

**Arkansas Civil War Sesquicentennial  
Commission Meeting**

July 29, 2010

Latta Barn, Prairie Grove Battlefield State Park  
Prairie Grove, Arkansas

***Members Present***

Mark Christ – Designee, Department of Arkansas Heritage  
Tommy Dupree – Jacksonville, Governor Appointee  
Dr. George Lankford – Batesville, Senate Pro Tem Designee  
DeeLois Lawrence – President, Arkansas Division, United Daughters of the Confederacy  
Sam Wang – Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War  
Dr. Wendy Richter – Director, Arkansas History Commission  
Dr. Jamie Brandon – Governor Appointee  
Richard Davies – Director, Arkansas Department of Parks and Tourism  
John C. Scott – Pea Ridge National Military Park  
Ernest Cunningham – Governor Appointee

***Members Absent***

Carolyn Ashcraft – Director, Arkansas State Library  
Keith Emis – House Speaker Designee  
Bill Gatewood – Director, Old State House Museum  
Mark Kalkbrenner – Commander, Arkansas Division, Sons of Confederate Veterans  
Laura Miller – President, Arkansas Historical Association  
Archie Moore – Governor Appointee  
Ellen M. Lewis – Senate Pro Tem Designee  
DuShun Scarbrough – Director, Martin Luther King Commission  
W. Danny Honnoll – President, Arkansas Civil War Heritage Trails Foundation

***Visitors***

Jessee Cox – Prairie Grove Battlefield State Park  
Shelle Stormoe – ACWSC Administrative Analyst  
DeeDee Lamb – WCHS Headquarters House  
Glenn Jones – Heritage Trail Partners  
Cathy Cunningham – Helena  
Linda Duede – Cane Hill College  
Jami Lockhart – Arkansas Archeological Survey  
Diana Strange – Washington County Historical Society  
Jerry Lawrence – Military Order of the Stars & Bars  
Susan Young – Shiloh Museum

Tommy Dupree called the meeting to order. He also stated that Jim Branson has resigned from the commission. He was a Speaker appointee and will need to be replaced.

### *Discussion of Traveling Exhibit*

Mark Christ stated that the traveling exhibit is moving forward. This is a joint project of the ACWSC, Old State House Museum, and Arkansas Humanities Council. It will be a 12-panel exhibit that is easy to break down and put up and transport. The front 6 panels will deal with themes that the commission established for each year of the sesquicentennial and the reverse will be a timeline of the Civil War in Arkansas. It will be illustrated with a variety of photographs, drawings, and documents. Once it is completed the Arkansas Humanities Council will take care of distributing it to places around the state. It will probably be ready around the first of the year. Richard Davies asked Mark if he has the contact person's name for scheduling the exhibit. Mark stated that it would likely be Robin Phelps at the Arkansas Humanities Council. George Lankford asked who had access to the exhibit. Mark replied anybody but he was expecting schools, libraries, and chambers of commerce. He thinks there will be a lot of requests. Someone asked about the cost of the exhibit and Mark responded that he was not sure. He was then asked about the amount of time the exhibit would sit in one location and Mark replied that it would probably be about a month. George asked about the dimensions of the exhibit. Mark stated that it is about 5 feet tall and in the form of a wall. It is a one-room exhibit.

### *Discussion of 2012 ACWSC Event*

Mark stated that the commission knows what it is doing in 2011, and the commission is aiming to have a commission-sponsored event each year of the commemoration. In 2012 we want to do an event in Northwest Arkansas. We need to start thinking about what we want to do for this event. We had the board meeting of the Arkansas Historical Association a couple of weeks ago and one suggestion was that we focus on the impact of the war on the civilian population in the state.

Richard Davies stated that the commission has to talk about Arkansas's place in the Trans-Mississippi network. Why was there a Pea Ridge and a Prairie Grove, or a Battle of Fayetteville? He thinks that a lot of people really don't understand this.

Tommy stated that Lincoln's strategy included the holding of the Mississippi River so that northwest states could ship their goods down the Mississippi, otherwise they would be land bound. The only obstacles were the forces in Northwest Arkansas and Southwest Missouri, so these things seems to be the key to understanding the whole project.

Jamie stated that he didn't hear anyone voice opposition to the idea of using the impact on social life or the civilian life. He stated that the Headquarters House, Prairie Grove, and Pea Ridge all are most associated with the war. Would it be a two-day event or what and where would we do a project such as that? Mark asked if Jamie meant something like a scholarly symposium.

DeeDee Lamb spoke briefly and reminded the commission that the Headquarters House is capable and ready for a reception of some sort for up to 900 people.

Jamie likes the idea of having multiple venues. John Scott agreed that this would be a good thing to introduce. He thinks that another thing that ties this area together is the transportation system. Telegraph Road was the route that most people used at that time.

George Lankford stated that he has been working over in Batesville, and this is also 1862. He has been reading letters and first person documents. He has discovered that a lot of Union soldiers were having their attitudes change towards slavery. At Jacksonport, the 13<sup>th</sup> Illinois were violent with slave owners that came to their encampment wanting to get their slaves and take them back. George is wonders if this is happening all over or just in Arkansas.

Richard Davies asked if Arkansas was one of the first occupied territories. Jamie Brandon state that we were not and Tennessee fell pretty fast. He said that Kentucky had similar contraband issue that Arkansas had.

Tommy Dupree stated that he believed that Curtis' march to the Mississippi was a prelude to Sherman's march to the sea. The same thing happens with both armies.

Jamie stated that he would like to know what the National Parks sees as a draw to the area. John Scott said that he sees the battlefields as the attraction. There were a lot of things that led up to the Battle of Pea Ridge. If the 3 battlefields [Pea Ridge, Prairie Grove, and Wilson's Creek] worked together, we could send people to all three sites.

Samuel Wang stated that the civilians were impacted by the battles. They were left with a lot of wounded and a big mess to clean up.

Jamie asked Prairie Grove what they thought about a signature event. Jessee Cox stated that this is what they do and it is very significant to their program here.

John stated that this is a classic example, after Wilson's Creek and before Pea Ridge. The civilians were certainly affected.

Jamie stated that it seems that 2012 will be a little more of a challenge for coming up with signature events. He suggested doing a long weekend signature event where something is going on at all the sites or maybe academic symposiums. He asked if this was too much to do as a signature event.

Susan Young of Shiloh Museum offered to organize the event. Everyone thought it is a good idea.

John stated that it will take some coordination and suggested maybe forming a committee for people in this part of the state.

Jamie asked if everyone wants to hash through December-March or do we leave this to the group that will make up the committee. Jamie asked the National Park's representatives if the idea sounding good to them and if they could get together and brainstorm and get back with the commission later on what they have come up with.

Susan Young asked what area defines the northwest.

George Lankford stated that he is looking at it from the Batesville view point. He stated that Batesville had Curtis' army of 25,000 men. He is reading all that they were talking about after the events in the northwest. He stated that one of the issues is that a lot of the Confederates have moved into the hollows and valleys in the Ozarks and are beginning to transform into these guerrilla units. Is this one of the things happening that needs to be emphasized in 1862? There was some discussion about the topic of guerrilla units.

John asked if northwest is defined by a historic road map. Mark Christ stated that physically there we will have to be limitations.

Richard suggested an interpretive theme of Military and Civilians. What kinds of supplies does it take for 25,000 people, 12,000 horses? How many train loads of supplies?

Tommy Dupree stated that the armies were disbursed because of foraging. As the war progressed they were foraging as far as 80 miles.

Glenn Jones stated that the Heritage Trails Partners will support Susan however they can.

DeeDee Lamb stated that she has a true story about a family who was impacted by Bushwhackers.

DeeDee Lamb asked if the governor comes to these signature events. Richard stated that the commission invites him.

Lankford stated that he likes the image of the 2012 event being sort of like a season of events. He thinks that the NPS is geared up for it.

Jamie made a motion that the commission acknowledges the Shiloh Museum as point coordinate for various groups to create a signature event for 2012 in northwest Arkansas. The motion was seconded by Ernest Cunningham. Mark Christ will be liaison with the group for the commission. The motion passed.

### ***ACWSC Grant Program Update***

Mark Christ stated that he still has not heard from Preserve America. The commission has \$25,000 for grants for from the General Assembly for up to \$2,000 for local events that take place starting in 2011. Mark applied for an additional grant for \$40,000 from the Preserve American Program and they were supposed to award it in late summer, but have not done so yet. He hopes that this will be the last grant that they will be giving because their grant program might be axed. The program will open sometime in September or October and Mark thinks that there will be a lot of interest in that program.

Tommy Dupree asked if anyone had questions about grants. DeeDee Lamb had some questions about the grants. Tommy suggested she get with John Scott about the grants. He then explained that Wal-Mart has a program. It is the store manager that makes it successful or not. They will match on fundraisers that take place on their lot. They will match up to \$1,000. They also have sometimes extra funds that if you get with the manager. This is a yearly program.

John Scott suggested Tyson, Wal-Mart, and J. B. Hunt as possible grantees. He also suggested that the commission go after one big grant. Tommy added that the store grants are yearly and should still be considered along with the one big grant.

### ***KUAR Sesquicentennial Minute Update***

Mark Christ stated that KUAR has committed to 3 or 4 one minute spots per month during the sesquicentennial. The commission is looking at starting them in February of 2011. There are 3 scripts that have been approved. The Arsenal Crisis, the first secession convention and one other. He stated that Jan Sarna, history professor at UALR, will be doing the voiceovers. KUAR is doing this as part of their public service programming so it will not cost the commission anything. They do ask at some point that we purchase some advertisement spots. They will also make the recordings available to other radio stations around the state. Production will start this fall.

George Lankford asked what a 1 minute script look like. Mark replied about 1 typed and double spaced page.

### ***AHA-ACWSC Book Project Update***

Mark Christ stated that this is a joint project of the commission and the Arkansas Historical Association. Various first person accounts that deal specifically with Civil War in Arkansas will be pulled together and published as an anthology. Mark stated that he is working with Patrick Williams at the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville. U of A has already expressed interest in publishing in the next 6 or 7 months. Some of the really early ones have foot notes that are not relevant.

George Lankford stated that way back the commission talked about supporting books that came out. Mark stated that there are no takers yet. He stated that it will probably fall within the grant program.

### ***Elkins' Ferry Battlefield Preservation Project***

Mark Christ passed some literature around. He stated that the American Battlefield Protection Program funded a preservation plan for 3 battlefields in Nevada County - Elkin's Ferry, Prairie D'Ane, and Moscow, which is the rearguard action for Prairie D'Ane. There is very little interpretation of these battlefields. The core of the plan is how to preserve the battlefields themselves. The entire tract of land on the Nevada county side of Elkin's Ferry is owned by a single timber company, which is looking at selling the entire tract. The Conservation Fund has a battlefield protection program. They actually contacted the commission about wanting to do something with the Camden expedition site. They are working with the Civil War Preservation Trust to look at the entire battlefield. The first thing they had to do is get an appraisal and the cost of the appraisal was around \$16,500. The Preservation Trust agreed to pay 1/3 of the amount and the Bill Black has been working with a group called the Land Legacy out of Oklahoma, trying to get a tract at Ft. Smith. Bill mention the appraisal issue to his contact with Land Legacy and a representative came by Mark's office and agreed to pay another 1/3 of the appraisal fee. The conservation fund will put in the final 1/3. The appraisal is being done and should be wrapping up this week. Once they know how much it is, they can look at talking money to the land holders. There is a distinct possibility that we will have a National Historic Landmark preserved in a year or so.

Tommy Dupree asked how many acres are involved. Mark responded about 450.

George Lankford asked if the sale of the land goes through, how it will be institutionalized.

Mark stated that there will be a non-profit in Nevada County that will assume ownership. There will be preservation on front end and then they will figure out interpretation.

### ***Discussion of Draft 2012-2013 Biennial Budget***

Tommy Dupree gave a background on the ACWSC. He stated that the commission was created in 2007 and there was no budget initially. The commission received funds for a budget in 2010. This budget goes into effect next July 2011.

Richard Davies stated that it is a 1 year budgets, 2 year sessions.

Richard asked if these are operational through DAH or through the General Improvements Funds. Mark Christ responded it will likely be GIF. Richard stated that there may not be much GIF to go around.

Richard asked about the total request per year. Mark responded \$170,000

Ernest Cunningham stated that he visited with Chief of Staff of the Governor. The Chief of Staff is very concerned about the budget.

A motion was made to adopt a budget. The motion was seconded.

George Lankford asked about prioritizing the budget. There was some brief discussion.

The motion passed.

### ***Presentations from Local Organizations and Plans for the Sesquicentennial***

#### **Washington County Historical Society**

DeeDee Lamb introduced the president of the Washington County Historical Society, Diane Strange. One of the ladies briefly talks about the Washington County Historical Society, where they are located and what they do. She stated that they are an all volunteer agency.

#### **Prairie Grove Battlefield State Park**

Jessee Cox stated that Prairie Grove will be doing their battle reenactment, which is the largest in the state, every even year. The next one after this year will be in 2012. The reenactment, which is their big signature event, will be heavily promoted. They are hoping to get more than 1,000 reenactors. Cox explained that Monument Hall will be gutted and a whole new exhibit package will be installed. It will be opening later in 2011. He added that Prairie Grove has applied for a new marker from the ACWSC matching grants program to place at the Borden House. They also received an archeological grant for \$82,000 from the American Battlefield Protection Program through the Arkansas Department of Parks and Tourism. Cox then explained the itinerary for the remainder of the day following the meeting.

DeeDee Lamb brought in an actor and dog to portray General Alexander Sandor Asboth. She explained and read a little of the narrative for this character at Headquarters House. She told the story about how Headquarters House got their first grant for living history. She also explained some of the programs at Headquarters House. The actor's name is Rusty Coulton.

### **Northwest Arkansas Civil War Heritage Trail**

Alan Thompson stated that they are working on driving tour of the Battle of Cane Hill. By November 28, 2012, they are hoping to have another driving tour complete, with 8 or 9 interpretive panel along the route. They are also working on a couple of brochures.

Richard Davies asked who the members are of the Northwest Arkansas Civil War Heritage Trail and Thompson said there are scattered individuals.

### **Special Collections, UA Libraries**

Tom Dillard stated that he appreciated the ACWSC working with Special Collections and wants to be involved in the commemoration of the sesquicentennial in Arkansas. The UA Libraries, Special Collections staff has met and brainstormed some possibilities and he has communicated with Mark Christ. He stated that they have a lot of Civil War materials in Special Collections. They have cooperated with Springfield, Missouri Public Library and added to an Ozark Civil War website that they have at that library. They are always looking for ways to highlight their Civil War-related collection. They did a publication about 20 years ago bringing together into one publication a discussion of the UA collections that deal with the Civil War and they are considering revising that publication in time for the sesquicentennial. They have talked about a variety of other possibilities including doing a conference on Union sympathies and activity in Northwest Arkansas. He stated that they don't have a lot of money but they want to contribute and asked for ideas on how they can help.

Tom stated that he also works with the Washington County Historical Society.

### **Shiloh Museum of Ozark History**

Susan Young stated that she appreciates what the ACWSC is doing. She gave some background and history of the Shiloh Museum. Their focus is on the history of everyday folks. She hopes the museum can help with programming. The education department is working on establishing a living history program. They have very little in their collection so it is a challenge to tell the story in a more visual way. They hope to do some programming for the sesquicentennial. They would like to add a couple of programs. In January 15, 2011, they will have an open house and feature some Civil War programming. They are also working on a living history program. The museum's education department is partnering with 3 Springdale gifted and talented classes (6<sup>th</sup> graders). They are going to learn how to research and develop their own living history characters. They will be children during the Civil War. The museum is working on getting a sesquicentennial marker placed in Springdale and doing research on that marker. They are offering their services to the commission.

Tommy Dupree asked John Scott what kind of numbers they are getting through the park this year. John responded that they are at around 90,000 people, but for the last couple of

years we had about 75,000, but we may be miscounting and may end up in the 120,000 to 150,000 range. We have seen a slight increase. Prairie Grove averages around 165,000 people a year. Book sales are around \$100,000 at Pea Ridge.

Tommy asked that John and Mark Christ pull as much of the economic information as they can and have it available for the politicians to see.

John mentioned a book by the Civil War Preservation Trust called *Dollars & Sense* where they have done an economic impact study on a number of battlefields.

Tommy stated that he has used the books that John was speaking of, but he stated that local numbers are what we need to get together to talk with politicians.

### ***Discussion of Date(s) and Location of next ACWSC meeting***

Tommy Dupree asked about the date for the next meeting. Mark Christ stated that it would be the last Wednesday in October, which is October 27, 2010.

Wendy Richter stated that the next meeting will be during the Arkansas History Commission's Archives Week event. She offered to host the next ACWSC meeting and stated that she could offer 12 reserved parking spaces. There are also some visitors' spaces. The commission can tour the Archives Week exhibit and tour the facility.

The commission accepted the invitation from Wendy.

### ***ACWSC Subcommittee Reports***

Tommy Dupree called for subcommittee reports.

Richard Davies reported that Mark Christ is always sending links to the links committee for the website.

Mark spoke briefly about Pook's Turtle gunboat. He stated that a group in Missouri is building a working Ironclad Pook's Turtle and when they are finished they will launch it into the Mississippi River and take it down the Mississippi and come up the Arkansas and White Rivers.

### ***New Business***

Mark Christ stated that the Arkansas History Association has officially announced the creation of the Charles O. Durnett award for best article on Arkansas Civil War history. It will be a \$250 prize that will be awarded each year of the sesquicentennial. The Arkansas Civil War Heritage Trails Foundation provided the funding for the award and it is named in honor of Chuck Durnett, who was one of the ACWSC commissioners as well as the chairman of the Central Arkansas Civil War Heritage Trail. With that and the

award money for Arkansas History Day we have something out for scholarship on both the elementary and post graduate level.

He also stated that he is scheduling visits around the state, regional visits, and contacting a variety of people to show them the ACWSC video and a PowerPoint about the economic and program benefits of heritage tourism. He has done one in Brinkley, where 5 people showed up, and in Arkadelphia where there were 26 people in attendance. He has one scheduled for August 17, 2010, in Hope and in Van Buren on August 24, 2010. There will be a total of 14 meetings in the end. He will get with George Lankford to schedule one for Batesville and he will get one set up in Russellville as well. It is basically to get people thinking about what they can be doing to commemorate the sesquicentennial of the Civil War in local areas.

Tommy Dupree suggested another funding source to DeeDee Lamb, economic development commissions or committees. The tourist numbers will be important when going to the sources for help with funding. The numbers are available and everyone needs to use them.

The commission meeting was adjourned for a tour of Prairie Grove Battlefield, lunch, and an optional auto tour of Cane Hill Battlefield with Alan Thompson following lunch.