

G E O R G I A

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

History club students clean up GBA's Paulding County site

On 28 February, 8th Grade History Club students from Dallas, Georgia's Herschel Jones Middle School cleared trash from Georgia Battlefields Association's property in Paulding County. The 4.7-acre parcel was traversed by Federal troops during their 25 May 1864 assault on the Confederate line at New Hope Church. We're sorry to report that the site is favored by inconsiderate people who dump trash: The students hauled out a car, a water heater, a stove, carpet remnants, aluminum gutters and downspouts, tarpaulins, several tires, and uncounted bottles, cans, and wrappers. The Paulding County Sheriff's Department hauled away the debris. GBA thanks teacher Sue Ann Falco, the History Club students, the Sheriff's Department, and Friends of Civil War Paulding County for their efforts to preserve this historic site.

"Bragg Lies in Wait" tour on 8 May will benefit CCNMP

Friends of Chickamauga & Chattanooga National Military Park (CCNMP) will sponsor the first of two 2004 bus tours on Saturday, 8 May. Topic of the tour is Confederate General Bragg's plan to counter the Federal invasion of north Georgia in September 1863. Jim Ogden, chief historian of the Park for the last 15 years, will lead the tour, including stops at Lafayette, Rock Springs, McLemore's Cove, Ringgold, and the Chickamauga battlefield. The tour bus will depart the park visitors' center at 8 a.m. and return around 5 p.m. Price is \$50 for non-members and includes lunch. For more info, call 423 624 6914 or see the web site www.chickchatt.org. Send reservation checks to Friends of the Park at P.O. Box 748, Chattanooga TN 37401.

The Friends are also planning an October 2004 tour that will trace the October 1864 movements of Hood's Army of Tennessee in north Georgia.

Old Clinton "War Days" reenactment 1-2 May

The annual reenactment of the November 1864 Federal occupation of Old Clinton occurs this year on 1 & 2 May. Gates will open at 9 a.m., and reenactments will start at 2 p.m. each day. Some of the proceeds are used to preserve the Old Clinton Historic District, which contains several ante-bellum structures. Old Clinton is about ten miles northeast of Macon, near Gray. For more information, contact Richard Durham at 478 986 5300 or rldurham1@earthlink.net.

Battle of Resaca reenactment 15-16 May

The 21st annual reenactment of the Battle of Resaca will occur on 15 & 16 May at the Chitwood Farm, part of the original battlefield. This is always one of the largest and best run reenactments. For more information on participating or spectating, see the web site www.georgiadivision.org or write Battle of Resaca, P.O. Box 919, Resaca GA 30735-0919 or e-mail csgrizly@bellsouth.net.

As usual, some of the proceeds from the reenactment will go to preserve the battlefield. The Friends of Resaca Battlefield (www.resacabattlefield.org) have been zealous guardians of the site. Last year, they arranged the purchase of 65 more acres of historic property, including Fort Wayne (October 2003 newsletter); and they helped GBA during our recent Ed Bearss tour.

New Manchester descendants' first reunion set for July

The Friends of Sweetwater Creek State Park (www.friendsofsweetwatercreek.org) are planning a reunion of New Manchester Mill worker descendants on 9-11 July 2004. On 9 July 1864, Federal troopers burned the mill, then gathered the mill workers and shipped them (along with the Roswell Mill workers) by rail to Louisville and southern Indiana. Many never returned. The mill site is now part of Sweetwater Creek State Park, just west of Atlanta. See April 2003 and July 2001 newsletters for more background on the mill and the park.

For more info, contact the Friends' Bill Cahill at 770 942 2555 or w_cahill@bellsouth.net.

Ed Bearss leads another great tour for GBA

From 18 to 21 March, Ed Bearss led a memorable tour of sites associated with the opening of the Atlanta Campaign. All profits from the tour will go into GBA's funds for site acquisition and preservation. As usual, Ed asked only that his expenses be reimbursed and accepted no fee.

Ed was especially impressed with the cooperation between GBA and other preservation groups, such as the State's Division of Parks & Historic Sites, the Friends of Resaca Battlefield, and the Tunnel Hill, Catoosa, and Whitfield-Murray Historical Societies. GBA also received support from the Chambers of Commerce in Catoosa and Gordon Counties. We especially thank Trust for Public Land director Jim Langford, who opened his house to the group.

As long as Ed Bearss is willing, GBA will continue these annual tours. Here's the tentative schedule for covering the Atlanta Campaign in detail:

2005: Rome, Adairsville, Cassville, Allatoona Pass, the Hell Hole (Paulding County sites).

2006: Lost Mountain Line, Gilgal Church, Pine Mountain, Kennesaw Mountain, the River Line.

2007: Crossing the Chattahoochee, Peachtree Creek, Atlanta, Ezra Church, Utoy Creek, Jonesboro.

Considering the response to the last three tours, we expect great demand for the next three.

Atlanta Campaign: 140 years ago – April 1864

Continuing our monthly review of Atlanta Campaign events of 140 years ago.

Confederate: On 4 April, Gen James Longstreet and his command begin leaving eastern Tennessee for Virginia. On 12 April, Gen Nathan Bedford Forrest forces the surrender of the Federal garrison at Ft Pillow (above Memphis) demonstrating that the security of western and central Tennessee—and Federal supply lines—will remain an issue in the coming campaign. On 19 April, Gen Joseph Johnston reviews the Army of Tennessee on a hill west of Dalton. Johnston has done much to restore the Army's condition over the last four months.

Federal: On 2 April, Gen William T. Sherman reorganizes Gen George Thomas's Army of the Cumberland. He combines XI and XII Corps to form XX Corps with Gen Joseph Hooker as commander. Former XI Corps commander Gen O.O. Howard now commands IV Corps, and former XII Corps commander Gen Henry Slocum is sent to command the garrison at Vicksburg. On 4 April, Gen John Schofield assumes command of the Army of the Ohio.

On 6 April, Sherman is authorized to seize control of the railroad from Nashville to Chattanooga. Despite protests from civilians, Sherman stops all non-military traffic. To get the 130 freight cars per day needed to supply 100,000 men and 35,000 horses and mules over this single rail line, he requisitions rolling stock from a wide area. On 27 April, Sherman orders his three subordinate armies to concentrate near Chattanooga, arriving there himself on 29 April.

Preservation Trust annual conference 22-25 April in Nashville

The Civil War Preservation Trust (CWPT) will hold its annual conference later this month in Nashville. Georgia Battlefields Association will again provide volunteer staff for the conference. This year's conference is being held in partnership with the American Battlefield Protection Program's (ABPP) 7th National Conference on Battlefield Preservation, the 2nd International Workshop on Earthworks and Battlefield Terrain Conservation, and the 3rd International Battlefield Archaeology Conference (Fields of Conflict III). By jointly staging these conferences with similar goals, ABPP hopes for greater progress on battlefield preservation. For more info, see the CWPT web site www.civilwar.org or the ABPP web site www2.cr.nps.gov/abpp.

**Georgia Battlefields Association
2331 Fireside Court
Jonesboro GA 30236-2671**

www.georgiabattlefields.org

April 2004

**Address correction requested
Return postage guaranteed**