

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

Bearss 2014 tour will focus on opening of the Atlanta Campaign

The GBA annual tour begins 13 March and is almost sold out. Reserve your place on the tour by sending \$395 to Georgia Battlefields Association at 7 Camden Rd NE, Atlanta GA 30309.

Hotel: LaQuinta, 715 College Dr, Dalton, just north and west of I-75 exit 333. 706 272 9099.

Tour focus: Sesquicentennial of the opening of the Atlanta Campaign through Resaca.

As in 2013, **we'll have a book swap** at the Thursday evening reception. If you have books to contribute or want more info, contact Mary-Elizabeth Ellard ellardw@bellsouth.net.

GBA pledges funds to help restore Columbus markers

Major General James Wilson led an attack on the Confederate defenders of Columbus, Georgia on 16 April 1865, the last battle east of the Mississippi. After taking the town, Wilson established his headquarters in the Mott House, which still stands. GBA was approached to help restore six historical markers near the house and has pledged \$4,250 (25% of the cost).

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 2014, the tours will start at 1 p.m. on both 8 and 22 March. You can make reservations by calling 404 688 3353. Information about this and the other tours is at www.preserveatlanta.com.

Georgia Tech Civil War technology symposium 12 April

Technology and the Civil War will be the topic of a 12 April symposium. Presentations on communications, naval technology, photography, medicine, and veterinary care begin at 8:30 a.m. in the Georgia Tech Student Center Theater. Relevant artifacts will be on display. A GBA-led walking tour of the fortification sites on the Tech campus will follow around 3 p.m. More info is at www.hts.gatech.edu/civilwar or e-mail John Miller at canoe4ever@gmail.com.

2-4 May commemorative Atlanta Campaign run will benefit GBA

Tracy Jon Houpt is running from Ringgold to Kennesaw Mountain 2-4 May to honor Robert K. Houpt, who served with the 31st Indiana Infantry Regiment. Tracy plans to run 25-40 miles per day, retracing as much as possible the 100+ mile route taken by his collateral ancestor during the Atlanta Campaign in May 1864. Tracy is running not only to honor Robert Houpt but also to raise awareness of Georgia's Civil War history. We're grateful that he chose GBA as the recipient of any donations, which may be sent to 7 Camden Rd NE, Atlanta GA 30309.

Atlanta History Center Civil War exhibits

In addition to its permanent Civil War exhibit "The Turning Point," Atlanta History Center is mounting two new exhibits for the Sesquicentennial of the Atlanta Campaign: "Wilbur G. Kurtz: History in *Gone With the Wind*" will be at the Kenan Research Center from 2 July 2014 through 4 April 2015; and "Confederate Odyssey: The George W. Wray, Jr. Civil War Collection" will be at the museum building 18 July 2014 through 26 April 2015. www.atlantahistorycenter.com

150 years ago this month

The Federal cavalry raid on Richmond fails on 1 March as Kilpatrick finds the city defenses too strong. Dahlgren and 500 men approach the city separately but also turn away. Dahlgren is killed the night of 2 March, and papers found on his body indicate assassination of Confederate President Davis and his cabinet was an objective of the raid. The papers lead to a testy correspondence between Lee and Meade and continuing uncertainty about who issued the orders.

On 1 March, Lincoln nominates Grant for the newly restored rank of lieutenant general, which the Senate confirms on the 2nd. Grant arrives in Washington on 8 March and receives his commission the next day. After visiting Meade, Grant decides he will make his headquarters in

the field in Virginia, then returns to Nashville. On 12 March, Grant is named general-in-chief of all U.S. armies, and Halleck is named chief of staff. On 18 March, Sherman assumes Grant's former command of Military Division of the Mississippi. Grant and Sherman travel together by train from Nashville on 19 March and over the next two days decide how the upcoming campaigns will proceed. On 24 March, Grant confers with Lincoln at the White House and by 26 March has established his headquarters at Culpeper Court House, Virginia. For his part, Sherman inspects his armies in Tennessee, northern Alabama, and northwest Georgia before meeting with his army commanders (Thomas, McPherson, Schofield) in Chattanooga on 28 March. Major troop movements are underway by mid month, with the 9th Corps leaving Knoxville for the eastern theater and the 4th Corps leaving Knoxville for southeastern Tennessee.

Johnston continues to repair the supply situation and rebuild the morale of the Confederate Army of Tennessee around Dalton, Georgia. The spirit of the troops is demonstrated on 22 March, when Walker's and Cheatham's divisions stage what is likely the largest snowball battle in history. On 1 March, Johnston welcomes Hood to command a corps. On 7 March, President Davis informs Johnston that he will be reinforced only if he takes the offensive. On the same day, Hood writes to Davis in response to Davis's request to be kept informed.

After conferring with Sherman in early March, Banks assembles army and navy units for a campaign up the Red River, in part to seize cotton. The first elements head upriver on 12 March. Sherman has provided Banks part of the Army of the Tennessee from Vicksburg, but Sherman expects to get it back before his campaign in Georgia begins in May. Banks' troops capture Alexandria, Louisiana on 16 March but don't advance from the city until the 28th.

Other command changes: On 10 March, Sigel assumes command of the Department of West Virginia, and on the 22nd, Lew Wallace assumes command of the Middle Department (eastern Maryland). On 16 March, Sterling Price takes command of Confederate forces in Arkansas.

On 3 March, Congress authorizes the U.S. Treasury to issue \$200 million in ten-year bonds. On 4 March, the Senate confirms Andrew Johnson as military governor of Tennessee. On 7 March, Lincoln designates the western border of Iowa as the starting point for the transcontinental railroad. On 14 March, Lincoln issues a draft order for 200,000 more men. On 21 March, Lincoln approves a Congressional act enabling Nevada and Colorado to become states.

Civil War events calendar

March

8 Two presentations by Kennesaw State Professor Mike Shaffer: www.kennesaw.edu/civilwarera

10 a.m. History of Camp McDonald. Pickett's Mill Battlefield visitors' center.

2 p.m. The Atlanta Campaign. Kennesaw Depot, across street from Southern Museum.

15 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Citizens and Soldiers: The American Civil War. Encampments, reenactments, and demonstrations at Atlanta History Center. www.atlantahistorycenter.com

22 9 a.m. 1864: The Western Theater. Kennesaw State University annual symposium with Jack Davis, Richard McMurry, Steve Woodworth, Craig Symonds, and Jim Ogden. www.kennesaw.edu/civilwarera

24 6 p.m. Ulysses Grant in Historical Memory. Lecture by UCLA professor Joan Waugh at the Lovett School. Call 404 262 3032 x117 for reservations. www.lovett.org/civilwar

29 11 a.m. Dedication of Mill Creek Gap Battlefield Park. Keynote speech by Richard McMurry. Atlanta Campaign Pavilion in front of Georgia State Patrol building on south side of US 41, Dalton.

April

11-13 Tour of northeastern Mississippi sites, including Corinth, Tupelo, and Brice's Crossroads. Cost \$359. Sponsored by Kennesaw State University. Register by 1 April at www.kennesaw.edu/civilwarera.

12 8:30 a.m. Technology and the American Civil War symposium in the Georgia Tech Student Center theater. Walking tour of fortification sites follows the presentations. www.hts.gatech.edu/civilwar

26 11:00 a.m. Dedication of Potato Hill Fortification Park. Keynote speech by Charlie Crawford. Reed Rd north of Poplar Springs Rd in Crow Valley, north of Dalton. More in April newsletter.

Georgia Battlefields Association

7 Camden Rd NE

Atlanta GA 30309

www.georgiabattlefields.org

March 2014

Address correction requested

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