

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

GBA provides funds for Crow Valley site purchase

The Confederate line north of Dalton was prepared in the early months of 1864 and saw action in May when the Atlanta Campaign began. While many people in the Dalton area have worked to find and preserve the earthworks that mark the line, a recently-formed organization called Save the Dalton Battlefields has formalized the non-government efforts to save the sites.

Fortifications on Picket Top, also known as Potato Hill, were occupied by Rowan's Battery, supported by infantry from Mercer's brigade during the fighting in Crow Valley in early May 1864. Seven acres on the north face of the hill, including part of the earthwork remnants, were bought by Save the Dalton Battlefields, with the closing on 14 June. **GBA contributed the purchase price of \$25,000**, with the closing and ancillary costs borne by the Community Foundation of Northwest Georgia and Save the Dalton Battlefields. At a 25 June meeting of the Whitfield County Board of commissioners, Save the Dalton Battlefields' Bob Jenkins proposed transfer of the land to the county for use as a park. The commissioners agreed to the transfer pending the relevant paperwork.

7 acres containing Confederate artillery and infantry earthworks.

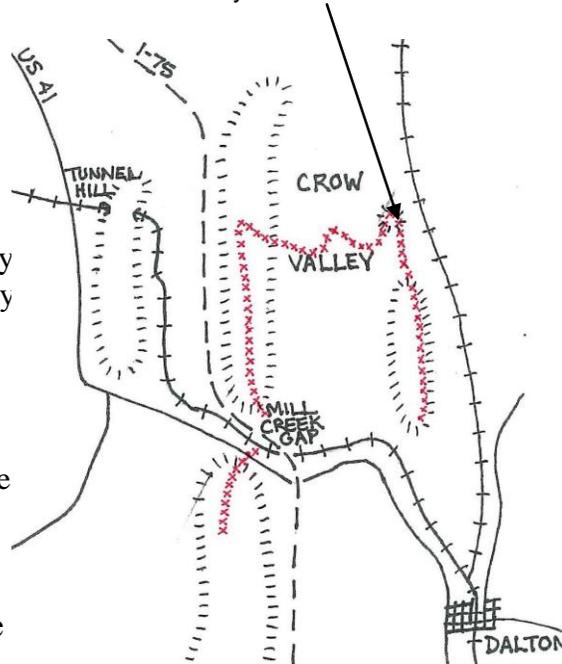


Photo taken after the Whitfield County Commission agreed on 25 June to accept historic property on Potato Hill. L to R: Commission Chairman Mike Babb; Save the Dalton Battlefields members Dr. Bill Blackman (vice president) and Dr. Jim Burran; GBA president Charlie Crawford; Save the Dalton Battlefields members Greg Cockburn, Kathryn Sellers (treasurer), and Bob Jenkins (president). Dr. Burran is former president of Dalton State College. Greg Cockburn is the indefatigable guide who explores and discovers earthworks even in dense undergrowth. Kathryn Sellers is former president of Georgia Civil War Heritage Trails. Bob Jenkins is an attorney who has provided pro bono services to negotiate and formalize acquisition of the property. Bob has also written a book about the Battle of Peachtree Creek that will be published by Mercer University Press.

Options for receiving the GBA newsletter

Most GBA newsletters are distributed by e-mail. The benefit to GBA is the reduction in printing and mailing costs. The benefit to recipients is they get the newsletter with color instead of black & white photos and maps. Also, they receive the newsletter earlier, as the e-mail usually goes out on the same day that the version is sent to the printers. We realize that not everyone uses e-mail, and you are welcome to receive the printed newsletter through the regular mail, but please consider e-mail receipt if you can. Notify us at info@georgiabattlefields.org.

150 years ago this month

In Virginia, the month opens with McClellan's Army of the Potomac still encamped at Harrison's Landing and Pope's Army of Virginia advancing towards Culpeper. On 3 August, recently appointed General in Chief Halleck orders McClellan to transfer the Army of the Potomac from the Peninsula to northern Virginia. Burnside's Corps, which had been operating in coastal North Carolina, is also transferred to northern Virginia. When Lee recognizes the Federal moves, he sends Jackson and almost half of the Army of Northern Virginia's infantry towards Culpeper. Jackson and Banks' Corps of the Army of Virginia collide at Cedar Mountain on 9 August, which stops Pope's advance. On 13 August, Lee orders the remainder of his field army to leave the Peninsula for central Virginia and begins an offensive. Skirmishing along the Rappahannock River is frequent in the middle of the month until a bold flanking move results in Jackson's capture of the Federal supply depot at Manassas Junction, and the resulting 28-30 August Second Battle of Manassas is a resounding Confederate victory. Pope and others are convinced that his defeat results from McClellan's reluctance to come to his support.

In the west, Bragg continues the transfer of Confederate forces from northern Mississippi to Chattanooga for an advance northward. Kirby Smith, operating from Knoxville and supposedly cooperating with Bragg, advances into Kentucky on 16 August, while Bragg does not advance from Chattanooga until 21 August. On 30 August, Kirby Smith wins a small but stunningly complete victory at Richmond, Kentucky, capturing more than half the 6,500 Federals engaged.

On 11 August, while in Chattanooga, Bragg declares martial law for Atlanta, an increasingly vital supply, transportation, administration, and manufacturing center.

On 6 August near Baton Rouge, *CSS Arkansas* engages five U.S. ships. Like most Confederate ironclads, *Arkansas*' engines are inadequate; and it becomes an easy target. Its crew abandons ship and blows it up.

On 17 August, Sioux tribes angered by conditions on their reservations in southwest Minnesota begin an uprising that will result in hundreds of deaths. It will last for over a month and require diversion of local and Federal troops to put it down.

Administratively for the Confederates, Beauregard is assigned to command the Department of South Carolina & Georgia on 29 August, relieving Pemberton, who is sent to Mississippi. For the Federals, Butler authorizes enlisting free Negroes in New Orleans on 22 August. On 25 August, Secretary of War Stanton authorizes the Department of the South to enlist 5,000 Negroes as guards for captured plantations and facilities.

On 19 August, New York newspaper editor Horace Greeley writes his "The Prayer of the Twenty Millions" letter that urges emancipation as a war objective. President Lincoln's response is published 22 August, and he writes lyrically that saving the Union is the overriding goal. Lincoln does not acknowledge that he has already written the Emancipation Proclamation and is only awaiting an opportunity to release it. www.civilwarhome.com/lincolngreeley.htm

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