



Civil War Marker at Old Military Road and Highways 7/67 near Caddo River bridge

Civil War Marker Placed in Clark County in 2014

In the spring of 1865, after four years of fighting, the American Civil War finally came to a close. As a part of the observation of the war's sesquicentennial, a number of Civil War-related programs and events have told the story of what happened in this area of Arkansas, when military activity reached its zenith in the southwestern portion of the state.

Last year, the Arkansas Civil War Sesquicentennial Commission awarded a grant to the Clark County Historical Association for a marker highlighting Clark County's role in the war. The marker stands at the junction of Highways 7/67 and Old Military Road, near the Caddo River bridge. One side of the marker describes the significance of Military Road as a major transportation artery during the Civil War and throughout Arkansas's early history: "The Military Road, following the route of the old Southwest Trail, passed through the heart of Clark County. Both Confederate and Union troops used the road. Gen. Sterling Price's Confederates retreated down the road after Little Rock fell in September 1863. Gen. Frederick Steele's Union army took the road during the Camden Expedition and stayed in Arkadelphia March 29 to April 1, 1864, before heading southwest. Confederate troops skirmished with Steele at Terre Noire Creek and Okolona before the Union army left the county at Elkins' Ferry on the Little Missouri."

The marker's other side describes Arkadelphia's role as a Confederate manufacturing and supply center during the war: "Arkadelphia was a manufacturing center for Confederate Arkansas early in the Civil War. Gen. Thomas Hindman established a powder works and an arsenal in 1862, producing guns, cannon, bullets, shells, wagons and caissons. Tanning yards provided harnesses, bridles, saddles, knapsacks and shoes. Tons of salt were produced at Arkadelphia, and a chemical laboratory there helped create such medicines as calomel, castor oil, spirits of nitre and tinctures of iron, with citizens providing the plants, weeds and herbs needed as raw materials to make the medicine."

