

Shinnin' Times

EARLY ARKANSAW REENACTORS ASSOCIATION

Excerpts of Thomas Nuttal's Journey: <https://www.loc.gov/resource/lhbtn.th013/?sp=128>

want of society and of employment induced me to embrace the earliest opportunity of continuing my journey into the interior of the territory, where I hoped to find additional employment and gratification in my researches connected with natural history. For this purpose I again embarked on the river in a large skiff, which was proceeding to the Baird's-town settlement;⁹⁸ but as most of our company were fond of whiskey, the only beverage in the country, except water or milk, it was difficult to get them parted from their companions and conversation; however, after many efforts to make a start, we at last got off, though merely to make one or two miles, so as to be disengaged, at any rate, for the morning. Our encampment was a sand-bar or beach, skirted by willows, and though in itself a situation by no means interesting, yet far from disagreeable [91] to him who can enjoy the simple fare of the hunter, and the calm and unsullied pleasures of nature.

On the following day (*February* the 27th) we proceeded about 21 miles, or seven points up the river, and in some places against a current of considerable velocity, which had been augmented by a southern freshet, communicating a muddiness and chocolate-brown colour to the stream. In the evening, to avoid the attacks of mosquitoes, we again chose a sand-beach for our place of encampment.

In the course of the day we passed the outlet of the bayou, or rather river, Meta,⁹⁹ which diagonally traverses the Great Prairie, also two Indian villages on the south bank, which continues to be the Quapaw line as far as the

Nuttal's Journey 1, 3-4

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EARA 2020 Event Schedule

Jan 11 12th Night Christmas Party 10 am until Idlewild House Teresa Lafferty 501-247-6466

Jan 25-26 Defense of Cadron Colonial Event at Cadron State Park, Conway Ed Williams 501-944-0736

Feb 14-16 Five Trail's Voo Historic Washington St. Park Lori Bennett 903-306-7781

March 6-7 White Oak Voo White Oak State Park Ed Williams 502-944-0736

(**March 14-22** ** SWRR Henderson, TX at Two Ball's Farm Jan Kitlinger 940-867-7432)

April 3-5 Saline Crossing Voo Benton, AR Doyle Richey 501-860-2544/Marsh Kimmerly 501-8603686

April 3 Keelboat Event at Lyon's College Scottish Festival Ed Williams 501-944-0736

Cancelled!! April 18-19 Colbert's Raid at Arkansas Post Ed Williams 501-944-0736

Cancelled!! Apr 17-19* Woolly Hollow Voo Woolly Hollow State Park Tom Reedy 501-679-1636 Tinker 501-351-0561

Cancelled!! May 15-17 Annual Pioneer Days Event: May 15th & 16th. (Friday and Saturday)

Venue: Educational Programming for Public NOTE: Setup on Thursday, May 14th and Break-Down on Sunday, May 17th. Norfolk, AR Call Tom Reedy 501-679-1636

June 5-7 Bennett's Wildcat Voo Billy's at Jordan, AR Billy/Cathey Bennett 8702972269/2547187410

July 4th Celebration at HAM Scott & 6th St Downtown LR Ed Williams 501-944-0736

(**July 16-18**** MOJAM Marshall, MO City Park James 'Nonose' Thompson 501-860-2547)

Aug 8 Ice Cream Social Carol's Porch Call Carol Fritts at 501-3501706

Aug 22* Annual EARA Picnic and meeting

Sept 25-27 Soggy Bottoms Hist. Wash. State Park —Lori Bennett 903-306-7781

(**Oct 3**** Sorghum Cook off/Fall Festival Scott Ed Williams 501-944-0736

Oct 9-11 Leslie Voo Derk/Sherry Hettrick

(Ft. Critter's Voo Oct 16-18** Call Dianne Estrata 903-665-1672 David Pilgrin 903-276-8169/903-227-8302)

November 6-7 Wolf House Rendezvous November 6th & 7th (Friday and Saturday)

Venue: Educational Programming for Public NOTE: Setup on Thursday, November 5th and Break-Down on Sunday, November 8th. Norfolk, AR Call Tom Reedy 501-679-1636

Nov 26-29* Petite Jean Voo Petite Jean State Park Call April Goff 501-590-2583

Dec 6 HAM Christmas Folic Scott & 6th HAM Museum Call Ed Williams 501-944-0736

* 3 required meetings per EARA bylaws per year for club

** Not EARA events

EARA Book Sale!!! The EARA book sale announced in a previous issue will be happening at the EARA picnic this August. More info to follow.

Advertisements

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Nuttal's Journey cont.

Little Rock. The first was the periodical residence of a handful of Choctaws, the other was occupied by the Quapaws. On this side of the river there appeared to be considerable bodies of very fertile land elevated above inundation.

The peach-trees, now in bloom, were considerably disseminated beyond the immediate precincts of the Indian villages, and seemed to be almost naturalized, but, in common even with the wild fruits of the country, they are occasionally robbed of fruit by the occurrence of unseasonable frosts.

On the 28th, after ascending about 13 miles, we arrived at the settlement begun by colonel Mooney,¹⁰⁰ consisting of three or four families. I was here very hospitably entertained by Mr. Davison. Near this house, and about 200 yards from the river, there was a fine lake of clear water, of considerable extent, communicating with the river by a bayou, which enters a few miles below. Its bed appeared to be firm and sandy. The neighbouring land was of a superior quality, either for corn or cotton, but all conditionally held on the uncertain claim of Messrs. Winters. Notwithstanding the extent of inundated lands, the climate was considered unusually healthy, and the [92] soil, with but little labour, capable of insuring a comfortable independence to the cultivator.

March 1st.] This morning a slight white frost was visible, though, yesterday and the day before, the thermometer rose, at noon, to 70°, and the Red-bud (*Cercis canadensis*) was commonly in flower. We proceeded about 10 miles, and encamped opposite to an island; the

Nuttal's Journey cont.

water now falling as rapidly as it had risen. Leaving the boat, and walking through the woods, I was surprised to find myself inadvertently at the Quapaw village we had passed yesterday, situated upon a small prairie, constituting the isthmus of a tongue of land, which, six or seven miles round, was here scarcely half a mile across. Endeavouring now to obtain a nearer route to the river, than that of returning by the path, I found myself in a horrid cane-brake, interlaced with brambles, through which I had to make my way as it were by inches. The delay I thus experienced created alarm among my companions, who fired three guns to direct me to the spot where they waited, and where I soon arrived, pretty well tired of my excursion.

2d.] A slight frost appeared again this morning. We proceeded slowly, passing in the course of the day three points of land, one of which was about six miles, the others three each, and in the evening encamped a mile below Morrison's bayou. Nearly opposite to this stream there was another village of the Quapaws, containing about 15 cabins, and called, by the French, ville de Grand Barbe, from their late chief, who, contrary to the Indian custom, wore a long beard. It stands on the edge of the forest, surrounded by good land, and elevated above the overflows.

3d.] To-day we arrived at Curran's settlement, consisting of six families, who had chosen for their residence a body of very superior land. From 1000 to 1500 pounds of cotton have been produced upon the acre, and of a staple no way inferior to that of Red [93] river. As to maize, it is as luxuriant as possible. But what most recommended this settlement, in my estimation, was the unequivocal appearance of health and plenty. We landed for the

EARLY ARKANSAW REENACTORS ASSOCIATION OFFICERS

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Board members: David Howlett, Andrew Hooper, Corrie Cook-Edge, Thomas Reedy, James Thompson, Larry Thompson, Sherry Hetrick, Billy Bennett

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Liability Insurance: To be Covered by our insurance you need to sign the book or, if not available, a sheet of paper needs to be signed and sent to Teresa Lafferty or Glenn Cook. All volunteer events are covered whether in the state or not. If in doubt always sign a sheet and send to Teresa Lafferty at 210 W. 21st Street, Little Rock, AR 72206

To submit information for the events, recipes, tips and resources and any other items for the newsletter contact Editor April Goff at april.goff@arkansas.gov or call 501-590-2583

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MAY 2020

210 WEST 21ST STREET

LITTLE ROCK, AR 72206