

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

Next Georgia Battlefields tour led by Ed Bearss is 12-15 March 2015

By vote of this year's tour participants, we'll continue the Atlanta Campaign next year. We'll cover Rome Crossroads, Armuchee Creek, Rome, Adairsville, Kingston, Cassville, crossing the Etowah, New Hope Church, Pickett's Mill, and Dallas. In addition to Ed Bearss, we'll again have Jim Ogden as a guide. We'll start with the usual Thursday (12 March) evening reception before dinner on your own, then we'll have touring by bus on Friday and Saturday and in the morning on Sunday. Tour price of \$395 includes lunches and dinners on Friday and Saturday. Hotel is Fairfield Inn, 20 Canyon Pkwy, Cartersville GA 30120 (just west of I-75 exit 288). GBA rate is \$101 (89+12 tax). Breakfast is included. 770 387 0400.

www.marriott.com/hotels/travel/atlcv-fairfield-inn-and-suites-cartersville/

New Georgia Civil War Heritage Trails markers supported by GBA

Georgia Civil War Heritage Trails <http://civilwarheritagetrails.org/> installed a new Battle of Jonesboro marker at the Cleburne Confederate Cemetery on 5 September. The new marker was funded in part by a contribution from GBA. Another marker funded in part by GBA will be installed early next year near the Chennault House, site of the raid by former Confederate soldiers on the wagons attempting to return bank funds to Richmond on 24 May 1865.

GBA leads tours for Civil War Trust

On 20 & 21 September, GBA led tours for the Civil War Trust Grand Review, based in Atlanta. On the 20th, GBA led the tour of the May 1864 Hell Hole sites (New Hope Church, Pickett's Mill, Dallas). On the 21st, GBA led two walking tours of Civil War sites in downtown Atlanta.

Photo: At a trench in the woods near Dallas, the group hears not only about the 1864 action but also about preservation opportunities in the area.



Columbus's historic Mott house burns during renovation

The Mott house, which fronts the Chattahoochee River in Columbus, burned in the early hours of 7 September. TSYS, whose corporate headquarters is adjacent, was renovating the house.

www.firehouse.com/news/11680514/historic-riverfront-mott-house-on-ga-campus-destroyed

The house served as headquarters for Union Major General James H. Wilson after his troops took the town on 16 April 1865. GBA pledged funds to help restore six historical markers between the house and the river (March 2014 newsletter). Our 2003 tour led by Ed Bearss made a stop at the house and the historical markers.

150 years ago this month

Hood leads 40,000 men northward across the Chattahoochee in a campaign against the railroad the Federals use to supply their forces in Atlanta. The Confederates destroy track from Acworth to Big Shanty and on 5 October attack Allatoona Pass but are unable to overwhelm the forts there before withdrawing on reports that a Federal relief force is approaching. The Confederates break the rails between Resaca and Tunnel Hill beginning on 13 October but are unable to force surrender of the Resaca garrison. They do take the blockhouse at Tilton and force surrender of 800+ Federals at Dalton, after which they parole the white soldiers and enslave the Colored troops, executing a few to send a message. President Davis tries to improve military efforts by assigning Beauregard to command the new Military Division of the West. Beauregard meets with Hood on 9 October at Cave Spring, Georgia, and allows Hood to pursue a campaign into Tennessee, in preparation for which Hood moves into northern Alabama to gather supplies. Wheeler's cavalry finally rejoins Hood after a two-month raid into Tennessee.

For his part, Sherman leaves one corps in Atlanta and chases Hood around northwest Georgia and into Alabama, chafing about the futility of doing so in messages to Halleck and Grant. Sherman proposes to send Thomas and two corps to Tennessee to augment the Federal garrisons against anything Hood might try, while Sherman will lead four corps towards Mobile, Savannah,

or Charleston, destroying the food supplies, railroads, and factories he finds along the way, as well as demonstrating that the South cannot stop him. By the end of October, Hood is at Tusculum, Alabama, and Sherman is pulling back into Georgia.

In the east, Grant continues to probe at the Richmond and Petersburg defenses but makes only small advances in the fighting that ends at Peebles' Farm on 2 October. On 7 October, the Federals repulse a Confederate probe north of the James. On 17 October, Longstreet is sufficiently recovered from his Wilderness wound to resume command of the First Corps. On 27 October, Confederates repulse a Federal advance against the Boydton Plank Road.

Reinvigorating the Confederates in the Shenandoah after the September losses and a 9 October rout of their cavalry at Tom's Brook, Early surprises the Federals south of Middletown on 19 October but fails to exploit the success. Sheridan rallies his troops and leads an afternoon counterattack that breaks the Confederates. Results from 11 October elections in Pennsylvania, Ohio, and Indiana produce bigger than anticipated Republican victories and bode well for Lincoln in the coming presidential contest, and the Federal victory at Cedar Creek greatly enhances Lincoln's re-election prospects.

Sterling Price's raid into Missouri pushes back Federals in the southern and central portions of the state until he approaches Kansas City, where Samuel Curtis repulses Price on 23 October. The Confederates retreat southward along the Kansas-Missouri border and lose dozens of wagons on 25 October at Mine Creek, but Federal pursuit is poorly coordinated. On 26 October, Bloody Bill Anderson, a ruthless Confederate guerrilla, is killed 20 miles east of Kansas City.

On 1 October, Confederate spy Rose Greenhow, jailed in Old Capitol Prison early in the war, drowns while attempting to transfer from a blockade runner to Fort Fisher, North Carolina.

Lambdin Milligan is arrested on 5 October in Indiana for plotting to free Confederate prisoners. His December conviction and death sentence by a military tribunal will be overturned by the Supreme Court in December 1866 in its *Ex parte Milligan* ruling, a case still cited today.

On 12 October, Chief Justice Roger Taney, author of the 1857 Dred Scott decision, dies.

An example of John Mosby's prowess is provided on 13 October, when his raiders wreck a section of the B&O railroad west of Harper's Ferry and seize \$173,000 from a U.S. paymaster.

On 19 October, Confederate Bennett Young leads 20 Confederates who had escaped to Canada from POW camps about 15 miles into Vermont to rob \$208,000 from three banks in St. Albans. Young and half his men are arrested by Canadian authorities, and \$88,000 is recovered.

On 19 October, Forrest leads yet another raid, this time from Corinth, Mississippi, towards Jackson, Tennessee, and reaches Fort Henry on 30 October.

On 20 October, Lincoln declares the last Thursday in November as a day of Thanksgiving.

In naval activity, *CSS Florida* is captured on 7 October off Bahia, Brazil, after taking 37 prizes. On 8 October, the merchant *Sea King* leaves London and is converted into *CSS Shenandoah* on 19 October at Madeira. On 27 October, U.S. Navy Lt William Cushing leads 14 men in a small boat and sinks *CSS Albemarle* with a torpedo near Plymouth, North Carolina. Only Cushing and one other man get away, but the Federals are able to take Plymouth on the 30th. On 30 October, *CSS Olustee* leaves Wilmington, North Carolina, and will take six prizes over the next week. On 12 October, David Dixon Porter assumes command of the North Atlantic Squadron with orders to mount an expedition against Ft. Fisher, which guards Wilmington.

A U.S. Army expedition operates against Indians in New Mexico Territory and Arizona Territory. Indians attack Alkali Station, Nebraska Territory three times in October.

On 31 October, Nevada becomes the 36th state.

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