

GEORGIA

BATTLEFIELDS

Published by Georgia Battlefields Association, Inc., a non-profit organization dedicated to preservation of Georgia's Civil War history and sites. Contact newsletter editor by e-mail: info@georgiabattlefields.org

Ardent preservationist Jerry Russell dies

Jerry Russell died on 5 December from complications following lung surgery. He was 70. Jerry was head of a political action committee devoted to preservation, organizer of a Civil War Round Table association, director of organizations devoted to preserving sites from the Civil War and Indian Wars, publisher of preservation e-mails, and winner of Civil War Preservation Trust's Ed Bearss award for lifetime contributions to preservation, among other achievements.

Jerry's family asks that contributions in his name be made to:

- Civil War Preservation Trust, 11 Public Square Ste 200, Hagerstown MD 21740, or
- Central Arkansas Library System Endowment, 100 Rock Street, Little Rock AR 72201.

GBA March 2004 tour led by Ed Bearss is reopened

Last month's newsletter indicated the March 2004 GBA tour led by Ed Bearss was full. To accommodate those now on the waiting list, we're adding a van that will receive Ed's narrative via radio. Also, no trip will be longer than 30 minutes, so no one will miss much, if any, of Ed's insight. To sign up, contact Olly Keller at 404 351 1211 or okeller@webtv.net.

Civil War Education Forum scheduled for 27-28 February

Georgia Civil War Commission and Macon's Cannonball House (www.cannonballhouse.org) will jointly sponsor the third Civil War Forum 27-28 February at the Foundry Street Ballrooms in Athens (www.classiccenter.com). (Note: dates changed since the October 2003 newsletter.) Friday's (27 Feb) speakers & presentations include:

- Dr. Branden Beck of Shenandoah University - 3rd Alabama, Memoirs of Cullen A. Battle
- Dr. David Evans - Cavalry Operations during the Atlanta Campaign
- John Zwemer - How to teach the Civil War
- Mary Lee Irby - Interpretive Programs at the Cannonball House
- The Port Royal Experiment
- North vs. South: Two Perspectives of History
- History of Civil War Chaplains
- Port Columbus Naval Museum
- Atlanta History Center - On the Road Living History Exhibits

Saturday (28 Feb) will feature a bus tour of Civil War-related sites near Athens.

The forum will also have a book fair. Staff Development Unit (SDU) credits will be offered to teachers who attend. Registration fee is \$60, though the fee will be waived for students.

Contact the Commission's Barry Brown at 404 657 7294 or barry_brown@dnr.state.ga.us, or Cannonball House executive director Mary Lee Irby at 972 745 2862 or mlirby65@yahoo.com.

Reminder on Sandy Springs Civil War lecture series

Heritage Sandy Springs' annual Civil War lecture series kicks off at 6 p.m. on 8 January at the Sandy Springs Historic Site, home of the Williams-Payne House (6075 Sandy Springs Circle).

- 8 January - "Fighting for Atlanta" by Charlie Crawford, Georgia Battlefields Association
- 22 January - "Glover Machine Works: Casting a New South" by Dick Hillman, Southern Museum of Civil War and Locomotive History (www.southernmuseum.org)
- 5 February - "New Manchester Girl" by Cathy Kaemmerlen (www.tattlingtales.com)
- 19 February - "The Civil War History of Andersonville" by Alan Marsh, Andersonville National Historic Site (www.nps.gov/ande)

For more info, see the Heritage Sandy Springs web site www.heritagesandysprings.org or contact program director Cathleen Cooke: 404 851 9101 or programs@heritagesandysprings.org.

Help update *Crossroads of Conflict* touring guide

The Georgia Civil War Commission invites your input to the currently underway revision of the *Crossroads of Conflict* touring guide to Civil War sites. (See October 2003 newsletter.) For those of you who have a previous edition of the guide, please review the entries for outdated or incomplete information. To suggest corrections or additions, call Rich Elwell at 404 657 7294 or e-mail rich_elwell@dnr.state.ga.us or write to the Commission care of the Historic Preservation Division, 156 Trinity Ave SW Ste 104, Atlanta 30303-3600.

Chickamauga transportation study holds 3rd public meeting

GBA representatives attended the study's 3rd stakeholders' participation panel meeting in Fort Oglethorpe. See July, August, and November 2003 newsletters for background on the study, or see www.dot.state.ga.us/dot/plan-prog/planning/studies/chickamauga_study/index.shtml.

The 8 December meeting allowed the study group to review the data gathered thus far, to explain the transportation models derived from the data, and to outline proposals to be tested. Although impact on the surrounding community is one of the considerations, some attendees objected to even testing proposals that might restrict traffic through Chickamauga National Military Park (NMP). Park Superintendent Pat Reed responded eloquently, addressing his intent to both preserve the park as a national resource and make it a good neighbor that provides benefit to the adjacent communities and the region. Indeed, the design of the study includes both a Subarea Transportation Plan to address traffic within the park boundaries and a Traffic Impact Study to help surrounding communities develop a transportation network that will meet the needs of residents and businesses without infringing upon the values of the battlefield. Despite the NPS's intent to be inclusive, the meeting highlighted the difficulties of trying to balance all interests.

Indicate your support for preserving the historic value of Chickamauga NMP by contacting Superintendent Reed at P.O. Box 2128, Ft. Oglethorpe GA 30742 or pat_reed@nps.gov.

Atlanta Campaign: 140 years ago

2004 marks the 140th anniversary of the Atlanta Campaign. Our newsletters this year will relate significant events for each month of the campaign.

In January 1864, an extreme cold spell gripped north Georgia. General Joseph E. Johnston, who had arrived on 27 December at the Army of Tennessee's camps around Dalton, set about restoring morale by granting furloughs, declaring amnesty for those absent without authorization, undoing some of General Bragg's disastrous brigade reassignments, and improving the flow of supplies. On 2 January, Johnston was presented with a bombshell at a commanders' conference at the Huff house Dalton when Maj Gen Pat Cleburne, arguably the best division commander in the army, proposed arming slaves to compensate for the Confederacy's dwindling manpower. Fellow division commanders W.H.T. Walker and William Bate objected strongly. Johnston attempted to limit news of the proposal, but Walker asked Cleburne for a written copy and forwarded it to President Jefferson Davis. Davis ordered suppression of any discussion about the incident, and it remained a well-kept secret for over 25 years.

On the Federal side, Major General Grant, commanding the Military Division of the Mississippi, had withdrawn his headquarters to Nashville in December. The Army of the Cumberland, under Maj Gen Thomas, maintained the Federal presence in Chattanooga and north Georgia, though they had trouble getting supplies over the often-damaged rail line from Nashville. Skirmishes occurred between the Federals and Confederates west of Rocky Face Ridge.

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