

GEORGIA BATTLEFIELDS

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GBA contributes to restoration of monuments

GBA is contributing \$6,000 towards the effort to restore the monuments marking the death sites of U.S. Major General James B. McPherson and C.S. Major General W.H.T. Walker during the 22 July 1864 Battle of Atlanta. The Battle of Atlanta in East Atlanta organization (familiar to some for its annual commemoration of the battle and its B*ATL logo: see www.batlevent.org) is leading the effort. It has already arranged for grants from the state and is coordinating with the city of Atlanta, as both monuments are on city property.

The McPherson monument was installed on the general's death site in the late 1870s by engineers from a U.S. Army garrison in the city. The Walker monument was installed in 1902 in Grant Park but was relocated in 1936 to his death site. Both monuments have been affected by the elements and vandalism. The Walker monument has also been struck by vehicles because of its proximity to heavily traveled Glenwood Avenue (in background of photo on right).



McPherson monument.



Walker monument.

GBA asked to lead Resaca tour for Civil War Trust

The annual Civil War Trust Grand Review is based in Chattanooga this year 16-18 September. GBA was asked to lead the Sunday (18 Sept) morning tour of Resaca, and we immediately contacted the Friends of Resaca Battlefield to help. One focus of the tour will be the property that the Trust and GBA helped to put under conservation easement.

GBA web mistress retires

After over ten years maintaining the GBA web site, Linda Geiger is retiring from that duty. Linda and her late husband, former GBA president Charlie Geiger, are familiar to many of our members. Linda took no money for her service as our web mistress, and we thank her not only for her efforts but also for her good counsel and invariable good humor.

GBA trustee Valerie Lyons resigns

Valerie Lyons, who has served as a GBA trustee since 2003, moved to Florida in early August. For eight years, Valerie did the "back room" work of addressing, stamping, and mailing the GBA newsletter. We'll miss her, not only for her willingness to do the unenviable jobs but also for her directness and good sense during our board discussions.

Property near Kennesaw Mountain in the news

A 16-acre property relating to the June 1864 action near Kennesaw Mountain was featured in Atlanta-area news media in mid August. Because the property is in the “donut hole” of Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park, it is eligible for purchase by the National Park Service (NPS). As usual, the problem is not enough NPS funding for land acquisition, so the property, offered at \$2.7 million, is competing with other desired purchases. At request of Trust for Public Land, GBA wrote letters supporting the purchase to Representative Gingrey and U.S. Senators Chambliss and Isakson (see “What GBA does in its spare time” in June newsletter).

GBA approached to compile battlefield photo book

Arcadia Publishing (www.arcadiapublishing.com) contacted GBA about preparing a photo history of battlefields in Georgia for its Images of America series. While most books in the series focus on a single location (e.g., Historic Roswell), some cover a broader area, such as Georgia’s Confederate Monuments and Cemeteries. The books contain vintage photographs of the subject matter.

While we have recent (within the last 20 years) photos of Georgia battlefields and a few wartime photos, we’re almost entirely lacking photos from the period in between. How did the battlefield appear in 1890 or 1950? If you have such photos and are willing to share them, please let us know by e-mailing the newsletter editor at info@georgiabattlefields.org.

150 years ago this month

September 2: President Lincoln requests that General Fremont modify his proclamations regarding martial law, emancipation, and confiscation in Missouri. An aggravating factor is the effect such proclamations will have on the prospects for keeping Kentucky in the Union.

3: Under orders from Major General Leonidas Polk, Confederate troops enter Kentucky to seize Columbus because of its strategic position on the Mississippi River. This is a political blunder that President Davis cannot unravel, so he lets the action stand. In response, U.S. Grant sends Federal troops to seize Paducah (6 Sept) and Smithland (25 Sept) because of their potential to control the mouths of the Tennessee and Cumberland Rivers.

10: Fremont’s wife, the daughter of the late Senator Benton (D-MO), meets with Lincoln to protest her husband’s treatment. Lincoln rebuffs her and then modifies Fremont’s orders.

14: President Davis rejects Joseph E. Johnston’s protest about the ranking of general officers.

15: Davis appoints Albert Sidney Johnston, the general in whom he has the most confidence, to succeed Polk in command of Confederate forces in the west. Johnston establishes a defense line across southern Kentucky with Bowling Green as his headquarters.

20: After a 20 day siege, the Federals surrender the 3,600-man garrison at Lexington, Missouri to Sterling Price. Fremont is criticized for not sending help. On 23 Sept, Fremont closes a St Louis newspaper that criticized him.

Southern newspapers criticize R.E. Lee for failing to defeat the Federals in western Virginia.

The U.S. North Atlantic and South Atlantic blockading squadrons are formed. The blockade is still minimally effective, but it will get tighter almost continuously.

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