

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 helps with another Georgia Historical Society marker

Georgia Battlefields Association helped with financing and text development for a Georgia Historical Society marker in Augusta, this one noting the birthplace of Montgomery C. Meigs. Although his grandfather was president of the University of Georgia, Meigs' parents returned to Pennsylvania when he was a child, and he went on to become quartermaster general of the U.S. Army during the Civil War, the great organizer of the massive supply effort.



Unveiling ceremony on 7 December 2012. L to R: Historic Augusta executive director Erick Montgomery, Georgia Department of Economic Development Sesquicentennial coordinator Barry Brown, General Montgomery C. Meigs (USA, ret.), Augusta-Richmond County city administrator Fred Russell, Georgia Historical Society president Todd Groce, Georgia Battlefields Association president Charlie Crawford. General Meigs is the namesake and great-great-nephew of the General Meigs honored on the marker. Photo by Steve Rauch.

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.

GBA presentations in January

GBA will be giving an eight lecture series on the Atlanta Campaign to the winter semester of Seniors Enriched Living, a Roswell-based continuing education program. <http://sel-web.org>

GBA will also present on 24 January at Georgia Tech in conjunction with the American Library Association exhibit *Lincoln: The Constitution and the Civil War*. The GBA presentation will focus on the significance of Atlanta's fall to Lincoln's re-election and also examine the city fortifications that ran through what is now the Tech campus.

<http://weblog.library.gatech.edu/news/2012/12/10/lincoln-the-constitution-and-the-civil-war-exhibit/>

150 years ago this month

On 1 January, President Lincoln signs the final version of the Emancipation Proclamation. Practically, it frees very few slaves. Fundamentally, it changes the objectives of the war. It authorizes the raising of Negro troops, with the first such regiment formed from freed slaves on the South Carolina coast. On 20 January, David Hunter, who had caused trouble in April 1862 by declaring slaves in the Department of the South free, resumes command of the Department.

The Battle of Murfreesboro, begun with Confederate success on 31 December and already reported to Richmond as a victory, takes an odd one-day respite before resuming with a Confederate attack that is repulsed on 2 January. Though a battlefield draw, the Confederates retreat on 3 January to Tullahoma, allowing the Federals to claim victory. Casualties are nearly 13,000 Federals and 12,000 Confederates. In the wake of the battle, President Davis orders Joseph Johnston, ostensible commander of Confederate armies in the west, to assess the morale of the Army of Tennessee and investigate complaints against its commander, Braxton Bragg.

Confederate cavalry raids under Forrest, Morgan, Wheeler, and Marmaduke occur despite the winter weather. Forrest completes his foray in early January, and Morgan likewise finishes his raid into Kentucky. Wheeler raids central Tennessee in the middle of the month and manages to capture a Federal gunboat and three transports. Marmaduke raids into Missouri.

In the East, Ambrose Burnside several times submits his resignation to Lincoln while also requesting that the President remove his subordinates Joseph Hooker, Edwin Sumner, and William Franklin from command. Lincoln refuses the resignations and the requests. The weather is mild until 19 January when Burnside embarks on a new campaign, attempting to outflank Lee by marching west on the north side of the Rappahannock. Burnside's advance is met by sleet, snow, rain, and wind that give the name "The Mud March" to his effort, which ends on 24 January. The next day, Lincoln relieves Burnside, Sumner, and Franklin; but he elevates Hooker to command of the army despite misgivings, which the President bluntly specifies in a letter to Hooker. A few days earlier, Lincoln had removed a McClellan devotee by dismissing FitzJohn Porter from the Army.

In the Mississippi Valley, Sherman abandons his efforts above Vicksburg, and McClernand arrives to take command. McClernand embarks on an unnecessary campaign against Arkansas Post. Assisted by Porter's gunboats, McClernand captures 5,000 Confederates at Fort Hindman on 11 January. Grant then arrives to supersede McClernand and proceed with his efforts to isolate Vicksburg.

President Davis' 12 January message to the reconvened Confederate Congress recounts military successes of the past year, but it also acknowledges the dire economic situation. On 29 January, the Congress authorizes borrowing \$15,000,000 through a French financier.

On 1 January, John Magruder, exiled from Virginia by Lee, scores a minor but stunning success by retaking Galveston from the Federals, capturing and destroying U.S. ships. In one of the few warship duels, *CSS Alabama* sinks *USS Hatteras* off Galveston on 11 January. On 15 January, *CSS Florida* evades the blockade of Mobile on its mission as a commerce raider. On 27 January, several ships led by *USS Montauk* attack Fort McAllister below Savannah but are repulsed. On 31 January, Confederate gunboats briefly break the blockade of Charleston harbor. Despite these dramatic Confederate victories, the Federal blockade is becoming ever more effective.

On 8 January, John Usher is confirmed as Secretary of the Interior. In one of the few actions in Florida, sailors from *USS Ethan Allen* destroy the salt works near St Joseph's on 9 January. On 3 January, on the parade ground of Fort Pulaski east of Savannah, the 48th New York Infantry defeats the 47th New York Infantry 20 to 7, the first recorded baseball score in Georgia.

Georgia Battlefields Association
7 Camden Rd NE
Atlanta GA 30309

www.georgiabattlefields.org

January 2013

Address correction requested
Return postage guaranteed