

'Let Freedom Ring'

The Arkansas Civil War Sesquicentennial Commission joined other organizations from around the state and "Let Freedom Ring" on April 14 to celebrate Arkansas's passage of the 13th Amendment, bringing the country one step closer to the final abolition of slavery.

Commission members joined Governor Asa Hutchinson and State Senator Linda Chesterfield on the steps of the State Capitol in Little Rock to ring a bell 13 times to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the event. More than 80 other groups – ranging from elementary school classes to museums and from churches to universities – also participated in the special event.

The ACWSC awarded \$14,565 in grants for nine projects to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the American Civil War. Recipients of Arkansas Civil War Sesquicentennial Grants were:

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Elkins' Ferry project 80% toward saving hallowed ground

By Peggy Lloyd
SWACWHT Chair

As a very active Civil War Sesquicentennial draws to a close in the spring of 2015, the fight goes on to preserve one of the sites associated with the Camden Expedition of 1864: Elkins' Ferry. Hancock Global Resources has agreed to sell 448 acres of river bottom land in Nevada County in the Elkins' Ferry National Historic Landmark for \$950,000. About 80% of the purchase price has been raised from a variety of organizations including the Civil War Trust, Department

of Arkansas Heritage, the Arkansas Historical Association, State Senators Bruce Maloch and Larry Teague, Arkansas state government, and other organizations and individuals with connections to Prescott, Nevada County and southwest Arkansas. An additional \$200,000 needs to be raised by August 31, 2015, to complete the transaction.

The Nevada County Depot and Museum, a 501(c)3 organization, and the Prescott/ Nevada County Chamber of Commerce and Economic Development Office are leading the effort. Further information can be obtained from the Depot Museum website at www.depotmuseum.org or at (870) 887-5821. The number for the Prescott

Chamber and Economic Development office is (870) 887-2101. These organizations are embarking on a letter campaign and other activities through the summer to raise funds for the acquisition of the land. Donations of all sizes are most welcome.

When the land is acquired, the Depot Museum will seek a grant for an interpretive plan and archeological work to develop the site. Sites of forts at Camden have already been marked and surveyed as part of the Camden Expedition. The Poison

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For Information

General Information

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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

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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

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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

Doyle Taylor (870) 395-1356

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The Southeast Arkansas Civil War Heritage Trail serves Jefferson, Grant, Arkansas, Phillips, Cleveland, Lincoln, Desha, Bradley, Drew, Ashley and Chicot counties.

Central Arkansas CWHT

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

Northeast Arkansas CWHT

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 awards grants, adds to list of markers

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*Bill and Sharon Arnold Family Foundation of DeValls Bluff, \$2,000 for a Civil War program

*Little Rock School District, \$2,000 to transport students for programs at the MacArthur Museum of Arkansas Military History and the Old State House Museum in Little Rock

*Ozark Arts Council in Harrison, \$2,000 for the play "Shenandoah – The Musical"

*Delta Cultural Center in Helena-West Helena, \$2,000 for the 152nd Anniversary Re-enactment of the Battle of Helena

*Dallas County Museum in Fordyce, \$1,400 for the 151st Anniversary Re-enactment of the Battle of Marks' Mills

*Mosaic Templars Cultural Center in Little Rock, \$280 to conserve a muster roll of the 46th United States Colored Infantry Regiment

*Reed's Bridge Battlefield Preservation Society in Jacksonville, \$2,000 for its annual event on the Bayou Meto battlefield

*Clayton House in Fort Smith, \$885 for "Civil War Days in Fort Smith and the Sutton Mansion: An Earlier Clayton House Chapter"

*Clay County, \$2,000 for a re-enactment of military activities at Chalk Bluff.

The ACWSC is sad to report the untimely death of Archie Moore, a valued member of the commission and a good friend. Archie was a tireless promoter of Arkansas's Civil War history, particularly the role of the U.S. Colored Troops in the war, and he contributed greatly to Arkansas's commemoration of the war.

The ACWSC has received several successful applications for Arkansas Civil War Sesquicentennial Historical Markers over the past few months. Recently completed markers are:

No. 93: Battle of Salem/Fulton County in the Civil War, Mammoth Spring, Fulton County

No. 94: First Arkansas Cavalry, Eureka Springs, Carroll County

No. 95: Last Confederate Veteran, Jonesboro, Craighead County

No. 96: Troops Raised in Craighead County, Jonesboro, Craighead County

No. 97: Confederate State Capitol, Washington, Hempstead County

No. 98: Third Arkansas Infantry Regiment/Ashley County in the Civil War, Hamburg, Ashley County

No. 99: Skirmish at Farr's Mill, Hot Springs, Garland County

No. 100: Conway County in the Civil War/Murder of John Clayton, Plumerville, Conway County

No. 101: Pope County in the Civil War/Pope County Militia War, Russellville, Pope County

No. 102: Capture of "Missouri Swamp Fox," Pocahontas, Randolph County

No. 103: Clarksville in the Civil War/Depredations, Clarksville, Johnson County

No. 104: Hempstead County in the Civil War, Washington, Hempstead County

No. 105: Arkansans at the Battle of New Market, Little Rock, Pulaski County.

The ACWSC hopes to have at least one marker in each of the state's 75 counties before the commemoration ends at the end of 2015. Counties that currently do not have markers in place or in progress are Bradley, Calhoun, Hot Spring, Howard, Lawrence, Polk and Sharp. Information on and applications for Civil War Sesquicentennial Historical Markers are available at <http://www.arkansascivilwar150.com/historical-markers/markers.aspx>.

The ACWSC will continue until the end of 2015 to sanction events around Arkansas that commemorate the 150th anniversary of the Civil War in Arkansas. To date, the commission has sanctioned 680 events that have been attended by at least 257,086 people. To register your event as an official Civil War 150 event, just fill out the logo-use request form at <http://www.arkansascivilwar150.com/events/>.

Civil War Arkansas Online

www.arkansascivilwar150.com

www.arkansaspreservation.org

www.civilwarbuff.org

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

boards/arcwmb/

www.arkansastoothpick.com

SWACWHT notes podcasts, seminar

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Springs National Historic Landmark has been an unmanned state park for some years now. It is cared for by White Oak Lake State Park. A very active group in Grant County is working to research and develop the Jenkins' Ferry and Marks' Mills sites. All these sites are part of the 1864 Camden Expedition, an unsuccessful attempt by the Union Army to topple General Kirby Smith, the commander of the Confederate Trans-Mississippi in Shreveport, and to invade Texas.

Other activities in the region have included podcasts done for the Arkansas Civil War Sesquicentennial Commission. In March Josh Williams of Historic Washington State Park spoke on Washington, Arkansas, in 1865. Peggy Lloyd of the Southwest Arkansas Regional Archives spoke on Richard Samuels at the Arkansas Historical Association meeting at West Memphis in April and also did a podcast at UALR recently on Samuels, who came out of slavery in 1865. He served in the Arkansas legislature in Reconstruction, was one of the founders of the CME denomination and died as a result of the Great Memphis Yellow Fever Epidemic in 1878.

Re-enactors in Southwest Arkansas, both Union and Confederate, will participate in a march from Washington to the Prairie D' Ane Battlefield in Nevada County. The event will take place on June 7-13, 2015. Registration closed on April 20, but inquiries can be directed to the event website at www.redrivercampaign.com.



Elkins' Ferry Battlefield at Prescott

Josh Williams, the curator of Historic Washington State Park, is also finalizing arrangements for the Annual Red River Symposium in Washington in the last weekend in July. The theme this year will be the end of the Civil War, emancipation and the beginnings of Reconstruction. As usual, the Symposium will include speakers, tours in and around Washington and a concluding banquet with a speaker. Further details will be forthcoming.

And, as the Sesquicentennial draws to a close, kudos to Mark Christ for all his work over the past years to fund and promote what must have been one of the most successful commemorations of the Civil War in the nation! Hopefully, the momentum created by this successful commemoration will result in greater preservation and development of the sites associated with this pivotal event in the history of our state and nation.

Delta Cultural Center 'Lets Freedom Ring!'

By Ron Kelley
Delta Cultural Center

Since the last Battlefield Update, Helena and the Delta in general have been very busy wrapping up the 150th commemoration of the Civil War in Arkansas. Helena was one of many sites around the state that took part in the "Let Freedom Ring" event. The Helena program was held appropriately in Freedom Park in front of the Emancipation Proclamation interpretative panel.

Included in the ceremony were songs performed by KIPP: Delta school children and the ringing of a bell thirteen times by Delta Cultural Center's Educa-

tion Coordinator Jack Myers. Hosted by the DCC, "Let Freedom Ring" was only one of several programs that commemorated the end of slavery and the end of the war.

Other programs in the Delta included the 150th commemoration of Fort Lincoln in DeValls Bluff. Living historians from the Department of Arkansas Heritage, including the Old

State House, the Delta Cultural Center, and Mosaic Templars Cultural Center, helped in supporting Fort Lincoln School Days, which yielded a record 1,300 school children from across the state on April 30 and May 1. May 2 marked the annual Fort Lincoln Freedom Fest, which included professional living historians providing interpretation at the original fort.

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

NEACWHT active throughout region

By Danny Honnoll
NEACWHT Chair

Bad weather was the norm for most of this year so far. Snow, hail, wind and rain put a damper on most of our events over the past few months. Our work as a group will continue even after the Sesquicentennial of the Civil War. With the sesquicentennial it has sped up the process of finding and marking sites here in Arkansas.

After the first of the year most of us gathered at Mount Holly Cemetery for the annual David O. Dodd Memorial on Jan 10 in Little Rock. Attendance was low but the sun did shine on this event. Most wore topcoats and warm hats at the event. David Glen of the Dodd Camp #619 at Benton was the keynote speaker.

On Feb 7, Ray Jones and Danny Honnoll attended the annual Arkansas Civil War Heritage Trails Foundation meeting at Little Rock. This group made plans for the ACWHTF for the upcoming year. After attending this meeting Honnoll and Jones were asked to present a program by Colonel Corey Seats of the Arkansas National Guard at Camp Robinson. Honnoll and Jones were in period attire for the talk and numerous handouts were given to the officer candidates.

On Feb. 12 we placed new flags at the Southern Confederate Heritage Park. Jones and Honnoll placed new flags on the park flag poles – a 50 star U.S., Kentucky State Flag, 3rd National Confederate flag, and Irish Battle Flag.

On March 14 we were very busy with the Gen. Patrick Cleburne Memorial at the Confederate Cemetery and the 152nd Anniversary of the Battle of Helena, in Helena. We got to meet a very famous re-enactor named Dr. C.E. Fields who portrays Gen. U. S. Grant.

Another ACWSC sanctioned event was Confederate Heritage/Flag/Memorial Day, which took place at the State Capitol grounds. The Arkansas Division SCV finished reading the names of the fallen Confederates.

The town of Madison, Arkansas, was the site of us dedicating the 88th



(Left to right) M. Ray Jones, III, ACWSC; Dr. Stuart Towns and Ralph Pipkin, St. Francis County Historical Society, Madison Mayor Bobby Hardrick, Sr., W. Danny Honnoll, ACWSC, and Jack Myers, Delta Cultural Center, at unveiling of the Madison in the Civil War historical marker.

ACWSC historical marker. Over 25 citizens of Madison were up bright and early on the morning of April 25 to witness the ceremony performed by the Shaver Camp and Seven Generals Camp of the SCV. Jack Myers of the Delta Cultural Center was dressed in a Federal sailor's uniform, Ron Kelley of DCC was in a Union officer's uniform, and Jones and Honnoll were in Confederate uniforms. Mayor Bobby Hardrick greeted everyone and thanked the ACWSC, Stuart Towns and the SCV for helping remember the USCT that were at Madison during the Civil War.

On May 1, Honnoll took a group of students from a local school to Powhatan State Park for Civil War Days. They had a great time learning about soldier and civilian life during the Civil War.

The Chalk Bluff Battle re-enactment was held on May 2-3. Clay County Judge Gary Howell did his usual great job in getting ready for the re-enactment. This event marked the 150th anniversary of when Confederate General M. Jeff Thompson surrendered (May 11, 1865) to Gen. Grenville Dodge

at Chalk Bluff. We had wonderful weather but due to so many Civil War activities in the area we had a low turnout of re-enactors and civilians to watch the re-enactment.

On May 17 we are planning to dedicate an ACWSC historical marker for Pvt. William M. Loudermilk, buried at Keller's Chapel, south of Jonesboro. This will be in conjunction with the Keller Chapel Cemetery Association.

Other markers that we're working on include L'Anquille Ferry crossing/battle site, in Lee County. We are looking for a marker site around Felton, Arkansas, north of Marianna. If we can get approval we have some funding in place. We're still researching the facts for a possible marker for Helena for Sen. William King Sebastian, senator from Arkansas from 1848-1861. We are going to get with the Helena folks to help decide if we place it in town close to where Sebastian is buried north of Helena.

The next meeting of the NEACWHTC will be on June 17 at 6:00 p.m. at the Fishboat Restaurant in Jonesboro.

NWACWHT notes new Pea Ridge chief

By Alan Thompson
NWACWHT Chair

Pea Ridge National Military Park has a new leader. Kevin Eads succeeds John Scott and started his new assignment on March 8. Kevin is a 24-year veteran of the National Park Service, including 13 years at Pea Ridge where he has been the park's chief of resource management. Kevin is a great selection and will do a great job.

The Washington County Historical Society in Fayetteville held their annual commemorative on April 17 and 18. Things kicked off on Friday when they held, in conjunction with Shiloh Museum of Ozark History, the 2nd annual Civil War School Day. More than 400 students from Farmington, Prairie Grove and Fayetteville attended programs given by 23 volunteers. Programs included the life of Civil War soldiers, a re-enactment of the 1861 Secession Convention, a Civil War surgeon, the burning of Fayetteville and slavery.

On Saturday a lecture on "Laying the Foundations for War: Washington County, Arkansas, before the Battle of Fayetteville" was given followed by living history and a selection of period tunes and Ozark ballads.

A new monument is in the works in Iowa. The Louisa County Historical Society is raising money to erect a monument in honor of the six Littleton brothers who all served and died during the Civil War. Three of the six fought at Prairie Grove as members of Company F, 19th Iowa Infantry. Kendall Littleton was killed during the first Union assault on the ridge. John Littleton was wounded and transported to the hospital in Fayetteville where he succumbed to his wounds eleven days later. Noah Littleton made it through the battle unscathed but drowned on May 1, 1863, at Forsythe, Missouri, while on a ferry that capsized while he was crossing the White River. The other three all died of disease: George after he was discharged due to illness, William at Jefferson Barracks in St. Louis, and Thomas at Andersonville. For more information on the project or to



Kevin Eads

donate, contact the Louisa County Historical Society at (319) 527-5247 or write Louisa County Historical Society, 609 Highway 61, Wapello, Iowa 52653.

The Southern Memorial Association will host the 142nd annual Southern Memorial Day on June 6. The ceremony will take place at the Confederate Cemetery in Fayetteville beginning at 10 a.m. Susan Young of Shiloh Museum of Ozark History will be the guest speaker. She is a great speaker and storyteller so you won't want to miss it! The cemetery is located at the east end of Rock Street. All are invited to attend. The Southern Memorial Association was founded in 1872 by about 40 women of Fayetteville. Their group raised money, bought three acres on a hillside and established the largest all-Confederate cemetery in Arkansas. With more than 600 Confederate soldiers buried in the cemetery, the Southern Memorial Association still privately owns and maintains the grounds in which they lie without any monetary endowments or public funding. The Association exists to maintain the cemetery and receives only private donations. Visit their website if you wish and learn more about the Confederate Cemetery that they maintain. They are conducting a fundraiser this year and are selling donation tickets, and details are available at <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~arsma/fundraiser.html>.

The Northwest Region was well represented in the "Let Freedom Ring" event held statewide on April 15. Participants included several departments at the University of Arkansas, the City of

Fayetteville, Lowell Historical Museum, Washington County Historical Society, Fayetteville Fire Department, Historical Society of Elm Springs, a number of churches, Shiloh Museum of Ozark History and Prairie Grove Battlefield State Park.

The Shiloh Museum will host the dedication of a Civil War historical marker Saturday, May 23, at 2:00 p.m. at the corner of Johnson Avenue and Mill Street just east of the museum campus. The marker commemorates the hardships faced by people living in and around the Civil War-era settlement of Holcomb's Spring, which is present-day Springdale. Speakers at the dedication include Mayor Doug Sprouse, Arkansas Civil War Sesquicentennial Commission member Dr. Jamie Brandon, Shiloh Museum director Allyn Lord, Holcomb family representative Margaret Holcomb, and Kyla Cross, who will perform a selection of Civil War-era ballads. In case of rain, the dedication will be held in Shiloh Square on Emma Avenue. The Shiloh Museum is located at 118 W. Johnson Avenue in downtown Springdale. For more information, call 750-8165 or visit shilohmuseum.org.

The 26th Annual North Arkansas Ancestor Fair will be held June 5-6 in Marshall and will feature sessions by Tom DeBlack, Mark Christ, David Schiffler and James Johnston. You can get details at (870) 448-3308, <http://ancestorfair.us/> or shirleysdream@windstream.net.

Visit
ArkansasCivilWar150.com
to learn about
the sesquicentennial!

SEACWHT members prominent at area events

By Doyle Taylor
SEACWHT Chair

Well, winter has finally passed which was not the case in Arkansas the 1st of March. Those of us in Southeast Arkansas are once again taking to the field to work on various projects.

Since our last report members of our groups assembled on Saturday, February 28, at the Drew County Court House to dedicate a Sesquicentennial Marker on the Courthouse grounds honoring the soldiers from Drew County. The marker itself did not arrive until late on Friday the 27th. It was through a special effort of the Courthouse grounds staff and Drew County Judge Robert Akin that the marker was placed that evening for the ceremony the next day.

Approximately 40 people braved the cold windy afternoon service. The service was conducted by the Gen. William F. Slemons chapter of the United Daughters of the Confederacy of Monticello, the Ninth Arkansas Infantry Camp of the Sons of Confederate

Veterans from Star City, and the Patrick R. Cleburne Camp S.C.V. of Pine Bluff.

I would especially like to thank Judge Akin, Drew County Sherriff Mark Gober and his deputies, and Monticello Mayor Zack Tucker for their kind assistance in making this event possible.

On March 15, the 30th anniversary memorial service for Major General Patrick R. Cleburne was held at Cleburne's grave. The service was conducted by both the Southeast and the Northeast Arkansas Civil War Heritage Trail groups hosted by the Patrick R. Cleburne and the Robert G. Shaver Camps of the Sons of Confederate Veterans.

Approximately 75 persons were in attendance. The guest speaker was Commander Thomas Taylor of the Louisiana Division of the Sons of Confederate Veterans.

On April 12 several members gathered at the Cornerville Missionary Baptist Church Cemetery for a memorial service for the Confederate

soldier buried there in recognition of Confederate heritage month.

The keynote speaker was Doyle Taylor who spoke on the need to preserve the history and heritage of our ancestors. Taylor explained that while respecting our Confederate heritage is not today politically correct, it is necessary so as to maintain a true understanding of our nation's history and the cause of the most horrible times in our history.

Future events which members will be taking part in are the 151st Anniversary Battle of Marks' Mills re-enactment to be held in Fordyce. On May 24 members will take part in the Annual Memorial Day observance at the Veterans Cemetery in the Bellwood Cemetery on Pullen Street in Pine Bluff.

On Saturday, June 13, plans are being made for a work day to clean the Skull Cemetery near Arkansas Post. Anyone who could help would be greatly appreciated. The Skull Cemetery is one of the earliest cemeteries in Arkansas and is in need of some upkeep. For more information you may contact Ms. Dyan Bohnert, dyanbohnert@centurytel.net.

Butler Center reprints classic 3rd Arkansas book

Their fellow soldiers called them "Arkansas toothpicks" but the men of the 3rd Arkansas Infantry Regiment were known to the enemy as some of the fiercest fighters during the Civil War.

The exploits of the 3rd Arkansas were recounted in a book from 1959 by Calvin L. Collier, a captain in the U.S. Air Force and founder of the Civil War Roundtable of Arkansas. Long out of print, his book "They'll Do to Tie To!": The Story of Hood's Arkansas Toothpicks" now is available in a new edition from Butler Center Books.

The 3rd Arkansas was one of the most distinguished and well-respected Confederate regiments of the Civil War. It was the only Arkansas regiment to serve the entire war with the Army of Northern Virginia in the east, where most of the major battles were

fought. The men of the 3rd Arkansas acquired a reputation as tenacious fighters and were known for the long knives—"Arkansas toothpicks"—they carried.

"They'll Do to Tie To!" was one of many regimental histories—some by amateur historians—that were written around the time of the centennial commemoration of the American Civil War more than fifty years ago.

While Arkansas provided dozens of Confederate infantry and cavalry regiments, perhaps none achieved more prominence than the 3rd Arkansas. This largely was by virtue of its status as the only Arkansas regiment to serve throughout the Civil War in the Army of Northern Virginia.

As part of Gen. John Bell Hood's Texas Brigade, the 3rd Arkansas established a singular record as tough

fighters. This reputation was earned in some of the fiercest battles east of the Mississippi—Antietam, Gettysburg, Chickamauga, the Wilderness (where they suffered an unfathomable 65 percent casualty rate), Spotsylvania, and Cold Harbor.

When the Army of Northern Virginia finally surrendered on April 9, 1865, only 144 of the 1,353 soldiers who had fought in the 3rd Arkansas remained to stack their arms and prepare for the long walk home.

The book is available at River Market Books & Gifts on the Main Library campus in Little Rock and other bookstores, from online retailers, and through the University of Arkansas Press at (800) 621-2736. Butler Center Books is the publishing division of the Butler Center for Arkansas Studies at the Central Arkansas Library System.

Spring has sprung at Reed's Bridge park

By Mike Kish
RBBPS President

Spring, the time of birth, renewal, and planting. This applies to Reed's Bridge Battlefield too, though on the other hand things never stopped. A slow, inexorable dynamic is in play.

Set up as a mid-1800s family farm homestead interpretation, one expects to see planting and related activities. The first and oldest garden plot is planted with heirlooms. Actually, re-planted is more correct as a thoughtless parent allowed a child or children to uproot most and kill many young plants. Five heirloom cotton types are planned. Ever seen green or tan/brown cotton? Slaves grew it.

No use stewing in anger. Though the seventh significant vandalism act in six and a half years, it is taken in stride. Possessing only a small dedicated volunteer staff, Reed's Bridge Battlefield Preservation Society must build, maintain, and create, often at personal expense. Roll up sleeves, rally resources and fix the problem as best as possible. However, like many volunteer groups, situations sometimes require creativity.

Late last summer, a vandal broke into the largest cabin and ran amuck with black spray paint. Upside? The can was only half full. What to do about spray paint on raw wood? Paint removers remove layers of paint; it was attempted. Sanding destroys texture and patina. Solution—a drill and wire brush attachment softly applied at different angles to blend in the paint so as to render paint swaths and a profanity unrecognizable. Wish those seven plus hours could be used elsewhere.

Keeping things positive, an additional quarter acre of briar, privet, gum trees, poison ivy, construction debris, and disposed household items are gone. A dump for several years, the affected area occupies approximately a quarter of land between buildings and Bayou Meto Creek. Saplings available to any who desire—free! A Boy Scout Eagle project and Jacksonville city executed the effort. Holes filled, the area awaits natural re-vegetation and native Arkansas plantings. Note—this is the third Boy Scout effort—thanks Sherwood Troop 770!

Interior fencing is undergoing repair. The barn is slowly getting new poles. A shell building to enclose a forge with large bellows is up—no doors and window yet. A faux water well is mostly constructed, needs

a cover. Faux: fancy French word for fake. Any sort of “real well” – imagine deeper with water – made city officials extremely nervous. Reconsider previously mentioned effective parent and well-behaved urchin. Also imagine dramatic 24-hour CNN coverage, Utah mine rescue team, flown in mine boring equipment, cranes, etc. The faux well is circular, four and one half feet tall, made of native stone, period correct... and innocuous.

One society member, a master gardener whose team project is Pinnacle Mountain State Park, is planting native Arkansas plants with signage. Anyone not familiar with or doesn't have enough sweet gum, green briar, or poison ivy? Contact Mike at the park. Did you know there are at least seven kinds of drought tolerant, perennial, and native sunflowers loved by bird and bees!

Projects may seem erratic, several ongoing at a time, and at various stages of completion. Keep in mind, funding in particular and sometimes expertise or equipment limits progress. Seasons sometimes drive activities—spring planting, no ticks and poison ivy leaves in winter.

The walking/re-enacting bridge is gone, wood salvaged, and some replacement poles secured. Thanks again, Troop 770! Floating twice during flooding to elsewhere in the park and subsequent accelerated rotting was hard on the structure. A Boy Scout campout massed and returned it once.

The “starter cabin” is reduced to a rotting wood wall and stone chimney. Much

since learned regarding proper and wise log cabin construction. Vandals played a role here too, though only the last time affected safety. For whatever reason, a two foot by two foot plus hole was created by removing the section at a corner. Someone simply tore out the section; how many more similar acts needed before buildings collapse? Another Troop 770 Eagle Scout to the rescue. The upside??? Photographers love the backdrop—much better lighting. The setting will remain as long as stable and safe.

The society formed to preserve and reclaim battlefield acreage, often a tough slog requiring serious money. Funding recently secured half a five acre lot which Jacksonville Parks and Recreation accepted. Financial searches continue for remaining acreage.

Recently, Reed's Bridge received an award from the Arkansas Historical Association. It recognized the battlefield “...As example of what a group of local people can accomplish through dedication to a cause and hard work by many individuals.” Additionally, over several years, Reed's Bridge preserved a Civil War battlefield site and marshaled local support from community, state, and national organizations. Like-minded citizens formed a membership to maintain momentum and generate interest. The society trail blazed a model for what can be accomplished in local historic preservation, perhaps best displayed by Helena-West Helena's stunning recreation.



Re-enactors fire a cannon during the dedication of the Morris House Arkansas Civil War Sesquicentennial Historical Marker at Bradford in White County.

Fort Smith's Clayton House sets event

A sure bet for fun for you and your family over Memorial Day weekend is this large-scale Civil War commemoration at the Clayton House. May 23 will reveal the earlier history of this historic home, first built in 1852, that included serving as a U.S. General Hospital during the Civil War.

The Clayton House is thrilled to get to share this day of fun and learning with the help of a grant by the Arkansas Civil War Sesquicentennial Commission. The grant is in association with the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program, an agency of the Department of Arkansas Heritage.

The Clayton House grounds will be filled with soldiers as hospital guards and patients. Outdoor activities include a good old-fashioned turkey shoot, a chance to

make hardtack (and eat it, too, if our beans 'n cornbread lunch doesn't fill you up!), a handkerchief doll craft, and a demonstration of a Civil War laundry. Inside, concurrent presentations throughout the day in our parlors of the "Sutton Mansion" history, the Civil War in Fort Smith, and Area Battles & Skirmishes will provide a better understanding of Arkansas during the Civil War. Plus, we welcome Northwest Arkansas-based Civil War re-enactor Doug Kidd, who will provide a close and impassioned look at the challenges of medical care on the battlefield and in the makeshift hospitals.

We thank Doug Kidd, Civil War medicine historian; Jim Starbird of the NW 15th Arkansas Volunteer Infantry Regiment and David Alexander, also of the NW 15th and

history teacher at Ramsey Junior High; Cody Faber, park ranger and Civil War historian of the Fort Smith National Historic Site; Rick Yates, Civil War cook of the NW 15th; Marcus Woodward, historic re-enactor and history teacher at Chaffin Junior High; Stephen Christian of the NW 15th and Clayton House interpreter; Susan Trisler, Civil War laundry re-enactor (photo by The City Wire); and Floyd Robison, re-enactor of Judge Isaac C. Parker and also master turkey shoot craftsman! We also thank many other historic re-enactors from across the region who are pitching in to help re-create 1863. Entry fee will be \$5 per person, plus a delicious lunch for \$5 as well. Plan to enjoy this great day!



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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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