

# G E O R G I A

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# BATTLEFIELDS

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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](mailto:info@georgiabattlefields.org)

## 2016 tour with Ed Bearss

We had another great tour with Ed Bearss, covering the Atlanta Campaign from 15 June through 4 July 1864. The tour drew 52 people from eleven states. We had good weather throughout.

Friday (11 March) saw us at Gilgal Church, Lost Mountain Line, Mud Creek Line, Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park Visitors' Center, the top of Big Kennesaw, and Brushy Mountain. A highlight was Ed's review of area maps he had drawn in 1964. The maps are part of the Visitors' Center archives. Friday dinner was at the Southern Museum of Civil War & Locomotive History, where the locomotive *General* is on display.

We began Saturday (12 March) at Kolb's Farm, site of the 22 June battle. Next came the fighting of 27 June at Pigeon Hill and Cheatham Hill, and we finished at the site of the 24-gun Federal battery, where four guns had been installed only days before. Saturday dinner was at Shilling's on the Marietta Square.

Sunday (13 March) morning was spent seeing sites along the Smyrna Line, including Concord Woolen Mill and Smyrna.

Here are some photos from the tour. See more photos at [www.georgiabattlefields.org/tours.htm](http://www.georgiabattlefields.org/tours.htm)



Three of the four guns emplaced at the 24-gun Federal battery site just before our visit.



Ed Bearss describes the 15 June 1864 fighting at Gilgal Church.



Ed gets rapt attention atop Big Kennesaw.



Ed addresses the group at a trench that was part of the Lost Mountain Line.

## Wallis House nearer inclusion in National Park system

On 24 February, the House of Representatives passed a resolution authorizing the Department of the Interior to accept an 8 acre property through donation or exchange. The property, owned by Cobb County, includes the Wallis House, used as a hospital and headquarters. The resolution is necessary because the property is not contiguous to Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park. During our tour with Ed Bearss, Park Superintendent Nancy Walther was optimistic that the property will be added to the park, though the house will require work that is not yet funded.

## Tours & preservation

In March, GBA conducted not only our annual tour with Ed Bearss (see above) but also two Civil War Atlanta walking tours for Atlanta Preservation Center's Phoenix Flies Program and a Battle of Peachtree Creek and City Defense Line tour for a Kentucky school group.



5 March downtown tour for Phoenix Flies.



Explaining Atlanta city defense line to middle and high schoolers from Kentucky.

While Georgia Battlefields Association's first objective is battlefield preservation, educating people about the location and significance of historic sites is an important way to increase support for preservation. Thus, we're always glad to lead tours that will increase awareness.

## Old Clinton War Days

The annual Old Clinton War Days will be held 30 April and 1 May this year. On both days, gates open at 9 a.m., reenactor camps open at 10:05, and battle reenactments (Sunshine Church and Griswoldville) start at 2:05 p.m. The event also features food, crafts, and artifact displays. Proceeds (\$5 for adults, \$3 for children age 6 to 18) are used to preserve the Old Clinton Historic District. The memorial service at 8:05 p.m. Saturday at the Old Clinton cemetery is free.

Old Clinton is 12 miles northeast of Macon, a block northwest of US 129. For more info, call Earlene Hamilton at 478 986 6383 or the Jones County-Gray Visitor's Center at 478 986 1123.

## Civil War Trust Park Day is 2 April – updated list

Civil War Trust's annual park day is 2 April. To see participating sites in your area, go to [www.civilwar.org/parkday](http://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 National Military Park - 9 a.m.  
Historic Prater's Mill - 9 a.m.  
Dalton Confederate Cemetery - 9 a.m.  
Resaca Confederate Cemetery - 9 a.m.  
Kennesaw Mountain Battlefield Park - 9 a.m.  
Andersonville National Historic Site - 10 a.m.  
Jefferson Davis Historic Site - 10 a.m.  
Brier Creek Battlefield - 9 a.m.  
Fort Pulaski National Monument - 10 a.m.  
Fort McAllister State Historic Park - 9 a.m.

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