



Arkansas Battlefield Update

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Friends of Jenkins' Ferry seek preservation plan funds

By Ron Kelley
FOJFB Vice Chair

Jenkins' Ferry Battlefield in Grant County is getting a lot of attention on the cusp of the 150th anniversary of the April 29-30, 1864, conflict. Drawing upon a swelling of community support in Sheridan and surrounding communities, the Friends of Jenkins' Ferry Battlefield has made tremendous progress over the first year of their existence.

Since last January, the FOJFB has drawn in over 200 members and boasts of a multitude of business support in and around Sheridan. The group has written by-laws, has been incorporated in the state of Arkansas, and will have a 501 (c) 3 non-profit status before the next *Battlefield Update*. In cooperation with the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program, FOJFB is seeking funding from the American Battlefield Protection Program for a



preservation plan for the site.

The Friends of Jenkins' Ferry Battlefield exist, "to protect, preserve and promote the historical significance of the Jenkins' Ferry Battlefield through funding and development of educational programs and community outreach efforts, including: tours, re-enactments, research, publications, lectures, workshops and

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NW partners sponsor student podcasts

By Alan Thompson
NWACWHT Chair

To commemorate the 150th anniversary of the Civil War, several Northwest Arkansas museums and historical organizations are sponsoring a podcast contest for K-12 students in Benton, Boone, Carroll, Madison, Newton, and Washington counties. The contest is sanctioned by the [Arkansas Civil War Sesquicentennial Commission](#).

In the contest, students will create a short, non-fiction, audio podcast about the Civil War in the Arkansas Ozarks.

Podcasts must be audio-only, no video or still images. Both individuals and groups may enter. Divisions are Elementary School—Grades K-5; Middle School—Grades 6-8; and High School—Grades 9-12. Cash prizes of \$100 for first place and \$50 for second place will be awarded in each category.

Contest entries must be submitted by February 3, 2012. Winners will be announced during the Battle of Pea Ridge sesquicentennial event at Pea Ridge National Military Park on Saturday, March 10, 2012. Cash prizes will be awarded, and winning podcasts will be posted on the Sesquicentennial Commission's website.

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ACWSC gives project grants across state

The Arkansas Civil War Sesquicentennial Commission has awarded \$22,164 in grants for 14 projects around the state.

Grants were awarded for the following projects:

- * Arkansas Living History Association, \$950 for "The Sweetheart Waltz: The Civil War Commences in Washington County"
- * Friends of the Rogers Historical Museum, \$1,180 for "Rally Around the Flags: Flags of the Battle of Pea Ridge"
- * Sevier County Historical Museum, \$495 for "Hoo-Rah Days: Commemorating the Civil War"
- * Fayetteville Public Library, \$2,000 for "Beyond Battlefields: Making Sense of the American Civil War"
- * Helena Museum of Phillips County, \$2,000 for a diorama of the Helena Confederate Cemetery
- * Historic Preservation Alliance of Arkansas, \$2,000 for "Red River Ramble: The Camden Expedition and the Civil War in Arkansas"
- * Shiloh Museum of Ozark History, \$1,180 for "Other Voices: Civil War in the Ozarks," a symposium.
- * Baxter County Library, Mountain Home, \$1,859 for

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For Information

General Information

Mark Christ (501) 324-9880

mark@arkansasheritage.org

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

Northwest Arkansas CWHT

Alan Thompson (479) 846-2990

alan.thompson@arkansas.gov

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

West Central Arkansas CWHT

Larry Puckett (479) 769-4738

larrypuckett@email.com

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

Southwest Arkansas CWHT

Peggy Lloyd (870) 983-2633

peggy.lloyd@arkansas.gov

Tom Beam (501) 760-1116

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

Mark Kalkbrenner (870) 247-2394

deovindice@suddenlink.net

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) 843-3279

rmeadows@aaamissouri.com

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

Northeast Arkansas CWHT

Danny Honnoll (870) 935-9830

danny@honnoll.com

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

Fayetteville Library 'talking about' Civil War in state

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Contest rules are available at the Shiloh Museum of Ozark History website, <http://www.shilohmuseum.org/education/podcast-contest.php>, or by calling the museum at (479) 750-8165.

The podcast contest is sponsored by the Benton County Historical Society, Fayetteville Convention and Visitors Bureau, Northwest Arkansas Civil War Roundtable, Northwest Arkansas Genealogical Society, Pea Ridge National Military Park Foundation, Rogers Historical Museum, Shiloh Museum of Ozark History, Washington County Arkansas Genealogical Society, and the Washington County Historical Society.

The Shiloh Museum of Ozark Heritage in Springdale has an Arkansas Civil War Sesquicentennial Historical Marker application about ready to be submitted and I will be working with Rep. Jon Woods to get others placed.

Troy Banzhaf from Pea Ridge and myself participated in the Wreaths Across America event at the Fayetteville National Cemetery on December 10 and spoke about the burial of the fallen at Pea Ridge and Prairie Grove, as well as the process of moving the remains to the Fayetteville National Cemetery when it was established in 1867.

The Fayetteville Public Library will host "Let's Talk About It: Making Sense of the American Civil War," a scholar-led reading and

discussion program for public audiences, funded through a grant from the American Library Association and the National Endowment for the Humanities. This five-part series of reading and discussion programs will take place monthly and each will focus on a different facet of the Civil War experience, using one or more common texts as a foundation and touchstone. The texts include works of historical fiction and interpretation, speeches, diaries, memoirs, biographies, short stories and nonfiction.

Dr. Daniel Sutherland, Distinguished Professor of History at the University of Arkansas, will lead each discussion. Sutherland has written eight books and edited five others. He has published over forty book chapters and articles in both popular magazines and scholarly journals. He has received over thirty honors, awards, and research grants. Five of his books have been selected by the History Book Club.

This program has been sanctioned by the Arkansas Civil War Sesquicentennial Commission. To view the ACWSC calendar of Civil War-related events taking place around Arkansas visit: www.arkansascivilwar150.com.

The Arkansas Humanities Council is in the process of setting up several other "Let's Talk About It" projects around the state.

Arkansas Civil War Heritage Trails Foundation, Inc

Financial Report

Jan. 1, 2010 - Dec. 31, 2010

01/01/2010	Beginning balance.....	\$ 1688.34+
01/21/2010	Deposit.....	\$2500.00+
	(South Arkansas Historical Society — for Jack Hill Productions)	
01/25/2010	Jack Hill (Jack Hill Productions).....	\$2500.00-
	ACWHTF, Inc ck # 1037	
03/16/2010	Deposit.....	\$500.00+
	(Dues and Durnett Award)	
07/25/2010	AR Historical Association (Durnett Award).....	\$1250.00-
	ACWHTF, Inc ck # 1038	
	Account total as of 12/31/2010	<u>\$938.34+</u>
	** \$ 150.00 in account for Cane Hill (NWACWHT)	
	*** SEACWHT paid for P.O. Box in October from 2010 dues (\$ 68.00)	

Submitted by: H. Mark Kalkbrenner
Treasurer

ACWSC assists with historical markers, adds new podcasts and cell phone tours

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"Fire in the Hole: Quilt Signals and Cannon Blasts"

* Bill and Sharon Arnold Family Foundation, DeValls Bluff, \$2,000 for the second annual Fort Lincoln Freedom Fest

* Hot Springs Music Festival, Hot Springs, \$2,000 for "The Magnolia Ball"

* Arkansas Museum of Natural Resources Foundation, Smackover, \$2,000 for "Battlefields as Memories from an un-Civil War"

* Peel Compton Foundation, Bentonville, \$1,000 for "The Civil War Careers of Congressman Samuel Peel and Governor James Berry" brochure

* Conway County Historical Preservation Association, \$1,500 for Civil War in Conway County wayside exhibit

* Butler Center for Arkansas Studies, Little Rock, \$2,000 for "Occupied Arkansas" exhibit.

The deadline to apply for the next round of ACWSC grants is February 17, 2012. Grant applications and guidelines can be downloaded at <http://www.arkansascivilwar150.com/historical-markers/grants.aspx>, or can be requested by writing to ACWSC Grants, 1500 Tower Building, 323 Center Street, Little Rock, AR 72201, sending an e-mail to acwsc@arkansasheritage.org, or calling (501) 324-9877.

The ACWSC also has added "sidebars" to some of its cell phone tours of Arkansas Civil War sites, according to ACWSC Chairman Tom Dupree.

"We wanted to add some information on people and events that were not directly addressed in the existing cell phone tours," Dupree said. "We will be creating more tours in 2012, and they each will feature 'sidebars.'"

The cell phone tours can be accessed by calling (501) 203-3015 or by visiting <http://www.arkansascivilwar150.com/civil-war-sites/audio/>. The sidebars include General James Blunt (Stop 101), Bayou Fourche Aftermath (Stop 111), Dissent Among Confederate Commanders (Stop 112), the Road to Elkins' Ferry (Stop 121), Washington (Stop 131), Red River Campaign (Stop 141), Mount Elba (Stop 151), Jenkins' Ferry Aftermath (Stop 161) and the Greenville Bends (Stop 171).

Other tours include the Fourche Bayou Battlefield (Stop 11) in Little Rock; Cane Hill Battlefield (Stop 10) in Washington County; Elkins' Ferry (Stop 12) and Prairie D'Ane (Stop 13) Battlefields in Nevada County;

Poison Spring Battlefield (Stop 14) in Ouachita County; Fort Southerland (Stop 18) in Camden; Marks' Mills Battlefield (Stop 15) in Cleveland County; Jenkins' Ferry Battlefield (Stop 16) in Grant County, and Ditch Bayou Battlefield (Stop 17) in Chicot County.

Several Arkansas Civil War Sesquicentennial Historical Markers have been created, including:

No. 18: Civil War Healing, Eureka Springs, Carroll County

No. 19: The Borden House/Legacy of Prairie Grove, Prairie Grove, Washington County

No. 20: Action at Cotton Plant, Cotton Plant, Woodruff County

No. 21: The Civil War in Van Buren County, Clinton, Van Buren County

No. 22: Skirmish at Yocum Creek, Green Forest, Carroll County

No. 23: Mount Holly Cemetery, Mount Holly, Union County

No. 24: Gen. John Porter McCown, Magnolia, Columbia County

No. 25: First Kansas Colored Infantry, Camden, Ouachita County

No. 26: Boone County in the Civil War, Harrison, Boone County

No. 27: Destruction of Salt Works, Bald Knob vic., White County.

The application for the Arkansas Civil War Sesquicentennial Commission Historical Marker Program can be downloaded at <http://www.arkansascivilwar150.com/historical-markers/markers.aspx>.

The ACWSC added nine new podcasts about the state's Civil War history to its website. The new podcasts were created in cooperation with the School of Mass Communication at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock. The new offerings include:

* Dr. Buck T. Foster, visiting assistant professor of history at the University of Central Arkansas, on guerrilla warfare in western Arkansas and the plight of civilians in Civil War Fort Smith

* William Stevens of the C.S.S. *Pontchartrain* Project on the June 17, 1862, battle of St. Charles

* Archie Moore of the Arkansas Civil War Sesquicentennial Commission on the unique issues facing soldiers in the United States Colored Troops

* Josh Williams of Historic Washington State Park on the beginnings of the Civil War in Washington, Arkansas

* Sonny Rhodes of the School of Mass Communications at UALR on media coverage of the 1864 battle of Poison Spring

* Jodi Morris of Central High School National Historic Site on slavery and slave resistance in Arkansas

* Brian Robertson of the Butler Center for Arkansas Studies on the experiences of the Second Arkansas Cavalry (U.S.)

* Mark K. Christ of the Arkansas Civil War Sesquicentennial Commission on the October 25, 1863, battle of Pine Bluff.

The podcasts can be accessed at <http://www.arkansascivilwar150.com/research-education/podcasts/>.

For more information on sesquicentennial plans, visit www.arkansascivilwar150.com or e-mail acwsc@arkansasheritage.org. The ACWSC anticipates a very busy year as we enter the second year of the sesquicentennial commemoration in 2012!

FOJFB, Museum planning event

Continued from Page 1.

preservation of battlefield property." The Grant County Museum will sponsor a living history program from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. on April 28, 2012, with activities centering around the Battle of Jenkins' Ferry. For more information on Jenkins' Ferry Battlefield and how to become involved, visit www.jenkinsferry.com.

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/>

ACWSC, Natural Heritage Commission historical marker unveiled at Chalk Bluff

By Danny Honnoll
NEACWHT Chair

Another busy season for the NEACWHTC as we dedicated two new ACWSC historical markers in our area -- one for the Battle of Chalk Bluff and the other for the Battle of Cotton Plant. Spring flooding postponed the Chalk Bluff Civil War battle re-enactment until September 24, when Yankees and Rebels gathered on the historical Battlefield Park at Chalk Bluff, Arkansas. It was the 148th anniversary of the battle, and the event took place on the actual battle site, a rare event now days.

The Chalk Bluff Battlefield Park opened to the sounds of camp life. The women of the camp were making breakfast as the smells of bacon and eggs filled the air. The smoke was thick because of the heavy air the morning of the Chalk Bluff re-enactment.

The unveiling of the Arkansas Civil War Sesquicentennial Commission's Battle of Chalk Bluff historical marker, which was sponsored by the Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission, was witnessed by hundreds during the morning. W. Danny Honnoll welcomed the gathering at the unveiling. Shaver Camp Chaplain Joe May of Bay opened the dedication with a prayer for the soldiers who fought during the Civil War and also remembered the troops that are serving in our nation's armed forces around the world today. M. Ray Jones brought greetings from the Gen. James Fleming Fagan Camp, Military Order of Stars and Bars. Dale Barnett brought greetings from the Arkansas Division Sons of Confederate Veterans. Greetings were brought from the Albert Sidney Johnston United Daughters of the Confederacy by Bobbie Francis Barnett of Ravenden. Louis Riggs brought greetings from the re-enactors who took part in the re-enactment that followed the unveiling.



Joe May (from left), Louis Riggs, Clay County Judge Gary Howell, W. Danny Honnoll and M. Ray Jones dedicate Chalk Bluff marker.

Clay County Judge Gary Howell Clay said, "I want to welcome all of you to our beautiful Chalk Bluff Battlefield Park today." He went on to say that he hoped everyone enjoyed the new paved road to the park. "I want to thank Marion Berry, former U.S. Representative from Arkansas, for his tireless work in getting funding for our new paved road.

"Many individuals were instrumental in this project from Colonel Danny Honnoll, 30th Arkansas Infantry of Jonesboro, for promoting our re-enactments, to Ruth Hawkins at Arkansas State University, to former Arkansas representative Richard Simmons of Clay County," Howell added, "Please spread the word on our new road and invite your friends to come to Clay County and enjoy this jewel of a park here at Chalk Bluff."

Honnoll pointed out that this was the eighth Civil War historical marker to be dedicated by the Northeast Arkansas Civil War Trails.

The Arkansas Civil War Sesquicentennial Commission and

Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission sponsored the marker. This was marker number five in the ACWSC series.

Honnoll said, "If anyone wants a Civil War historical marker, contact me and I will give them the details on how to get a marker."

At eleven a.m., Roger Harvell of Barrett's Battery and the Neill Camp SCV of Batesville did the honors in firing his mountain howitzer in honor of all of those who died at Chalk Bluff during the Civil War.

Following the dedication, Jeannine Thompson of Jonesboro and Bobbie F. Barnett co-hosted the Chalk Bluff ladies tea and demonstrated life in refugee camps during the war. More than 40 ladies took part in the ladies tea this year. Barnett reflected that "This year we had more ladies for our tea and even had some home school students bring their own tea cups and saucers so they could take part in the tea."

That afternoon, blue- and grey-clad re-enactors took to the battlefield to

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1862 battle fought near Cotton Plant now remembered with new historical marker

Continued from previous page.

demonstrate to the gathering of more than 500 what the Battle of Chalk Bluff looked, sounded and smelled like. Honnoll spoke to the spectators and told the group what to look for in the battle and historical facts about the battle at Chalk Bluff and the Civil War. He noted that this is the site of the surrender of thousands of Confederate soldiers by Gen. M. Jeff "The Swamp Fox" Thompson to U.S. General Grenville Dodge on May 10, 1865.

Five cannons took part in the re-enactment, with pyrotechnics blowing up the sod as the cannons roared over and over during the re-enactment. The cracks of firing of the Enfield and Springfield rifles added to the sounds. Then you could hear the rapid fire of a Henry rifle with its quick-firing, demanding the attention of the onlookers at the re-enactment.

Saturday night the park was filled with Civil War period music and men and women dancing in the main circle of the park.

President of the Northeast Arkansas Living Historians Mrs. Judy Downs of Pocahontas led the group and they danced to the Virginia Reel and other music of the old times. Jim Kincade, a 7th Arkansas Infantry re-enactor from Pocahontas said, "We danced until we could not dance anymore. We always have a great time in our uniforms and period clothes dancing to the music."

The 150th reenactment of Chalk Bluff will be in 2013; the date is to be announced in the future.

The Chalk Bluff re-enactment was hosted by Clay County, the North East Arkansas Civil War Heritage Trails Committee, the SCV Shaver Camp #1655, of Jonesboro and the Gen. James F. Fagan Chapter #280, Military Order Stars and Bars, of Jonesboro. It was funded in part by a grant from the Arkansas Civil War Sesquicentennial Commission.

The next ACWSC marker was at Cotton Plant (aka Battle of Hill's Plantation, The Battle of Cache River, etc.).

On November 19, at 1:30 p.m., re-enactors, SCV members, and historians were present just north of Cotton Plant at the Cotton Plant Memorial Cemetery. The Battle took place on July 7, 1862, on the Hill's Plantation property three miles north of Cotton Plant.

Roger Lacefield of the Cotton Plant Memorial Cemetery board welcomed the gathering to Cotton Plant. After prayers blessing those who died during the Civil War was given by Rev. Dixon Platt of the Cotton Plant Methodist Church, Dewey Spencer, sponsor and chairman of the project, brought greetings.

The battle lasted all day on July 7, 1862, and in Spencer's research, he said he found that Union records indicate that more than 123 of the 1,600 soldiers who participated in the battle were killed on the battlefield. But he said that doesn't count the soldiers who died later from injuries received in the skirmish.

Spencer said his great-grandfather was a soldier in the Civil War, and that was one of the things that prompted Spencer and his family to sponsor a Civil War battlefield marker.

He went before the Civil War Sesquicentennial Commission to request the marker to commemorate the battle.

Spencer introduced Honnoll, a member of the ACWSC and the Sons of Confederate Veterans. Honnoll wrote a pamphlet on the Battle of Cotton Plant and Spencer recognized Honnoll for his work in preserving the history of our ancestors.

Roger Harvell, Cmdr. of the Pvt. Job Neill Camp of Batesville and an officer of Barrett's Battery (CSA), did honors by firing his cannons at different times in the program. Barrett's Battery is made up of two Civil War-era mountain howitzers.

The Honor Detail that fired period pistols and rifles was made up of Harold Nix of Newark, Jimmy Stevens of Trumann, and Joe May of Bay.

The marker was unveiled by Roberta Spencer, Dewey Spencer, Jack Caperton, Honnoll and M. Ray Jones.

The 30-inch by 42-inch black cast-aluminum historical marker will be placed at the cemetery, which is about three miles away from the actual battle site.

To conclude the service Honnoll performed the Confederate sword drill and spoke of the vacant chair for the fallen of the very terrible war.

Spencer thanked everyone for their help in this very worthwhile project.

With a final volley from the mountain howitzers, the service ended.

If you are interested in marking a Civil War site through this program, which received initial funding from the National Park Service's Preserve America program, the ACWSC will contribute up to \$1,000 toward the creation of individual historical markers. Commission historians will work with the local sponsors to ensure that all of the information on the markers is accurate.

Application forms are available by writing Arkansas Civil War Sesquicentennial Historical Marker Program, 1500 Tower Building, 323 Center Street, Little Rock, AR 72201 or sending an e-mail message to acwsc@arkansasheritage.org. They also can be downloaded at <http://www.arkansascivilwar150.com/historical-markers/>.

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

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

ACWHT Foundation discusses projects during annual meeting; next set for Feb. 4

The Arkansas Civil War Heritage Trails Foundation held its annual meeting beginning at 10 a.m. on Saturday, May 21, 2011.

Attendees were Mark Christ, Christene and David Ashlock – Dunagin’s Farm preservationists, Patrick Hotard, M. Ray Jones, W. Danny Honnoll, Larry Puckett and Peggy Lloyd.

1. Arkansas Civil War Heritage Trails Foundation.

- a. President Danny Honnoll called the meeting to order at 10:12 AM and gave the President’s Report. He thanked Mark Christ for the newsletter notices and made a request for dues.
- b. Treasurer Mark Kalkbrenner was unable to attend because of his mother’s illness but sent a report. The Foundation is working with the Civil War Sesquicentennial. The treasurer reported a balance of \$934.00 on hand, and the members accepted the treasurer’s report.
- c. Mark Christ gave the report on the Durnett Award, a new award sponsored by the ACWHTF. He gave background on it and reported no entries for this year. He noted that was not unusual for a new award.

2. Arkansas Civil War Sesquicentennial Commission.

- a. Tommy Dupree was not present to give the report on the activities of the Civil War Sesquicentennial Commission, so Mark Christ presented it. He reported the Commission has received no money from the General Assembly. They have money for a part-time assistant and the marker program is not impacted by the lack of support from the General Assembly. They will have no money for a grant program or local activities. (Editors Note: Funding for the commission was later received from the Governor’s Office and Department of Arkansas Heritage.)
- b. Mark also presented an update on

Commission projects. Danny Honnoll will have a re-enactment at Chalk Bluff. The Commission will continue to promote and sanction events. New markers have been done at Prairie Grove, at Hicks’ Station in Lonoke and in Carroll County. A request has been received from Lafayette County. The cost of a marker is \$2,030. The applicant puts up one half of the money. Cell phone tours are planned for nine battlefields. The kick-off event took place on April 30 at the Old State House Museum, which will have exhibits for five years. The Arkansas History Commission is participating with its Document-a-Day program. Helena has activities planned and is building a replica of Fort Curtis using plans from NARA. There will be 97 individual panels in the county, as well as sculptures.

3. Regional Roundups

Southwest—Patrick Hotard reported talks on Civil War are scheduled in El Dorado.

Peggy Lloyd hopes to get markers at the Prairie D’Ane and Elkins Ferry in Nevada and possibly at Fulton in Hempstead County and Woodlawn in Ouachita County.

Central—The central group hopes to acquire land, save the Woodruff House and have bus transportation to events away from Little Rock.

Northwest—Christene Ashlock reported on her activities regarding Dunagin’s Farm. Dr. Skip Stewart-Abernathy had expressed interest in doing archaeological work there. The farm includes 121 acres and is priced at \$1,000,000. She hopes to gain support and funds to acquire the farm as a Civil War site.

West Central—Larry Puckett reported a marker cast six years ago had finally been placed after many difficulties with the state highway department. His group is planning a September event. They are also looking for sponsorship for a plaque overlooking the Arkansas River at Clarksville. They are also planning a formal dedication of a monument at Van Buren.

Northeast—Danny Honnoll reported his group is working on a park.

They need funds and a replica of a cannon. They want a marker at Chalk Bluff. Other activities planned include a genealogy fair at Paragould. Danny is active in giving talks and school presentations.

Southeast—A cell phone tour is planned for Ditch Bayou near Lake Village.

4. Review of 2011 Priorities

The group reviewed their 2011 priorities and reaffirmed their plans to put markers in individual counties, work to acquire parts of the Prairie D’Ane and Elkins’ Ferry

Battlefields, assist State Parks in the management of Camden Expedition Battlefields, work on the preservation of Reed’s Bridge and Devil’s Backbone, build chapters, increase student interest in the study of Civil War and battlefield preservation and promote the Durnett Award. The groups plan to continue their projects in 2012.

Larry Puckett is also interested in researching the last Civil War soldiers to die in Arkansas from each county and will contact the local historical societies.

5. New Business

- a. *Arkansas Battlefield Update* deadlines are June 30 and November 30.
- b. Officers were re-elected for the coming year: Danny Honnoll, President; Rick Meadows, Vice-president; Peggy Lloyd, Recording Secretary; and Mark Kalkbrenner, Treasurer.
- c. The status of the State Heritage Trails System was discussed. The Trails include the Southwest Trail, Civil War Trails, the Trail of Tears and the Butterfield Trail. The Trails will have 1700 signs at a cost of \$332,200.

6. The date of the next ACWHTF annual meeting was set for February 4, 2012.

7. The members voted to adjourn at 1:30PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Peggy S. Lloyd
Recording Secretary

Red River Symposium, Shea speech, event at Washington keep SWACWHT hopping

By Peggy Lloyd
SWACWHT Co-Chair

The annual Red River Valley Symposium took place at Historic Washington State Park on July 23, 2011. In honor of the Sesquicentennial, the symposium had as its theme “The Gathering Storm.” It featured speakers who focused on events that occurred early in the Civil War.

The symposium had a morning session for teachers and an afternoon session with four speakers. Josh Williams spoke on “Washington: 1860—An Appeal to Unity.” The town of Washington was reluctant to secede initially. Dr. William G. Piston spoke on “Never Disgrace Your Town: Soldiers, Civilians and Honor during the Wilson’s Creek Campaign, 1861.” Archeologist Carl Carlson-Drexler of the Arkansas Archeological Survey spoke on “Archeology at Wilson’s Creek and Pea Ridge Battlefields.” Keenan Williams of Hope discussed “The Hempstead Rifles: A Personal Story.”

The evening dinner speaker for the symposium was Dr. William Garret Piston of Missouri State University in Springfield. Dr. Piston gave a detailed account of the events of the battle of Wilson’s Creek, which took place just outside Springfield on August 10, 1861, and is now a National Park Service battlefield site. Wilson’s Creek was the first major battle west of the Mississippi and was considered a Confederate victory. Piston and his co-author Richard W. Hatcher III wrote *The Second Battle of the Civil War and the Men Who Fought: Wilson’s Creek*.

Josh Williams, curator at Historic Washington State Park, and Ernie Cox, the weapons curator at the park, both attended a large re-enactment at Wilson’s Creek in early August of 2011. About 3,000 re-enactors took part in the event. Approximately 75,000 spectators came to view the re-enactment.



Re-enactor encampment at Historic Washington State Park

Josh Williams has also been busy with podcasts and has recorded two: “The Election of 1860 in Washington” and “The Mustering of the Hempstead Rifles.” The podcasts were recorded in October at UALR in Little Rock and will be placed on the Arkansas Civil War Sesquicentennial Commission’s website.

In October, Dr. William Shea spoke at the South Arkansas Community College Library Auditorium in El Dorado on “The Civil War We Have Lost: The Real War in Arkansas (1861-1865).” The lecture was the result of a new educational initiative co-sponsored by the college and the South Arkansas Historical Foundation.

Dr. Shea, a history professor at the University of Arkansas in Monticello, is a well-known Civil War scholar and has written or co-written five books on the topic of Civil War in Arkansas. Among his works are *Fields of Blood: The Prairie Grove Campaign* and *Pea Ridge: Civil War Campaign in the West*. Patrick Hotard, director of the Newton House Museum in El Dorado, reported that almost 40 people attended the event, which was sponsored in part by the Arkansas Humanities Council and the National Endowment for the Humanities.

November 4 to 6 was Civil War Weekend at Historic Washington State Park. A favorite fall event for many, Civil War Weekend had excellent weather and mild temperatures. About

150 to 200 re-enactors camped at Washington and participated in the event with their families.

Curator Josh Williams and his staff had prepared a new exhibit for the 1874 Courthouse Visitor Center titled “Washington 1861: A Community Decides.” The centerpiece of the exhibit is a greatly enlarged image of what is believed to be a picture of the Hempstead Rifles in formation. The Hempstead Rifles fought at Wilson’s Creek. The exhibit also features items from Wilson’s Creek, as well as personal memorabilia of soldiers from Washington. Jane Hooker and Elizabeth Freeman from the Arkansas History Commission in Little Rock brought down the original 1861 Confederate Constitution and had it on display with the new Civil War exhibit for the day.

The archeologists will be returning to Washington in the spring of 2012 and will also be working on projects of Civil War interest.

Best wishes for a happy holiday season and a happy new year from the SWACWHT.

Visit the Arkansas Civil War Sesquicentennial Commission website at www.arkansascivilwar150.com for information on upcoming activities!

Russ Cemetery focus of CACWHT effort

By Rick Meadows
CACWHT Chair

In an article written on March 31, 2011, lead writer for *The Leader*, a local newspaper, Christy Hendricks states the following: "On Highway 38 at Highway 319, behind "Dude's Place", is Russ Cemetery, a cemetery for blacks dating back to the Civil War.

"People who have lived there have always believed it to be a Civil War cemetery states Mrs. Cathy Gastineau, who re-discovered it last spring. Mrs. Gastineau researched and found the owner to be the Christian Methodist Episcopal Church. She then contacted Elder Ross, members of Old Austin Baptist Church and her church, Old Austin United Methodist Church which stands where the Union Hospital was built during the Civil War.

"Soon a group was formed to resurrect the cemetery. Volunteers from area churches began cleaning up the

cemetery in the cold rain. Brush, seedling trees and a taste of history was discovered."

The article states that one marker bears the words "International Order of Twelve Knights and Daughters of Tabor," a black fraternal organization established by Moses Dickson in Independence, Mo., in 1872.

Churches involved in the restoration include Leach Chapel, North Little Rock; Beebe Chapel, Wrightsville; Pleasant Hill, College Station; Old Austin United Methodist Church, Austin; St. James, Conway; Brown Chapel, Brinkley; and others.

Reverend Charles Holloway states, "It is important for the families to know that the remains of their relatives are indeed cared for, that the cemetery is made presentable not deserted or in disrepair."

Cathy Gastineau's husband Charlie now reports that the grounds of



the cemetery have been cleared and a new sign erected. Charlie states that there are several depressions without markers located on the property. Genealogical research will continue at the cemetery. Prior to the Civil War, several black families have been reported to live in this area of the county.

The cemetery is located on Ray Sowell Road in Old Austin about ½ mile from the Old Austin United Methodist Church.



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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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