



Arkansas Battlefield Update

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Elkin's Ferry done; Next up: Prairie D'Ane

The Nevada County Depot and Museum formally accepted the deed to a 448-acre tract of the Elkin's Ferry Battlefield at Prescott in Nevada County in a ceremony at Prescott on Friday, August 5, completing an effort that raised nearly \$1 million to purchase the site for development as a heritage tourism destination.

At the same ceremony, a new fund-raising drive to purchase more than 800 acres of the Prairie D'Ane battlefield at Prescott as a heritage tourism site was announced.

The Elkin's Ferry project, which was led by the Friends of Elkin's Ferry and the Nevada County Depot Museum, involved state, national and local participants, including the Civil War Trust, the Conservation Fund, the National Park Service's American Battlefield Protection Program, the



Prairie D'Ane Battlefield, Prescott, Nevada County

Department of Arkansas Heritage, the Arkansas General Assembly, the Ross and Hendrix Foundations, and dozens of local contributors.

"I congratulate the people of Nevada County for undertaking this remarkable project to both preserve hundreds of acres of hallowed ground
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Busy SEACWHT gears up for Jenkins' Ferry

*Doyle Taylor
SEACWHT Chair*

What have we been doing in Southeast Arkansas? The question should be, what have we not been doing? Just as an example here is one report from our Arkansas County Captain Dyan Bohnert of some of the activities in which she has taken part in combination with other members of the SEACWHT and the NEACWHT. Well

done, Ms. Dyan!!

While we are gearing up for a re-enactment at Jenkins' Ferry in September, here is an update on what we've been up to since spring:

3-26-16 Cleburne Memorial service-Helena. Present Memorial Service Assisted by several southern Patriotic organizations, Honor Guard, laid flowers.

3-26-16 Confederate Flag Day - Little Rock. Again assisted in Memorial

Service provided Honor Guard and laid flowers.

4-5-16 Edgar Colvin, Marde Carty, Dyan Bohnert and Ron Key gathered pavers, bricks and other materials to build the sign at Scull Cemetery, set flags, washed bricks and pavers. We are still waiting for the brick mason.

4-23-16 Ron and Dyan set two iron crosses in Scull Cemetery.

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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

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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

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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.

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

Northeast Arkansas CWHT

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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.

Reed's Bridge group has tours, new event

By Tommy Dupree
RBBPS

Reed's Bridge Battlefield Preservation Society hosted a battlefield ride for a group of Army National Guard non-commissioned officers and officers in May. There were 35 attendees from around the country and all enjoyed the tour. The group was an hour and twenty minutes late arriving at the Jacksonville Museum of Military History where the tour began.

Mark Christ gave a talk about the Little Rock Campaign. After the talk, everyone loaded back on the bus and a short version of the battle was driven starting at the Pulaski-Lonoke County line to Reed's Bridge. Christ described the events along the route which included three stops, the last being at the bridge itself. After a twenty minute stop at the bridge, the troops reloaded the bus and went back to Camp Robinson.

In May and June there were also two tours of children from home schooling

and two tours of elderly groups.

Professional photographers have been using the area where the cabins and barns are located for backdrops for weddings, school graduation pictures and family pictures. This has increased each year over the last several years. We are proud of this because it makes us feel that maybe we have done something right.

Our Master Gardener, Mike Kish, has been giving away vegetables from the on-site garden to visitors. These seeds are from 1800 period varieties and Mike has spent time studying and locating where to buy them.

September 23 and 24 will be our yearly event. The four Heritage Trails that cross Reed's Bridge will be featured. A turkey shoot with black powder guns only will be held.

For more information, call Tommy Dupree, 501-766-1527.



SEACWHT will be busy into the fall

Continued from Page 1.

4-16-16 Colt, Arkansas 100 year celebration of incorporation. Dyan Bohnert set up on the Taylor's Creek battle site and gave a medicine show incorporating facts of the battle and how C.W. medicine was used at that time.

4-30-16 On April 27-1865, the steamboat *Sultana* exploded near Hollybush Landing, approximately 4 miles upriver from Mound City. The steamer was carrying over 2,300 passengers, most of whom were Union prisoners of war recently released from Andersonville Prison in Georgia. 1,443 persons lost their lives that day. It was the worst peacetime marine disaster of all times.

Ms. Dyan Bohnert presented her medicine show, tying in what might have been done for the survivors of the *Sultana*. The Marion Chamber of Commerce put this event on trying to make money to build a new museum for the relics of the *Sultana*.

5-29-16 Veterans of Foreign Wars Memorial Service at Pine Bluff, provided honor guards rifle salute by Co "H" 2nd Arkansas Living Historians and laid flowers.

6-4-16 Confederate Memorial Service, Wesley Chapel Cemetery, Cleveland Co. Dyan Bohnert was the keynote speaker and laid flowers. She first spoke about the men we were honoring, how they were made up of the second round of troops to be raised in Jefferson Co. Because Gen. Van Dorn had taken every Confederate forces in Arkansas to Mississippi, General T.C. Hindman had to raise new companies to protect Arkansas.. The men in this cemetery were mostly from the 26th Arkansas Infantry. Bohnert spoke of many of the reasons that these men took up arms in defense of their home and the New York race riots. A rifle salute and Artillery was presented by the 2nd Arkansas Infantry.

6-11-16 Sheridan Heritage days. This event had been rescheduled from earlier in May because of weather. Members of SEACWHT presented

living history displays beside rifle and musketry drills. Ms. Bohnert again presented her excellent demonstrations of early medicines.

Several future events that are planned for the remainder of the year are as follows:

8-27-16 Arkansas Post National Memorial. Are making plans to observe the 100th anniversary of the National Park Service with programs on the history of the 1st Arkansas Post to the end of the Civil War. Quapaw Indians will do a pottery demonstration along with other interpretations of other periods of Arkansas Post history to include the Civil War. For further information contact Arkansas Post National Memorial personnel.

9-16, 17, and 18,-2016 The 152nd Anniversary Battle of Jenkins' Ferry. This will be a living history demonstration, held over three days (Friday, Saturday and Sunday) at 7271 Hwy. 46 South, Sheridan, Arkansas. This location is just north of the Jenkins' Ferry State park between the state park and Sheridan.

Activities will include Confederate and Union Army Camps will be open daily after 9 a.m. for touring along with sutlers with wares to sell daily and living history displays. Food vendors will also be available. A battle demonstration will be presented at 2 p.m. on Saturday afternoon, and at 1 p.m. on Sunday afternoon. A vintage dance will be held Saturday evening and will be open to the public. Instruction will be provided for novice dancers. This event is hosted by Company "H" 2nd Arkansas Infantry Living Historians.

The event is sponsored by Friends of Jenkins' Ferry Battlefield and can be reached on Facebook at Friends of Jenkins Ferry, or at WWW.Friendsofjenkinsferry.org. For more information contact Janette Horton (870) 941-8461 or Jerrell Harper (870) 942-0829.

9-17-16 Going on that same weekend will be Prairie Harvest Day celebration at the Arkansas Prairie

Museum in Stuttgart from 9 a.m. until 2 p.m.

10-7, 8 and 9, 2016. Many of our members will be attending the living history event to be held at Perryville Kentucky marking the Battle of Perryville, Kentucky.

10-22-16 Two events will be happening on the same day. First starting at 6pm- Ghost of the Past at Arkansas Post National Memorial beginning at dark and going until the last tour finishes, presenting various parts of Arkansas Post History. Last year that was close to 11:00 pm. The other event of this date will be the annual Camp White Sulphur Spring living history weekend encampment. The Camp White Sulphur Spring Cemetery is located in the community of Sulphur Spring, Arkansas on Arkansas Hwy 54, 6 miles southeast of the intersection of Arkansas Hwy 54 and its intersection with US Hwy 79 south from Pine Bluff.

Members of our group will be supporting the Battle of Prairie Grove reenactment to be held at the Prairie Grove Battlefield State Park on December 3-4, 2016. For more information contact the Prairie Grove Battlefield State Park.

As I said ,this has only been a quick summary outline of events that members of the SEACWHT have been, and are planning to take part in, in support of our Civil War heritage and History of this State of Arkansas.

Civil War Arkansas Online

www.arkansascivilwar150.com
www.arkansaspreservation.org
www.civilwarbuff.org
<http://history-sites.com/cgi-bin/boards/arcwmb/>
www.arkansastoothpick.com

Learn about the Civil War in Arkansas!

NEACWHT has busy, event-filled spring

By Danny Honnoll
NEACWHT Chair

Another hot summer is on us. Re-enactors are feeling the effects and seeing the elephant in battle. Be sure and drink plenty of water and stay hydrated so you can re-enact another day.

The Southern Confederate Heritage Park in Jonesboro raised new flags on February 27, 2016. The historical flags of honor were: 48-star U.S. flag, Tennessee state flag, Second National Confederate flag and the 30th Arkansas Infantry CSA battle flag. The park has been the center of activity with construction of a new McDonalds on one side and a Starbucks on the other.

Confederate Flag Day was March 5, 2016, and in northeast Arkansas it was observed at Jacksonport State Park. Tom Bird of the McRae Camp of Searcy was the keynote speaker. Everyone had a pleasant time.

Gen. Patrick Cleburne's Annual Memorial was our next event. The 31st annual memorial service for General Patrick R. Cleburne took place in Helena's Confederate Cemetery (at the back of Maple Hill Cemetery) on Saturday, March 19, 2016. The Cleburne Memorial keynote speaker was Michael M. Hurley of Rogers.

W. Danny Honnoll of the Shaver Camp of Jonesboro and president of the Northeast Arkansas Civil War Heritage Trails Committee was master of ceremonies. Bobbie Barnett of Ravenden re-enacted the part of Cleburne's grieving fiancée Susan Tarleton at the service and placed flowers on his grave. The Cleburne memorial is sponsored every year by the Gen. Patrick R. Cleburne Camp #1433 of Pine Bluff and the Col. Robert G. Shaver Camp #1655 of Jonesboro assists the Cleburne Camp.

David Bellomy (Marshals Battery) of the Shaver Camp and member of the NEACWHTC brought his cannon and The Gen. Dandridge McRae Camp of Searcy, had artillery in place and ready to fire on command Saturday. These two camps re-enacted the 8th Arkansas Infantry Light Artillery.



L to R: Ronnie Guthrie, Mayor of Calico Rock; Waylan Cooper of the Izard County Historical and Genealogical Society; Reverend Wayne Wood of the Calico Rock Cumberland Presbyterian Church; Jimmy Stevens, NEACWHTC and Shaver Camp of Trumann; Danny Honnoll of the Military Order of the Stars and Bars and NEACWHTC; Ray Jones of NEACWHTC/Capt. Shaver Camp, and John Malloy of the Neill Camp SCV of Batesville.

Born in Ireland, Patrick Ronayne Cleburne attained the rank of Major General, making him the Confederacy's highest-ranking foreign-born general, and one of the best of any nationality.

Helena has the distinction of having seven Confederate Generals that lived in Helena before and during the Civil War.

They were Patrick R. Cleburne, James Camp Tappan, Thomas Carmichael Hindman, Daniel C. Govan, Archibald S. Dobbins, Lucius Eugene Polk, and Charles W. Adams. Confederate General Adams was the grandfather of Helen Keller, the famous blind and deaf author from Alabama. Helen's mother was born at LaGrange, Arkansas.

Confederate Generals Thomas C. Hindman, James C. Tappan and Patrick R. Cleburne are the only Confederate Generals buried in Helena. The Cleburne Camp of Pine Bluff placed a memorial marker for Archibald Dobbins, of Helena, in 2003. General Dobbins' final resting place is unknown and the marker was

placed in honor of Dobbins.

The 20th annual Confederate Heritage Day ceremony was held on Saturday, March 26, 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 had over twelve members present and 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 public was invited to attend and bring examples of the variety of flags used by Arkansas units and of the Confederate government and its army during the War. There were different patterns of flags on display.

SCV members, re-enactors and living historians in period clothing laid flowers and fired a gun salute at the conclusion of

Continued on next page

Izard County Civil War marker dedicated

Continued from previous page.

the ceremony.

On April 23, Honnoll presented a program to the Greene County Historical Society on the life and times of Gen. Robert E. Lee. Over 75 individuals were in attendance.

Randolph County held their first Founders Day with it starting on Friday May 6 and 7. The NEACWHTC had eleven members take part.

The Izard County Historical and Genealogical Society in conjunction with the Colonel Robert G. Shaver Camp #1655 Sons of Confederate Veterans of Jonesboro, Private Job S. Neill Camp #286 Sons of Confederate Veterans of Batesville, Stone County Chapter #2711 United Daughters of the Confederacy of Mountain View, Albert Sidney Johnston Chapter #135 United Daughters of the Confederacy of Batesville, and the General James Fleming Fagan Chapter #280 of the Military Order of Stars and Bars of Jonesboro conducted the historical marker unveiling ceremony. The historical marker unveiling ceremony took place on Saturday, May 27, 2016.

W. Danny Honnoll 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 Jimmy Stevens of the Shaver Camp/officer for the NEACWHTC in Jonesboro. Reverend Wayne Wood of the Calico Rock Cumberland Presbyterian Church delivered the Invocation and Benediction.

Greetings were presented by



Ronnie Guthrie, Mayor of Calico Rock; Waylan Cooper of the Izard County Historical and Genealogical Society; Linda Carol Cooper of the Albert Sidney Johnston Chapter of the United Daughters of the Confederacy; Mary Cooper Miller of the Stone County Chapter of the United Daughters of the Confederacy; Danny Honnoll of the Military Order of the Stars and Bars; and Ray Jones, III, past Commander of the Arkansas Division Sons of Confederate Veterans. John Malloy of the Neill Camp SCV of Batesville helped with honors by firing a Civil War rifle as the lone rifleman during the service. It was very impressive.

November 5, 2016, the NEACWHTC has been asked to help dedicate the new Shaver Camp marker

at Pocahontas. The marker will be dedicated at 10:30 a.m.

We have been asked to help dedicate an ACWSC marker at Harrisburg, time/date to be announced.

The NEACWHTC is in the process of ordering a historical marker for an action 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.

You can email Honnoll at danny@honnoll.com, call me at 870-926-2985 or mail him at 216 Hillpoint Cove, Jonesboro, Arkansas 72401-5992 if you have any information on any "War Between the States" happening 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.

SWACWHT busy with Camden Campaign sites

By Peggy Lloyd
SWACWHT Chair

A busy spring has moved into an even busier summer for SWACWHT with the acquisition of the Elkin's Ferry Battlefield at the end of 2015. Volunteers from the Arkansas Archeological Society and Survey, the Friends of Elkin's Ferry, and other interested groups began testing in early 2016 for Civil War artifacts on the 448-acre tract. The effort was under the direction of Dr. Carl Drexler, station archeologist at the Arkansas Archeological Survey Station at Southern Arkansas University in Magnolia. An experienced conflict archeologist (an archeologist who studies battle sites), Dr. Drexler laid out tracts for exploration with metal detectors and carefully noted the locations of all finds of Civil War relics.

By early summer the Civil War Trust was nearing completion of its work on the conservation easements for Elkins' Ferry. The public transfer of the property to the Prescott/Nevada County Depot and Museum took place at 2 p.m. on Friday, August 5 at the Stokes Center in the Central Baptist Church, in Prescott. State and local officials attended the event as well as other interested persons.

In addition to the Elkin's Ferry site, important steps have been taken to acquire 800 acres of the Prairie D'Ane National Historic Landmark near the intersection of Highway 19 and Interstate 30. The land is part of a family farm owned by Dr. Pat Hale of St. Augustine, Fla. Dr. Hale is a native of Prescott who wishes to see the land preserved and developed as part of the Prairie D'Ane National Historic Landmark. Dr. Hale was in Prescott for the transfer of the Elkin's Ferry site. Some funds remain to be raised, but the transfer of the Hale property may be completed by the end of 2016.

In other news on Nevada County sites, a Civil War Sesquicentennial marker was installed at Moscow Church and Cemetery on Nevada County Road 23 (the Cale Road) on May 5. The two-

sided marker commemorates the rear guard action to protect the flanks of the Union Army as it moved from Prairie D'Ane toward Camden on one side and gives a history of the church and cemetery on the other side.

The Moscow Cemetery Association also received a grant from Arkansas Historic Preservation on May 23 to reset, repair and clean 35 stones in the historic cemetery. Gravestone conservator Rusty Brenner of Texas Cemetery Restoration, Dallas, Texas, will do the work. The project will commence later this summer or in the early fall after the removal of encroaching privet hedge and selected trees on the edges of the cemetery. Alison Litchy, an urban forester with the Arkansas Forestry Commission, and colleagues recently surveyed the trees on the three-acre site and made their recommendations regarding tree removal.

In Hempstead County, the Sesquicentennial marker for the Dooley's Hill site near the Red River is awaiting installation. A very rainy spring and extremely hot summer have stalled plans for a dedication ceremony which will probably take place in September. Meanwhile, Dr. Carl Drexler continues his research on nearby Dooley's Ferry, which was the subject of his Ph.D. dissertation at the College of William and Mary in Williamsburg, Virginia. Dooley's Ferry was an important site.

The Steering Committee for the creation of a National Scenic By-Way for General Frederick Steele's Union invasion of Southwest Arkansas in the spring of 1864, long known as the Camden Expedition, is making good progress. The group has decided to emphasize the role of that spring offensive in 1864 as the Arkansas portion of the Red River Campaign. That campaign had as its objective the taking of Shreveport, headquarters of the Trans-Mississippi Confederacy under the command of General Edmund Kirby Smith. After the capture of Shreveport, the Union forces coming up from southern Louisiana and down

from Little Rock, Arkansas, would then secure the control of the Red River and invade Texas. The plan did not work out, however. General N. P. Banks was defeated at Mansfield south of Shreveport, and Steele turned to Camden in search of supplies after the Battle of Prairie D'Ane near present-day Prescott. He then fought his way back to Little Rock, leaving Southwest Arkansas in Confederate hands until the end of the Civil War in the region in late spring of 1865.

Representatives from historical societies, museums, universities, friends' groups and other interested parties in the region have been meeting to discuss efforts to preserve and promote sites associated with Steele's foray into Southwest Arkansas. They hope to promote archeological research, possibly to acquire sites for preservation, interpretation and development and to encourage heritage tourism in the region. The members of the Committee come from Pulaski, Saline, Hot Spring, Clark, Nevada, Hempstead, Ouachita, Cleveland, Grant and Jefferson Counties.

In recent months, the Scenic By-Way group has met in Arkadelphia, Malvern and Sheridan for discussions and has toured nearby sites. On June 6 after meeting at Malvern, the group visited Tulip in Dallas County. The Tulip community was the site of fighting, and the Tulip Cemetery served as the temporary burial site of Texas Generals William R. Scurry and Horace Randal, who were killed at Jenkins' Ferry. The cemetery is also the burial site of E. W. Gantt who achieved national fame/notoriety by changing sides from Confederate to Union at Vicksburg in June 1863. On July 25 the group met at the Grant County Museum in Sheridan for lunch and discussion of their activities and then toured sites associated with Jenkins' Ferry in Grant County. The group will meet in Fordyce and tour the Marks' Mill State Park and related sites in nearby Cleveland County in August. Peggy Lloyd, chair of SWACWHT and a Friend of Elkins' Ferry, has been asked to serve as president of the group.

CACWHT at Old Austin cemetery

By R.D. Keever
CACWHT Chair

The Austin Pioneer Cemetery is just behind the Baptist Church at 50 Old 38 North in Old Austin, Arkansas. It was founded by 1831, five years before Arkansas statehood. At the time of the first burials, the cemetery's location would have been in either Pulaski or Prairie County, depending on the year of the burial. Today the cemetery is located in Lonoke County, which was formed in 1873. Until the Civil War, it served as a cemetery for the Dunaway/Saunders/Ferguson families from South Carolina. Members of these families are known to have died in the vicinity of Austin between 1850 and 1860. Some of them are buried here in unmarked graves. Just prior to the Civil War, the Butterfield Overland Mail line ran through Austin and passed within 50 yards of this historic cemetery.

In 1862-1863, the Confederate Army controlled the Austin area. A number of Confederate soldiers who died in Austin's hospitals were likely buried in this cemetery. From the fall of Little Rock in September of 1863 through November of 1864 the Union Army occupied the Austin area. The cemetery grounds and surrounding area served as a Union Army cavalry camp during the war. Because the hospitals were in close proximity to the cemetery, undoubtedly some of the Union

dead were also buried there. And with it being the only known cemetery in Austin at the time.

One of the last recorded burials in the Pioneer Cemetery was that of Levi Herrod. In 1962, Ralph Herrod was examining his family's papers and found an entry dated 1932 stating that Levi, who was an early Arkansas settler and who had lived in several locations in the state, was residing in Austin when he died in 1864. The entry said that he was buried in the "now abandoned Baptist Church cemetery." This suggests that the Pioneer Cemetery was at some later time referred to as "the Baptist Church cemetery." However, it is believed that no graves were placed in this cemetery after the Civil War as the Old Austin Cemetery (which is still in use today) was opened less than a mile away. On August 1, 1868, seventeen Union soldiers were reinterred and moved from Austin, likely from the Pioneer Cemetery, to the National Cemetery in Little Rock.

Over time this burial ground became lost and forgotten except to a few old-timers. In 2014, I rediscovered it and several of us have been working to preserve it physically and historically ever since. To date, we have identified approximately 50 grave sites and suspect there may be 20 more. We have names for eight people known to have been buried here, of which only five have

marked headstones.

I have started the Austin Pioneer Cemetery Fund to raise money for projects at the cemetery, including cleanup work and the construction of both an aesthetically pleasing fence and a gazebo on the site. A white engraved brick will be placed for donations of \$100 and a red engraved brick for \$50. For further information or to make a donation, contact the Austin Pioneer Cemetery Fund, 1616 W. Cleland Rd., Cabot, Arkansas 72023 or e-mail me at convertiblecowboy@suddenlink.net

Robert Helsel of Battery G, 1st Michigan Light Artillery may be adding a new gun to the reenactment battery located at Cabot, Arkansas. He is looking to recruit new gun crew members for living history and Civil War reenactments. He will train you in becoming a civil war artilleryman, so if you have an interest in joining the artillery, contact Robert at: (989) 860-9963 or batteryg@hotmail.com

The "Austin In The Civil War" Sesquicentennial historical marker was dedicated Saturday May 7, at the junction of Ray Sowell Road and Arkansas Highway 38. The dedication was attended by members of The Arkansas Civil War Sesquicentennial Commission and forty- seven guests. Historical guided tours of the area were conducted after the dedication.

Fundraising begins for Prairie D'Ane acquisition project

Continued from previous page.

and to develop the site as a heritage tourism destination that will spur economic development in the area," Department of Arkansas Heritage Director Stacy Hurst said.

"This project was an extraordinary challenge, but it shows what we can accomplish when we all work together toward a common goal," Nevada County Depot Museum Board President Jeremy Dickerson said. "We are now pursuing an interpretive plan that will bring visitors to not only

Elkin's Ferry, but to other Civil War battlefields in Nevada County and southwest Arkansas."

At the same press conference, a new project was announced to acquire an 800-acre tract of the Prairie D'Ane Battlefield adjacent to Interstate 30 at Prescott, which Dr. Pat and Sue Hale are offering to sell for preservation and development as a heritage tourism site. The tract appraised for \$1.4 million, and the Hales are offering it for \$900,000.

"We are touched by the Hales'

incredibly generous offer," Dickerson said. "With anticipated funds from the federal government, we will need to raise around \$200,000 to close the sale and bring the Prairie D'Ane Battlefield into our economic development strategy."

Tax-deductible donations can be made to the Nevada County Depot Museum, 403 West First Street South, Prescott, AR 71857. Donors should specify that the donations are for the Prairie D'Ane project.

Marker honors Camp Jackson casualties

By Alan Thompson
NWACWHT Chair

Thanks to a grant from the Arkansas Civil War Sesquicentennial Commission and donations from the Arkansas Reenactors Educational Association, the Captain James Tyrie Wright Chapter No. 6 of the Military Order of the Stars and Bars, and the Benton County Historic Preservation Commission, a new marker has been erected noting the location of Camp Jackson.

Camp Jackson was a Confederate camp established by General Ben McCulloch prior to the Battle of Oak Hills/Wilson's Creek. The marker notes the site's use as a training ground and the reverse lists the names of 27 members of the 4th Arkansas Infantry who died of disease at the site and are buried there. The marker is located 4 miles SW of Gravette at the intersection of Georgia Flat and Kane Roads.

Prairie Grove Battlefield State Park has had some unusual visitors over the last few weeks. A mother bear and two cubs spent a couple of weeks visiting the

park, exploring the Battlefield Trail and the village area. While the bears didn't cause any problems other than dumping one trash can, they did cause quite a stir with walkers/joggers, the kids practicing for the square dance competition in September and with the Pokemon hunters. It is believed the bears have now moved on.

Staying at Prairie Grove, the park will soon be under new management. Superintendent Jessee Cox retired from the department after 30 years, the last 10 or so at Prairie Grove.

The 154th anniversary reenactment of the Battle of Prairie Grove will take place December 3-4, 2016 at Prairie Grove Battlefield State Park. The biennial reenactment should pit about 800 participants recreating the last major battle in northwest Arkansas. The battle will take place at 1 p.m. each day. Other activities will include medical demonstrations, camp tours, fireplace cooking, spinning and lace making demonstrations, a period dance and a period church service on Sunday morning. Sutlers will be on hand selling books, souvenirs and



reproduction uniforms and equipment. The park museum and gift shop will be open 8am- 5pm each day.


Other events coming up at the park include:

Steve Burgess and Ann Webb collections: Aug. 21 and Sept. 18.

Cannon firing demonstrations: Aug. 27.

Spinning and lace making demonstrations: Aug. 28.

Pea Ridge National Military Park is also hosting artillery demonstrations on alternating Saturdays until October 10.



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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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