

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

Last chance to register for 12-15 March GBA tour led by Ed Bearss

Subject: Atlanta Campaign - mid May to mid 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.

Georgia Battlefields Association is 20 years old

Georgia Battlefields Association was incorporated in March 1995 and is a 501(c)3 organization. A summary of our 20 year record shows GBA has:

- Contributed over \$200,000 to help buy properties, notably at Chickamauga, Crow Valley, Resaca, Kennesaw Mountain, and Griswoldville.
- Contributed towards the restoration of historical monuments.
- Installed a dozen historical markers ourselves.
- Contributed content and funds for a dozen markers installed by other preservation groups.
- Made over 120 presentations and led over 50 tours.
- Written several articles and opinion pieces for newspapers, magazines, and journals.
- Commented formally on the impact of proposed building, road, and cell tower construction.

Additionally, we own 4.7 acres of the battlefield at New Hope Church. We hope to do even more over the next 20 years.

Georgia Battlefields Association trustees meet

The GBA board of trustees held its annual meeting on 31 January in Vinings. The trustees are all non-salaried volunteers. Cindy Wentworth, the only trustee whose term expires in 2015, was re-elected to the board for a three year term. Continuing as trustees are Gene Murphy, Frank Chew, Joe Trahan, Mary-Elizabeth Ellard, and Charlie Crawford. Newly elected as a trustee is Lloyd Thompson of Big Canoe. Lloyd volunteered to assume the treasurer position once Frank Chew retires from the job. Frank has agreed to serve through at least our annual tour in March, and this should give Lloyd enough time to understudy Frank.

We also changed another officer position. While Cindy Wentworth will remain on the board, she is yielding the vice-president position to Mary-Elizabeth Ellard. Gene Murphy remains as corporate secretary, and Charlie Crawford will continue as president.

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.

GBA again slated to lead downtown Atlanta tour for Phoenix Flies

Atlanta Preservation Center has again asked Georgia Battlefields Association to lead a walking tour of Civil War Atlanta. Tours are scheduled for the afternoons of 7 and 21 March. See details at www.phoenixflies.org (active as of 2 March) or call 404 688 3353 x15.

150 years ago this month – March 1865

On 3 March, the 38th Congress meets for the last time, passing the bill creating the Freedmen's Bureau. On 4 March, Lincoln is inaugurated for his second term. The new vice president, Andrew Johnson, appears ill and may be drunk at the ceremony. At the reception, Lincoln shakes hands with about 6,000 people. On the same day, William Brownlow wins the election to replace Johnson as governor of Tennessee.

In other political developments, on 5 March, Lincoln asks Hugh McCulloch of Indiana to be

Secretary of the Treasury. Not wanting two men from Indiana in his cabinet, Lincoln asks Secretary of the Interior John Usher to resign, which he does on 8 March, to take effect 15 May. On 11 March, Lincoln offers pardons to all deserters who return to the ranks within 60 days, and on 17 March, he orders military trials for anyone selling arms to the Indians. Throughout the month, U.S. operations against the Indians occur in Kansas and Nevada as well as the New Mexico and Indian (Oklahoma) Territories.

The Confederate Congress is winding down its session. On 4 March, it approves a revision to the national flag. On 8 March, the Senate approves the recruiting of black soldiers by a vote of 9 to 8. The House approves on 13 March, and President Davis signs the bill the same day. Despite Davis's wish that it remain in session, Congress adjourns on 18 March.

On 5 March, Sherman's armies begin crossing into North Carolina, with rain being their primary impediment. Assuming command of all Confederate troops in North Carolina on 6 March, Joe Johnston hopes to organize a more effective military opposition. The Federals are establishing supply bases on the North Carolina coast, despite losing boats to mines; and on 7 March, they advance inland from New Berne. From 8 to 10 March, Bragg attacks the 23rd Corps at Kinston, but he is repulsed and withdraws to join Johnston at Goldsborough. On 9 March, Hampton and Wheeler and their Confederate troopers surprise Kilpatrick's cavalry at Monroe's Crossroads, but the Federals hold. The Federals occupy Fayetteville 11-14 March. Confederate willingness to fight is demonstrated by their attack at Averasborough on the 16th, and Johnston with 20,000 troops nearly breaks through Slocum's and Kilpatrick's 30,000 Federals at Bentonville on the 19th. On 20 March, Howard arrives to reinforce Slocum, and the Confederates withdraw on the 21st. On 23 March, Schofield and Sherman join forces at Goldsborough: Their combined force numbers nearly 100,000.

In Virginia, on 2 March, Lee writes to Grant to inquire about a truce. Grant responds negatively but also wires Washington for guidance. Lincoln answers on the 3rd that the only discussion Grant is authorized to have with Lee must relate to surrender. Also on 2 March, Custer and 5,000 troopers scatter Confederate infantry and cavalry at Waynesborough, capturing 200 wagons, 17 flags, and 1,000 men, effectively ending Confederate military operations in the Shenandoah Valley. Sheridan's cavalry then heads for Charlottesville and wrecks the Virginia Central RR and the James River Canal before arriving behind Grant's lines east of Richmond on 19 March. Before dawn on 25 March, a desperate Lee tries to unhinge the Federal siege line at Fort Stedman, east of Petersburg; but the Confederates lack enough men to exploit the initial success, and the Federal line is restored by 0730. The Confederates lose almost 4,000 men, mostly captured. By the afternoon, President Lincoln is riding over the battlefield while Grant explains what occurred that morning. On 26 March, Lincoln watches Sheridan's force cross the James River. On the 27th and 28th, he confers with Grant, Sherman, and Admiral Porter aboard *River Queen* at City Point. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Peacemakers. On 30 and 31 March, Sheridan leads 50,000 cavalry and infantry west towards Five Forks but is temporarily rebuffed.

On 17 March, Canby leads 32,000 men towards Mobile and begins siege operations against the city on the 25th. On 29 March, *USS Osage* is sunk by a mine near Spanish Fort, across the bay from Mobile.

On 20 March, Stoneman leads 4,000 cavalry on a raid from northeast Tennessee into North Carolina. On the 28th, he is at Boone, having destroyed railroads and any supplies and buildings of potential military value.

On 22 March, James Wilson and 13,000 troopers leave Eastport, Mississippi, on a raid intended to cut through the heart of Alabama and destroy Confederate manufacturing facilities and railroads. By 28 March, he is destroying the mines and ironworks around Elyton (now Birmingham). On 30 March, he scatters Forrest's Confederate force at Montevallo.

On 24 March, Confederate ironclad *Stonewall* departs Ferrol, Spain.

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www.georgiabattlefields.org

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