

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

2017 GBA annual tour will continue to follow the Atlanta Campaign

Our next annual tour will be 9-12 March 2017. On 26 September, Ed Bearss called to say that he couldn't lead the tour because of a scheduling conflict. We'll miss Ed, but we'll press on as we have on those other occasions when he was not available. We'll have the usual Thursday night (9 March) reception at the hotel, which we are still in the process of selecting, and tours all day Friday and Saturday and on Sunday morning. Friday and Saturday meals will be included.

We ended the 2016 tour at the Smyrna Line, occupied by the Confederates 3-4 July 1864. We'll start the 2017 tour on Friday, 10 March, with the River Line, occupied 5-9 July. We'll see some of the unique Confederate fortifications known as Shoupades as well as a part of the opposing Federal earthworks. We'll see some of the remains of the Sope Creek mills destroyed by Federal cavalry on 5 July and the Roswell mills that were destroyed on 6 July. We'll then focus on the Federal crossings of the Chattahoochee on 8 & 9 July at Roswell, Sope Creek, and Cochran Shoals. We'll finish by addressing the Federal positions south of the Chattahoochee before the general advance on 17 July and the visit by Bragg to Johnston and his subordinates.

Saturday, 11 March, will begin with a visit to part of the Confederate defense line occupied 10-21 July. We'll next see the site where Johnston received the 17 July order relieving him of command and discuss the appointment of Hood as Johnston's successor. The remainder of the day will focus on the 20 July Battle of Peachtree Creek, Hood's first attempt to drive the Federals away from Atlanta.

Sunday, 12 March, will feature a morning walking tour that traces the northwest sector—hastily built on 21 July—of the city defense line that had been built between July and October 1863. This area was the subject of several well-known photographs taken in September and October 1864. We'll return to the hotel by noon.

The price remains \$395. How many other tours—or anything else—have had the same price since 2002? Register by sending a check to Georgia Battlefields Association at P.O. Box 589, Tate GA 30177-0589.

GBA consults on bridge project relating to Battle of Peachtree Creek

Last March, Georgia Battlefields Association responded to a Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) request for comments on project 0007174 to replace the Northside Drive bridge over Peachtree Creek. The bridge is within the American Battlefield Protection Program's core area for the Peachtree Creek battlefield. Northside Drive did not exist during the Civil War, but the area was the site of three bridges built by Geary's Division of the U.S. 20th Corps as it crossed the creek 19-20 July 1864. A historical marker notes those events.

http://georgiainfo.galileo.usg.edu/topics/historical_markers/county/fulton/gearys-three-bridges

While the area has been developed for residences for over 100 years, any excavation is likely to turn up relics from the actions of late July 1864. In a 9 September 2016 letter, GDOT responded to GBA's input by noting that GDOT archaeologists will survey the project limits, and if artifacts are found, they will be identified and curated at the University of West Georgia.

GBA is glad that GDOT considers us an interested party when building or repair projects affect historic sites and will always respond when necessary.

Georgia Battlefields Association now in AmazonSmile program

The July 2016 newsletter reported that Georgia Battlefields Association is registered in the Kroger Community Rewards Program, through which GBA will receive a donation whenever someone who has designated GBA makes a purchase using his or her Kroger Plus card. Now, GBA is also registered in the AmazonSmile program. GBA will receive 0.5% (e.g., \$1 for every \$200 spent) when Amazon customers designate GBA. Here is the link to sign up:

<https://smile.amazon.com/ch/58-2163092>. Thanks for supporting battlefield preservation.

Annual Prater's Mill Country Fair 8-9 October

The 45th annual Prater's Mill Country Fair will be held this year on 8 and 9 October. The historic mill is at 5845 Georgia Highway 2, about 10 miles northeast of Dalton. It figured in the cavalry actions opening the Atlanta Campaign in early May 1864.

The fair features food, music, and craftsmanship. Blacksmiths, woodworkers, weavers, and quilt makers will be demonstrating their skills. A cotton gin is nearby, and there will also be a display of antique automobiles and farm equipment.

Fair hours are 9 to 6 on Saturday and 9 to 5 on Sunday. Admission is \$7 for adults with free admission for children under 12. Proceeds go to help preserve the mill

From GBA's visits to the mill during our annual tours in 2004 and 2014, we've learned a lot about the processing of grain, corn, and cotton in the old days, and we recommend it as an educational experience for people of all ages. For more information, see <http://pratersmill.org> or call (706) 694-6455.

Kennesaw State excursion to Rome and beyond on 22 October

On 22 October, Kennesaw State University's Center for the Study of the Civil War Era is conducting a bus tour to Rome (Georgia). Sites to be visited in Rome include Noble Brothers Foundry, Fort Norton, and Myrtle Hill Cemetery as well as the Alabama site where Colonel Abel Streight surrendered to Brigadier General Nathan Bedford Forrest. Guides are Center Director Brian Steel Wills and Chickamauga National Military Park Historian Jim Ogden. Price is \$79 and includes lunch. Tour departs at 8 a.m. from the KSU Center at 3333 Busbee Dr NW, Kennesaw GA 30144 (I-75 exit 271) and will return at 6 p.m. For more information and to register online, see <http://cwc.hss.kennesaw.edu/> or call (470) 578-2966 if paying by check.

Streight's raid ended on 22 May 1863 about 25 miles west of Rome, which was an important manufacturing center for the Confederates until it was taken by the Federals in May 1864. It was garrisoned by the Federals until November 1864, and a brigade from the Rome garrison moved by rail to participate in the 5 October 1864 Battle of Allatoona Pass.

Even if you've been to these sites during GBA's annual tours in 2005, 2010, or 2015, you'll enjoy the narratives of Brian Wills and Jim Ogden.

Time to apply for annual battlefield preservation grants

The American Battlefield Protection Program (ABPP) annual preservation grant process is underway. The web site www.nps.gov/abpp/grants/planninggrants.htm will have guidelines and an application form beginning in early October. Those of you familiar with the federal fiscal year may realize that ABPP must wait until after 1 October to fund its web site update. ABPP provided the documents to us, so if you're anxious to start your application, contact us through our web site, and we'll e-mail the materials to you. If you don't have access to the internet, call ABPP grants manager Kristen McMasters at 202 354 2037. Completed grant applications must be postmarked by 2 January 2017.

These ABPP grants cannot be used to acquire land, unlike those through the Land and Water Conservation Fund. Georgia projects received grants in 2009, 2010, and 2012.

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