

**Arkansas Civil War Sesquicentennial  
Commission Meeting**

September 18, 2007  
The Tower Building, Room 170  
323 S. Center St.  
Little Rock, Arkansas

The second meeting of the Arkansas Civil War Sesquicentennial Commission was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by Cathie Matthews, Director of the Department of Arkansas Heritage, with the following members present:

Carolyn Ashcraft  
Jamie Brandon  
Jim Branson  
Mark Christ  
Richard Davies  
Jerelyn Duncan  
Tom Dupree  
Charles Durnett

Bill Gatewood  
Don Hamilton  
Danny Honnoll  
Dora Kate Lee  
Cathie Matthews  
Wendy Richter  
Bill Stanley

Marian Boyd served as meeting facilitator while Kelli Peters served as recording secretary.

**OTHERS PRESENT**

Marynell Branch, Department of Arkansas Heritage  
Ken Grunewald, Department of Arkansas Heritage  
Marian Boyd, Department of Arkansas Heritage  
Russell Baker, Arkansas Genealogical Society  
Jane Hooker, Arkansas History Commission  
Robert Hare, SCV Guest, Jonesboro  
Brian Robertson, Central Arkansas Library System  
Kelli Peters, Department of Arkansas Heritage  
Total attendance was 23.

**MINUTES**

Mark Christ presented the minutes from the first ACWSC meeting in Rogers. Jim Branson moved and Charles Durnett seconded the motion to approve the minutes as written.

**NOMINATING COMMITTEE**

Mark Christ asked for three volunteers for the nominating committee. Charles Durnett, Bill Stanley, and Jamie Brandon volunteered. Mark said the committee will need to choose a president, vice president, and a secretary by the time of the next meeting.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mark Christ pointed out various activities in the six organizations of the Arkansas Civil War Heritage Trail. There have been a number of significant efforts to increase interpretation at Civil War sites around the state that were previously uninterpreted. The Arkansas Humanities Council has been instrumental in making this happen; the bulk of the funding has been through AHC grants.

A wayside exhibit was just dedicated at the Reed's Bridge Battlefield at Jacksonville. This exhibit marks the Union artillery position during that 1863 battle. Ultimately, there will be about twelve exhibits at Reed's Bridge to mark the battle.

The Northwest Arkansas Heritage Trail is working on the first of nine planned wayside exhibits marking the Cane Hill Battlefield. Because this was a nine-mile running battle, they plan on placing one exhibit for each mile of the battle. Cane Hill was the precursor of the Battle of Prairie Grove.

Two wayside exhibits were just replaced at the Fitzhugh's Woods Battlefield at Augusta, which was a fairly small action in 1864. This was a partnership between Woodruff County and the City of Augusta.

A wayside exhibit was placed at the village of Moscow, outside Prescott, which is the first interpretation at the Prairie DeAnn Battlefield, Moscow being the final rear guard action in that 2-3 day skirmish.

The American Battlefield Protection Program, the National Park Service unit charged with helping battlefields, just awarded a grant to the Nevada County Industrial Development Corporation to do an interpretation and preservation plan for the Elkins' Ferry and Prairie DeAnn battlefields which are completely unprotected and virtually uninterpreted National Historic Landmarks. A similar grant to Reed's Bridge Battlefield led to a preservation plan that helped a lot in the efforts to preserve that battlefield.

The Delta Cultural Center, a museum of the Department of Arkansas Heritage, is developing a walking trail between the Battery A site and the Helena Confederate Cemetery, which will be the first substantial Civil War interpretation in Helena-West Helena.

The Phillips County Museum is working to raise funds to create a still diorama of the Battle of Helena.

The Arkansas Civil War Heritage Trail groups are working together to get National Scenic Byway status for Civil War sites, based on a project in Louisiana. Mark presented a map drawn by Gary Joiner, cartographer and historian at LSU-Shreveport, showing the troop movements during the Camden Expedition. He's willing to work with us and we hope to get him to talk with us at a future meeting. We're focusing on the 1862 campaign in Northwest Arkansas which will be the first area to celebrate the Sesquicentennial.

The Arkansas Historic Preservation Program is establishing a historical markers program which will also be useful during the Civil War Sesquicentennial to get some sites interpreted.

## MISSION STATEMENT

The group discussed the development a Mission Statement for the Arkansas Civil War Sesquicentennial Commission. Following is the tentative Mission Statement:

DRAFT Mission Statement for the Arkansas Civil War Sesquicentennial Commission

The Arkansas Civil War Sesquicentennial Commission will seek to support a statewide observance of the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the American Civil War that is educational, comprehensive and inclusive; that tells the story of the Civil War in Arkansas without making judgments about the actions and motivations of the people who took part in the war; and that stresses the relevance to Arkansawyers today by promoting local observances and acknowledging the impact the Civil War had on modern Arkansas. The commission shall achieve this goal by:

- 1) Sanctioning events around the state (re-enactments, symposia, etc.) that are appropriate observances of the Sesquicentennial
- 2) Promoting historic sites around the state that are connected to the Civil War
- 3) Promoting publications and archival collections connected to the Civil War in Arkansas and advocating donations of materials to appropriate repositories
- 4) Promoting local observances that tell the local story
- 5) Supporting efforts to teach Arkansas Civil War history in the state's public schools
- 6) Supporting efforts to preserve and interpret the state's Civil War sites.

## DISCUSSION

The following notes summarize the Commission's discussion:

### **1 1) Sanctioning events around the state (re-enactments, symposia, etc.) that are appropriate observances of the Sesquicentennial**

*1.1 Consider cross-state relationships with neighboring state commissions*

See also: [2\) Promoting historic sites around the state that are connected to the Civil War through educational efforts \(brochures, websites, etc.\)](#)

1.1.1. Mark will research

1.1.2. Reference staff to assist

*1.2. David O. Dodd Trial*

**2 2) Promoting historic sites around the state that are connected to the Civil War through educational efforts (brochures, websites, etc.)**

**3 3) Promoting publications and archival collections connected to the Civil War in Arkansas and advocating donations of materials to appropriate repositories**

*3.1 Publish and work with Arkansas book stores to promote new books and resources*

*3.2 Arkansas Historical Association devotes an issue to the Sesquicentennial?*

*3.3. Develop bibliography for website*

*3.4 Plan to accept donations of resources\**

*3.5 What criteria do we use to determine appropriate repositories?\**

**4 4) Promoting local observances that tell the local story**

*4.1 Making the Civil War relevant to people today*

*4.2 Where will a community go to determine what happened in their community?*

*4.2.1 Link on website?*

*4.2.2 Speakers' Bureau?*

*4.2.3 Historical Markers?*

*4.2.4 Work with Arkansas Press Association and broadcasters and host news conferences*

*4.2.5 Develop CD for use in local communities*

**5 5) Supporting efforts to teach and research Arkansas Civil War history in the state's schools and universities**

*5.1 Is there a role here for the universities? Encouraging theses for higher education through research grants and/or book prizes?*

*5.2 Create a list of "Holes in Histories"*

*5.3 State contests including essay contests through high schools and presentations by reenactors in high schools*

*5.4 Work with arts agencies on educational portrayals*

*5.5 Encourage workshops for teachers so they can learn more about the Civil War and can earn credits*

5.5.1 Consider homeschooling as a target area

5.6 *Getting appropriate publications into school libraries*

5.7 *Host state seminar to promote Trans-Mississippi*

5.8 *Debate topics in schools: How do you get that to happen? Sanction or funding*

## **6 6) Supporting efforts to preserve and interpret the state's Civil War sites and documentary heritage and artifacts**

6.1 *Encourage and promote tours*

6.2 *Request help from universities*

6.3 *Host/promote a "Bring Your 'Stuff' In" as a fundraiser?*

6.4 *Assist groups to "buy their dirt"*

6.5 *Preserve the battle sites that define the Civil War in Arkansas*

6.6 *Develop a similar program to the 11 Most Endangered Places*

## **7 7) Develop a plan and procedure to secure funding and appropriations, and to secure, accept, and spend donations**

7.1 *A & P Commissions*

7.2 *Corporations such as Murphy Oil, Stephens Inc., the Rockefellers, the Tysons, TCBY, Dillard's, Riceland Foods, Weyerhaeuser, International Paper, and the Walton family*

7.2.1 *Make contact this fall!*

7.3 *Secure private funding before going to the legislature*

7.4 *Strategic planning at next meeting*

Danny Honnoll moved and Tom Dupree seconded the motion to approve the Mission Statement as amended. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

The approved Mission Statement follows:

## **Mission Statement for the Arkansas Civil War Sesquicentennial Commission**

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- 4 4) Promoting local observances that tell the local story
- 5 5) Supporting efforts to teach and research Arkansas Civil War history in the state's schools and universities
- 6 6) Supporting efforts to preserve and interpret the state's Civil War sites and documentary heritage and artifacts
- 7 7) Develop a plan and procedure to secure funding and appropriations, and to secure, accept, and spend donations

### **OTHER BUSINESS**

At the next meeting we will create a workplan and set priorities and time frames. The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, December 12, 2007.

Motion to adjourn was made by Richard Davies and seconded by Jim Branson. Meeting adjourned at 11:35 a.m.