



Arkansas Battlefield Update

Summer, 2009 Volume 17, Number 2

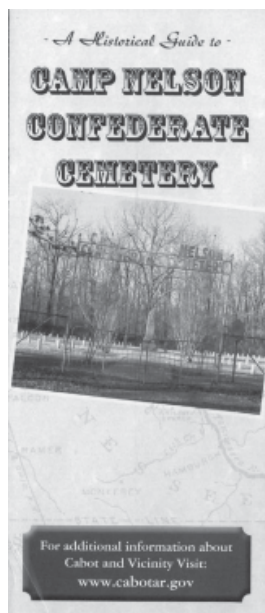
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Camp Nelson Cemetery brochure features other area Civil War sites

By Rick Meadows
CACWHT Chair

The new brochure about Camp Nelson Confederate Cemetery is now available! On the back cover additional Civil War points of interests are listed. These include: Jacksonville Museum of Military History and Reed's Bridge Battlefield, Lonoke County Museum and Battle of Brownsville, MacArthur Museum of Arkansas Military History, Old State House

Museum, Jacksonport State Park, Grant County Museum and Battle of Jenkins' Ferry, and Mount Holly Cemetery. Copies of the Camp Nelson brochure are available at these locations as well as Curran Hall in Little Rock and area Chamber of Commerce offices. It is our goal that tourists will visit multiple Civil War sites in an area,
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Prairie Grove will revamp visitor center

By Alan Thompson
NWACWHT Chair

Pea Ridge recently held its third annual Festival of Ozark Civil War Heritage Reunion and it again was a big success with about 1,000 visitors.

Heritage Trail Partners is now working to finish marking the troop routes related to the Pea Ridge Campaign and is about to begin marking those related to the Prairie Grove Campaign. The group is also in the preliminary stages of producing an atlas of Civil War troop routes similar in style to the one they just completed on the Butterfield Stagecoach Route.

If you've been in the museum at Prairie Grove Battlefield State Park more than once in the last twenty or so years, you know that things haven't changed much. They're changing now. The park staff has been working with Taylor Studios, an exhibit design and fabricating firm from Rantoul, Illinois, to remodel the visitor center and come up with
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ABPP grant to fund archeological study of 1863 Helena battlefield and batteries

Southern Financial Partners in Helena-West Helena has been awarded a \$54,707 grant from the American Battlefield Protection Program for archeological study of the Helena battlefield. Archeological investigation of the Helena battlefield will provide baseline data for the development of preservation strategies to prevent further destruction of extant earthworks, according to the ABPP.

The American Battlefield Protection Program recently announced the awarding of 33 grants

totaling \$1,360,000 to assist in the preservation and protection of America's historic battlefield lands. This year's grants provide funding at endangered battlefields from the King Philip's War (1675-1676), Revolutionary War, War of 1812, Second Seminole War, Mexican-American War, Civil War, World War II and various Indian Wars. The funds will support a variety of projects at battle sites in 23 states or territories.

Funded projects include battlefield surveys, site mapping, National Register of
Continued on P. 3.

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, an agency of the Department of Arkansas Heritage.

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

Tom Beam

tombeam@hotsprings.net

Peggy Lloyd (870) 983-2633

peggy.lloyd@arkansas.gov

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

Southeast Arkansas CWHT

Mark Kalkbrenner (870) 247-2394

captk1ark@hotmail.com

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

Central Arkansas CWHT

Rick Meadows (501) 843-9090

rmeadows@aaamissouri.com

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.

CACWHT active in Cabot, Lonoke, Pulaski County

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stay in a motel, and eat a few meals while visiting our historic sites. These sites are networked together.

Civil War Days were held again for all 5th graders at the Cabot Middle School North on May 15. Students dressed in period clothes and attended demonstrations that included soap making, medical procedures, camp life and drill, and suffering of women and children. Shelly Pelts, Social Studies teacher, organized this event. Several re-enactors and living historians from the Old State House Museum participated.

On Sunday, May 3, I was graciously invited to be the guest speaker at the regular meeting of the Lonoke County Museum. Updates were given to the membership and guests about progress on the Heritage Trail signs, that will feature the Trail of Tears, the Butterfield Stage Coach Route, and the Military Road that runs from Brownsville through Furlow into Jacksonville, and on to North Little Rock. Part of my presentation centered on the wonderful progress being made at Reed's Bridge Battlefield in Jacksonville. Copies of the new Camp Nelson brochure were also distributed.

Three Civil War Roundtable groups are active in the area:

Civil War Roundtable of Arkansas meets the fourth Tuesday of each month in Little Rock

North Pulaski Civil War Roundtable meets the second Tuesday of each month in North Little Rock

White County Civil War Roundtable meets in the spring and fall in Searcy.

2009 History under Siege, A Guide to America's Most Endangered Civil War Battlefields, published by The Civil War Preservation Trust, has Bayou Fourche, Arkansas as an "At Risk Site." This battle, which was fought on September 10, 1863, led to the fall of Little Rock. The guide states that "the growth of Little Rock has obscured many of the sites associated with the battle and subsequent evacuation of the city. Today, several markers and monuments are located inside Pratt Remmel Park, near Interstate 440, but further expansion of Little Rock National Airport threatens to consume additional battlefield land." The Civil War Roundtable of Arkansas and the City of Little Rock maintain some of the property. Additional emphasis needs to be placed on the preservation of additional battlefield lands at this historic site.

Civil War Arkansas on the Internet!

Log onto these sites to learn more:

www.arkansascivilwar150.com

www.arkansaspreservation.org

www.civilwarbuff.org

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

SWACWHT meeting focuses on sites associated with 1864 Camden Expedition

By Peggy Lloyd
and Tom Beam
SWACWHT Chairs

The Southwest Arkansas Civil War Heritage Trails group met May 31 at the Tulip Community Center on Highway 9 in Dallas County. After visiting the Tulip Cemetery, the group planned to drive to Jenkins' Ferry on the Old Military Road. Heavy rains that had fallen in the region made this difficult, but the group always enjoys the Tulip area.

Tom Beam, co-chair of SWACWHT, reports that he is researching the old houses that were standing in the vicinity of Jenkins' Ferry in 1864 and is interested in locating mass graves believed to be in the area.

Bobby Downs of Arkadelphia reports that Clark County officials have ceased grading the road that leads down to Elkins' Ferry on the Clark County side, though local farmers appear to have done some maintenance in order to reach their fields. Mr. Downs is very familiar with the area and has been responsible for many of the historic markers in Clark County. The SWACWHT group hopes to drive down to Elkins' Ferry from Clark County when the weather moderates.

The Civil War Preservation Trust is interested in purchasing portions of the Elkins' Ferry site from a timber concern in Nevada County and has been researching the area. Joe and Maria Brent, historical consultants from Versailles, KY, are also currently working a grant from the American Battlefield Protection Program on Elkins' Ferry, Prairie D' Ane and the Moscow Rearguard Action in Nevada County.

Peggy Lloyd, co-chair of SWACWHT, reports that SARA Foundation, the support group for the Southwest Arkansas Regional Archives, has funded a Summer Internship in conjunction with Historic Washington State Park. Ashley Hobson of Texarkana, a history/government major at Mid-America Nazarene University in Olathe, KS, is transcribing records on the Freedman's Bureau in Washington, Arkansas.

E. W. Gantt, an ardent secessionist and then Unionist who changed sides at Vicksburg, served as the superintendent of the bureau in Washington in the early months after the Civil War. His correspondence and reports figure prominently in these records. He

lived at Washington from 1854 to 1863 and was buried at Tulip, his wife's home, when he died in 1874. He helped raise the 12th Arkansas Infantry in Dallas and Clark Counties and served as its colonel early in the war. These records should shed light on conditions in the region immediately after the war.

SWACHT has a new member. William Hardage, the park interpreter at White Oak Lake State Park, joined recently. He has been a Civil War re-enactor for over fifteen years and was the company commander of the 9th Arkansas Infantry re-enactors for over four years. The staff at White Oak also cares for the Poison Spring State Park, one of the most important of the Camden Expedition sites.

ABPP funds diverse projects from many wars

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Historic Places nominations, preservation and management plans, cultural landscape inventories, educational materials, archeological surveys, and interpretation.

The American Battlefield Protection Program funds projects conducted by federal, state, local, and tribal governments, nonprofit organizations, and educational

institutions. The ABPP's mission is to safeguard and preserve significant American battlefield lands for present and future generations as symbols of individual sacrifice and national heritage. Since 1990, the ABPP and its partners have helped to protect and enhance more than 100 battlefields by co-sponsoring 412 projects in 41 states and territories.

Battlefield Preservation News?

If your group is working to preserve a Civil War-era battlefield or site, is planning a major reenactment, or has other news of interest to the battlefield preservation community, send the information to *Arkansas Battlefield Update*. The newsletter is published quarterly. Send submissions to: *Arkansas Battlefield Update*, Arkansas Historic Preservation Program, 1500 Tower Building, 323 Center Street, Little Rock, AR 72201 or to mark@arkansasheritage.org.

NEACWHT will participate in celebration in Jonesboro, discusses activities in Colt

By Danny Honnoll
NEACWHT Chair

The Northeast Arkansas Civil War Heritage Trails Committee has been working very hard of late. W. Danny Honnoll will be one of the keynote speakers at the Jonesboro Library during some of the sesquicentennial events for the Jonesboro/Craighead County celebration. His talk will be on Rebels and Razorbacks on June 28 and then on August 2, he will give a presentation on the Battle of Jonesboro. Honnoll has a power-point presentation with numerous visual effects that helped tell the stories of the time we call "The War Between the States." On July 16 Honnoll and members of the Northeast Arkansas Civil War Heritage Trails will be at the annual Genealogy Night Lock-In. Danny will give a program on "Tracing your Military Ancestors." These three events are open to the public.

The Northeast Arkansas Civil War Heritage Trails Committee held its Spring/Summer meeting on June 15 at the Fishboat Restaurant in Jonesboro. We had 22 in attendance for the meeting. President W. Danny Honnoll gave an updated report to the gathering.

Walter and Ann Meals from Colt, Arkansas, gave the group an update on the Stone House and the Battle of Taylor's Creek sites. Walter invited us all down for their festival that they have every year. This year's festival will be held on September 11 and 12.

Colt was the site of many historically significant events: the first telegraph lines running from Memphis to Little Rock, first stagecoach running in Arkansas, one of the Trail of Tears routes, the Battle of Taylor's Creek, and part of the Old Military Road from

Memphis to Little Rock. Honnoll added that there should be some money from the sesquicentennial celebration by the state to help with historical markers for Taylor's Creek (St. Francis Co.) and L'Angueville Ferry (Lee County). Ann Meals said they would like to have a reenactment at Taylor's Creek sometime soon but a living history display would be welcomed by the Stone House and the Festival.

On May 15, Bobbie Barnett, Dale Barnett and Jimmy Stevens took part in Pioneer Days at Maynard. Bobbie reported that the public was very interested in the displays and what were presented. The children always enjoy Bobbie showing them the toys and games that our ancestors played when they were young.

Our friends James and Sue Mayo from Bloomfield, Missouri were present at this meeting. James told our gathering about the Henry Miller house getting \$200,000 in grant money for markers and restoration for Bloomfield. He told the group about the first *Stars and Stripes Magazine* being printed at Bloomfield during the Civil War. He told the group they are welcome to come to Bloomfield and see the Stars and Stripes Museum. Ray said, "They have a quality museum and everyone should go see it when they can."

Currently, the heritage park in Jonesboro is flying the 50-star Star Spangled Banner, Arkansas State flag, Bonnie Blue Flag and an Army of Northern Virginia Confederate Battle Flag. The flags were replaced on April 11, which was Arkansas Confederate Flag Day. The Transplant Garden Club working with Bennett's Nursery has a drawing of how the plants and shrubs are to be planted. Anyone wanting to help with the new "Southern Confederate Heritage Park" in Jonesboro send their donations to: NEASHF; P.O. Box 16876 Jonesboro, Arkansas 72401. The NEASHF has a 501 c (3) tax exempt status - Tax ID NO. 20-1185592 for tax purposes. The NEASHF, SCV, UDC and the NEACWHTC are planning a day at the park later this summer to help raise awareness of the new park in Jonesboro.

You can e-mail Honnoll at danny@honnoll.com, call him at 870-926-2985 or mail him at 216 Hillpoint Cove, Jonesboro, Arkansas 72401-5992 if you have any information on Civil War-related happenings that you would like the NEACWHTC to help with.

The next meeting of the NEACWHTC will be on December 15 at 6:00 p.m. at the Fishboat Restaurant in Jonesboro. See you there!

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.

New exhibits will enhance Prairie Grove

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a new exhibit design plan.

Taylor has an impressive client list including the National Civil War Museum in Pennsylvania, the National World War I Museum in Kansas City, the D-Day Museum (National World War II Museum) in New Orleans, and dozens of zoos, state parks and national parks throughout the country.

The park staff and Taylor Studios have been working together since October 2008, putting together the story that we want to tell and coming up with an exhibit plan that fulfills that message. The exhibit design and the themes are complete and everybody is working now to get the text ironed out and selecting graphics and images to supplement the exhibits.

Visitors entering the exhibit hall will learn about the division within

Arkansas, its road to secession and the events leading up to the struggle at Prairie Grove. As visitors move through, they will see exhibits explaining the battle and will include weapons and other artifacts. The tour will end as visitors pass through "Prairie Grove Church," the structure that gave the battle, and later the town, its name. Inside, visitors will learn about the aftermath of the battle including medical care (the church was a hospital after the battle) and the effect the battle had on the participants and those living nearby.

While many of the exhibits will be fresh and new, a few concepts from popular existing exhibits will remain, albeit with a fresh approach. An example is the current artillery display with samples of artillery rounds and labels explaining the difference between rifled and smoothbore cannons. Artillery

aficionados for years have said that this is the best Civil War artillery shell display they've seen. The new display will still explain the difference and show the projectiles but will add mock cannon barrels so that visitors can reach in and feel the difference. An interactive video monitor will allow patrons to select a particular type of cannon and see how far and accurately the selected piece can fire. A video will show a cannon crew demonstrating how Civil War artillerymen loaded and fired their cannons. The senses of smell and hearing will be teased when visitors trigger sensors that will emit the smell of gunpowder while surrounding them with sounds of combat.

The design phase will be finished this summer and if all goes well, the remodeling and installation of the new displays will begin in the fall of 2010.

SEACWHT helps commemorate cemetery, participates in Marks' Mills re-enactment

*By Mark Kalkbrenner
SEACWHT Chair*

The Southeast Arkansas Civil War Heritage Trail had a couple of events in the past few months. In early April, there was a dedication service for the work done at the Wright and Jane Oliver Cemetery on the campus of the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff. This was a very unique opportunity, as this is perhaps the first Confederate memorial service held on the grounds of a historically black college.

The Jane Oliver Cemetery was originally a slave cemetery on the grounds of the Wright Plantation, and it is believed that there were black Union soldiers buried there. When the university was building its new football stadium a few years ago, the cemetery

was uncovered and the remains moved to the Wright Family Cemetery, which now sits in the corner of the stadium's parking lot. The Wright Cemetery contained the remains of several Confederate soldiers who were garrisoned on the property at Camp Wright and also nearby Fort Pleasant.

Members of the SEACWHT, along with the Arkansas Division of the Sons of Confederate Veterans, 1st Arkansas Infantry re-enactors, and the Jefferson Guard Historical Preservation Group from St. Joseph High School in Pine Bluff, performed a dedication and memorial service for all those interred in the "new" cemetery. Members of the Wright Family were in attendance, and the service was filmed and aired by the UAPB television station.

In late April, the SEACWHT was co-host of the 145th Anniversary

Re-enactment of the Battle of Marks' Mills at New Edinburg. We had a decent number of troops and good spectator turnout. We have already been contacted by the Fordyce on the Cotton Belt Festival Committee about doing it again next year.

Word was received late June that the property in Lake Village that has been a bed and breakfast is now sitting abandoned. There are troops from the Battle of Ditch Bayou buried in the yard and stones had been ordered for them. Last year we were asked to do a dedication/memorial service when they were erected, but now those plans are on hold.

Our next scheduled meeting will be on Saturday, October 10, at noon during the annual Camp White Sulphur Springs Civil War Weekend.

Arkansas Sesquicentennial Commission adds newsletter, regimental information to website

The Arkansas Civil War Sesquicentennial Commission has added to its website a comprehensive list of Union and Confederate regiments that saw service in Arkansas and has initiated an e-newsletter, ACWSC Chairman Tom Dupree announced recently.

The regimental list will be useful for researchers, genealogists and others who are interested in knowing where their ancestors served during the Civil War and can be found at <http://www.arkansascivilwar150.com/civil-war-sites/regiments/>. The



list of Union units, culled from Frederick Dyer's *Compendium of the War of the Rebellion*, is probably comprehensive. Since no such resource exists for

Confederate units, the list is gathered from a variety of resources. It will be updated as additional information is gathered.

The free e-newsletter will be used to keep subscribers up to date on commission activities and events around the state during the sesquicentennial, which will be observed from 2011 to 2015.

For more information on sesquicentennial plans, visit www.arkansascivilwar150.com or e-mail acwsc@arkansasheritage.org.



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

info@arkansaspreservation.org
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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