

ALHA

ARKANSAS LIVING HISTORY ASSOCIATION

Volume 6, Issue 4

Summer 2012

Observations on European Living History: Salamanca 200

Randall Watts
Powhatan, Arkansas

My wife and I recently returned from a Napoleonic War reenactment in Spain. We participated in the 200th Anniversary commemoration of the Battle of Salamanca or Arapiles. I joined a British unit in anticipation of attending a few of the bicentennials culminating in Waterloo in June 2015. I noticed several differences in attitudes and a safety practices that I'd like to share.

The trip to Salamanca was uneventful, but once there our careful planning began to unravel. The unit I'd joined, the 32nd Cornwall Regiment of Foot, experienced motor coach issues. After 18 hours broken down on the side of the road, they called it quits. I ended up being the only 32nd member at the event. Luckily my sergeant went to great lengths to find a unit to fall in with. I eventually joined up with the 42nd Highland Regiment for the weekend.

European weapons laws are quite restrictive; however, you can be sponsored by a British citizen to allow you to be a "firer", someone who actually shoots at an event. Since my sponsors were not on site, I had to assume a non-firing role as acting

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ALHA Member, Randall Watts (center) holding the colors of the 42nd Highland Regiment at the reenactment Battle of Salamanca.

ensign with the 42nd.

Kristyn and I were the only Americans on the field (that we know of), but there were many nationalities present. The 42nd comprised British, New Zealander, German, and Spanish members. French, Spanish, Dutch, Italian, Portuguese, Ukrainians and Lithuanians made up the bulk of the

See "Europe" on page 3

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

September 13, 2012; 7pm

The Soldier's Song - A Reader's Theatre Musical
Old State House Museum

The Soldier's Song is a multi-media reader's theatre musical that tells the story of the Civil War in a historically-accurate and entertaining way, incorporating both the music of the era and newly-written songs.

Admission: \$10

CONTACT:

Ian Beard

300 W. Markham, Little Rock, AR 72201

501-324-8642

ian@arkansasheritage.org

September 22, 2012; 10am – 2pm

2012 Heritage Days

Grant County Museum

The day will focus upon Arkansas living history presentations and Arkansas native arts and crafts. A food vender will be available for visitors wishing to purchase a lunch. There will be no admission charge, but donations are always appreciated.

Admission: Free.

CONTACT:

D.J. Wallace

museum4@windstream.net

September 22, 2012; 10am – 2pm

Historic Games Day

Powhatan Historic State Park

When was the last time you played croquet, jumped a potato sack race, or played marbles? Join the staff at Powhatan Historic State Park to play these games and enjoy the day with us. In partnership with Take a Child Outside Week, the park will have booths featuring games played by all ages from the Victorian Era to today, as well as several races. Some of the games offered to play include old-fashioned sack races, croquet, graces, marbles, tag and freeze tag, apple dunking, jump rope, jacks, yo-yos, checkers, horseshoes, and more. So bring your family, a picnic lunch, some lawn chairs, and spend the day enjoying a little bit of Yesteryear!

Admission: Free.

CONTACT:

Mary Buchman

PO Box 93, Powhatan, AR 72458

870-878-6765

mary.buchman@arkansas.gov

District 4 Offers Clothing Workshop



ALHA member Michael Terrell will provide a workshop on mid-nineteenth century clothing at Historic Washington State Park.

**Beginners Clothing/Fashion Workshop
Historic Washington State Park
Washington, Arkansas
September 22, 2012
10 a.m. - 12 p.m.**

Do you want to learn the basics of who wore what, when, where, and how for period correct clothing? This workshop will cover some of the styles from 1830 - 1870, including undergarments. Feel free to bring your items and get suggestions on how to dress correctly for events and re-enactments. A tour of the Historic Washington Wardrobe Department will be included. This workshop is free to members of Arkansas Living History Association (ALHA).

Lunch will be on your own and can be ordered off the menu at Williams' Tavern Restaurant or brown bag at the picnic tables in the park.

Contact Leita Spears, District 4 representative, for further information.

To register

Phone 870-983-2862 or

Email leita.spears@arkansas.gov

October 5, 2012

Johnny Cash Music Festival

Arkansas State University

The second annual Johnny Cash Music Festival will be held on Friday, October 5 at Arkansas State University's Convocation Center in Jonesboro. The lineup includes Rosanne Cash, Willie Nelson, Dierks Bentley and The Civil Wars. All concert proceeds benefit the ongoing "Historic Dyess Colony: Boyhood Home of Johnny Cash" restoration project. Tickets are on sale now and can be purchased at www.johnnycashmusicfest.com.

October 12-13, 2012

Fort Gibson Fall Encampment

Fort Gibson Historic Site

On October 12th and 13th, Fort Gibson Historic Site in Fort Gibson, OK will host its annual Fall Encampment. Museum goers will experience a hands-on look at what life was like in the 1840's as they're taken back in time during this amazing event. Watch as the soldiers drill with their muskets. Listen to the fifes and drums as they play patriotic songs. Feel the boom from the cannon as it fires, and smell the beautiful flowers and herbs being grown in the historic garden. This program is truly an experience for all senses as we celebrate the 188th year of Fort Gibson. Friday's Education Day activities are geared towards students as a number of stations will be set up to teach different aspects of 19th Century Military life in Indian Territory. All ages are welcome! Saturday is a day for the whole family as everyone will get a taste of what military life was like at Fort Gibson.

Admission: Free

CONTACT:

Correy Twilley

907 N. Garrison, Fort Gibson, OK 74434

918-478-4088

figibson@okhistory.org

October 18, 2012; 7pm

Victorian Halloween Magic-Lantern Show!

Old State House Museum

America's only 1890s visual extravaganza projected on a full-sized screen – the kind of boisterous show that led to the movies! Spooktacular stories like The Raven, animated comedy, and songs – all dramatized on screen by a live showman and singer/pianist. NPR calls it, "An incredible experience . . . a living national treasure!"

For adults and children 6+.

Admission: \$10

CONTACT:

Ian Beard

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"Grant County" from page 1

French Army.

Powder rations were distributed Friday morning by the Guardia Civil, a Spanish para-military police force. Each firer presented their paperwork, and if all was in order they signed for and received a can of black powder. Once the powder was issued, the Guardia Civil drove off and left us to our own devices. Everyone formed up and the 500+ reenactors began the 3 kilometer march to the battlefield, the original battlefield, for the mock battle. This practice session let everyone get familiar with the site and with working together. Once the commanders were satisfied, we marched back to camp.

I was surprised to find that the infantry loaded and rammed each round. They returned to the shoulder after loading and a sergeant would peer down the line looking for protruding ramrods, if none were seen, the company was clear to fire a volley (that was the theory at least). No ramrods went sailing that Saturday, but one of the unit members had earned his "Silver Arrow" at previous event.

Skirmishers were sent out to screen the main line of soldiers. Intermittently, the cavalry would "attack" an opposing line. That line would collapse into a square and the cavalry would ride around it. In the US, most battle re-enactments discourage the exchange of blows between blades and bayonets, or hand-to-hand combat. Not so much here. At Salamanca, the bayonets would already be fixed to the musket when the square was formed, and as the cavalry soldier rode up to the Square, they would look to the soldiers in the line for permission to tap their swords to bayonets. The infantry soldier would nod his head yes or no. Each square shouted as the cavalry attacked it. The 42nd would shout "Boo" or "Yay," the Rifle Regiments would growl like a tiger, and another unit just screamed.

When British reenactors talk about Salamanca, they say, "it took Wellington 45 minutes to best 45,000 Frenchmen." Therefore the reenactment of this momentous occasion only took 2 hours! Controlling the 5,000 spectators was not a high priority, and what little control there was vanished when the battle began and the cavalry rode off to join in. The combatants were encircled on all sides and as the units maneuvered, the battleground shrank until the opposing lines couldn't have pulled more than a few yards apart at most.

Once the lines became close enough, we engaged each other in hand-to-hand combat. This consisted of the two lines walking into each other, and either exchanging handshakes, yells, or laughter. The advancing line would step over the dead and wounded and the "dead" would rise and circle back to their ranks. It was a very clean battlefield; no dead to be found anywhere!

October 19, 2012; 7pm – 10pm

Ghost Walk

Powhatan Historic State Park

Powhatan and Northeast Arkansas have a long, rich history, so it only makes sense that there are probably a few ghosts still wandering around. Century-old buildings, the Black River and old cemeteries play host to a number of Powhatan's ghost stories, folktales and legends. What makes the rattling in the jail? Who is that you see in the second story window of the courthouse as you drive by at night? Come join us for a Ghost Walk, and get introduced to the spirits and spine-tingling tales of ghostly happenings! These ghostly tales may very well be hauntingly true, or more likely just flights of fancy. We'll let you decide...

Admission: \$2/adult, \$1/children 6-12, 5 & under free

CONTACT:

Mary Buchman

PO Box 93, Powhatan, AR 72458

870-878-6765

mary.buchman@arkansas.gov

November 17, 2012; 10am – 4pm

Prelude to Prairie Grove: Fall 1862 in Little Rock

Old State House Museum

Examine the political and military build up to the Prairie Grove Campaign at this living history event. Costumed interpreters and reenactors will explore everyday life of both civilians and soldiers as well as the political issues that engulfed the state during this critical year of the Civil War in Arkansas.

Admission: Free

CONTACT:

Ian Beard

300 W. Markham, Little Rock, AR 72201

501-324-8642

ian@arkansasheritage.org

November 23-25, 2012

15th Annual Mountain Rendezvous

Petit Jean State Park

Experience a primitive camp, and learn some of the survival skills used by Arkansas pioneers. Watch a variety of demonstrations including muzzleloading rifles, tomahawk throwing and more.

Admission: Free.

CONTACT:

Rachel Engebrecht

1285 Petit Jean Mtn. Road, Morrilton, AR 72110

501-727-6512

rachelengebrecht@arkansas.gov

Put your event or program in the ALHA Calendar. Send your Winter Event submissions for the Fall newsletter by

November 15.

The women's roles during a European battle are much different than an American re-enactment. In America, the women are usually relegated to the sidelines as spectators, unless they either disguise themselves as a man, or there is historical evidence supporting their presence on the field (think Molly Pitcher, etc.). In Spain, women were encouraged to dress in uniform to fill the ranks, either as soldiers (infantry and cavalry), flag-bearers, or as musicians (drummers, fifes, and bagpipes). The women, who were not in military roles and dressed as civilians, weren't kept to the sidelines. Their jobs were to supply the soldiers with water. In between the volleys, women would run up to the line with a cup and bottle of water, and pass the cup to the soldiers, refilling it each time. When the sergeant yelled, "ready," they'd run back behind the line by at least 10 yards, to get out of the way of the battle and any supposed danger.

The final interesting difference was community involvement. The active duty militaries of the United Kingdom, Spain, Portugal, and France all sent at least one platoon sized element to participate. The modern Rifle Regiment and the recreated one conducted a ceremony atop the Greater Arapile to commemorate their first battle honour. The Spanish Army provided music and emergency medical personnel, and all four nations participated in the ceremony in Salamanca's Plaza Mayor, to mark the occasion.



150th Anniversary
Battle of Fayetteville,
Arkansas
April 20, 2013

WANTED!

Proposals for Workshops,
Sessions, Panels, and
Presentations

2013 ALHA Conference
March 1-3, 2013

Delta Cultural Center
Helena, Arkansas

“Developing Depth
of Character Deep
in the Delta”

Submit ideas to Ian Beard at
ian@arkansasheritage.org



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**KEEP UP TO DATE
WITH OTHER
MEMBERS AND THEIR
LIVING HISTORY
EVENTS**

**POST YOUR OWN PICTURES OF
LIVING HISTORY EVENTS ON
FACEBOOK AND BECOME A
FRIEND!!!**

2011 ALHA Officers

President	Kristyn Watts kristyn.watts@arkansas.gov
Vice President	Barbara Ward barbara@arkansasheritage.org
Secretary	Pody Gay pgay@springdalear.gov
Treasure	Tess Kidd tesstucker@aol.com
Comm. Dir.	Josh Williams josh.williams@arkansas.gov

District Representatives

District 1	Ben Swadley ben.swadley@arkansas.gov
District 2	Ian Beard ian@arkansasheritage.org
District 3	Steve Dunlap sedunlap@agfc.state.ar.us
District 4	Leita Spears leita.spears@arkansas.gov

Arkansas Living History Association 2012 Membership Registration

Name: _____
Institution: _____
Position: _____
Street: _____
City, State, ZIP: _____
Phone: _____ Email: _____
FAX: _____ Web site: _____

Type of Membership:

___ **Individual: \$12** Any adult, 18 yrs of age or older. The member shall have full voting privileges in the ALHA as a general member.

___ **Institutional: \$50** This includes 5 members with full voting privileges. \$10 per additional member over the first 5.

_____ Number of Additional Members X \$10 = _____

Please list the 5 members to receive the newsletter and their email addresses:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

Help us learn more about you.

Periods of Interest: _____

Areas of Interest: _____

What you would like to receive from ALHA: (this will help us develop training opportunities, meetings, workshops, etc.)

Please make Checks Payable to: ALHA

Please send Registration along with Payment to:

Pody Gay, ALHA Secretary
Shiloh Museum of Ozark History
118 West Johnson Avenue
Springdale. AR 72764

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