



Arkansas Battlefield Update

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Tourist Bureaus join in effort to print WCACWHT brochure

By Tom Wing
WCACWHT Chair

The WCACWHT met in December and wrapped up 2003. Topics discussed included the 140th Anniversary of Massard Prairie coming up in 2004 and continued work on the driving tour brochure.

The brochure project was given an added boost from both the Fort Smith and Van Buren Tourism Bureaus, which pledged support and help with

printing costs. The expanded brochure will cover not only the Fort Smith area but also Van Buren and Crawford County. Originally, plans for Van Buren were considered to be completed separately after work on the Fort Smith brochure. This much needed help will allow for both cities to be covered and

NWACWHT expands region's chairmanship

By John C. Scott
NWACWHT Chair

To start the 2004 year the NWACWHT will have two new co-chairs: Robert Still and Steve Black. Robert lives in Searcy County and Steve in Benton County. Both have extensive knowledge
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interested visitors to get a complete picture of Civil War sites in western Arkansas.

Other news and discussion has centered around inter-
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CWPT eyes SWACWHT battle sites

By Jim Hale
SWACWHT Chair

One hundred and forty years ago, the Union Red River Campaign began from Little Rock with hopes of uniting two armies at Shreveport. Within some six weeks, that campaign and the subsequent Camden Expedition resulted in a string of military defeats and a disastrous and destructive retreat back into Little Rock. In order to properly mark these events, a series of newspaper articles will be made available to newspapers throughout the SWACWHT region marking the highlights of those six weeks.

Several exciting new projects have recently taken place or will be addressed in the near future.

On Jan. 13, Noah Merkhams, director of real estate for the Civil War Preservation Trust, met at Jenkins' Ferry with Mark Christ of the AHPP and representatives of International Paper Co. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the acquisition of two parcels of land on the battlefield owned by IP. These parcels include parts of the Union and Confederate battle lines. After a tour of the site and questions answered by all sides of the issue,
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Civil War preservationist Russell dies

By Kathryn Jorgensen
The Civil War News

Civil War battlefield preservationist Jerry Lewis Russell Jr. died Dec. 5 of complications from lung surgery at age 70.

Russell was a 1958 journalism graduate of the University of Arkansas and was in the communications business ever since. He described his career as "public relations, advertising, association management, newsletter publishing, and political campaign counseling." How-

ever, the Civil War community knew him as an advocate for battlefield preservation.

Civil War Preservation Trust President Jim Lighthizer called Russell an outspoken advocate of battlefield preservation. "Jerry was one of the founding fathers of the Civil War battlefield preservation movement. He was fighting to protect America's historic sites long before it was popular to do so," said Lighthizer.

People in Arkansas knew Russell better for his political campaign consulting and political jingles. According to the Arkansas Democrat-
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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

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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, Grant, 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, Arkansas, Phillips, Cleveland, Lincoln, Desha, Bradley, Drew, Ashley and Chicot counties.

Central Arkansas CWHT

Tom Ezell (501) 961-1937
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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.

Anniversary events planned

Continued from Page 1.

pretation and expansion of Civil War sites in Sebastian and Crawford counties. Interpretive opportunities at Massard Prairie and Dripping Springs were both discussed.

The 140th anniversary of Massard Prairie will include a number of events this year. A mini-symposium and living history encampment will be included with the annual Mayor's Picnic event, which has been conducted for the last two years. Tours and interpretive talks also will be given. More details will follow in the next issue.

Lastly, on Saturday, April 17, Fort Smith will host the Arkansas Historical Association annual meeting. Paper presentations will include a session on the Civil War in

Fort Smith and western Arkansas. Don Montgomery from Prairie Grove State Park will moderate a discussion between Frank Arey, Department of Arkansas Heritage, Justin Douglas, chairman of the Massard Prairie Battlefield Commission, and Tom Wing, park ranger/historian, Fort Smith National Historic Site. Topics include letters and journals of Confederate and Federal soldiers in Western Arkansas as well as a discussion of the Confederate attempt to retake Fort Smith in 1864. William Shea will also conduct a discussion on the Civil War on the western border.

The time and date of the next meeting of the WCACWHT will be announced later. Call Tom Wing at (479) 783-3961 for information.

New monument at Head's Ford is goal of NWACWHT project

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about the Civil War in the Trans-Mississippi Theater.

We will now have a broader representation in our area of responsibility, which will allow us to represent a larger area of interest and accomplish more.

We are currently working on re-establishing the old "Two White Rivers Crossing" monument, better known as Head's Ford for the family that lived and

farmed the area. Not only was this crossing on the White River important to both sides during the Civil War, it was a major river crossing important to all Arkansas travelers. Heads Ford now lies below Beaver Lake.

We are planning to hold 2004 meetings in February, June, and November. Dates, times, and places will be announced later.

IP considering mill skirmish site

Continued from Page 1.

Merkham also met with other private landowners to discuss similar opportunities related to land acquisition on the battlefield.

IP also has started the process of preserving the site of the Whitten's Mill skirmish (several miles north of Jenkins' Ferry) as one of their "Special Places in the Forest."

During February, members of the SWACWHT will have the opportunity to map Civil War sites along the Red River. This GPS project will help accurately record these sites for future reference. Persons interested in helping with this

project should contact Jim Hale at (501) 760-2566. Future GPS projects may include similar work along the Little Missouri, Caddo, Saline, and Ouachita Rivers.

Plans are in the very initial stages to develop a hiking and interpretive trail along several miles of the Union retreat route between Jenkins' Ferry and Whitten's Mill. This project will seek to open public access across private land at various times of the year for individuals, Scouts, church and school groups, etc.

The time and date of the next SWACWHT meeting will be announced later.

Russell was much honored as preservationist

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Gazette he worked for more than 200 political candidates. Eight of 10 candidates that he represented in 2000 won their elections.

“He liked to boast that his candidates, often underdogs, won 70 percent of the races he worked,” according to the newspaper. His wife Alice Anne told the paper, “If he could not vote for that person, he would not work for them, which was an anomaly in the profession.”

In the program for his Dec. 9 memorial service Russell’s family wrote: “Most of you knew him in only one avenue of his life — journalism, Civil War, Indian Wars, or politics. But he was much more than just those things.

“He loved circuses, zoos, westerns, Star Trek, Star Wars, Sherlock Holmes, Wizard of Oz, all things historical, music, the mountains, buffalo, etc., etc. He especially just wanted to learn, to know about all kinds of things (except math, especially those “if a man” problems!).”

Being the communicator and promoter that he was, Russell provided much of the following biographical information in February 2002 when he answered the question “OK...so who is Jerry Russell?”

Here are highlights of the Civil War part of his life:

He was the charter president of the Civil War Round Table of Arkansas in 1964, and founded Civil War Round Table Associates in 1968. He was national chairman and editor of the monthly CWRT Digest newsletter.

He helped establish 10 Arkansas Civil War Round Tables, as well as several dozen in other states. In 1975 he established the annual National Congress of Civil War Round Tables. He founded the Confederate Historical Institute in 1979, and served as national chairman and newsletter editor.

He was involved in the formation of the Association for the Preservation of Civil War Sites and was involved in the early planning stages for what became the Civil War Trust, both now merged into the Civil War Preservation Trust.

He was the founder, in 1984, and executive director of the Society of Civil War Historians. That year, Civil War

Round Table Associates established the West Coast Civil War Conference. In 1986, the Associates hosted a Texas Sesquicentennial Civil War Conference and an Arkansas Sesquicentennial Civil War Conference in Little Rock.

In 1989, Russell founded and directed HERITAGEPAC, the only political action committee registered with the Federal Election Commission whose focus is Civil War battlefield preservation. He was also national chairman of the Order of the Indian Wars.

Russell was honored by the Council on America’s Military Past (CAMP) and numerous Civil War Round Tables (CWRT). The Civil War Round Table of Chicago gave its annual Nevins-Freeman Award to Russell in October in honor of his 40 years of service.

He was the only non-historian on the Chicago Round Table’s 50th anniversary program celebrating its founding as the first round table. He received a distinguished service award at its 60th anniversary commemoration in 2000.

The Civil War Preservation Trust honored him with the organization’s Edwin C. Bearss Lifetime Achievement Award in April 2002.

Other awards included the Frank Vandiver Award of Merit from the Houston CWRT, the first Bell I. Wiley Award from the CWRT of New York, the Dr. Alvin Calman Award from the CWRT of Northern New Jersey, the Harry Truman Award from the CWRT of Kansas City, the Charles A. “Pie” Dufour Award from the CWRT of New Orleans, the Pat Cleburne Award from the CWRT of Arkansas, and the Robert E. Lee Award from the Gettysburg Battlefield Preservation Association.

He also received the Annie Snyder Award from the Civil War Society, the first Oliver Wendell Holmes Award from the CWRT of Greater Boston, and awards from the Brandy Station Foundation and Civil War Round Tables in Roanoke, Va.; North Lake, La.; Knoxville, Tenn.; Portsmouth, Va.; and White County, Ark.; and the Confederate High Command and the Stonewall Jackson Memorial.

Russell received one of the first “Take

Pride In America” awards from the National Park Service. He was honored in 1988 by the Confederate Memorial Association, being selected to lay a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Arlington Cemetery on Confederate Memorial Day. In 1997, he received the first Texas Star Award at the Texas Civil War Battlefield Preservation Conference.

Memorial donations may be sent to the Jerry Russell Fund, Civil War Preservation Trust, 11 Public Square, Suite 200, Hagerstown, MD 21740, or to the Central Arkansas Library System Endowment, Jerry Russell Fund, 100 Rock St., Little Rock, AR 72201.

Lighthizer said, “We are honored that the Civil War Preservation Trust was named as the beneficiary of memorials made in Jerry Russell’s name. It is a fitting tribute to a cause that was near and dear to his heart. Contributions to the fund will be used to purchase or otherwise protect battlefield land — none of the money will be used for administrative costs.”

Russell is survived by his wife, Alice Anne Cason Russell; four children, Leigh Anne Russell of Little Rock; Jerry L. “Sam” Russell III and wife Stephanie of Olive Branch, Miss.; Susan Frances Russell and husband Jim Hale of Gettysburg, Pa.; and Andrew J. Russell III and wife Melanie of Little Rock; and five grandsons, a granddaughter and great-granddaughter.

Battlefield Preservation News?

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

CACWHT works on battlefield marker

By Tom Ezell
CACWHT Chair

Members of the Central Arkansas Civil War Heritage Trail met with the Little Rock Parks Department on Nov. 18 to finalize plans to relocate a marble marker to the Bayou Fourche battlefield site near the current Civil War Roundtable of Arkansas marker on Frazier Pike. The new marker will be dedicated to the memory of the soldiers, Union and Confederate, who fought at Bayou Fourche, and will be moved into its new location within the next couple of weeks.

On Jan. 10, the MacArthur Museum of Arkansas Military History in Little Rock commemorated the 140th anniversary of the trial and execution by hanging of David O. Dodd by unveiling a new display featuring a memorial stained-glass window featuring the boy's likeness. Stephan McAteer, executive director of the museum, arranged to bring the window back to Little Rock after he discovered that it was stored, rather than displayed, at the Museum of the Confederacy in Richmond, Va.

The window, on a one-year loan from the Richmond museum, was displayed at the Arkansas Museum of Science and History, now the Museum of Discovery, from 1990 to 1998. "It's a beautiful piece of art, and we love to have it on display for Arkansans who couldn't make it to Richmond," McAteer said.

Following the unveiling, the museum formally opened its fundraising campaign to repair and restore the bronze Capital Guards monument that stands in front of the old Arsenal building in MacArthur Park. Erected in 1911 in memory of the "Flower of Little Rock," the Capital Guards of the 6th Arkansas Infantry Regiment, the monument has deteriorated significantly over the past 90 years from the ravages of weather and vandalism. The MacArthur Museum has contracted with a conservator in Missouri to repair and restore the bronze statue, and in the next few weeks the statue will be dismantled and sent to Missouri for restoration.

The amount needed to professionally

clean, repair and restore the statue is \$35,000. The museum has raised \$20,000 of this amount through grants and large donations, and is now actively soliciting to raise the remainder of the funds to complete the restoration. During the museum program, the United Daughters of the Confederacy fund for Confederate sculptures in Arkansas presented the MacArthur Museum with a check for \$5,000 toward the restoration of the Capital Guards monument. To contribute to the museum's conservation effort, call the Arkansas Military Heritage Foundation at (501) 376-4602, or visit www.arkmilitaryheritage.com and click on the link to "Preserve the Capital Guard Monument."

Repair and restoration of the Capital Guards statue is expected to be complete and the sculpture returned to Arkansas in time for a May 15, 2004, unveiling and rededication.

The often-told story of Dodd's role in Arkansas history was presented in an unprecedented way this year—through a historical reenactment of the boy's trial, presented by the Central Arkansas Civil War Preservation Association and the 6th Arkansas and 37th Illinois reenactors. The 90-minute performance recreated Dodd's trial, from the opening statements to the boy's plea for mercy. Following this reenactment, the annual memorial service for David O. Dodd was held at Little Rock's Mount Holly Cemetery.

Members of the Reed's Bridge Battlefield Protection Society met with representatives of the Civil War Preservation Trust in Jacksonville on Jan. 13, to discuss strategies to expand protection for key areas of the Reed's Bridge battlefield, and to tour the areas already taken under the society's wing.

Coordination is nearing completion to begin investigation and documentation for the Sutton Mound, a suspected Confederate mass grave associated with the April 1864 battle of Prairie De'Anne, near Prescott in Nevada County. Research proposals by the University of Missouri—Columbia and Washington University in St. Louis have been approved, and field work is expected to begin in early Febru-

ary 2004.

The Little Rock Campaign driving tour guide has been well received and additional copies have been published by the Little Rock Convention and Visitor's Bureau. All requests for the Little Rock Campaign driving tour brochures should be made to the City of Little Rock Convention and Visitor's Bureau, P.O. Box 3232, Little Rock, AR 72203. Copies may be obtained by writing the bureau or calling (501) 370-3290, attention Cathy Cerrato.

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

For more information on the Reed's Bridge Preservation Society, call Tommy Dupree at (501) 833-0265. The Society's meetings are held each month at 12:30 p.m. at the new Jacksonville Chamber of Commerce building at 200 Dupree Drive, and are open to the public. Donations can be made, and checks payable to the Reed's Bridge Preservation Society, 600 Lynx Lane, Jacksonville, AR 72076.

The Arkansas
Battlefield Update
newsletter is avail-
able online at the
AHPP website at
www.arkansaspreservation.org.

NEACWHT meets, discusses projects in area

By *Danny Honnoll*
NEACWHT Chair

The Northeast Arkansas Civil War Heritage Trails Committee met at Jonesboro on January 17. The group had a round table discussion of the different sites in northeast Arkansas that required more information for completion. Chalk Bluff, Jacksonport, Martin's Creek/Morgan's Mill, Pocahontas, and Taylor's Creek topped the list of projects.

Jimmy Stevens of Trumann has been working on moving the 5th Arkansas Infantry Civil War Marker at Pineville, Arkansas. The monument was placed where Camp Cold Springs was located and says: "Apr. 1861 Col D.C. Cross raised Co. A. 5th ARK INF. REG 67 men on roll on June 10, 1861 left this camp Ground to Join the Colors. In 1863 Capt. J. N. Deadrick Raised Co. A. Ind Rangers McGhees Regt of Cavalry and left here with 110 men on roll."

The monument was moved in November from a remote location to the front yard of Lester Bledsoe, the owner of the land where the marker has rested for years. Bill Lee, the Cross County judge, is working on either moving the monument to the Cross County Courthouse lawn or to the Mount Zion Cemetery so that the public can see it.

Jimmy Stevens has also volunteered to help with trying to find a location for a monument to the battle of Martin's Creek/Morgan's Mill in Sharp County. The sites of preference are at Martin's Creek on Highway 63, at the old Water Wheel, at the Baker Cemetery or at Williford. The Sharp County Historical Society has offered to fund this project but we have been stuck at this point for more than two years.

Jacksonport State Park and Museum has received the "Jackson Guards" flag and is planning to unveil it in February. Mark Ballard and his staff have worked very hard to secure the loan of this prize of Jackson County's history. The Museum of the Confederacy in Richmond, Virginia, is loaning it to Jacksonport. Another item that has come home is the stained-glass window portraying David

O. Dodd. It also is on loan from the Museum of the Confederacy and is currently on display at the MacArthur Museum and Military History at Little Rock. Stephen McAteer was a very proud person at the unveiling of the stained-glass tribute to one of Arkansas's best-known icons of the "War Between the States." It is nice that this museum is magnanimous enough to let Arkansans share these artifacts from the nineteenth century.

Plans were made for the next meeting, set for Chalk Bluff on May 1, 2004. The NEACWHTC will help sponsor a living history/reenactment of the battle of Chalk Bluff to mark the battle's 141st anniversary with help from Clay County, Gen. James Fleming Fagan Camp #280; Military Order Stars and Bars, and the Col. Robert G. Shaver Camp # 1655, Sons of Confederate Veterans of Jonesboro.

Over 75 people attended our meeting last year at Chalk Bluff. The subject of this year's meeting will be Capt. Henry Harnden of the 1st Wisconsin Cavalry

U.S. (He was in N.E. Arkansas and at the end of the war was with the 1st Wisconsin when they captured Jefferson Davis, the president of the Confederate States of America.)

On Saturday and Sunday, May 1 and 2, at 2 p.m. reenactments are scheduled at the Dalton Farm, which is just south of the Chalk Bluff Natural Area Park. This is a near-perfect site to hold a reenactment, with most of the action in the valley between two hills on Crowley's Ridge. Last year we had seven period cannons that thundered on both days to the enjoyment of those in attendance. Other events are still being planned and will be announced at a later date.

We are still working on the markers and pamphlets for Fitzhugh Woods, Jacksonport, and Crittenden County projects. Hopefully we can report more in the next newsletter.

Plan on attending the next meeting at Chalk Bluff on May 1. We will meet at the pavilion in the middle of the park at 10 a.m. See you there!

Sign me up!

I want to find out more about battlefield preservation in Arkansas. Send me future issues of Arkansas Battlefield Update.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone number (optional): _____

E-mail address (optional): _____

Name of Friend: _____

Address: _____

Phone number (optional): _____

SEACWHT looks forward to busy year in 2004

By Mark Kalkbrenner
SEACWHT Chair

The Southeast Arkansas Civil War Heritage Trail met on Saturday, Dec. 13, 2003, with the local Civil War groups at the Pine Bluff / Jefferson County Historical Museum for the annual Christmas potluck. Although no formal meeting of the Trail was conducted, an overview of the past year was given, along with plans for the upcoming year.

SEACWHT next met on Saturday, Jan.

17, 2004, at Arkansas Post State Park. Turnout was low because of the cold, rainy weather, but a lively discussion was held, primarily on the upcoming reburial of the five Confederate soldiers in Helena on Saturday, March 20, 2004. A military service will immediately follow the annual Patrick Cleburne memorial service, which begins at noon.

The upcoming year should be as busy as the past year. Now that the Arkansas Civil War Heritage Trails Foundation is incorporated and in the process of

obtaining federal nonprofit status, we should be better able to gain funds for projects. White Sulphur Springs, Fort Pleasants, the Vicksburg Campaign study, Marks' Mills and many other sites will continue to be worked on and developed. And we are always looking for new sites to work on.

Our next meeting will be at the Delta Cultural Center on Saturday, March 20, 2004, one hour after the completion of the reburial service.

Helena battle casualties to be buried March 20

The remains of five Confederate soldiers killed in the July 4, 1863, battle of Helena will be reburied in Helena's Confederate Cemetery on Saturday, March 20, according to Danny Honnoll of the Arkansas Division of the Sons of Confederate Veterans (SCV).

The reburial will be conducted after the annual Patrick Cleburne memorial service, which will begin at noon. Roller-Citizen Funeral Home of West Helena is handling the arrangements in cooperation with the Arkansas Division of SCV.

According to an article in the Phillips County Progress last year, the grave came to light in fall 2002 when a hunter came across what appeared to be human skeletal remains in a heavily wooded tract within the Helena city limits.

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

excavated and the remains should be recovered and later reburied in a proper cemetery.

The salvage excavation at the grave site was carried out from May 6-8. The work was directed by House with the assistance of Kate Wright, Arkansas Archeological Survey Station Assistant at Henderson State University. Connaway, Gurley, Crawford and Christ participated in the work as did Jay Mitchell of Coldwater, Mississippi.

Exposing the bones in the grave, the team found portions of at least five adult skeletons. Some bones from disturbed soil may be remains of a sixth person. The individuals appear to have been hurriedly thrown or rolled into the grave, one on top of another. One of the skeletons was face-down, another was

lying on its side, and in some cases the arms and legs were sprawled out to the side. House speculates that the fallen soldiers were buried by Federal troops after the Confederate forces had withdrawn.

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

Following the disinterment, the human skeletal remains were transferred to the Arkansas Archeological Survey (AAS) Coordinating Office in Fayetteville for forensic study. The AAS prepared the remains for reburial, which will be in a common grave at the Helena Confederate Cemetery.

Mark your calendar!

Northeast Arkansas Civil War Heritage Trail meeting
10 a.m. Saturday, May 1, Chalk Bluff Natural Area, St. Francis

Central Arkansas Civil War Heritage Trail meeting
Fourth Tuesday of each month,

John Gould Fletcher Branch Library, Little Rock

Southeast Arkansas Civil War Heritage Trail meeting

Saturday, March 20, Delta Cultural Center, Helena

Southwest Arkansas Civil War Heritage Trail meeting

Time and location to be announced

West Central Arkansas Civil War Heritage Trail meeting

Time and location to be announced

Northwest Arkansas Civil War Heritage Trail meeting

Time and location to be announced

Confederate Soldier Reburial/Patrick Cleburne Memorial Service

Noon, Saturday, March 20, Helena Confederate Cemetery

Jackson Guards Flag Unveiling

2 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 22, Jacksonport State Park

Jacksonport to display Jackson Guards flag

By Mark Ballard
Park Superintendent

The original 1st Arkansas Infantry, Company G, "Jackson Guards" flag will be on exhibit at the Jacksonport State Park Courthouse Museum beginning February 22, 2004. The flag will be on loan from the Museum of the Confederacy, Richmond, Virginia, until December 2004.

This flag is significant because it was designed and sewn by the prominent ladies of Jacksonport and given to the Jackson Guards, the first 118 Confederate soldiers to leave Jacksonport to fight in the Civil War. These soldiers were local citizens; bankers, merchants, farmers, lawyers, river men and others who joined the fight of separation from the Union. On May 5, 1861, 24 hours before Arkansas would secede from the Union the soldiers boarded the steamboat Mary Patterson at Jacksonport and embarked on a four-year journey they would never forget. On the morning of May 5, 1861, it was an unpleasant atmosphere as rain drenched several hundred arriving attendees of this special flag presentation ceremony, which was held inside the Jacksonport Presbyterian Church.

After the war, the flag was presented to Mrs. Irene Fagan Cockle, daughter of General James F. Fagan, first colonel of the 1st Arkansas Infantry, by Arkansas Confederate veterans and then presented to the Museum of the Confederacy by Mrs. Cockle prior to 1905.

According to Jacksonport State Park Superintendent Mark Ballard, "during the fall of 2001 the park was contacted by Dr. Edward Thackston of Nashville, Tennessee, a descendent of Samuel Sydney Gause, who accepted the flag in 1861. Thackston began the campaign to raise funds to repair the battered flag. He received \$6,500 of the \$12,500 needed to restore it from the Thackston Family Foundation and the Adams Family Foundation, led by another Gause descendent, and another Gause cousin. The remaining funds were raised through donations from Jackson County citizens and the Jackson County Historical

Society."

In 2003 the flag was under extensive curatorial repair by conservators at the Museum of Confederacy, and was unveiled there during a ceremony on October 19.

Ballard said, "Loan agreements were approved in October and the flag should be on exhibit in the Jacksonport Courthouse in early February 2004. Civil War items from the museum's collection will also be on exhibit, giving visitors an opportunity to explore the significant role Jacksonport played in the Civil War."

In addition, Jacksonport State Park will present several Civil War activities in 2004, including a Civil War Historian Speaker Series. The first event will be the unveiling ceremony at 2 p.m. February 22, 2004, with Mark Christ of the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program as the keynote speaker. A Civil War encampment is planned for October 9-10 that will include the re-enactment of the flag presentation ceremony and the boarding of the "Guards" onto the Mary Patterson steamboat.

Fitzhugh's Woods battlefield listed on Arkansas Register

The State Review Board of the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program listed the Fitzhugh's Woods Battlefield in Woodruff County on the Arkansas Register of Historic Places when it met Dec. 3.

The Fitzhugh's Woods Battlefield is the site of an April 1, 1864, action in which U.S. troops under Col. Christopher Columbus Andrews battled Confederate cavalrymen under Brig. Gen. Dandridge McRae in an action fought over several hours.

"While it did little to affect the outcome of the war, the action at Fitzhugh's Woods did serve to, at least temporarily,

disrupt McRae's efforts to recruit soldiers to the Confederate cause or bring deserters back into the service," the Arkansas Register nomination says. "It also was the largest military engagement to take place in Woodruff County during the Civil War."

The Arkansas Register of Historic Places recognizes historically significant properties that for various reasons do not meet the standards for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. Other Arkansas Register-listed Civil War sites in Arkansas are the Fort No. 2 Rifle Pits and the Massard Prairie Battlefield in Sebastian County.

Peace Society brochure is available, tells tale of Arkansas Unionists in 1861

The events that led to the search for and arrest of those Arkansas Unionists who opposed war and Confederate military service are described in a new brochure written by James J. Johnston for the Searcy County Historical Society.

In mid-November 1861 the secret, oath-bound Peace Society was discovered at Clinton in Van Buren County. Within two weeks, Unionists in present-day Baxter, Boone, Carroll, Conway, Fulton, Independence, Izard, Marion,

Newton, Pope, Searcy, Stone and Van Buren counties were being arrested, questioned and imprisoned or conscripted into Confederate service.

This brochure briefly tells the story of these Unionists and locates thirteen places of major Peace Society/state authority activity. For information, write James J. Johnston, 2333 N East Oaks Drive, Fayetteville, AR 72703. Copies also are available from the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program.

Pistols stolen from Wilson's Creek museum

The National Park Service is offering a reward of \$2,000 for information leading to the recovery of stolen Civil War firearms and the arrest of the persons involved in a burglary that occurred at 4 a.m. on January 11, 2004, at the Wilson's Creek National Battlefield Visitor Center, T. John Hillmer, the park superintendent, announced recently.

Officials originally offered a \$1,000 reward, which was then matched by an anonymous donor who "said he was greatly concerned about the loss of these valuable historic firearms and wanted to help in their recovery," according to Chief Ranger John Sutton.

The following firearms were taken:

* A Model 1849 Colt Pocket Revolver, Serial Number 106402, Caliber .36. Engraving on the backstrap reads: "Presented to Col. E.B. Greer 3rd Texas Cav. by Knights Of The Golden Circle, 1861." There is scroll engraving on the frame and barrel. The barrel is inscribed: "Address Samuel Colt, New York City." Its overall length is 8 7/8 inches.

* A U.S. Model 1842 Percussion Pistol, Caliber .54. It was manufactured By H. Aston, Middleton, Conn., in 1853 and has U.S. proofmarks (SKP) on top of the barrel and two inspector cartouches on the left side of the stock.

* A Model 1851 Colt Navy Revolver, Serial Number 14841, Caliber .36 "Address Col. Saml. Colt New York U S America" is stamped on top of the barrel and ".36 cal" is stamped on the left side of the trigger guard. "Colts" is stamped above the trigger guard on the left side. A number also is stamped on the butt plate

and twice forward of the trigger guard. Pictures of sailing craft are etched on the chamber, as well as "Colts Patent No. 7903." Its overall length is 10 1/4 inches.

Anyone with any information can contact the Greene County Sheriff's Office at (417) 868-4040 or Wilson's Creek National Battlefield at (417) 732-2662, ext. 225 or ext. 274. Information can also be left with the F.B.I. Springfield Office at (417) 882-3303 or with Crimestoppers at (417) 869-TIPS.

Reenactors donate to flag effort

An Ohio reenactment group has donated \$1,000 toward conservation of the 3rd Confederate Infantry Regiment flag, part of the Confederate Battle Flag collection at the Old State House Museum in Little Rock.

According to reenactor Robert Minton, his group portrays the 14th Ohio Volunteer Infantry and the 3rd Arkansas Infantry Regiment in northwest Ohio. "We chose the 3rd because we were

looking for a unit that had been in the thick of many fights," Minton said. "In the last few years we have raised about \$25,000 for various preservation causes. Last year we donated \$20,000 to the Ohio Historical Society flag preservation effort. We have also donated to local monument restorations and this year, along with your donation, we are sending \$1,000 to help purchase land at Johnson's Island Prison."



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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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