



Arkansas Battlefield Update

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Sesquicentennial Commission works on markers, passports

The Arkansas Civil War Sesquicentennial Commission is continuing its efforts to prepare for the commemoration of the Civil War by preparing a historical marker program and a passport program for Civil War sites in the state.

The Arkansas Civil War Sesquicentennial Historical Marker Program will allow local sponsors to apply for a marker to memorialize a Civil War event that occurred in their area. The markers will be approximately 30 inches by 40 inches and will be made of cast aluminum with gold letters on a black background.

Application instructions should be available on the ACWSC website

CACWHT continues networking efforts with visits to Civil War Roundtables

By Rick Meadows
CACWHT Chair

One of our goals that we have had for this year is to connect with more organizations that are identifying, promoting and preserving Civil War sites and educating the public on how the Civil War affected Arkansas.

On September 3, I was invited to speak to the White County Civil War Roundtable. A large group



at www.arkansascivilwar150.com sometime in November. The commission hopes to place at least one marker in each of
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welcomed me as I brought them up to date on the events that are being planned in Central Arkansas.

Brice Butler, president of the White County Civil War Roundtable, reported that they have identified six locations in White County of historical importance. Some of them include: Searcy Landing, Whitney Lane, and Des Arc Bayou, just south of town along the Batesville to Little Rock Road. Scott Akridge, co-author of, *A Severe and Bloody*
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Reed's Bridge may soon see artillery pieces

Reed's Bridge Battlefield Preservation Society, Inc., has had a busy three months with projects that have included fund raisers to purchase two cannons, the city of Jacksonville buying a house and a lot for a future interpretive center, and construction of a small log house and a barn. There was a fall encampment on September 11-13 and a haunted battlefield and barn on October 24.

The cannons will be ready to pick up November 1 in Gloucester, VA, and will be delivered to the battlefield. Credit needs to go to Steve Shore and Mike Kish for their efforts in getting funds for this project from V.F.W. Club #4548 in Jacksonville as well as the Jacksonville Advertising and Promotion Commission.

A rock house, built in 1932, which is located on the west side of Highway 161 in the battlefield, was purchased recently by the city of Jacksonville for an interpretive center as well as a visitor information center. Funds for this project were provided by the City of Jacksonville and Mike
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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

Alan Thompson (479) 846-2990

alan.thompson@arkansas.gov

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

West Central Arkansas CWHT

Larry Puckett (479) 459-5412

larrypuckett@email.com

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

Southwest Arkansas CWHT

Tom Beam

(501) 760-1116

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

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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

Rick Meadows (501) 843-9090

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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 passport program will highlight 24 state sites

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Arkansas's 75 counties.

The Arkansas Civil War Sesquicentennial Historical Marker Program is initially being funded through a grant from the federal Preserve America program, and the commission will seek additional funding in the future.

The Arkansas Civil War Sesquicentennial Passport Program will encourage heritage tourism by sending travelers to visit Civil War-related sites around the state. Once there, the visitors can have their passports stamped while learning about the site and its Civil War story. The passport will highlight 24 sites and include information on 30 other locations that can be visited.

Travelers who complete their passport books will be able to send them in for a prize. Details on the program are still being developed, but the commission hopes to open the program in mid-2010.

The commission also is developing a series of podcasts that will be available at its website. The initial offerings will include discussions by Arkansas Civil War historians Carl Moneyhon, Michael B. Dougan, James Johnston and Stephan McAteer and will focus on some of the events of 1861.

For more information on the Arkansas Civil War Sesquicentennial Commission and its plans, please visit the ACWSC website at www.arkansascivilwar150.com.

ABPP accepting applications for battlefield protection grants

The American Battlefield Protection Program (ABPP) of the National Park Service invites non-profit groups, academic institutions, local, regional, state, and tribal governments and other private sector organizations to submit applications for grants.

The purpose of this grant program is to provide seed money for projects that lead directly to the identification, preservation and interpretation of battlefield land and/or historic sites associated with battlefields. Types of funded projects include archeology, cultural landscape inventories, cultural resource documentation, GIS mapping, National Register of Historic Places nominations, and preservation plans. Project funding has ranged from \$5,000 to \$80,000.

The ABPP encourages potential

applicants to contact the ABPP staff and discuss proposed projects before preparing an application. Contact the ABPP grants manager by email at kristen_mcmasters@nps.gov or at (202) 354-2037 for more information.

Applications sent by commercial express delivery service or hand-delivered by the applicant must be received in the ABPP office by 4 p.m. January 21, 2010.

Applications sent by mail must be USPS postmarked by January 2, 2010. Late and/or incomplete grant application packages will not be considered for funding and will be discarded without action or notification.

For more information, visit the ABPP website at <http://www.nps.gov/history/hps/abpp/grants/battlefieldgrants/2010grants.htm>.

SWACWHT reports on region's activities

By Peggy Lloyd
and Tom Beam
SWACWHT Chairs

Constant rainfall has replaced summer heat in the last few weeks in Southwest Arkansas and has curtailed outdoor excursions. Hopefully, the rains will soon abate for Civil War weekend at Historic Washington State Park on November 6-8. An unusually large turnout of re-enactors is expected this year with participants including both Confederate and Union re-enactors.

Rev. Keenan Williams of Hope is coordinating and planning activities. Soldiers will march from DeAnn to Washington beginning on Friday. There will be skirmishing and camping on private property through arrangements with local landowners. A battle will be re-enacted on private property near Washington on Saturday and is open to the public. The event is sponsored by private groups and Historic Washington State Park.

Tulip in Dallas County, a favorite with members of the Southwest Arkansas Civil War Heritage Trails Association, held its annual Tulip Days on Saturday, October 10, at the Tulip Community Center on Highway 9. Renowned in the late antebellum period for its well-to-do families and high standards of education, Tulip also saw Civil War activity during the Camden Expedition in the spring of 1864.

Interest continues to increase in the Jenkins' Ferry battle site in Grant County. The Southeast and Southwest Arkansas Civil War Heritage Trails groups have agreed to share care and interest in Grant County. Recently Edgar Colvin of Pine Bluff prepared a marker and placed it near Cox's Creek to commemorate Private Cherry, a Confederate soldier who died at Jenkins' Ferry.



Alan Pettus Grave Marker

Recently Peggy Lloyd visited the burial site of Capt. Allen T. Pettus in the Hopson Cemetery just west of Falls Chapel on U.S. Highway 71 in Sevier County. Pettus, a well-to-do farmer and slaveholder, was a native of Charlotte County, Virginia. He came to Arkansas in 1837 and patented land in Sevier County in 1844.

Pettus served in the Mexican War under Zachary Taylor. He enlisted in the Second Arkansas Mounted Rifles on July 27, 1861, at Osage Prairie, Arkansas, after a journey of 225 miles from his home in Sevier County. He

served first as a lieutenant in Company G and was elected captain on August 16, 1861.

Apparently, Pettus either did not go east or stay there with the Second Arkansas Mounted Rifles. He died at Marks' Mills on April 25, 1864. At the time of his death he was a lieutenant colonel. Of the men he served with, few survived the war. His grave is marked with a marble tombstone and stands in a grove of towering pines. To the west and south is a panorama of the rolling hills of southwest Arkansas.

Got News?

The *Arkansas Battlefield Update* will publish information about upcoming meetings, reenactments, special events, preservation efforts and other Civil War-related activities.

But you have to tell us about them first.

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

Civil War Arkansas on the Internet!

Log onto these sites to learn more:

www.arkansascivilwar150.com

www.arkansaspreservation.org

www.civilwarbuff.org

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

NEACWHT involved with sesquicentennial of founding of Jonesboro; stresses Civil War

By Danny Honnoll
NEACWHT Chair

The Northeast Arkansas Civil War Heritage Trails Committee has been working very hard of late. W. Danny Honnoll, president, has been presenting numerous presentations on the sesquicentennial of Jonesboro and Craighead County. He gave the main address on business and commercial day during the celebration week to the Kiwanis Club at the Cooper Center at ASU.

More than 100 people attended

the event. He pointed out how the Civil War touched Jonesboro/Craighead County with a heavy hand, with damage and looting to the highest degree. It was the most historic event to happen in Jonesboro/Craighead County during the war. At every presentation Honnoll pointed out that in 2011-15 we will be presenting the Arkansas Civil War Sesquicentennial celebration. The speech was very well received.

Honnoll points out that it is these little battles and skirmishes that are being lost to time. Because the South had few presses to help document the actions in

these off-the-beaten-path locations it is important that we all do our part to record these sites.

Honnoll reported that he is working with Judge Gary Howell in Piggott on a re-enactment at Chalk Bluff next year. Judge Howell is to get back to Honnoll on the dates of the Chalk Bluff event. A re-enactment in 2009 was skipped to see if that would help re-enactor and spectator participation.

M. Ray Jones and Honnoll were invited to give a talk on General Patrick Cleburne in Mount Vernon, Ohio. On **Continued on Page 5.**

Central Arkansas groups sponsor events

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Fight: The Battle of Whitney's Land & Military Occupation of White County, Arkansas, May & June, 1862, has been working on the Southwest Trail that went through the middle of White County. "This trail was used before the Civil War and was a major route for soldiers going to battle in the Mexican war," Butler added. The White County Civil War Roundtable meets the first Thursday of each month except during the summer.

On Saturday, September 27, Eddie Landreth invited the public to attend the annual gun and artifact show at the Shoppach House in Benton. The Shoppach House is located on the Old Military Road that leads to Arkadelphia and Texas. Built in 1852, it is the oldest brick house in Saline County. The ladies of Benton presented a flag to a company of troops in 1861 as they went off to fight at the first Battle of Manassas.

The Civil War Roundtable of Arkansas, which meets on the fourth Tuesday of the month at the Second Presbyterian Church in Little Rock, will host two speakers this fall. Mark Christ



The Shoppach House in Benton

presented a program in October on the Battle of Helena. Dr. William Shea, from the University of Arkansas at Monticello, will discuss the Battle of Prairie Grove. Dr. Shea has just completed a new book: *Fields of Blood: The Prairie Grove Campaign.*

The Civil War Roundtable of North Little Rock meets at St. Luke's Episcopal Church on the second Tuesday of each month. All interested persons are invited to attend any of the local Civil War Roundtables.

Pair visits sites were Arkansawyers fought

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the way up to Ohio they stopped at the Kentucky battlefields at Perryville and Richmond. When they got to Mount Vernon they were surprised to learn that this was the birth and burial site of Daniel Emmetts. Emmetts wrote the songs "Ole Dan Tucker" and "Dixie." They stayed at a bed and breakfast that was the home of Col. William Cooper, a Federal officer. The stay was quite pleasant.

The two Arkansawyers left Ohio and headed to Gettysburg, Pa., and spent the night in the Gen. R.E. Lee Motel. They toured the battlefield for the better part of two days. From there they visited Sharpsburg (Antietam), Harper's Ferry, Manassas, Fredericksburg, Salem Church, Chancellorsville, Wilderness, Spotsylvania, Guinea Station, Petersburg, Five Forks, Sailor's Creek and Appomattox.

After leaving Appomattox, they traveled to Lexington, Va. The next morning they visited the burial sites of Gen. Stonewall Jackson and Gen. Robert E. Lee. Later in the morning they visited the Virginia Military Institute. They traveled 2,268 miles in six and one half days. For the majority of the battlefield part of their trek they followed the 3rd Arkansas Infantry Regiment and other Arkansas troops and stood on the battle field where the men from Arkansas fought.

On October 16 a presentation was given to the Nettleton Public School sixth grade. The subject covered was the Civil War and Arkansas. On October 20 Honnoll gave a Civil War presentation to Dr. Mark McJunkin's class.

Martin Creek/Morgan Mills has been taken care of by Bobbie and Dale Barnett of Ravenden. They make sure a new flag is flying over the marker that we placed there on November 27, 2004. The



M. Ray Jones and Danny Honnoll visit Arkansas Memorial at Gettysburg.

Confederate Outpost owned by Mrs. Waggoner and her son Mike Waggoner donates the flags for use at this site. Keep up the good work Dale, Bobbie, Mother W. and Mike.

Currently the "Southern Confederate Heritage Park" in Jonesboro is flying the 50-star Star-Spangled Banner, Arkansas State flag, Third National Confederate flag and the Green Mountain Boy flag from the American Revolution. The flags were replaced on October 9; which was Arkansas Confederate Flag Day.

We will hold our annual NEACWHT meeting at the Fishboat Restaurant on December 15. Anyone with

presents or things to donate for the fundraising auction should please bring them. This will help the group really do something in the way of a capital drive for a base and statue for the Jonesboro park.

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

The next meeting of the NEACWHTC will be at 6 p.m. on December 15 at the Fishboat Restaurant at 3905 E. Nettleton Ave. in Jonesboro. See you there!

Restoration underway at PG

*By Alan Thompson
NWACWHT Chair*

At Prairie Grove Battlefield State Park, restoration of the Borden House has started. The current phase will include a new roof and stabilization of the structure. The incessant recent rains, however, have slowed down progress. Future work will include restoring the interior and making it accessible to the public.

The original house was destroyed the day after the battle along with three other houses by the Union

Army. In 1868 the family rebuilt the house on the original foundation.

The museum at Prairie Grove will be closed from September 2010 thru September 2011 as the new exhibit plan is implemented. Park offices and limited display items will be moved to the Latta Barn during that time.

Pea Ridge National Military Park is currently remodeling its museum which is due to reopen in March 2010.

The next meeting of the NWACWHT will be Monday, November 16, at 7 p.m. at Prairie Grove Battlefield State Park in the Latta Barn.

Grand Prairie battle was big win for Shelby

The Ashley's and Jones' Stations Battlefield was listed on the Arkansas Register of Historic Places on April 1, 2009. The text of the nomination for this little-known battle site follows.

The Ashley's and Jones' Stations Battlefield, located north of Highway 70 on the Grand Prairie between modern-day Carlisle and Hazen, was the scene of an August 24, 1864, battle that signaled the end of J.O. Shelby's summer operations in northeast Arkansas and harbingered the beginning of Sterling Price's invasion of Missouri. The site is being nominated to the Arkansas Register of Historic Places under Criterion A with statewide significance by virtue of its status as one of the final actions of any consequence fought in Arkansas during the Civil War. The site is not eligible for the National Register because the growth of the city of Carlisle and nearly 150 years of agricultural use have changed the landscape, though it does still retain the low, flat terrain that was there in 1864.

Brig. Gen. Joseph Orville Shelby had been a thorn in the side of Union forces in northeastern Arkansas throughout the summer of 1864. He and his Missouri brigade had moved into the region shortly after Federal Gen. Frederick Steele's failed Camden Expedition with orders to tame lawless deserters and bushwhackers and to hinder Union operations, particularly along the vital Memphis to Little Rock Railroad and on the White River. Shelby's constant raiding and such spectacular stunts as capturing and destroying the U.S. gunboat *Queen City* had Union forces on the defensive by August.

DeVall's Bluff was a major cavalry depot and supplying the posts substantial herd of horses and mules with fodder was an important and dangerous job. The Federal hay stations west of the Bluff made tempting targets for Southern horsemen both regular and irregular, and the pressure on them was strong throughout the summer. Some 200 Rebel horsemen hit the Eleventh Missouri

Cavalry (U.S.) at Hay Station No. 3 on July 30, losing one killed but seizing 18 civilian hay cutters and 18 to 20 horses. Third Michigan Cavalry troopers guarding a herd near the remount camp were attacked by guerrillas on August 5, and 13 men of the Fifty-fourth Illinois Infantry on hay-cutting duty were captured on August 12, though they were quickly freed by a party of the Eleventh Missouri. The task of securing fodder on the prairie west of DeVall's Bluff was hot, dangerous and nerve-wracking for the Yankee soldiers and civilian employees who ventured from the Bluff. As late August approached, the five stations scattered along a line between eight and twelve miles west of the Bluff were guarded by the veteran Fifty-Fourth Illinois and detachments of the First Nebraska Cavalry.

On August 20, Shelby, believing that Maj. Gen. Sterling Price was heading north to cross the Arkansas River and initiate his invasion of Missouri, set out with between 2,000 and 2,500 men from his camps around Searcy to hit the Memphis to Little Rock Railroad. His command consisted of under-strength brigades led by Col. David Shanks, Col. Sidney D. Jackman and Col. Thomas McCray, in addition to Capt. Richard Collins' Second Missouri Field Artillery Battery. Heading south, he detached a force under Col. Archibald Dobbin at Austin to guard the single bridge across Big Cypress Creek, which was roaring above its banks. Then, on the morning of August 24, he approached the extensive hay-cutting operation between Jones Station and Ashley Station. Dressed in captured Federal uniforms, "slowly in column of fours the old division and McCray's brigade marched leisurely along, with Collins' battery half way [down] the line; then the two ammunition wagons; then a small guard, maybe three squadrons, behind the wagons; and, altogether, the whole thing looked exactly like a Federal expedition returning carelessly from a four days' scout." The unsuspecting Federals and the civilian contractors cutting the hay were caught by surprise, scattered across the prairie

in small groups. Sending Col. DeWitt C. Hunter's Cavalry Regiment east to guard against reinforcements from DeVall's Bluff, Shelby swept into the attack.

As historian Scott Porter has observed, "Made of logs, dirt and hay, the hay stations offered good protection against small bands of raiding guerrilla but not major assaults by conventional forces with artillery." Approaching the first fort at Ashley's Station, manned by two companies of the Fifty-fourth Illinois and troopers of the First Nebraska Cavalry, Shelby demanded its surrender and was told "if you want this fort, come and take it." The Twelfth Missouri Cavalry (C.S.) formed into columns of twos and charged. The Missourians galloped to within 30 paces of the fort, dismounted, and charged on foot. It was not long before "high over the white bursts of the powder-cloud that drifted and floated away before the battle breeze a white flag waved out as a token of surrender." Confederate cavalryman George Campbell, among those charging, noted "on my right hand was a young soldier named Bledsoe, pistol in hand, aiming to shoot a Federal soldier. I knocked the pistol up, pushed up, pushed him down the bank and stopped him. The young Federal stood trembling like a leaf, the tears rolling down his cheek." Gobbling 150 prisoners, 200 small arms and assorted supplies, the Rebels fired the hay-bale fort and headed west toward the next fort. This, too, fell swiftly, adding 100 more soldiers to the Rebels' tally, then the third was captured along with 50 more Yankees. Fugitives from the first three forts and the parties from the prairie streamed toward Fort No. 4 as Col. G.M. Mitchell of the Fifty-fourth sent a desperate message to DeVall's Bluff: "I am surrounded by a large number of cavalry from the north of the railroad. Ashley's Station surrendered, and hay burned. I have concentrated six companies at this station and will fight to the last; send help if possible." The grim Yankees loaded their weapons and awaited the next Rebel onslaught. It was not long in coming, as

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Hay-cutting operations disrupted by fighting

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three Rebel regiments charged the fort, which had been under fire from Collins' battery. Edwards described the action: "The Illinoisans stood to their guns manfully, and many of the old brigade fell dead or hard hit as they went up to the grapple, but the survivors, leaping the ditch, poured a deadly fusillade into the crowded works. Three times a white flag went up for quarter, and three times some bold, proud hand snatched it down to renew the fight." Looking toward DeVall's Bluff, the Illinois infantrymen saw a relief column of Federal cavalrymen approaching. The men of the Fifty-fourth made a desperate rush from Fort No. 4, and "sharp and brief was the chase. When within 500 yards of their friends the Federals were overtaken, surrounded, ridden over and Colonel Mitchell and 450 of his officers and men surrendered unconditionally."

George Campbell of the 8th Missouri Cavalry (C.S.) was among the horsemen who pursued the fleeing Yankees: "We leaned forward in our saddles, and with cheers and yells on our lips, made the dash and caught up with them as they were crossing the railroad. [I] was riding a mule, and when we came to the track the mule refused to cross it. I thrust my spurs so deep into his side he jumped clean over the track, and ran away with me right into the Federals. They opened up to let me pass through. I could not account for my escape without it was their admiration for the bravery of that mule, to whom I give all credit as I was doing my best to hold him."

As the Missourians overwhelmed the defenders of Fort No. 4, "the rebels immediately robbed us of everything of value," one Nebraskan noted, "money, watches, knives, combs, hats, and in many instances coats, jackets, blouses, boots, and shoes."

Brig. Gen. Christopher Columbus Andrews had received his first message of the disaster at Ashley's Station at 12:30 p.m. from a soldier of the First Nebraska and immediately sent Col. W.F. Geiger west with 900 troopers of the Eighth and Eleventh Missouri Cavalry

(U.S.) and the Ninth Iowa Cavalry. (Andrews also sent out a locomotive with four flatcars carrying the Twelfth Michigan Infantry, but the foot soldiers returned after seeing the smoke from the burning hay stations.) Geiger approached the columns of smoke from the burning forts and hay-baling machines and deployed the Eighth Missouri even as the sound of cannon fire ceased from around the beleaguered Federal works and the hapless members of the Fifty-fourth Illinois and First Nebraska were hurried north toward the timberline. Seeing Rebel cavalrymen formed in line of battle north of the railroad, the Yankee colonel ordered the Eleventh Missouri to cut across the tracks and threaten the Confederates' left flank, the Eighth moving against their front and the Ninth Iowa hanging back in reserve. Rebel muskets and Yankee carbines cracked across the prairie, the combatants attempting to turn each others' lefts even as the Confederates slowly fell back across the flat, featureless landscape, where Sydney Jackman noted "there was not a twig, much less a tree, between them and us." A veteran captain of the Eighth Missouri wrote home about the experience of fighting on the Arkansas prairie: "I have been in some seven or eight battles and skirmishes, but this is the first one I ever saw. It was out on the open prairie, where every motion of the enemy could be seen, and there we stood for one long hour, firing away at each other, and neither party willing to quit first." As night approached, Geiger broke off the engagement, having lost 9 killed, 43 wounded and 1 missing.

In Little Rock, Brig. Gen. Eugene A. Carr immediately began sending troops east to the aid of DeVall's Bluff. Seven hundred infantry under Col. Adolph Engelmann headed for Brownsville on the 24th with promises for an equal number of the Ninth Kansas Cavalry to arrive the next morning, along with 300-400 men of the Tenth Illinois and Third Michigan Cavalry to protect the railroad. Some 800 troopers under Lt. Col. C.S. Clark of the Ninth Kansas

followed Shelby as far as Big Cypress Creek on August 26. There they clashed with the Confederate rearguard under Col. B.F. Gordon, who withstood three charges by the Federals before retiring. Brig. Gen. J.R. West left DeVall's Bluff on August 27 with 600 men who joined with Clark's cavalrymen to make yet another ineffectual pursuit of Shelby's men, who "returned to White River without further molestation."

Shelby's action at Ashley's Station would be the final major act of what had been a busy and rewarding summer for Confederate Arkansas and a costly and humiliating one for Frederick Steele's Northerners. Shelby reported: "The immediate and tangible fruits of my expedition are 577 prisoners, including 1 field officer and 11 line officers; over 200 Federals killed and wounded; ten miles of railroad track destroyed completely – the ties torn up and burned, the iron heated and bent, telegraph destroyed, bridges and trestle-works ruined; 3,000 bales of hay destroyed by fire; 20 hay machines chopped to pieces; 5 forts razed to the ground; 500 stand of small arms distributed to my unarmed men; many fine horses captured; 12 barrels of salt brought off the field and given to a command suffering for it, besides supplying many needy soldiers with blankets, shoes, boots, hats, and clothing. All this was done within six miles of DeVall's Bluff, and my detail was tearing up the track while the enemy's bullets, fired at the covering regiments, were throwing the splinters from the ties into their very faces."

Shelby lost a total of 173 men, killed and wounded, in the expedition against the hay cutting operations along the Little Rock and Memphis Railroad.

While the fighting on the prairie had little if any impact on the outcome of the Civil War, it was one of the more noteworthy actions of the summer of 1864 and helped to clear the way for Sterling Price to get his Confederate army across the Arkansas River and begin his ultimately disastrous invasion of Missouri. As such, it is deserving of recognition in the Arkansas Register of Historic Places

Reed's Bridge hosts re-enactment at battle site

Continued from Page 1
Wilson.

Steve Shore planned a project to build a homestead on a part of the battlefield close to the location of the proposed interpretive center. Not only did Steve plan the project but, with the help of Mike Kish and Larry the builder, they constructed a small log house with fireplace and is near completion of a barn with a loft. Much of the lumber for the barn came from two old houses that were torn down on the adjacent George McCain, Jr., land and the rest of the materials have been purchased new. Mike and Steve say that with the completion of the barn, they will halt further construction until after the first of the year. Spring will see a new full-sized log cabin started with a completion date on or about July 12, 2010.

Steve Shore, from this date on, will be known as "The Beaver." A

beaver is the only animal that can be compared with Steve as far as being industrious as well as smart. Not only did Steve have the building and fund raising going, but he also planned and organized a fall encampment for September 11-13 at

the battlefield. There were some 30-35 re-enactors camped during that time and numerous people came by and watched as they drilled and gave talks about their guns and equipment.

October 24 was RBBPS'S haunted battlefield and barn and it turned out to be great fun as well as making a little money. The society would like to thank Jack Danielson as well as all of the



Reed's Bridge Battlefield

other persons who helped on this event, especially the re-enactors who make the haunted battlefield a real success. Thanks again.

RBPS wants to thank everyone who has donated their time and money on any and all of these projects with a special thanks to the young men in the Youth Challenge Program.



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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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