

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

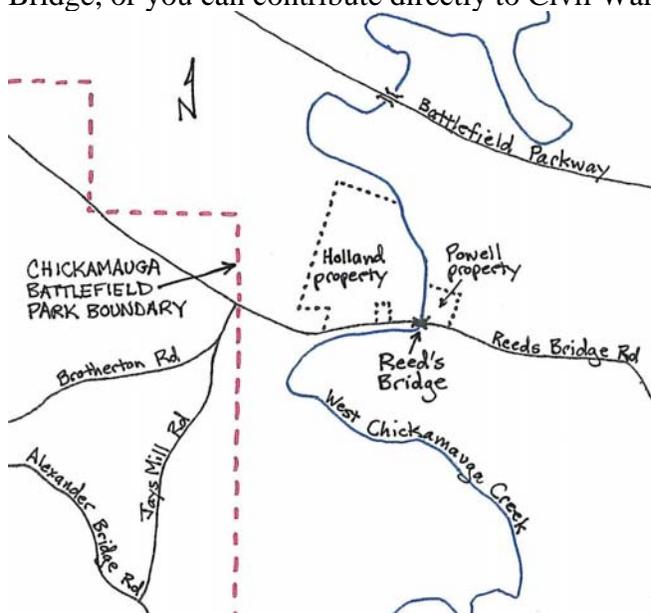
Brown's Mill battlefield grand opening on 27 July

The 30 July 1864 cavalry battle at Brown's Mill was Joe Wheeler's greatest victory. Progress on preserving the site will be celebrated with a ribbon cutting at 10 a.m. on 27 July. Musket firings, music, and food will continue into the afternoon. For more info, see the Friends of Brown's Mill web site www.friendsofbrownsmillbattlefield.com or contact Carolyn Turner seetee@charter.net.

Civil War Trust to buy Reed's Bridge properties

Civil War Trust has agreed to purchase two properties at Reed's Bridge, which figured prominently in the early phases of the Battle of Chickamauga. The National Military Park boundaries, set in the 1890s, did not include the bridge and adjacent land. The two properties are the 102 acre Holland parcel on the west side of the bridge and the 7 acre Powell parcel on the east side of the bridge. The Holland parcel includes a modern house. Tours of the battle often begin at Reed's Bridge, and completion of the purchase will allow for preservation of the site and eventual placement of interpretive signs.

Total price for the two properties is \$1,400,000. Georgia Battlefields Association (GBA) will be contributing. If you wish to help, you can send money to GBA and designate it for Reed's Bridge, or you can contribute directly to Civil War Trust, 202 367 1861 or www.civilwar.org.



Chickamauga National Battlefield Park historian Jim Ogden addresses March 2013 GBA tour participants on the Powell property. Holland property is in background, across West Chickamauga Creek.

Civil War Trust conference focuses on Vicksburg Campaign

The Civil War Trust annual conference was held 30 May – 2 June in Jackson, Mississippi and focused on the Vicksburg Campaign. 350 people attended. Trust President Jim Lighthizer said the Trust saved 3700 acres of battlefield land in 2012 and has saved 36,000 acres in 20 years. For comparison, the U.S. government has saved 72,000 acres in 120 years. In 2012, the Trust raised \$24 million: \$13.6 million from private contributions, the rest from matching funds. Since 2000, the Trust has raised \$200 million. GBA was well represented at the conference.



At the Vicksburg Visitor Center (left to right): Kathleen & Larry Peterson, Charlie Crawford, Jack Davis, Vince Dooley



At the banquet: Joe Trahan, Cindy & Jim Wentworth

150 years ago this month

Events are best judged from a perspective of years, but Federal successes of early July are considered significant as soon as they occur. At Gettysburg, Meade turns back Lee's invasion, suffering 23,000 casualties in the process but inflicting greater casualties on the Confederates. In Tennessee, Rosecrans maneuvers Bragg almost entirely out of the state, suffering few casualties but also inflicting few. At Vicksburg, Grant's campaign culminates in surrender of the city and capture of 30,000 soldiers, the most complete victory and the one most consistent with the emerging Union strategy of eliminating Confederate forces in the field rather than capturing territory. The surrender of 7,000 Confederates at Port Hudson four days after Vicksburg's fall opens the Mississippi River to commerce, providing important political and economic results to complement the military and psychological victory.

Still, not all is well for the Northern war effort. President Lincoln is dismayed that Meade, having trapped Lee between the swollen Potomac River and its namesake army, delays long enough for the Confederates to escape on 14 July. Lincoln composes a letter expressing his disappointment but never sends it to Meade. On 7 July, the draft takes effect in the north. When the names drawn in New York City on 11 July appear in the newspaper the next day, rioting is widespread, with anger directed at local officials and Negroes. A black church and orphanage are burned, almost 1,000 people are killed, and property damage is extensive before troops, including some who fought at Gettysburg, arrive to quell the disturbances by the end of 16 July. Smaller riots occur in Boston; Portsmouth, New Hampshire; Wooster, Ohio; and Troy, NY.

The Federals don't find success in their efforts to take Charleston. On 6 July, Admiral Dahlgren relieves Admiral DuPont as commander of the South Atlantic Blockading Squadron, determined to renew attacks on the city. On 10 July, a Union force lands on Morris Island and proceeds towards Fort Wagner, assaulting that bastion on the 11th and again on the 18th. Both are bloody failures, but the courage of the 54th Massachusetts in the latter attack demonstrates that Negro regiments can fight. The Federals will revert to bombarding Charleston with long range guns.

After taking Vicksburg, Grant sends Sherman to drive off Joseph Johnston's force that was supposed to relieve Pemberton's now surrendered army. Johnston abandons Jackson, Mississippi, for a second time on 16 July (two months after his first withdrawal). On the same day, a commercial steamer arrives in New Orleans from St. Louis. On 21 July, Lincoln directs Secretary of War Stanton to enlist Negro troops from the Mississippi Valley.

On 2 July, John Hunt Morgan leads another Confederate raid into Kentucky. He crosses the Ohio River into Indiana and then Ohio, but he loses the bulk of his command on 19 July at Buffington Island and is himself captured on 26 July at Salineville, Ohio.

The largest fight (about 3,000 on each side) in Indian Territory (now Oklahoma) occurs 17 July at Honey Springs, where the Federals prevail. African American and Native American troops comprise the majority of the Union force, and Native Americans are the majority of the Confederate force. On 26 July, Union forces skirmish with the Sioux in Dakota Territory.

Two giants of pre-war politics die on 26 July: Sam Houston, former governor of Tennessee and Texas and a strong opponent of secession; and John Crittenden, former Kentucky governor and U.S. representative, senator, and attorney general, who had tried to find a compromise to allow seceded states to rejoin the Union before war began. Crittenden had one son become a Union general and another son a Confederate general.

On 16 July, *USS Wyoming* finds ships blockading the Straits of Shimonoseki, Japan. At a cost of 5 killed and 6 wounded, *Wyoming* breaks the blockade.

Georgia Battlefields Association
7 Camden Rd NE
Atlanta GA 30309

www.georgiabattlefields.org

July 2013

Address correction requested
Return postage guaranteed