

**Arkansas Civil War Sesquicentennial  
Commission Meeting**  
April 22, 2008  
MacArthur Museum of Arkansas Military History  
Little Rock, Arkansas

Members Present

Richard Davies, Director, Department of Parks and Tourism  
Mark Christ, Designee, Department of Arkansas Heritage  
Dr. George Lankford, Batesville – Senate Pro Tem Designee  
Tommy Dupree, Jacksonville – Reed’s Bridge Battlefield Preservation Society  
Charles Durnett, Commander Arkansas Division – Sons of Confederate Veterans  
Dora Kate Lee, President, Arkansas Division – United Daughters of the Confederacy  
Don Hamilton, Central Arkansas Civil War Heritage Trail and Civil War Roundtable of Arkansas  
Danny Honnoll, President – Arkansas Civil War Heritage Trails Foundation  
Dr. Jamie Brandon, Arkansas Archeological Survey – Southern Arkansas University  
Jim Branson, House Speaker Designee  
Jerry Armstrong, North Little Rock – House Speaker Designee  
John Scott, NPS – Pea Ridge National Military Park  
Dr. Wendy Richter, Arkansas History Commission  
Bill Gatewood, Director – Old State House Museum  
Ellen DiMaggio, Senate Pro Tem Designee

***Members Absent***

Ernest Cunningham and Carolyn Ashcraft

***Visitors***

Cathie Matthews, Director, Department of Arkansas Heritage  
Marynell Branch, Department of Arkansas Heritage  
Leslie Greenwood, Aristotle  
M. Ray Jones, SCV, NEACWHT/NEASHF

Tom Dupree called for approval of the minutes from the March 25, 2008 commission meeting. Charles Durnett moved and Richard Davies seconded the approval of the March 25, 2008 minutes. The motion passed.

Tom Dupree asked for an update on the progress of the ACWSC website. Leslie Greenwood from Aristotle reports that as soon as the commission decides on the logo, Aristotle can get going with the website.

Mark Christ reported that internally AHPP and DAH have come up with additional funding that will allow the commission to move forward in the new year with things like the interactive map on the website.

Tom Dupree introduced new member Jerry Armstrong, appointed by the House Speaker, and recording secretary Dawn Washington.

### ***Discussion and vote for the ACWSC Logo***

Tom Dupree asked each member of the commission to take turns going around the table and give their choice for the logo and any reasoning they may want to offer regarding their logo choice.

A vote was taken from each member on the new logo. The vote was based on the three examples (Crossed Swords, Crossed Cannons, and the Arkansas Militia belt buckle). With a vote of 5 members for the buckle design and 12 members for the crossed sword design, a final decision was made for the new logo design to be the crossed sword design with some modification to the star at the bottom corner of the diamond in the background of the logo. The star should be upside down like it is on the Arkansas State Flag.

Don Hamilton extended his thanks to the DAH staff for their accommodation to the members of the ACWSC.

Richard Davies suggested that the commission may want to save the artwork. Russell Baker, in talking to David Purdue, who is the guy who originally did the buckle, stated that if he could find the mold for the buckle he would produce some as a fundraiser at some point.

Don Hamilton gave a brief history about where the belt buckle design originated. This is the buckle that Omer Weaver had on at the Battle of Wilson Creek in 1861. The original is believed to be at the Arkansas History Commission. David Purdue and Don both have a few copies. Tom Sweeny has one copy, which is an engraved copy because of the general status of the officer who wore it.

### ***Budget Request discussion***

Jim Branson reported a logo budget of \$6,000 due to changes and registration. With no objections, this amount will be submitted to legislators.

The budget will need to be prepared through the 2009-2010 years. The money will be available July 1, 2009.

George Lankford asked if mileage needs to be added as a line item to the budget. Mark Christ reported that mileage is being taken care of internally by AHPP.

Richard Davies suggested that the budget should be separated into 2 categories. One is operations of the commission and the other is capital expenditures, with the first part being a priority.

Jamie Brandon stated that everything on the budget list has to do with capital expenditures.

Tom Dupree stated that the committee needs to decide how many times to meet in a year. Charles Durnett suggested quarterly meetings, but that the committee may need to meet in 2 months for things that may have been missed in the current meeting. Tom Dupree mentioned that the meetings were supposed to be monthly through April and then go to regular quarterly meetings after that. Richard Davies suggested having the next meeting in July at the beginning of the new fiscal year. Jim Branson and Jamie Brandon suggested budgeting for additional meetings in case there are extra meeting needed. Jamie suggested budgeting for 2 additional meeting, which puts the total for the budget at 6 meetings per year. Charles Durnett added that the sanctioning committee may have to meet more times than the regular meeting.

Richard Davies inquired about a full-time staff position for the ACWSC. After some discussion, it was determined that a person is needed as secretarial support to help with direction of correspondence and other tasks needed by the ACWSC.

Charles Durnett asked who the webmaster is and Richard Davies stated that Aristotle takes care of many of the state parks and tourism websites and that Aristotle is very good about training for changes to be made by the customer. Richard states that staff person will be able to handle the website.

It was suggested in principal that the budget should cover Commission expenses, office expenses, personnel expenses, travel expenses and the website. Richard Davies suggested that operations should have a staff person as secretarial support. Video, literature about the commission also needs to be addressed.

Marynell Branch advised that AHPP is funded by real estate transfer taxes, which are currently down considerably. The reality of hiring a secretary is not very feasible considering the agency (DAH) is currently making budget cuts. Cathie Matthew added that budget cuts do have to be addressed.

Jamie Brandon suggested that the budget for the ACWSC should offset what AHPP can cover.

Cathie Matthews stated that she believed there is a chance for the ACWSC to get their budget approved.

Jamie Brandon asked how much AHPP currently spends on the ACWSC meetings. Mark Christ stated that he could get those figures.

Richard Davies stated that the video for what the Commission is all about could be done for about \$10,000 and Cathie Matthews stated that the Commission needed to be sure that there is enough money. The amount was changed to \$12,000.

Danny Honnoll added that next years reenactment in Northeast Arkansas in March by a national reenactment group should be filmed.

Jamie Brandon restated a \$6,000 budget for the logo, and added that the website, meetings, staff person, film, and pamphlet literature also need a monetary amount set within the budget.

Richard Davies asked what is the maximum hours allotted to DAH for its part time employees. Marynell Branch stated 1,000 hours for half time positions. Richard Davies suggested leaving the decision to DAH about the staff help. Jamie Brandon asked about using an intern in public history for the staff position and Mark Christ stated that a request has been made for interns for AHPP. Marynell Branch stated that the commission may want to consider acquiring private funding for the position. Richard Davies asked if there are enough numbers for DAH the members to figure how much the budget will be for staffed help. Mark Christ, Cathie Matthews, and Marynell Branch agreed to work on that budget. Cathie Matthews suggested that members will have to help raise the funding for the extra help.

Jamie Brandon asked if Mark needed help with gathering information for the budget.

Mark stated that \$400,000 and \$25,000 lump sum was an initial request for the budget for the ACWSC.

Cathie Matthews stated that she believed that people are interested in what the commission is doing and the website.

### ***Discussion of capital expenditures***

Mark Christ pulled a list from previous meetings. It is attached at the back of the meeting agenda. Mark Christ stated that \$5,000 is the cost per marker. He is planning on going to Preserve America for grant funding for \$150,000 to establish a marker plan. \$100,000 was decided for the marker plan over a 2 year period.

Marynell Branch inquired about the \$5,000. Richard Davies stated that every marker needed an owner. A marker can not just be put up and left. The monetary amount is for maintenance. Tom Dupree asked if a marker program would decrease the request for markers, because people would assume that the commission is going to pay for them anyway.

Richard Davies suggested that a person requesting a marker should be putting some money up. Marynell Branch suggested having a money matching program. Mark Christ stated that there has to be ownership of each marker. Danny Honnoll stated that they ask

for money up front for locally owned marker at the ACWHTF. John Scott is working with markers on driving tours from St. Louis to Helena and stated that the program has yet to be funded.

Tom Dupree stated that people were very impressed with Arkansas's battle information and battlefield preservation at the Springfield, Missouri Civil War Preservation Trust meeting. These markers will help get the Arkansas Civil War experience out. John Scott added that people were impressed with the stories as well.

### ***Purchase of Artifacts***

George Lankford wanted to know who is going to own the artifacts, which is a question he believes legislation will ask. The commission has to come up with an argument regarding the funding for artifacts. Bill Gatewood will throw the State House name out as a place to house the ACWSC artifacts. He stated that the State House pays for acquisitions with NCRC money exclusively.

Don Hamilton stated that his experience is to ask for donations due to the number of fake artifacts that he has seen. Jamie Brandon added that donations may be a good idea, but behind the scene funding from a private donor may be necessary if donations don't work. Don Hamilton stated that Stephen McAteer has been able to get great donations.

Richard Davies encouraged the commission members to ask other agencies to slant towards the Civil War during the Sesquicentennial. Tom Dupree stated that several people have had items in on loan at the Jacksonville Military History Museum. Bill Gatewood suggested having artifacts days to encourage people to come out and donate. Richard Davies stated that people have brought in papers and artifacts for the U. S. Marshals at a previous event.

Mark Christ suggested tabling artifacts and manuscript, at this time.

### ***Subvention Funding for publications on the Civil War and it effects on Arkansas***

Mark Christ suggested tabling subvention for now. Richard Davies asked Mark Christ for his advice. Bill Gatewood and Mark Christ talked about on-demand digital publishing. They have recently established a partnership with the Butler Center for Arkansas Studies to publish the proceedings of the annual conference that are held at the Old State House. Richard Davies asked who paid for that. Bill Gatewood stated, for instance, that Mark Christ edits the publication himself, but the publisher will also have editors. Each publication would cost up to \$10,000 for offset printing, but only \$1,000 with on demand printing. The publishing has to be bid on because of the state agency factor. Richard Davies suggested obtaining subvention funding as a grant. Mark Christ suggested working through the Humanities Council. Jamie Brandon suggested that the ACWSC may better know we want after the "Holes in History" conference. Tom Dupree suggested to Danny Honnoll that the foundation may need to concentrate on getting matching funding from different foundations around the state specifically for subvention

and speakers. There is discussion of speaker fees. Mark Christ stated that usual fee is \$300 per speaker for the speech and the written article that appears in the publications. Mark Christ suggested that for over two years maybe \$3,000 and Jamie Brandon stated maybe \$2,000 this time and \$3,000 later. George Lankford doesn't see subvention working as a line item. Mark Christ stated that the May 19, 2008, meeting would help decide what the commission should do about subvention. The decision is made to table the subvention discussion until after the "Holes in History" Conference.

### ***Preparation of DVD for presentation to local service clubs***

Richard Davies suggested that he and Cathie Matthews do DVD preparation. He suggests 8 or 9 minutes. Mark Christ stated that the UDC called this morning they said they want someone from the ACWSC to speak at the convention in October. Don Hamilton would like to add excerpts into the DVD of Shelby Foote from his Vicksburg campaign when he goes into great detail on Helena and Arkansas Post. Richard Davies told Don to get the information to him. Ellen DiMaggio asked what the video is for and it is clarified that the DVD is for verification of what the ACWSC is. It is determined that the Shelby Foote excerpt may not be suitable for this DVD.

Tom Dupree Adjourned the meeting at 11:30 a.m. until 1:00 p.m.

The meeting reconvened at 1:07 p.m.

### ***Preparation of Podcast Discussion***

Mark Christ stated that the podcast would fit with the website as part of operations.

### ***Lesson Plans/Audio Visual presentation to K-12 Students Discussion***

John Scott mentioned that there is a lesson plan for K-12. Jamie Brandon added that the Butler Center has 3 Civil War-themed lesson plans. Richard Davies and Mark Christ both suggested that we find out what they have. Mark suggested creating links on the website so people can access them. George Lankford suggested that the collection may be a good candidate for the commission's publication. Tom Dupree asked if there are coloring books for younger children and no one is sure without checking first. Jamie Brandon stated that he believes the lesson plans at the Butler Center are geared toward different age groups.

### ***Discussion on making existing films like "The Edge of Conflict" more widely available***

After determining that "The Edge of Conflict" is owned by AETN, Richard Davies suggests that Alan Weatherly would be happy to update or make the film available for distribution. Charles Durnett suggested that there should be a budget item for the film. Jamie Brandon stated that Pea Ridge has a great film and John Scott is about 80% sure that the Pea Ridge footage is public domain. Richard Davies believes this may be

another information gathering project. He inquired as to whether the videos can be made viewable or downloadable from the website.

John Scott added that Andy Thomas has done a series of 12 paintings of the Battle of Pea Ridge and has given permission to use 10 of them as long as they are used for educational purposes. Richard Davies stated that a mural of a battle would cost \$8000 and the artist gives prints that would allow the commission to sell at \$100 a piece in order to earn money back. John Scott stated that the artist may be too expensive because he has recently sold a painting for a high dollar amount. The commission members decided that more information gathering needs to be done.

### ***Funding for battlefield and other site acquisitions***

Mark Christ went to the Preservation Trust Conference in Springfield, Missouri, and the people at the Trust were very interested in spending money for this type of project. They like to match dollar for dollar. The Commission could make an argument for statewide need and desire. Richard Davies asked for any guidance on how much money might go to a state like Arkansas. Tom Dupree explained that the process is like partnerships, and he believes the Commission needs specifics. Richard Davies asked if there is a want list for Civil War areas that we are interested in. Mark Christ said there is. John Scott believes there is interest by the Trust and the average cost is \$10,000 an acre. Tom Dupree suggested trying to leverage with the Trust. John Scott stated that property for sale may be bought and kept by the Trust until the Commission is able to purchase it. George Lankford asked if the General Assembly funds will be placed with a foundation. Jamie Brandon and Richard Davies asked if AHPP could make the purchase. Richard Davies explains the process for grants application. Marynell Branch explained the importance of timing. Mark Christ explained his take on seed money. George Lankford wanted no problems. Tom Dupree explained that obtaining seed money can give way to advanced planning. Tom Dupree stated that the Trust is interested in the Trans-Mississippi Region, so the ACWSC needs to try to get ready for them. Mark Christ suggested \$100,000 a year for 2 years, which would be \$400,000 for the biennium with matching money.

Tom discussed prices per acre in Arkansas and how it depends on what type of property it is and where it is located. Charles Durnett suggested bumping to \$300,000 (\$150,000 per year). Tom Dupree suggested asking for little less the first year and increasing it the second year. Mark Christ said that the Trust has a government affairs person that will be able to give the commission some guidance.

### ***2011 commission sponsored signature opening event discussion***

Jamie Brandon stated that the commission needs to discuss what to do for the event. John Scott stated that he is in the process of redoing the exhibit for Pea Ridge. He suggested doing an opening event that is unique to Arkansas. The question should be asked, "What was the legacy of the Civil War in Arkansas?" This is what the commission needs to address. The sesquicentennial marks one hundred and fifty years to

the month that the debates in the old State House were going on about secession. He suggested panel discussion that addresses the importance of the Civil War to Arkansas in 2011 (from the Civil War to Civil Rights). Ellen DiMaggio agreed with John Scott and suggests the use of the State House and thinks that he has introduced an excellent concept. Charles Durnett believes the John Scott suggestion will draw in the younger generations. Jamie Brandon also thinks John Scott has a good idea and that it makes the Commission make the case for why the sesquicentennial celebration of the Civil War was relevant to Arkansans. Richard Davies agreed. It sets us up and he sees it as a good speaker instead of debate giving views of why Arkansas's economy is the way it is today and how that goes all the way back to the Civil War. John Scott discussed and explains his idea further and how the discussion needs to address multiple view points. Charles Durnett suggested looking at the format that Mark Christ uses in August at the Civil War seminars. George Lankford likes the idea because of the explanation piece and asked about making this an event that AETN can do as a live broadcast.

Dora Kate Lee would like to see all of the theories about the causes for the Civil War brought up in the discussion that John Scott is suggesting. Jamie Brandon states that the Commission needs to discuss the cost. Richard Davies states that there are two costs to consider, one is what it costs to put the event on the air and the other is what Allen Weatherly says needs to be raised for the program. John Scott also suggested contacting the History Chanel.

Tom Dupree asks about clarification for what the Commission is proposing. John Scott stated that the question is "Why did the legislature of Arkansas vote for secession? Why is it important? Why did we go to war? Why do we care today? Why is it important to pass down the Civil War stories to present and future generations?"

Richard Davies believes everything comes down to kids and why they should be questioning the reason for the Civil War and what the connection is today.

Jamie Brandon asked for the cost for this item.

Richard Davies restates that this part of the budget should be in two pieces Gatewood may have to say what it would cost to bring in speakers; the other piece is the publication or television side (Allen Weatherly would be able to advise the Commission on how much money is needed to air the program). The History Channel may also be interested. Marynell Branch advised that the decision for the budget for May 2011 event will be made in 9 months.

Charles Durnett stated that AETN would be a good way to broadcast a living history in various locations throughout the state.

George Lankford suggested following this meeting with meetings discussion topics for sesquicentennial annual events. Tom Dupree thinks the Commission needs to come up with a physical year past 2011 through 2015 to look at as a guideline so that legislators have an idea of the Commission's goals. Richard Davies suggested following Mark

Christ's book which follows what was happening in Arkansas one year at a time. This will help give some sort of road map. Danny Honnoll agreed.

Charles Durnett suggested gathering some numbers from AETN and the Old State House and suggested budgeting money to go to living history. Ellen DiMaggio stated that there needs to be a representative segment of society involved in the event.

George Lankford moved and Richard Davies seconded a motion to adopt events discussed as opening of 2011 Commission sponsored event.

Jamie Brandon asked Mark Christ if there is anything that the Commission members can do to help him gather information. Mark stated that he would be getting back with the members once he digests some of the information discussed in this meeting. Richard Davies offered to call Allen Weatherly.

### ***Funding for Local Museum Exhibits discussion***

George Lankford suggested asking for a portion of money for county historical societies or anyone else who is willing to put together matching money for exhibits (dollar for dollar), but each county would have to compete. It would be ideal to have something in all 75 counties. Richard Davies suggested the average 10 foot exhibit at \$100 to \$200 per foot as an example for each county to base a monetary on that they would have to pay for an exhibit. Mark Christ suggested going beyond just local exhibits, but also events.

Charles Durnett asked what the physical process is for the budget. Cathie Matthews asks Richard Davies if the budget will be part of the DAH budget. Richard Davies replied that the budget will have to be housed and could be a separate budget with DAH. He also brought back up Marynell Branch's point regarding the Governor's recommendation. It is time to get the word to the Governor that the ACWSC budget is important. He states that the Governor has to prepare a balanced budget, so it is easier to get the budget in on the front end so that the budget will not be left out. Waiting would mean that money would have to be taken from somewhere else to go to the commission if the budget request is not submitted before the Governor submits his final budget. It is suggested that the ACWHTF get involved in lobbying or getting the word out so that the Governor will recognize it when it comes across his desk. The Commission may not hear anything about the decisions until around October or November, after this the Governor's budget is submitted in May or early June, the Governor will not know what the decision is until October or November, 3 to 4 day before the Governor goes to the Joint Budget Committee and they will adopt the budget or change it, he is given the decision on the budget he submitted, It will go as a joint budget bill to the General Assembly and they will make the decision.

Richard Davies advised the members to get the word out to the Governor about the ACWSC budget.

Tom Dupree also suggested to Danny Honnoll that the ACWATF would be a good group to contact the governor. Richard Davies finished explaining the process of passing a budget. Marynell Branch and Richard Davies explained how to address legislature regarding the ACWSC budget. Marynell stated that the more the legislatures hear about the commission the better.

### *New Business*

Jim Branson suggested thinking about and preparing for fundraising in case of financial shortfalls. John Scott explained Wal-Mart's donation process for their grant program. Wal-Mart has passed giving down to local stores. There is also one large grant for state of Arkansas. He offered to get the info and get it out to the members.

Mark Christ will address Preserve America regarding grant for markers program.

John Scott also suggested contacting the Coca Cola Company and the History Channel regarding what the commission is doing. He can do anything outside of actually asking for the money.

Charles Durnett inquired about David O. Dodd program information. Jim Branson stated that the minutes of previous meetings may have to be reviewed to see who was supposed to get the information and come back to it later. No one is sure who may have the information. Cathie Matthews suggested asking Scott Carter.

George Lankford asked about news release regarding the new logo and Mark Christ will work on it and get the news release out. Richard suggested releasing the purposes of the commission and the new logo. Mark will send a draft out to everyone in the next couple of weeks.

Once the website is up, Richard Davies suggested that everyone get the word out to all the websites to get everything linked.

Ellen DiMaggio asked about the next meeting and it is scheduled for Wednesday, July 30, 2008, at 10:00 a.m. Meetings will be on a quarterly basis unless there is a reason to meet sooner.

Mark Christ announced the "Holes in History" meeting at Trapnall Hall on May 19, 2008, at 10:00 a. m. Anyone who plans on coming will need to contact Mark and let him know so he can make appropriate plans. George Lankford asked if there are any volunteers for speakers for the meeting yet. Mark Christ stated that Tom DeBlack is all he currently has but asked that the Commission members let him know if they have anyone in mind. So far it looks like there will be about 30 people in attendance.

Ellen DiMaggio announced that the Arkansas Toothpick website is starting to compile cemetery references from both Confederate and Union across the state starting with

Chicot County. The website is looking nice. There is a place for a picture of the grave site and details about the grave. She believes it will be a dynamic resource.

Meeting was adjourned by Tom Dupree at 2:39 p.m.