

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

State holds Civil War sesquicentennial planning meeting

On 20 February, a GBA representative attended the initial Civil War sesquicentennial planning meeting convened by the state of Georgia. Funds to develop a plan for the 150th anniversary are included in the Governor's proposed budget (February newsletter). The meeting was hosted by Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Commissioner Noel Holcomb and conducted by Department of Economic Development (DEcD) Deputy Commissioner of Tourism Dan Rowe. The relevant state agencies (Civil War Commission, Historic Preservation Division, State Parks & Historic Sites, etc.) sent senior representatives. Museums with major Civil War collections and exhibits (Atlanta History Center, Port Columbus Naval Museum, etc.) were represented, as were private preservation and historical groups (Georgia's Civil War Heritage Trails, GBA). While not all the invitees were able to attend, 28 participants spent this first session exploring a variety of ideas, among which were: including differing perspectives, optimizing the use of technology, coordinating with other states, marketing coherently, and making improvements to historic sites and museums that will last long beyond the 2011-2015 commemoration.

Among the assumptions in the DEcD agenda was repair of historical markers and development of the Resaca battlefield, to include a visitor's center, trails, and interpretive markers. If these initiatives are realized, the cause of preservation will be advanced; and we believe the state as a whole will benefit. GBA applauds these efforts, despite the skepticism engendered by state government's recent record in these areas. We'll keep you informed as the planning progresses.

150 years ago this month – March 1857

On 4 March, James Buchanan of Pennsylvania is inaugurated as president and John Breckinridge of Kentucky as vice president. Howell Cobb of Georgia is chosen as Secretary of the Treasury.

Although the Justices voted months earlier, the Supreme Court issues its decision in *Dred Scott v. Sandford* on 6 March. The Court overturns a lower court decision that favored Scott and rules that Scott never ceased being a slave—or, more specifically, property—even though his owner had taken him to a free state. While President Buchanan may be blamed for not doing enough to avoid secession (see November 2006 newsletter), the Court's Dred Scott decision bolsters Northern opposition to slavery and gives the nascent Republican Party a transcendent issue.

On 23 March in New York City, Elisha Otis installs the first commercial passenger elevator in a department store in New York City. This is a critical development that allows the building of taller and taller structures over the next decades.

Last chance to sign up for Bearss 2007 tour

Dates: 15-18 March 2007

Hotel: Hampton Inn Atlanta-Galleria, 2733 Circle 75 Pkwy. Call the hotel at 770 955 1110 and ask for the GBA rate (\$102 per night) or see the web site www.hamptoninn Galleria.com.

Sites: Chattahoochee River crossings, Federal approaches to Atlanta, Battle of Peachtree Creek. Register by sending a check for \$395 to GBA at 7 Camden Rd NE, Atlanta GA 30309.

Note: Only GBA members may register for the tour. See our web site for an application.

Schedule: Thursday, 15 March – 6:00 p.m. Reception for Ed at the hotel. Dinner on your own.

Friday, 16 March – 8 a.m. Bus leaves hotel for a full day of touring.

6 p.m. Bus leaves hotel for dinner at Atlanta History Center, 130 West Paces Ferry Rd. Informal.

Saturday, 17 March – 8 a.m. Bus leaves hotel for a full day of touring.

6 p.m. Bus leaves hotel for dinner at Peachtree Golf Club, 4600 Peachtree Rd. Coat & tie.

Sunday, 18 March - 8 a.m. Bus leaves hotel for half day of touring. Bus returns to hotel at noon.

A note about the dinners: Some participants have indicated that they will be going home each evening rather than staying at the hotel. This is fine with us, but we need an accurate count for the dinners on Friday and Saturday. **If you don't plan to attend** one or both of the dinners, **or if you plan to bring additional people** (such as a spouse) to either of the dinners, please **let us know** by e-mailing info@georgiabattlefields.org or calling 770 452 1583 **before 10 March**.

Phoenix Flies tour of Civil War Atlanta will be led by GBA

What: Walking tour of downtown Atlanta, featuring the sites of Civil War structures.

When: 1 p.m. on Saturday, 24 March. Where to meet: The Candler Building on Peachtree Street. The Atlanta Preservation Center has a special web site for the program: www.phoenixflies.org. Call Atlanta Preservation Center at 404 688 3353 ext 11 to register.

Please consider publicizing this program in your communities, at your workplace, or through any other medium to which you have access. Other tours in the series relate to the Civil War (Battle of Atlanta in East Atlanta, Oakland Cemetery and the Civil War, Fort Walker, Cyclorama), almost all relate to preservation, and most are free.

Park Day set for 7 April

The Civil War Preservation Trust is again sponsoring park day, an annual event for volunteers to help maintain and preserve historic sites across the country (www.civilwar.org/parkday). Past volunteer activities included painting signs and fences, reinstalling headstones, and laying trails.

Contact these Georgia sites (going from Chickamauga to the coast) if you want to help:

Chickamauga National Military Park, Fort Oglethorpe www.nps.gov/chch

Contact Jim Szykowski at 706 866 9241 x121 or jim_szykowski@nps.gov

Tunnel Hill (Railroad Tunnel and Clisby Austin House) www.tunnelhillheritagecenter.com

Contact Rial Sloan at 706 673 2641 or rialnjan@alltel.net

Historic Prater's Mill, Varnell www.pratersmill.org

Contact Judy Alderman at 706 694 6455 or pratersmill@pratersmill.org

Confederate Cemetery, Dalton

Contact Marvin Sowder at 706 278 3925 or msowder@dalton.net

Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park www.nps.gov/kemo

Contact Benita Duling at 770 427 4686 or benita_duling@nps.gov

Old Governor's Mansion, Milledgeville www.gcsu.edu/mansion

Contact Matt Davis at 478 445 4545 or matt.davis@gcsu.edu

Jefferson Davis State Historic Site, Irwinville www.gastateparks.org/info/jeffd

Contact John Hughes at 229 831 2335 or jeff_davis_state_park@dnr.state.ga.us

Blue & Gray Museum, Fitzgerald www.fitzgeraldga.org/blue&graymuseum.htm

Contact Patricia Walker or Anna Brown at 229 426 5069 or bgmuseum@mchsi.com

Fort McAllister State Historic Park, Richmond Hill www.gastateparks.org/info/ftmcallister

Contact Danny Brown at 912 727 2339 or daniel_brown@dnr.state.ga.us

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Address correction requested
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