

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 GBA tour led by Ed Bearss is 12-15 March 2015

Subject: Atlanta Campaign from 16 May to 4 June 1864. **Guides:** Ed Bearss and Jim Ogden.
Price: \$395 includes Thursday reception and meals on Friday and Saturday. Your registration is confirmed when your check payable to GBA arrives at 7 Camden Rd NE, Atlanta GA 30309.
Hotel: Fairfield Inn, 20 Canyon Pkwy, Cartersville GA (I-75 exit 288). \$101 (89+12 tax). 770 387 0400. www.marriott.com/hotels/travel/atlev-fairfield-inn-and-suites-cartersville/
Note: As we have done the last few years, we'll have a **book exchange** in conjunction with the Thursday evening reception at the hotel. If you have books to contribute or want more info, contact Mary-Elizabeth Ellard ellardw@bellsouth.net.

GBA again slated to lead downtown Atlanta tour for Phoenix Flies

For its annual Phoenix Flies series, Atlanta Preservation Center has again asked Georgia Battlefields association to lead a downtown walking tour of Civil War Atlanta. Tours are tentatively scheduled for the afternoons of 7 and 21 March, but watch for details when the web site www.phoenixflies.org is activated early in February.

The March 2008 GBA walking tour of downtown Atlanta was recorded by Three23 Films, and a 52 minute-long DVD titled "Civil War Atlanta: A walk through history" is available. The DVD is sometimes available at the museum store of the Atlanta History Center, or you can order a DVD by sending a \$15 check to GBA at 7 Camden Rd NE, Atlanta GA 30309.

GBA preservation article appears in *Atlanta Journal Constitution*

During 2014, the *Atlanta Journal Constitution* www.ajc.com featured articles on what happened 150 years ago in Georgia, specifically relating to the Atlanta Campaign and the March to the Sea. These articles appeared on the first Saturday of each month on the opinion page and were written by historian Mike Shaffer. In December, Georgia Battlefields Association was approached about writing a culminating article regarding the state of preservation of Civil War sites in Georgia. Our article, titled "Preservation fight never ends," appeared online on 24 December and on the Saturday Opinion page (A13) of the print edition on 17 January 2015. GBA also provided an individual listing of the significance and preservation status of Atlanta-area sites that is available at <http://on-ajc.com/14umPCI>.

GBA presentations available

Georgia Battlefields Association believes that public awareness is an important element of gaining support for battlefield preservation. Thus, we write newspaper articles, support the installation of historical markers, donate to the restoration of monuments, coordinate with other preservation organizations, lead tours, and give presentations on both history and preservation. On 22 January, GBA spoke on the Atlanta Campaign to an industry group meeting in Atlanta. Our records are incomplete for the period between GBA's establishment in March 1995 and the end of 2001, but since the beginning of 2002, GBA has now made 117 presentations and led 56 tours. If you want a presentation or tour, contact us at info@georgiabattlefields.org.

Governor's budget proposals

With the convening of the Georgia General Assembly, Governor Deal made public his proposed budgets for Amended Fiscal Year 2015 (ends 30 June) and Fiscal Year 2016. There were no particular surprises (good or bad) for preservation-related expenditures, but the budget did include an increase of \$100,000 for Georgia Historical Society's historical marker program. As always, we'll wait to see the final budgets that result from the legislative process.

Park Day is 28 March

Civil War Trust's annual park day is 28 March. This is an opportunity for volunteers to help maintain Civil War sites throughout the country. To see participating sites in your area, go to www.civilwar.org/parkday. If you don't have internet access, call the Trust at 202 367 1861.

150 years ago this month

Federal operations to destroy Confederate sources of salt continue, with the U.S. Navy attacking the salt works at St. Andrews Bay, Florida, on 1 February.

Sherman's armies are now fully into South Carolina, which the Federals consider the seat of rebellion and therefore treat it more harshly than they did Georgia. On 17 February, they take Columbia, which suffers much fire damage beginning that night. The retreating Confederates set fire to cotton bales, but the source of conflagration remains uncertain to this day. Sherman's troops continue northward, concentrating their destruction on mills and railroads. Heavy rain late in the month slows the Federal advance through the Carolinas.

On the Carolina coast, Quincy Gillmore succeeds John Foster as commander of the Department of the South on 9 February, and John Schofield assumes command of the Department of North Carolina when his 23rd Corps arrives at Fort Fisher that same day. On the 17th, the Confederates evacuate Charleston, having withstood years of bombardment but now in danger of being cut-off by Sherman's advance. The Federals take the city the next day. On the 21st, Bragg orders evacuation of Wilmington, leaving behind 66 heavy guns, and the city falls on the 22nd.

On 1 February, Confederate Secretary of War James Seddon resigns. President Davis nominates and the Senate approves Major General John Breckinridge for the post, which Breckinridge assumes on 6 February. Lee becomes general-in-chief the same day and on the 21st asks Breckinridge to have Joe Johnston recalled to duty as commander of the Departments of Tennessee and South Carolina, Georgia, and Florida. Breckinridge approves, and Johnston arrives in Charlotte on the 25th. He has plenty of generals—Beauregard, Bragg, Hardee, and Hampton among them—but fewer than 25,000 troops, though the number is uncertain because Confederate record-keeping has deteriorated.

Military operations in Virginia are mostly around Petersburg. Fighting along Hatcher's Run occurs 5-7 February, with Confederate division commander John Pegram killed on the 6th. Lee has about 46,000 men to defend 37 miles of trench, and he decries the increasing desertion rate. On 9 February, he successfully proposes to President Davis that the Confederacy pardon deserters who rejoin their units. Another indicator of the Confederacy's desperate manpower situation occurs on 20 February, when the Confederate House of Representatives approves a bill authorizing the use of slaves as soldiers. On 22 February, Lee begins planning how he will withdraw the army from Petersburg and Richmond should it become necessary.

On 27 February, Wesley Merritt leads 10,000 Federal troopers from Winchester with Lynchburg as their objective.

On 3 February, President Lincoln and Secretary of State Seward meet Confederate Vice President Stephens, Senator Hunter, and Assistant Secretary of War Campbell on *River Queen* at Hampton Roads. The Confederates hope to discuss a peace treaty, but they learn quickly that restoration of the Union is Lincoln's one inflexible condition. Davis announces the discussions failed because the north will not compromise, and an agreement on prisoner exchange is the only one resulting from the conference. On 5 February, Lincoln proposes paying the seceded states \$400 million if they will give up slavery by 1 April, but his cabinet disapproves.

On 12 February, the Electoral College meets to certify Lincoln's re-election.

On 18 February, CSS *Shenandoah* leaves a refitting stop in Melbourne to head for the U.S. whaling fleet in the north Pacific.

Operations against the Indians continue in the Nebraska, Colorado, and Idaho territories.

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February 2015

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