

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 annual trustees meeting

Georgia Battlefields Association held its annual meeting of the board of trustees on 25 January. The trustees and their term expirations are: Frank Chew, treasurer (2017); Charlie Crawford, president (2016); Mary-Elizabeth Ellard (2017); Gene Murphy, corporate secretary and registered agent (2016); Joe Trahan (2016); Cindy Wentworth, vice president (2015).

Civil War Colloquium dedicated to Larry Miller

The November 2013 newsletter reported the death of Larry Miller, a great contributor to GBA. Larry also supported the Bandy Heritage Center, whose 2014 Civil War in the Western Theater Colloquium is being held in Larry's memory. The colloquium starts at 9 a.m. on 8 February in conjunction with the Civil War Show at the Northwest Georgia Trade & Convention Center in Dalton (I-75 exit 333). The theme is the Atlanta Campaign and will feature historians familiar to GBA: Keith Bohannon, Richard McMurry, Bob Jenkins, and Steve Davis. For information, contact Brian Hilliard at 706 272 4452 or bhilliar@daltonstate.edu.

Bearss 2014 tour will focus on opening of the Atlanta Campaign

The GBA annual tour is just six weeks away. Please register soon if you plan to attend.

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 through Resaca.

Book swap: As in 2013, we'll have a book swap at the Thursday evening reception. If you have books to contribute or want more info, contact Mary-Elizabeth Ellard ellardw@bellsouth.net. Reserve your place on the tour by sending \$395 to GBA at 7 Camden Rd NE, Atlanta GA 30309.

GBA will again lead a tour for Phoenix Flies

Atlanta Preservation Center's annual Phoenix Flies program will again feature a GBA-led walking tour of downtown Atlanta Civil War sites. For 2014, the tours will start at 1 p.m. on both 8 and 22 March. You can make reservations by calling 404 688 3353. Information about this and the other tours will be available around 18 February on www.preserveatlanta.com.

The March 2008 GBA walking tour of downtown Atlanta was recorded by Three23 Films, and a 52 minute-long DVD titled "Civil War Atlanta: A walk through history" is available. You can order a DVD by sending a \$15 check to GBA at 7 Camden Rd NE, Atlanta GA 30309.

Preservation still a low priority in Governor's budget

In conjunction with his annual state of the state address, Governor Deal submitted his budget proposal to the General Assembly on 17 January. While the budget approved by the legislature will differ to some degree from the Governor's proposal, operation and maintenance of historic sites and preservation are not priorities. For example, the Georgia Civil War Commission would not receive any funds. While this is not good news, it is also not surprising news. Georgia Battlefields Association will continue to work with other non-governmental preservation organizations to raise what funds we can to supplement whatever the national, state, and local governments are willing to provide.

150 years ago this month

On 1 February, President Lincoln orders the draft of another 500,000 men, to begin on 1 March.

On 3 February, Sherman leads 25,000 troops from Vicksburg on a campaign to destroy Confederate supplies, factories, and railroads around Meridian, Mississippi. Confederate General Polk commands 20,000 troops in the state, but they are scattered to defend several

locations. Sherman's columns proceed over many battlegrounds from the Vicksburg Campaign and reach Meridian on the 14th, remaining until the 20th, and destroying railroads, bridges, and supply depots. They return to Vicksburg on the 28th having marched 400 miles. In conjunction with Sherman's advance, 7,600 Union cavalry leave Memphis for northern Mississippi to divert Confederate resistance. They destroy railroads and stores of cotton and corn until they are defeated by Forrest at Okolona on 22 February.

The Meridian Campaign affects operations in north Georgia. President Davis directs General Johnston to send troops to Mississippi. Johnston sends Hardee to Mississippi on 18 February and dispatches Cheatham's division by rail on the 20th and Cleburne's division on the 22nd. Acting on Grant's orders to prevent Confederate reinforcement of Polk, Thomas advances 25,000 troops from Ringgold to probe Confederate defenses north and west of Dalton. Skirmishing 24-26 February causes Johnston to recall his two divisions. The abortive relief effort exacerbates relations between Davis and Johnston. Thomas has found Confederate defenses along Rocky Face Ridge to be formidable, but his scouts discover Snake Creek Gap, which will prove important in a few months.

In Confederate command changes, Hood, recuperating in Richmond, is promoted to lieutenant general on 11 February. On the 25th, Breckinridge is appointed to command forces in southwestern Virginia, and on the 24th, Bragg is appointed military advisor to Davis. On the Federal side, Schofield is appointed to command the Department of the Ohio on 9 February. The department's principal field force, the 23rd Corps, had started moving from the Knoxville area towards Chattanooga on the 3rd. On 29 February, President Lincoln signs the act reviving the permanent rank of lieutenant general in the U.S. Army. Winfield Scott held the rank by brevet.

On 26 February, Lincoln commutes all death sentences for desertion. On 27 February, the new POW camp at Andersonville, Georgia, receives its first prisoners.

In Naval developments, the Federals shell Fort Sumter sporadically throughout the month. Attempting to scare the U.S. Navy away from Charleston, the Confederate submersible *Hunley* uses a spar torpedo to sink *USS Housatonic* late on 17 February. All but five of *Housatonic*'s crew survive, but *Hunley* and its eight men disappear, not to be found until 131 years later. On 2 February, Confederates capture and destroy a gunboat near New Bern, North Carolina. On the 10th, *CSS Florida* escapes from Brest, France, despite being observed by *USS Kearsarge*.

On 9 February, 109 Union officers escape from Richmond's Libby Prison: 48 are recaptured and 2 drown, but 59 reach Union lines. The condition of Federal prisoners leads to a rescue effort directed at the prisons around Richmond. On 14 February, President Lincoln meets with cavalry Brigadier General Kilpatrick. On 28 February, Kilpatrick and 3,500 troopers advance from the Rapidan River. The next day, 500 troops under Colonel Dahlgren split off on a separate route.

The only significant land battle in Florida occurs this month. On 7 February, the Federals occupy Jacksonville, and 5,500 troops advance westward the next day. On the 20th, they are defeated by 5,000 Confederates near Olustee and retreat to Jacksonville.

In political developments, on 6 February, the Confederate Congress passes a bill that bans luxury imports, use of U.S. paper money, and export of many products unless the government receives half. On the 17th, it suspends the writ of habeas corpus to combat draft resistance. On the 20th, a newspaper report indicates Kansas Senator Pomeroy is scheming with other Republicans to replace Lincoln with Treasury Secretary Salmon Chase as the party's presidential nominee.

Prices in Richmond jump noticeably on 23 February, illustrating continuing economic problems. On 9 February, Lincoln sits for the photo that will be used on the \$5 bill for over 80 years.

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