

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

Civil War Sesquicentennial Commemoration meeting

The Executive Committee for Georgia's commemoration of the Civil War Sesquicentennial met on 23 January. A representative will approach the governor and lieutenant governor about one of them making an announcement within the year concerning the Sesquicentennial. Although state commemorative events may not start until late 2010 or early 2011, the committee felt that early publicity would bolster participation. While some events will be statewide, the committee wants community participation and will publicize local events.

The state point of contact for Sesquicentennial information will be Barry Brown at 404 692 4174 or bbrown@georgia.org. Also the Georgia tourism web site (www.georgia.org) will soon feature a Sesquicentennial section. The section will provide links to related organizations (e.g., GBA) and will also have a calendar of events. Further, local organizations will be able to submit 150th anniversary events for inclusion on the calendar.

As part of Sesquicentennial planning, the Governor's proposed budget includes provisions for repairing Civil War-related historical markers on a priority basis and for building facilities at the Resaca battlefield site; but we'll wait to see what the enacted budget includes.

GBA inspects Snake Creek Gap earthworks

In December, two GBA trustees examined two sites on U.S. Forest Service land.

Near the north end of Snake Creek Gap is a cluster of mounds that overlook SR 136 (the Resaca-Villanow Road), not far from the intersection with Mill Creek Road. Federal forces used both roads to march southward in May 1864, and official reports indicate troops of the XXIII Corps were posted in this area to prevent Confederate cavalry from menacing the Federal rear. The site may also have been used by Confederate pickets over the previous winter to monitor any Federal approach to the gap. While the earthworks are indistinct, the location is exactly right for a force guarding the road junction, and GBA will report as much to the Forest Service.

A second site along the road from Villanow to Resaca is near the south end of Snake Creek Gap. This site includes a trench line extending over 100 yards and is almost certainly the position taken by McPherson's two Federal Corps when they pulled back from Resaca on 9 May 1864. In June 2006, the trench line was breached at one spot by a bulldozer engaged in firefighting operations (August 2006 newsletter). Still, the line is quite distinct for a considerable distance, and it matches period maps showing the Federal position. The Forest Service is already aware of the significance of the site.

Peachtree Creek battlefield to suffer further insult

Tanyard Creek Park is the last remaining greenspace on the Peachtree Creek battlefield. Most of the battlefield was paved over and developed many decades ago. While the park does not preserve the site as it was on 20 July 1864, it is about the only place you can conjure up an image of what happened when over 4,000 men were killed or wounded in less than three hours.

As reported in the October newsletter, Atlanta BeltLine, Inc. (www.beltline.org) is working with the PATH Foundation (www.pathfoundation.org) to install bike trails in conjunction with the effort to restore an Atlanta passenger rail system. In the NorthWest sector, PATH proposed putting a 12-foot wide concrete path through the meadow on the east side of Tanyard Creek. Neighborhood groups opposed this route and tried to influence Atlanta BeltLine, Inc. to place the path on the west side of the creek. Among other considerations (such as flooding), this would reduce the visual insult.

Since March 2007, several meetings and tours of the site have been held. GBA supported putting the path on the west side of the creek; but at a 9 January meeting, neighborhood groups learned that BeltLine officials would recommend the east side route to Atlanta city government.

Dan Brown is new Superintendent at Chattahoochee NRA

Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park (KMNBP) superintendent Dan Brown has been named the new superintendent of the Chattahoochee National Recreation Area. Chief Ranger Lloyd Morris is acting superintendent at Kennesaw Mountain until a new superintendent is chosen, a process normally taking 6-8 months.

Dan Brown came to KMNBP in January 2005 upon the retirement of Superintendent John Cissell, who is now a GBA trustee. In his three years at Kennesaw Mountain, Dan continued John's strong advocacy for preservation not only of the park but also of other Civil War Sites in the area, including sites within and near Chattahoochee National Recreation Area. GBA looks forward to continuing to work with Dan in his new position, and we'll maintain our relationship with the great staff at Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park.

GBA holds annual board of trustees meeting

Georgia Battlefields Association's trustees held the required annual meeting on 20 January. Three of the eight trustees had terms expiring in 2008: Charlie Geiger, Frank Chew, and John Cissell all agreed to continue serving, and each was elected to a three year term. GBA officers are elected for one year terms, so all four positions were put to a vote with the following results:

President – Charlie Crawford Vice President – Olly Keller
Secretary – Cindy Wentworth Treasurer – Frank Chew

The trustees also approved an operating budget for 2008. Principal sources of income are membership dues and the annual tour led by Ed Bearss. The association is in sound financial condition, and we continue to look for site acquisition opportunities.

2008 Georgia Battlefields Association tour with Ed Bearss

Dates: 13-16 March 2008.

Sites: Battles of Atlanta, Ezra Church, and Utoy Creek; siege of Atlanta; downtown Atlanta.

Dinner: Friday (14 March) at the Cyclorama; Saturday (15 March) at The Carter Center.

Price: \$395. You must be a GBA member to register for the tour. Your reservation is confirmed when your check reaches the GBA treasurer at 7 Camden Rd NE, Atlanta GA 30309.

Hotel: Marriott Century Center, just northeast of the Clairmont Road exit off I-85.

Call (404) 325-0000 or book through the internet at www.marriott.com/atlne.

Ask for the Georgia Battlefields Association rate of \$99 (\$111 including tax) for a king bed or \$107 (\$120) for twin double beds. NOTE: Breakfast is not included.

The tour is over 50% full, so don't put off your reservations.

150 years ago this month

On 27 February, Mathew Brady, who already has a well patronized photography studio in New York, opens a studio on Pennsylvania Ave in Washington DC. Many portrait photos will be taken in both the Washington and New York studios in the next few years. During 1858, Brady also takes a series of landscape photos of wooded land in Manhattan. Frederick Olmsted and Calvert Vaux use the photos to support their proposal for the new Central Park.

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