

GEORGIA

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

GBA arranges installation of another historical marker

On 23 December 2008, a historical marker was installed at the new Piedmont West medical office building at 1800 Howell Mill Rd, Atlanta, just south of I-75. Since the site is within the footprint of the 20 July 1864 Battle of Peachtree Creek, GBA contacted developer Carter USA (www.carterusa.com) when we noticed the building under construction. GBA wrote the text and drafted the maps, and Carter agreed to underwrite half the cost. Atlanta Creative Graphics produced the finished design and installed the marker. GBA has now arranged for the installation of eleven historical markers since 2004.



GBA trustees hold annual meeting

The Georgia Battlefields Association Board of Trustees held its annual meeting on 18 January. Trustees Valerie Lyons, Cindy Wentworth, and Charlie Crawford had terms expiring in 2009, and all were reelected to the board. Also, the current officers were reelected for another year.

President – Charlie Crawford
Secretary – Gene Murphy

Vice President – Cindy Wentworth
Treasurer – Frank Chew

The treasurer's report reflected GBA's sound financial condition. We expect to announce a major outlay towards preservation of a Georgia battlefield soon.

Phoenix Flies returns

The Atlanta Preservation Center's Phoenix Flies program (www.phoenixflies.org) is back for 2009. Phoenix Flies includes several events intended to highlight historic buildings and events in the city. GBA was asked to reprise one of its tours conducted for Phoenix Flies in previous years, so we'll be leading a tour of downtown Atlanta on 22 March 2009. This tour will pass the sites of most of the city's principal Civil War buildings, including the train depots, Confederate administrative buildings, city hall, weapons factories, etc. You'll receive a handout containing many of the famous wartime photos of the city and visit the spots from which they were taken. To sign up for the tour, call the Atlanta Preservation Center at 404 688 3353.

General Assembly convenes: Budget prospects poor

The Georgia General Assembly convened on 12 January. The legislature's only mandatory task is to pass a state budget. Legislators will modify the current budget (State Fiscal Year 2009, which runs to 30 June) in what's known as the mid-year adjustment; and they will pass a budget for SFY 2010. Also as usual, the sitting governor submitted his budget proposals for both the current and coming fiscal years. While the legislators always modify the governor's proposals, the current economic climate will constrain the revisions.

As expected, Governor Perdue's proposed budgets make serious cuts to state park and historic site maintenance. Further, no funds are provided for the Georgia Civil War Commission or for Sesquicentennial planning. We don't expect the legislators to restore many programs during the budget discussions, but we'll let you know what the passed and signed budget contains.

City of Atlanta cuts history and preservation staff

Just before Christmas, the City of Atlanta furloughed four of the Atlanta Cyclorama staff, including the director. The facility's usual staff of 15 has now been reduced to 6. Operating hours will be restricted. Veterans of our 2008 Ed Bearss tour will remember our dinner at the Cyclorama, made more memorable by the tornado that hit downtown Atlanta that night.

Citing budget pressures, the City of Atlanta also dismissed its Urban Design Commission executive director—the city's preservation chief—after 20 years in that position.

The furloughs and dismissals are just more evidence that history and preservation-related jobs and attractions will be among the first to suffer when budgets are tight.

The relentless advance of the electronic age

Thanks to those of you who receive the newsletter via e-mail. We now have over 100 members who forego receiving the printed newsletter via regular mail, so that saves GBA at least \$42 per month in postage. If you receive the newsletter via e-mail, we will now send renewal notices, acknowledgments, and other correspondence via e-mail as well. Thanks again.

150 years ago this month

On 14 February, Oregon was admitted as the 33rd state. Southern concerns were once again elevated by the prospects of losing their voting advantage in Congress. Even though slaves were counted when computing representation in the House, the number of free states is outpacing the number of slave states in the Senate.

The Great American Tea Company opens a mail order store in New York. Its success will lead to the opening of additional stores and contracts to supply troops during the Civil War. In 1870, it will be renamed The Great Atlantic & Pacific Tea Company, or A&P. It will expand its product line and become the largest provider of groceries in the U.S. for almost a century.

200 years ago this month

On 12 February, Abraham Lincoln is born near Hodgenville, Kentucky.

2009 GBA tour with Ed Bearss

For our 2009 tour led by Ed Bearss, we'll cover the Federal cavalry actions of the Atlanta Campaign (Brown's Mill, Sunshine Church, Athens, Lovejoy's Station, etc.) as well as the climactic Battle of Jonesboro. As usual, we'll start with a Thursday evening reception at the hotel, followed by all day bus tours on Friday and Saturday, and a half day tour on Sunday.

Joining us as a guide will be David Evans, author of Sherman's Horsemen, the definitive account of Federal cavalry operations during the Atlanta Campaign.

Dates: 12-15 March 2009

Hotel: Comfort Suites, 1444 Southlake Plaza Dr, Morrow GA 30260.

Call 678 674 1300 and ask for the Georgia Battlefields Association rate of \$89 (~\$100 with tax).

Price: \$395.

You must be a GBA member to register for the tour, and your participation is not confirmed until your check (payable to GBA) arrives at 7 Camden Rd NE, Atlanta GA 30309.

Georgia Battlefields Association
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www.georgiabattlefields.org

February 2009

Address correction requested
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