

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

2013 annual tour with Ed Bearss goes to Chickamauga

GBA's annual tour led by Ed Bearss will cover Chickamauga in March 2013. While many of you may have been to Chickamauga with Ed, you'll probably not have covered the battle in the depth that we will. Ed has already committed to the tour, but we'll also have the services of National Park Service historian Jim Ogden, a nationally recognized expert on the campaign.

We'll start with a Thursday (14 March) evening reception at the hotel. Friday (15 March) will be devoted to the maneuvering by both sides, including the actions in McLemore's cove and positions on the eve of battle. Dinner is at Lee & Gordon's Mills www.leeandgordonsmills.com. On Saturday (16 March), we'll cover the 18 September fighting in the morning and the 19 September fighting in the afternoon. Saturday dinner is at the Gordon-Lee Mansion, which served as both a headquarters and a hospital www.gordonleemansion.com. Sunday morning (17 March) will cover 20 September, the decisive last day of battle.

Hotel is the Hampton Inn at 6875 Battlefield Pkwy, Ringgold GA. 706 935 4800. This is just east of I-75 exit 350. The GBA rate is \$99 per night (about \$115 with taxes). Breakfast is included. www.ringgoldftoglethorpe.hamptoninn.com.

The price remains \$395, but you must be a GBA member to participate. Your place is reserved when your check to GBA arrives at 7 Camden Rd NE, Atlanta GA 30309. Please plan to join us in Chickamauga 14-17 March 2013.

The above information is now on our web site www.georgiabattlefields.org/tours.htm.

GBA helps with another Georgia Historical Society marker

Georgia Battlefields Association, principally vice president Cindy Wentworth, helped with financing, text development, and site location for a Georgia Historical Society marker, this one recounting the actions of Union sympathizer William Fain during the Civil War. Appropriately, Cindy represented GBA and spoke at the 11 October ceremony in Blue Ridge, where Speaker of the Georgia House David Ralston gave the main address.



L to R: Blue Ridge city council member Rhonda Thomas, Blue Ridge mayor Donna Whitener, Fain descendant and historian Travis McDaniel, Speaker of the Georgia House David Ralston, Georgia Historical Society president Todd Groce, Department of Economic Development tourism chief Kevin Langston, GBA vice president Cindy Wentworth. Photo by Christy Crisp.

Contact state legislators about archives accessibility

Georgia media have covered the threatened cutback in operating hours for the state archives and the proposed legislation to transfer administration of the archives from the Secretary of State's office to the University System. Funding for the archives and preservation-related items is under discussion in preparation for the governor presenting his proposed budget to the General Assembly in January. Please take the time to make your views known to your state senator and representative. Contact information is available on the web site www.legis.ga.gov.

150 years ago this month

The Confederate initiatives of September and October have bought time but little else. Lee is back in Virginia; Bragg is back in Tennessee; and Van Dorn has not pried the Federals away from Corinth. While the Federals will regain the initiative in November, few battles will be fought, but the command structure of both sides will change significantly.

On 4 November, the remaining U.S. elections occur. Democrats gain, especially at the state level, but Republicans retain control of Congress.

Fed up with inaction, but waiting until the election has passed, President Lincoln removes George McClellan from command of the Army of the Potomac. On 7 November, the order reaches McClellan at Rectortown, Virginia, as he is finally leading the army southward. Corps commander Fitz John Porter, an ardent McClellan supporter, is also removed. Ambrose Burnside is appointed to command the army, though he does not think himself qualified. He reorganizes the army into Grand Divisions and points it towards Fredericksburg, with the lead elements reaching the vicinity in mid month, where they wait for bridging equipment to arrive. Lincoln visits the army 26-27 November to personally meet with Burnside.

Lee responds to Federal movements by sending Longstreet's command to occupy the heights west of Fredericksburg. Both Longstreet and Jackson are appointed on 6 November to the newly created rank of lieutenant general, and their commands formally become corps.

Recovered from his wounding in late May, Joe Johnston is assigned on 24 November to a new overall command in the west, with headquarters at Chattanooga. His principal subordinates are Bragg with his newly named Army of Tennessee, now encamped around Murfreesboro, and Pemberton with his army at Vicksburg.

On the Federal side, Rosecrans renames his command the Army of the Cumberland and reestablishes his headquarters in Nashville, safe now that the Confederate army has pulled out of Kentucky. Grant and his Army of the Tennessee are in western Tennessee preparing for an overland advance on Vicksburg, despite the onset of weather less conducive to campaigning.

On 8 November, the controversial Ben Butler is replaced by Nathaniel Banks as federal commander in New Orleans. On the Confederate side, John Magruder takes command of the District of Texas, New Mexico, and Arizona on 29 November.

At the highest level, George Randolph resigns precipitously as Confederate Secretary of War on 15 November. The widely-held view is that President Davis is essentially running the War Department, so the secretary is a supernumerary. Davis does not acknowledge this belief, and on 21 November he appoints James Seddon as Secretary of War. A former U.S. and Confederate congressman, Seddon will prove more able than his predecessors.

Reflecting the Confederacy's manpower predicament, President Davis asks governors for help enforcing the draft and returning absent soldiers to the field, requests more supplies be forwarded to the armies, and directs more slave labor be used to build fortifications.

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