

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

Chickamauga tour still on but without Ed Bearss

We were notified in mid January that Ed will not be able to be with us for the tour. We're certainly disappointed, but we know the quality of the tour won't suffer because we already had Jim Ogden scheduled as a guide. We hope you'll still come with us.

Dates: Evening of 14 March through morning of 17 March 2013.

Subject: Chickamauga Campaign, including the weeks leading up to the September 1863 battle.

Hotel: Hampton Inn at 6875 Battlefield Pkwy, Ringgold GA. 706 935 4800. Just east of I-75 exit 350. GBA rate is \$99, including breakfast. www.ringgoldftoglethorpe.hamptoninn.com.

Price: Send \$395 check to GBA at 7 Camden Rd NE, Atlanta GA 30309. You must be a GBA member to participate. November 2012 newsletter has more details.

GBA annual trustees meeting

Georgia Battlefields Association held its annual meeting of the board of trustees on 27 January. Three trustees were re-elected to three year terms, and the same slate of officers was maintained. The trustees and their term expirations are: Frank Chew, treasurer (2014); Charlie Crawford, president (2016); Mary-Elizabeth Ellard (2014); Gene Murphy, corporate secretary and registered agent (2016); Joe Trahan (2016); Cindy Wentworth, vice president (2015). Also attending was Stephanie Pellock, our web site maintainer since 2011.



Frank Chew, Cindy Wentworth, Joe Trahan, Mary-Elizabeth Ellard, Charlie Crawford, Stephanie Pellock, Gene Murphy

GBA helps with another Georgia Historical Society marker

Georgia Battlefields Association helped with financing another Georgia Historical Society marker in Savannah, this one noting the birthplace of John C. Fremont. Fremont was famous before the Civil War for his explorations in the west, his role in California's admission as a state, and as the first presidential nominee of the Republican Party. Fremont's performance during the Civil War was less noteworthy, and his personal and political conflicts with President Lincoln led to Fremont's removal from command. The marker was dedicated 22 January.

GBA will again lead a tour for Phoenix Flies

Atlanta Preservation Center's annual Phoenix Flies program will again feature a GBA-led walking tour of downtown Atlanta Civil War sites. For 2013, the tours will start at 1 p.m. on both 9 and 23 March. You can make reservations by calling 404 688 3353. Information about this and the other tours will be available around 18 February on www.preserveatlanta.com.

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 sometimes 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.

Civil War books for sale

Linda Geiger, formerly GBA's web site maintainer, is moving from Georgia and is reducing her book collection, including those of her late husband Charlie Geiger, GBA's president from 1999 to 2002. You can peruse most of the titles at www.librarything.com/profile/lwgeiger. Contact Linda if you're interested in acquiring any of the books. linda@woodward-geiger.com

Preservation still a low priority in Governor's budget

In conjunction with his annual state of the state address, Governor Deal submitted his budget proposal to the General Assembly on 17 January. While the budget approved by the legislature will differ to some degree from the Governor's proposal, operation and maintenance of historic sites and preservation are not priorities. For example, the Georgia Civil War Commission would not receive any funds. While this is not good news, it is also not surprising news. Georgia Battlefields Association will continue to work with other non-governmental preservation organizations to raise what funds we can to supplement whatever the national, state, and local governments are willing to provide.

150 years ago this month

On 1 February, U.S. Navy gunboats again shell Fort McAllister on the Ogeechee River south of Savannah. The five hour bombardment damages the dirt walls and a few guns and kills Major Gallie, the fort's commander. Damage to the walls is repaired by slave labor overnight. Later in the month, the blockade runner *Rattlesnake* runs aground near the fort. On 28 February, four Federal gunboats shell *Rattlesnake* until it burns.

At Charleston, three blockade runners arrive on 7 February; but it's rare that ships get through. The price of flour in Charleston is now \$65 per barrel.

In Virginia, Joseph Hooker reorganizes the Army of the Potomac on 5 February. While major campaigns are typically suspended for the winter, operations in Virginia are further impeded by a heavy snow in the middle of the month. On 18 February, Lee dispatches Longstreet and two divisions from Fredericksburg to southeastern Virginia to guard against a Federal advance from the Tidewater towards Richmond.

In the Mississippi Valley, U.S. Grant continues to try to find an approach to Vicksburg. On 3 February, the Yazoo Pass levee is breached to try to open another water route. On 2 February, the U.S. gunboat *Queen of the West* runs the Vicksburg batteries in daylight. In the following days, it destroys three cargo boats and supplies (pork, salt, cotton, etc.). Proceeding south, it destroys 12 wagons along the Red River along with 70 barrels of beef and powder. On the night of 13 February, U.S. gunboat *Indianola* runs the Vicksburg batteries. On 14 February, *Queen of the West* runs aground and is abandoned by the Federals. Ten days later, *Queen of the West*, repaired and under Confederate control, captures *Indianola*. On the night of 26 February, the Federals send a coal barge disguised as an ironclad past the Vicksburg batteries. In a panic, the Confederates blow up *Indianola*, saving only the liquor supply.

In other developments, the French offer on 3 February to mediate the conflict, but Secretary of State Seward rebuffs the offer on 6 February. In her 5 February annual message to Parliament, Queen Victoria states that Great Britain has not offered to mediate because there is no prospect of success. On 8 February, the *Chicago Times* is closed down for printing disloyal statements, though the order is rescinded by Grant on 17 February. On 12 February, *CSS Florida* destroys a clipper ship in the West Indies. On 19 February, President Davis writes to Joseph Johnston expressing dismay about subordinates' lack of confidence in Braxton Bragg as commander of the Army of Tennessee. On 20 February, the Confederate Congress authorizes bonds to fund treasury notes. On 25 February, the U.S. Congress passes the conscription act, instituting a draft as the Confederates had ten months earlier. On the same day, President Lincoln signs an act establishing a national currency ("greenbacks") and the Office of Comptroller of the Currency. On 24 February, the Arizona Territory is split off from the existing New Mexico Territory. On 22 February, the Central Pacific Railroad begins laying track eastward from Sacramento for a transcontinental route.

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