

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

Bearss 2014 tour will focus on opening of the Atlanta Campaign

Georgia Battlefields Association's annual tour led by Ed Bearss will be 13-16 March 2014 and will commemorate the Sesquicentennial of the Atlanta Campaign by focusing on its initial phase. Those of you who were on our 2004 tour will remember some of the sites we'll visit, but we're going to several new locations that were not open ten years ago or have changed since.

In addition to Ed Bearss, we'll have National Park Service historian Jim Ogden as a guide. No tour could surpass the knowledge and entertaining style of these two superb historians.

Hotel is the LaQuinta at 715 College Drive, Dalton, just north of I-75 exit 333. GBA rate is \$84 (\$95 including tax) per night. Call 706 272 9099 or go to www.lq.com and search for Dalton.

Among the sites we'll see:

- Site of Dr. Lee's house, where Sherman and several of his generals watched U.S. infantry turn south on the first day of the Atlanta Campaign.
- Tunnel Hill and the Clisby Austin House, Sherman's headquarters in the campaign's first days.
- Prater's Mill and Varnell, sites of cavalry clashes.
- Crow Valley and the recently saved Confederate trenches on Picket Top/Potato Hill.
- House where Cleburne presented his proposal to arm slaves.
- Johnston statue in Dalton, and the site where he reviewed the Army of Tennessee.
- Rocky Face Ridge, Mill Creek Gap, and Dug Gap.
- Snake Creek Gap and the approach to Resaca.
- Recently opened Resaca parks at Fort Wayne and Camp Creek Valley.

GBA contributes towards purchase of Reed's Bridge properties

GBA sent \$10,000 to the Civil War Trust towards the purchase of two properties at Reed's bridge, where the Battle of Chickamauga began (see July newsletter). Please consider making your own contribution. Donate online at www.civilwar.org or send a check to Civil War Trust, 1156 15th St Ste 900, Washington DC 20005, and put "Reed's Bridge" on the memo line. You can also donate to GBA and specify Reed's Bridge, and we'll gladly pass along the full amount.

Civil War artillery shell found in Atlanta

On 18 July, construction crews working on the College Football Hall of Fame building in Atlanta uncovered an unexploded artillery shell. An Explosive Ordnance Disposal team from Dobbins Air Reserve Base removed the shell and detonated it at a police firing range. The shell was most likely fired by a Federal gun during the bombardment of Atlanta, though similar shells were manufactured by the Confederates in this area. Civil War-era ordnance is commonly found in Atlanta during major construction projects. Steve Davis, in his comprehensive book [What the Yankees Did to Us: Sherman's Bombardment and Wrecking of Atlanta](#), estimates more than 100,000 U.S. artillery rounds were fired into the city in July and August 1864.

Civil War Center annual symposium is 12 October

Kennesaw State University's Civil War Center will host its fall symposium from 9 a.m. to noon on 12 October at 3333 Busbee Dr in Kennesaw (behind Cracker Barrel at I-75 exit 271). Theme is "1863: The Struggles Continue." Speakers are Will Greene on "Burnside's Mud March," George Rable on "Jackson, the Christian Soldier," and Brian Wills on "George Thomas: The Rock of Chickamauga." See www.kennesaw.edu/civilwarera or call 678 797 2551 for more info.

Lecture on history of Big Shanty's Camp McDonald 19 October

Mike Shaffer of KSU's Civil War Center, will lecture on the history of Camp McDonald at Kennesaw City Hall at 10 a.m. on 19 October. Tours of the site of the camp (directly across from City Hall) will precede and follow the lecture. www.campmcdonaldpark.org

150 years ago this month

October will have no big battles, but it will have events that significantly affect the military and political situation. The Union Army of the Cumberland retains Chattanooga, but the Confederate Army of Tennessee controls the high ground, and the Federals depend on one difficult supply line, which is the object of a Confederate cavalry raid led by Joe Wheeler. The Federals are on reduced rations, and their animals begin to die from starvation. Responding to a petition from several generals requesting Bragg's removal, President Davis arrives on 9 October to find near open rebellion in the Army of Tennessee, even though it has the Army of the Cumberland in a desperate situation. Davis supports Bragg, who then removes and demotes opponents such as Polk, D.H. Hill, and Buckner. At the end of the month, Davis agrees to N.B. Forrest's request to be detached from Bragg's command.

In contrast to the fractious Confederate command, the U.S. government reaction to the situation is to create a new unified command in the west, the Military Division of the Mississippi, and install Grant as its chief. Grant elevates Sherman to command of the Army of the Tennessee and chooses to replace Rosecrans with George Thomas in command of the Army of the Cumberland in Chattanooga. Thomas responds to Grant's first inquiry with "we will hold the town 'til we starve," but relief is on the way. Grant orders Sherman to move his army from the Mississippi Valley towards Chattanooga, arrives there himself on 23 October, and immediately orders a daring operation that opens better supply routes (the "cracker line"), while U.S. reinforcements from Virginia move up the Wauhatchie Valley and rebuff Longstreet's attack over the night of 28-29 October. The month ends with the momentum clearly shifted to the U.S.

In Virginia, Lee resumes the initiative. He replicates the initial phases of the Second Manassas Campaign and maneuvers Meade away from the Rapidan but suffers a defeat on 14 October at Bristoe Station when A.P. Hill attacks before scouting the Federal position. President Lincoln repeatedly advises General in Chief Halleck that Meade should attack, but Meade again seems satisfied to turn back Lee's advance and regain the familiar positions around Culpeper.

U.S. bombardments of the Charleston defenses occur throughout the month. On 5 October, Confederate semi-submersible *David* uses a spar torpedo to inflict minor damage on *USS New Ironsides* outside Charleston harbor. The Confederates also experiment with the submarine *Hunley*, but during a 15 October practice dive in Charleston harbor, it sinks, killing its namesake designer and seven others. The sub is raised and will continue testing.

Confederate cavalry under J.O. Shelby continues to raid through Missouri, and Confederate cavalry under J.S. Marmaduke raids Pine Bluff, Arkansas.

The Sabine Pass and Bayou Teche expeditions having failed, Union General Banks heads west from New Orleans on 27 October to try to restore more of Louisiana to Federal control.

Politically, the October elections in several northern states turn out well for the Lincoln administration, especially the re-election of Governor Curtin in Pennsylvania.

On 3 October, President Lincoln issues a proclamation calling for a day of Thanksgiving on the last Thursday in November. On 17 October, he calls for 300,000 more volunteers.

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