



Arkansas Battlefield Update

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Success at Elkins' Ferry!

A coalition of local, state and national organizations has achieved a tremendous battlefield preservation victory with the successful acquisition of 448 acres of the Elkins' Ferry Battlefield on the Little Missouri River in Nevada County.

The property was owned by Hancock Land Management and appraised at \$950,000. The Nevada County Depot Museum and Friends of Elkins' Ferry Battlefield led the local fund-raising drive to raise half the funds so that they could match a 50 percent grant from the National Park Service's American Battlefield Protection Program. The Civil War Trust, a national battlefield preservation non-profit, executed an option on the property to hold it while the funds were raised.



Partners in the preservation campaign included the Nevada County Depot Museum, Prescott-Nevada County Economic Development Foundation, the Civil

War Trust, The Conservation Fund, the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program, American Battlefield Protection Program, National
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ACWSC hits marker goal, fades into the sunset

At midnight on December 31, 2015, the Arkansas Civil War Sesquicentennial Commission completed its eight-year charge of commemorating the 150th anniversary of the American Civil War and ceased to exist.

Working with people all over Arkansas, the commission oversaw a successful, thoughtful and respectful commemoration, focusing on the

people and events of 150 years ago and how they affected modern Arkansas today.

Perhaps the greatest achievement of the ACWSC was reaching its signature goal of having at least one Arkansas Civil War Sesquicentennial Historical Marker in each of Arkansas's 75 counties. When the program ended, there were a total of 144 markers placed across

the state.

The final report for the Arkansas Civil War Sesquicentennial Commission is now available on the ACWSC website at <https://www.arkansascivilwar150.com/annual-reports>.

Some highlights:
The ACWSC sanctioned a total of **732** events attended by at least
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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.

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

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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 Final Report shows achievements

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367,138 people.

Eighteen museums from around the state reported they sponsored a total of **112** Civil War-related events and/or exhibits between 2011 and 2015 that were attended by **122,566** visitors.

Twenty-eight Arkansas State Parks reported that they sponsored **256** Civil War-related events and/or exhibits attended by **103,188** people.

A total of **218** "Arkansas Civil War Road Warriors," including residents of Maryland, Georgia, Tennessee, Mississippi, Texas, West Virginia, Louisiana, Utah, Kansas, South Carolina and California, completed the Arkansas Civil War Sesquicentennial Passport program.

A total of **18** books, **148** journal and newsletter articles, and **317** Encyclopedia of Arkansas History and Culture entries on Civil War-related topics were published between 2011 and 2015.

The ACWSC awarded **85** grants totaling **\$149,913**.

A series of **122** podcasts were recorded by **54** Civil War experts in a

partnership of the ACWSC and the College of Mass Communication at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock.

At the Elkins' Ferry Battlefield in Nevada County, **448** acres were acquired for preservation.

The Arkansas Civil War Sesquicentennial Commission received a **Diamond Award**, the highest honor given by the Arkansas Historical Association, in 2013. Preserve Arkansas, Arkansas's non-profit historic preservation advocacy organization, awarded the ACWSC its 2015 **Award for Outstanding Achievement in Preservation Education for an Organization**.

The Commission received the 2016 **Arkansas Heritage Award**, one of the Henry Awards given by the Arkansas Department of Parks and Tourism.

On behalf of the Arkansas Civil War Sesquicentennial Commission, we would like to thank all of the thousands of people who participated in the commemoration.



ARKANSAS CIVIL WAR Sesquicentennial Commission

SWACWHT concludes a very busy year

By Peggy Lloyd
SWACWHT Chair

A busy year in Southwest Arkansas concluded with the accomplishment of several important projects related to the Civil War and the start of more to come.

The Friends of Elkins' Ferry succeeded in raising funds for the acquisition of 448 acres of land in the Elkins' Ferry National Historic Landmark in Nevada County with help from a variety of sources. Donors included private individuals, local foundations in Prescott and the region, State Senators Bruce Malloch and Larry Teague, the Department of Arkansas Heritage, the Arkansas Natural and Cultural Resources Council, the State of Arkansas and the Civil War Trust. As the acquisition of the site approached closure, plans moved forward for archeological work and interpretive programs for the site. The campaign to acquire the site was remarkable for the variety of donors who contributed to the successful raising of \$950,000 for the purchase price and about \$48,000 in closing costs.

As the Christmas holidays approached, another Civil War Sesquicentennial marker arrived for installation in Nevada County. The marker is ready to complement the 2007 wayside marker at Moscow Church and Cemetery. It describes the rearguard action at the antebellum village of Moscow along the Camden to Washington stage road after the Battle of Prairie D'Ane. A two-sided marker, it gives a history of the church and cemetery on the other side. The church and cemetery were added to the National Register of Historic Places in 2006. Moscow Cemetery also served as a cemetery for nearby Prescott after



Arkansas Civil War Sesquicentennial Marker unveiled at Washington.

the railroad town was laid out in 1873 and began to develop. The marker was sponsored locally by the Prescott/Nevada County Depot Museum in memory of former board president Max Phillips, who worked long and hard to arrange the 2014 re-enactment of the Battle of Prairie D'Ane.

Civil War Weekend at Historic Washington State Park on the first weekend in November also saw the installation of two Civil War Sesquicentennial markers in the park. One marker is at the 1836 Courthouse, which served as the Confederate capital of Arkansas after the fall of Little Rock in September 1863. The second marker stands beside U.S. Highway 278 in front of the Presbyterian Cemetery where numerous Confederate soldiers were buried.

A third marker will be installed at Dooley's Hill in southern Hempstead County. The marker will stand near Hempstead County Road 7 in the African-American Dooley's Hill Cemetery amid Confederate trenches. The trenches and an earthen fort defended the approach to nearby Dooley's Ferry,

an important crossing point on the Red River for bringing in men and supplies from Texas. Dooley's Ferry, though important as a supply point, did not see actual fighting. The church, which is no longer active, and the cemetery developed on the site in the years after the Civil War. The marker commemorates the fortifications built by the Confederate Army as well as the church and cemetery. It was sponsored locally by the Hempstead County Historical Society.

Work is also in the beginning stages to create a Camden Expedition Scenic Byway through Southwest Arkansas. Dr. Ruth Hawkins of Arkansas State University in Jonesboro spoke at the Clark County Historical Society in Arkadelphia on her experience with such a project in Eastern Arkansas and offered her help to representatives of various groups from all over the Southwest Arkansas region. The project will promote interest in the history and culture of the region and promote desirable heritage tourism which can benefit local economies. That project will be a major focus in 2016.

SEACWHT keeps busy during slow period

By Doyle Taylor
SEACWHT Chair

Since the last update there has not been much activity in Southeast Arkansas.

On October 10th the annual Camp White Sulphur Springs encampment was held at the Sulphur Springs Cemetery grounds. Heavy rains, wind and thunderstorms Friday and Friday night, were endured by those who had set up their camp for Saturday's encampment and living history. During the night a few of the campers retreated to the shelter of their vehicles for fear of their tents blowing away with some winds.

By morning the weather had passed and while still cloudy it was good enough to put the camp in order and prepare breakfast and make ready to receive visitors. One of the highlights of the camp was the presence of the Second Arkansas Infantry living historian John Bryan and his lovely wife Lissa. John and Lissa are long-time living historians, who had also brought their three children, who were also in period dress. While a family involved in living history is difficult to manage at any time, John and Lissa had brought their youngest, six-week-old son Liam, to camp dressed in period gown. It was special to see a baby dressed as young Liam was, wrapped in his blanket lying in an ammunition crate for a cradle.

None of the ladies and most of the men, re-enactor or visitors, who came into the camp could get over the sight of Lissa setting in front of their tent in her period dress with young Liam laid in an ammunition box beside her and both being quite content about it, as John and Lissa's two older children played up and down the company street.

The 20th Annual Camp White

Sulphur Springs Memorial Service was held the following day and was hosted by the United Daughters of the Confederacy David O. Dodd Chapter 212 of Pine Bluff, assisted by the Patrick R. Cleburne Camp #1433, of Pine Bluff, and the Ninth Arkansas Infantry Camp #652 of the Sons of Confederate Veterans of Star City. Re-enactors of the Second Arkansas Infantry CSA, and Blocher's Battery of light artillery CSA presented an Honor Guard and musket and artillery salute.

On October 7th, The Friends of Arkansas Post and the Staff of the Arkansas Post National Monument presented the 21st annual "Ghost of the Past" Living History program. This program highlights the history of Arkansas Post.

This year's program was the largest so far that lasted well past 10 p.m. and registered 388 visitors taking the tour of 10 different presentations. Ms. Marde Clardy and Ms. Dyan Bohnert (Medicine Woman) gave a presentation of letters and journal entries of soldier experiences during the Battle of Arkansas Post.

Andy Taylor, of Sulphur Springs, playing the part of a riverboat captain and Doyle Taylor, of Pine Bluff, playing the part of a traveling salesman, were having supper along with other customers at Miss Mary John's Café at Arkansas Post. Miss Mary John had been a freed slave of the Skull family who had established her own business cooking meals for travelers. The captain and the salesman enjoyed a fine meal of steaks and baked potatoes while at Miss Mary John's.

Of special interest at this year's event was a group of Quapaws who gave a presentation of their ancestors' experiences in Arkansas.

On December 4th, members of the SEACWHT, Sons of Confederate

Veterans and Second Arkansas Infantry re-enactors entertained at a Christmas celebration held at the North Little Rock F.O.P. lodge. More than 30 members of these organizations were able to attend. A large potluck meal had been provided and no one went away lacking with plenty of food leftover. Games of pool and shuffleboard were played by many.

After the meal, the group played "Dirty Santa," or as the southern boys called it "Dirty Yankee". Everybody had an uproaring time. Marde Clardy of the Second Arkansas had everybody rolling as she had received a marshmallow shooter air gun and proceeded to pepper everyone with miniature marshmallows. And no – there wasn't a drop of alcohol at the party.

Last, on January 9 several members of the SEACWHT assisted in the 32nd annual observance of the hanging of Arkansas' Boy Martyr, David O. Dodd, at Mount Holly Cemetery in Little Rock. While the day started warm and cloudy, by about 10 a.m. a light rain began to fall. By the time of the service at 11 a.m. the rain was moderate and steady. That didn't dampen any of the more than 50 who were gathered. Channel 11 news was there but their report underestimated the true size of the ceremony, which proceeded in spite of the rain.

Danny Honnoll, president of the Arkansas Civil War Heritage Trails Foundation, was the keynote speaker. Honnoll spoke of the life and character of David O. Dodd. An honor guard of 20 muskets, commanded by Guy Taylor of the Second Arkansas Infantry, fired a three volley salute while Andy Taylor of Pine Bluff played Taps as the rains poured down.

The overall effect of the sound
Continued on next page

Local, State, National team made Elkins' Ferry success

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Park Service, Arkansas Natural and Cultural Resources Council, Department of Arkansas Heritage, Hendrix Foundation, Senators Bruce Malloch and Larry Teague, Arkansas General Assembly, Ross Foundation, Bank of Prescott, Sturgis Foundation, and many, many individual donations.

In addition, an application has been made to the American Battlefield Protection Program for funding for an interpretive plan so that the battlefield can be developed as a heritage tourism site while preserving the hallowed ground. The interpretive plan should include an

area stretching from Arkadelphia to Prescott, including the Terre Noire Creek skirmish, action at Okolona, Elkins' Ferry and Prairie D'Ane. A response to the application is expected in July.

The battle at Elkins' Ferry was fought on April 3 and 4, 1864, when Confederate cavalry under General John Sappington Marmaduke fought the leading elements of General Frederick Steele's Union army as they sought to cross the Little Missouri River on their way to invade Louisiana. After sharp combat, the Confederates fell back to Prairie D'Ane. After skirmishing there for several days, Steele's army

ended up abandoning their drive south and instead diverted to Camden in search of supplies.

The National Park Service describes the Elkins' Ferry Battlefield: "Elkins Ferry is among the most pristine Civil War battlefields in Arkansas. This rural area has only seen slight changes since the Civil War. Like other battlefields associated with the Camden Expedition of 1864, it offers a tremendous opportunity for preservation and interpretation of the entire historical landscape." It was designated a National Historic Landmark on April 19, 1994.

Importance of Arkansas Post is noted

Continued from previous page.

of gunfire and taps in the rain set a sobering mood over this crowd of dedicated historians, people who are committed to the preservation of our history. At a time when some are wishing to erase our southern heritage, to see those people standing in the rain, most without umbrellas, was an uplifting experience.

To this point it is

disappointing that the 153rd Anniversary of the Battle of Arkansas Post has passed unnoticed, by both the State Park and the National Monument. One of the most significant events in Arkansas history and one which may have played an important part in national history because of the Emancipation Proclamation.

Author Winston Grooms in his book "Vicksburg" suggests that the Battle of Arkansas Post may have been the Union victory, after a string of Union defeats in December 1862, needed to convince the English parliament to ratify, in January 1863, the "Treaty to End the Slave Trade in the High Seas" between England and the United States, a treaty that was finally ratified by the United States in April 1863, effectively keeping England out of the war on the Confederate side.

Got News?

Send information about your upcoming Civil War-related activity to: *Arkansas Battlefield Update*, AHPP, 323 Center Street, Suite 1500, Little Rock, AR 72201, or to acwsc@arkansasheritage.org.

WCACWHT remembers fights in River Valley

By Curtis Varnell
WCACWHT Co-Chair

During the Civil War, skirmishes occurred throughout the Arkansas River Valley. What they lacked in number of participants, they more than made up for in intensity, violence, and sheer number of occurrences. Many of the men on both sides were partisans – locals who joined the fight and fought as bushwhackers against former neighbors, friends, and even relatives.

After the fall of Little Rock in 1863, the Arkansas River Valley was the buffer between northern and southern troops. As such, many skirmishes occurred in the small towns that served as crossroads, at steamboat landings or where ferries crossed the river. These included Cadron (Conway), Dardanelle, Clarksville, White Oak, and others. Roseville, a major steamboat landing on the Arkansas, was a major shipping point for cotton and also had an operating ferry which crossed the river to the small town of Denning.

At least three skirmishes occurred there during the war. In 1863, Col. J.O. Shelby and six hundred men encountered the Arkansas First Infantry while advancing to cross the Arkansas using the Roseville Ferry.



On March 29, 1864, troops of the 30th Texas cavalry and several local partisans attacked a Union post that was stationed at Roseville, engaged the defending Second and Sixth Kansas Cavalry, and burned cotton stored at the port before retreating. Possibly the largest engagement at Roseville occurred on January 14, 1865, as Colonel William H. Brooks led a Confederate force of 1,500 men in an attack on four steamboats as they passed

downstream of Roseville. Brooks was able to destroy two boats before retreating as the First Kansas Colored Infantry and the Fifty-fourth U.S. Colored Infantry Regiment rushed to support the Union.

Recently, the Arkansas Civil War Sesquicentennial Commission approved placing historical markers at Ozark (Franklin County) and in Clarksville (Johnson County) commemorating the various skirmishes.

NEAWCWT helps dedicate Civil War markers

By Danny Honnoll
NEACWHT Chair

On September 24th Ray Jones and Danny Honnoll replaced the flags at the Southern Confederate Heritage Park in Jonesboro. They raised the 50 Star American Flag; Arkansas State Flag, 3rd National Confederate flag, and Gen. Earl Van Dorn Headquarters Flag.

The Izard County Historical and Genealogical Society, Col. Robert G. Shaver Camp #1655 Sons of Confederate Veterans of Jonesboro, Pvt. Jobe Neill Camp # 286 SCV of Batesville, James Wiseman Honnoll Chapter #2607, United Daughters of the Confederacy, Albert Sidney Johnston UDC Chapter #135 of Batesville, Mitchell A. Adair Chapter of the Children of the Confederacy, NEACWHTC and the Gen. James F. Fagan Chapter #280, Military Order of Stars and Bars all organizations are of Jonesboro. They conducted a historical marker unveiling ceremony, Saturday, October 17, 2015.

Two markers were dedicated. The first one was dedicated at the Mount Olive Cumberland Presbyterian Church, Mount

Olive, Arkansas. Mt. Olive is about 15 miles west of Melbourne on Izard County road 12.

The new marker reads:

Mount Olive in the Civil War
Union troops were active around Mount Olive. On May 29, 1862, men of the 3rd Iowa Cavalry skirmished with Confederate guerrillas at Kickapoo Bottoms on the White River south of Mount Olive. Union horsemen from the 1st Indiana Cavalry occupied the town on June 3, and troops of the 4th Iowa Cavalry fought the 9th Missouri Cavalry (C.S.) here on June 7. Raiders from the 1st Nebraska and 6th Missouri State Militia Cavalry came to Mount Olive Jan. 25, 1864, killing Isaac Jeffery, a Confederate soldier on leave, and two others before burning the town. Confederates of the 3rd Missouri Volunteers were stationed at Mount Olive when the Izard County Courthouse here served as an enlistment post. Co. G of the 27th Arkansas Infantry under Capt. R.C. Matthews enlisted here May 18, 1862; Barney Ford of Co. G would rise to lieutenant colonel. The 27th trained across the White River from here.

Izard County Confederates served in the 7th, 8th, 9th, 14th, 21st and 27th Arkansas Infantry, and Col. T.R Freeman's Cavalry. On Jan. 29, 1865, 75 men of Lt. Col. J.A. Schnable's command were stationed here. No. 80
Arkansas Civil War Sesquicentennial Commission
Izard County Historical and Genealogical Society
Arkansas Natural and Cultural Resources Council

The Wild Haws in the Civil War Marker is located at Lacrosse about eight miles east of Melbourne on Izard County Road 9. The marker reads:
Wild Haws in the Civil War
Wild Haws, now LaCrosse, was located at a crossroads at the largest cotton plantations in Izard County. In 1861, volunteers of the 7th and 14th (McCarver's) Arkansas Infantry regiments marched through Wild Haws on their way to the Confederate training camp at Smithville. Troopers of Gen. James McBride's 3rd Missouri Cavalry (C.S.) had

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Archeological study of Pea Ridge starts

By Alan Thompson
NWACWHT Chair

Pea Ridge National Military Park and the Arkansas Archeological Survey have teamed up to conduct a four-year study of the March 7-8, 1862 battlefield. The first area of study is Ruddick's Field where the archeologists will use various technologies to try and determine the battle lines of the opposing forces. The Leetown area of the battlefield will be the focus for the second year of the study with other areas to be searched in the remaining years.

Staying at Pea Ridge, the park will kick off the National Park Service Centennial anniversary by hosting "Centennial Cinema." On the third Saturday of every month in 2016 the park will showcase orientation films from various NPS sites around the country. Centennial Cinema is designed to introduce everyone to the wonderful diversity of parks and stories that are preserved by your National Park sites. The first three films in the program introduce Golden Spike National Historic Site, Morristown National Historical Park and Denali National Park and Preserve. The events will last approximately one hour. Seating is limited. Upcoming programs will be listed on the park website www.nps.gov/peri as well as Pea Ridge's Facebook page.

With assistance from the Civil War Trust and a grant from the Arkansas Natural and Cultural Resources Council, Prairie Grove Battlefield has acquired 40 acres on the western end of the battlefield. In the fighting late in the day on December 7, the Federal troops under Brig. Gen. James G. Blunt advanced through this area in their assault on the position of Brig. Gen. Mosby M. Parsons' Confederate troops. Blunt was repulsed and the Confederates launched one final attack through this field in an attempt to drive the Federal troops from the field.

At Cane Hill the driving tour project is being continued and grants are being applied for to fund the next round of panels. The next panels will be placed at Clyde where skirmishing continued as the running fight made a turn towards Reed Mountain. Markers are currently installed at the Cane Hill Cemetery and Cane Hill College. The only pre-war building left in Cane Hill is the Methodist Manse, which served as General Blunt's headquarters following the Battle of Cane Hill and, according to local lore, one of the buildings housing wounded Confederates after the Battle of Prairie Grove. The building is now owned by Historic Cane Hill and if



Archeology at Pea Ridge National Military Park

weather and a few other factors cooperate, work will begin on its restoration during the second quarter. Historic Cane Hill has acquired a number of historic buildings in and around Cane Hill and is in the process of restoring and preserving them. To take a virtual tour and follow the progress visit their website at <http://historiccanehill.wix.com/canehill> or follow them on Facebook.

Markers tell tale of fighting in IZARD County in Civil War

Continued from previous page.

a skirmish with Union cavalry here in 1862. Confederates rendezvoused near Wild Haws in 1864, and Col. T.R. Freeman's Cavalry rode through here. Gen. Joseph O. Shelby recruited troops in this area that summer. Union troops passed through the Wild Haws area many times during the Civil War. Gen. Samuel Curtis was here with cavalry, artillery and Illinois infantry on May 1, 1862. Fifth Kansas Cavalry troops rode through on July 6, 1862, as did a company of the Eighth Missouri State Militia Cavalry on Dec. 29, 1863. Detachments of the First Nebraska came through Wild Haws on Jan. 23 and Feb. 16, 1864, and the Eleventh Missouri Cavalry was here March 3 and 12. Co. K of the First Nebraska looked for Confederates at Wild Haws on March 10, then camped near town.

No. 86

Arkansas Civil War Sesquicentennial
Commission

*Izard County Historical and Genealogical Society
Arkansas Natural and Cultural Resources Council
2014*

Bud Cooper and Linda Carol Cooper applied for both markers through the Arkansas Civil War Sesquicentennial Commission in Little Rock.

W. Danny Honnoll of the 30th Arkansas Infantry living historians, commander of the Shaver Camp and an ACWSC Commissioner, served as master of ceremonies at both ceremonies. 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 and Harold Hunt of the Shaver Camp/officer for the NEACWHTC in Jonesboro.

Roger Harvell of Barrett's Battery, Marshall's Battery (David Bellomy in charge) and of the Neill Camp SCV of

Batesville helped with honors by firing a Civil War replica cannon during the service.

Carolyn Atkinson, president of the ICHGS and Honnoll Chapter member of Leachville addressed both gatherings to close the ceremonies.

Bobbie Barnett of Ravenden was dressed in period widow mourning dress and laid fresh flowers at the base of both markers. She was in character portraying a widow of a fallen soldier. She was escorted by Will Silas of the Shaver Camp and a member of the 30th Arkansas Infantry CSA living historians/NEACWHTC.

This event was sanctioned by the Arkansas Civil War Sesquicentennial Commission. The marker was funded by the Arkansas Civil War Sesquicentennial Commission, IZARD County Historical and Genealogical Society, and the Arkansas Natural and Cultural Resources Council.

Reed's Bridge adds two Civil War markers

By Tommy Dupree
RBBPS

Reed's Bridge Battlefield Preservation Society closed out its marker program through the Sesquicentennial Commission by ordering and installing a marker about the duel between Generals Walker and Marmaduke in 1863 and Confederate camps at present-day Jacksonville. Since the location of the duel site is not accessible to the public and the last disagreement between the two generals was during this battle, it was felt that it would be appropriate to locate a marker on the battle site.

A sesquicentennial marker also was ordered for the site of the encampments of General Fagan and General McRae's Arkansas troops as

well as Parson's Missouri Brigade. After the defeat of General Holmes's army at Helena on July 4, 1863, he transferred his command to General Price. General Price, fearing a union attack from the north, placed these troops where they blocked the southwest trail from the north as well as the Military Road from the east.

Rep. Bob Johnson was kind enough to provide \$12,000.00 of his General Improvement Funds to purchase a large lot from Dennis and Marsha Ward. Thank you for that Mr. Johnson. Another piece of property is being purchased on contract from Mrs. Debra Conroy. This property consists of nearly seven acres and has three structures on it of which two will be taken down.

October 17 and 18 was Reed's Bridge Battlefield Preservation Society's annual event. Re-enactors dressed in period clothes and showed household work being performed. Talks on gardening were done by Mike Kish and Paula Chanukah, who told and showed how the garden vegetables were preserved. Music was provided by the Outlaw Band and Lark in the Morning. Cannon demonstrations as well as rifle and hand gun demonstrations were done throughout the day. Weather was great, attendance was low, but those who did come had a great time.

The second weekend in December members of Reed's Bridge had a pot-luck dinner at the homestead site in the battlefield. Food was delicious, weather was cool and the year was successful.

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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