

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

Sign up for 2013 Chickamauga tour with Ed Bearss

Dates: Evening of 14 March through morning of 17 March 2013.

Subject: Chickamauga Campaign, including the weeks leading up to the September 1863 battle.

Hotel: Hampton Inn at 6875 Battlefield Pkwy, Ringgold GA. 706 935 4800. Just east of I-75 exit 350. GBA rate is \$99, including breakfast. www.ringgoldftoglethorpe.hamptoninn.com.

Price: Send \$395 check to GBA at 7 Camden Rd NE, Atlanta GA 30309. You must be a GBA member to participate. November 2012 newsletter has more details.

Contact senators and representatives about federal spending

The current federal budget negotiations are a good occasion to make your views known to your U.S. senators and representative. While GBA would like you to speak or write in favor of historic preservation, you can express your views on any spending item. The representatives and senators keep track of what items are most often mentioned. You may provide your input by mail, e-mail, phone, or fax. Each senator and representative has a web site that will provide mail and e-mail addresses and phone and fax numbers. Staffers indicate that e-mail is the preferred method, but if you are already acquainted with the senator or representative or someone in their offices, a personal phone call is appropriate. Regular mail sent to Washington is significantly delayed, so if you choose to use "snail" mail, send it to a district office.

Here is contact info for the U.S. senators:

Saxby Chambliss www.chambliss.senate.gov 770 763 9090 (Atlanta area office)
100 Galleria Pkwy, Ste 1340, Atlanta GA 30339

Johnny Isakson www.isakson.senate.gov 770 661 0999 (Atlanta area office)
3625 Cumberland Blvd, Ste 970, Atlanta GA 30339

Here are the web sites for Georgia's 13 U.S. House members:

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1 www.kingston.house.gov | 8 www.austinscott.house.gov |
| 2 www.bishop.house.gov | 9 www.tomgraves.house.gov |
| 3 www.westmoreland.house.gov | 10 www.broun.house.gov |
| 4 www.hankjohnson.house.gov | 11 www.gingrey.house.gov |
| 5 www.johnlewis.house.gov | 12 www.barrow.house.gov |
| 6 www.tomprice.house.gov | 13 www.davidscott.house.gov |
| 7 www.woodall.house.gov | 14 Will not take effect until January |

Time to apply for annual battlefield preservation grants

The American Battlefield Protection Program annual preservation grant process is underway. See <http://www.nps.gov/history/hps/abpp/grants/battlefieldgrants/2013grants.htm> for guidelines and an application form. If you don't have access to the internet, call grants manager Kristen McMasters at 202 354 2037. Mailed applications must be postmarked by 2 January 2013.

These ABPP grants cannot be used to acquire land, unlike those through the Land and Water Conservation Fund. Georgia projects received grants in 2009, 2010, and 2012.

150 years ago this month

On 1 December, the U.S. Congress convenes and receives President Lincoln's written state of the union message. Lincoln reviews the state of foreign affairs, the economy, and the war and proposes constitutional amendments to end slavery. He concludes with the oft-quoted phrase "We shall nobly save, or meanly lose, the last, best hope of earth."

On 10 December, the House of Representatives passes a bill creating a state of West Virginia. The bill had passed the Senate in July, and Lincoln signs the bill into law on 31 December.

On 8 December, Jefferson Davis leaves Richmond to inspect Confederate forces in the west. His itinerary includes Bragg's army in central Tennessee, Chattanooga (where he expresses concern about Union sentiment in East Tennessee and Northern Alabama), Mobile, Jackson, and

Vicksburg. He is generally pleased with the fitness of the armies but more than once sends messages to Secretary of War Seddon urging the movement of more heavy artillery to Vicksburg and Port Hudson.

Despite the end of the normal campaigning months, the Federals are advancing on three fronts: central Virginia, central Tennessee, and the Mississippi Valley. Burnside's army is opposite Fredericksburg but is awaiting bridging equipment until 11 December, when it forces a crossing against opposition and lays five pontoon bridges. On 13 December, Burnside attacks and is repulsed with disproportionate casualties: 12,653 to the Confederate loss of 5,309. The Federals pull back across the river on 15 December, and the recriminations begin.

Rosecrans's army prepares to advance from Nashville despite a raid by John Hunt Morgan into Kentucky attempting to disrupt Federal supply lines. Morgan captures garrisons and equipment, but Rosecrans advances on 26 December and skirmishes his way towards Murfreesboro, where Bragg's army awaits. Bragg takes the initiative on 31 December and pushes back the Federal right flank, but night falls with Rosecrans resolved to stay on the field despite significant losses.

In western Tennessee, Grant prepares to advance overland towards Vicksburg while he sends Sherman down the Mississippi towards the same objective. He organizes his army into four corps under Sherman, Hurlbut, McPherson, and McClernand, thus ending the latter's attempt to act independently. Frustrated by the unscrupulous vendors that follow his forces, Grant unfairly blames Jewish merchants and orders all Jews expelled from his department on 17 December. Though the order is rescinded by Halleck and Lincoln, it is justifiably infamous.

Much as Morgan attempts to disrupt Rosecrans's supply lines, Forrest and 2,500 troopers raid into western Tennessee in an effort to impede Grant. Forrest characteristically captures garrisons and destroys supply depots, but he is surrounded at Parker's Crossroads on 31 December. With his usual aggressiveness, he fights his way out but leaves behind 300 prisoners as well as guns, horses, and equipments that he had captured over the course of the raid. Grant's plan is largely unaffected by Forrest but is significantly altered when Van Dorn captures 1,500 men and burns \$1,500,000 worth of supplies at Holly Springs, Mississippi on 20 December. Grant abandons his overland approach to Vicksburg, while Sherman and 31,000 men leave Memphis on that same day on river transports. Sherman's expedition lands on 26 December above Vicksburg and slogs overland through swampy land until he attacks the Confederates on the bluffs above Chickasaw Bayou on 29 December. Despite outnumbering the Confederates 31,000 to 14,000, Sherman can't overcome the terrain and the prepared defenses. He remains at Chickasaw Bayou as the year ends but knows that attacking directly is useless.

Farther west, the Confederates lose two battles in Arkansas. On 7 December, Hindman attempts to separately attack Federal forces under Blunt and Herron, but he is too late to prevent their junction and is repulsed at Prairie Grove in bitter weather. On 28 December, Blunt attacks another Confederate force at Dripping Springs and captures equipment, including 40 wagons.

Shortly after midnight on 31 December, *USS Monitor* sinks in a storm off Cape Hatteras. 47 men are rescued, but 16 are lost.

On 26 December, 38 Sioux are hanged in Mankato, Minnesota for their part in the August uprising. Lincoln reduced the number of condemned but ultimately allowed the executions.

Over the last weeks of the month, Lincoln endures a cabinet crisis when Secretary of State Seward and Secretary of the Treasury Chase both offer their resignations, largely because they can't get along. Lincoln refuses both resignations and cajoles the two into attempting to work together, but it is a temporary fix. On 30 December, Lincoln shows his entire cabinet the final draft of the Emancipation Proclamation, which is to be issued on 1 January.

Georgia Battlefields Association
7 Camden Rd NE
Atlanta GA 30309

www.georgiabattlefields.org

December 2012

Address correction requested
Return postage guaranteed