

# GEORGIA

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# BATTLEFIELDS

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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](mailto:info@georgiabattlefields.org)

## Civil War Interpretation Symposium 28-29 January 2005

Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park (KMNBP) and Kennesaw State University (KSU) are sponsoring a symposium on "New Interpretations of the Civil War." All symposium events occur at the University Rooms in the Carmichael Student Center at KSU. National Park Service Chief Historian Dwight Pitcaithley, who holds the position once occupied by Ed Bearss, will give the keynote address at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, 28 January.

On Saturday, 29 January, presentations will begin at 9 a.m. and will include:

- Dr. John Inscoe on Unionists in the South.
- Dr. Anne Bailey on Significance of the Western Theater in Civil War Historiography.
- Dr. Keith Bohannon on Civilians on the Kennesaw Mountain Battlefield in 1864.
- Dr. David Evans on Interpreting the Kennesaw Mountain Battlefield.

A panel of the presenters will occur over lunch, with adjournment at 1 p.m.

Attendance at the lectures is free. Friday night dinner and Saturday lunch are \$12.50 each.

To register or for more information, call 770 423 6254 or see [www.kennesaw.edu/research/crhc](http://www.kennesaw.edu/research/crhc).

For directions and parking, see [www.kennesaw.edu/about/directions.shtml](http://www.kennesaw.edu/about/directions.shtml).

## Sign up for GBA tour with Ed Bearss, 10-13 March 2005

To register for our next tour with Ed Bearss, you can e-mail [info@georgiabattlefields.org](mailto:info@georgiabattlefields.org); but your seat is confirmed only by sending a check for \$320 per person to GBA at 2331 Fireside Ct, Jonesboro GA 30236-2671. **Note: Each registrant must be a GBA member.**

Sites for the 2005 tour: Rome, Armuchee Creek, Adairsville, Kingston, Cassville, Etowah River, Cartersville, New Hope Church, Pickett's Mill, Dallas, Allatoona Pass.

Hotel: Country Inn & Suites, just east of I-75 exit 290 near Cartersville. Rate for participants is \$65 for a standard room and \$85 for a suite. Breakfast is included. Call 770 386 5888.

## Confederate shipwreck studied near Fort McAllister

Danny Brown, manager of Fort McAllister Historic Park, reports the Georgia Department of Natural Resources received a \$40,000 National Park Service grant to study the wreck of the Confederate blockade runner *CSS Nashville* in the waters of the Ogeechee River. *USS Montauk* sunk the Confederate ship on 28 February 1863. Though divers recovered artifacts from the wreck from the 1960s to 1980s, this study aims to preserve the wreck and its unique machinery. The study will also examine Fort McAllister's underwater defenses. Field work will begin with remote sensing in February. Diving is unlikely before late summer.

A good history of Fort McAllister, the naval engagements nearby, and the several incarnations of the ship as *Nashville*, *Thomas L. Wragg*, and *Rattlesnake*, is on the web: <http://fortmcallister.org>.

## GBA assists Civil War Preservation Trust

The Civil War Preservation Trust (CWPT) held a meeting for major donors on 18-19 September in Marietta. The meeting featured a tour of Civil War sites in Cobb County. GBA was asked to plan the tour with an eye toward sites that might not normally be seen. Historian Steve Davis guided the tour to St. James Cemetery; past the headquarters sites for Generals Johnston, Polk, and Howard; to the battlefield around Gilgal Church; to the site of General Polk's death on Pine Mountain; past the Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park Visitors' Center; and finally to examples of Confederate and Federal earthworks along the Chattahoochee River Line.

GBA has also been asked to help plan a tour of the Hell Hole (a CWPT ten most endangered site for 2004: see March 2004 newsletter) for CWPT's Board of Trustees' meeting on 29 January. That event will again demonstrate the cooperation among local (Friends of Civil War Paulding County), state (GBA), and national (CWPT) preservation organizations.

## **River Line ceremony honors Greenspace purchase**

Roberta Cook of the River Line Historic Area organized a 30 October ceremony to recognize Cobb County Commissioner Woody Thompson and realtor Nick O'Connor for orchestrating the purchase of 7 acres containing trenches and part of an artillery battery site occupied by Federal forces from 5 to 10 July 1864 (see August 2004 newsletter). The parcel, part of the Federal line opposing Johnston's River Line, was purchased with Greenspace funds that would have been returned to the state had Cobb County not spent them before 30 June. Brian and Mary Frey, whose property contains the remainder of the battery site, kindly hosted the event and have been very supportive of efforts to preserve the earthworks. Also attending were Richard Finch, local historian, relic hunter, and reenactor, who appeared in the uniform of a Confederate infantryman; and Tim Emmert, who appeared in the uniform of a Federal artilleryman. Tim is descended from a man who fought with the 10<sup>th</sup> Ohio Battery that occupied the site, and he and his family drove from Dayton, Ohio, to attend the event. Also participating were Barry Brown of the State Historic Preservation Division, Marla Bexley of the Georgia Civil War Commission, Willie Johnson of Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park staff, Wade Lnenicka of the Smyrna City Council, and Charlie Crawford of Georgia Battlefields Association.

GBA has nominated the River Line for the Civil War Preservation Trust's 2005 most endangered site list (see September 2004 newsletter). Many parts of the Line have been lost, even within the last few years; but significant sections may still be saved (see November 2003 newsletter).

## **War in Georgia: 140 years ago – January 1865**

The Federal armies continue camping around Savannah while General Sherman and the other senior officers enjoy the hospitality of some of the finer homes in the city. Despite the officers' attempts to use drills and reviews to occupy the troops, the soldiers break the tedium of camp by foraging for food to supplement their rations, gambling (horse races are popular), and finding prostitutes. Sherman writes reports and communicates with Grant and the War Department. As usual, he is quickly bored with the administrative aspects of command: He is anxious to begin a march through the Carolinas; and on 2 January, he receives Grant's approval to make such a march, which Sherman considers ten times more important than the march through Georgia.

Sherman is also annoyed by an inquiry about the 8 December Ebenezer Creek incident, in which former slaves were abandoned to pursuing Confederates. Secretary of War Stanton himself leads an investigating team to Savannah on 11 January, but the probe is blunted when 20 black leaders, mostly ministers, endorse Sherman as the black people's friend. The inquiry increases both Sherman's enmity for Stanton and his desire to get back in the field and avoid the "paperwork, supplicants, and second-guessers." On 16 January, Sherman issues a special field order that includes directives to allow blacks to settle on the coastal islands of Georgia and South Carolina.

By 21 January, Sherman and most of his troops are on their way to South Carolina, leaving behind a division to garrison Savannah; but high water delays the movement. Further, the destruction in Georgia does not end. On 27 January, a fire in Savannah kills seven people and burns 200 houses.

In late January, the Confederate Army of Tennessee returns to Georgia, but only for transit. Greatly reduced by Hood's Fall campaign in Tennessee, the army leaves Tupelo, Mississippi, on 19 January and proceeds through Alabama to Columbus, Macon, Milledgeville, and Augusta before entering South Carolina, where its old commander, Joseph E. Johnston, will try to stop Sherman's advance. The transportation system is so poor that the movement takes weeks.

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