

# A DRIVING TOUR of ARKANSAS COUNTY HISTORICAL MARKERS and SITES

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

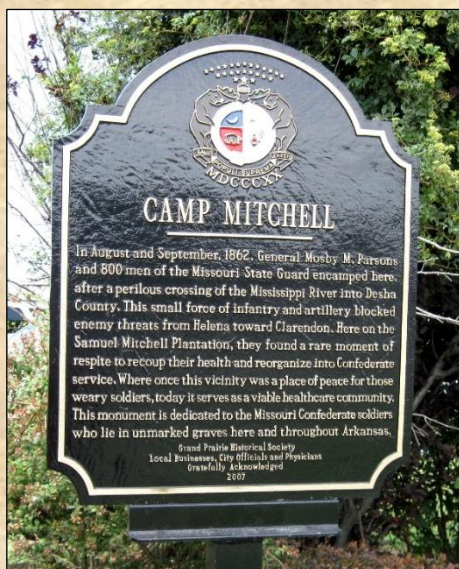


**St. Charles Civil War Monument**

This enjoyable driving tour of Arkansas County from Stuttgart to Arkansas Post will transport you to many historic sites with markers and monuments. You will gain an appreciation for the heritage and significance of the Grand Prairie, a unique region of the Arkansas Delta. Courtesy of the Grand Prairie Historical Society. (See map on reverse).

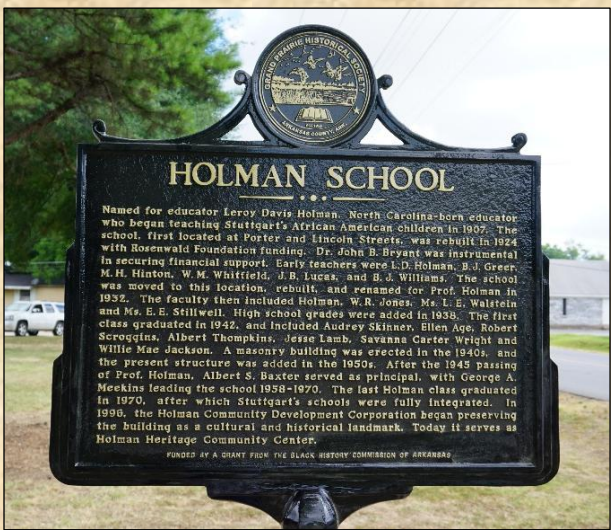


The tour begins at Stuttgart Municipal Airport, a short distance north of the city on Hwy 63. The US Army Air Forces constructed the facility in 1942 and initially trained glider pilots and crews for World War II service. Later the base was used for training medium bomber and transport pilots. At the war's end it was used for air-ground coordination training. The airfield also contained a POW camp for captured German troops.



On the southeast corner of the Baptist Health Medical Center grounds at 1703 N. Buerkle Rd. in Stuttgart is a marker describing an 1862 encampment of a Missouri Confederate State Guard unit. Referred to as "Camp Mitchell," it was named for a plantation on the site.





Holman Heritage Community Center at 605 N. Buerkle was formerly the Holman School, where generations of African American students attended classes. The original school was funded and built by the Rosenwald Foundation and was later named for Prof. Leroy Davis Holman, a long-time Stuttgart educator.



Love Rest Green Grove Cemetery served as Stuttgart's African American burial ground over many decades. The cemetery is located west of Park Avenue on the south side of Highway 79. Enter from the latter road. GPS 34° 30.72' N, 91° 32.549' W.



The Arkansas County Courthouse (Northern District) at Third and College Streets was constructed 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 three agricultural research stations and a large share of the nation's rice and soybean processing. There are several markers of smaller size along the 200–500 blocks of Main Street, on the west side of the historic commercial district.

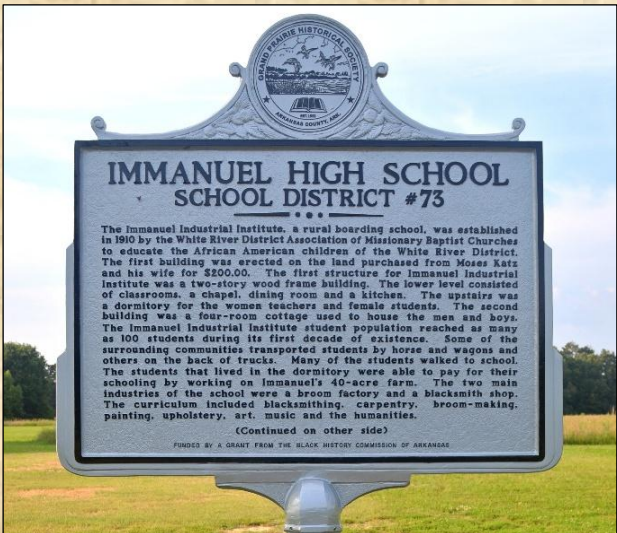


Grand Avenue United Methodist Church at 705 S. Grand was organized in 1887 as a Methodist Episcopal Church, at a time when Midwestern settlers began to arrive on the Grand Prairie in large numbers.

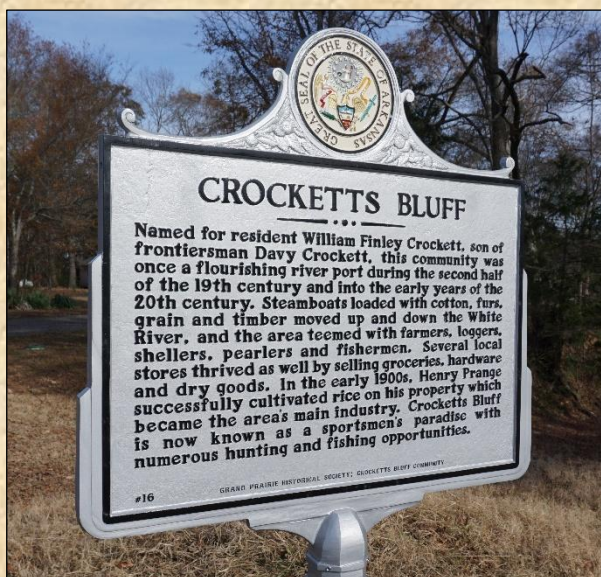




At 20th and Columbus Streets, on the grounds of the War Memorial Training Center, are located a group of monuments to Arkansas County's service personnel killed in action in the nation's wars. They were placed by veterans of the local Arkansas National Guard unit. Two Medal of Honor recipients, both from the Korean War, were Arkansas County residents.



East of Almyra, follow Highway 33 to Immanuel, where the former Immanuel High School is preserved as a museum by appointment. The facility educated the area's African American students for many decades. It was also funded by the Rosenwald Foundation. Enrollment reached as high as 500 during the 1950s. Many courses were offered, including painting, upholstery, art, carpentry, broom making, blacksmithing, music, and the humanities. A broom factory and a blacksmith shop were once operated on the campus.

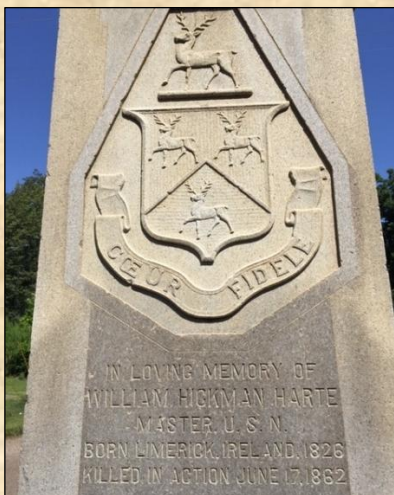


Follow Highways 33 and 153 to Crocketts Bluff. As you arrive, a nice view of the White River can be seen. The town was named after Davy Crockett's son William. Once dependent on river commerce, the area is now a haven for waterfowlers. Across the road is Schwab's Store (now closed), a typical 20th century mercantile business.



This marker at 121 Belknap Avenue in St. Charles interprets a Civil War naval battle in which a single cannon shot exploded the steam drum on the USS *Mound City*, killing over 100 combatants.





This monument at 610 Broadway is believed to be the nation's only memorial to the killed in action on both sides of

a military conflict. At 303 Broadway is a small marker commemorating Deane and Son's Hardware Store, once an outlet for goods received from steamboats on the nearby White River.

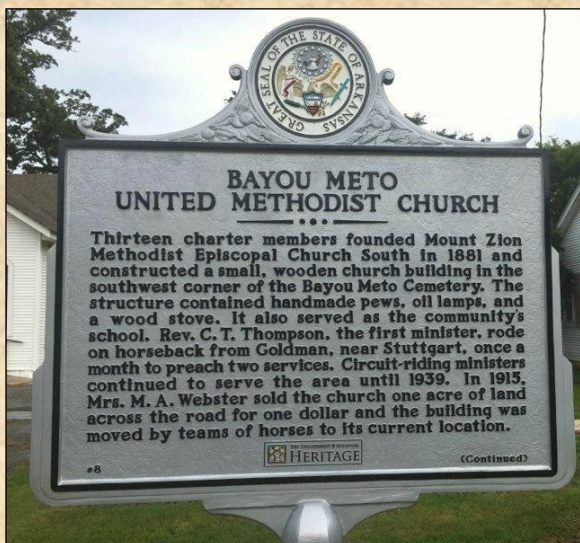


DeWitt is home to the Arkansas County Courthouse (Southern District). On the lawn is a monument to the county's military members lost in our nation's wars. Here are some of the oldest county record books west of the Mississippi River. This is Arkansas's only square into which streets terminate rather than pass through, originally intended to encourage travelers to stop and conduct business in the commercial district.



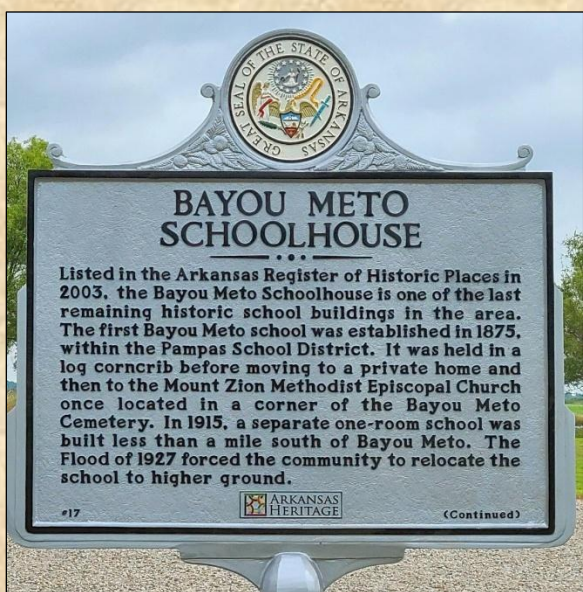


Like Stuttgart, DeWitt's commercial district has many restored buildings. Check out the murals, part of the 1939 48-States Mural Competition, located inside the DeWitt Post Office at 221 W. Cross Street. The 1860 Halliburton House at 300 W. Halliburton Street is the oldest occupied dwelling in the county. Head south on Highway 165, then west on Highway 276 for ten miles to the Bayou Meto community, where three markers sponsored by local historians are located.

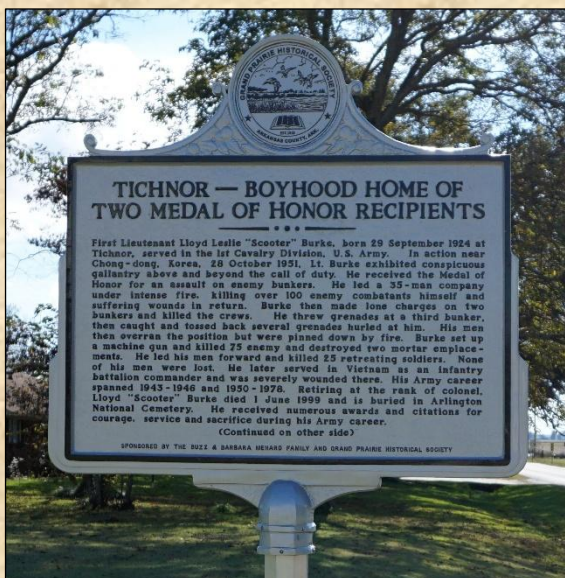


The Bayou Meto United Methodist Church and Bayou Meto Cemetery plaques are located along Hwy. 276 at GPS 34° 13.406' N, 91° 31.162' W. The church is about 500 feet west of the cemetery.





Bayou Metro Schoolhouse Lodge, 1178 Highway 276, is one of the few remaining rural school buildings in the county. It has been well restored and now serves as a hunting lodge. Return on Hwy. 276 eastward to Hwy. 165, then turn right (south) toward Gillett.



At Highway 44, turn east toward Tichnor. This marker commemorates the two Korean War Medal of Honor recipients—Gilbert G. Collier and Lloyd L. Burke—both of whom once resided at Tichnor. Their heroic actions are described on both sides of the marker. Burke later served in Vietnam, however Collier was killed in Korea.

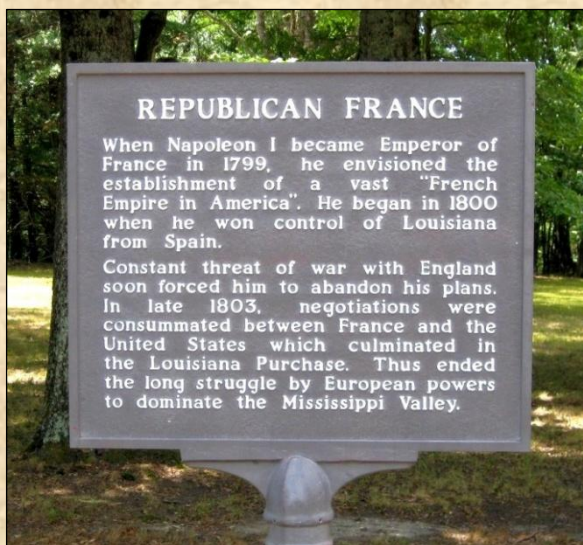




At the corner of Hwy. 165 and Post Bayou Lane stands one of the few remaining Fairbanks-Morse Type "Y" irrigation pump engines. F-M was the most recognized manufacturer of such engines for many decades. This preserved example was installed by Gillett area rice grower A. M. Bohnert in 1945.  
GPS 34° 2.586' N, 91° 22.387' W.



A short distance south along Hwy. 165 at the junction of Highway 169 is this marker interpreting the 1863 Battle of Arkansas Post. Across the road is Arkansas Post Museum State Park and the 1877 Refeld-Hinman House, a dogtrot-style log cabin. Drive east on Hwy. 169 to Arkansas Post National Memorial, site of the historic Post from 1749–1756 and 1779–present.

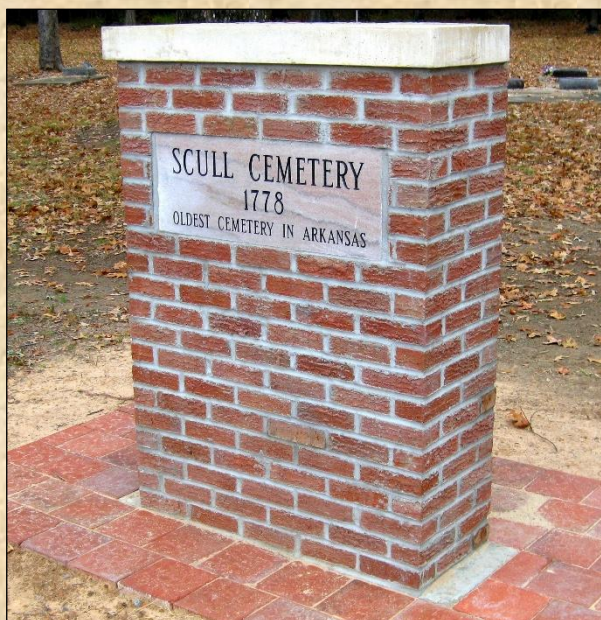


West of the visitor center is a series of eight markers interpreting several eras of Arkansas Post's history. The periods are Five Flags, The European Settlement, The French Period, The Post Under Spain, Republican France, The American Era, The Post of Arkansas, and The Southern Confederacy.





This marker was made from stone material from the 1839 Arkansas State Bank and is located near the National Memorial's visitor center. Leaving the Memorial grounds, continue north on Old Post Road to Scull Cemetery, Arkansas's oldest known European burial ground. GPS 34° 2.154' N, 91° 20.511' W.



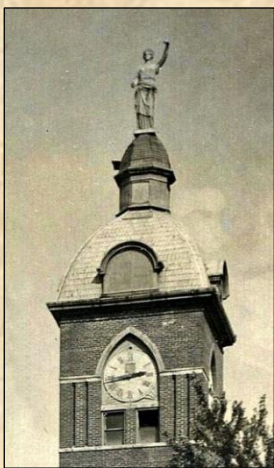
## *MORE ARKANSAS COUNTY POINTS OF INTEREST*

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  
Dale Bumpers White River National Wildlife Refuge  
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

## *NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES IN ARKANSAS COUNTY*

Arkansas County Courthouse-North, 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  
St. Charles Battle Monument  
St. Charles Battle Site, Ark. Hwy. 1 at White River  
Old Arkansas Hwy. 11 segment near Lodge Corner  
Arkansas County Courthouse-South, DeWitt  
DeWitt Commercial District, Courthouse Square  
DeWitt Post Office, 221 W. Cross St., DeWitt  
First Methodist Church, W. Cross St., DeWitt  
Halliburton House, 301 W. Halliburton, DeWitt  
L.A. Black Rice Mill Office, 508 S. Monroe, DeWitt  
Maxwell Street Bridge, DeWitt  
N. Jackson St. Bridge, DeWitt  
Washington St. Bridge, DeWitt  
Tichnor Rice Dryer, 1030 Ark. Hwy. 44, Tichnor  
Old Gillett Jail, 207 Main St., Gillett  
Bohnert Rice Irrigation Pump, Gillett  
Arkansas Post National Memorial  
Menard-Hodges Mound Complex, Nady





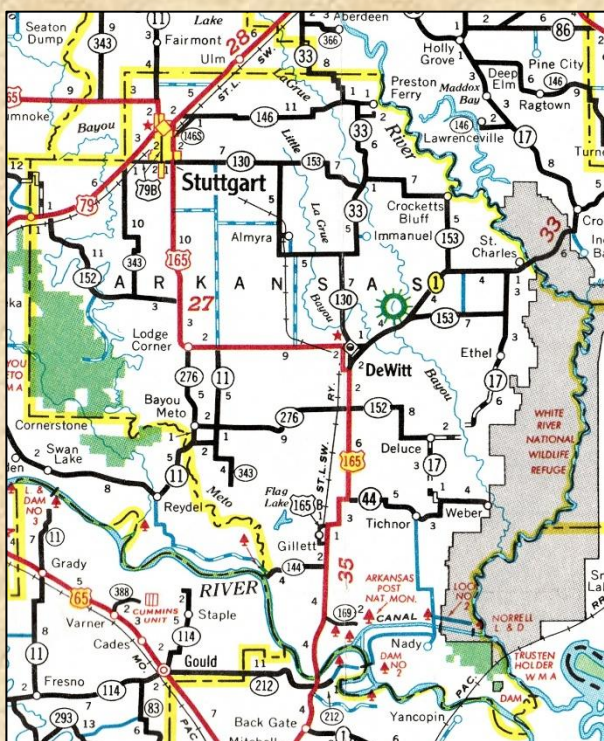
This metal statue of justice, or “Lady of the Lake,” was a popular attraction at Arkansas Post Lake for many decades. It originally stood atop the Arkansas County Courthouse in DeWitt from 1893 until 1931, when that building was razed and replaced by the current one. The Grand Prairie Historical Society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

*ARKANSAS REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
IN ARKANSAS COUNTY*

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

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The first of the state's 75 present-day counties to be created, Arkansas County was established from New Madrid County on December 13, 1813, when this area was part of the Missouri Territory. Arkansas County is one of seven present-day counties in the United States to have the same name as the state they are a part of.



Arkansas County, Arkansas

## Grand Prairie Historical Society

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[www.GrandPrairieHistory.org](http://www.GrandPrairieHistory.org)



[www.facebook.com/grandprairiehistory](https://www.facebook.com/grandprairiehistory)

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Basic memberships are \$25.