

**Arkansas Civil War Sesquicentennial
Commission Meeting**
January 27, 2010
MacArthur Museum of Arkansas Military History
Little Rock, Arkansas

Members Present

Mark Christ – Designee, Department of Arkansas Heritage
Tommy Dupree – Jacksonville, Governor Appointee
Laura Miller – President, Arkansas Historical Association
Dr. George Lankford – Batesville, Senate Pro Tem Designee
W. Danny Honnoll – President, Arkansas Civil War Heritage Trails Foundation
Archie Moore – Governor Appointee
Mark Kalkbrenner – Arkansas Division, Sons of Confederate Veterans
Bill Gatewood, Director – Old State House Museum
DeeLois Lawrence – President, Arkansas Division, United Daughters of the Confederacy
Sam Wang – Sons of Union Veterans
Dr. Wendy Richter – Director, Arkansas History Commission
Ernest Cunningham – Governor Appointee
Dr. Jamie Brandon – Governor Appointee
Carolyn Ashcraft – Director, Arkansas State Library
DuShun Scarbrough – Director, Martin Luther King Commission
Richard Davies – Director, Arkansas Department of Parks and Tourism
Keith Emis – House Speaker Designee

Members Absent

Ellen M. Lewis – Senate Pro Tem Designee
Jim Branson – House Speaker Designee
John C. Scott – Pea Ridge National Military Park

Visitors

Frances McSwain – Director, Arkansas Historic Preservation Program
Cathie Matthews – Director, Department of Arkansas Heritage
Marynell Branch – Deputy Director, Department of Arkansas Heritage
Keith Jefferson – Buffalo National River
Linda McDowell – Arkansas History Commission
Ann Hooper – Reed’s Bridge Battlefield Preservation Society
Jeff Heitzman – Hot Springs National Park
Jack Hill
Carla Coleman – Arkansas Black History Commission

Tommy Dupree called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m. Tommy introduced new commissioner Keith Emis. He then asked each guest to stand and introduce themselves and tell where they are from.

Pat O'Brien, Pulaski Circuit/County Clerk, announced his candidacy for Arkansas Secretary of State and gave a brief campaign speech.

Tommy Dupree then called for approval of the minutes from the October 28, 2009, commission meeting. Danny Honnoll moved and George Lankford seconded the approval of the October 28, 2009, minutes. The motion passed.

Budget Update

Marynell Branch reported that the legislature limited funding to the Commission during the January hearings. Initially there was to be a 75% distribution and then another distribution for the remaining 25%. The seconded distribution of 25% probably will not be funded due to budget cuts. As of June 30, 2009, we received \$98,073.75 for commission activities and for grants, there is \$18,750.

Report on Video Project

Jack Hill reported that he will be doing a one-hour documentary to commemorate the Arkansas Sesquicentennial celebration titled *War in the '60s*. He plans to have the documentary completed by the January 2011 meeting of the Arkansas Civil War Sesquicentennial Commission. Jack showed the logo and stated that it is thematic to the other Civil War documentaries that he has done in the past. He stated that AETN will feature the documentary and it will also be featured on WKNO in Memphis in a Thursday primetime local slot. He also stated that the documentary will be featured on Ozark Public Television in Springfield, Missouri, and possibly on Oklahoma Public Television.

Jack stated that the purpose of the documentary is to generate interest in and visitation to Civil War sites in Arkansas. He would also like to make copies available to public libraries in Arkansas. Jack stated that he plans to acknowledge the Arkansas Civil War Sesquicentennial Commission and the commission's contact information at the end of the documentary. The documentary will include some original footage and archived footage.

Jack stated that he has copies for anyone that is interested.

Report on Website Status

Mark Christ stated that he has added a historic marker page to the Sesquicentennial website and also started populating the site with the markers that were put up 50 years ago by the Centennial Commission. He will be including the new Sesquicentennial markers as they are placed. He is also including GPS data to the site. Mark stated that the website will debut podcasts soon. He has been working with the Mass

Communications Department at UALR and previously recorded seven podcasts last semester but unfortunately one of the hard drives got wiped that contained 3 of the podcasts. Those will have to be redone. The four remaining are two with Michael Dougan, one with James Johnson talking about the Ozark Peace Society and one with Steven McAteer on the Arsenal Crisis.

Mark is working with Aristotle to add a database of every battle fought in Arkansas, which will be added to the website so that people can search by date, county, etc.

Update on Heritage Trails Program

Richard Davies spoke briefly about a Union soldier's tombstone that was found in Missouri by a deputy sheriff. He contacted Parks and Tourism through Facebook and Richard contact Mark Christ. The tombstone is back in the state and Dr. George Lankford is working on placing it back where it belongs.

George Lankford stated that he is waiting on another grave marker to come in that was order and when it comes there will be two ceremonies to place the recovered tombstone and the new grave marker.

The General Assembly passed an act last session to create an Arkansas Historic Heritage Trail Program. The Department of Parks and Tourism, Department of Arkansas Heritage, and Arkansas Highway Department are working together on this project. The General Assembly designated certain heritage trails in the act and only they can designate a state heritage trail, except Civil War routes. Heritage does the homework, then Parks and Tourism does the brochures and adds it to the Parks and Tourism website with links. The brochure should be ready by March 2010 and the website will follow soon after. The Arkansas Highway Department will mark the routes. Richard stated that there are some issues with images or historic pictures.

Update on Historic Markers Program

Mark Christ stated that the first marker for the Arsenal Crisis is on its way and he is hoping to do the dedication on February 12, 2010, but he is still waiting to hear from the Governor's office on his availability for that day.

Mark stated that he is hearing from lots of groups around the state that are interested in placing markers. He believes the commission will start to get applications

George Lankford asked about what should be marked. He is forming a marker committee in his county and he may be called on and asked what merits the placement of a marker and it has occurred to him that he is not sure what should be marked.

Jamie Brandon stated that the marker subcommittee has not detailed what should not be marked.

Mark Christ stated that the plan that Mudpuppy and Waterdog did for the commission is for the local story. North Little Rock was talking about possibly marking the site of the *Pontchartrain*, the Confederate gun boat that was burned there when Little Rock fell, and also Hunterville, which was the railroad depot for the Union Army. Mark believes that there is a wide variety of places for marker placement.

Jamie Brandon and Richard Davies discussed marker ideas and how they could tell the local story and cover a broad range of topics. Jamie gave Washington, Arkansas, as an example of a place that could have several different markers placed with a broad range of topics that center around the local Washington area.

Mark Kalkbrenner stated that in Pine Bluff the Sons of Confederate Veterans has been talking with the economic development commission and they want to start revitalization of downtown Pine Bluff with the Sesquicentennial by marking a site. They are currently talking about having a general marker at the courthouse and then have a series of wayside markers or have an outdoor interpretive center. The marker would be a general explanation of what happened in Jefferson County. Then there will be several markers surrounding the general marker.

George asked about dealing with site issues such as skirmish sites, which are often in obscure places. Richard suggested placing those markers at the courthouse. Danny Honnoll suggested placing the markers at a local park. Jamie Brandon stated that it was a good idea not to place markers at known skirmish sites due to vandalism and Carolyn Ashcraft agreed.

Keith Emis asked where the funding for the marker program is generated from. Mark Christ explained that the commission received a grant from the Preserve America Program for \$50,000. Part of the money was spent to hire a firm to come up with a marker program plan since there was no previous program to build off of. \$32,000 left out of that grant money will help match \$1,000 for 32 more markers to be placed commemorating the Civil War in Arkansas. Richard Davies asked what the bottom line cost is on markers and Mark Christ stated that it is \$1,930 for the arsenal marker. There are options though. This one has 1 inch tall letter, with 41 characters per line including spaces. If more words are needed the letter size can be shortened to 1/8" and there is an option to make a two sided markers, which is more expensive.

Jamie Brandon asked if the commission would be going back to Preserve America after this grant runs out. Mark Christ state that he is hoping to find other resources, but going back to Preserve America might be a possibility.

Keith Emis inquired about going to legislators for funding from GIF money. Tommy Dupree stated that Representative John Woods spoke with the commission about the same idea. Keith stated that he would like to help with this but he would need to know what the money will be used for. Richard Davies stated that there may not be any GIF.

Jamie Brandon explains that the commission needs cultivate local events. Tommy stated that it would be beneficial for Keith Emis to help with that project. Tommy believes that by the end of the year, the commission needs to have a list ready for the legislators for the purpose of solicitation.

Richard Davies stated that the commission can not market to the legislators, but individuals can talk to their legislators or legislators can talk to other legislators.

Tommy stated that there will be new members of General Assembly soon. There are 135: 35 Senate and 100 House. He believes direct contact is the best way to reach the legislators. Keith Emis stated that politicians are more receptive to people in their district.

Marynell Branch added that Representative Woods led the charge, but others like State Representatives Tiffany Rogers, Joan Cash, and Duncan Baird and State Senator Cecile Bledsoe all contributed to or support the commission.

Update on and Discussion of Passport Program

Laura Miller referred everyone to the handout regarding the passport program and stated that per Ellen Lewis, Lake Chicot State Park has been added. The list features 23 sites that will have stamps to stamp the passport booklets, which are marked by the round black bullets and the square bullets are the additional sites that people can visit that are related to Civil War, which will not be sites where visitors can have their passport books stamped.

Mark Christ has contacted everyone, but Lake Chicot State Park, and everyone is in agreement with the idea. Laura doesn't see any possible issue with Lake Chicot State Park.

Laura stated that she and Mark Christ met with a graphic designer and talked about the booklet. They talked about layout and logistical things. They are going to let the graphic designer work on the design and then they will review design once it is completed.

Laura stated that Shelle Stormoe has been researching companies for promotional items such as coins, patches, or medallions. Shelle stated that she contacted some local companies and the prices are fairly standard. She told the commission members that she did have some samples with her today and she would be happy to show them to them at lunch time or after the meeting.

Laura stated that the commission has discussed several types of items to give as prizes for filling up the passport. She stated that the decision has been narrowed down to lapel pins or patches.

Dennis Oxley is working on a design for the passport and logo that can be used for other things.

Richard Davies stated that the applicable website should be added to the passport. Laura agreed and stated that it would be needed to direct visitors to the website and to keep them up-to-date on their passports.

Richard Davies moved and Jamie Brandon seconded a motion that the passport is moving in the right direction.

Tommy Dupree asked Laura to explain the passport program since there is a new commission member and also to explain the program to the visitors at the meeting. Laura explained the passport program. She stated that the passport program encourages visitors to go to specific sites. Inside the passport the reader will find a page for each site with the website, phone number and location. Each passport location will have a stamp to stamp the passport as proof that the visitor was there. Laura stated that passport programs are very popular.

Ernest Cunningham asked about the protocol for adding a site for the passport program.

Laura stated that interested parties can contact Mark Christ or her within the next week or two. She reminded the commissioners that the numbers need to stay under 25 sites.

Jack Hill asked about prize for completion of passport program. Laura explained that this is the lapel pin or patch that she and Shelle spoke about earlier. She also stated that the lapel pin would be easier to mail out than a shirt or something larger.

Carla Coleman asked about site selection. She suggested the Oakland Fraternal Cemetery. Laura stated what the criteria are. They are:

1. First priority for stamp locations are the actual sites where key events occurred and historic homes where individuals associated with the Civil War and Reconstruction lived.
2. The sites must be staffed for regular hours so that visitors are able to access the stamping station.
3. The sites selected will reflect the diversity of the Civil War and Reconstruction experience in Arkansas and will be geographically diverse.
4. Sites that do not meet the above criteria, but do have a connection to the Civil War/Reconstruction or museums that have related exhibits may be listed in the booklet as part of a "Related Sites" section.

Mark Christ stated that associated sites would be easy to add to the website.

Carolyn asked about lapel pin construction and asked Shelle to check and be sure that there is no lead content. Shelle stated that she would check into it.

The motion passed.

Discussion of 2011 Kick-off Event

Bill Gatewood stated that the Kick-off Event would be a day-long event at the Old State House that includes living history events, presentations, and press conference style announcement. He is also hoping to have the Heritage Day Kick-off in concert with the Civil War Sesquicentennial Celebration Kick-off. The crown jewel would be the AETN documentary will be playing at the museum on a video monitor. He is also looking to persuade the History Commission to provide the 1861 Constitution and have their staff there as well. He is looking at dates in April 9, 23, 30 or May 7 or 11, 2011.

Mark Christ visited with Melissa Whitfield and she stated that the later two dates in April would work best if the Heritage Month and Sesquicentennial Celebration Kick-offs are combined.

Jamie Brandon asked how the AETN piece is coming along.

Mark Christ stated that the commission has a contract with AETN and the documentary is coming along. Part of the hour-long piece, there will be a couple of pre-produced pieces that will be inserted. The venue will be similar to what was done for the National Parks by AETN last year. It will be in interview format. Various people will discuss why the Civil War is still relevant today in their realm. One of the pre-produced pieces will break that up and then there will be a panel discussion for the other part of this event. The producer for the pre-produced part has been selected. His name is Hans Stiritz.

George Lankford stated that he thought that the late April date would run into the 2011 Arkansas Historical Association Meeting and cause a conflict or a useful situation. Laura Miller stated that the 2011 Arkansas Historical Association Meeting will be in Little Rock but no dates have been set. The Association is trying to setting dates that tie into the upcoming sesquicentennial events.

The meeting is typically held starting every 3rd Thursday of April, which means in 2011 that would be April 14-16, but it can be adjusted and dates do need to be set soon.

ACWSC Grant Program Update

Mark Christ stated that a quarter of the funding for the grant program was cut, which leaves the commission with \$18,750. Grants will be up to \$2,000 for local events to apply for around the state. With the staff time match and the actual appropriation that the commission has, Mark has written another grant to Preserve America for \$40,000. The application will go out this week.

Carolyn Ashcraft asked about the time frame for awarding funds from Preserve America. Mark stated that he was unsure. He thinks it will probably be around April.

AHA-ACWSC Book Project Update

Mark Christ stated that the book project is between the Arkansas Historical Association and the commission. We are looking at doing an anthology of some of the first-person accounts of the Civil War in Arkansas that have appeared in the *Arkansas Historical Quarterly* over the last 60 plus year. The articles have been selected and they have been scanned. Now they are being edited into a text document. We are determining how much correction time we want to put into the process. We hope to have manuscript at the end of the year (2010). UA Press is interested in publishing the anthology.

Bill Gatewood asked Mark Christ to tell the commission about the book *The Die Is Cast: Arkansas Goes to War, 1861*, which Mark edited and the Butler Center published. Mark stated that the book covers the 2006 seminar at the Old State House about the various aspects of secession convention and why the state seceded and how Southern women were very influential in having their men go to war by doing such things as sending them petticoats if they didn't enlist. The book is available at the Old State House and it can be ordered from the UA Press website. Carla Coleman asked about the price of the book. Mark stated that it is \$19.95.

Jamie Brandon asked about subvention money for the AHA-ACWSC book project. Mark Christ stated that he is unsure since the budget cuts have been made.

Jack Hill asked about scholarly books being produced during the Sesquicentennial period. Several commission members stated that they are hopeful. Jamie stated that there is a committee to promote this.

National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom Update

Mark Christ asked Ernest Cunningham to give an update to the commission on the National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom. Ernest stated that Freedom Park in Helena has been designated as the first site Arkansas and just received a certificate. It is 1/2 mile from Ft. Curtis near the river on privately owned land to be donated.

Mark Christ stated that he nominated Poison Spring Battlefield to also be included in the National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom. He is pretty sure that the battlefield will be added because of what happened to the 1st Kansas Colored Infantry at the Poison Spring battlefield. He had to confirm that some of the soldiers were former slaves and luckily there is a guy that is working on a book who sent Mark some of his research. If this nomination goes through, Mark plans on doing another nomination of Jenkin's Ferry, which is where the 2nd Kansas Colored got payback for the massacre at Poison Spring.

Ernest Cunningham stated that in 1862, the Union Army marched into Helena and picked up slaves or former slaves (3,000 or 4,000). There were eventually 20,000 soldiers in that area.

Carla Coleman asked how much African American input was given on the National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom nominations. Mark Christ stated that he was unsure about the Helena information; it was only him on the Poison Spring nomination. Carla asked about Ronnie Nichols and if he has been asked to come on board and help tell the African American story in this area. Mark stated the Ronnie Nichols helped with the information for the kick-off event.

Ernest Cunningham stated that Ronnie gave information that helped with the Freedom Park designation.

Carla stated that she thought there may be some stereotypical information given about African Americans. She would like to see more of the African American insight.

Samuel Wang asked about the number of black regiments from Arkansas. Mark stated that he was unsure, but there were 8 or 9 regiments, and 5,250 troops.

Jamie Brandon stated that he doesn't think the concern is if African American history is included, but that it is the concern seems to be if the commission is getting the African American view.

Danny Honnoll stated that all issues need to be addressed, including black Confederates.

Mark Kalkbrenner stated that in Pine Bluff they are working on revitalizing and interpreting the contraband site that was across the river, but is now across the lake. They are working on a walking trail around Lake Saracen. Part of the walking trail will be a pontoon bridge. He wants to know how his group can get involved in the Underground Railroad Network to Freedom. Mark stated that there is a website and an application process.

Richard Davies asked about the criteria for the Underground Railroad Network to Freedom

Mark Christ stated that there are different categories. It can be sites, they will certify programs. This is a wide-ranging program. Richard asked if it is really an African American history during the Civil War and not necessarily the official Underground Railroad routes. Mark agreed and stated that it is more things that are associated with freedom.

Carla Coleman asked about the website and Mark Christ stated that she can Google Underground Railroad Network to Freedom and it should come up and it is a National Park Service program.

Mark stated that with the programs that the commission is promoting they are hoping for input from the African American point of view in Arkansas.

George Lankford asked what the commission's association is with the Underground Railroad Network to Freedom. Mark stated that Arkansas sites would be promoted. Richard asked if it is like the National Register listing. Mark Christ agreed that it is similar. George asked if this would be a resource.

Danny Honnoll re-stated that he believes that both sides of the African American story need to be addressed.

Tommy Dupree stated that he believes that the economics side of secession and the end of slavery is overlooked.

Carla Cunningham stated that she believes the other side of the story should be told from the slaves.

Jamie Brandon stated that the production of slave narratives needs to be addressed because even the interviews may be one sided, but he does feel that the commission is getting bogged down with this issue.

Richard Davies stated that the big problem for him is the holes in history. Mark Christ stated that he believes there is going to be a session addressing that issue at the Arkansas Historical Association meeting.

Tommy Dupree asked Samuel Wang to make his announcement. Samuel stated that the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, at their last convention, authorized the state of Missouri to attempt to organize a department in Arkansas. To be a member, you just have to be a descendant of, directly or laterally, a Civil War veteran that served in the Union Army. A meeting will be held March 6, 2010. For those that are interested, please contact Samuel Wang at sdwangarb@aol.com, via email.

KUAR Sesquicentennial Minute Update

Mark Christ stated that the KUAR radio station believes that the Sesquicentennial Minute idea is a good one. The radio station is willing to make this part of the local programming and they are willing to produce the Sesquicentennial Minute for free. They want to have 3 or 4 generic pieces a month that will run anytime and one the will be timely connected to something that happened 150 years before that month. Mark will be getting with the holes in history people to come up with some ideas.

George Lankford asked when the Sesquicentennial Minute would start and Mark stated that he believes it will start in 2011 but no date has been set at this time.

ACWSC Subcommittee Reports

Tommy Dupree stated that his committee discussed fundraising and that John Scott was working on contact information with Walmart.

Tommy believes the commission needs to move ahead with fundraising and wanted to know the commissioners' thoughts.

Jamie Brandon stated that he doesn't think there is a committee that addresses the funding issue.

Tommy then suggested compiling a list of possible fundraising ideas by the next meeting.

Keith Emis suggested asking someone like Warren Stephens or some other philanthropic person in Arkansas to help with funding events for the Sesquicentennial Commemoration.

New Business

Tommy Dupree stated that the spring meeting in April was planned for Northwest Arkansas, but Mark Christ explained that since the commission received a 25% budget cut, the Northwest Arkansas meeting may not be feasible. He believes it would be fairly expensive.

Tommy Dupree asked about the costs for the Northwest Arkansas meeting. Mark believe is may be an expensive endeavor due to the mileage, lodging, and meals. Mark is figuring several thousand dollars. Tommy asked Mark to work up a budget and figure the costs and let him know the results later.

Richard Davies suggested seeing if someone in Northwest Arkansas is willing to sponsor the meeting. Tommy suggested that the A&P Commission would be a good group to go to for sponsorship for something like this.

Tommy stated that the commission was planning a two day meeting for April. There would be a meeting at Pea Ridge on the first day and Prairie Grove on the next.

Mark suggested going ahead and planning for the next meeting to be on April 28, 2010, at the MacArthur Museum of Arkansas Military History.

Ann Hooper asked if anyone has planned a grand ball or anything like that for the Sesquicentennial that anyone could attend. During the Civil War there were balls. Re-enactors can wear their uniforms or ball attire. Tickets can be sold for the event.

Tommy stated that no one has presented the idea yet.

Mark Kalkbrenner and Jamie Brandon state that this is done sometimes. There was some brief discussion regarding the idea of a ball and other events to be planned for the 5 year period of the Sesquicentennial. Mark Christ stated that this would be one of the types of events that would qualify for one of the money matching grants for events that promote the sesquicentennial in Arkansas.

George Lankford asked about commission member changes and the process of the change over.

Richard Davies stated that he spoke with a legislator a day prior to the meeting and he was told that the House election is March 9, 2010. He does not know when the Senate election is. It depends on whether the new Speaker of the House or President Pro Tem wants to keep the commissioners that were appointed or replace them. He believes this process will take place after the first short legislative session. Mark Christ stated that the House and Senate appointees do have terms.

Carolyn Ashcraft invited the commission to the new location of the State Library for the next ACWSC meeting. She stated that the library is not currently open to the public, but she is sure that the facility will be opened to the public by the time for the April meeting.

DeeLois Lawrence asked about new UDC presidents and their requirements as an ACWSC commission member. Marynell Branch stated that the way the legislation is written, the organization can appoint who ever they would like to come to the commission meetings.

Tommy Dupree thanked everyone for attending the meeting and entertained a motion for adjournment. Ernest Cunningham moved and Richard Davies seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting at approximately 11:58 a.m. The motion passed.