

**Arkansas Civil War Sesquicentennial
Commission Meeting**
October 27, 2010
4th Floor Conference Room, One Capitol Mall
Little Rock, Arkansas

Members Present

Mark Christ – Designee, Department of Arkansas Heritage
Tommy Dupree – Jacksonville, Governor Appointee
DeeLois Lawrence – President, Arkansas Division, United Daughters of the Confederacy
Sam Wang – President, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War
Dr. Wendy Richter – Director, Arkansas History Commission
Richard Davies – Director, Arkansas Department of Parks and Tourism
John C. Scott – Superintendent, Pea Ridge National Military Park
Laura Miller – President, Arkansas Historical Association
Archie Moore – Governor Appointee
Bill Gatewood – Director, Old State House Museum
Ellen M. Lewis – Senate Pro Tem Designee
DuShun Scarbrough – Director, Martin Luther King Commission

Members Absent

Carolyn Ashcraft – Director, Arkansas State Library
Dr. George Lankford – Batesville, Senate Pro Tem Designee
Dr. Jamie Brandon – Governor Appointee
Ernest Cunningham – Governor Appointee
Keith Emis – House Speaker Designee
Mark Kalkbrenner – Commander, Arkansas Division, Sons of Confederate Veterans
W. Danny Honnoll – President, Arkansas Civil War Heritage Trails Foundation

Visitors

Darcy Baskin – ACWSC Administrative Analyst
Patrick Hotard – Southeast Arkansas Historical Foundation, El Dorado
Mike Loum – Sons of Confederate Veterans #197
Jake Sandlin – Arkansas Democrat Gazette
Patricia Blick – Certified Local Government Coordinator, AHPP
Josh Jenkins – DAH
Marynell Branch – DAH
Jack E. Hill – TeleVision for Arkansas
Linda McDowell – Arkansas History Commission
Amanda Sobel Driver – Education Outreach Coordinator, AHPP
Carla Coleman – Black History Commission of Arkansas

Angela Alsup – Graduate Assistant, AHPP

After a 10 a.m. gathering at the Arkansas History Commission for the opening of the “Blue and Gray: Documenting Civil War Arkansas” exhibit, the commission members and visitors returned to the 4th floor Conference room of the One Capitol Mall building. Tommy Dupree called the meeting to order at 10:38 a.m. He asked each visitor to stand and state their name and affiliation.

Tommy then called for the approval of the minutes from the July 28 and 29, 2010, ACWSC meeting. Richard Davies moved for acceptance of the minutes and Ellen Lewis seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Discussion of DAH Audio Tours Program

Josh Jenkins spoke to the commission briefly about audio tours. He explained the development of audio tours and stated that he would like to use the Civil War tours as a pilot program.

The system works by dialing into an automated system using a code or phone number via a cell phone. The system will have a phone tree of options depending on what the tourist is interested in. The system will also be available for download via the internet.

Mark Christ stated that he will be writing the text for the tours, with input from the rest of the commission members. He stated that the list of tours that he is looking at includes Ditch Bayou in Chicot County, the Camden Expedition, which includes Elkins’ Ferry, Prairie D’Ane, Fort Southerland, Poison Spring, Marks’ Mills, and Jenkins’ Ferry, and if time allows he would like to do Fouché Bayou in Little Rock and Cane Hill in Northwest Arkansas.

Josh stated that the audio tours will be developed in-house, so there will be no additional cost to the commission.

Richard Davies asked about specifics regarding the audio tour process. Josh gave an example of how the system would work for a particular site.

Mark stated that the idea was brought up to him at an information meeting in Hope.

Consideration of Logo Use Requests

Tommy Dupree advised each of the commission members to look over the requests for logo use on the agenda.

The first request is sponsored by the Independence County Historical Society and the Batesville Community Theatre. The project is a theatre performance called War

Chronicles I: Independence County's Civil War. Ellen Lewis mentioned that the first request was made by a commission member, George Lankford. Mark Christ explained that George Lankford received a grant from the Arkansas Humanities Council to do the research for the project. He went to archives and found letters and diaries of people who served in Batesville during the Civil War on both sides. It is the basis for these performances.

Richard Davies made a motion to approve use of the commission's logo by the Independence County Historical Society and Batesville Community Theatre for a theatre performance called, War Chronicles I: Independence County's Civil War. Ellen Lewis seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Tommy stated that the next request is sponsored by the Central Arkansas Library System (CALS) and is a traveling exhibit called "Lincoln: The Constitution and the Civil War." Mark stated that this event kicks off Thursday, October 28, 2010, at the main library on Rock Street. They will have a number of different programs associated with the exhibit.

Laura Miller made a motion to approve use of the commission's logo by the CALS for their traveling exhibit, "Lincoln: The Constitution and the Civil War." Ellen Lewis seconded the motion. The motion passed.

The next project is "Why Commemorate the Civil War," the Parrish-Raley Family Reunion, which is a program by Roger Logan. Richard Davies asked if this event is opened to the public. Mark Christ stated that he was unsure. Ellen Lewis asked about the significance of the family. Mark stated that the event is a local observance. Samuel Wang stated that the event will be held in a public place and opened to the public.

Ellen questioned the program and asked when the event will be. Tommy stated July of next year (2011).

Richard Davies suggested tabling the request until the next meeting. Tommy Dupree stated that the commission could contact Roger Logan to get more specifics on the event.

Ellen made a motion to table the request until further information is obtained regarding this event. Richard seconded the motion. The motion passed.

The fourth project is the Battle of Pea Ridge reenactment sponsored by Northwest Arkansas Historical Education Association. Archie Moore asked if this particular event has been done in the past. John Scott explained that there is no connection between this group and the Pea Ridge National Military Park, but the group has worked with the park in the past and have done reenactments before in Northwest Arkansas. He also stated that they have a pretty good number of visitors that show up. Ellen agreed.

Ellen Lewis made a motion to approve the use of the commission's logo by the Northwest Arkansas Historical Education Association for the Battle of Pea Ridge reenactment. Richard Davies seconded the motion. The motion passed.

The fifth project was Commemorative Postal Covers, sponsored by Joe Bateman and B. L. Timmerman. This project involves the creation of collectable stamped envelopes from each major Civil War event with historical Confederate cancellation and stamp. Ellen Lewis stated that she did not understand this project. Mark Christ explained that the stamped envelopes were collectable keepsakes of the Civil War events in Arkansas. Richard Davies asked if the envelopes are sold. Mark stated that he didn't believe so but he is unsure. Richard wants to know how the commission will determine if the stamps are appropriate. There is an example on the handout.

John Scott recommended correcting fact on the stamps based on the sample that the commission was sent. The sample showed incorrect information.

Richard asked if the commission could approve the historical content prior to use. Mark stated that it was part of his discussion with the two gentlemen. They will clear the covers with the commission prior to using them.

Sam stated that he believed that it is a commercial type project and is inappropriate for the use of the commission's logo.

Ellen asked if this is something that the post office does and Mark responded that the men do the project in cooperation with the post office.

Laura Miller explained that the stamps are commemorative and that she has seen it done in the past.

Richard made a motion to table this request and he suggested inviting the requestor to the next Civil War meeting. Ellen seconded the motion. The motion passed.

The Military Order of Stars and Bars is sponsoring the Battle of Jenkins' Ferry 150th Anniversary Event. It will include Civil War re-enactors, artillery demonstrations, relic/informational displays, speakers, and a wreath laying ceremony.

Richard Davies made a motion to approve the use of the commission's logo for the Military Order of Stars and Bars event. Ellen seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Mark Christ stated that there was one other request that came in for use of the commission's logo after the agenda was done. It is an event sponsored by the Master Print Group in Jonesboro. They will be producing a standard city/county map of Osceola, Arkansas, to use the logo on. Ellen Lewis asked if the maps will be free. Mark stated that they would be. Richard Davies agreed that it was a good idea for use of the logo and he made a motion to approve use of the commission's logo on the Osceola maps. Ellen seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Mark Christ noted that the commission gave national and state parks blanket permission to use the commission's logo for events during the Sesquicentennial. He stated that it would be beneficial and save time for the Department of Arkansas Heritage if they could

have the same permission for all of their exhibits as well. Richard Davies made a motion to give the Department of Arkansas Heritage blanket approval for use of the commission's logo. Ellen Lewis seconded the motion. The motion passed.

ACWSC Grant Program Update

Mark Christ stated that the commission was approved for \$25,000 appropriations for local events grants. He wrote a grant to Preserve America, but was unsuccessful in securing the grant.

He stated that he opened the grant program last month and is receiving applications now. The deadline is the Wednesday before Thanksgiving. The grants will be up to \$2,000 each with a minimum \$1,000 local match, half of which can be in-kind. These grants are to help with local events.

Richard Davies asked how many applications the commission had received. Darcy Baskins stated that there had only been one submitted.

Archie Moore asked about the specifics of this grant.

Mark stated that there are a few people on staff at AHPP who will evaluate the applications initially and make recommendations and then Tommy and the AHPP director will meet and make the final recommendations to the commission. The application is downloadable from the arkansascivilwar150.com site.

Historical Marker Program Update

Mark Christ stated that there are 7 markers currently in the ground (Little Rock, De Valls Bluff, Melbourne, Dardanelle, St. Francis, Searcy and Rondo) and 5 in the process of being fabricated. They are for fighting near Etowah in Mississippi County, Tate's Bluff and the Civil War near Camden, the Battle of Arkansas Post in Gillete, the Skirmish at Osceola, and a two-sided sign, which will be the Arkansas Peace Society and raids on Burroughville, which will be at the Searcy County courthouse in Marshall). Mark stated that the commission has approved a marker for the Skirmish at Tomahawk at St. Joe in Searcy County. He added that there have not been any applications submitted in a while. There is still \$51,000 in funds still available for markers.

Richard Davies asked about the price of the markers. Mark stated that the one sided markers cost \$2,030 and the double sided markers cost \$2,400. The commission provides \$1,000 and the requestor pays the balance. He stated that the Arkansas Humanities Council has been helping applicants with matching funds.

Ellen Lewis urged the commission members to go to one of the marker dedications going on around the state.

Podcast Update

Mark Christ stated that the Department of Mass Communications at UALR is helping with the podcast project. We identify experts on different aspects of the Civil War and then have them do a podcast. He stated that he has been working with a student engineer who is pretty amazing with the editing of the podcast recordings. Mark stated that there are 14 podcasts on the website, and there will be another 6 or 7 more will be added before the end of the semester. The 3 newest podcasts feature Michael Dougan on the Secession Convention, Elias Cornelius Boudinot, and N. Bart Pearce; Cary Bradburn of the North Little Rock History Commission did one on Huntersville, which was the railroad stop in what is now North Little Rock during the Civil War. Mark stated that he has done two podcasts. One is on the CSS Pontchartrain, which is already available on the site, and the other is on racial atrocities during the Camden Expedition that will probably go out next month. Bobby Roberts from the Central Arkansas Library did one on Thomas Hindman and one on the River War. Bill Frazier from Memphis did one on how the soldiers who had served in the Mexican war affected the Civil War in Arkansas. Allen Thompson, from Prairie Grove State Park, did one on Dandridge McRae, Ornett Grind from Arkansas State Parks did one on the slave narratives, and next week, Cynthia Pitcock, who is a professor of Medical Humanities at UAMS, will be doing 2 or 3 on various aspects of medical history.

Richard Davies asked about the time limit on the podcasts. Mark stated 3 to 5 minutes, but sometimes more or less than that. Archie Moore asked if a script is used. Mark replied that they are used sometimes.

Heritage Trails Program Update

Richard Davies reported that, thanks to AHPP, the Heritage Trails brochure is done. He stated that the maps from the brochure can be found by going to Arkansas.com. Then click on History & Heritage, and then Arkansas Heritage Trails. He stated that the site literally has the driving directions. Richard also stated that the Highway Department is going to take care of signage and there is a logo being developed for the signs. Richard gave research credit to AHPP.

Richard added that he was told that the Arkansas.com website has about 5 gigabytes of information about Arkansas. There is also advertisement and links on the site for lodging in the areas where the trails are located.

Mark Christ stated that Angela Alsup, the graduate assistant for AHPP, is working along with Tony Feaster on this project.

Tommy Dupree stated that the State Highway Department is going to receive about \$7 million from Washington, D. C. that can be utilized for Heritage Trails or battlefield land purchases. The deadline to submit a request was August 25, 2010. Hopefully funds will

be coming in over the next few years. He stated that Jacksonville did submit an application, but he is unsure if anyone else around the state was able to do so.

Tommy stated that he had approached the Governor at a fund raiser about helping to get the Highway Department to put funds into the commission's programs. The Governor advised Tommy to write a letter to him to remind the Governor. He will see what he can do. Tommy stated that he would get a letter out to the Governor.

He asked Richard Davies if he was aware of the funds and Richard was unsure.

2011 Kick-off Event Update

Bill Gatewood stated that planning is ongoing and has not progressed much. They are still waiting to hear from the Governor. Bill added that the VIP preview of the AETN documentary is 4/21/2011 and the kick-off is 4/30/2011. Filming for the documentary will begin on 3/1/2011. The kick-off will include a new exhibit and re-enactments.

The OSH is working with Mangan Holcomb on the event. The Heritage Month kick-off for DAH will coincide with the 2011 ACWSC kick-off event.

Discussion of Traveling Exhibit

Mark explained the exhibit and stated that it will premiere May 2011. The Humanities Council will be responsible for the distribution of the exhibit.

DeeLois Lawrence asked about the size of the exhibit and Bill Gatewood responded that it was not very large and gave a visual distance in the meeting room.

Passport Program Update

Laura Miller stated that the passport was complete and ready to go to print. She showed an example of the finished passport to the commission members. Laura also explained the process of how the awards are obtained for visiting sites in the passport program.

Laura added that Mark Christ would be going to each of sites in the passport program to explain the process to them. The kick-off should be some time in the first quarter of 2011, but there is no definite date yet.

Discussion of 2012 ACWSC Event

Mark Christ stated that several groups have already formed to plan for the 2012 event. John Scott stated that the groups are working on coordination of the event. He added that there are no dates for signature events.

John discussed themes for the 150th year celebration. He believes that it is a good idea to develop guiding documents for these groups.

Richard Davies thinks it is a good idea to have someone available from the commission each year of the 150th celebration for people to talk to about possible event ideas.

Ellen Lewis agreed that there should be a point of contact.

John stated that the groups need guidance in narrowing down ideas.

Richard asked if it was a good idea if the commission offered a speaker, someone who has researched the theme, for each year.

John suggested having proposals submitted to the commission.

Ellen suggested creating a check list of appropriate ideas for events.

Laura suggested that the commission work with specific sites each year.

Richard asked if there is a chairman and John said that there is. Richard likes the idea of having a list of possible events submitted each year to the commission or a commission committee for approval. He stated that this process has to be organized. He then asked Mark what he thought would work best for AHPP.

Mark suggested maybe submitting a package of possibilities to Susan Young, since she has taken on the coordinating position in northwest Arkansas.

Richard asked about grants and if money was earmarked in the budget for the yearly themed events. Mark stated that it is a line item in the budget request.

Carla Coleman asked how local groups would make contact with the commission. Mark responded that the logo use request is equipped to address that on the arkansascivilwar150.com site.

Ellen asked about historical sites in Northwest Arkansas or other areas in Arkansas that can be used as a place to center the themed event around geographically.

John stated that he sees potential competition because of tourist dollars.

Ellen asked about the University in Fayetteville as a geographic location.

John believes it is going to take firm guidance with these groups.

Richard explains his understanding was that the themed event is the commission's function. Now it seems as though the commission is turning it over to the local people. He thinks the commission will have to make the final decision on their signature events.

Sam Wang and Mark agreed with Richard. Richard believes there should be a chairperson to help this group with guidance.

John stated that he can serve as a chair for his area.

Ellen asked about a call for papers.

Mark stated that a subcommittee could look at that or put a question to the commission.

Tommy asked who would be willing to serve on a committee to help guide local events. He asked Sam if he would chair the committee. Tommy stated that this is Sam's last meeting.

Sam stated that he is being replaced in December and expressed his pleasure in being part of the Arkansas Civil War Sesquicentennial Commission. He also added that he would be happy to do anything to participate or help the commission in the future.

Tommy then asked John if he would chair a committee.

John agreed to chair the committee and stated that he would get with Susan Young. He will report back to the commission. He also suggested setting the format of a model and bringing it to the commission.

Discussion of 2011 General Assembly

Marynell Branch stated that there were very few increases in funding and GIF will be the target. She suggested having a day on the hill as the format of the next commission meeting. Richard stated that the entire budget will be from GIF and the state surplus is small.

Marynell stated Jon Woods was a champion for the ACWSC and Tommy Dupree stated that he is still on board.

Richard and Marynell suggested talking to legislators as early as November 5, 2010.

Bill Gatewood asked about educational event to inform the legislators about the ACWSC.

Richard stated that the legislators are booked up already.

Tommy stated that he talked to Jon Woods and he is working on getting the commission some money. The key is to get the commission on the list and educate all the legislators about the commission.

Tommy brought copies of the book on the history of the Little Rock Air Force Base. They are free to anyone that is interested. He stated that he would be giving one to each House member to help pitch the Little Rock Air Force Base. It is one of the biggest tourist draws in the state. There were about 220,000 visitors over a 2 day period. The commission still needs to get representatives on board. He believes this is the only way the commission will receive funding next year.

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

The next meeting will be January 26, 2011, in the same 4th floor conference room in the Capitol Mall. Mark Christ suggested having in the Capitol Mall conference room again. Tommy agreed that it would be a good idea.

Mark stated that he received a phone call from Ian Beard from the Old State House. He asked Mark to make a request to the commission to try to be diligent not to schedule events that will overlap with other events.

Richard asked if all events are on the website and Mark stated that they are.

ACWSC Subcommittee Reports

None

New Business

DeeLois Lawrence stated that she will be on the commission for the next 2 years. She stated that at the September convention in Little Rock, the UDC hosted the MOSB commander, who presented Mark Christ with an award for his book.

Carla Coleman stated that she has learned so much from the meetings and enjoyed the dedication.

Jack Hill spoke briefly about the importance of signage and how souvenir hunters have stolen signs in Mississippi.

John Scott asked if anyone has thought about approaching Garmin with the trail maps. There was a brief discussion about having the maps added to their GPS navigation maps.

Ellen Lewis suggested running the information by Josh Jenkins, who is working with the audio tours at AHPP.

Adjourn

Ellen Lewis made a motion to adjourn the meeting of the ACWSC for the day and Sam Wang seconded the motion. The motion passed and the meeting was adjourned at 12:05 p.m.