

Programme of Activities

BY THE COMMITTEE OF THE CHAB



Saturday 10 February 2024 at 3 pm

ARKANSAS FROM 1541 TO 1868

Lecture by *Jean-Claude Janssens*: *Arkansas from 1541 to 1868*. The history of Arkansas dates to the arrival of the Spanish in the 16th century. Part of French Louisiana until 1762, Arkansas then passed into Spanish hands before briefly becoming French again in 1800. It was ceded to the United States in 1804. It was granted territory status in 1819 and became the twenty-fifth state of the Union in 1836. The speaker will describe the role of Arkansas in the Southern Confederacy and in the Civil War in 1861 and 1862. He will recall the operations in Helena and Little Rock in 1863 and the events of 1863 to 1865. The presentation will conclude with the period of Reconstruction and the return of Arkansas to the Union.



Saturday 9 March 2024 at 3 pm

STEAMBOATS ON THE MISSISSIPPI

Lecture by *Michel Verheyden*: *Steamboats on the Mississippi*. The speaker will tell us about the development of steamboats on the great American river before, during and after the American Civil War. The topic will include aspects of these vessels, their propulsion, life on board, their civilian and military use, and accidents involving steamboats. The speaker will also mention the various battles in which riverboats were involved. Finally, the creation of hospital ships will also be developed.



Saturday 13 April 2024 at 3 pm

MISSOURI IN TURMOIL

Lecture by *Gerald Hawkins*: *Missouri in turmoil*. In 1861, when Kansas joined the Union as a free state, thousands of pro-slavery border ruffians who had been involved in years of violence during the Bloody Kansas conflict, either joined the Confederate army of General Sterling Price in Arkansas or returned to their home state of Missouri. Despite the efforts of its governor Claiborne Jackson, Missouri did not secede and remained a Border State where the population was deeply divided over its loyalty to the Union or the Confederacy. After the battle of Boonville in June, General Nathaniel Lyon managed to clear Missouri of most of its southern sympathizers and the poorly organized outlaw groups, but this sparked a state of rebellion in areas that were poorly controlled by federal forces. Resistance was soon organized. Bands of determined pro-slavery guerrillas emerged, spreading terror among the people of Missouri. The most notorious was led by William Quantrill, who enjoyed the status of regular soldier granted by the Confederate Partisan Act of 1861. The horror reached its climax when in August 1863, Quantrill launched a devastating raid on Lawrence, Kansas, killing some two hundred residents and burning the town. The war then turned into a ruthless hunt for outlaws

by the federal forces backed by vengeful militias. Quantrill and many of his lieutenants were killed in 1865. The James and Younger brothers escaped unharmed and, drawing on their experience, became outlaws who targeted banks and trains.