

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

State of Georgia Fiscal Year 2012 Budget

Governor Deal signed the State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2012 (1 July 2011-30 June 2012) budget on 17 May. As expected, funding for preservation-related programs was not a priority.

For Department of Economic Development's Tourism Division:

- No funding for Georgia Civil War Commission.
- \$10,000 reduction in contract funds for Georgia Historical Society.
- \$10,000 added for Sesquicentennial marketing, despite an overall reduction of \$684,157 for tourism marketing.

For Department of Natural Resources' Historic Preservation Division:

- One position eliminated.
- \$118,000 reduction in contract funds for Regional Commission historic preservation planners.

For Department of Natural Resources' Parks & Historic Sites Division:

- 24 positions eliminated.
- \$158,000 reduction in operating funds.
- \$492,500 reduction in capital repairs and maintenance.

As always, preservation efforts will need contributions from non-governmental organizations.

GBA accepts donations in honor of Ed Bearss' birthday

National Park Service Chief Historian Emeritus Ed Bearss turned 88 on 26 June 2011. At a 24 June party, GBA president Charlie Crawford accepted donations given in honor of Ed's birthday. For several years, Ed has chosen a preservation organization to receive donations in lieu of gifts to him; and we were humbled that Ed said such nice things about GBA's preservation and education efforts during his announcement of the gift.



Ed Bearss and Charlie Crawford at Ed's 88th birthday celebration in Arlington, Virginia

U.S. students' knowledge of history still abysmal

Recently released results from the 2010 National Assessment of Educational Progress show the great majority of U.S. students still have inadequate knowledge of U.S. history. Of the eight subjects tested (math, reading, science, writing, civics, geography, economics, history), history was the subject on which 12th graders performed the worst, with only 12% demonstrating proficiency. This is essentially the same result as when the assessment was last performed in 2006. http://nationsreportcard.gov/ushistory_2010/summary.asp.

This is sad but not surprising. It shows the importance of preserving battlefields as teaching tools and also shows how difficult it remains to make people aware of historical sites.

July Lecture Series in Coweta County

The Newnan/Coweta Historical Society is sponsoring four lectures in July. Coweta County was the site of the 30 July 1864 Battle of Brown's Mill, and Newnan hosted several hospitals.

The first two lectures are in the second floor courtroom of the Historic Courthouse at 200 Court Square, Newnan. (Use east entrance.)

- Lee & Grant at Appomattox John Stuckey 7 p.m. 5 July
- Life in the Hospitals in Newnan Elizabeth Beers 7 p.m. 12 July

The second two lectures are in the Old Train Depot at 60 East Broad Street, Newnan.

- Fightin' Joe Wheeler and the Georgia Cavalry John Poole 2 p.m. 17 July
- Documenting the Battle of Brown's Mill Kerry Elliott & Sandra Parker 2 p.m. 24 July

For more information, call 770 253 8264 or see www.friendsofbrownsmillbattlefield.com.

Dalton historical marker ceremony scheduled for 14 July

Another in the series of historical markers sponsored by the Georgia Historical Society and partially funded by Georgia Battlefields Association has been installed in Dalton. This marker relates to Major General Patrick Cleburne's proposal to address the Confederacy's manpower shortage by using slaves as soldiers. The dedication will be at 10 a.m. on 14 July at 314 Selvidge Street, the site where the proposal was presented to the senior commanders of the Army of Tennessee on 2 January 1864.

150 years ago this month

On 4 July, a special session of Congress convenes to consider war measures. President Lincoln asks for authorization to enlist 400,000 volunteers and spend \$400,000,000. Later in the month, he calls up state militias to national service.

Skirmishing occurs in the contested areas of western Virginia and leads to larger engagements on 11 July at Rich Mountain and 13 July at Corrick's Ford. In the latter fight, Confederate Brigadier General Robert Garnett becomes the first general on either side to be killed in action. The Federal forces are led by Brigadier General William Rosecrans, under the command of Major General George McClellan, two men who will become much better known.

Under pressure from the national government and northern populace to act, Major General Irwin McDowell advances his Federal army on the Confederate position at Manassas, Virginia. Three days of skirmishing leads to a battle on 21 July. The Federals retreat after a battle that meets no one's expectations and changes many perceptions. One of the first southern "martyrs" is Francis Bartow, a Georgia secession advocate who died leading a brigade including Georgia troops. In December 1861, Cass County will be renamed Bartow County in his honor.

Despite the frequent skirmishing in Virginia, the number of clashes is greatest in Missouri, though none involve many men. This pattern will hold for the next four years.

Based on his success in western Virginia, McClellan is called to Washington on 22 July to assume command of Federal forces, which he does on 27 July.

Displeased with his inability to influence Confederate government policy, Georgian Robert Toombs resigns his post as Secretary of State on 25 July and enters military service.

Mindful of the need to placate politicians and voters in the northern states, President Lincoln nominates several men to be brigadier general of U.S. volunteers on 31 July. To satisfy Representative Washburne of Illinois, Lincoln includes Colonel U.S. Grant.

Georgia Battlefields Association
7 Camden Rd NE
Atlanta GA 30309

www.georgiabattlefields.org

July 2011

Address correction requested
Return postage guaranteed