

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 interviewed for Georgia Public Broadcasting program

On 3 April, GBA president Charlie Crawford was interviewed by Sharon Collins of Georgia Outdoors www.gpb.org/georgia-outdoors, a Georgia Public Broadcasting program that covers environmental topics. The episode will feature the use of water power for manufacturing, with the Civil War connection being the significance of mills in the Atlanta area.

Georgia Outdoors host and producer Sharon Collins and GBA president Charlie Crawford at the site of a Federal crossing of the Chattahoochee River.



GBA contacts legislators to support property purchase

As reported in the January newsletter, GBA wrote letters of support for using the Fiscal Year (FY) 2012 Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) budget to acquire the Leavell and Hays properties adjacent to Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park (KMNBP). In the end, acquisition of properties for non-battlefield national parks (specifically, Everglades National Park) used up all the National Park Service (NPS) allocation in the LWCF 2012 budget. Now that the FY 2013 budget process is underway, GBA responded to a Trust for Public Land request and contacted Senators Chambliss and Isakson and Representative Gingrey to advocate for enough LWCF funding to acquire at least the 42 acre Hays property.

Another marker for Georgia Civil War Heritage Trails

On 4 April, Georgia Civil War Heritage Trails www.civilwarheritagetrails.org dedicated another in its series of markers, this time at Poplar Springs Church north of Dalton. The marker explains the events in Crow Valley during early May 1864, at the opening of the Atlanta Campaign.

Since receiving its first Transportation Enhancement (TE) program grant 12 years ago, Georgia Civil War Heritage Trails has fought through the red tape of the federal and state transportation departments; and GCWHT's effort to install markers and directional signs is paying off. Executive director Steve Longcrier has led the fight. Congratulations to Steve and his organization.



Dedication speaker Vince Dooley and Steve Longcrier

Old Clinton "War Days" is 5-6 May

The annual Old Clinton War Days event occurs this year on 5 & 6 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. A memorial service at 8:05 p.m. Saturday at the Old Clinton cemetery is free.

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, call Earlene Hamilton at 478 986 6383, the Jones County-Gray Visitor's Center at 478 986 1123, or J.C. Nobles at 478 945 2261.

Battle of Resaca reenactment is 18-20 May

The 2012 reenactment of the Battle of Resaca will occur on 18-20 May on land protected by a conservation easement, to which Georgia Battlefields Association contributed. For more information, see the web site www.georgiadivision.org or e-mail csgrizly@comcast.net. Some of the proceeds from the reenactment will help preserve the battlefield. The Friends of Resaca Battlefield www.resacabattlefield.org have been great guardians of the site.

150 years ago

On the Virginia peninsula, the Confederates withdraw on 3 May from their line anchored at Yorktown. The Federal pursuit leads to a battle on 5 May at Williamsburg, the same day that President Lincoln sails from Washington for Fort Monroe, hoping when he arrives to speed the Federal advance. From the ship, Lincoln does his own scouting of the south side of Hampton Roads and selects a likely spot for a troop landing. When Federal troops do land on 10 May, they find Norfolk and its navy yard and critical supplies abandoned. Without a base, CSS *Virginia* is scuttled on 11 May. The Federal navy can now use the James River to approach Richmond but is turned back by the Confederate guns at Drewry's Bluff on 15 May. McClellan continues up the Peninsula until within sight of Richmond's church spires and there extends his right flank across the Chickahominy River. J.E. Johnston sees an opportunity to attack the Federals on the south side of the river, resulting in the 31 May Battle of Seven Pines, in which the confused Confederate command structure is exposed and Johnston is seriously wounded.

In the Shenandoah Valley, Thomas J. Jackson embarks on the campaign that will raise alarms in Washington and redirect forces that McClellan was expecting. First advancing on Staunton, he defeats Federals under Schenk at McDowell on 8 May and Banks' forces at Front Royal on 23 May and Winchester on 25 May.

9 May: David Hunter, commanding the U.S. Department of the South (responsible for South Carolina, Georgia, and Florida), declares that all slaves coming under Federal control will be emancipated. Further, newly free able-bodied men will be armed and enlisted as soldiers. On 19 May, President Lincoln countermands Hunter's orders but not before they cause a political stir.

14 May: General A.R. Lawton issues an order declaring Atlanta a Confederate military post.

15 May: A ship is launched in Liverpool, England. It is then secretly outfitted by Confederate agents as the commerce raider *CSS Alabama*. Also on 15 May, Ben Butler, commanding U.S. forces in New Orleans, issues an order that specifies that any woman who insults U.S. troops or the flag will be considered a woman of the town plying her avocation—i.e., a prostitute.

David Farragut and his Federal ships advance up the Mississippi River and reach Vicksburg on 18 May. Farragut demands the town's surrender but doesn't get it.

20 May: In perhaps the most far reaching event of 1861-1865 other than the war itself, President Lincoln signs the Homestead Act, which grants 160 acres of federal land west of the Mississippi to anyone who settles on and works to improve the parcel for at least five years. Long resisted by the southern states, the act passes a Congress that has no southern representation. It will greatly facilitate the settlement of the west, eventually leading to 1,600,000 homesteads.

29 May: In one of a series of communications, President Davis writes to Georgia Governor Joe Brown to argue about the national government's rights versus a state's rights.

30 May: Confederates under Beauregard evacuate Corinth for Tupelo, Mississippi, in the face of the ponderous advance by Halleck's far more numerous Federal force.

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