

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

Bearss 2014 tour will focus on opening of the Atlanta Campaign

Dates: 13-16 March 2014

Hotel: LaQuinta, 715 College Dr, Dalton, just north and west of I-75 exit 333. 706 272 9099.
GBA rate is \$84 (\$95 including tax) per night. www.lq.com.

Guides: National Park Service Chief Historian Emeritus Ed Bearss

Chickamauga-Chattanooga National Military Park Chief Historian Jim Ogden

Tour focus: Sesquicentennial of the opening of the Atlanta Campaign, including Ringgold, Tunnel Hill, Varnell, Prater's Mill, Crow Valley, Rocky Face Ridge, Mill Creek Gap, Dalton, Dug Gap, Villanow, Snake Creek Gap, Resaca, and Rome Crossroads.

Reserve your place on the tour by sending \$395 to GBA at 7 Camden Rd NE, Atlanta GA 30309.

GBA member Larry Miller dies

We regret to report that Larry Miller died on 9 October. Many of you will remember Larry from our annual tours. If you ever had a conversation with him, you know what an interesting guy he was. He was instrumental in GBA's substantial contributions towards the preservation of Resaca battlefield. Larry suffered from cancer the last few years but died peacefully.

Photo: GBA members Charlie Crawford, Larry Miller, Cindy Wentworth, Jim Wentworth, and Gene Murphy at Larry's 70th birthday party in February 2012.

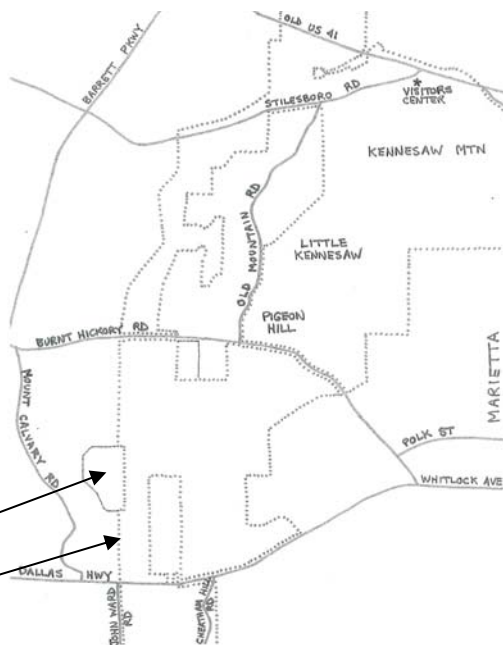


Trust for Public Land conveys Hays Farm to National Park Service

On 3 October, the Trust for Public Land conveyed the 42-acre Hays Farm property to the National Park Service. The property contains Nodine's Hill, named for the Federal commander whose brigade fought there on 20 & 21 June 1864 (January 2012 newsletter). The property adjoins Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park, the most-visited battlefield park in the country. Funding came from the Land and Water Conservation Fund through American Battlefield Protection Program.

Hays Farm property

Park boundary (dotted line)



Civil War Trust completes fundraising for Reed's Bridge

On 11 October, at the Tennessee Civil War Sesquicentennial Commission event in Chattanooga, Civil War Trust President Jim Lighthizer and Board Chairman Mike Grainger announced successful completion of the \$1.4 million fundraising campaign to protect 109 acres at Reed's Bridge, site of the opening of the Battle of Chickamauga (October and July 2013 newsletters). Georgia Battlefields Association was acknowledged for its contribution.

150 years ago this month

By 1 November, all volunteer companies and battalions in Georgia are to be organized into regiments, by order of Major General Howell Cobb, commander of Georgia State Troops.

1 November reports from Bragg's Army of Tennessee indicate 2,149 troops have deserted since the beginning of September. Bragg further decreases morale when he orders a reorganization to break up the Tennessee and Kentucky blocs that Bragg perceives have conspired against him. Of the six wing and corps commanders at Chickamauga, only two remain. Bragg further weakens his force around Chattanooga on 4 November by ordering Longstreet and two divisions, along with Wheeler and the bulk of the cavalry, towards Knoxville to drive away the Federals there. The Confederate supply situation is also deteriorating. On 14 November, Forrest leaves Bragg's command to take charge of Confederate forces in western Tennessee.

In contrast, the Federal situation in Chattanooga is improving. Hooker is approaching with three divisions from Virginia, and Sherman is leading four divisions from Vicksburg via Memphis. Grant plans to use Sherman's veterans as the primary attacking force, but rain delays Sherman from getting into position until 21 November. Despite the increasing Federal presence, Bragg sends Buckner's division towards Knoxville on the 22nd. On the 23rd, two divisions under Thomas improve the Federal position by taking Orchard Knob, and on the 24th, three divisions under Hooker push the Confederates off Lookout Mountain by sweeping around its slope. On the 25th, Sherman tries to turn the Confederate right, but Cleburne puts up stubborn resistance. Hoping to help Sherman, Grant orders Thomas to advance to the base of Missionary Ridge, but for reasons still unclear, several of Thomas's units not only get to the ridge but continue up its slope. In one of the great infantry assaults in history, Thomas's men break the Confederate line in the middle and precipitate a rout in which the Confederates lose over 4,000 prisoners and dozens of cannons. Cleburne's stand prevents a worse disaster, and his defense of Ringgold Gap on 27 November permits the Confederate supply wagons to reach Dalton. With the Confederate Army of Tennessee disheartened but safely behind Rocky Face Ridge, Bragg resigns from its command on 28 November. Hardee is his temporary successor.

Longstreet's campaign to oust Burnside from Knoxville also comes to grief. Plagued by supply problems, weather, and bad decisions, Longstreet cannot cut off the Federals before they get into the city's defenses. He begins a semi-siege on 17 November, but in the wake of the Missionary Ridge disaster, he learns that a Federal relief force is on the way from Chattanooga. Consequently, he attempts to storm the defenses at dawn on 29 November, but his troops are bloodily repulsed. He withdraws northeastward, towards Virginia.

In Virginia, the opposing armies have assumed familiar positions near Culpeper Court House, but the campaigning season isn't over. Lee misjudges the objective of a 7 November Federal probe, and the result is the loss of most of two Confederate brigades at Rappahannock Station. Lee withdraws behind the Rapidan River, but Meade crosses to the east and begins what is known as the Mine Run Campaign. After an intense fight at Payne's Farm on 27 November, Meade decides Lee is too well entrenched and pulls back across the Rapidan.

The Federals lob over 6,000 shells at Charleston's defenses during the month: Fort Sumter is a mound of rubble but is still in Confederate hands. Completing his western trip, President Davis visits Savannah and Charleston before returning to Richmond on 9 November. On the 27th, Confederate raider John Morgan and others escape from the Ohio penitentiary in Columbus.

On 5 November, President Lincoln urges General Banks to set up a unionist state government in Louisiana. On the 9th, he sees "The Marble Heart," starring John Wilkes Booth. On the 12th, he attends the wedding of Kate Chase, daughter of Secretary of the Treasury Chase, and William Sprague, U.S. Senator from Rhode Island. On the 18th, he travels to Gettysburg to speak at the opening of a national cemetery. After speaking on the 19th, he fears the speech is a failure; and during the return trip, he's ill with a mild form of smallpox. Quarantined in the White House for over a week, he's unaware that his Gettysburg Address will be considered one of the greatest speeches in American history.

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