



Arkansas Battlefield Update

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Prairie D'Ane acquisition moves toward goal

By Peggy Lloyd
SWACWHT Chair

On August 5, 2016, the acquisition of 448 acres in the Elkins' Ferry National Historic Landmark in Nevada County was completed with a reception at the Central Baptist Church in Prescott. The Friends of Elkins' Ferry in conjunction with the Nevada County Depot Museum, the Prescott/Nevada County Chamber of Commerce and the Office of Economic Development had led a local campaign to raise funds to augment contributions from many state and national sources. The Civil War Trust of Washington, DC, which had closed the sale of the land from Hancock Global Resources, transferred ownership to the Nevada County Depot and Museum, a non-profit.

Stacy Hurst, Director of the Department of Arkansas Heritage, was present and honored for her role in gaining a large Arkansas Natural and Cultural Resources Council grant for the acquisition. Dr. Patrick Hale, a native of Prescott who resides in St. Augustine, Florida, also announced his desire to see his 808-acre family

farm purchased as part of the Prairie D'Ane National Historic Landmark near Prescott. The tract is at the intersection of Highway 19 and Interstate 30--a perfect location for a visitor center. The property appraised for \$1.4 million. Dr. Hale agreed to donate \$500,000 of the sales price with the anticipation of the National Park Service contributing \$700,000 toward the acquisition. Others donors have already pledged sums amounting to \$110,000,

leaving \$90,000 to be raised in the coming year. Fundraising efforts have already commenced. Tax-deductible donations can be mailed to the Nevada County Depot and Museum, 403 West First Street South, Prescott, AR 71857; be sure to specify that they are targeted toward the Prairie D'Ane Battlefield Preservation Project.



Dr. Patrick Hale announces Prairie D'Ane donation

The third Civil War site in Nevada County is also receiving attention. After receiving a grant earlier in the spring, the Moscow Cemetery Association contracted with Texas Cemetery Restoration LLC to begin work at Moscow Cemetery in the early fall to clean, reset

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NEACWHT plays role in marker dedications

By Danny Honnoll
NEACWHT Chair

Winter is setting in and cold weather is on its way. It makes me wonder how our ancestors that fought during this terrible war endured the elements of the lay of the land and weather.

Kitty Sloan reported on the ACWSC Marker dedicated at Smithville: Smithville doubled its official population of 78 on a Saturday this summer for the dedication of two Arkansas Civil War Sesquicentennial markers, one at the town hall/fire station and community center/restored WPA school on Highway 117, the other about a block away at the cemetery. During

the Decoration Day and Homecoming, area native Dr. Blake Perkins talked about when Smithville was the county seat of Lawrence County 1837-1868 with a top population in the surrounding township of almost 1,200. Reconstruction politics led to the creation of now-neighboring Sharp County, loss of the county seat, and Smithville's decline. Dr. George Lankford represented ACWSC. Local coordinator Lindsay Penn circulated a list of the 43 military veterans known to be buried in the cemetery, including a Union Civil War physician and several area Confederates. Also listed were veterans from the Mexican-American War, WWI, WWII, Korea, and

Vietnam. Note to cash-strapped event planners: Schedule for every other year. All food was provided by competing political candidates.

Another marker was dedicated at Evening Shade in Sharp County on Saturday July 9. It was the culmination of a year and a half of groundwork in preparation for acquiring the marker. They filled out the application forms in the spring of 2015 and it was approved September 11, 2015, by the Arkansas Civil War Sesquicentennial Commission. The actual marker arrived at Evening Shade in April of 2016 and was put in place by the city of Evening Shade just prior to the ceremony, taking four

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CACWHT sees markers, notes new re-enactment

By R.D. Keever
CACWHT Chair

The David O. Dodd Camp 619 of Benton, Arkansas, has placed two Arkansas Civil War Sesquicentennial markers related to Saline County. The first is dedicated to the 11th Arkansas Infantry, which was a regiment raised primarily in Saline County. Six of the 10 companies were primarily Saline County men, the others were from Columbia, Ouachita, and Hot Spring counties. The marker was placed at the Glidewell-Leech Cemetery in Benton, Arkansas, which is also a Saline County Confederate Memorial Cemetery with more than 60 memorial headstones to Saline County's war dead.

The other marker is a two-sided marker honoring Col. William A. Crawford on one side and Brig. Gen. George M. Holt on the other. This marker is placed at Lee Cemetery in Benton on Military Road, where both men are buried. Crawford was a prominent Saline County resident serving in a number of positions including Mexican War and Confederate service as well as being an Arkansas Militia general during the Brooks-Baxter War. Holt served as an Arkansas Militia officer and enrolled the 11th Arkansas Infantry for the State Military Board. He is also the highest ranking militia or modern-day Arkansas National Guard officer killed in action with the enemy.

If you have never been but always wanted to go see a Civil War re-enactment, here is your chance! The 1st Michigan Battery G will host a new Civil War event in Cabot in April. The event is called the Cabot Civil War Muster and is focusing on the 1863 campaign for Little Rock. This will be a family friendly event with lots of things to see and do, from battlefield demonstrations to a friendly game of Rounder (the forerunner of baseball) with period sutlers and blacksmith on site.

There will be some local food vendors, so there is no need to leave for lunch and miss out on any of the excitement. The Cabot Civil War Muster will be held April 28-30 on the grounds of Changepoint Church. It is located at 3525 AR-89 across from Crossroads Café and only a stone's throw away from historical points of interest like Camp Nelson Confederate Cemetery, Reed's Bridge Battlefield and Historic Old Austin.

For more information on this event or if you think you may be interested getting started in the hobby itself you can call (989) 860-9963 or email us at battery@hotmail.com. There is also more information posted on our webpage at 1stmichiganbatteryg.com or you can look us up on Facebook. The Cabot Library conducts History & Genealogy classes on every Tuesday afternoon 1:00 - 2:30 pm and Thursday nights 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.

The Lonoke County Museum has published a new book on a doctor who came back from the Civil War to the Lonoke area after being wounded. *Dr. R.N. Ross's Ledger, Prairie County, Arkansas 1864* by Sherryl Miller is about a soldier who joined the 2nd Arkansas Mounted Rifles (Dismounted) Co. C, which was under Capt. James M. King. Dr. Ross was wounded and his arm broken in the battle of Pea Ridge on March 7, 1862, and he received his discharge on June 24, 1862. The ledger starts Jan. 3, 1864, and goes through Jan. 19, 1865. It tells the dates he made his visits, the person he visited, medicine he gave them, and cost. It is great for genealogy for Pulaski, Prairie and Lonoke counties. The book is \$15 per copy plus \$3 shipping. For more information, contact the Lonoke County Museum, P.O. Box 873, Lonoke, AR 72086 or call (501) 676-6750.

For Information

General Information

Mark Christ (501) 324-9880
mark.christ@arkansas.gov

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
larrypuckett219@mail.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

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
jayfinis@cablelynx.com

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

Central Arkansas CWHT

R.D. Keever (501) 681-9962
convertiblecowboy@suddenlink.net

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.

SWACWHT works at Moscow site

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and repair 35 gravestones. The work was under the supervision of James R. "Rusty" Brenner of Dallas, Texas, the owner of the company.

On October 8, the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program under the supervision of Special Projects Historian Holly Hope conducted a workshop at Moscow. Peggy Lloyd spoke on the history of Moscow Church and Cemetery. Rusty Brenner explained how to assess the condition of old gravestones, gave tips on photographing stones and demonstrated techniques of repairing, resetting and cleaning stones. Participants had the opportunity to work on stones with the correct tools and supplies. A lunch was provided. After lunch Dr. Jon Barry of the University of Arkansas Agricultural Experiment Station near Hope spoke on invasive plant species often found in and around cemeteries and discussed methods for curbing their growth. The participants had additional opportunities for hands-on experience in the afternoon. The workshop was well attended with participants from the surrounding region.

The Nevada County Depot and Museum has also contracted with Joseph and Maria Brent, aka Mudpuppy and Waterdog LLC of Versailles, Kentucky, to develop an interpretive plan for the portion of the Camden Expedition between Okolona in Clark County and Moscow on the outskirts of Prescott. The Brents are well-known consultants in developing interpretive plans for Civil War sites and have worked in Nevada County previously as well as in Helena-West Helena, Arkansas.

On September 19, members of the Friends of Elkins' Ferry and the Clark County Historical Society accompanied the Brents on a tour of sites in Clark County, including the Boozman House near Arkadelphia, Hollywood, the Battle of the Bees site near Okolona and the roads leading to Elkins' Ferry in Clark County. Charles Todd of the Arkadelphia Depot Museum led the tour. On September 20, Paul Ridgell led the tour to Elkins' Ferry on the Nevada County side of the Little Missouri River. The Brents will be returning to Arkansas for more meetings and tours. They intend to have the plan



Peggy Lloyd, Kitty Sloan, Dr. Pat Hale and Ken Petre at Elkins' Ferry celebration.

completed by June.

The National Scenic Byway Steering Committee has continued monthly meetings and visits to sites that are part of Arkansas's Red River Campaign, aka the Camden Expedition. After recent meetings in Dallas, Cleveland and Ouachita counties, the group met at Historic Washington State Park on November 2, with lunch at Williams' Tavern and a business meeting in the 1874 Hempstead County Courthouse. Billy Nations, chief interpreter at the park and a steering committee member, spoke to the group on the annual Civil War Weekend, which was held November 4-6. The next meeting was held January 9 at Prescott with tours of the sites there.

Civil War Weekend at Washington had good weather. Friday was devoted to school groups who had an interest in the Civil War. About 200 re-enactors, both as soldiers and civilians, participated in the event and camped in the park. Most came from Arkansas, Texas and Louisiana. They staged a skirmish on Saturday with about 450 spectators. The skirmish on Sunday had about 200 spectators.

The last marker of the very active and highly successful Civil War Sesquicentennial in Arkansas was installed on October 30. It is located at Dooley's Hill near the site of Dooley's Ferry on the Red River in southern Hempstead County. It

commemorates the fortifications that protected this important crossing point on the Red River and the nearby Dooley's Hill Baptist Church which is no longer active. An African American church and cemetery, the church is no longer active, though the cemetery is. The graves of the African American community in this vicinity lie among the Confederate trenches. The area saw no fighting, but it was fortified against the possibility of attack. A dedication ceremony is pending until after the Christmas holidays and the new year.

Civil War Arkansas Online

www.arkansascivilwar150.com
www.arkansaspreservation.org
www.civilwarbuff.org
[http://history-sites.com/cgi-bin/
boards/arcwmb/](http://history-sites.com/cgi-bin/boards/arcwmb/)
www.arkansastoothpick.com

**Learn about the Civil
War in Arkansas!**

NEACWHT participates in dedications

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men to lift it. The early morning of that day was rainy but cleared just as the celebration began.

The pavilion at Evening Shade, which currently sits on the actual site of the original 1870 Sharp County Courthouse, was decorated with red, white and blue bunting, bows and stars. A large storyboard of more than 20 photos of the old homes and buildings of the 1870s and 1900s were displayed on large tables covered with old quilts. Some of the homes are still in existence and occupied.

Dwight Sharp, great-great grandson of William H. Sharp, who was the brother of Sharp County namesake Ephraim Sharp, was our Master of Ceremonies. On behalf of the Sharp County Historical Society, the audience was welcomed to the dedication ceremony. Denise Gibbons sang our National Anthem and Dwight read a short history of the original courthouse.

Jon Beller, Avondale Street's grandson, read from a Civil War letter written by Joseph C. Taylor, the father-in-law of Anna Sharp, a descendant of the Sharp dynasty. Music from the "Bona Fide" string band played before and after the ceremony. Charles Berry, Civil War re-enactor, came in his Confederate uniform. There were in attendance several descendants of Ephraim Sharp, the county namesake, as well as of William H. Sharp and John Wesley Shaver, Evening Shade pioneers.

Blake Perkins, assistant professor of history at Williams Baptist College, introduced the featured speaker, Dr. Brooks Blevins. Dr. Blevins is a local historian and history professor at Missouri State University and author of "Hill Folks." He told the audience that "Evening Shade is one of many places where the Civil War refused to end in 1865." He described post-war violence in the area, showcasing two murders in Sharp County, and stating that "No matter what side you're on, somebody's after you." Closing remarks were made by State Senator Linda Collins-Smith including accounts of her personal background at Williford.

The Southern Confederate Heritage Park in Jonesboro raised new flags on September 3. The flags of honor were: 50-star U.S. flag, Arkansas State flag, 2nd National Confederate flag and the Polk Battle flag. The park has been a center of activity with the construction of a new McDonalds on one side and a Starbucks on the other.

Five Rivers Historic Preservation, Col. Robert G. Shaver Camp #1655 Sons of Confederate Veterans of Jonesboro, Mitchell A. Adair Chapter # 929 of the Children of the Confederacy, 27th Arkansas Infantry of Mountain Home, #1414 J.O. Shelby of



Camp Shaver Civil War marker dedication

Harrison Camp and the Gen. James F. Fagan Chapter #280, Military Order of Stars and Bars; all organizations are of Jonesboro. This group conducted a historical marker unveiling ceremony, Saturday, November 5.

The new marker reads: Col. Robert G. Shaver established a camp near Pocahontas to train troops for the 7th Arkansas Infantry, C.S.A., including two Randolph County companies. With 1,250 men and officers, the 7th was one of the largest regiments raised in Arkansas. They trained at Camp Shaver under Gen. William Hardee and many died of disease there. Moving east of the Mississippi River, the regiment had heavy losses at Shiloh and Perryville, was nicknamed "the Bloody 7th" and was consolidated with the 6th Arkansas. Both Confederate and Union troops used the camp throughout the war. This was ACWSC Marker No. 129. It was dedicated in memory of James R. "Jim" Kincade, Arkansas Civil War Sesquicentennial Commission, Col. Robert G. Shaver Camp #1655, SCV, W. Danny Honnoll and M. Ray Jones, ACWSC Commissioners, and the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program W. Danny Honnoll of the 30th Arkansas Infantry living historians, and Commander of the Shaver Camp, emceed the ceremony and conducted the memorial service. M. Ray Jones, III, an ACWSC Commissioner, also attended the event and was in charge of the flag-folding ceremonies. He was assisted by Trip Wilson of the 27th Arkansas Infantry Camp of Mountain Home.

Greetings were presented by

Bill Carroll of Five Rivers Historic Preservation, Tara Bellomy, Dixie Daughters Chapter #2716, and Carolyn Atkinson, James Wiseman Honnoll Chapter #2607, of the UDC. M. Ray Jones, III, brought greeting on behalf of the Fagan Chapter of Jonesboro Military Order of the Stars and Bars. Greetings were also extended by the Sons of Confederate Veterans - David Krueger Cmdr. Shelby Camp from Harrison and Trip Wilson of the 27th Arkansas Infantry Camp of Mountain Home. Honnoll spoke by remembering Jim Kincade, 7th Arkansas Infantry re-enactor and longtime NEACWHTC member. The marker service dedication keynote speaker was James Bear Damon, President of Five Rivers Historic Preservation Inc.

Re-enactors of the 7th Arkansas Infantry and 30th Arkansas Infantry helped with the honors by firing a Civil War rifle as the lone riflemen during the service. David Bellomy of Lake City had an artillery piece, part of Marshall's Battery, and did the honors of firing three volleys in honor of the Shaver Camp and Jim Kincade. It was very impressive.

A second marker was dedicated in downtown Pocahontas with Dr. Michael Dougan as the keynote speaker. He did an excellent job. This marker reads: Capture of Missouri "Swamp Fox" Pocahontas was a 'no man's land' after the Confederate troops organized here in 1861 moved east of the Mississippi.

Continued on next page.

Upcoming NEAWCHT events outlined

Continued from previous page.

Soldiers and irregulars from both sides patrolled the region. One group of 300 Union militia and cavalry from Arkansas and Missouri came here on Aug. 22, 1863, after learning that Brig. Gen. M. Jeff Thompson was staying at the St. Charles Hotel. Thompson, known as the "Swamp Fox" for his many victories in the swampy region, was taken by surprise. Exchanged in 1864, he commanded troops in Northeast Arkansas, surrendering May 11, 1865. These events were sanctioned by the Arkansas Civil War Sesquicentennial Commission. The marker was funded by the Arkansas Civil War Sesquicentennial Commission, Five Rivers Historic Preservation, Inc., and the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program. We have been asked to help dedicate an ACWSC marker at Harrisburg, time/date to be announced.

The 21st annual Confederate Heritage Day ceremony will be held at 11 am Saturday, April 15, on the State Capitol grounds. This is another part of the Sons of Confederate Veterans observing and preserving the memory of the soldiers from Arkansas that wore the gray. The NEACWHTC will be taking part in the ceremony this year. The event is a celebration of three separate events: Arkansas Confederate History, Heritage Month, Confederate Memorial Day and Confederate Flag Day. This is the twentieth year that all three events have been combined into one. The NEACWHTC has ordered a historical marker commemorating



L to R: James Bear Damon, President of Five Rivers Historic Preservation Inc., W. Danny Honnoll and Dr. Michael Dougan; professor emeritus of Arkansas State

Civil War actions that took place in western Craighead County. The UDC, SCV, MOSB and North East Arkansas Heritage Foundation have helped sponsor this marker. No date has been set for dedication.

The NEACWHTC held its annual business meeting on December 20 and raised more than \$1,400 for the group to help maintain the Southern

Confederate Heritage Park in Jonesboro. Twenty-six members attended the meeting.

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

Got News?

Send information about your upcoming Civil War-related activity to: *Arkansas Battlefield Update*, AHPP, 1100 North Street, Little Rock, AR 72201, or to mark.christ@arkansas.gov.

SEACWHT helps with projects throughout region

By Doyle Taylor
SEACWHT Chair

Well, another year has passed and the winter season is upon us. 2016 for us was a very active year and winter usually means a time of rest from outside activities. However, spring will arrive soon enough and with that, we will be busy again.

As a review of our activities of the fall of 2016, we start with August, when The Arkansas Post National Memorial at Gillett celebrated the National Parks System's 100th anniversary. On the 27th, the park was host to six different living history presentations, in which several of our members, including our Arkansas County Captain Ms. Dyan Bohnert, were a part. Ms. Bohnert reported that some 60 visitors enjoyed this day's activities.

On September 16, the three-day weekend of the 152nd anniversary of the Battle of Jenkins' Ferry re-enactment began with a School Days presentation for area public schools and home-school students. More than 250 students were present for the day's programs.

The event drew more than 250 registered participants (living historians and sutlers). Some of these re-enactors traveled in from all the surrounding states and some as far as 950 miles away. The event was well supported by the Friends of Jenkins' Ferry and the Grant County Museum. Moreover, their support was well appreciated.

Saturday was very warm for an event in mid-September and affected many of the re-enactors with heat exhaustion. Medical personnel aided with these problems. Bill Farmer of Bearden was seriously injured when acting as a cavalryman when his horse lost its balance and fell on him. I am pleased to announce that Mr. Farmer has recovered from his life-threatening experience.

The battle itself lasted for more than an hour and involved a tactical scenario in the wooded area between the Union and Confederate forces before emerging onto the open field for the spectators. It was estimated that as many as 800 spectators watched that portion of the engagement. The battle scenario was hailed as being one of the best and largest held in South Arkansas in recent memory.

A period dance was held Saturday night, to many of the ladies' enjoyment as well as that of the gents. Sunday's activities were cancelled due to heavy rains, thunder

and lightning storms that set in that morning and lasted most of the day. It was thought to be too dangerous to attempt a battle engagement due to the wet field and possible lightning. However, even with this setback, the event was considered a success and plans are being made to work on a future event.

On September 17, Ms. Dyan Bohnert played the role of a school teacher at the Prairie Harvest Day Living History presentation at the Museum of the Arkansas Grand Prairie in Stuttgart.

On September 23, during the Arkansas United Daughters of the Confederacy Convention, Ms. Bohnert was recognized for her outstanding services by being awarded The President Jefferson Davis Medal of the U.D.C. for education. This is a prestigious award and well deserved. Congratulations. The next day she assisted in laying 1,100 square yards of new sod at the new pavilion at Arkansas Post N.M.

On October 7-9, several members attended the Battle of Perryville National Re-enactment held at the Perryville Battlefield State Park in Kentucky. There were some four thousand registered participants from all over the United States as well as other countries. The three-day living history presentation was observed by several tens of thousands spectators, including myself.

On October 22-23, the annual observance of the Camp White Sulphur Springs memorial was held. This year's observance was delayed two weeks because of the above participation of our members in the battle re-enactment of Perryville.

Also on the 22nd, Arkansas Post National Memorial Park at Gillett held its annual "Ghost of the Past" living history presentation. Ms. Dyan Bohnert and her crew did double duty by attending both Camp White Sulphur Springs and "Ghost of the Past" in the same day.

On November 15, with the help of

several volunteers a new brick and granite sign marking surrounded by a paving block patio was completed for the Scull Cemetery on Old Post Road ¼ mile from Arkansas Post N.M. This is a long anticipated project to properly mark this historic cemetery. On the 22nd these same volunteers set a flagpole and raised a flag for the first time.

On December 10, several organizations, some 40 members of the Patrick R. Cleburne Camp SCV, the 2nd Arkansas Inf. CSA Re-enactors, and Southeast Arkansas Civil War Heritage Trails, assembled in the fellowship hall of Matthews Memorial Baptist Church in Pine Bluff for our annual Christmas pot luck dinner. A 30-foot table was filled with all sorts of turkey, ham, dressing, vegetable dishes, baked goods, pies, cakes, candies -- more than we could eat. It is unfortunate that several more of our associates could not be present to help us. A game of "dirty yankee" (southern version of "dirty Santa") was played to the entertainment of all.

By the time this *Battlefield Update* goes to print, members will have attended the Annual David O. Dodd Memorial Service at Mt. Holly Cemetery on January 7.

Right now our planned events for the first quarter of 2017 will be as follows:

March 18, Saturday, we will attend the annual General Patrick R. Cleburne Memorial at the Confederate Cemetery, Helena-West Helena, Arkansas.

April 1, Saturday, we will observe Park Day by cleaning up the White Sulphur Springs Confederate Cemetery from winter leavings.

April 16, Saturday, we will observe Confederate Flag Day at the Confederate Memorial on the Arkansas State Capitol Grounds.

May 2017 is Heritage Month in Arkansas. We will be attending several functions as yet to be determined.



ARKANSAS CIVIL WAR
Sesquicentennial Commission

NWACWHT sees Prairie Grove event, progress at Cane Hill restoration work

By Alan Thompson
NWACWHT Chair

Cool temperatures and rain frightened off both re-enactors and spectators as Prairie Grove Battlefield State Park commemorated the 154th anniversary of the battle. An estimated 4,500 showed up to watch as 500 re-enactors recreated the December 7, 1862, battle. Prairie Grove was the last major battle in Northwest Arkansas and the one-day battle resulted in 2,700 killed, wounded and missing soldiers. Though a tactical draw, at the end of the day the Confederate Army withdrew to Fort Smith and never moved north of the Arkansas River for the remainder of the war with the exception of cavalry raids. A re-enactment of the Battle of Pea Ridge will take place in October 2017. Information for that event will be given in a future *Update*.

Progress continues to be made at Cane Hill. We are currently awaiting the awarding of a grant that, if approved, will provide the funds to complete the remaining panels for the Engagement at Cane Hill Driving Tour. The Methodist Manse now has a new roof. The only pre-war structure left in Cane Hill, it was purchased in 2013 by Historic Cane Hill and stabilized in 2014. Archeology performed at the site exposed evidence of a structural fire at the site.

There is no known archival evidence related to the burning of the Manse but the most likely time of the fire was in November 1864. After chasing retreating Confederates to the Arkansas River at the end of Price's Missouri Raid, Federal troops under Doc Jennison and Frederick Benteen returned to the area. When two men of the 15th Kansas were killed by guerrillas, Jennison ordered



three men from Cane Hill to be hanged. As the Federals left Cane Hill to return to Kansas, Benteen burned the town while Jennison's men did the same in the Prairie Grove area. Jennison was court-martialed over the affair. Benteen was not court-martialed and continued his military career, playing a controversial role in the 1876 Battle of Little Bighorn.

The EAST Lab students from Helen

Tyson Middle School in Springdale, assisted by students from the EAST Lab at Prairie Grove Middle School, visited Prairie Grove and Pea Ridge in early December. They are creating a virtual reality tour of the exhibits and grounds at the two battlefields. The tours will be placed online and students unable to attend field trips to the two parks will be able to visit the website and take the virtual reality tour.

Civil War Arkansas on the Internet!

www.arkansascivilwar150.com

www.arkansaspreservation.org

www.civilwarbuff.org

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

WCACWHT recounts River Valley events

By Curtis Varnell
WCACWHT Chair

Monuments and memorials to the Civil War are scattered across the state of Arkansas. What the state lacked in major battles was more than made up for in the number and ferocity involved during its many skirmishes and engagements. Even prior to the Sesquicentennial Commission's efforts to place markers in every county, many counties, cities and communities had constructed some type of memorial to commemorate events of the Civil War. Many of these markers were placed by veteran's organizations and descendants of soldiers as well as by the National Park Service and others. An extensive list of these can be found at <http://www.encyclopediaofarkansas.net/encyclopedia/entry-detail.aspx?entryID=4794>.

In the Arkansas River Valley, these early monuments can be found at Dardanelle, Ozark, Van Buren, Greenwood (Backbone Ridge), Fort Smith, Massard Prairie, and other locations. During



the sesquicentennial efforts, additional markers were placed in Johnson, Franklin, Logan, Sebastian and Scott counties and many of the highways were designated as Civil War trails.

The designation of these highways and the subsequent establishment of markers has renewed interest in remembering and preserving the history of the Civil War. As a part of its 2015 Frontier Days celebration, Paris (Logan County) held a battlefield re-enactment of the Haguewood Prairie skirmish followed in 2016 by a cannon and Civil War

medicine presentation. Students from Waldron (Scott County) established a historical tour of their downtown centered around the history displayed on the historical marker placed there during the sesquicentennial celebration. Hundreds of students and area residents joined in during the inaugural establishment of the trail in September of 2016. Hartford (Sebastian County) researched the history of their community and included history of settlers' lives during the Civil War.

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.

www.arkansaspreservation.org

info@arkansaspreservation.org

(501) 324-9880

Little Rock, AR 72201

1100 North Street

Preservation Program

Arkansas Historic

Heritage Trail



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