

4-12-2017

UCV established to preserve history

Wendy Bradley Richter

Arkansas State Archives, wendy.richter@arkansas.gov

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholarlycommons.obu.edu/articles>



Part of the [Public History Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Richter, Wendy Bradley, "UCV established to preserve history" (2017). *Articles*. 194.
<https://scholarlycommons.obu.edu/articles/194>

This News Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Faculty Publications at Scholarly Commons @ Ouachita. It has been accepted for inclusion in Articles by an authorized administrator of Scholarly Commons @ Ouachita. For more information, please contact mortensona@obu.edu.

UCV established to preserve history

Submitted Information
For the Siftings

About 106 years ago, in April of 1911, a camp of the United Sons of Confederate Veterans was established in Arkadelphia.

The group's founding came at a time of renewed interest in the Civil War---the fiftieth anniversary of the start of that conflict---as well as recognition of the fact that many veterans were passing away and living memory of that part of history would soon be lost.

A national United Sons of Confederate Veterans organization had been formed in Richmond, Virginia, about fifteen years earlier, in 1896. The group's purposes were quite similar to that of the United Confederate Veterans (made up of veterans), but it also wanted to assist the UCV and its aging members.

Part of the USCVC organiza-

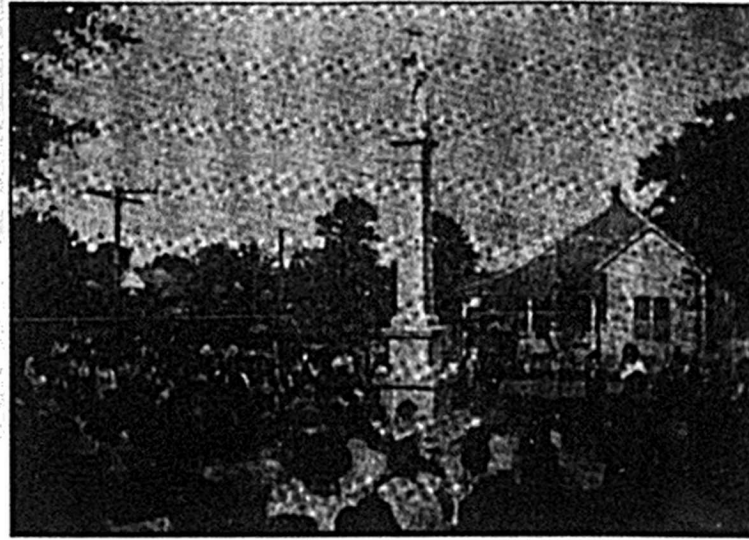


IMAGE COURTESY OF CLARK COUNTY HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

The Confederate Monument on the Court House lawn was unveiled in 1911.

tion's constitution read in part: "To encourage the preservation of history, perpetuate the hallowed memories of brave men, to assist in the observance of Memorial Day, and to perpet-

uate the record of the services of every Southern Soldier."

Membership was open to male descendants of those who served in some part of the Confederate States military, with

eligibility to be documented through genealogical research proving kinship to a veteran. Arkansas's first SCV camp was in Clarksville, and the original group of camps included those at Pine Bluff, Helena, Austin, Paragould, Forrest City, and Little Rock.

In 1911, enough interest had been generated to establish a camp in Arkadelphia. The organizational meeting was presided over by Dr. H.S. Hartzog, division commander of the Arkansas USCVC. N.B. Forrest, grandson of General Nathan Bedford Forrest, attended and explained the work of the organization to the prospective members.

Arkansas Assistant Attorney General Henry Rector also spoke. Arkadelphia's Southern Standard newspaper reported it this way: "Sitting on the platform were a few of the old Confederates—less than a dozen—though this is nearly

all that can now be mustered in our city, and pitiful indeed is the realization that the ranks are now so fast thinning out and that within a few years there will be no survivors of that gallant host who wore the gray and who fought so valiantly for the defense of their beloved Southland."

While those present did not choose a name for the camp at that first meeting, initial officers were elected and about 100 men joined. Today, about twenty SCV camps exist in Arkansas, but none in Clark County.

For additional information about Clark County history, visit or contact the Clark County Historical Museum (www.clarkcountyhistory.org or 230.1360) or the Clark County Historical Association's Archives at the Ouachita Baptist University Library (www.obu.edu/archives or 245.5332).