

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

Annual tour with Ed Bearss set for 7-10 March 2019

Our 2019 tour will cover the cavalry actions associated with the last weeks of the Atlanta Campaign and will conclude with the decisive infantry battle at Jonesboro. Since we'll cover actions over a wide area, we'll be spending more than the usual amount of time on the bus.

We'll begin with the usual Thursday (7 March) evening reception at the hotel, which will be the Hampton Inn in Stockbridge, Georgia. This will be a chance to talk with Ed and fellow participants, have some snacks and beverages, and receive the tour handouts, including maps and marker texts. Dinner will be on your own: Several restaurants are nearby.

Friday morning (8 March), we'll board the bus at 8 a.m. for a trip to the 30 July 1864 battlefield at Brown's Mill, where Confederate cavalry scattered a Union force, from which less than a third returned to Federal lines west of Atlanta. We'll begin with an overview at the historic Newnan train depot. Since our 2009 trip to Brown's Mill, a new parking area, walking trails, and interpretive markers have been installed. We'll then visit downtown Newnan and have lunch before departing for Lovejoy's Station, object of two U.S. cavalry raids, the first of which came to grief at Brown's Mill, and the second of which nearly came to a similar end near Nash Farm on 20 August 1864. At Lovejoy's Station and Nash Farm, we'll discuss the cavalry actions as well as the Confederate withdrawal from Atlanta in the wake of the defeat at Jonesboro. Dinner will be at a restaurant in McDonough.

Saturday morning (9 March), we'll board the bus at 8 a.m. for a trip to the 31 July 1864 battlefield at Sunshine Church, now near the small town of Round Oak, about 20 miles north of Macon. Stoneman's Union cavalry division had approached Macon on 30 July 1864 but was headed back towards Decatur when they were intercepted the next day. Stoneman and half his men were captured at Sunshine Church. From there, we'll follow the route of the Federal troopers who attempted to return to Federal lines. We'll stop for lunch in Madison, a hospital town in late summer 1864, then go to the battlefield at Barber's Creek, where the Athens home guard turned away Federal cavalry. We'll visit sites in Athens, including Oconee Hill Cemetery and Cook & Brother Armory, before dinner at the T.R.R. Cobb House www.trrcobbbhouse.org.

Sunday morning (10 March, the start of Daylight Saving Time), we'll board the bus at 8 a.m. for the short ride to Jonesborough (wartime spelling). A visit to Jonesboro is instructive not only because it is one of only two battles in Georgia deemed decisive by the Civil War Sites Advisory Commission, but also because it illustrates how lack of preservation can obliterate almost any semblance of a battlefield. We'll return to the hotel by noon.

Join us for another inimitable Ed Bearss experience.

Hotel: Hampton Inn at 7342 Hannover Pkwy N, Stockbridge GA 30281. Call 770 389 0065. GBA rate is \$105 per night, plus the unavoidable taxes that raise the effective rate to about \$125. **Cost & Registration:** \$430. Register online at www.georgiabattlefields.org/tours.aspx, or mail check payable to Georgia Battlefields Association to PO Box 669953, Marietta GA 30066.

Another Cobb County trench endangered

An 11-acre property containing a Civil War trench remnant at 1825 Stilesboro Road, not far west of Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park's 24-gun battery site, will be developed. The property has been for sale for some time, and GBA and other preservationists have inspected the site; but the \$1,000,000+ price (including a house) was beyond our available funds. The land was bought instead by Traton Homes, which applied for both annexation by the City of Marietta and approval of a plan featuring 36 senior living residences. The annexation was approved, and the attorney representing the developer agreed to a cultural resources survey that might lead to modification of the current plan that would wipe out the trench that was part of the Confederate Lost Mountain-Brushy Mountain Line of early to mid June, 1864.

Our previous interactions with the attorney give us hope that the trench might be at least partially preserved, albeit with a much less rustic viewshed.



Trench on property at 1825 Stilesboro Road. Current development plan would destroy the trench.



Looking east from property line. 24-gun battery site in middle distance. Kennesaw Mountain forms horizon.

Help to Teachers

Making people aware of what happened makes them more inclined to support preservation of sites where those events occurred. In addition to raising awareness through presentations and tours, Georgia Battlefields Association is glad to help history teachers when the opportunity arises. Recently, we responded to a teacher who inquired about Civil War sites in the Atlanta area, answering not only her questions but also mentioning other teaching resources, namely programs by the Atlanta History Center, Georgia Historical Society, American Battlefield Trust, and National Park Service. Links for those organizations' teaching assistance programs are:

- Atlanta History Center www.atlantahistorycenter.com/for-schools/outreach-programs
- Georgia Historical Society <https://georgiahistory.com/education-outreach/for-educators>
History teacher Lisa Landers is the education coordinator llanders@georgiahistory.com
- American Battlefield Trust www.battlefields.org/learn/educators
- National Park Service www.nps.gov/subjects/partnerships/teach-and-learn.htm

At Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park, ranger and former teacher Amanda Corman has developed teaching materials relating to the action around the park, the Atlanta Campaign, and the Civil War in general. amanda_corman@nps.gov

Locomotive *Texas* exhibit to open 17 November

Atlanta History Center announced that the locomotive *Texas* exhibit will open to the public on 17 November. *Texas* was removed from its Grant Park location in December 2015, given a thorough restoration at the North Carolina Transportation Museum over the next 15 months, and transported to its new home in the Atlanta History Center in May 2017 (June 2017 newsletter). Since that time, additional touch-ups have been made to the locomotive and tender, and the accompanying exhibit materials have been prepared. If you've driven by the History Center recently, you've likely seen the locomotive behind the glass wall that fronts on West Paces Ferry Road. www.atlantahistorycenter.com/explore/destinations/texas-locomotive

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