

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

Report from annual tour with Ed Bearss

Ed Bearss led another successful tour for GBA. We were assisted by David Evans, author of Sherman's Horsemen, the definitive book on Federal cavalry operations during Summer 1864.

On Friday, 13 March, we visited the site of the cavalry actions at and near Brown's Mill. We had lunch at the historic depot in Newnan before heading to Lovejoy's Station, the scene of four cavalry and infantry engagements between July and November 1864. At the Nash Farm, we were met by several local historians as well as Chair of the Henry County Board of Commissioners, BJ Mathis. Dinner that night was at Stately Oaks in Jonesboro.



A lively exchange between Ed Bearss and David Evans at Brown's Mill.



David displays an artillery shell while describing Kilpatrick's charge east of Lovejoy's Station.



The Hunt house, used as a hospital after the Cavalry fight at Sunshine Church.



Ed Bearss answers a question for Vince Dooley at the Confederate cemetery in Madison.



Don Parr describes the defense of Athens as Federal cavalry approached on 2 August 1864.



David Evans and Ed Bearss speculate about the double-barreled cannon in Athens.

Photos courtesy of Cindy Wentworth, Henry Howell, and Charlie Crawford.

On Saturday, 14 March, we visited the Sunshine Church battlefield before following the route of Federal cavalry as it attempted to get back to Federal lines. This took us through Eatonton to Madison, where we had lunch at a local museum and visited the cemetery. We then explored the defenses of Athens and the Cook & Brother Armory site. Dinner was at the restored T.R.R. Cobb House, and we passed the site of King's Tanyard on the way back to the hotel.

Sunday morning was devoted to covering the climactic two-day battle at Jonesboro. Despite the downpour, Ed gave us his full treatment. We ended by visiting the site of Rough and Ready, which served as the exchange point while Federals occupied Atlanta in September 1864.

For next year, we envision covering the Fall 1864 campaign, when General Hood attempted to force the Federals out of Georgia by attacking their railroad supply line; and General Sherman attempted to chase down the Confederates while trying to persuade his superiors that a march to the sea would be a much more effective strategy. Make plans to join us in March 2010.

Lovejoy's Station makes 2009 most endangered list

On 18 March, the Civil War Preservation Trust (www.civilwar.org) released its most endangered site list. This is an annual event that draws attention to Civil War sites that are either unprotected or partially protected. For 2009, the GBA-nominated site of Lovejoy's Station was among 15 additional at-risk sites, as it was in 2007 and 2008 (see November and September newsletters).

Old Clinton "War Days" is 2-3 May

The 28th annual Old Clinton War Days event occurs this year on 2 & 3 May. 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.

The proceeds (\$5 for adults, \$3 for children age 6 to 18) are used to preserve the Old Clinton Historic District, which contains several ante-bellum structures, such as the McCarthy-Pope House (circa 1809), which will be open for tours. Additionally, a memorial service at 8:05 p.m. Saturday at the Old Clinton cemetery will be open free of charge.

Old Clinton is 12 miles northeast of Macon, and 1.5 miles southeast of Gray, just a block west of US 129. For more information, e-mail Richard Durham at rldurham@windstream.net or call Earlene Hamilton at 478 986 6383 or the Jones County-Gray Visitor's Center at 478 986 1123.

Battle of Resaca reenactment is 15-17 May

The annual reenactment of the Battle of Resaca will occur on 15-17 May at the Chitwood Farm, part of the original battlefield. This is always one of the largest and best run reenactments. For more information on participating or attending, see the web site www.georgiadivision.org or write Battle of Resaca, P.O. Box 919, Resaca GA 30735-0919 or e-mail csgrizly@comcast.net. As usual, some of the proceeds from the reenactment will go to preserve the battlefield. The Friends of Resaca Battlefield (www.resacabattlefield.org) have been great guardians of the site.

150 years ago this month

Ohio song writer Dan Emmett had already penned the hit "Polly Wolly Doodle." On 4 April, he debuts a song for the minstrel show in which he is performing at Mechanics Hall in New York City. The new song "Dixie" becomes one of the great toe-tapping tunes of all time.

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