

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

Regionally Important Resources

The Atlanta Regional Commission (ARC) is developing a long term plan for development and transportation, dubbed Plan 2040 (www.atlantaregional.com/plan2040). As part of the larger process, ARC is developing a plan for the protection and management of Regionally Important Resources, including "areas that have historical or cultural value." Normally, the Atlanta Region covers ten counties: Cherokee, Cobb, Douglas, Fulton, DeKalb, Gwinnett, Rockdale, Henry, Clayton, and Fayette; but for Plan 2040, nominations were accepted for ten additional counties: Bartow, Paulding, Carroll, Coweta, Spalding, Newton, Walton, Barrow, Hall, and Forsyth.

Within this 20-county region are many of the historic sites relating to the Atlanta Campaign. Georgia Battlefields Association sought to have them addressed comprehensively, rather than rely on local non-profits or county governments to nominate sites. Potentially, this could mean the inclusion of one site while another, more significant site was left out. While we hope that every site will be nominated by a local sponsor, we approached the ARC staff about nominating them all as a group. To that end, a GBA representative met with ARC staff on 26 August to submit maps and a summary paragraph for each of the following sites:

Bartow – Adairsville, Kingston, Cassville, Cass Station, Cartersville, Cooper Furnace, Allatoona Pass, Etowah River Crossings

Paulding – New Hope Church, Pickett's Mill, Dallas, Dallas-New Hope Line

Cobb – City of Kennesaw (including Southern Museum of Civil War and Locomotive History), Museum of Lost Mountain-Pine-Mountain-Brushy Mountain Line (includes Gilgal Church), Mud Creek Line, Kennesaw Mountain Line (includes Kolb's Farm and Battle of Kennesaw Mountain), City of Marietta, Smyrna Line (includes Ruff's Mill), River Line, Chattahoochee River Crossings (includes Sope Creek mill ruins)

Douglas – New Manchester Mill ruins at Sweetwater Creek State Park

Fulton – Chattahoochee River Crossings (includes Roswell mill ruins), Confederate Outer Line, Battle of Peachtree Creek, Battle of Atlanta, City Defense Line (includes Fort Walker and Cyclorama), Battle of Ezra Church, Battle of Utoy Creek, Siege Line, Rough & Ready, Palmetto

DeKalb – Battle of Atlanta (includes action at Decatur)

Coweta – City of Newnan, Battle of Brown's Mill

Clayton – Battle of Jonesboro, Battles at Lovejoy's Station

Henry – Battles at Lovejoy's Station (includes Nash Farm)

Barrow – Battle of King's Tanyard

The Atlanta Regional Commission hopes to have Plan 2040 adopted by July 2011, and we're glad that the ARC staff has so far been receptive to including all the Civil War sites.

GBA recommended to lead battlefield tours

The Civil War Round Table of Atlanta recommended GBA to provide a tour to a guest speaker who asked to see Johnston's River Line, the Confederate defense line constructed in June 1864 and including the unique fortifications known as Shoupades.

Also, a National Park Service historian recommended GBA to lead a tour of the Atlanta Campaign for the Filson Historical Society (www.filsonhistorical.org), based in Louisville, Kentucky. Filson representatives asked for a two-day tour. Since 2004, our annual GBA tours led by Ed Bearss have taken almost 18 days to cover the Atlanta Campaign, so we'll have to compress the schedule a bit for the Filson Civil War Field Institute tour.

We're glad that knowledgeable people recommend GBA to conduct tours of Georgia battlefields, and we hope that the tours result in increased support for preserving the sites.

Bearss tour 2010

We're filling in the details for our annual tour led by Ed Bearss. From 11 to 14 March 2010, we'll be covering the action of early September to early November 1864, after the Atlanta Campaign and before Sherman's March to the Sea and Hood's Tennessee Campaign. This is an often overlooked period, but it featured a lot of marching around northwest Georgia, several skirmishes, and a pitched battle at Allatoona Pass.

We'll begin as usual with a Thursday evening (11 March) reception for Ed Bearss at the hotel. For the Friday and Saturday (12 & 13 March) bus excursions, we'll follow Hood's Confederates as they attempt to cut the Federals' railroad supply line. Sites we'll visit include: Palmetto, where the Confederate army was camped when Jefferson Davis visited; Lost Mountain; Cave Spring; Resaca; Tilton; Dalton; and Ship's Gap. We'll also follow the pursuing Federals to Kingston and Rome; and we'll follow both armies as they march southwestward through Lafayette, Summerville, and Gaylesville. We'll also visit Cedar Bluff, site of Streight's surrender to Forrest in May 1863. On Sunday (14 March), we'll return to Allatoona Pass to understand the battle in the context of the Fall 1864 campaign.

Our Friday dinner will be at Roselawn (www.roselawnmuseum.com), and Saturday dinner will be at Grand Oaks, both in Cartersville.

We'll be based at Fairfield Inn, 20 Canyon Pkwy, Cartersville. This is just west of I-75 exit 288. Call 770 387 0400. Ask for the Georgia Battlefields Association rate of \$89 per night. With tax, the cost will be just under \$100. Includes breakfast and access to fitness center and indoor pool.

The price is \$395 per person, but you must be a GBA member to register. Your reservation is confirmed when your check to GBA arrives at 7 Camden Rd NE, Atlanta GA 30309.

150 years ago this month

On 4 October, Kansas voters approve an anti-slavery constitution by an almost 2 to 1 margin.

Late on 16 October, John Brown leads 18 men in an attempt to seize the U.S. arsenal at Harpers Ferry, Virginia. Brown hopes to incite and provide arms for a slave uprising. Instead, local militia and townspeople battle the raiders, resulting in casualties on both sides. Some of the raiders slip away, but Brown and seven others barricade themselves and some hostages in the arsenal's firehouse. On 17 October, LtCol R.E. Lee, on leave at his wife's home in Arlington, is approached by 1Lt J.E.B. Stuart with a message from the War Department. After a meeting with President Buchanan, Lee and Stuart are sent by rail to Harper's Ferry with 1Lt Israel Greene and his company of Marines from the Washington Navy Yard. After assessing the situation, Lee orders the Marines to surround the engine house. When negotiations with Brown fail on the morning of 18 October, the Marines storm the engine house: Brown is among the wounded, and Marine Private Luke Quinn is killed. Ten of Brown's followers—including two of his sons—have been killed over the course of the raid. Brown's trial begins swiftly. In reaction to Brown's raid, militia companies are formed throughout the South to prepare for any similar incidents.

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