

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 has good turnout and good weather

GBA's tour focusing on the Chickamauga Campaign drew 45 participants from ten states. Historian Jim Ogden demonstrated his knowledge of and passion for the subject throughout the tour. More photos from the tour are available at www.georgiabattlefields.org/tours.htm.



Jim Ogden leading a charge from Winfrey Field.



GBA trustees on Snodgrass Hill.
Photo by Bill Blackman.



Vince Dooley, Jim Ogden, Gene Murphy.
Photo by Cindy Wentworth.



Where the Confederates broke through on 20 Sept 1863. Photo by Mary-Elizabeth Ellard.

GBA presentations and tours

With the Chickamauga tour, two tours of downtown Atlanta, and a tour of the Confederate defense line through what is now the Georgia Tech campus all occurring in March, GBA has now led 43 tours and made 105 presentations since January 2002.

GBA reviews texts for audio tours

For the Civil War Sesquicentennial, Georgia Department of Economic Development is preparing audio tours that can be accessed through a variety of media. GBA has reviewed and revised the narratives for twelve tours so far.

150 years ago this month

The deteriorating conditions on the Confederate home front are demonstrated on 2 April when a protest against prices and shortages—especially of flour—by women in Richmond turns into a riot. President Davis arrives and appeals for patriotism and order. Unsuccessful, he throws the money from his pocket into the crowd. On 10 April, he directs farmers to plant food crops instead of cotton and tobacco. On 24 April, the Confederate Congress passes a tax-in-kind of 10% of all produce for government use. In South Carolina, Governor Bonham asks for legislation to halt speculation and hoarding of flour, corn, bacon, and other foodstuffs.

Along the coast and at sea, both sides have some success and some failure. On 7 April, nine U.S. ironclads attack Fort Sumter in Charleston Harbor, firing 154 shells. Confederate batteries respond with 2209 rounds. Five ironclads are disabled, and *USS Keokuk* sinks the next morning. Admiral DuPont concludes that the navy alone will never take Charleston, but President Lincoln

insists that the navy remain in the area. On 11 April, the navy forces the blockade runner *Stonewall Jackson* ashore near Charleston, though four blockade runners reach Wilmington, North Carolina, on 23 April. From 3 to 9 April, U.S. sailors and marines operate against Bayport, Florida, to prevent its use by blockade runners. On 24 April, *USS DeSoto* captures four blockade runners. On 15 April, *CSS Alabama* destroys two northern whaling ships off Brazil.

In Virginia, Lincoln visits the Army of the Potomac around Falmouth 5-10 April. He reminds the army's commander, Joseph Hooker, that Lee's army, not Richmond, is the primary objective. After Lincoln returns to Washington, Hooker sends along his plan to outflank Lee's left. Lincoln, Secretary of War Stanton, and General Halleck return for a one day visit on 19 April, and Lincoln is pleased to find that the condition and morale of the army is good. By 30 April, the army has crossed the Rappahannock and deployed around Chancellorsville.

Opposing Hooker, Lee's army remains centered on Fredericksburg, minus Longstreet and two of his divisions, deployed to southeastern Virginia to gather food and prevent a Federal advance, ideally by driving the Yankees out of Suffolk. Without part of his army, Lee is caught off guard by Hooker's flanking movement, in part because of the substantial Federal presence that remains in his front. Perhaps most significantly, Lee is sick for much of April. Even with the medical limitations of the time, doctors correctly diagnose the root cause as cardiovascular disease.

Cavalry raids proliferate on both sides. Stoneman leads Union cavalry against Lee's supply lines to draw Confederate cavalry away from scouting Hooker's flanking movement. In western Virginia and Maryland, Grumble Jones leads his Confederate cavalry brigade against the B&O railroad. In central Tennessee, Wheeler leads Confederate cavalry against the railroads supplying Rosecrans' army at Murfreesboro, while Van Dorn attacks the Federal garrison at Franklin. For the Federals, Streight leads 1700 cavalry, some mounted on mules, out of Nashville on 11 April with the objective of cutting Confederate supply lines as far south as Georgia. Marmaduke leads his Confederate cavalry from Arkansas into Missouri; but the most significant cavalry raid begins on 17 April, when 1700 Federal troopers under Colonel Grierson leave LaGrange, Tennessee to operate through eastern Mississippi. Grierson destroys railroads and supplies, but most importantly draws Confederate cavalry, reducing Pemberton's ability to monitor Grant's attempts to get at Vicksburg. After months of various schemes, Grant finally decides to advance down the west side of the Mississippi and have the navy transport him across below Vicksburg. To do this, Admiral Porter's ships must pass the Vicksburg batteries. Near midnight of 16 April, Porter sends 12 warships into the gauntlet: 11 get through. On 22 April, he sends 6 transports and 12 barges: one transport and 6 barges are sunk. On 29 April, Porter's gunboats pound the Confederate garrison at Grand Gulf but fail to silence its batteries. Grant, acting on information from a slave, finds a suitable landing site even farther south at Bruinsburg. By 30 April, using Porter's ships, Grant has two corps on the east side of the river, with another corps to follow and a determination to meet Pemberton's army in battle. Thus far, President Davis has defended Pemberton's record against critics inside the government and in the press and urged Joseph Johnston to send reinforcements to Pemberton, even from Bragg's army.

Farther south along the Mississippi, Banks has attacked Confederate forts in the Louisiana bayous, taking Fort Bisland on 14 April. The Confederates destroy two of their own gunboats rather than have them fall into Federal hands, and the Federals sink *Queen of the West*, which the Confederates had captured in February.

From 11 to 20 April, the U.S. Army and local volunteers mount an expedition from Fort Douglas, Utah Territory, against the local tribes.

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