



Arkansas Battlefield Update

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Effort underway to buy 448 acres at Elkins' Ferry site

The Nevada County Depot and Museum, in cooperation with the Prescott-Nevada County Economic Development Foundation, The Conservation Fund, The Civil War Trust and the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program, is working to acquire 448 acres of the Elkins' Ferry Battlefield near Prescott, the museum board said in a statement.

"A once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to acquire almost the entire Nevada County portion of the Elkins' Ferry Battlefield has arisen, and we are working with local, state and national partners to see it through," the statement said. "Once acquired, this battlefield, which is a National Historic Landmark, can be developed to attract

heritage tourists and has the potential to make a major economic impact on our community."

The Nevada County Depot and Museum has established a website at www.elkinsferry.weebly.com that will monitor progress and accept donations on the acquisition. Pledges of \$625,000 have already been made toward the project, leaving another \$325,000 needed to complete the acquisition.

The battle at Elkins' Ferry was fought on April 4 and 5, 1864, when Confederate cavalry under General John Sappington Marmaduke fought the leading elements of General Frederick Steele's Union army as they sought to cross the Little Missouri River on their way to invade Louisiana. After sharp combat, the Confederates fell back to Prairie

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Reed's Bridge acquires C.S. cannon area

By Tom Dupree
RBBPS President

Reed's Bridge Battlefield Preservation Society had back to back home runs this past three months. Thanks to Representative Mark Perry and State Senator Jane English, Reed's Bridge was able to close on a purchase of land where the Confederate cannons were located during the August 27, 1863, battle of Reed's Bridge.

One-half of the property was transferred free and clear with the other half to be transferred in 2015 when the final payment of funds is

made. Funds have been pledged to make the remaining payment.

A second big happening was the discovery, by Mrs. Carolyn Kent, that on September 22, 1861, Company A, to be known as the "Bayou Metre Hornets," was organized. Company A, along with four other companies, was activated in Little Rock on November 10, 1861, as the 4th Arkansas Infantry Battalion. The 4th Arkansas Battalion operated together until after the Battle of Murfreesboro, Tennessee, on December 31, 1862, when the battalion, severely understrength because of battle losses, was consolidated into the 4th Arkansas

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ACWSC still seeks markers in 22 counties

The Arkansas Civil War Sesquicentennial Commission is still seeking to work with communities around Arkansas to tell their Civil War stories through the sesquicentennial historical marker program.

To date, applications have been approved for 89 markers in 52 Arkansas counties; the ACWSC hopes to have at least one marker in each of the state's 75 counties before the commemoration ends at the end of December 2015.

Counties that currently do not have approved Arkansas Civil War Sesquicentennial Historical Markers applications are Ashley, Bradley, Calhoun, Conway, Craighead, Crawford, Drew, Franklin, Fulton, Hempstead, Hot Spring, Howard, Johnson, Lafayette, Lawrence, Montgomery, Newton, Polk, Pope, Randolph, Sevier and Sharp.

The ACWSC has received several successful applications for sesquicentennial historical markers over the past few months. They are:

No. 80: Mount Olive in the Civil War, Mount Olive, Izard County

No. 81: The Orphan Company, Tyro, Lincoln County

No. 82: Cadron in the Civil War, Conway vic., Faulkner County

No. 83: Van Winkle's Mill, Rogers, Benton County

No. 84: Lick Creek Skirmish, Helena-West Helena, Phillips County

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For Information

General Information

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

Northwest Arkansas CWHT

Alan Thompson (479) 846-2990

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

West Central Arkansas CWHT

Larry Puckett (479) 769-4738

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

Southwest Arkansas CWHT

Peggy Lloyd (870) 983-2633

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

Southeast Arkansas CWHT

Doyle Taylor (870) 395-1356

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

Central Arkansas CWHT

Mark Christ (501) 324-9886

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The Central Arkansas Civil War Heritage Trail serves Conway, Perry, Saline, Faulkner, Pulaski, White and Lonoke counties.

Northeast Arkansas CWHT

Danny Honnoll (870) 935-9830

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The Northeast Arkansas Civil War Trail serves Baxter, Fulton, Izard, Stone, Cleburne, Independence, Sharp, Randolph, Clay, Lawrence, Greene, Jackson, Craighead, Poinsett, Mississippi, Woodruff, Cross, Crittenden, Prairie, Monroe, Lee and St. Francis counties.

ACWSC approves markers, awards 6 CW 150 grants

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No. 85: Bayou Meto Hornets, Jacksonville, Pulaski County

No. 86: Wild Haws in the Civil War, LaCrosse, Izard County

No. 87: Saline County in the Civil War, Benton, Saline County.

Information on and applications for Civil War Sesquicentennial Historical Markers are available at <http://www.arkansascivilwar150.com/historical-markers/markers.aspx>.

The Arkansas Civil War Sesquicentennial Commission awarded \$11,458 in grants for projects to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the American Civil War.

Recipients of Arkansas Civil War Sesquicentennial Grants were:

* Pioneer Washington Restoration Foundation, Washington, \$1,908 for the eighth annual Red River Heritage Symposium: "War at the Doorstep"

* Boone County Historical and Railway Society, Harrison, \$1,550 for a Civil War exhibit at the Boone County Heritage Museum

* Second Chance @ Life, El Dorado, \$2,000 for the fourth annual Juneteenth Festival

Reed's Bridge to celebrate the 'Bayou Metre Hornets'

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Infantry Regiment. In accordance with Confederate Adjutant and Inspector General's Office Order Number 131, four soldiers of the battalion were recognized for courage and good conduct on the field for the Battle of Murfreesboro as is shown below:

General Orders, No. 131,
Adjutant-General's Office, Richmond, VA
Roll of Honor, Murfreesboro,
December 31, 1862

Fourth Arkansas Battalion
Private James Vines, Co. A
(killed). Corporal L. Heffie, Co. B (killed).
Private George W. Ayler, Co. C. Private
C. G. Warren, Co. E.

* Reed's Bridge Battlefield Preservation Society, Inc., Jacksonville, \$2,000 for its annual event to be held October 18

* New Little Rock Free Press, \$2,000 for a series of articles on the Civil War in Arkansas in 1864 and 1865

* Dallas County Museum, Fordyce, \$2,000 for the 151st anniversary re-enactment of the battle of Mark's Mills.

Civil War Sesquicentennial Grants of up to \$2,000 are awarded four times per year, as funding is available. The next deadline is Friday, November 14. Applications can be found at <http://www.arkansascivilwar150.com/historical-markers/grants.aspx>.

The ACWSC continues to sanction events around Arkansas that commemorate the 150th anniversary of the Civil War in Arkansas. To date, the commission has sanctioned 570 events that have been attended by at least 201,291 people. To register your event as an official Civil War 150 event, just fill out the logo-use request form at <http://www.arkansascivilwar150.com/events/>.

Reed's Bridge will have an old-fashioned political rally and re-enactment of the forming of Company A "Bayou Metre Hornets" on Saturday, October 18. The event will be held at Reed's Bridge Battlefield located on Highway 161 South in Jacksonville.

www.arkansascivilwar150.com
www.arkansaspreservation.org
www.civilwarbuff.org
<http://history-sites.com/cgi-bin/boards/arcwmb/>

CACWHT chief Meadows passes away

Long-time CACWHT Chair Rick Meadows died this summer, leaving a huge hole in Arkansas's Civil War community. In addition to serving with the CACWHT, Rick founded the Grand Prairie Civil War Round Table in Lonoke and was a key member of the Civil War Roundtable of Arkansas in Little Rock. He will be remembered for his boundless enthusiasm, irrepressible sense of humor, and his dedication to the preservation of Civil War sites in the state. His obituary is reprinted below.

Richmond Pearson Meadows (Rick), 64, of Cabot died at his home after a brief illness on June 16, 2014.

Born in Tupelo, Mississippi, on June 22, 1950, Rick was the son of the late Elizabeth Pearson and William Holmes Meadows. He was a graduate of Central High School in Memphis, Tennessee, and received a B.A. from the University of Tennessee in 1978. Rick married Harriet Norris of Batesville in 1978, and they have resided in Cabot since 1984. In addition to his wife Harriet, he is survived by his daughter Mary Elizabeth Cowart (David), Shreveport, Louisiana, and

brother William H. Meadows (Sally), Washington, D.C.

Rick was the first entrepreneurial insurance agent for AAA in the state of Arkansas, and ran this business for over 20 years. In recent years, in addition to continuing his relationship with AAA, Rick was a part-time local United Methodist minister, serving first at Cabot United Methodist Church. He was later the pastor for Ward United Methodist Church and for Sixteenth Section United Methodist Church.

In addition to being an avid runner and an enthusiastic fan of the Cabot Panthers, the Arkansas Razorbacks and the Atlanta Braves, he coached 3rd through 6th grade girls basketball through the Cabot Parks and Recreation Program for a number of years. Rick was an active member of the Lions Club of Cabot and the Civil War Roundtable.

Rick was a gregarious and caring friend to many people. His caring spirit also extended to the earth and its creatures as exemplified by his committed recycling and his rescue, adoption and faithful oversight of their pets from their Arabian show horses to strays who happened by.



Rick Meadows

Psalms 27:1 "The Lord is the light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?"
(Persons interested in participating in leadership of the CACWHT should contact Mark Christ at (501) 324-9886 or mark@arkansasheritage.org.)

Massard Prairie event set for October 4

*By Larry Puckett and Curtis Varnell
WCACWHT Chairs*

The year 1864 was a very active period for Civil War events in Arkansas, and one of the key events in western Arkansas will be commemorated on October 4.

One of the largest skirmishes in Western Arkansas occurred on July 27, 1864 just east of present day Fort Smith at Massard Prairie.

In 1864, Massard Prairie was a vast grassland and was used by Federal troops as pasture and hay meadows for the cavalry. With forage in short supply within Fort Smith, Brig. Gen. John Thayer sent a herd of horses to graze

on the high-grass prairie. They were guarded by four companies of the 6th Kansas Cavalry. The 6th was a seasoned veteran unit that had been involved in numerous skirmishes throughout the region, including fights at Waldron, Roseville, Dardanelle, and Clarksville. In camp near them were about one-hundred members of the "mountain Feds," a group of irregulars loyal to the Federal government.

Having heard about the Federal encampment, Confederate troops under Brig. Gen. R.M. Gano staged an attack on the group during the early morning hours of July 26. Although the Federals knew that Confederate troops were in the area, they had taken few precautions.

The Confederates swept down from a nearby hillside and charged through the federal outpost. Most of the 6th were camped around a group of trees called the Picnic Grove and the most intense battle occurred near there.

Confederates encircled the camp and, with Gano himself leading the way, charged through and routed the Union forces. The skirmish was a complete victory for the South. They killed, wounded, or captured nearly two full companies of men and seized numerous weapons and horses.

Today, the battlefield is encroached upon by the rapid expansion of Fort Smith. A small central area around the groove has been preserved as

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NEACWHT helps dedicate marker

By *Danny Honnoll*
NEACWHT Chair

In late August, in Colt, Arkansas, a group of historians and re-enactors gathered at an Arkansas Civil War Sesquicentennial Commission Historical Marker dedicated to Taylor's Creek/Mount Vernon, which both happened on May 11, 1963.

The marker dedication at Taylor's Creek/Mount Vernon was on a very, very, very, very, hot day. The marker was placed close to the site where the events took place. On August 23, wearing wool in the heat, most of the re-enactors "saw the elephant."

I want to thank Stuart Towns for his leadership in creating the marker and also Colt Mayor Randy Hefner for allowing us to do this. I also want to thank the First National Bank of Eastern Arkansas for letting us use their cool building for all of us to keep comfortable. Mark Christ did his usual great job in dedicating the marker with a brief talk about the battle that took place in the region.

Danny Honnoll presented the sword drill and the folding of the flag by M. Ray Jones, Joe C. May and Jimmy Stevens. Bobbie Barnett laid fresh flowers at the base of the marker in memory of all that fell in the engagements in St. Francis County.

Ann and Walter Meals have done significant work at the Stone House Museum in Colt over the years and through their efforts along with Stuart Town they were able to take part in the marker placement. It was good seeing friends of the area at the dedication of this very important marker, in St. Francis County.

Upcoming events for the NEACWHT group will be a marker placement in honor of a man who was part of the Immortal 600 during the Civil War: Captain William Ferring. His family has recently commissioned a monument to his memory to be made and installed at Mount Holly Cemetery in Blytheville. Ferring's family members are buried there. We have his biography and

know that he survived the Battle of Shiloh and Charleston Harbor shelling; he returned home after the war. This event will take place on Sunday, October 12 at 1 p.m. in Blytheville; anyone wishing to help take part, please contact me at 870-926-2985

A big event taking place on October 25 at Franklin, Tennessee, will be the placement of an Arkansas monument commemorating the Arkansas troops who left Winstead Hill along with our favorite son, General Patrick R. Cleburne, in the full frontal attack on the Federal forces that cost the Confederates five generals that day. The SCV Arkansas Division sponsored (The NEACWHTC has advised the SCV on getting this project done) this event, and the marker is shaped like the state of Arkansas and the Arkansas flag is etched in the monument. Everett Burr of Harrison was very significant in this monument getting done. Nearly \$10,000 was raised for the monument and other money will be contributed for its upkeep. More details will be published as this event nears.

Other events we have worked on are: April 14, Honnoll and Jones met ASU ROTC cadets at the Craighead County Courthouse and Honnoll gave them a tour of the courthouse grounds and gave the history of the county including the Battle of Jonesboro, which took place on August 2, 1962.

April 19, the Sons of Confederate Veterans of the Arkansas Division held their annual Confederate Heritage/Flag/Memorial on the State Capitol grounds. This year the weather worked with us, and we all had a great time.

April 26, the NEACWHTC helped the SCV with a military marker dedication to Pvt. William Mann, 5th Arkansas Infantry. Nearly 75 family members attended the event. New members of the NEACWHTC, David and Tara Bellomy, helped with the event.

May 3: Dedication of the Camden Expedition Historical Marker at MacArthur Park. The Churchill Chapter UDC sponsored a historical marker commemorating the Camden Expedition.

June 21: We placed a new flag at the Southern Confederate Heritage Park in Jonesboro. Will Silas and his father Ashton Silas helped Honnoll replace the snaps on the flag poles. The old snaps had been used since September 11, 2007.

July 7: Bobbie Barnett presented a program on Patrick Cleburne to the Craighead County Historical Society. Eighty members were in attendance at the event at the 1st Baptist Church in Jonesboro. She did an excellent job.

Our committee has worked on multiple markers for northeast Arkansas. One is the marker for Pvt. William M. Loudermilk, buried at Keller's Chapel, south of Jonesboro. We have approval on the site and the funding in place to pay for it. We have one good one place between the upper and military Road in Jonesboro at the Confederate Park on Southwest drive. So we have the site and the funding for the second marker.

Other markers that we're looking toward include L'Anguille Ferry crossing/battle site, in Lee County. We are looking for a marker site around Felton, Arkansas, north of Marianna. If we can get approval we have some funding in place. We're still researching the facts for a possible marker in Helena for Sen. William King Sebastian, who was a senator from Arkansas from 1848- 1861. We are going to get with the Helena folks to help decide if we place it in town our close to where Senator Sebastian is buried north of Helena.

We have set the date for the re-enactment at Chalk Bluff for next year for May 2-3. Clay County Judge Gary Howell and Honnoll discussed the dates and now we are off and getting ready for the re-enactment. Clay County is going to try to get grant funding for powder and other items for the Chalk Bluff event. This will be the 150th Anniversary of when Confederate General M. Jeff Thompson surrendered to Gen. Grenville Dodge's Union forces at Chalk Bluff.

The next meeting of the NEACWHTC will be at 6 p.m. December 9 at the Fishboat Restaurant in Jonesboro.

Red River Symposium at Washington focuses on "Conflict at the Doorstep"

By Peggy Lloyd
SWACWHT Chair

A major summer event in Southwest Arkansas is the annual Red River Heritage Symposium at Historic Washington State Park. It took place this year on July 26, with the Civil War Sesquicentennial theme of Conflict at the Doorstep.

The Symposium this year included a Teacher Workshop, speakers on Civil War themes and a bus tour to the Prairie D'Ane battle site and Moscow Church and Cemetery in nearby Nevada County not far from Prescott. The Symposium is arranged each year by Josh Williams, curator of Historic Washington State Park.

John C. Waugh, a resident of the Dallas-Fort Worth area and former journalist for the *Christian Science-Monitor*, led off the afternoon talks with "Samuel B. Maxey and the Confederate Indians." Since retiring from journalism in 1989, he has written eleven books on Civil War themes and been awarded the Grady McWhiney Award of Merit as well as other awards for his contribution to documenting Civil War history.

Vicki Betts of Tyler, Texas, a librarian at the University of Texas at Tyler since 1977, spoke on "POW Camp Ford, Tyler, Texas." She has written a book *Smith County, Texas, in the Civil War*, contributed a chapter on assisting the families of Confederate soldiers during the Civil War for *Seventh Star of the Confederacy*, and written numerous articles for journals. The 2014 Symposium was her second time to speak at Washington.

Dr. Bill Gurley, professor of pharmaceutical sciences at the College of Pharmacy at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences in Little Rock, spoke on "Medical Journal of Dr. Henry M. Dye, Texas Surgeon in the Civil War." Gurley has published widely in his professional field but has also taken an interest in medicine during the Civil War.

He has published a book on the Civil War diary of Dr. William McPheeters of the Trans-Mississippi and is currently preparing to publish Dr. Dye's journal. It was also his second time to speak at Washington.

Peggy Lloyd of the Southwest Arkansas Regional Archives spoke on "The Civil War Home Front: The Lives of Women in Southwest Arkansas in 1864 and 1865." She focused on Malinda Cornelius, who found the Union Army in her front yard after the Battle of Elkins' Ferry, Martha Holcomb, who had to flee fighting at Moscow, Mary Carrigan, who recorded the news in her diary during the Camden Expedition, and the women food rioters at Dooley's Ferry who demanded access to the Confederate warehouses in the waning days of the war.

After the talks, the bus tour left Washington following as much as possible the roads at the time of the Civil War to Prairie D'Ane and Moscow. Peggy Lloyd commented on the road network at the time of the Civil War and Mark Christ spoke on the fighting at Prairie D'Ane and Moscow.

The Symposium concluded with dinner and Keenan Williams of Hope speaking on "The Diary of B. P. Haynes: Price's Raid into Missouri." Haynes participated in the raid and later lived in Hope, where he managed a sawmill and served as a justice of the peace. Williams, a Hope businessman and Methodist minister, often volunteers at Washington, serves as pastor of the Washington Methodist Church and is the commander of the 3rd Arkansas Infantry re-enactor unit.

On a sad note, Max Phillips of Prescott died suddenly while visiting in Vicksburg on June 7, 2014. A retired football coach and art teacher, Max was a native of Malvern and had lived and worked in Hot Springs, Camden and Prescott. He served as president of the Board of Directors of the Nevada County Depot and Museum. Despite his own health problems, Max spent the last year of his life along with other board members arranging the 2014 re-enactment of the Battle of Prairie D'Ane. The Civil Marker to be placed at Moscow by the Depot Museum will be dedicated to his memory. He leaves his wife Louise and two sons.

National Park Service has praise for Elkins' Ferry site

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D'Ane. After skirmishing there for several days, Steele's army ended up abandoning their drive south and instead diverted to Camden in search of supplies.

The National Park Service describes the Elkins' Ferry Battlefield: "Elkins Ferry is among the most pristine Civil War battlefields in Arkansas. This rural area has only seen slight changes since the Civil War. Like other battlefields associated with the Camden Expedition of 1864, it offers a tremendous opportunity for preservation and interpretation of the entire historical

landscape." It was designated a National Historic Landmark on April 19, 1994.

Tax-deductible donations can be mailed to the Nevada County Depot and Museum, 403 West First Street South, Prescott, AR 71857; be sure to specify that they are targeted toward the Elkin's Ferry Battlefield Preservation Project.

Visit
ArkansasCivilWar150.com
to learn about
the sesquicentennial!

SEACWHT members have busy spring

By Doyle Taylor
SEACWHT chair

The members of the SEACWHT have been busy during the months of April, May and June with several events, beginning with the 150th anniversary re-enactment events of the Battle of Jenkins Ferry, held at Sheridan on April 26.

Several of our members who are also members of the 2nd Arkansas Infantry CSA re-enacting group and Blocker's Battery of Light Arkansas Artillery began setting up their camp on Thursday, April 24, and endured a heavy thunderstorm with strong winds and heavy rain on the evening of the 25th.

The weather was clear the next day for the main events. A large crowd attended and toured the camp and talked to several of the group about history. The planned events of the final day were cancelled by event organizers due to the threat of heavy weather, which resulted in the tornado that struck Mayflower and Vilonia.

On May 3 several members of the SEACWHT participated in the observance of the 175th birthday celebration of the City of Pine Bluff. Again, members of the 2nd Arkansas Infantry portrayed both Union and Confederate soldiers. Along with Blocker's Battery commanded by Bill Turney, they took part as the only historical group in the parade down Main Street. Arkansas County Captain Dyan Bohnert and Crystal Batson portrayed the women of the South and gave lectures on medicine and Pine Bluff during the war. Andy Taylor presented a photograph display of scenes of the war by re-enactors during different events.

Artillery and musket demonstrations were given in the Regional Park at Pine Bluff during the afternoon, which was attended by several local officials and candidates for public office. Author Bill Farmer of Bearden was present to sign his recent book "From Illinois to Arkansas."

Arkansas Division Commander Robert Edwards from Benton was present representing the Sons of Confederate Veterans in Arkansas in company with the Patrick R. Cleburne Camp Sons of Confederate Veterans of Pine Bluff and the 9th Arkansas Infantry Camp of Sons of Confederate Veterans of Star City. Doyle Taylor had a display of operational telegraph equipment. He discussed the Pine Bluff Telegraph Company in 1860 and their operations from Little Rock to Pine Bluff, Princeton, Camden and Arkadelphia.

On Sunday, May 25, members of the SEACWHT attended Memorial Day services at Bellwood Cemetery in conjunction with the Veterans of Foreign Wars. Heritage members as Civil War re-enactors and Dyan Bohnert's "Ladies in Black" memorial group performed as honor guard for these ceremonies and presented the rifle and artillery salutes to all the fallen heroes of this nation.

On Monday the 26th, Memorial Day, members performed the same service at the Memorial Day observances for the City of White Hall. These services were well attended and our presence was greatly appreciated with invitations again being extended for the 2015 services.

On Sunday, June 1, Rufus Buie of Rison and Doyle Taylor of Pine Bluff were co-keynote speakers at the 135th John Mark's Family Reunion held at the Mark's Cemetery at New Edinburg in Cleveland County. Buie, a noted Cleveland County historian, spoke first on his three great grandfathers who fought at the April 25, 1864, Battle of Marks' Mills.

Taylor then spoke on the military importance of the Marks' Mills battle. In his opinion, of the four major engagements fought during the Camden Expedition — Prairie D' Ane, Poison Spring, Marks' Mills and Jenkins' Ferry — the engagement at Marks' Mills was probably the most significant for the fate of the Union army in Arkansas. Taylor explained that the battle was fought to control the road crossing over a small stream that supplied the mills on the Marks Plantation, and was needed for wagons and artillery to cross the stream. This crossing represented a bottleneck for the wagon train and had to be cleared before the wagons could reach safety at the Saline River Crossing at Mt. Elba.

Taylor explained that General Steele and the Union army were waiting in Camden for this train to reach Pine Bluff and return with supplies. The loss of the train caused Steele to abandon his plans and commence his retreat to Little Rock only hours before the arrival of Confederate infantry reinforcement from Louisiana. Had the Confederates allowed the train to proceed, most likely this Confederate infantry would have invested Steele in Camden still waiting for the train to return. While Marks' Mills was a Confederate Victory, it allowed the Union army in Camden to escape across the Saline River at Jenkins' Ferry five days later and safety in Little Rock.

In other news, Cleveland County Captain Edgar Colvin announced that a new Sesquicentennial marker has been approved

by the Arkansas Civil War Sesquicentennial Commission for the Marks' Mills site. A dedication service is planned for some date yet to be determined.

Plans are being made at this time for a 151st anniversary re-enactment of the Battle of Marks' Mills May 15-17, 2015, in Fordyce. Persons interested may contact the Dallas County Museum at 870-352-5262, Richard Ledbetter at 870-313-2717, or Bill Farmer at 870-687-1864.

The 9th Arkansas Infantry, Sons of Confederate Veterans Camp 652, in Star City has raised the money for a sesquicentennial historical marker to be placed at Tyro. The marker will tell about Company H, the "Orphan Company" of the 3rd Arkansas Infantry. There were 56 men who mustered into the company from Tyro. The camp will have a marker dedication at a later date once the marker is received and placed.

On August 3 a memorial service for the Confederate veterans buried at Tyro and Green Mount cemeteries was held on conjunction with the Tyro Cemetery Homecoming. The memorial service was presented by the 9th Arkansas Infantry Camp and the Patrick R Cleburne Camps of Sons of Confederate Veterans. This event was supported by the 2nd Arkansas Infantry, Blocker's Battery of Light Artillery, and Dyan Bohnert and "The Ladies in Black." Greetings and welcome were given by Bill Turner, 9th Arkansas Camp Commander and Southern Brigade Commander, Arkansas Division SCV, and special guest Thomas Taylor, commander of the Louisiana Division of the Sons of Confederate Veterans.

The keynote speaker was Doyle Taylor who spoke on "The Heroes of Tyro," Company "H," 3rd Arkansas Infantry CSA, and the role played by the 3rd Arkansas in the Army of Northern Virginia. The ceremony was followed by musket and artillery salutes. A potluck dinner was served afterwards by the Tyro Cemetery Homecoming association members.

This camp has finished cleaning the Ebenezer Cemetery of Star City, which has three Confederate veterans buried there. The camp has also placed four southern crosses on graves in Lincoln County. The camp continues to research Confederate veterans buried in Lincoln County. For more information, contact Lincoln County Captain Steve Frizzell at 870-370-8989.

On October 11 and 12 the General Patrick R. Cleburne Camp #1433 of the Sons of Confederate Veterans will conduct a living
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NWACWHT all about the Civil War markers

By Alan Thompson
NWACWHT Chair

It's all about markers in Northwest Arkansas. On August 25, Heritage Trail Partners and the City of Gentry held a ceremony celebrating the installation of a series of signs marking the Civil War guerrilla warfare routes in western Benton County.

Rick Parker gave a brief overview of the war in western Benton County emphasizing the disruption and hardships due to guerilla warfare throughout the war years. About 80 people attended, including students from the adjacent Ozark Adventist School. Heritage Trail Partners is a support network for the Heritage Trail, a network of bicycle, auto, and pedestrian routes that follow the footprint of the Trail of Tears (1838-1839), Butterfield Overland Mail route (1858-1861), and Civil War troop movements (1861-1865) in Northwest Arkansas.

On October 12 at 2:00 p.m. a Civil War Sesquicentennial marker will be unveiled at Mount Comfort. Mount Comfort was used by both sides as a hospital and camp, and was the scene for the burial of Fayetteville's first four war deaths. The four men, Captain S.R. Bell, Sergeant William Brown, and Privates Samuel McCurdy and Henry Fullbright were all laid to rest at Mount

Comfort following their deaths at the Battle of Wilson's Creek and the related campaign. The marker is the result of the efforts of Benjamin Henbest, who grew up in the area and worked on it around overseas deployments. Congratulations and thank you to Mr. Henbest. All are invited to attend and the dedication will take place at 3816 W. Mount Comfort Road in Fayetteville.

Mark Christ and I have begun working on the text and gathering images for the last four panels of the Cane Hill Driving Tour. These markers will pick up the fighting as it passed through Newburg (modern Clyde), continued on to the "battle on the mound" where the "Sun of Austerlitz" shone down on Joseph Shelby, over the top of Reed's Mountain and into the Cove Creek Valley where the battle finally ended. There are currently two markers at the Cane Hill Cemetery where the fighting started and two on the Cane Hill College grounds. The Washington County Historical Society recently held their annual "Heritage School" with about 30 students in attendance. Heritage School is a week-long program during the summer where students are immersed in the Civil War history of Northwest Arkansas and Fayetteville. I gave a program on the Battle of Prairie Grove and other presenters covered Pea Ridge and

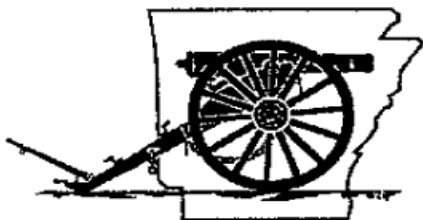
other topics. They also spent a day each learning about life in the artillery, infantry, cavalry and civilians. At the end they were divided into groups and using what they had learned, were thrown into a mock battle where they had to make decisions and see what kind of impact their choices had. Prairie Grove Battlefield State Park will commemorate the 152nd anniversary of the battle with a reenactment on December 6-7, 2014. Approximately 22,000 men of the Federal Army of the Frontier and Confederate Army of the Trans-Mississippi fought a one-day battle on December 7, 1862, that resulted in 2,700 casualties. The battle was a tactical draw with neither side gaining a clear advantage, but the withdrawal of Confederate forces during the night allowed the Federal troops to claim a strategic victory. The battle will take place at 1 p.m. each day. There will be other activities throughout the weekend including tours of the camps, various military drills and demonstrations of fireplace cooking, spinning and lace making. Admission is free but there is a \$5 parking fee per vehicle. For more information contact Prairie Grove Battlefield State Park at 479-846-2990 or visit <http://arkansasstateparks.com/prairiegrovebattlefield>.

SEACWHT

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history weekend at the Camp White Sulphur Springs Confederate Cemetery located on Luckwood Road and Arkansas Highway 54 in the Sulphur Springs community seven miles from Watson Chapel School south of Pine Bluff.

Dyan Bohnert wishes to remind all interested person of the annual "Ghosts of the Past" activities will be held at the Arkansas Post National Memorial at Gillett, Arkansas. This event will be on Saturday October 18 from 6:00 pm to 9:00 p.m. For more information you may contact the Arkansas Post National Monument Superintendent's Office at 1-870-548-2207, or Dyan Bohnert and the Friends of Arkansas Post at 1-870-382-2017.



Fort Smith event planned for '15

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a park and markers have been placed. A reenactment of the battle is planned on-site for October 4, 2014.

Other recent events in Western Arkansas include the dedication of the Sesquicentennial Monument at Waldron in June and the completion of the plaza and commemorative stone marking the Haguewood Prairie skirmish at Paris.

Coming up, you can visit Fort Smith National Historic Site on April 4, 2015, and meet soldiers and civilians encamped inside the fort walls, waiting to hear the news of the surrender of the Confederate armies. Mingle among the camps of Union troops, who continue to drill for more possible fighting. Meet

civilians longing to return to their homes while seeking food and shelter inside the city's defenses. Meet people who were freed from the bondage of slavery and now fight for their freedom as soldiers. Living history impressions, interpretive programs, and historic weapons demonstrations will be ongoing throughout the day (9 a.m.-5 p.m.) with encampments of cavalry, artillery, infantry and civilians. Historical vignettes will begin at 6:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. and will include two night-time cannon firings. All programs are free to the public. For more information contact Cody Fabr at the Fort Smith National Historic Site at 479-226-3727 or cody_fabr@nps.gov.

Civil War Arkansas on the Internet!

www.arkansascivilwar150.com

www.arkansaspreservation.org

www.civilwarbuff.org

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

Civil War heritage tourism big in Helena

By Ron Kelley
SEACWHT Member

Although Helena has seen tremendous improvements over the past two years in its Civil War Helena initiative, the work is far from finished. With the addition of Fort Curtis and Freedom Park, the newest site open to the public is Battery C and several more developments are still on the drafting board. The Helena Advertising and Promotions Commission has ramped up its Civil War Helena promotions and way-finding signs now guide visitors to the multiple Civil War sites that have come to represent the most comprehensive interpretation on the topic in the region.

With the addition of way-finding signs, the visitor count continues to rise amid the scorching heat of the summer. Visitors can be seen throughout the day, any day, enjoying the interpretative panels, the original nineteenth-century homes, living historians, and other facets that make the Civil War Helena experience come to life, but the interpretative efforts are not finished in the Delta community.

According to the interpretative plan designed by Mudpuppy and Waterdog, Inc.,

and Southern Bancorp's Cathy Cunningham, the next site to be constructed and interpreted will be Site 1: "The Union Army Marches into Helena." Site 1 will be located close to the new Arkansas Welcome Center near the Mississippi River Bridge. The site will tell the story of a Union army under the command of General Samuel R. Curtis entering Helena in mid-July, 1862 with 10,000 soldiers and over 2,000 freedom seekers.

Site 1 will feature life-sized panels that will create a mural of the worn and weary Union soldiers entering the city followed by the freedom seekers taking refuge with Curtis's army. The site will also feature the state flag of all states represented in Curtis's army and interpretative elements including split rail fencing and an artillery piece.

Other Civil War-related projects and interpretation in Helena include the increasing number of Union and Confederate living historians. One of the action points in the Delta Bridge Project's Tourism Goal Team include the expansion of first- and third-person costumed interpretation including military and civilian aspects of the Civil War in the Delta. Through collaboration with the Delta Cultural Center, the Helena Museum of Phillips County, the A&P commission, Civil

War Helena, and local businesses and educational facilities, tourists will get a new experience in interacting with interpreters.

Other Civil War related educational programs include the Civil War Roundtable of the Delta, which is in its second year. The latest program featured Dr. Bill Gurley's presentation on Confederate surgeon William McPheeters. The CWRTD is a quarterly educational outreach program sponsored by the Delta Cultural Center held at the newly-renovated Beth El Heritage Hall at the corner of Perry and Pecan streets in historic downtown Helena.

A new Civil War 150 marker has also been submitted and approved for the January 1863 skirmish at Lick Creek. The marker will be set at the Delta Heritage State Park in Barton at the Lick Creek trail head. A commemoration is expected to take place on the anniversary in January 2015 with living historians and educational programs. Upcoming Civil War events in Helena include the 152nd anniversary re-enactment of the Battle of Helena that is scheduled for March 14, 2015. For more information on this event, contact Ron Kelley at the Delta Cultural Center at 870-338-4350 or email Ronald@arkansasheritage.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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