

Helena-West Helena explores town's rich Civil War history

By Ron Kelley
SEACWHT Member

The Civil War is coming alive in Helena, Arkansas. There are numerous projects underway that will help interpret the war in the Civil War-themed Delta community, including interpretation of the Confederate role during the war, the Federal occupation, the role of the African American soldiers, and the freedom

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Workers construct a pavilion at Helena-West Helena's "Freedom Park" display

SWACWHT sees archeological digs, historical marker dedications in area

By Peggy Lloyd
SWACWHT Co-Chair

Many events marked the fall of 2012 in Southwest Arkansas as the Civil War Sesquicentennial approached the end of its second year.

Archeologist Carl Carlson-Drexler conducted three long-weekend (Thursday to Sunday) digs at Dooley's Ferry, south of Spring Hill in Hempstead County in September, October and November. At the time of the Civil War, the ferry was one of the important

crossings on the Red River and the site of a warehouse used to house supplies for elements of the Confederate army guarding this important point. An earthen fort is nearby as well as trenches that protect the approach to the ferry. Carlson-Drexler will begin writing his dissertation in 2013 for his Ph.D. in archeology at William and Mary in Virginia on this Trans-Mississippi Civil War site.

November 3-4 saw the annual observance of Civil War Weekend in Washington with an encampment of re-enactors who drilled, marched and enjoyed a variety of

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Commission backs grants and markers

The Arkansas Civil War Sesquicentennial Commission has awarded \$9,842 in grants for six projects that will commemorate the war in the state. Recipients of the Arkansas Civil War Sesquicentennial Grants were:

- * Bill and Sharon Arnold Family Foundation, \$2,000 for the third annual Fort Lincoln Freedom Festival in DeValls Bluff
- * Pine Bluff Downtown Development, Inc., \$2,000 for an interpretive kiosk on the Battle of Pine Bluff
- * Arkansas State University, \$1,878 for "The Battle for Freedom," a video production on the experiences of former slaves in Helena
- * Arts and Science Center for Pine Bluff, \$1,214 for a pictorial history of the Battle of Pine Bluff featuring art by children
- * Community Clearinghouse of Fort Smith, \$2,000 for the Fort Smith Heritage Festival
- * Reed's Bridge Battlefield Preservation Society, \$750 for a symposium to be held in Jacksonville in May.

The deadline to apply for the next round of the Arkansas Civil War Sesquicentennial Grant Program is February 15, 2013.
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For Information

General Information

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

Northwest Arkansas CWHT

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

West Central Arkansas CWHT

Larry Puckett (479) 769-4738

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

Southwest Arkansas CWHT

Peggy Lloyd (870) 983-2633

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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

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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) 843-3279

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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.

ACWHT Foundation held annual meet in February

The Arkansas Civil War Heritage Trails Foundation held its annual meeting on February 4, 2012, at the Arkansas Studies Institute in Little Rock. Attending were Mark Christ of Little Rock/AHPP, Tommy Dupree of Jacksonville/Reed's Bridge, Danny Honnoll of Jonesboro/NEACWHTC, Peggy Lloyd of Washington/SWACWHT, Ron Kelley of Pine Bluff/SEACWHT, Rick Meadows of Little Rock/CACWHT, Alan Thompson of Prairie Grove/NWACWHT, Larry Puckett of Greenwood/WCACWHT and Drew Hodges.

1. President Danny Honnoll called the meeting to order. The minutes of the 2011 meeting were read and approved.

Arkansas Civil War Heritage Trails Foundation.

a. President's Report—President Honnoll reported the Sesquicentennial was going well with the publicity and markers in the counties.

b. Financial Report—Treasurer Mark Kalkbrenner was unable to attend but submitted a report showing a balance of \$1,038, 34 as of December 31, 2011. The report showed little financial activity and was accepted.

c. Report on Durnett Award—Mark Christ reported no submissions but asked that the nomination period be kept open for one month.

2. Arkansas Civil War Sesquicentennial Commission

a. Update on Commission Activities—Tommy Dupree, ACWSC chairman, reported on a January 25th meeting in Little Rock. At an earlier Helena meeting, they toured sites and trail signs were up. Fifty-seven permits to use the logo had been issued. The traveling exhibit is booked until 2014, and 19 people have completed the Passport Program. The National Park Service will present a seminar on the Trans-Mississippi in Fayetteville from August 9-11. It is co-sponsored by the Sesquicentennial Commission. Six podcasts have been completed with six to finish. Cell phone tours are being installed, including one at Reed's

Bridge. The Commission will meet on April 25 in Little Rock, on July 25 in Washington and on October 24 in Little Rock.

b. Suggestions for Commission Projects—Peggy Lloyd proposed archeological research, and there were questions regarding logo use requests.

3. Regional Roundups

An introduction of the attendees and a discussion of Arkansas's involvement in tourism and Civil War and its potential for heritage tourism preceded the regional reports.

a. Larry Puckett of the West Central region spoke on the acquisition of funds and plans to buy more land for the Devil's Backbone battlefield. They are considering possible markers in Scott and Crawford counties and at Spadra in Johnson County.

b. The Northwest region reported that Dunagin's Farm is no longer on the market. A marker will be placed at Johnson's Mill, and there was discussion of a Huntsville Massacre marker with possible purchase of acreage for the marker. The possibility of a Huntsville Square marker was discussed and plans for a marker at McGuire's Store in Elkins. Jon Woods is sponsoring two markers in the area. A major Arkansas Humanities Council grant will fund a Cane Hill Driving Tour. Legislature members have funds at their discretion.

c. Rick Meadows of Central Arkansas reported his group has 5,000 brochures on sites in their region. They have a Civil War Roundtable in Lonoke and did a ramble to Camden. They are urging markers in White County. The Arnold Foundation has been supportive of events. He reported publicity on the Civil War in DeValls Bluff. The Old State House had an event the previous Saturday that was very good. He had questions about the preservation of the Woodruff House.

d. Ron Kelley of the Southeast region reported on a symposium at the

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Minutes of the 2012 ACWHTF meeting

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Jefferson County library with William Shea and others as speakers. He reported on the activities of the Friends of Jenkins' Ferry group, which is becoming quite active with about 200 members. It is a 501(c) 3 and has accumulated funds. A new book, *Harvest of Death*, has new information on Jenkins' Ferry. This region has many activities including the reprinting of books and brochures on Jefferson and Drew counties and plans for markers in Bradley and Cleveland counties.

e. Danny Honnoll reported on the Northeast region. There are plans for a Chalk Bluff re-enactment and a marker in September. Craighead County is working on the Jonesboro Park and is refurbishing a concrete cannon. ASU is planning talks and has Civil War artifacts at the museum, and the Jonesboro Public Library has a Civil War-related display.

f. Jack Danielson reported on Reed's Bridge. This group plans a good re-enactment in the fall and has \$6,000 for fencing. They are planning a cemetery survey and living history program. They may purchase two cannon replicas and plan on building snake rail fences.

g. Peggy Lloyd reported on the Southwest region. Markers are planned for Elkins' Ferry, Prairie D'Ane and Dooley's Ferry. Road research continues on the road network at the time of the Civil War and on sites near Fulton. Patrick Hotard of El Dorado is planning for speakers on the Civil War and for a marker in Union County. The Red River Valley Symposium, arranged by Josh Williams and held every July at Historic Washington State Park, focused on Civil War topics in 2011 and will continue to do so in 2012 and for the other years in the sesquicentennial period.

Civil War Weekend was held at the park in early November and will be repeated this year. Archeology at Dooley's Ferry with a focus on Civil War sites is ongoing under the supervision of Carl Carlson-Drexler of SAU as part of his dissertation for a Ph.D. in archeology

from William and Mary in Virginia. The annual dig of the Arkansas Archeological Society will be held at Block 6, the old mercantile district of Washington, and may contain Civil War artifacts. Attempts by the Conservation Fund to purchase part of the Elkins' Ferry site in Nevada County from Hancock Global Resources have not been successful, and the land is still for sale.

4. Review of 2011 Priorities

The group reviewed the nine priorities of 2011 and set priorities for 2012. The 2012 priorities are:

- a. to assist in the preservation of Reed's Bridge Battlefield
- b. to work to acquire part of the Elkins' Ferry and Prairie D'Ane battlefields
- c. to continue to urge improved care of the Camden Expedition parks by Arkansas State Parks
- d. to encourage involvement of students in the study of Civil War and battlefield preservation including competing for the

Durnett Award.

e. to build the WCACWHT chapter
f. to preserve the Devil's Backbone Battlefield

g. to place Arkansas Civil War Sesquicentennial historical markers in every county in each region.

h. to identify Civil War soldiers buried in every Arkansas county.

A new priority was podcasts for kids in Northwest Arkansas.

5. New Business

a. Arkansas Battlefield Update schedule is that deadlines are April 30, August 30 and November 30.

b. Election of officers was not necessary this year as the current officers remain in their positions.

c. State Heritage Trails System signs are up. There are Parks and Tourism brochures on the new Arkansas Heritage Trails System.

The date of next ACWHTF meeting is February 02, 2013.

ACWSC approves marker requests

Continued from Page 1.

Grant applications and guidelines can be downloaded at <http://www.arkansascivilwar150.com/historical-markers/grants.aspx>, or can be requested by writing to ACWS 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 approved several Arkansas Civil War Sesquicentennial Historical Marker applications.

They are:

No. 48: Tulip Military Academy, Tulip, Dallas County

No. 49: Cleburne County in the Civil War, Cleburne County

No. 50: Action at Fitzhugh's Woods, Augusta vic., Woodruff County.

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/>

Statues honoring Cleburne, freedom seekers among Delta town's attractions

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process. All these aspects of the Civil War are reflected in the numerous outside exhibits scattered throughout the community.

Among the latest additions to the Civil War interpretation in Helena is the recent addition of the life-size bronze statue of Confederate Maj. Gen. Patrick R. Cleburne. The \$36,000 sculpture was funded in part by the Arkansas Arts Council. Designed by David Nunnery from Broken Arrow, Oklahoma, the statue rests outside the Phillips County Museum. Nunnery also sculpted another life-sized statue of an African American student in one of the Freedman's Bureau schools to be placed across the street from the Phillips County Courthouse in Court Square Park.

Among the more bold projects in Helena is Freedom Park. This site was the first in the state to be placed on the National Parks Service's National Underground Railroad and Network to Freedom list of places significant in the freedom of the African American during the Civil War. Originally the site of a contraband camp, Freedom Park was



Cleburne sculpture

home to many freedom seekers.

The park is located in the vicinity where the 2nd Arkansas of African Descent (U.S.) held off a Confederate attack on the morning of July 4, 1863, during the Battle of Helena and will be composed of five outdoor exhibits:

Exhibit 1: Seizing Freedom. This exhibit will feature a reproduction of the

likeness of an antebellum structure housing three interpretative panels outlining the experiences of slaves pouring into occupied Helena to gain their freedom.

Exhibit 2: Helena's Contraband Camps: This exhibit will feature a replica Civil War-era structure with rough-sawn wood planks and shingles.

Exhibit 3: This exhibit features three interpretative panels including a reproduction of the Emancipation Proclamation.

Exhibit 4: This exhibit will feature a life-size bronze statue of an African American soldier standing next to interpretative panels on "Becoming Soldiers."

Exhibit 5: This exhibit, aptly named "African American Troops Held This Ground" features a set of two earthworks behind which seven two-dimensional silhouettes of the black troops who engaged the Confederate army during the Battle of Helena will be featured.

The entire 5-exhibit park will be dedicated and opened to the public during Black History Month on February 23, 2013.

NEACWHT participates in memorial services

*By Danny Honnoll
NEACWHT Chair*

This past September members of the NEACWHTC had the opportunity to honor members of the Milligan family east of Cave City, Arkansas, on September 2, at 9 am. This event was very well attended by the Milligan family. Tom Milligan requested a grave marking ceremony from the NEACWHTC and the Sons of Confederate Veterans. The Neill Camp and Shaver Camp as well as future members of the McRae Camp of Searcy took part. The Fagan Chapter of the Military Order of Stars and Bars of Jonesboro aided in the marker dedication. Roger Harvell and Van Sawyer placed the Southern Crosses on Saturday prior to the event. Barret's Bat-

tery had two cannons there to do the honors.

On September 21, Ray Jones and Danny Honnoll spoke to Mary Norris's sixth grade class at Weiner Elementary in Weiner, AR. Jones described the uniforms used during the Civil War and Honnoll gave the local history of what happened in Poinsett County during the war. About 25 students were in attendance.

On September 28 Arkansas Civil War Sesquicentennial Commissioners Honnoll and Jones were asked to talk to the Arkansas Division of the United Daughters of the Confederacy. Honnoll presented the highest award that the SCV presents to a non-member when Pam Trammell of Texarkana received the Gen. Stephen D. Lee Award for her efforts to preserve the

history of the Civil War in Arkansas.

On October 1, Honnoll and Jones presented a Civil War talk to the Trumann School first grade classes; more than 150 students attended the talk.

A Southern Iron Cross was dedicated near Birdsong, Arkansas, on November 3 of this year. The marker dedication took place in the Whitten Cemetery south of Whitten and north of Birdsong.

The Cleburne-Forrest Chapter 2646, United Daughters of the Confederacy of Osceola, dedicated a Southern Iron Cross grave marker in honor of Pvt. James Hillary Garey, Company B, 25th Virginia Regiment. The Col. Robert G. Shaver Camp #1655, Arkansas Division, Sons of Confederate Veterans, James Wiseman Honnoll

Continued on next page.

CACWHT lauds White County markers

By Rick Meadows
CACWHT Chair

This fall, two more Sesquicentennial Markers were dedicated in White County. Thanks to the White County Historical Society and White County Civil War Roundtable for their efforts in placing the markers. One of the markers can be found just south of Searcy on Highway 267 at the Gum Springs Fire Station. It depicts action at Des Arc Bayou and second marker is located at West Point, east of Searcy on Highway 36. This two-sided marker tells of the Naval Combat at West Point and on the Little Red River.

Other markers in the county may be viewed at Whitney Lane Family Worship Center, Bald Knob City Hall, The Course at River Oaks, and Oak Grove Cemetery. More markers have been placed in White County than in any other county. Thanks to all who are participating in keeping history alive.

On Wednesday, November 7, more

than 60 concerned members of the Quapaw Quarter Association, the Historic Preservation Alliance of Arkansas, and other friends of preservation were able to go inside the historic Woodruff House. William Woodruff was founder and editor of the Arkansas Gazette

Rachel Silva of the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program gave a program on the history of the Woodruff House. "After Little Rock fell to Union forces on September 10, 1863, Federal troops took possession of the land surrounding William Woodruff's house. During the Federal occupation Woodruff, who supported the Confederacy, wrote a letter to a friend that was intercepted by the Union army. On March 10, 1864, General Frederick Steele banished Woodruff from Little Rock and took charge of his home. While in possession of the Union army the Woodruff House served as officers' headquarters as well as a military hospital. Woodruff was allowed to return to his home in Septem-

ber 1865. Woodruff lived in the house with his wife, Jane Eliza, until his death on June 19, 1885."

There will be a meeting on January 17 at Curran Hall at 615 Capital Street in Little Rock to discuss any potential uses of the home. Keep your ears open for the time when all of us will be asked to help in the restoration of this treasure. The house is currently for sale.

The public is also invited to attend the monthly lectures of the Civil War Roundtables.

* The Grand Prairie Civil War Roundtable meets in Lonoke at the Lonoke County Museum on the 2nd Tuesdays of each month at 7:00 P.M.

* The White County Civil War Roundtable meets at Harding Place in Searcy on the 1st Thursday of each month.

* The Civil War Roundtable of Arkansas meets on the 4th Tuesdays of each month at the Second Presbyterian Church in Little Rock at 7:00 P.M.

Chalk Bluff re-enactment set for May 2013

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Chapter #2607, United Daughters of the Confederacy, Northeast Arkansas Southern Heritage Foundation, Mitchell Adair – Children of the Confederacy of Jonesboro, and the Gen. James F. Fagan Chapter #280, Military Order of Stars and Bars, all organizations from Jonesboro, assisted the UDC with the Iron Cross dedication. The Sons of Confederate Veterans, members of the 30th Ark. Inf. and re-enactors were outfitted in full confederate regalia and performed the ceremonies and conducted a three-volley gun salute at the ceremony.

On Veterans Day members of the NEACWHTC took part in the Craighead County Veterans Monument Foundation's annual Veterans parade. Danny Honnoll emceed the parade and the Veterans Day observance ceremony. M. Ray Jones, III, Jackie Stevens, Sgt. Jimmy Stevens, Doyle Yearta, Will Silas, and Jesse Walton marched in the Veterans parade.

After the Veterans parade the James

W. Honnoll Chapter 2607, United Daughters of the Confederacy of Jonesboro, dedicated a military grave marker in honor of Pvt. Isom Petty Richardson, Company C, 16th Alabama Infantry.

On November 27, members of the NEACWHTC gave a Civil War talk and exhibited some of their artifacts from the war. Jackie Stevens, Joe May, Ray Jones and Danny Honnoll showed over 125 Cub and Boy Scouts items from the war. The event took place at the American Legion Pickett Post #21 in Jonesboro.

In early December Jones and Honnoll traveled to middle Tennessee to help at the Elms Springs Mansion (Columbia, TN) in Civil War attire and to explain events that took place during the war.

On May 4 and 5, 2013, the 150th anniversary of the Battle of Chalk Bluff will be commemorated with a re-enactment at Chalk Bluff Natural Area at Saint Francis.

Amenities include powder for artillery, cavalry, infantry, water, firewood and hay, and a meal on Saturday evening

(for those who make contact with the event coordinators at least four days before the event). Re-enactors of all branches of the military and period impressions are welcome. This event is hosted by Clay County with help from the Northeast 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.

No registration fees for re-enactors, sutlers or living historians. Artillery and cavalry re-enactors should contact W. Danny Honnoll at (870) 926-2985 or at danny@honnoll.com. Infantry re-enactors should contact Louis Riggs at (573) 717-0909 or louisr@centurytel.net.

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

Markers commemorate Elkins' Ferry fight, Prairie D'Ane, Rebel camps at Richmond

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activities at Historic Washington State Park.

On November 25, a Civil War marker was installed inside the fenced cemetery at the Missionary Grove Baptist Church on Nevada County Road 37 about five miles from Prescott. The marker commemorates the Elkins' Ferry National Historic Landmark that straddles the Little Missouri River in Clark and Nevada counties. The Union army under General Frederick Steele crossed into what was then Hempstead County in early April 1864 during the Camden Expedition. The skirmishing with Confederate troops began to intensify.

The other side of the marker commemorates the nearby site of the Cornelius Farm where thousands of Union troops stopped for a few days as they awaited the arrival of other forces. Malinda Ward Cornelius had already lost her husband in the Civil War when Confederate cavalry started moving through the area. As the Confederates pulled back, thousands of hungry Union soldiers appeared in the vicinity of her farm and camped nearby before moving

on to the Battle of Prairie D'Ane and then Camden. "The Widow Cornelius" is buried in the cemetery at the country church also known locally as "Nubbin Hill." The church was founded by her son-in-law in 1885. The cemetery antedates the founding of the church and was probably started as a burying ground for the Cornelius family and perhaps for Civil War casualties. Many descendants of the family are still in the neighborhood.

Cornelius descendants, the Mayor of Prescott Terry Oliver and his wife County Clerk Julie Oliver, State Representative-elect Brent Talley, the Third Arkansas Volunteer Infantry with artillery, Judy Duke of the Prescott Chamber of Commerce and members of the church were among the numerous attendees at the dedication ceremony.

A marker commemorating the Battle of Prairie D'Ane will be installed at Exit 44 in front of the T/A Truck Stop



Installing the Elkins' Ferry/Cornelius Farm marker

on December 18 near the intersection of US Highway 371 and Interstate 30. The Battle of Prairie D'Ane was a turning point of the Camden Expedition as General Steele sent his hungry troops toward Camden in hopes of finding supplies.

On Sunday, December 2, the United Daughters of the Confederacy and the Little River County Historical Society installed a marker at the Richmond Cemetery commemorating Civil War activity in the area and the early families and Civil War veterans interred in the old burial ground. The marker focused on the arrival of General Sterling Price and his remaining forces in the area after their raid in 1864 through Missouri, Kansas and Indian Territory. A large turnout included local elected officials and officers both state and national of the UDC. Dr. Jamie Brandon of SAU Magnolia was the representative of the Arkansas Civil War Sesquicentennial Commission present for the unveiling.

The cemetery is near the village of Richmond, once a county seat of Little River County in the 1880s. After the dedication, a reception was held at the Two Rivers Museum in downtown Ashdown.

Plans are afoot for more Civil War markers at Woodlawn in Ouachita County, Dooley's Ferry in Hempstead County, Moscow in Nevada County and other sites to be determined.

Students visit Reed's Bridge site

By Tommy Dupree
RBBPS President

October 13 was Pioneer Day at Reed's Bridge Battlefield Preservation Society, Inc. The weather was clear with the temperature in the 80s with a light breeze. There were demonstrations of spinning cotton into thread, knitting, and churning milk and cream into butter with other household activities.

People showed a lot of interest in the garden, which had vegetables that were grown in Arkansas during the early 1800s. Also, the blacksmith shop kept a line of people going through seeing how clay molds were formed and used to make horse shoes.

On October 23, Vilonia schools had some 70 fifth-grade students and teachers tour the battlefield as well as the Jacksonville Museum of Military History. This was done by splitting the group into two halves and having one group tour the museum while the other group toured the battlefield and then they switched. At noon, lunch was eaten at Dupree Park.

Thirty-eight teachers from the Jacksonville area kindergartens toured the battlefield and were quite pleased with what they saw. Most of the teachers were not aware of the existence of the battlefield or the history that took place along the Military Road. Since the heat has subsided, activity in the area has been very good.

WCACWHT sees markers, CW 150 events

By Larry Puckett
WCACWHT Chair

The West Central Arkansas Heritage Trail has been busy. In October Paris, Arkansas, historians led by Dr. Curtis Varnell unveiled a 150th anniversary historical marker for the Battle of Haguewood Prairie. The skirmish site was on the old Military Road once owned by the monastery at Subiaco. This was a skirmish between a company of Union soldiers supplying disgruntled Confederate deserters on Mount Magazine and several companies of Price's troops on his raid into Missouri.

Later in October, the 15th Northwest Arkansas Re-enactors and the 26th Texas unit out of Oklahoma presented the Battle of Massard Prairie at the Fort Smith city park on the site of the battle of Massard Prairie where 127 members of the 6th Kansas Cavalry were captured and taken back to Texas through Indian Territory. The Choctaw-Chickasaw brigade under the command of Gen. Gano with white officers had led in this attack.

Events will be held in Van Buren at the Drennen-Scott House in the second week in March.

Johnson County's Heritage Center has a very good display on the life of a Confederate soldier and is working with families in the area to find their ancestors during the Civil War (see related article). They will be hosting the ACWSC traveling Civil War exhibit in July. They are still working on a sesquicentennial marker for their cemetery with 137 unknown Confederate soldiers.

Fort Smith National Historic site will be hosting a Union return to Fort Smith on August 31, after the Battle of Devil's Backbone Ridge.

Johnson Co. group certifies ancestors

The Johnson County Historical Society is launching a lineage organization in commemoration of the Civil War Sesquicentennial. Membership is open to anyone who can document their descent from an ancestor who resided in Johnson County, Arkansas, prior to the opening of hostilities. On February 8, 1861, Arkansas State Troops seized the Federal Arsenal in Little Rock. Although this is before the official date of secession and before shots were fired at Fort Sumter, SC, this was the first official act of rebellion in Arkansas.

Eligibility: To qualify for membership in Civil War Families of Johnson County, Arkansas, applicants must directly descend from an ancestor who resided in Johnson County prior to February 8, 1861. The applicant must be able to prove descent from the ancestor (male or female) by an official record or records for each generation, including proof for the applicant. Current Arkansas and/or Johnson County residence is not necessary. Membership is not limited to descendants of those who served in military units raised in Johnson County but also includes anyone who may have lived in Johnson County at the time.

The Application: The CWF of JC application consists of two pages. Page 1 asks for information about the applicant and the CW ancestor; page 2 is the line of descent chart. Please complete both to the best of your ability. If you have more than one CW ancestor, a separate application is required for each. Only one ancestor will be inscribed on a certificate, except when the ancestor and spouse both are proven to qualify.

Applicants are required only to submit proof of descent for each generation and proof of residency by February 8, 1861. Additional material is strongly encouraged, such as family group sheets, biographies, newspaper articles, photos of people, homes and tombstones, and other material that may be of interest to future researchers.

Submitted Materials: All applications and documentation become the property of the Johnson County Historical Society and will be retained in the custody of the Johnson County Heritage Center. No original documents should be included with the application. Send photocopies of pertinent materials. Eligibility shall be determined by a committee appointed by the Johnson County Historical Society. The committee's decision shall be final. Incorrect or incomplete applications will be returned for corrections and additions and the applicant will be encouraged to resubmit.

Application packets can be picked up at the Heritage Center or by mail at the address below (please include \$2.00 for postage). Feel free to copy as needed. Completed applications and photocopied proofs, along with a \$25 check or money order payable to the Johnson County Historical Society, should be mailed or delivered to: Civil War Families of Johnson County, Arkansas Certificates, JCHS Heritage Center, 131 W. Main St., Clarksville, AR 72830.

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

Virginia audience hears of war in the west

By Alan Thompson
NWACWHT Chair

In October I was asked to speak at a symposium on the Civil War in 1862 at Pamplin Park in Petersburg, Virginia. My subject was the war in Arkansas in 1862 and included Pea Ridge, Prairie Grove, St. Charles, Curtis's trek to Helena, and so on. It was an educated, white-collar crowd and many had heard of these battles but knew nothing about them. During the course of the weekend I was asked several times about preservation efforts and was able to recognize the great efforts taking place at sites such as Helena, Dunagin's Farm, Massard Prairie, and Devil's Backbone. There was discussion of trying to organize a bus tour to these parts sometime in the near future.

Three more interpretive panels are being fabricated for the Cane Hill battlefield. It was hoped to have a least

mock-ups of the panels in time to have a commemoration at Cane Hill on November 28, the 150th anniversary of that fight, but it did not come to pass. Thus we will have a ceremony when they are finished at a date to be determined. There has been significant interest in recent weeks, I assume in association with the sesquicentennial of the fight, of visiting Cane Hill.

The City of Huntsville is sponsoring a pair of Arkansas Civil War Sesquicentennial Historical Markers, to be installed in 2013. One will discuss the 1863 "Huntsville Massacre" and the other will commemorate Isaac Murphy, Arkansas's Unionist Civil War governor.

The re-enactment at Prairie Grove



Prairie Grove 150th anniversary re-enactment

Battlefield State Park December 1-2 was a great success. The weather, for the first time in several years, was beautiful and lent itself to great attendance by both re-enactors and visitors. One thousand re-enactors participated in the event while an estimated 25,000 came to watch.



Arkansas Historic
Preservation Program
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323 Center Street
Little Rock, AR 72201
(501)324-9880

info@arkansaspreservation.org

www.arkansaspreservation.org

The Arkansas Historic Preservation Program is an agency of the Department of Arkansas Heritage. Other DAH agencies are the Arts Council, the Old State House Museum, the Historic Arkansas Museum, the Delta Cultural Center in Helena, the Mosaic Templars Cultural Center and the Natural Heritage Commission.

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