

# 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](mailto:info@georgiabattlefields.org)

## Georgia Battlefields Association web site updated

The Georgia Battlefields Association web site has been updated. [www.georgiabattlefields.org](http://www.georgiabattlefields.org).

Our web site has always been designed to provide information rather than glitz. Consequently, the design changes little when the content is updated. On the home page, the rotating photos have featured the Resaca battlefield for some time, reflecting the preservation efforts at Resaca over the past two years (473 acre conservation easement and 51 acre purchase) and GBA's contributions (\$125,000) towards those efforts.

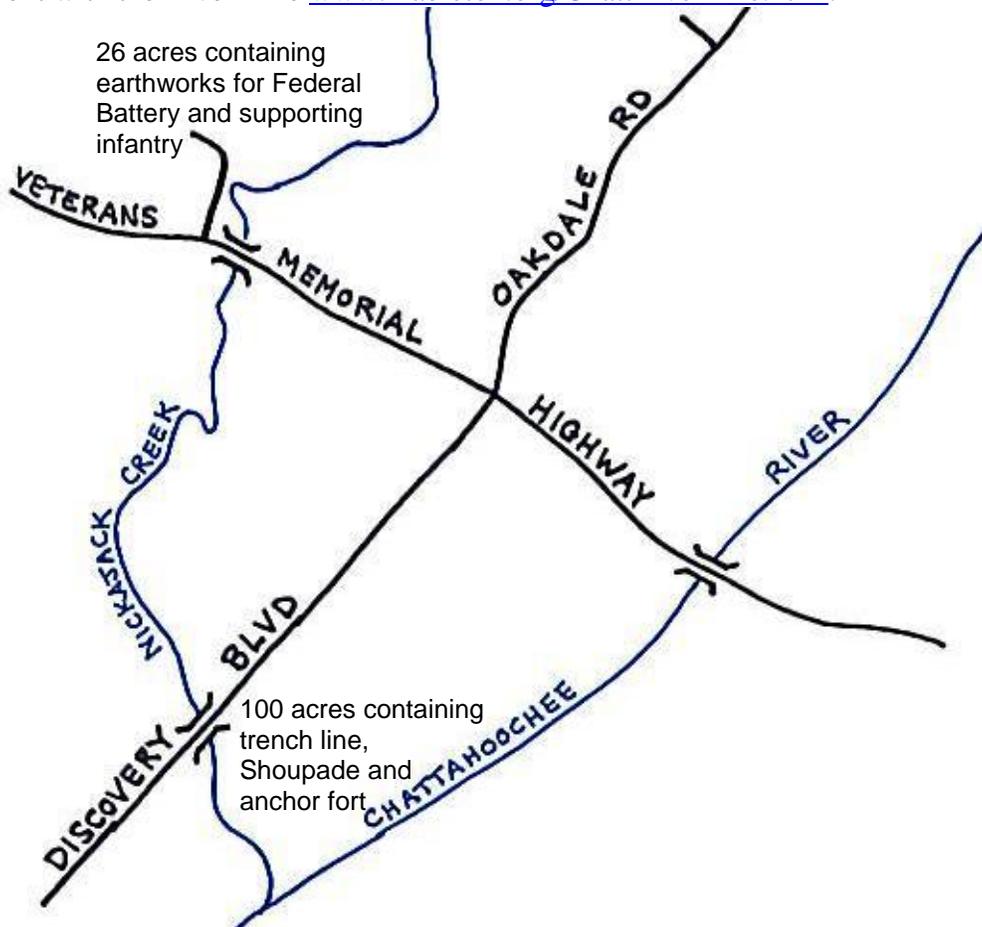
The Civil War Round Table listing is updated each summer, and the content reflects location and contact information for the upcoming "campaign" year, which runs from September to June for several of the Round Tables.

The newsletter is posted on the web site each month. A review of the newsletters is the most comprehensive way to see what GBA has done, but the GBA activities page provides a summary of our preservation efforts. We want everyone, especially our members, to know what we do with the contributions we receive. The activities page also provides links to other preservation and Civil War-related organizations.

## American Battlefield Protection Program 2012 grants

On 9 July, the American Battlefield Protection Program (ABPP) announced its 2012 grant recipients. Two of the 27 projects are in Georgia. The LAMAR Institute will receive \$68,527 to find and archeologically document the Revolutionary War Carr's Fort in Wilkes County. LAMAR's lead archeologist Dan Elliott has worked on several Civil War sites as well.

The Mableton Improvement Coalition (MIC) will receive \$75,000 to develop a preservation plan for two sections of the Chattahoochee River Line. A 100 acre section contains Confederate earthworks, and a 26 acre section contains Federal earthworks from early July 1864. Georgia Battlefields Association wrote a letter of support for the grant application, as it did for a 2009 application that garnered \$45,000 (August 2009 newsletter). MIC's web site has more about its involvement with the River Line [www.mableton.org/ChattRiverLine.html](http://www.mableton.org/ChattRiverLine.html).



## 150 years ago this month

Following the victory at Second Manassas, Lee sends part of his army towards Washington, and an indecisive battle at Chantilly, Virginia, occurs on 1 September. Once the Federals are within the strong defenses around the capital, Lee decides instead to head north to draw his opponent into an open field fight. He also hopes to stir pro-southern sentiment in Maryland and remove the fighting from Virginia. His opponent is once again McClellan, restored to overall command of the Federal armies in the east. Pope is reassigned to the Department of the Northwest, in part to deal with the ongoing Sioux uprising; but in his final report, he charges generals McClellan and Fitz John Porter with failure to promptly forward troops during the Manassas Campaign.

Despite having a copy of Lee's deployment orders, McClellan moves cautiously, finally precipitating a battle along South Mountain on 14 September but failing to move fast enough to relieve the besieged Harper's Ferry garrison, which surrenders on 15 September, the largest surrender (12,500 men) of U.S. forces until 1942. Lee decides to stand behind Antietam Creek. The resulting battle on 17 September is the bloodiest single day in U.S. history. McClellan's lack of pursuit frustrates Lincoln, but Lee's retreat into Virginia is positive enough news to justify public announcement of the Emancipation Proclamation on 22 September.

Concurrent with Lee's advance into Maryland, Bragg advances through Tennessee into Kentucky. While Kirby Smith's Confederate force has been in eastern Kentucky for weeks, Bragg's invasion is more alarming because he has more men and is in position to cut off Buell's withdraw from Nashville; but Bragg's change of direction to unite with Smith opens the way for the Federals. Bragg captures the 4,000 man Federal garrison at Munfordville on 17 September; but Buell's army reaches Louisville on 25 September and is reinforced and resupplied. In Louisville, Federal Brigadier General Jefferson C. Davis fatally shoots Major General William Nelson on 29 September. Davis is charged but never tried, in part because a battle is pending.

Neither Lee's incursion into Maryland nor Smith's and Bragg's incursion into Kentucky results in a rush of recruits for the Confederate armies, much to the disappointment and disgust of the generals and the Confederate government. The need for more men is reflected in 27 September passage of the Second Conscription Act, which raises the draft age from 35 to 45. While the U.S. government has not yet instituted a draft, Ben Butler, commanding in New Orleans, musters a regiment of black troops into Federal service as the 1<sup>st</sup> Louisiana Native Guards.

In northern Mississippi, Confederates are trying to prevent Federal forces under Grant from detaching troops to Buell in Kentucky. Sterling Price advances from Tupelo but is defeated by Rosecrans at Iuka on 19 September. On 29 September, 22,000 Confederates under Van Dorn, who has superseded Price, advance towards Corinth.

Elsewhere, Beauregard is assigned to command the Department of South Carolina & Georgia, replacing Pemberton, who is reassigned to Mississippi.

While the Federal blockade of southern ports is tightened, the Confederate commerce raider *Alabama* is roaming the eastern Atlantic Ocean, capturing and burning ten whaling ships.

Casualties (killed, wounded, missing, captured) during September from battle alone exceed 32,000 for the Federals and 18,000 for the Confederates, though disease, principally from contaminated water, remains the main cause of death and disability.

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