

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

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

Note that this is a Friday (9 March) evening through Monday (12 March) morning tour rather than our usual Thursday to Sunday. We'll begin with a Friday evening reception, after which dinner is on your own. On Saturday, we'll board the bus and start with a visit to the site of one of the Federal batteries that shelled Fort Pulaski. We'll next go to the fort itself, and follow that with a tour of five of the batteries and forts—best seen from the water, so we'll go by boat—that formed Savannah's seaward defenses. We'll have lunch at Fort Jackson, after which we'll travel to Fort Wimberly and Rose Dhu. At both sites, impressive Confederate earthworks remain. Saturday dinner will be at Savannah History Museum www.chsgeorgia.org.

Sunday will begin with a visit to the Ebenezer Creek crossing, which is accessible only by special arrangement. We'll then travel to the Monteith Swamp battlefield and drive by the site of Sherman's HQ. Next will be a visit to Shaw's Dam, where earthworks from both sides remain. After lunch, we'll visit the site of Battery Jones and see how the Salt Creek marshes still present a considerable obstacle. We'll then see King's Bridge, which was a major Federal supply point; and we'll finish at Fort McAllister. Sunday dinner will be at Noble Fare www.noblefare.com.

Monday morning will be a walking tour of Civil War sites in downtown Savannah. Our web site www.georgiabattlefields.org now has a link to information about the whole tour.

Hotel is the Courtyard by Marriott at 415 West Liberty Street (www.savannahcourtyard.com). GBA group rate is \$169 plus tax and includes breakfast, but parking is additional. Reserve your room at 912 373 1284 or through the web site <http://cwp.marriott.com/savdt/gabattlefieldassn/>. Your place on the tour is reserved when your check to Georgia Battlefields Association for \$395 per person arrives at 7 Camden Rd NE, Atlanta GA 30309.

GBA trustees hold annual meeting

In accordance with the Georgia Battlefields Association by-laws, the Board of Trustees held its annual meeting on 21 January 2012. While the trustees communicate frequently and meet as occasion requires, we hold at least one formal meeting each January. At the meeting, trustee Cindy Wentworth was elected to another three year term. Officers hold only one year terms, and this year's election retained each of the current officers in their positions: President Charlie Crawford, Vice President Cindy Wentworth, Secretary Gene Murphy, Treasurer Frank Chew. Joe Trahan and Mary-Elizabeth Ellard remain as the other trustees.

This year, we expect to contribute \$75,000 towards the purchase of 51 acres at Resaca and \$25,000 towards the purchase of 7 acres in Crow Valley, north of Dalton. Both sites have been personally inspected by one or more trustees, and their significance has been verified by examination of reports and maps in the *Official Records*. We are pursuing preservation of other sites but are not close to acquisition. We will continue to support the preservation efforts of other organizations, as well. Other expected activities include presentations, membership on committees, and installation of historical markers.

GBA will again lead a tour for Phoenix Flies

Atlanta Preservation Center's annual Phoenix Flies program will once again feature a GBA-led tour of downtown Atlanta Civil War sites, this year on 18 March. Early in February, Atlanta Preservation Center www.preserveatlanta.com will provide information about this and other tours when it activates the www.phoenixflies.org web site.

The March 2008 GBA walking tour of downtown Atlanta was recorded by Three23 Films, and a 52 minute-long DVD titled "Civil War Atlanta: A walk through history" is available. The intro of the DVD is on the web at <http://vimeo.com/7535060>. The DVD is normally available at the museum store of the Atlanta History Center, or you can order a DVD by sending a \$15 check to GBA at 7 Camden Rd NE, Atlanta GA 30309.

Governor's budget proposal

As usual, the governor's budget proposal was submitted in the early days of the General Assembly. Regarding items related to preservation, the budget eliminates all state funding for the Georgia Humanities Council (\$50,000) and Georgia Historical Society (\$70,000), both of which advocate for awareness of historic sites. As has been true for the last several years, the Georgia Civil War Commission receives no funding. The Historic Preservation Division loses three positions and over \$18,000 in operating funds. Parks, Recreation, and Historic Sites Division loses five positions but gains over \$142,000 in general funds.

The final budget always differs from the proposed budget, but the proposal does reflect that preservation continues to be a low priority.

150 years ago this month

In the first days of February 1862, a combined U.S. army & navy force under Brigadier General U.S. Grant and Flag Officer Andrew Foote starts up the Tennessee River from Paducah. Foote receives the surrender of Fort Henry, Tennessee, on 6 February before Grant's force arrives. Grant then heads overland for Fort Donelson on the Cumberland River, while Foote takes his gunboats down the Tennessee and up the Cumberland in support. The fall of Fort Henry pierces the Confederate defense line across Kentucky, and General A.S. Johnston hurries troops to Fort Donelson. After Federal attacks by land and by gunboat and an attempted Confederate breakout, Fort Donelson surrenders on 16 February. U.S. Grant wins the sobriquet "Unconditional Surrender" Grant for his response to a request for surrender terms from his pre-war friend Simon B. Buckner. N.B. Forrest gains fame for his successful escape with his cavalry, but 12,000 Confederates become prisoners. Further, the Confederate defense line in the western theater is undone, leading to the evacuation of Kentucky and the Federal occupation of Clarksville on 19 February and Nashville on 25 February, both of which will become major supply bases. Nashville is the first Confederate capital to fall.

On 8 February, 7,500 Federals under Ambrose Burnside seize Roanoke Island and capture 2,000 Confederates. This small battle has the large consequence of giving the Federals control of Pamlico Sound and a base for further operations into North Carolina.

The elected Confederate Congress succeeds the provisional one on 18 February. Jefferson Davis is inaugurated as formally elected president on 22 February in heavy rain in Richmond.

Marching across Texas and up the Rio Grande Valley into New Mexico Territory are 2,600 Confederates. On 21 February at Valverde, they repel Federals that retreat into Fort Craig.

On 20 February, President Lincoln's son Willie dies of typhoid fever, and youngest son Tad is also fighting the disease. Having already lost son Eddie in 1850, Mary Lincoln is unhinged by Willie's death. Oldest son Robert is studying at Harvard, safely out of the war.

Despite President Lincoln's order for a general advance on or before 22 February, McClellan makes no progress on an overland campaign that the president desires. Instead, McClellan is engrossed in planning a campaign up the peninsula between the York and James Rivers.

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