

# 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](mailto:info@georgiabattlefields.org)

## Opening of Atlanta Campaign was focus of 13-16 March tour

We had two days of great weather and a soggy Sunday morning at the new Resaca battlefield. See more photos on our web site.



Ed Bearss at Potato Hill (August 2012 newsletter). With Boy Scout and Whitfield County help, Save the Dalton Battlefields has installed a parking area, a trail, and markers.



Jim Ogden and Ed Bearss respond to a question at Tunnel Hill Visitors Center.



Near a Confederate trench, Jim Ogden (at left) explains the action at Resaca (note rain on lens).

## Georgia Tech Civil War technology symposium 12 April

Technology and the Civil War will be the topic of a free symposium on 12 April. Presentations on communications, naval technology, photography, medicine, and veterinary care begin at 8:30 a.m. in the Georgia Tech Student Center Theater. A walking tour of the fortification sites on the Tech campus will follow around 3 p.m. Register at [www.hts.gatech.edu/civilwar](http://www.hts.gatech.edu/civilwar).

## 2-4 May commemorative Atlanta Campaign run will benefit GBA

Last month's newsletter mentioned Tracy Houpt running from Ringgold to Kennesaw Mountain 2-4 May to honor his great-great uncle Robert Houpt, who served in the 31<sup>st</sup> Indiana Infantry during the Atlanta Campaign in May 1864.

Anne Blanton will be joining Tracy to represent her Confederate ancestor, Elbert Blanton of the 4<sup>th</sup> Florida Infantry. They're running in part to raise awareness of Georgia's Civil War history. The photo shows Anne and Tracy after a previous run. We're grateful that they've chosen GBA to receive donations, which may be sent to 7 Camden Rd NE, Atlanta GA 30309.



[www.razoo.com/story/1864-Atlanta-Campaign-Commemorative-Run-1/mobile?fb\\_ref=iB9cVxYIL](http://www.razoo.com/story/1864-Atlanta-Campaign-Commemorative-Run-1/mobile?fb_ref=iB9cVxYIL)

## 150 years ago this month

Fighting occurs year-round, even when it's not part of a major campaign. For the Federal campaign already underway along the Red River in Louisiana, events this month will show it has failed and might be disastrous. On 8 April, the army is turned back at Sabine Crossroads, and the falling river raises fears that the supporting naval forces may become trapped. On 17 April, Confederate forces, including the ironclad *Albemarle*, attack Plymouth, North Carolina, and the city is taken on 20 April. On 18 April, Confederate cavalry capture 198 wagons at Poison Springs, Arkansas. Forrest is raiding again. On 12 April, he attacks and forces the surrender of Fort Pillow, Tennessee, and a massacre of black troops results. On 14 April, he is at Paducah, Kentucky, on the Ohio River, but withdraws when the garrison refuses to surrender.

On 9 April, new U.S. general-in-chief Grant specifies that destroying Confederate forces, rather than taking territory, is the objective for Meade in central Virginia, Butler on the Peninsula, and

Sigel in the Shenandoah Valley. Banks, if he can extract his army intact from the Red River, is to march on Mobile. Sherman is to break-up Johnston's army in Georgia. A War Department report indicates 146,634 Confederate troops have been captured and mostly exchanged since the start of the war, so on 17 April, Grant orders that prisoners will no longer be exchanged.

Preparing for the coming campaign, Sherman spends the month traveling between Nashville and his subordinate commands in northern Alabama, Tennessee, and Georgia. On 6 April, he is authorized to seize control of the railroads from Nashville southward. On 27 April, he orders his forces to concentrate in the Chattanooga area and establishes his headquarters there on the 29<sup>th</sup>. Confederate commander Johnston has greatly improved the supply situation of his army, though he still lacks horses, mules, and wagons. On 19 April, he holds a grand review at Dalton. Both sides are scouting, resulting in clashes at Tunnel Hill and other places between the lines.

In coastal operations, on both 1 and 16 April, U.S. transports are sunk by mines in the St. John's River in Florida. Shelling of Fort Sumter occurs early and late in the month. Confederate salt works on the North and South Carolina coasts are destroyed by Federal raids. On 30 April, three blockade runners escape Galveston, Texas, under cover of rain and darkness.

In command changes, Beauregard is assigned on 18 April to the Department of North Carolina and Southern Virginia. Samuel Jones succeeds Beauregard in the Department of South Carolina, Georgia, and Florida. Buckner assumes command of Confederate forces in East Tennessee as Longstreet moves his command back to Virginia. Sheridan is brought east to command the Army of the Potomac's cavalry, and Meade consolidates that Army's corps from five to three.

On 8 April, the U.S. Senate approves the 13<sup>th</sup> Amendment 38-6. On 11 April, a pro-union state government is inaugurated at Little Rock, Arkansas. On 19 April, Lincoln signs legislation enabling Nebraska Territory to become a state. On 22 April, the words "In God We Trust" are first stamped on U.S. coins. In the Confederacy, women take to Savannah's streets on 17 April to protest the lack of bread. On 27 April, President Davis sends two representatives to Canada to contact U.S. authorities there about truce talks. On 28 April, recognizing that territory west of the Mississippi is largely cutoff, Davis gives General Kirby Smith broader authority over civil affairs in the area. On 30 April, Davis suffers a personal tragedy when his 5-year old son falls off a balcony and dies, mirroring Lincoln's loss of a son to illness two years earlier.

## Civil War events calendar

### April

**5** Civil War Trust Park Day. Help maintain nine Civil War sites in Georgia. See the site list, specific tasks, and contact info at [www.civilwar.org/parkday](http://www.civilwar.org/parkday).

**11-12** Tour of northeastern Mississippi sites. \$295 per person. [www.kennesaw.edu/civilwarera](http://www.kennesaw.edu/civilwarera).

**12** 8:30 a.m. Technology and the American Civil War symposium in the Georgia Tech Student Center theater. [www.hts.gatech.edu/civilwar](http://www.hts.gatech.edu/civilwar)

**19** "Joe Johnston and the Atlanta Campaign" tour with guide Richard McMurry starts at Dalton and ends at Kennesaw Mountain. \$50 per person. [bhilliar@daltonstate.edu](mailto:bhilliar@daltonstate.edu) or 706 272 4452.

**26** 11:00 a.m. Dedication of Potato Hill Fortification Park. Keynote speech by Charlie Crawford. Reed Rd north of Poplar Springs Rd, Crow Valley, north of Dalton.

### May

**3-4** War Days Remembered. Re-enactments and tours of ante-bellum buildings in Old Clinton Historic District, just off US 129, 12 miles NE of Macon. \$5 per adult. 478 986 6383/1123.

**10** 11 a.m. Dedication of latest Civil War Heritage Trails marker at Tunnel Hill.

[www.tunnelhillheritagecenter.com](http://www.tunnelhillheritagecenter.com) [www.civilwarheritagetrails.org](http://www.civilwarheritagetrails.org)

**22** 8 p.m. "A Changing Wind: Commerce and Conflict in Civil War Atlanta" lecture by Georgia State University professor Wendy Hamand Venet. [www.atlantahistorycenter.com](http://www.atlantahistorycenter.com)

## Georgia Battlefields Association

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