

A DRIVING TOUR of ARKANSAS COUNTY HISTORICAL MARKERS and SITES

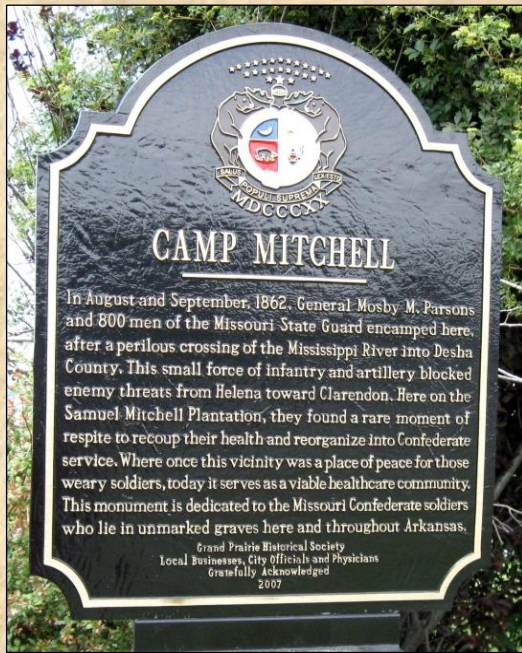
(See enclosed map)

Arkansas County dates to 1813, when it was founded as part of Missouri Territory.



St. Charles Civil War Monument

Take this interesting and leisurely driving tour of Arkansas County, a part of the renowned Grand Prairie of Arkansas! You will visit many historic sites, from those with markers and monuments, to places listed on the National and Arkansas Historic Registers. After taking this tour of our region, you will have a new appreciation for its historical significance.



Our tour starts at Baptist Health Medical Center, 1703 N. Buerkle Road in Stuttgart, the Rice and Duck Capital of the World. On the southeast corner of the hospital grounds is a marker dedicated to Camp Mitchell, the site of a Missouri State Guard encampment during the Civil War. (Both markers map key 1)



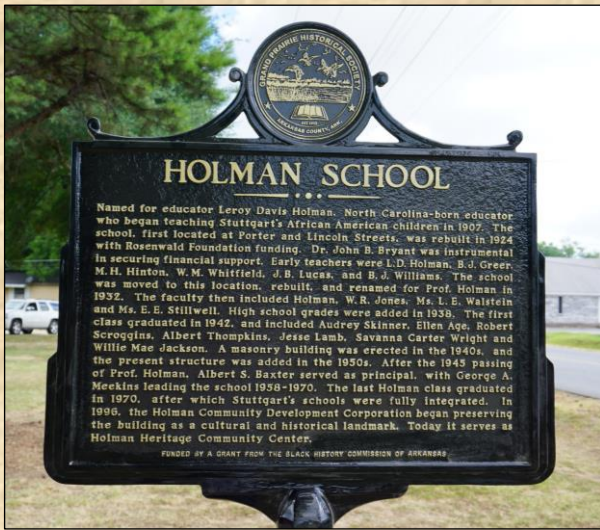
Love Rest Green Grove Cemetery served as Stuttgart's African American burial ground over many decades. The cemetery, located west of Park Avenue on the south side of Hwy. 79, is in an appropriately shaded setting.



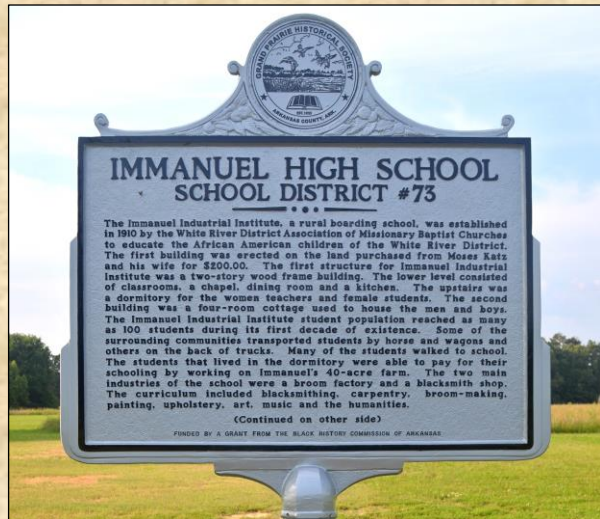
Grand Avenue United Methodist Church at 705 S. Grand Avenue was founded 1887 as a Methodist Episcopal Church (North), as Midwestern settlers began to arrive on the Grand Prairie. (Map 1)



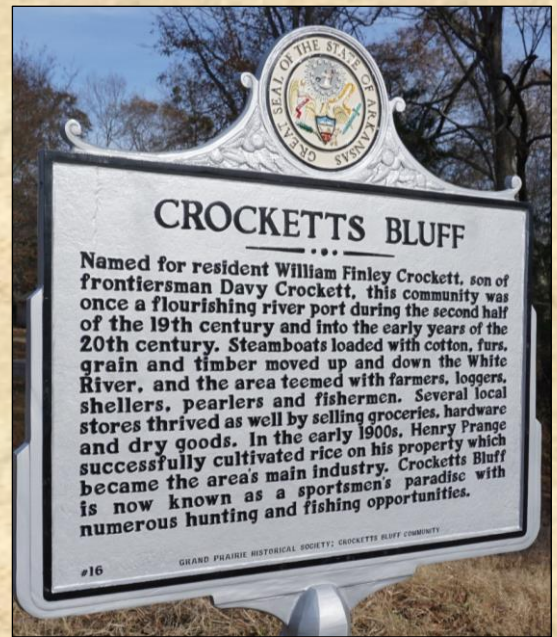
The Arkansas County Courthouse (Northern District) at Third and College Streets was built in 1928. Stuttgart was founded by Adam Buerkle, a Lutheran pastor who accompanied a colony of settlers from Ohio. It is home to the Wings over the Prairie Festival, one of Arkansas's largest, as well as several agricultural research stations and much of the nation's rice and soybean processing.



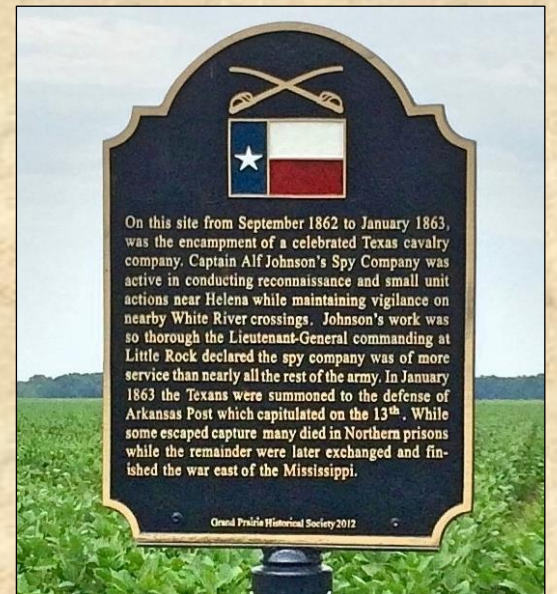
Holman Heritage Community Center at 605 N. Buerkle was formerly Holman School, where generations of African American students were educated. The school was originally founded by the Rosenwald Foundation. From Stuttgart, the tour continues east on Ark. Highway 130, past Dale Bumpers National Rice Research Center, Univ. of Arkansas Rice Research and Extension Center, and the Stuttgart National Aquaculture Research Center. East of Almyra, continue on Hwy. 33 to Immanuel where the former African American Immanuel High School is preserved. GPS 34.401431, -91.323381. (Map 2).

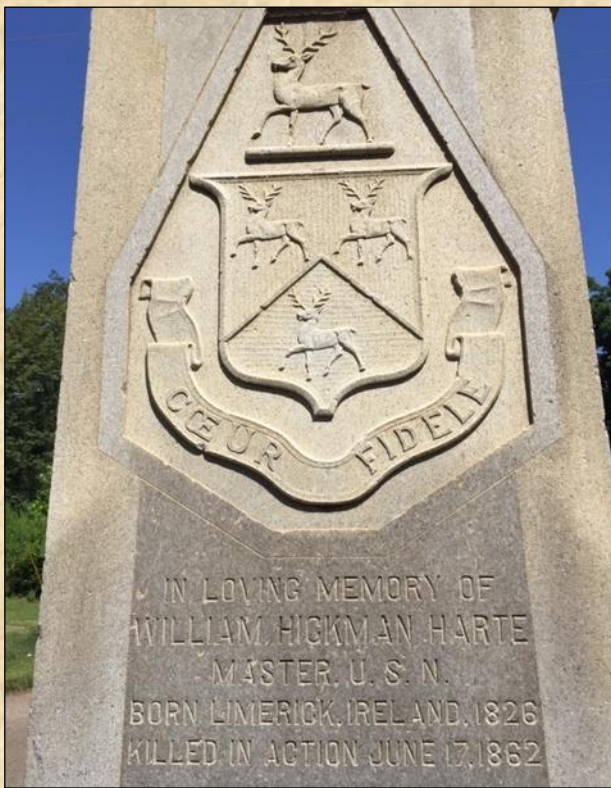


Continuing north on Hwy. 33, turn east on Hwy. 153 to Shiloh Methodist Church and Cemetery, located in a very peaceful setting. East along Hwy. 153 is Crocketts Bluff (Map 3). Take in a great view of the White River, formerly a vital route for transportation and commerce.



The town was named for William Crockett, a son of the famous Davy. Across from the marker is Schwab Store, a typical 20th century mercantile business. Continue south on Hwy. 153 to the Johnson's Spy Company marker. This plaque commemorates the Alf Johnson Spy Company, a Texas cavalry unit who fought the Union advance along White River during the Civil War. The celebrated unit encamped on this site from September 1862 to January 1863. GPS 34.384566, -91.223933. (Map 4)





Next on the itinerary is St. Charles, east on Ark. Hwy. 1. (Map 5). The historic river port was site of the most destructive single shot fired in the Civil War. Cannon fire from a Confederate gun battery pierced the steam drum of the USS *Mound City*, killing over 100 men in the process. The monument above at 610 W. Broadway is thought to be the nation's only memorial to the dead on both sides of a conflict. Eastward along Broadway at 303 is a marker commemorating Joe Deane and Son's Hardware Store. This establishment originally served as an outlet for goods received from steamboats on White River. The naval battle took place a short distance east.



Marker located at 121 Belknap Ave., St. Charles. (Map 5)



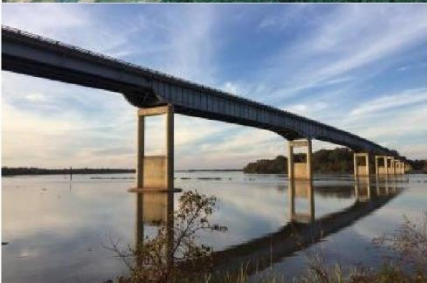
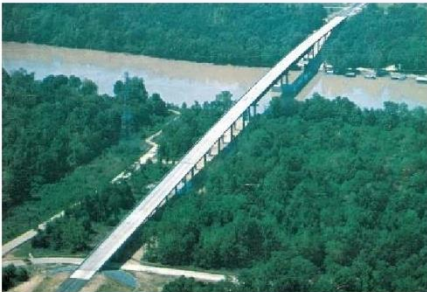
Drive west on Hwy. 1 to DeWitt. Arkansas County's Southern District Courthouse stands in the town's center. On the lawn is a monument to the county's service personnel lost in our nation's wars. Here are some of the oldest county record books west of the Mississippi River. This is the state's only square into which streets terminate, to encourage travelers to pause in the commercial district, rather than pass through. (Map 6)



Arkansas County



St. Charles Bridge (David Hunter photo; map 5)



Wayne Hampton Bridge, Pendleton (map 11)

Like its neighbor to the north, DeWitt's business district has many restored buildings. Check out the murals, part of the 1939 48-States Mural Competition, located inside the DeWitt Post Office at 221 W. Cross St. The 1860 Halliburton House at 300 W. Halliburton St. is the oldest occupied dwelling in the county. Head south on US Hwy. 165, then west on Ark. Hwy. 276 for ten miles and you will arrive at the Bayou Meto community, where three markers are located. (Map 7)



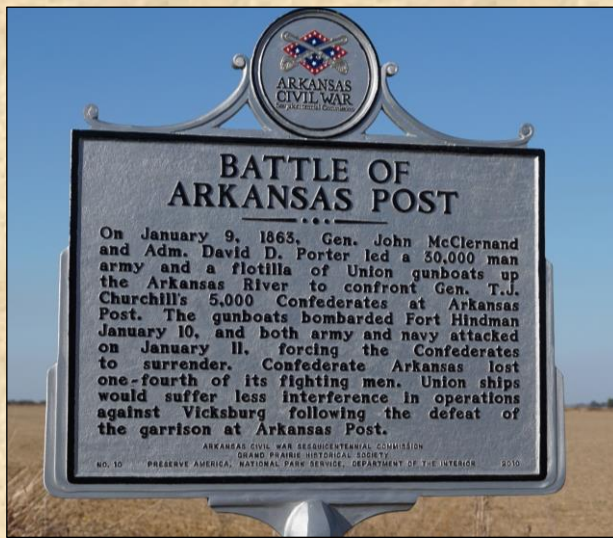
The Bayou Meto United Methodist Church and Bayou Meto Cemetery plaques are located along Hwy. 276 at GPS 34.223410, -91.519465. (Map 7)



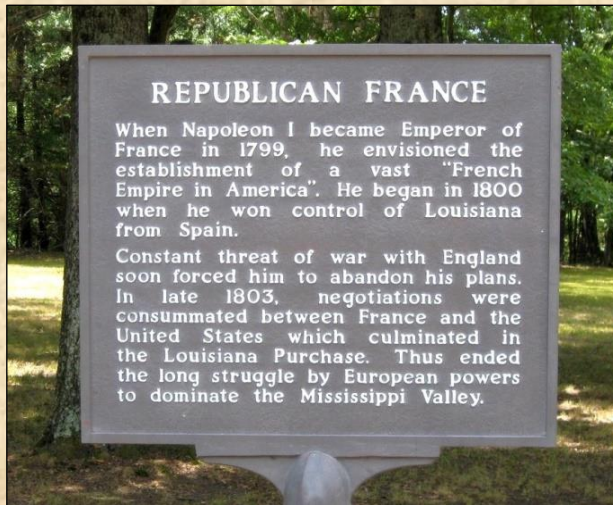
Bayou Meto Schoolhouse Lodge, 1178 Highway 276. GPS 34.22284, -91.51166 (Map 7). One of few remaining rural school buildings in the county, it has been restored and now serves as a waterfowl hunting lodge. Return on Hwy. 276 eastward to Hwy. 165, then turn right (south) toward Gillett and Arkansas Post.



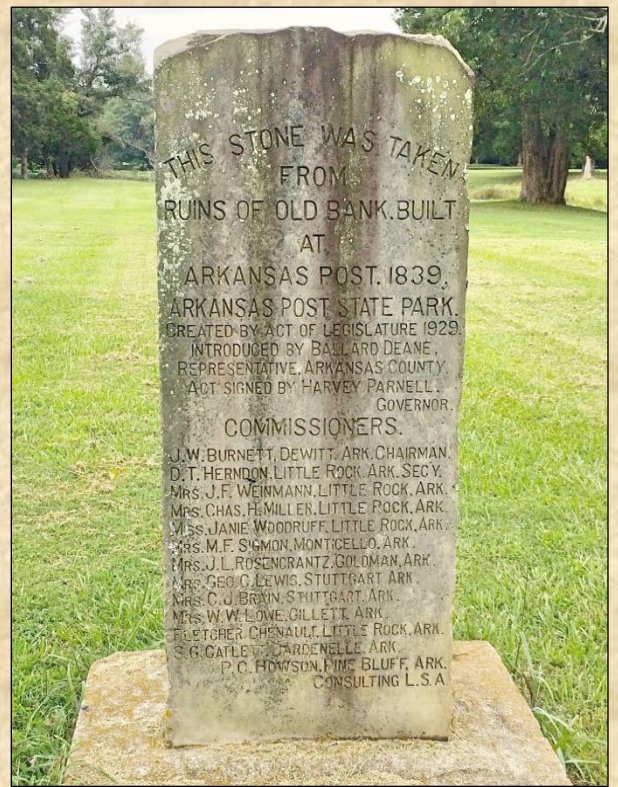
At the corner of Hwy. 165 and Post Bayou Lane stands a Fairbanks-Morse Type "Y" irrigation pump engine, one of few remaining. This preserved example was installed in 1945 by Gillett area rice planter A. M. Bohnert. GPS 34.043412, -91.373417. (Map 8)



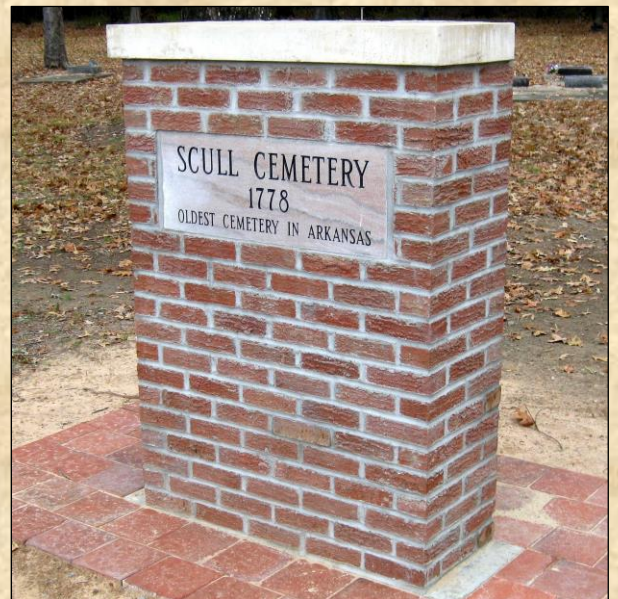
A short distance south along Hwy. 165, at the junction of Ark. Hwy. 169, is this marker describing the 1863 Battle of Arkansas Post (Map 9). Just across the road is Arkansas Post Museum State Park, and the 1877 Refeld-Hinman House, a dogtrot-style log cabin which once stood in the original state park (now national memorial). Continue on Hwy. 169 to Arkansas Post Nat'l Memorial.



West of the visitor center is a series of eight markers interpreting several eras of Arkansas Post's history. The periods are Five Flags, The European Settlement, The French Period, The Post Under Spain, Republican France, The American Era, The Post of Arkansas, and The Southern Confederacy. These are located on the walking trail near Post Lake. A number of interpretive panels are also located around the Memorial. (Map 10)



This marker, made of material from the 1839 Arkansas State Bank, is near the National Memorial visitor center.



Leaving the National Memorial, continue up Post Rd. to Scull Cemetery, the oldest known European cemetery in the state. GPS 34.03658, -91.33785. (Map 10)



Wayne Hampton Bridge at Pendleton, dedicated 1971, carries US Hwy. 165 over the Arkansas River. (Map 11)

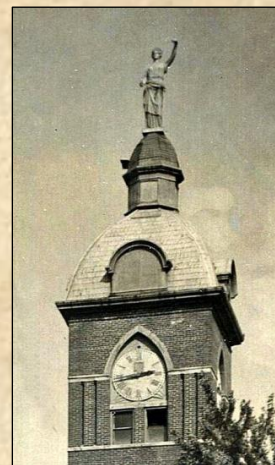
**NATIONAL REGISTER
HISTORIC PLACES, ARKANSAS COUNTY**

(GPS coordinates shown if no physical address)

- Arkansas County Courthouse-North District, Stuttgart
- Old Stuttgart Post Office, 302 S. Maple, Stuttgart
- Riceland Hotel, Third & Main Sts., Stuttgart
- Standard Ice Co. Building, 517 S. Main, Stuttgart
- Stuttgart Commercial District, Main Street area
- Immanuel High School, 68 Immanuel Rd., Almyra
- Crocketts Bluff Hunting Lodge, (34.447519, -91.220869)
- St. Charles Battle Monument, Arkansas & Broadway Sts.
- St. Charles Battle Site, Ark. Hwy. 1 at White River
- Old Arkansas Hwy. 11 segment, (34.383056, -91.54055)
- Arkansas County Courthouse-South District, DeWitt
- DeWitt Commercial District, Courthouse Square
- DeWitt Post Office, 221 W. Cross St., DeWitt
- First Methodist Church, Jefferson & Cross Sts., DeWitt
- Halliburton House, 301 W. Halliburton, DeWitt
- L.A. Black Rice Milling Office, 508 S. Monroe, DeWitt
- Maxwell Street Bridge, DeWitt, (34.2975, -91.3375)
- N. Jackson St. Bridge, DeWitt (34.2975, -91.341389)
- Washington St. Bridge, DeWitt (34.300679, -91.333321)
- Tichnor Rice Dryer, 1030 Ark. Hwy. 44, Tichnor
- Old Gillett Jail, 207 Main St., Gillett
- Bohnert Rice Irrigation Pump, (34.043165, -91.373239)
- Arkansas Post Nat'l Memorial, 1741 Old Post Rd., Gillett
- Menard-Hodges Mounds, Nady

**ARKANSAS REGISTER
HISTORIC PLACES, ARKANSAS COUNTY**

- Independence School, 921 E. Fourth, Stuttgart
- Lion Oil Hunting Lodge, 625 Cooks Lake Rd., Casscoe
- Providence M. B. Church, 20 Almyra Lane, Almyra
- Schoolhouse Lodge, 1178 Hwy. 276, Bayou Meto
- Wallace-Menard-Coose Cemetery, 529 Nady Rd., Nady



This metal statue of justice, or "Lady of the Lake," was a popular attraction at Arkansas Post for many decades. It originally stood atop the Arkansas County Courthouse in DeWitt from 1893 until 1931, when that building was razed and replaced by the current one. Grand Prairie Historical Society plans to commemorate this beloved landmark with a replica statue in the near future.

**MORE ARKANSAS COUNTY
POINTS OF INTEREST**

- Britsch Grocery marker, 202 S. Main, Stuttgart
- Centennial marker, 514 S. Main, Stuttgart
- Museum of the Arkansas Grand Prairie, Stuttgart
- Roth Prairie Natural Area, south of Stuttgart
- Dale Bumpers White River National Wildlife Refuge
- Potlatch Conservation Education Center, near Casscoe
- Dupree National Aquaculture Research Center, Stuttgart
- Dale Bumpers National Rice Research Center, Stuttgart
- U. of Ark. Rice Research & Extension Center, Stuttgart
- George Dunklin Bayou Meto Wildlife Management Area
- St. Charles Museum, St. Charles
- Great River Road National Scenic Byway
- State champion bald cypress and water hickory trees, Dale Bumpers White River National Wildlife Refuge
- DeWitt Fertilizer Co. - C. J. Miller antebellum log cabin
- DeWitt Depression-era Post Office Mural
- Arkansas Post National Memorial, near Gillett
- Arkansas Post Museum State Park, near Gillett
- McClellan-Kerr Arkansas River Navigation System
- Montgomery Point Lock & Dam, Nady
- Wilbur D. Mills Lock & Dam, Nady
- W. F. Norrell Lock & Dam, Nady
- Merrisach Lake Recreation Area, Nady

Grand Prairie Historical Society, in an effort to preserve our heritage, produced this brochure in 2021 through a collaboration of members Raeann Braithwaite, Claudia Ahrens, Gay Rusk, and Glenn Mosenthin.

HELPFUL WEBSITES AND CONTACTS:

- Arkansas Post Museum State Park 870-548-2634
www.arkansasstateparks.com/parks
- Arkansas Post National Memorial 870-548-2207
www.nps.gov/arpo
- Holman Heritage Community Center 870-804-2580
<https://www.holmanheritagecenter.org>
- Museum of the Arkansas Grand Prairie 870-673-7001
www.grandprairiemuseum.org
- Arkansas Delta Byways Tourism Association
www.deltabyways.com
- Great River Road National Scenic Byway
www.experiencemississippiriver.com
- Arkansas State Archives 501-682-6900
www.arkansasheritage.com/arkansasstatearchives
- Arkansas Historic Preservation Program 501-324-9880
www.arkansasheritage.com/arkansas-historic-preservation-program
- Encyclopedia of Arkansas
www.encyclopediaofarkansas.net
- Black History Commission of Arkansas 501-682-6900
archives.arkansas.gov/arkansasstatearchives/bhca
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Grand Prairie Historical Society

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www.grandprairiehistory.org



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