studies mainly the "Camden Campaign" of the Civil War. He's already written one book on Arkansas' Fifteenth Regiment, which was published by the Clark County Historical Association. All proceeds from the book benefit the group.

Members of the Clark County Historical Association are pleased with the placement of the historical markers, said longtime member Bill Newberry. "I haven't seen them all myself, but I'm happy with them," he said. "I hope people enjoy looking at them."

### Got News?

The *Arkansas Battlefield Update* will publish information about upcoming meetings, reenactments, special events, preservation efforts and other Civil War-related activities. *But you have to tell us about them first.*

Send information about your upcoming Civil War-related activity to: *Arkansas Battlefield Update*, AHPP, 1500 Tower Building, 323 Center Street, Little Rock, AR 72201.

# Twin historical exhibits on Beaver Lake are triumph of partnership and cooperation

By John C. Scott  
NWACWHT Member

May 3, 2006, was a special day in Northwest Arkansas. The past met the present as two new wayside exhibits were revealed to the public at the Don Roufa Boat Ramp on Beaver Lake.

The new exhibits replaced a single historical marker placed on the site in the 1960s by the Civil War Centennial Commission. That marker was stolen in 2002. The new exhibits focus on historic events that took place in the Head's Ford area of the White River. One exhibit relates to Civil War topics and the other speaks to what life was like on White River before the coming of

Beaver Dam.

The project was a partnership of people and organizations. The development of these exhibits is proof that individuals, non-profit organizations, county government agencies, state government agencies, federal government agencies and business people can all work together and accomplish things. The following had a part in bringing these new exhibits to the public: Heritage Trail Partners, the Arkansas Humanities Council, Arkansas Historic Preservation Program, Arkansas Game and Fish Commission, Northwest Arkansas Civil War Heritage Trail, Washington County, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, David Fike and last but certainly not least Mrs.

Marcella (Head) Sharum and Mrs. Drucilla (Head) Morris.

At the dedication ceremony the exhibits were dedicated to "our Washington County, Arkansas, ancestors for what they endured to make us who we are today and to Marcella (Head) Sharum and Drucilla (Head) Morris. May we all go into our future with the zest and energy that they have shown in preserving our collective past."

With these words let us remember that if we do not partner the past with the present we will have no gift to give those of the future.

My thanks to all the partners for making this happen.



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

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