

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

GBA vice president Olly Keller died

We're sad to announce that Georgia Battlefields Association Vice President Olly Keller died on 12 February 2008 at age 84.

A native of Pennsylvania, Olly served as a navy officer in WWII. He received a B.A. from Williams College in 1947 and served in the Navy again during the Korean War. He relocated to Springfield, Illinois, where he worked as a radio announcer, helped establish the local Civil War Round Table, and met his wife Joan. Through his radio work, he got involved with youth organizations and established programs to reduce delinquency. He earned an M.A. in sociology from Northern Illinois University in 1965 and was a research fellow at the University of Chicago's Center for Studies in Criminal Justice. He then moved to Florida to serve as director of the Division of Youth Services and, in 1973, was appointed the state's Secretary of Health and Rehabilitative Services. He was a visiting professor at the University of Florida from 1975 until 1978, when he was appointed to the U.S. Parole Commission. He relocated to Atlanta and threw himself into volunteer work, including affordable housing initiatives and alternative sentencing for juvenile offenders. He served as vice president of the Atlanta Civil War Round Table, was an original appointee to the Georgia Civil War Commission in 1993 (chair 1996-1997), and has been a Georgia Battlefields Association trustee since the organization was established in 1995. He also served on the board of the Georgia Wilderness Institutes, which fund programs for at-risk youth. Olly leaves wife Joan, daughters Alison and Louisa, and six grandchildren.

Olly was the subject of a featured obituary in the 17 February *Atlanta Journal Constitution*.
www.ajc.com/search/content/metro/obits/stories/2008/02/16/keller_0217.html.

A memorial service was held on 25 February at St. Luke's Episcopal Church in Atlanta.

Send condolences to the Keller family at 1150 Peachtree Battle Ave NW, Atlanta GA 30327.

Send donations in Olly's memory to:

- Georgia Battlefields Association, 7 Camden Rd NE, Atlanta GA 30309; or to
- Georgia Wilderness Institutes, c/o Sherri Ulleg, Associated Marine Institutes, 5915 Benjamin Center Dr, Tampa FL 33634.

Olly's preservation and humanitarian work has been recognized with several awards, but many of his efforts were behind the scenes, and his contributions are incalculable. We have lost a great leader, mentor, and friend.

GBA featured in local newspaper

Georgia Battlefields Association (GBA) is often cited in media stories about specific historic sites, but an article in the 22 February edition of the *Buckhead Reporter* focused on GBA itself.

The article resulted from GBA's stance on a new bike path through Tanyard Creek Park, part of the Peachtree Creek Battlefield (see February newsletter). After publishing articles about the bike path controversy and an article by GBA about the significance of the site, the *Buckhead Reporter* contacted GBA about the history and objectives of the organization. Through research and a series of interviews, reporter Amy Wenk wrote an article that provided more than the usual context about GBA's efforts to save historic sites throughout the state.

A link to the article is http://buckhead.lps2.com/Articles-i-2008-02-22-174710.112113_Association_strives_to_preserve_areas_historic_Civil_War_sites.html.

We can't help but think how much Olly Keller would have enjoyed reading the article.

Kilpatrick's Raid author will donate part of sales to GBA

Kilpatrick's Raid Around Atlanta, written by Mary L. Weigley and published in 2006, describes the Federal cavalry raid of 18-22 August 1864. The raid's leader, Brigadier General Judson Kilpatrick, asserted that he could cut the two remaining railroads into Atlanta and thereby force Confederate evacuation without a Federal assault on the city's defenses. While the raiding force

did cut the railroads, it narrowly escaped capture east of Lovejoy's Station on 20 August; and the Confederates repaired the railroads by the time Kilpatrick was able to report he had cut them.

Ms. Weigley recently joined GBA and has offered to donate \$1 from each sale to GBA. The book is available from the author for \$10 plus \$2 shipping. Contact Ms. Weigley at P.O. Box 612, Richland PA 17087 or e-mail mweigley@lmf.net. Inform her that you're a GBA member.

Park Day is 5 April

The annual Civil War Preservation Trust Park Day is scheduled for 5 April. Park Day provides an opportunity for volunteers to help maintain national, state, and local parks, none of which receive adequate maintenance funding. www.civilwar.org/parkday.

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 judy@pratersmill.org

Confederate Cemetery, Dalton
Contact Marvin Sowder at 706 278 3925 or msowder@dalton.net

Myrtle Hill Cemetery, Rome
Contact Jim Dugger at 706 232 7553 or strollinjim@gmail.com

Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park www.nps.gov/kemo
Contact Benita Duling at 770 427 4686 or benita_duling@nps.gov

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 dannybrown@coastalnow.net

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. (If necessary, download a membership application from the GBA web site www.georgiabattlefields.org/membersh.htm). Your reservation is confirmed when your check (including any membership fee) 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.

Georgia Battlefields Association
7 Camden Rd NE
Atlanta GA 30309

www.georgiabattlefields.org

March 2008

Address correction requested
Return postage guaranteed