



Arkansas Battlefield Update

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Sesquicentennial Commission sets 150th anniversary goals

The Arkansas Civil War Sesquicentennial Commission (ACWSC) recently took an important first step as it approved a mission statement to guide its activities to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the Civil War between 2011 and 2015.

The ACWSC met in Little Rock in September and adopted the following mission statement:

“The Arkansas Civil War Sesquicentennial Commission will seek to support a statewide observance of the 150th anniversary of the American Civil War that is educational, comprehensive

and inclusive; that tells the story of the Civil War in Arkansas without making judgments about the actions and motivations of the people who took part in the war; and that stresses the relevance to Arkansawyers today by promoting local observances and acknowledging the impact the Civil War had on modern Arkansas. The commission shall achieve this goal by:

1) Sanctioning events around the state (re-enactments, symposia, etc.) that are appropriate observances of the Sesquicentennial

2) Promoting historic sites around the

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Panel marks Reed's Bridge artillery site

*By Tom Dupree
RBBPS President*

On August 27, the Reed's Bridge Battlefield Preservation Society held a presentation ceremony at the site where the Union artillery was located during the final hours of the August 27, 1863, battle at Reed's Bridge.

A split-rail fence was also placed around the panel for protection as well as looks. Twenty people turned out for the afternoon event. Speakers included Marshall Smith, an alderman representing the city of Jacksonville, Mark Christ of the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program and Tommy Dupree, president of the Reed's Bridge Battlefield Preservation Society.

Five new panels will be dedicated on December 1. Panel One will be about Jacob Gray, a Revolutionary War veteran who, with his family, traveled up Bayou Meto and settled in the area a few miles north of the panel site. Panel Two covers the Military Road. Panels Three and Four depict Indian Removal prior to the Civil War.

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NWACWHT moves forward with exhibit showing opening moves at Cane Hill

By Alan Thompson
NWACWHT Chair

Things are moving along with the Cane Hill tour. We have come up with the text and graphics for the first panel, which will be placed at the Cane Hill Cemetery, and they are at the de-

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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, an agency of the Department of Arkansas Heritage.

Northwest Arkansas CWHT

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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

Kim Myers (479) 926-1566
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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

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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

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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

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

Northeast Arkansas CWHT

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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.

SEACWHT, UAPB seek to identify cemeteries; WSS endowment sought

By Mark Kalkbrenner
SEACWHT Chair

The Southeast Arkansas Civil War Heritage Trail has been busy this past summer with a lot of little projects. We are constantly being contacted by individuals either requesting or sending information about various sites around the region. Some of these may prove very interesting.

Edgar Colvin and several members from the Pine Bluff area have been working with the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff on marking two cemeteries on the school's campus. The first is a marker to the 37 unknown graves that were moved into the Jane Oliver Cemetery from the newly built football stadium. These were all slaves from the Wright Plantation. The second is a marker and military stones for the Camp Wright Cemetery, a burial ground for Confederate soldiers who died while at Camp Wright during the war.

Recently, Tom Beam of Hot Springs was contacted by individuals who know of the location of a mass grave at Jenkins Ferry. We are planning to look over the site as soon as the vegetation is down.

A couple of local groups in the Pine Bluff area are engaged in a fund raising drive in order to establish a perpetual fund for the Camp White Sulphur Springs Confederate Cemetery. This will be set up through the Arkansas Community Foundation. As of October 15, just over \$8,000 of the required \$10,000 for the endowment has been raised through raffles and donations. Tim Johnson of Warren was the winner of the .36 Colt revolver. Currently, a reproduction of a James Black Original Bowie

Knife is being raffled for \$1 a chance. Contact Mark Kalkbrenner if you are interested in helping the WSS project. The drawing for the knife will be at the Cleburne Memorial in March.

The SEACWHT lost two of its most outgoing and energetic members earlier this year, Ed and Patsy White of Hamburg. The Whites were instrumental in establishing the Ashley County Historical Museum and marking Civil War sites in Ashley county and the surrounding area. If anyone needed help with a project, they would always step forward and help out. Their love of educating children at living histories was contagious. Their loss will leave a large hole in the Southeast Trail that will be hard to fill. On September 22, 2007, several members of the Trail, plus reenactors and the community, held a memorial service for Ed and Patsy at their gravesides in Extra Cemetery in Ashley county. It was very obvious that they touched many lives and that because of them, life is better here in southeast Arkansas.

The SEACWHT will next meet on Saturday, December 8, 2007, at 6:00 p.m. at the Pine Bluff/ Jefferson County Historical Museum for the annual Civil War Potluck. Everyone is welcome. Our next business meeting will be at Arkansas Post State Park at 2 p.m. on Saturday January 26, 2008.

The Arkansas Battlefield Update newsletter is available online at the AHPP web site at arkansaspreservation.org.

Little Rock Campaign Tour reprinted

By Charles Durnett
CACWHT Chair

The Reed's Bridge Battlefield Preservation Society is dedicating panels for the various historic sites around Jacksonville. A dedication of five panels scheduled for early December included coordinated activities around the area, including a living history demonstration from re-enactors. The panels depict Civil War sites and panels remembering the Trail of Tears. The society also is working on a project to place smaller panels along the roads that would lead visitors from Brownsville to the Reed's Bridge Battlefield.

That Civil War action led to the assault on Little Rock, which is included in a newly revised brochure. The Civil War Round Table of Arkansas and the Central Arkansas Civil War Heritage Trails sought to reprint the brochure featuring a driving tour of the Battle of Little Rock. One reason, then another kept putting off the revision and causing a number of frustrations for the committee. Dogging that revision over the years was Don Hamilton. With his committee of Evans Benton and Charles Durnett, the latest version of the brochure for driving the trail of the Little Rock Campaign came together. In conjunction with the Magna IV and the Little Rock Convention and Visitors Bureau, it was redesigned and printed. The brochure is available through museums and visitors centers around central Arkansas.

This would fit into a project starting in Louisiana, and eventually including the state of Arkansas. Gary Joiner has begun his preliminary maps of Louisiana's Civil War campaign trails, which will seek to have designated as a National Scenic Byway network. Mark Christ has proposed that the Trails Foundation and the Sesquicentennial Commission can link our Arkansas trails to commemorative efforts in other states.

More information on the Jerry

Russell Memorial: CACWHT had been working with Bobby Roberts at the Central Arkansas Library Commission to create a memorial for preservationist and historian Jerry Russell, who died a few years ago. The overall project is to erect crafted acrylic panels featuring digitized photographs of moments in the history of Arkansas. Nearly 100 images will be incorporated into the new Arkansas Studies Institute. The project is to raise money to help CALS pay for the historic panels.

The money raised by CWRT/CACWHT will help pay for a panel depicting the Civil War. The main character will be Patrick Ronayne Cleburne (a favorite of Jerry Russell) and a Yankee, balancing both sides of the war. The figure picked was William

Tealy, 1st Battalion Arkansas Infantry (U.S.). There is a somewhat mixed history for the 18-year-old Tealy; one source says he died August 10, 1862, at Helena, and another says that he moved with the 1st Battalion, Arkansas Infantry Volunteers from Helena to St. Louis, Missouri, and served on duty at Benton Barracks until December 31, 1862, when he was mustered out.

Civil War Roundtable of Arkansas continues to update its website including the ongoing Graves Registration project (www.civilwarbuff.org/graves.html). The project updates the webpage with men from Arkansas or men in Arkansas units (CSA and USA) that are buried in Arkansas. The idea is to start building a database for descendants to use as a reference.

Jacksonville brochures planned

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War. A representative from the national Trail of Tears Association will be in attendance, as well as a representative from the state ToTA chapter. Panel Five will represent the troop movements on August 27, 1863. We will have Civil War reenactors as part of the program.

The society is in the process of getting artwork done for three brochures

covering the Military Road, Indian Removal and the Battle of Reed's Bridge.

Donations to the Reed's Bridge Battlefield Preservation Society can be made, and checks payable, to the Reed's Bridge Preservation Society, 600 Lynx Lane, Jacksonville, AR 72076.

Future NWACWHT projects include defense colony sites

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signer. In the meantime we are waiting to hear back about a major grant application we submitted to the Arkansas Humanities Council to fund panels Two and Three.

I have been soliciting ideas for other projects. Some of those include a Post Defense Colony tour, guerrilla site tour, Maguire's Store (the owners of the Maguire House are interested and besides being visited by Confederate

generals there was a skirmish between the troops of John Marmaduke and Francis J. Herron in the immediate vicinity in October 1862), a wayside marker for the Huntsville Massacre since the one recently placed by other organizations is on private property and inaccessible, a couple of sites related to Marmaduke's first Missouri Raid, and some sites related to the Arkansas Peace Society.

NEACWHT trying to pinpoint date of elusive skirmish outside Jonesboro

By Danny Honnoll
NEACWHT Chair

This has been a long hot summer for the North East Arkansas Civil War Heritage Trails Committee. We are still working on numerous projects at the same time. We are always working on the Chalk Bluff reenactment. It will be on May 3 and 4, 2008, and will mark the 145th anniversary of the battle at Chalk Bluff.

Lately we have trying to pinpoint the site of the skirmish that took place south of Jonesboro on August 1, 1862. This was one day before the main skirmish that took place at the Craighead County Courthouse on

August 2, 1862. The action on August 2 resulted in a Confederate victory and the loss of seven Federal soldiers and one Confederate soldier.

The date of this skirmish has always been hard to pin down. "The History of Craighead County" states that it happened in 1863 with no dates listed. Charles Stuck's book "The Story of Craighead County" lists the date as August 3, 1862. The ORs (The War of the Rebellion: A Compilation of the Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies) lists the actions at Jonesboro and L' Anguille Ferry on August 3, 1862. When you read the ORs it clearly states that the pre-engagement of the Federals and Confederates took place on Friday and the

main skirmish took place on Saturday. If you check a period 1862 calendar the first Saturday in August of 1862 was August 2. Another source, "The Military History of Wisconsin," states the main action took place on August 2 at Jonesboro and the muster rolls of the 1st Wisconsin Cavalry listed the men as killed in action at Jonesborough (Jonesboro) August 2, 1862.

Even though this was a small skirmish like others in Arkansas during the war, it is important that we check the records and dates to make sure that we pass on to future generations the correct data.

Our annual Christmas NEACWHTC party with the SCV and UDC will be held at the Jonesboro Public Library. Last year we raised about \$500 for our NEASHF Park in Jonesboro. The winter meeting of the NEACWHTC will take place on December 18 and will start at 6 p.m. with a Dutch treat potluck. Mark your calendar and come on. E-mail me at danny@honnoll.com or call me at 870-935-9830 if you are coming and let me know what you want to bring.

We are looking forward to trying to get a marker for either the L' Anguille Ferry or Taylor's Creek skirmish sites this year. Hopefully we can get local support in raising money for both projects so the local community will have ownership in the markers. I am in the process of seeing if we can generate such interest. If you would like to help just let me know. The NEACWHTC has placed four historical markers in four years and would like to place at least one a year. Maybe during the sesquicentennial years we can do more. Anyone having information on other sites or facts that happened in northeast Arkansas please let me know
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On September 10, a ceremony was held to dedicate a new historical marker telling the history of the Camden Water Battery. The ceremony at Sandy Beach Park in Camden, attended by several local and state officials, included comments from Camden Mayor Chris Claybaker. Robert Dodson, pictured here, led the effort to create the panel, which was funded by the Camden Advertising and Promotion Bureau. It is one of a series marking the sites of Camden's Civil War fortifications.

SWACWHT meets at Prescott Museum

By Peggy Lloyd

SWACWHT Co-chair

The Southwest Arkansas Civil War Heritage Trails Association met at the Nevada County Depot Museum in Prescott on Sunday, October 14, 2007. Sixteen people from the Southwest Arkansas region attended. Tom Beam, SWACWHT co-chair from Hot Springs, conducted the meeting. Margaret Beam served refreshments she had prepared from items donated by the Hot Springs Wal-Mart.

At the conclusion of the meeting, the group caravanned to Elkins' Ferry on the Little Missouri River. The ferry site is in the vicinity of the ford used by the Union Army to cross into what was then Hempstead County in early April 1864. On the way to the ferry, the group stopped at the historic Missionary Grove Baptist Church, a.k.a. the Nubbin Hill Church. Founded in 1885, the church and its

sizeable cemetery are still active.

Located on the high ground overlooking the flat land that leads to the Little Missouri, the church is near the site of the Cornelius Farm where General Frederick Steele and his army rested before proceeding to nearby Prairie D'Ane. Members of the Cornelius Family were early settlers in Clark, Hempstead and Nevada counties. Descendants remain in the Nubbin Hill community even today.

After returning to Prescott, members of the group visited the Moscow Church and Cemetery on County Road 23, a.k.a. the Cale Road, just outside Prescott. Moscow was a scattered antebellum village on the Camden to Washington Road via Prairie D'Ane before Prescott, a railroad town, was founded in 1873. It was the site of a rearguard action fought after Steele wheeled his army away from Confederate forces defending the Washington Road and headed for Camden.

The Moscow Church and Cemetery are all that remains of the village of Moscow. The church and cemetery were listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 2005. On May 24, 2007, a wayside marker commemorating the rearguard Battle of Moscow was installed at the church with a grant from the Arkansas Humanities Council.

The next meeting of SWACWHT will take place at Poison Spring State Park at 2 p.m. on Sunday, March 16, 2008. The group will also tour selected sites in Nevada and Ouachita counties to be announced later. In the event of inclement weather, the group will meet at White Oak Lake State Park. All interested persons are encouraged to attend. If you have suggestions, ideas for meetings, questions or complaints, contact Peggy Lloyd at 870-983-2633 or peggy.lloyd@arkansas.gov or Tom Beam at tombeam@hotsprings.net.

NEACWHT plans more battle site markers

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by contacting me at 870-935-9830 or at danny@honnoll.com.

We helped with the reenactment at Pocahontas this year. It took place on September 23 and 24. It was drier than it was last year. For the most part it was a good turn out. The skies were clear and the area residents turned out in force to enjoy the fine labors of Capt. Jim Kincade, CSA, and Major John Malloy, USA, reenactors of Arkansas.

The Civil War Park at Jonesboro flags flew on Patriot Day (September 11). The first flags to be used are the American flag, Spanish Flag, French flag and the third Confederate national flag. The Northeast Arkansas Civil War Heritage Trails Committee, James W. Honnoll United Daughters of the Confederacy and the Col. Robert G. Shaver #1655 Sons of

Confederate Veterans raised the flags. The flags will change out at the park to help educate the public. Most of the time from left to right will be the American flag, Arkansas flag, Confederate national flag and a Confederate battle flag. The next time you are in Jonesboro go to the corner of Highland and Southwest Drive. Dacus Fence Company will

donate the fence that will surround the Civil War Park. RGB Mechanical donated the labor and local electric

supply companies supplied the material.

The next meeting of the NEACWHTC will be on December 18 at 6 p.m. at the Jonesboro Public Library. See you there!

Event overlooks Devil's Backbone

By Kim Myers

WCACWHT Chair

The South Sebastian County Historical Society will host a booth at the Third annual FUN FEST, which is set for November at Bell Park in Greenwood.

Bell Park offers an overlook of Devil's Backbone Mountain, where a Civil War battle took place in 1863. Events such as this, in cooperation with the South Sebastian County Historical

Society, help to offer interpretive opportunities as well as to recognize the need for interpretive panels within the park to explain the events of the battle and their connection to the surrounding area, such as Massard Prairie. Local, state and private grants are currently being sought in efforts to fund this project. Once completed this series of interpretive panels will provide an educational addition to the already beautiful view.

Arkansas Civil War Sesquicentennial panel will promote efforts to tell local war stories

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state that are connected to the Civil War through educational efforts (brochures, websites, etc.)

3) Promoting publications and archival collections connected to the Civil War in Arkansas and advocating donations of materials to appropriate repositories

4) Promoting local observances that tell the local story

5) Supporting efforts to teach and research Arkansas Civil War history in the state's schools and universities

6) Supporting efforts to preserve and interpret the state's Civil War sites and documentary heritage and artifacts

7) Developing a plan and procedures to secure funding and appropriations, and to secure, accept, and spend donations."

The Arkansas General Assembly created the Arkansas Civil War Sesquicentennial Commission through Act 635 of 2007, with a mandate to promote a suitable statewide observance of the sesquicentennial of the Civil War; cooperate and assist national, state and local organizations with programs and activities suitable for the sesquicentennial observance; assist in ensuring that any observance of the sesquicentennial of the

Civil War is inclusive and appropriately recognizes the experiences and points of view of all people affected by the Civil War; and provide assistance for the development of programs, projects, and activities on the Civil War that have lasting educational value. For more information, please visit <http://www.arkansaspreservation.org/preservation-services/sesquicentennial-commission/>.

Final six members named to serve on Commission

Governor Mike Beebe and Senate Pro Tem Jack Critcher have appointed the final members of the Arkansas Sesquicentennial Commission.

Gubernatorial appointees are Tom Dupree of Jacksonville, Don Hamilton of Little Rock, Ernest Cunningham of Helena-West Helena and Dr. Jamie Brandon of Magnolia. Senator

Critcher appointed Dr. George Lankford of Batesville and Ellen DiMaggio of Little Rock to the commission.

They will join 10 other members who were designated as commissioners under the terms of Act 635 of 2007 or were appointed by House Speaker Benny Petruss. Three other members were designated to serve as advisors.



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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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