

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

Annual GBA tour with Ed Bearss

We managed to dodge most of the heavy rain of 11-14 March and had another good tour with Ed Bearss. Ed was delighted to visit at least eight sites that he had never seen before.

Our visit to Rome, Georgia made the local paper, as did an edited version of a letter GBA sent to the Rome City and Floyd County commissions. Here are links to both.

Article: www.romenews-tribune.com:80/view/full_story/6693921/article-Dooley-among-Georgia-Battlefield-Association-members-touring-Rome--Cave-Spring

Letter: http://romenews-tribune.com/view/full_story/6719991/article-Identifying-Civil-War-sites-makes-history-come-alive?instance=lead_story_left_column

While we haven't finalized the site for the 2011 tour with Ed, we've gotten favorable response to the idea of basing the tour in Augusta. We'd visit the sites of the arsenal and powder works, and we'd also go to Washington, Georgia, where the Confederate government was dissolved. We're also considering a visit to Revolutionary War battlefields in the area, such as Kettle Creek.

For 2012, we're contemplating a return to Savannah. This would be the 150th anniversary of the shelling and surrender of Fort Pulaski, and we'd also visit some of the Savannah defenses that we didn't see in 2002, along with favorites such as Fort McAllister and Fort Jackson.



Ed Bearss (in white hat) is the focus of everyone's attention as we prepare to enter Allatoona Pass.



Ed explaining one of the new markers in the star fort at Allatoona Pass.

New GBA trustee

Joe Trahan has been elected to Georgia Battlefields Association's Board of Trustees. Joe is a retired Army Lieutenant Colonel with a B.A. in military history and a master's and Ph.D. in public relations. A native of Louisiana, Joe now lives in Stockbridge, Georgia.

Resaca state historic site update

Prospects for opening a Resaca visitor's center in time for the Civil War Sesquicentennial dimmed considerably when the Gordon County Board of Commissioners voted on 16 March to return responsibility for construction to the Georgia Department of Natural Resources (DNR). (See January newsletter.) County commissioners faced a hard decision when they were informed that the environmental permits granted to DNR could not be transferred to the county, meaning they would have to spend around \$100,000 and as much as six months to secure new permits.

DNR will not build the visitor's center soon but intends to use the \$3 million in bond money to build an access road, a parking area, walking trails, and interpretive signs. While this is a blow to the idea of making Resaca the Sesquicentennial gateway for visitors travelling the I-75 corridor, the reduced scale of construction may allow something to be in place sooner.

Battle of Resaca reenactment is 14-16 May

The annual reenactment of the Battle of Resaca will occur on 14-16 May at the Chitwood Farm, part of the original battlefield. For more information, see the web site www.georgiadiivision.org or write Battle of Resaca, P.O. Box 919, Resaca GA 30735 or e-mail csgrizly@comcast.net. As usual, some of the proceeds from the reenactment will go to preserve the battlefield. The Friends of Resaca Battlefield (www.resacabattlefield.org) have been great guardians of the site.

Old Clinton "War Days" Festival is 1-2 May

The annual Old Clinton War Days event occurs this year on 1 & 2 May. On both days, gates open at 9 a.m., reenactor camps open at 10:05, and battle reenactments (Sunshine Church and Griswoldville) start at 2:05 p.m. The event also features food, crafts, and artifact displays. Proceeds (\$5 for adults, \$3 for children age 6 to 18) are used to preserve the Old Clinton Historic District. The memorial service at 8:05 p.m. Saturday at the Old Clinton cemetery is free.

Old Clinton is 12 miles northeast of Macon, and 1.5 miles southeast of Gray, just a block west of US 129. For more information, call Earlene Hamilton at 478 986 6383 or the Jones County-Gray Visitor's Center at 478 986 1123.

150 years ago this month

On 3 April, Pony Express mail service begins between St Joseph, Missouri, and Sacramento, California. The trip normally takes eight days, much faster than the average 23 days for the Overland Mail stagecoach service (October 2008 newsletter).

On 23 April, the Democratic Party convention begins in Charleston, South Carolina. When a pro-slavery platform is rejected, delegates from eight southern states walk out. The remaining delegates can't agree on a candidate, and the convention adjourns on 3 May, hoping some of the issues can be resolved before reconvening.

Annual park day is 10 April

The annual Civil War Preservation Trust Park Day is scheduled for 10 April. For more info, see www.civilwar.org/aboutus/events/park-day/. Contact these sites if you want to help:

- Chickamauga National Military Park, Fort Oglethorpe www.nps.gov/chch
Patrice Glass at 706 866 9241 x137 or patrice_glass@nps.gov
- Tunnel Hill (Railroad Tunnel and Clisby Austin House) www.tunnelhillheritagecenter.com
Rial Sloan at 706 673 2641 or rialnjan@optilink.us
- Mt Zion United Methodist Church Cemetery, Rocky Face
Steve Hall at 706 673 7987 or tunnelhill@windstream.net
- Confederate Cemetery, Dalton: Marvin Sowder at 706 278 3925 or msowder@dalton.net
- Historic Prater's Mill, Varnell www.pratersmill.org
Judy Alderman at 706 694 6455 or pratersmill@pratersmill.org
- Myrtle Hill Cemetery, Rome: John Harrison at 706 802 0719 or eagleman301@aol.com
- Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park www.nps.gov/kemo
Benita Duling at 770 427 4686 or benita_duling@nps.gov
- Blue & Gray Museum and Evergreen Cemetery, Fitzgerald www.fitzgeraldga.org
Al Strom at 229 426 5069 or bgmuseum@mchsi.com
- Fort McAllister State Historic Park, Richmond Hill www.gastateparks.org/info/ftmcallister
Danny Brown at 912 727 2339 or dannybrown@coastalnow.net
- Hofwyl-Broadfield Plantation Historic Site www.gastateparks.org/hofwylbroadfieldplantation
Bill Giles at 912 264 7333 or bgiles@dnr.state.ga.us

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April 2010

Address correction requested
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