

**Arkansas Civil War Sesquicentennial  
Commission Meeting**  
February 27, 2008  
MacArthur Museum of Arkansas Military History  
Little Rock, Arkansas

**Members Present**

Richard Davies, Director, Department of Parks and Tourism  
Wendy Richter, Director, Arkansas History Commission  
Mark Christ, Designee, Department of Arkansas Heritage  
Ellen DiMaggio, Little Rock  
Carolyn Ashcraft, Director, Arkansas State Library  
Danny Honnoll, President, Arkansas Civil War Heritage Trails Foundation  
Don Hamilton, Central Arkansas Civil War Heritage Trail and Civil War Roundtable of Arkansas  
Jamie Brandon, Arkansas Archeological Survey at Southern Arkansas University  
Jim Branson, Stuttgart  
Charles Durnett, Commander Arkansas Division, Sons of Confederate Veterans  
Tommy Dupree, Jacksonville, Reed's Bridge Battlefield Preservation Society

**Members Absent**

Tom DeBlack, Bill Gatewood, Bill Stanley, George Lankford, John Scott, Dora Kate Lee, Jereilyn Duncan

**Visitors**

Cathie Matthews, Director, Department of Arkansas Heritage  
Russell Baker, Arkansas Genealogical Society  
Ray Jones, Jonesboro, Northeast Arkansas Civil War Heritage Trail  
Holly Hope, Arkansas Historic Preservation Program  
Marynell Branch, Department of Arkansas Heritage  
Leslie Greenwood, Aristotle  
Jonathan Eudy, Aristotle  
Kathleen Branton, AETN  
Allen Weatherly, AETN

Tom Dupree asked visitors to introduce themselves.  
First item of business approval of minutes from December 12, 2007 commission meeting.  
Mark Christ corrected spelling of Danny Honnell's name.  
Carolyn Ashcraft said there was a word missing from the third page under *Supporting Efforts to Teach and Research Arkansas Civil War History in the State's Schools and Universities*. First paragraph, third line down. Mark Christ said he would correct it.

Jim Branson moved that the minutes be accepted, Jamie Brandon seconded and the motion was passed.

### **Reports of Subcommittees**

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

Charles Durnett did not have a formal report and said he would go over to the state Sesquicentennial group and have something at the next meeting.

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

Mark Christ reported that Richard Davies had looked into creating a video to show to groups. The cost would be around \$2,000 per finished minute but the commission should be able to get it done for less because they have existing footage and stills.

The purpose of the video will be to show what the commission and the Sesquicentennial is about.

Richard will work up a rough script then they will discuss what images should go along with it.

The subcommittee discussed promotional needs: First item was a budget for a public service announcement campaign during the period before the Sesquicentennial.

The funds would be used to attract people to Arkansas for visits to Civil War sites and Sesquicentennial events.

Richard Davies explained the Arkansas Broadcasting Association to the commission.

He said that the association will take on only so many PSA's. Organizations write the association a check and they guarantee air time. If the commission could get on the list and obtain the budget he felt it would be a good use of the money.

Mark noted that most discussion of the subcommittee was on budget requests and planning.

The group discussed doing a Civil War marker program to get more sites marked. He said they needed to determine how many centennial markers are still in existence.

He talked to Mark Ballard at Jacksonport State Park about finding someone to repair signs and Ballard said the original company who did their signs is still in business. The company said installation costs would be \$1,660.00 and with upkeep it would run around \$2,500 for each sign.

In establishing a budget they decided that 150 signs would be a good number for the Sesquicentennial.

There was discussion of looking at correcting older signs and repair of some existing signs.

Richard Davies suggested contacting the highway department for enhancement money available for sign projects. Mark said they needed to meet with the Arkansas Highway Department regarding signs anyway.

The group also discussed budgeting funds for ongoing maintenance and upkeep of the commission's website.

Tom Dupree asked for questions.

Danny Honnoll inquired as to whether the signs would be metal. Mark Christ said they would be for this project. Danny wanted to know the name of the company and Mark said he would give him the information.

Richard Davies said the company's name was Sewah.

Mark Christ confirmed that it was Sewah Studios of Marietta, Ohio.

Russell Baker suggested that the group avoid granite markers because many in the state had been stolen and vandalized.

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

Carolyn Ashcraft said the subcommittee had discussed in particular the development of a bibliography of books related to the Civil War and expanding existing resource databases. They felt they should emphasize Arkansas related books and do promotions with bookmarkers and posters as well as promoting the bibliography on various formats.

Wendy Richter said the History Commission had a good collection of Civil War uniforms

They talked about Ellen DiMaggio's work on developing historic female personalities and re-enacting the lives of Civil War-era women.

The group also felt they needed to incorporate books on Confederate women and the Arkansas slave narratives into their information database.

There was discussion of the slave narratives and appearances that Ellen DiMaggio was going to do in the state revolving around the narratives.

Mark Christ asked if there was any budgeting discussion.

Carolyn said they had not talked about it but she and Wendy had talked about getting grants to do promotions in the library.

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

Charles Durnett said the subcommittee talked about working in a major budget item avenue to put out grants in local communities on whatever they want.

Richard Davies mentioned their discussion on including stories on the website.

Jamie Brandon pointed out that the sign program overlaps telling local stories

Mark agreed grants would be major budget item and offered to send out e-mail correspondence to subcommittee members to get parameters for grants.

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

Jamie Brandon said the subcommittee did not meet

Jamie and Tom DeBlack have begun canvassing schools on what is being taught about the Civil War. They have contacted the Butler Center for developed lesson plans on the Civil War.

Jamie has forwarded their findings to the commission members.

Charles Durnett asked if this included budget items.

Jamie said it did not but as the subcommittee moves to the promotional aspect then they will address budget item but not for first efforts.

Tom Dupree introduced new visitors Kathleen Branton and Allen Weatherly from AETN.

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

Mark Christ said he could talk about developments with the sites but did not have firm budget numbers.

He said there were several things going on in the battlefield preservation area. There is a lot happening with Reed's Bridge Battlefield but he felt Tom Dupree could address that better than he could. The Civil War Preservation Trust is negotiating to buy ten acres of land on the back slope of Devil's Backbone Battlefield in Sebastian County. They are also negotiating on another piece of land there.

Mark also reported that the Nevada County economic development office got a grant from the Civil War Preservation Trust to do a preservation and interpretation study for Prairie DeAnne and Elkins Ferry. Some type of acquisition in those areas is possible in the future.

Mark said that Prairie Grove has completed just about all recommended land acquisitions.

There is also a possibility of purchasing land at Marks' Mills and Jenkins' Ferry.

Tom Dupree reported that the Reeds Bridge Preservation Society approached the Jacksonville City Council for funds to buy part of the core area going into the park. The city had appropriated \$100,000 towards that purchase. They also had an individual put up \$50,000 for another parcel and \$75,000 for matching purposes.

In December the city also bought two lots the society was holding as part of same transaction. The city paid \$20,000 for the lots and the society paid \$30,000. That deal has been closed on.

The society has another \$1,000,000 to \$100,000 worth of property with appraisals on it that owners are ready to sell. Tom said that within the next several years it would probably take another \$1.3 million to acquire everything they want on the site. Several acres will come in as easements that haven't been done yet. Property owners are ready to do it

Tom discussed how far the society has come in eight years and how the site has involved the community and landowners. Tom said he had discussed how other cities with Civil War sites could get the community involved and build up tourist visitation.

The Reeds Bridge society got a \$25,000 grant for a preservation study. Tom said this was good to have for documentation when you go to the city or the chamber of commerce. The society found out who owned the land around the battlefield from the assessor's office then got it listed on the National Register.

Jacksonville already owned some land and Dupree Park joins it on the west side so the area was extended as a park, not as a battlefield. Tom said people on the City Council were initially resistant to developing a battlefield park because they said it wasn't multi-use.

Tom said more people utilized the trails in the park because of the panels and its recreation potential and greenbelt area, which brought the last of the holdouts on the City Council around.

Ellen DiMaggio thought the commission should work with people looking to develop their Civil War sites by officially recognizing the area in return for a program, presentation or documentation. She felt the commission could offer incentives through a commission-sponsored celebration, logo or pin for the community so they could get official recognition, and the commission could also get other sites they may not know about.

Tom suggested posting information on how to identify your Civil War site on the website.

Mark Christ said this falls under the commission's mandate to promote and sanction the local story

Jamie Brandon said there was information on cemetery preservation by the Humanities Council that had good directions, which the commission could use as a template.

Danny Honnoll suggested that the commission work with county historical societies to get a grassroots constituency. This would be helpful when approaching landowners. Having a contact within the societies would provide access to the mayor and the City Council.

Danny said he would like to see a network for maintenance of monuments and parks. He said he has tried to encourage the military foundation to take the Little Rock Campaign

under their wing because the local government will take away the resources if they are not maintained.

Tom Dupree agreed and said that as administrations change you can not depend on political entities to take care of your maintenance.

Danny said there are other obvious groups for partners like veterans groups and the United Daughters of the Confederacy.

Mark Christ added that in Helena the Delta Cultural Center and Southern Bancorp are working to get a plan done for preservation and interpretation of all the city's resources.

*7) Develop a plan and procedure to secure funding and appropriations, and to secure, accept and spend donations, and develop a legislative package for the 2009 General Assembly*

Jim Branson reported that the subcommittee decided to look at budgets for each group. He recommended looking at the Secretary of State's office for help.

Cathie Matthews said she invited Speaker of the House Robbie Wills and Jon Woods of Springdale and Brian King of Green Forest to the meeting. She thought it was important to send them minutes and keep them informed. She also thought re-enactors should be informed of commission activities.

Jim suggested the commission work through subcommittees for a concept of what they need.

Richard Davies told visitor Allen Weatherly from AETN that they had invited him to the meeting to discuss what his organization could do to help. Davies suggested that the commission could support AETN if they wanted to do something on the Civil War.

*8) Develop an official logo for the ACWSC*

Chairman Bill Gatewood was not there but Jim Branson said they had met. Jim passed around a hard copy of examples of logos by an art teacher from his area. He discussed that the great seal of Arkansas was not on the logo but they might utilize the great seal in use prior to Reconstruction and include "Sesquicentennial of Arkansas 1861-1865." There was also some discussion of using cross flags like that used on logos during the centennial.

Ellen DiMaggio asked that the commission not use the battle flag in the logo because it was not approved by the Confederacy. She felt the commission should be historically accurate by using a flag approved of by the Confederate government.

Danny Honnoll agreed and there was a discussion of the types of flags to be used in the logo by Ellen DiMaggio, Danny Honnoll and Jim Branson

Russell Baker suggested that the commission have the logo copyrighted and registered for control of its use.

Mark Christ said the commission should move on the logo quickly as it would be used in all future designs and it would be important element of the website.

Charles Durnett said they should move on it at the next meeting.

Mark Christ said he would e-mail the designs to the members for everyone to see before the next meeting.

Mark Christ asked if everyone had gotten their e-mails, discussion followed about receipt of e-mails. He asked that members let him know if they are not getting them.

Mark noted that the commission had been meeting every month in order to get budgets ready for the legislature.

Tom Dupree said that they needed budget information from the committees by the next meeting.

Richard Davies suggested they look at budget issues in two phases. He felt they should look at administrative expenses for the commission and expenses for land acquisition and promotional grants.

*9) Explore ways to ensure that the Sesquicentennial celebration is inclusive of all Arkansans*

Carolyn Ashcraft said the subcommittee did not meet because their chairman was not present.

Jamie Brandon said they had clarified a couple of issues but there was nothing to report.

Tom Dupree asked for information on the design for the website.

Mark Christ said he ran off the sub-page from the Arkansas Historic Preservation website for the commission. He said there were handouts with several e-mail responses to a call for information on the location of artifact collections and manuscript collections. He felt that was the kind of information that should be in the website.

Richard Davies thought the agenda for the meeting was a good way to organize information on the website. He discussed the user-friendly aspects of the website for the constituency.

Mark Christ asked Jonathan Eudy and Kathleen Branton of Aristotle what they might want from the commission to put together the website.

Jonathan felt the commission could form a portal website to disseminate information. The site could include specific information regarding the Sesquicentennial such as where and when events would be held and also add interactive maps showing major sites and events

around the state. It could also include a photo gallery from events and Civil War issues. Jonathan also mentioned on-line press releases, which would be inexpensive and provide awareness and interest in the website. He also thought they could include video, PSAs, a bulletin board and links to websites that support the Sesquicentennial.

Jamie Brandon felt that the clickable map was a good idea and that the website could provide information about historic signs and enable constituents to contact Civil War experts in other communities.

Richard Davies agreed and said he thought they could include a bibliography on experts on battlefield sites as well as a bibliography for books.

Jonathan Eudy added that he could also include videos about larger Civil War venues. The commission could add pieces in their tourism site about personalities and people who are experts in different areas, which would provide an educational link to bring awareness about the Sesquicentennial.

He also felt the website could be used to collect contributions.

Marynell Branch asked if there were any federal line items in federal budget for the state celebrations. She wondered if the commission should visit with the congressional delegation.

Mark Christ said no national entity was dealing with the Sesquicentennial. The National Park Service is dealing with their Centennial at the same time.

Jonathan Eudy asked if there was a subcommittee chairperson responsible for the website. He needed to know if there was a deadline for the kickoff because he felt Aristotle could get started on a preliminary production schedule.

Mark said he would e-mail the other members and come up with a conjectured timeline but there was still work to be done.

Danny Honnoll asked if other states had developed a Civil War Sesquicentennial website. Charles Durnett said no other states had done so.

Danny said that Pennsylvania and New York were celebrating the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the French and Indian War and had extremely informative websites.

Mark Christ said they could use information from the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program website. Ellen DiMaggio offered that the commission should get a temporary webpage with basic information about the commission and contacts so people would be aware of them.

Jonathan felt he could develop a hold page for that purpose.

Allan Weatherly told the commission he thought AETN could look at different ways to participate in the Sesquicentennial. Kathleen Branton runs the education division and they had done a lot of WWII programming. They could use testimonials and videos and "The Edge of Conflict" might need some updating. Allen thought they could talk to Chuck Dovish about supporting Civil War sites.

Ken Burns' next big project on the National Parks system so there are tie-ins to Civil War programming. Allan said he is on the PBS board and he can check and see if the Ken Burns' documentary on the Civil War will show again during the Sesquicentennial because it brings a lot of attention to the war. He said he would keep involved with the commission through Marynell Branch, Cathie Matthews and Richard Davies and start to develop some ideas.

Carolyn Ashcraft said that AETN should have been part of commission in first place.

Jim Branson asked if AETN might film some of the commission-sanctioned activities and if there was a budget for that.

Allan said there was a possibility they could film Sesquicentennial events but he did not know how it would be budgeted.

Jamie Brandon suggested that signature events for each year could be filmed.

Allan said they could accept other people's product but they could also bring their producers into the process. He personally felt it was an important topic in Arkansas history and should be explored.

Danny Honnoll asked Allan if they could use some of the Shelby Foote interviews from the Ken Burns documentary on the Civil War.

Allan said no, because the producers would have to re-edit but he could suggest to Ken Burns that it be shown as separate interviews.

Tom Dupree asked for second to Jim Branson's motion to adjourn. Carolyn Ashcraft seconded, the meeting was adjourned.