

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

Georgia Historical Society names GBA affiliate of the year

On 8 May, Georgia Historical Society www.georgiahistory.com announced its annual awards, and Georgia Battlefields Association was named affiliate of the year. This was in large part due to GBA's monetary support and text input for eight new Civil War-related historical markers over the last three years. The January 2013 newsletter has an article about installation of the Meigs marker in Augusta. Presentation of the award will occur at the Civil War Round Table of Atlanta meeting on 11 June.

GBA trustees interviewed for Ed Bearss documentary

GBA trustees Gene Murphy and Charlie Crawford were interviewed on 2 March for a documentary on Ed Bearss. Gene first met Ed in the 1960s, when Gene's father was associated with the New York Civil War Round Table. Ed will turn 90 this month.

GBA trustees serve as Civil War photo contest judges

On 3 May, the Georgia Department of Natural Resources' Historic Preservation Division (HPD) announced a Civil War in Georgia photo contest. This was HPD's 4th annual photo contest, held to coincide with National Preservation Month. Among the contest judges were GBA trustees Dr. Joe Trahan and Dr. Mary-Elizabeth Ellard. The contest winner was announced on 30 May at Rhodes Hall following Henry Bryant's (Battle of Atlanta Commemoration Organization) lecture on restoration of the McPherson and Walker monuments (May newsletter). Contest results are posted on the HPD web site <http://georgiashpo.org/2013contest>.

Preservation still a low priority in state budget

On 7 May, Governor Deal signed the State Fiscal Year 2014 budget (1 July 2013-30 June 2014). The Georgia Civil War Commission will not receive any funds. Department of Economic Development Tourism Division will lose two positions and have \$100,000 less to spend on marketing, including Sesquicentennial events. Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Parks, Recreation, and Historic Sites Division will have almost \$280,000 less for operations. 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 June, General Burnside, now commanding the Department of the Ohio, orders suspension of publication of the *Chicago Times*, an anti-government newspaper; but Secretary of War Stanton overrides the order on 4 June.

Grant's investiture of Vicksburg heartens the north, and General in Chief Halleck requests other departments to provide reinforcements to Grant. Generals Burnside (Department of the Ohio) and Schofield (Department of the Missouri) readily forward infantry and artillery down the Mississippi to Grant, while Rosecrans (Department of the Cumberland) says he can't spare anyone, even though his opponent Bragg has sent both infantry and cavalry to Johnston in Mississippi. On 7 June, a detachment of Grant's army burns Jefferson Davis' plantation south of Vicksburg. On 20 June, Grant's artillery and Porter's gunboats jointly pound Vicksburg. Grant's senior subordinate, McClelland, who has performed well in combat but cannot resist self-aggrandizing press releases, provides enough cause for Grant to remove him from command on 19 June. McClelland's political connections no longer insulate him from Grant's disdain.

Banks assaults Port Hudson, Louisiana on 14 June to no avail and reverts to besieging the Confederate garrison. A reminder that not all violence is combat-related, the 9 June accidental explosion of a powder magazine at Alexandria, Louisiana, kills 20 and wounds 14 U.S. troops.

Planning his invasion of the north, Lee reorganizes his army into three corps under Longstreet, Ewell, and A.P. Hill and begins his advance on 3 June. Brigades are added to Stuart's cavalry, which holds grand reviews but is embarrassed on 9 June when Federal cavalry and infantry cross the Rappahannock and attack the Confederates at Brandy Station. Subsequent cavalry clashes in northern Virginia as Stuart screens Lee's advance through the Shenandoah Valley show that the Federal horsemen are fighting the southern troopers more effectively than before. In part to try to redeem his reputation, Stuart takes off on 25 June on an ill-advised circuit around the Federal army that's pursuing Lee's spread-out divisions. Ewell validates his selection as a corps commander with a complete victory at Winchester in mid June, and his lead divisions are on the Susquehanna River lobbing shells into Harrisburg, Pennsylvania by the end of the month. On the Federal side, Hooker wants to take Richmond when Lee heads north, but Lincoln reminds Hooker that Lee's army is the prime objective. Hooker reluctantly pursues Lee, but Lincoln finally loses patience with Hooker; and when he offers to resign if the government does not endorse his plans, Lincoln accepts on 27 June and names George Meade commander of the Army of the Potomac. On 28 June, in the absence of information from his cavalry, Lee is informed by a spy that the Federal army is north of the Potomac, and he orders his dispersed divisions to concentrate at Cashtown and Gettysburg.

On 13 June, President Davis directs Bragg to advance against Rosecrans or send more troops to Johnston in Mississippi. Bragg's reluctance to further reduce the Army of Tennessee is justified in a way when Rosecrans finally moves against Bragg on 23 June. The Army of the Cumberland maneuvers skillfully to cause a Confederate withdrawal from central Tennessee. Compared to the Vicksburg and Gettysburg Campaigns, Rosecrans' Tullahoma Campaign gains much ground at little cost, but he does little to reduce the Confederates' fighting power; and destroying the enemy's armed forces is now the paramount objective. Rosecrans will bristle when his superiors characterize his campaign as incomplete.

The war along the Atlantic Coast continues, exemplified by a skirmish at Brunswick, Georgia, on 8 June. On 3 June, the newly raised 54th Massachusetts, composed of free blacks and escaped slaves, arrives at Port Royal, South Carolina. Most subsequently raised regiments will be called U.S. Colored Troops rather than have a state designation.

On 17 June, ironclad *CSS Atlanta* engages U.S. monitors *Weehawken* and *Nahant* in Wassaw Sound, southeast of Savannah. *Atlanta* surrenders after running aground. It is then refloated and repaired and will become a U.S. Navy ship.

CSS Clarence, commanded by Charles Read, takes six prizes in a week, capped by the capture of *USS Tacony* off Cape Hatteras on 12 June. Read keeps *Tacony*, the better ship, and continues raiding up the east coast. He repeats the process of taking better ships, eventually sailing *CSS Archer* into Portland, Maine, on 26 June and seizing a revenue cutter. There, his streak ends when Read and his crew are trapped in the harbor, having captured 21 ships in 19 days and been pursued by 47 U.S. ships.

On 16 June, the U.S. Army launches an expedition against the Sioux in the Dakota Territory. The operation will last until 13 September.

On 20 June, President Lincoln proclaims West Virginia the 35th state.

Georgia Battlefields Association
7 Camden Rd NE
Atlanta GA 30309

www.georgiabattlefields.org

June 2013

Address correction requested
Return postage guaranteed