

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

New benefits of GBA membership

To enhance the benefits of GBA membership and attract new members, GBA has made agreements with Georgia Humanities Council and Civil War Round Table of Atlanta.

Georgia Humanities Council www.georgiahumanities.org. Any **new or renewing members** of GBA will receive the Georgia Humanities e-mail newsletter, which contains announcements about programs and grant opportunities. GBA cooperation with GHC is particularly appropriate for our shared goal of promoting awareness of Georgia's history. GHC sponsors the particularly informative New Georgia Encyclopedia www.georgiaencyclopedia.org.

Civil War Round Table of Atlanta www.civilwarroundtableofatlanta.org. From now until April 2014, **new members** of GBA will also receive membership to the Civil War Round Table of Atlanta, and new members of the Round Table will receive membership to GBA. The Atlanta CWRT is one of the oldest (est. 1949) and largest Round Tables and draws great speakers.

Walker and McPherson monuments' restoration

The Battle of Atlanta Commemoration Organization www.batlevent.org commissioned a formal study of the monuments marking the death sites of Union Major General James B. McPherson and Confederate Major General W.H.T. Walker (September 2011 newsletter). The study results indicate the cost to prevent further deterioration of the monuments is \$31,151. Full cost of site improvements (stone plazas, landscaping, etc.) would be \$191,631.

GBA is donating \$4,000 towards the restoration. You may donate individually through GBA (mark purpose of donation on your check) or directly to the Battle of Atlanta Commemoration Organization, 1340 Metropolitan Ave, Atlanta GA 30316.

Nash Farm Battlefield monument and 2014 reenactment

In preparation for the 150th anniversary of the August 1864 cavalry clash, Nash Farm Battlefield is raising money for a monument that will list the 85 men (68 Federal and 17 Confederate) killed or mortally wounded during the fight. The cost of the monument and landscaping will be about \$21,000. The battlefield preservation and interpretation organization hopes to raise at least half the money by September 2013 so that the black granite can be ordered in time for the monument to be ready by August 2014. Mail your tax deductible contributions to the Nash Farm Battlefield Museum at 100 Babbs Mill Rd, Hampton GA 30228. The 150th anniversary reenactment is planned for 22-24 August 2014. www.henrycountybattlefield.com

Old Clinton "War Days" is 4-5 May

The annual Old Clinton War Days event occurs this year on 4 & 5 May. On both days, gates open at 9 a.m., 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 or the Jones County-Gray Visitor's Center at 478 986 1123.

150 years ago this month

As the month opens, Grant's army continues to cross the Mississippi below Vicksburg. Grant has fewer troops than Pemberton, and the Confederates will send forces from other departments in an effort to stop Grant; but in a campaign that is still studied in military academies around the world, Grant defeats the Confederates in five battles and by 18 May has reached Vicksburg. He makes two attacks on the city's defenses before concluding that a siege will achieve the objective without nearly as many casualties. By the end of May, Grant's troops and Porter's ships have

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Vicksburg encircled, and a Federal advance up the Yazoo River causes Confederates to destroy the navy yard at Yazoo City on 21 May. Porter's fleet does not go unscathed, as Confederate artillery sinks *USS Cincinnati* on 27 May, but Grant has established a shorter supply line to the north and will receive reinforcements that overcome his initial numerical disadvantage.

Colonel Grierson's cavalry raid supporting Grant's campaign reaches Baton Rouge on 2 May. Most importantly, it has diverted Pemberton's cavalry from scouting Grant's advance.

Jefferson Davis is alarmed that Vicksburg is endangered. He directs Joseph Johnston to leave his Chattanooga headquarters and take command of the relief forces. When Johnston arrives in Jackson, Mississippi on 15 May, he reports to Richmond that he is too late to save the situation.

Banks leads his Federal force towards the other Confederate bastion on the Mississippi, Port Hudson, arriving on 21 May. Like Grant at Vicksburg, Banks attacks Port Hudson without success (on 27 May) before reverting to a siege.

Much to Bragg's chagrin, he is ordered to send two divisions from Tennessee to Mississippi. This is possible because of Rosecrans' inaction. Despite prodding from Washington, Rosecrans is fortifying Murfreesboro rather than moving against Bragg. Rosecrans' only aggressive act is a cavalry raid aimed at the railroad in north Georgia. It ends at Cedar Bluff, Alabama, on 3 May when Colonel Streight surrenders 1500 men to Brigadier General Forrest, leading 600 men. The raid prompts authorities in Atlanta to commission a survey of defensive positions for the city.

On 7 May, Confederate General Earl Van Dorn is shot at Spring Hill, Tennessee, by the husband of a woman with whom Van Dorn consorted.

In Virginia, Hooker moves a large force to Lee's rear near Chancellorsville. Even though Longstreet, Lee's senior subordinate, and two of his divisions are in southeast Virginia, Lee divides his outnumbered force and sends Jackson around Hooker's right flank. Jackson conducts a classic flank attack, but darkness limits the extent of the rout. Reconnoitering to prepare for the next day's advance, Jackson is mistakenly shot by his own troops late on 2 May. With A.P. Hill also wounded, Lee gives Stuart command of Jackson's corps, and Stuart pursues the attack on 3 May. Hooker loses his nerve and retreats. Lee's victory is spectacular, but the cost is high: Not only has his army sustained 13,000 casualties, but Jackson succumbs to his wounds on 10 May, causing incalculable damage to the Confederate command structure. Longstreet returns, but he has stopped in Richmond to suggest troops be sent from Lee's army to the west, which appeals to President Davis. Lee meets Davis on 15 May, and—doubting that his troops would be effectively used by Bragg, Johnston, or Pemberton—persuades the President to allow another invasion of the north, arguing that it will draw Union forces from the west, relieve Virginia from war's depredations, and perhaps cause the U.S. Government to negotiate a peace.

In Naval developments, two blockade runners from Nassau arrive in Charleston on 20 May, but two others are caught. *CSS Alabama* captures two northern ships off Bahia, Brazil on 25 May. A boiler explosion kills 18 sailors on *CSS Chattahoochee* at Blountstown, Florida on 27 May.

On 5 May, former U.S. representative Clement Vallandigham is arrested in Dayton, Ohio for treasonous statements. He is convicted by a military commission and ordered to be deported to the Confederacy, which is done on 25 May in Tennessee. Vallandigham's conviction is opposed by many of Lincoln's formerly staunch supporters and becomes a continuing political problem.

On 1 May, the Confederate Congress passes a joint resolution indicating that white officers captured while leading Negro troops should be subject to the death penalty for inciting servile insurrection and captured black soldiers should be enslaved. On 22 May, the U.S. War Department establishes a bureau to organize Negro troops. On 13 May, North Carolina Governor Vance writes to President Davis about the increasing desertion problem.

Georgia Battlefields Association
7 Camden Rd NE
Atlanta GA 30309

www.georgiabattlefields.org

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