

GEORGIA

BATTLEFIELDS

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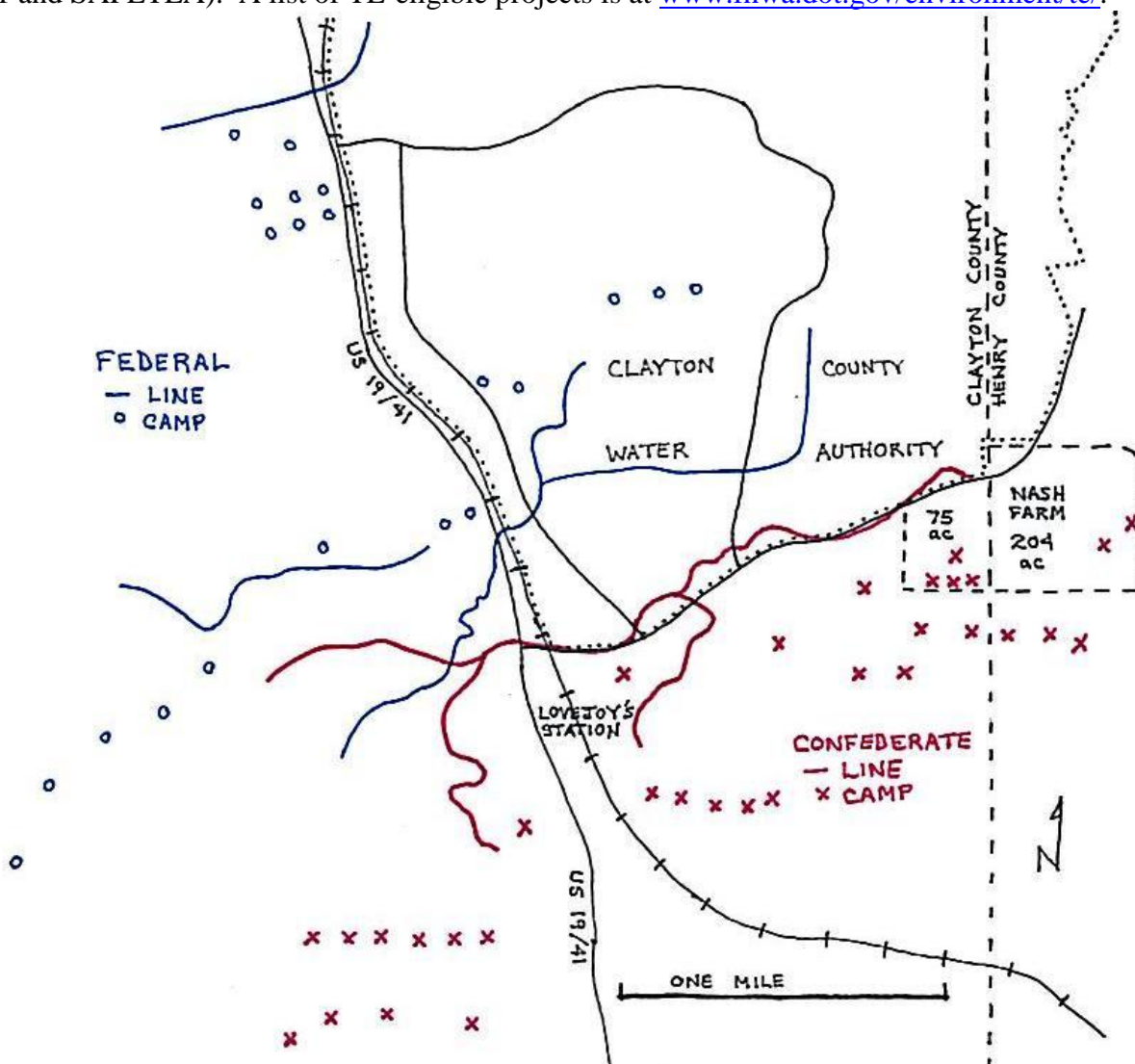
Annual GBA tour goes back to Savannah 9-12 March 2012

Although we'll be without Ed Bearss, we'll still visit Savannah sites not normally seen, as well as those usually visited. Note that this is a Friday evening through Monday morning tour rather than our usual Thursday to Sunday. Hotel is the Courtyard by Marriott in the historic district at 415 West Liberty Street (www.savannahcourtyard.com). The GBA group rate is \$169 plus tax and includes breakfast, but parking is additional, either valet at the hotel (\$12 per night) or in the nearby public parking garage (\$10 per night). You can make reservations at 912 373 1284 or through a special web site <http://cwp.marriott.com/savdt/gabattlefieldassn/>. The tour price remains \$395, but you must be a GBA member to participate. Your place is reserved when your check to GBA arrives at 7 Camden Rd NE, Atlanta GA 30309.

Nash Farm gets Transportation Enhancement grant

Henry County's Nash Farm Battlefield (www.henrycountybattlefield.com), site of cavalry action on 20 August 1864 and infantry action on 3 September 1864, received a \$435,600 Transportation Enhancement (TE) program grant to build almost 10,000 feet of 12 foot wide paved trails. Total cost of the project is \$549,500, of which the county will provide a 20% match through in-kind services, such as design, surveying, clearing, and grading. The asphalt trails will replace gravel, thus improving wheelchair accessibility and reducing long term maintenance.

For 20 years, the TE program has been used extensively to fund historic preservation projects, but the current pressure on reducing federal spending has brought increasing criticism to the program. The gist of the criticism is that money for surface transportation should not be diluted by spending on preservation, landscaping, bike paths, archaeology, and other projects authorized by the 1991 Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act (ISTEA) and its successors (TEA-21 and SAFETEA). A list of TE-eligible projects is at www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/te/.



GBA to lead part of Atlanta Campaign tour for Pamplin Park

On 5 and 6 November, GBA will lead part of an Atlanta Campaign Tour for Pamplin Historical Park, home of the National Museum of the Civil War Soldier. Prior days will feature guides Jim Ogden and Brian Wills. The GBA-led portion will cover the crossing of the Chattahoochee, the change of command, Peachtree Creek, Atlanta, Ezra Church, Utoy Creek, and Jonesboro. Glenn Robins will guide the final two days. www.pamplinpark.org/pdfs/2011MembersTour.pdf

150 years ago this month

On 2 November, President Lincoln fires Major General John C. Fremont as commander of the Department of the West and replaces him with Major General David Hunter. Within a week, the Federals disestablish the Department of the West and transfer Hunter to the new Department of Kansas. Instead, a new Department of the Missouri is created and commanded by Major General Henry Halleck. A new Department of the Ohio is also established, with Brigadier General Don Carlos Buell superseding Brigadier General William Sherman, who is sent home to rest.

On 13 November, Lincoln visits the home of his new General in Chief, Major General George McClellan, less than two weeks in the position. When McClellan finally arrives, he goes straight to bed without speaking to the President, illustrating the difficult relationship between the two.

Confederate command changes include the 5 November appointment of General R.E. Lee as commander of the new Department of South Carolina, Georgia, and East Florida. Even before Lee arrives in Savannah, a Federal fleet enters Port Royal Sound on 7 November, bombarding the forts and putting 12,000 men ashore on Hilton Head Island, South Carolina. Within days, the Federals also seize Beaufort. Port Royal will be an important refueling and resupply station for the South Atlantic Blockading Squadron for the rest of the war. On 24 November, a Federal invasion force lands on Tybee Island, Georgia, controlling the entrance to the port of Savannah. Two days later, Confederate ships try unsuccessfully to lure Federal blockaders within range of the big guns at Fort Pulaski. Among the ships now trapped in Savannah is *Fingal*, just purchased from England by the Confederate government. Instead of blockade running, the ship will be converted to the ironclad ram *CSS Atlanta*. Southern planters near Port Royal and Tybee Island burn their cotton rather than have it seized by the invaders. The Federal enclaves become refuges for fleeing slaves, who will be put to work building facilities and defenses.

A 6 November election confirms what the secession convention had done provisionally, and Jefferson Davis is now president of the Confederacy for a six year term. The Confederate government must itself deal with secession when, on 26 November, a convention in Wheeling adopts a constitution for a new state to be called West Virginia.

On 7 November, a small fight at Belmont, Missouri, becomes retrospectively noteworthy because U.S. Grant learns lessons about commanding a battle.

On 8 November, *USS San Jacinto* intercepts the British mail ship *Trent* as it leaves Cuba and removes James Mason and John Slidell, Confederate emissaries to Britain and France. *Trent* arrives in Britain on 27 November, and news of the incident precipitates a diplomatic crisis that will remain in the headlines for the rest of the year.

On 15 November, the Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA) organizes a commission to minister to Federal soldiers, providing nurses as well as religious materials.

On 19 November, Julia Ward Howe awakes in her room at Willard's Hotel in Washington and is inspired to write a poem that she sets to the tune of "John Brown's Body" and titles "Battle Hymn of the Republic." Three years later, people in Georgia will get very tired of hearing it.

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