

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

Civil War sesquicentennial and GBA in the media

In May, the *Atlanta Journal Constitution* began a monthly series on the 1864 campaigns in Georgia www.ajc.com/news/news/opinion/the-civil-war-in-georgia-may-1864/nfm2Q/ Mike Shaffer of Kennesaw State University writes the articles. www.kennesaw.edu/civilwarera

Also in May, Georgia Public Broadcasting began a weekly series on the 1864 campaigns titled "37 Weeks: Sherman on the March" www.gpb.org/37-weeks. Gordon Jones of Atlanta History Center coordinates the content. www.atlantahistorycenter.com/37-weeks-sherman-march

The March 2014 GBA tour is featured in *Civil War Courier*. www.civilwarcourier.com

State budgets for preservation-related activities

Governor Deal signed the State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2015 (1 July 2014-30 June 2015) budget on 28 April. Compared to the Governor's budget proposal submitted to the General Assembly in January, additions to the Department of Economic Development Tourism Division funding included \$10,000 for Georgia Historical Society marker and library programs, \$10,000 for the Georgia Humanities Council (which has history education outreach programs), and \$25,000 for Georgia Civil War Heritage Trails. For the Department of Natural Resources, no preservation-related funding was added to the Historic Preservation or Parks, Recreation, and Historic Sites Divisions. In some good news, after years of little to no state funding, the Georgia Civil War Commission received \$25,000 in the SFY 2014 amended budget signed on 26 February.

Civil War events calendar

June

- 12 7 p.m. Historian Clarke Otten speaks on what happened in Sandy Springs during the war. Continuing through March 2015 is the Civil War exhibit. www.heritagesandysprings.org
- 14 2 p.m. Joe Bozeman lecture "Impact of the Atlanta Campaign: From Pickett's Mill to Kennesaw Mountain." www.southernmuseum.org
- 20 11 a.m. Atlanta Cyclorama Juneteenth celebration. www.atlantacyclorama.org/events.php
- 21-22 Atlanta History Center all day programs on a free admission weekend "Juneteenth: The First Day of Freedom." www.atlantahistorycenter.com
- 26 8 p.m. Author Daniel Vermilya speaks on his book *The Battle of Kennesaw Mountain*. www.atlantahistorycenter.com
- 26-29 Battle of Kennesaw Mountain Sesquicentennial events. Encampments, cannon firings, lectures, book signings, and more. www.battleofkennesawmountain150.com

July

- 2 Opening of exhibit "Wilbur G. Kurtz: History in Gone with the Wind." Continues through 4 April 2015. www.atlantahistorycenter.com/tags/civil-war
- 18 Opening of exhibit "Confederate Odyssey: The George W. Wray, Jr., Civil War Collection." Continues through 26 April 2015. www.atlantahistorycenter.com/tags/civil-war
- 21-25 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. each day. Atlanta History Center summer camp for kids: The Battle of Atlanta. www.atlantahistorycenter.com
- 22 Battle of Atlanta commemoration. Reenactments, tours. www.batlevent.org
- 24 7 p.m. Historian Steve Davis speaks on *What the Yankees Did to Us*, his book on what happened to the city of Atlanta during the war. www.heritagesandysprings.org

150 years ago this month

Grant's plan for coordinated advances in Virginia was frustrated in May. Consequently, Grant pulls a corps from Butler and tries to batter his way through Lee's defenses at Cold Harbor. Over 1-3 June, the Federals suffer 12,000 casualties. On 7 June, Grant sends Sheridan and two cavalry divisions westward to aid Federal efforts in the Valley. Wade Hampton pursues and attacks Sheridan at Trevilian Station on 11 June, then follows as Sheridan returns eastward, precipitating a battle on 21 June at Tunstall's Station. In the Valley, Hunter pushes back the Confederates and destroys farms and parts of towns, such as Lexington on 11 June. Believing he has stymied Grant, Lee returns Breckinridge's division towards the Valley and follows it with Early and his corps. On 17 June, they push Hunter away from Lynchburg, then through the Valley. By 30 June, Early and 14,000 men reach New Market and head north.

While reclaiming the Valley is important both for the food supply and morale, Lee wrongly assumes Grant will approach Richmond as McClellan did from almost the same position two

years earlier. Instead, Grant surprises Lee by crossing the James River, approaching Petersburg on 15 June. Uncertain, Lee waits three days before moving his army, while Beauregard manages to save the vital rail center until Lee arrives. By 19 June, Grant decides to forego attacks on Petersburg's defenses. Rather, he will operate against the rail lines. A 22 June raid on the Weldon Railroad is repulsed, but the Federal siege lines extend slowly westward. On 25 June, the Federals begin digging a tunnel under the Confederate lines.

Part of the Federal plan to advance everywhere is the movement by Samuel Sturgis and 8,000 troopers on 1 June from Memphis into northern Mississippi, designed in part to reduce the ability of Forrest to raid supply lines and depots in Tennessee. Sturgis comes to grief at Brice's Crossroads on 10 June, when Forrest with 3,500 men captures Sturgis's artillery, wagons and 2,200 men. On the same date, Morgan, the other notable Confederate raider, is again in Kentucky, capturing 7,000 horses and burning the supply depot at Lexington, but Morgan is defeated on 12 June at Cynthiana and withdraws to southwest Virginia.

On 7-8 June, the National Union Convention meets in Baltimore and overwhelmingly chooses Lincoln as its presidential nominee, though they replace Vice President Hamlin on the ticket with Tennessee Governor Andrew Johnson. The party platform calls for an amendment to end slavery. On 10 June, the Confederate Congress votes to make the draft ages 17 to 50, instead of 18 to 45. On 17 June, a morning explosion rocks the Washington Arsenal, killing 18 and injuring 20. On 20 June, Lincoln travels to visit Grant and the armies near Petersburg, returning to Washington on the 23rd. On 24 June, the Maryland constitutional convention votes to abolish slavery. On 28 June, Lincoln signs an act repealing the fugitive slave law. On 21 June, Confederate Treasury Secretary Memminger resigns. On 30 June, U.S. Treasury Secretary Chase offers yet again to resign and is surprised when Lincoln accepts.

After taking 65 U.S. merchant ships in two years, *CSS Alabama* is sunk by *USS Kearsarge* off Cherbourg, France, on 19 June. On the western rivers, the U.S. Navy still faces occasional harassment. In early June, Confederates on the Arkansas bank of the Mississippi shell three gunboats; and on 24 June, Confederates destroy a gunboat on the White River, Arkansas. Charleston continues to receive periodic shelling throughout the month.

In three weeks in May, Sherman advanced 70 miles through Georgia but can't progress another 10 miles before the end of June. The Federals regain access to the railroad south of Allatoona Pass on 1 June and begin sidling east from the Dallas-Pickett's Mill line. Johnston moves to block the direct path to Atlanta and occupies the Lost Mountain-Pine Mountain-Brushy Mountain Line on 4 June. Sherman approaches slowly, in part because of rain. He is reinforced when two divisions of the 17th Corps arrive on 8 June. At Pine Mountain on 14 June, Polk is killed by an artillery shell. The Confederates withdraw from Pine Mountain, and the Federals attack around Gilgal Church 15-18 June. Johnston pulls his left flank behind Mud Creek over the night of 16-17 June. Though Federal assaults are repulsed, their lines keep extending, causing Johnston to pull back to the Kennesaw Mountain Line late on 18 June. Earlier that same day, Johnston agrees to General Shoup's proposal to build a strong line defending the Chattahoochee River rail and road bridges. For the rest of June, Shoup oversees slaves constructing the River Line. Johnston is warned by visiting politicians that he must act with the forces he has, as patience is thin in Richmond. To frustrate Federal attempts to get around the Confederate left, Johnston transfers Hood's Corps from the right, but Hood misreads the situation and attacks futilely near the Kolb Farm on 22 June. Frustrated by the lack of a decisive battle and knowing that Grant is in a siege situation in Virginia, Sherman mistakenly concludes the Confederate line must be stretched thin and launches frontal assaults on the Kennesaw Mountain Line on 27 June. The attacks fail, though Schofield is able to extend the Federal line beyond the Confederate left. On 29 June, in response to a request by Georgia Governor Brown, who released the Georgia Militia to Johnston's control earlier in the month, President Davis writes that he has sent all possible reinforcements to Johnston.

Georgia Battlefields Association
7 Camden Rd NE
Atlanta GA 30309

www.georgiabattlefields.org

June 2014

Address correction requested
Return postage guaranteed