

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

2016 tour with Ed Bearss

Dates: 10-13 March 2016. **Less than six weeks away!**

Subject: Atlanta Campaign from Gilgal Church to the Smyrna Line, 15 June – 4 July 1864.

October newsletter has more info on itinerary. www.georgiabattlefields.org/newsletters.htm

Hotel: Hampton Inn, 871 Cobb Place Blvd, Kennesaw (just west of I-75 exit 269).

\$110 per night (\$130 including tax). Phone 770 426 0017.

Web site: <http://hamptoninn3.hilton.com/en/hotels/georgia/hampton-inn-atlanta-town-center-kennesaw-ATLTCHX/index.html>. If making room reservations online, use code GBA.

Register: Send \$395 check to GBA at **P.O. Box 589, Tate GA 30177-0589**.

Civil War presentations on 6 February in Dalton

The annual Chickamauga Civil War show will be held 6-7 February at the Northwest Georgia Trade & Convention Center, just west of I-75 exit 333 in Dalton. In conjunction with the show, Dalton State College's Bandy Heritage Center is presenting a Civil War in the Western Theater Colloquium titled "Losing the Heartland: The Failure of Confederate Theater Command in the West" on Saturday, 6 February. All presentations are free.

09:15 Tim Smith "Albert Sidney Johnston: Hero or Villain?"

10:00 Richard McMurry "Joseph E. Johnston and the Mess in the West"

11:00 Steve Davis "Bonnie Blue Flop: P.G.T. Beauregard and Confederate Strategy in the Autumn of 1864"

11:45 Panel discussion

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 5 and 19 March, but watch for details when the web site www.phoenixflies.org is activated in February.

Civil War Trust Park Day is 2 April

Civil War Trust's annual park day is 2 April. 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.

Georgia sites (from northwest to southeast):

Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park

- Chattanooga unit - 9 a.m. Register by e-mail william_sunderland@nps.gov 423 752 5213

- Chickamauga unit - 9 a.m. Register by e-mail william_sunderland@nps.gov 706 866 9241

Historic Prater's Mill - 9 a.m. judy@pratersmill.org 706 694 6455

Resaca Confederate Cemetery - 9 a.m. boshvac@aol.com

Kennesaw Mountain Battlefield Park - 9 a.m. amanda_corman@nps.gov 770 427 4686

Jefferson Davis Historic Site - 10 a.m. jeffdavis1@windstream.net 229 831 2335

Fort McAllister State Historic Park - 9 a.m. sarahl.miller@gadnr.org 912727 2339

New GIS web site for Cobb County

Many county governments in Georgia and other states have put property records online, usually using the Geographic Information System (GIS). The web sites are valuable for examining known or potentially historic properties, as the display typically includes both maps and photographs on which boundaries, zonings, and other features can be overlaid. For example, GBA has used the Cobb County online site many times over the years; and a new, easier to use version became available in mid January. Search for "Cobb County GIS" or type in <http://www.cobbgis.org:81/Html5Viewer/?viewer=cobbpublic>. The photos are sometimes clear enough to show earthworks.

Georgia Battlefields Association trustees annual meeting

The Georgia Battlefields Association board of trustees held its annual meeting on 9 January. Three trustees—Gene Murphy, Joe Trahan, and Charlie Crawford—had terms that were expiring in 2016, and all were re-elected to the board for three-year terms. Board composition and officers remain the same as in 2015:

- Frank Chew
- Charlie Crawford, President
- Mary-Elizabeth Ellard, Vice President
- Gene Murphy, Corporate Secretary
- Lloyd Thompson, Treasurer
- Joe Trahan
- Cindy Wentworth

Also attending was GBA's web site maintainer Stephanie Pellock.

The board approved the yearly financial report and proposed budget, reviewed potential property acquisitions, and continued planning for the upcoming annual tour led by Ed Bearss. We also revised the membership application/renewal form to make e-mail the default for newsletter distribution. **Please choose to have the newsletter delivered via e-mail, if you can.**

Scouting preservation opportunities

Part of Georgia Battlefields Association's job is to examine properties reported to have historic value. Most often, these properties are brought to our attention by people who live near the sites. In some cases, people wonder whether a terrain feature may be a trench or earthwork, and an examination concludes instead that it is the remnant of a farm terrace or logging road. In other cases, the feature is almost certainly the remnant of an infantry trench or artillery revetment. Obviously, location and contemporary maps aid us in making a determination; but sometimes the established expertise of the person who brings a site to our attention leads us to assume a property contains earthworks before we see it. In every case, we scout the property before deciding whether to support an effort to preserve it.

Whitfield County likely contains as many earthwork remnants as any county in the nation. The Confederate Army of Tennessee spent over four months fortifying the area, and substantial fighting (as opposed to scouting and skirmishing) occurred both in late February and early May 1864. Further, the steep elevations have restricted development; and Dalton—the largest town in the county—has grown since the Civil War but not nearly as much as urban areas—such as Atlanta or Chattanooga or Petersburg, Virginia—near other battlefields.

Recently, GBA President Charlie Crawford and Vice President Mary-Elizabeth Ellard met with Whitfield County preservationist and historian Greg Cockburn to examine several sites north of Dalton. We hope to be able to provide more details about preservation opportunities soon.



Left: Mary-Elizabeth Ellard and Greg Cockburn examine a trench from the February 1864 fighting. An artillery position is in the background. Right: Mary-Elizabeth in a trench from the May 1864 fighting.

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www.georgiabattlefields.org

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Address correction requested
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