

GEORGIA

BATTLEFIELDS

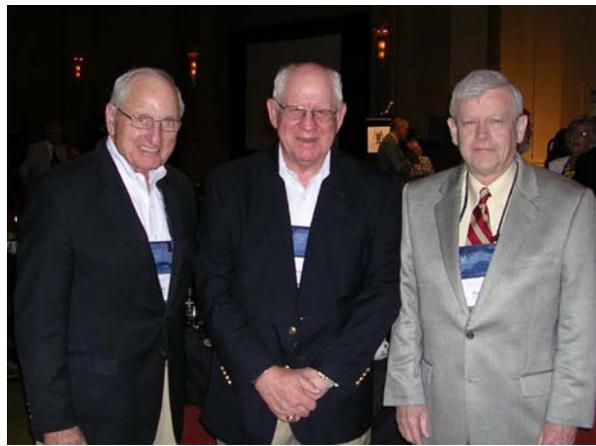
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Georgia Battlefields Association and the media

The *Atlanta Journal Constitution* www.ajc.com contacted GBA for an article about sites relating to the Battle of Atlanta. A similar request for information on Battle of Atlanta sites came from the AJC's *Intown Living* magazine. The *Dunwoody Crier* www.thecrier.net contacted GBA about the Atlanta Campaign, with the article appearing in the 4 June issue. GBA's tours of Civil War sites on the Georgia Tech campus led to contact for an article that appears in the current Tech alumni magazine. A preservation article by GBA appears in the July issue of *Civil War News* www.civilwarnews.com/opinions.cfm. GBA also edited content for an online Battle of Atlanta essay <http://southernspaces.org/2014/battle-atlanta-history-and-remembrance>. The related web-based battle app is available at <http://battleatl.org>.

Civil War Trust annual conference

GBA was well represented among the 400+ participants at the annual Civil War Trust conference 29 May-1 June in Nashville. In conjunction with the conference, the Trust released its Atlanta Campaign battle app, which GBA helped to develop. The Trust is using technology to raise awareness of the need for preservation, thus its development of apps and use of Twitter and Facebook. In 2009, the Trust web site www.civilwar.org had 360,000 unique visits: In 2013, the number rose to 4,500,000. Its 14 battle apps have been downloaded over 220,000 times. GBA is also assisting the Trust with two events in Atlanta: the 17-20 July National Teacher Institute, and the 19-21 September Grand Review.



GBA members at the 2014 Civil War Trust conference in Nashville. Left photo, left to right: Charlie Crawford, Larry Peterson, Kathleen Peterson, Cindy Wentworth, Jim Wentworth, Joe Trahan, Pat Marx, Michael Marx. Right photo, left to right: Vince Dooley, Jack Davis, Dan Hanks.

Civil War events calendar

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
- 5 11 a.m. Chattahoochee River Line presentation by Mike Shaffer at Ray Library, 4500 Oakdale Rd, Smyrna, followed by tour of Shoupade Park. www.riverline.org
- 8 7 p.m. Public meeting on Chattahoochee River Line Battlefield Preservation Plan, South Cobb Community Center, 620 Lions Club Dr, Mableton. www.riverline.org
- 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
- 18 7 p.m. Russ Bonds presentation on Peachtree Creek and the Battles for Atlanta. Bobby Jones Golf Course Club House. www.buckheadheritage.com
- 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
- 12-22 Battle of Atlanta commemoration. Reenactments, tours, book signings. 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

Neither Grant nor Lee wants a siege at Petersburg, but siege best describes the situation. Grant tries to find weak spots, but Lee parries. Grant authorizes the digging of a mine to blow a gap in the Confederate line, resulting in a spectacular 30 July explosion, followed by a botched attack that gets many U.S. Colored Troops killed in the Battle of the Crater.

Movement in the East comes not at Petersburg but from the Confederate advance down the Valley. Early's force crosses into Maryland on 5 July and encounters a cobbled-together Federal force at Monocacy on 9 July. The Federals retreat but have bought enough time for additional reinforcements to arrive in Washington. Grant dispatches 6th Corps by boat from Petersburg, while 19th Corps has already been shipped from Louisiana to oppose the Confederate advance. Lincoln visits a fort north of Washington and comes under fire on 11 and 12 July. Once Early learns that veteran U.S. troops have arrived, he withdraws to Virginia. Grant recalls 6th Corps once the Confederates reach the Valley, prompting Early to advance again, defeating Federals at Kernstown on 24 July. Early's cavalry under McCausland advances into Pennsylvania and burns Chambersburg on 30 July, citing Hunter's depredations in the Valley as justification.

Sherman's campaign in Georgia provides most of the Federal progress in July. Outflanking Johnston from the Kennesaw Mountain Line, Sherman probes the Smyrna Line 3-4 July but wisely refuses to assault the Chattahoochee River Line 5-9 July. Instead, he sends a diversion to the southwest to mask his intent to cross the river to the northeast. Federal infantry crosses the river on 8 July, and cavalry units cross above and below the infantry bridgehead the next day. Rather than counterattack, Johnston withdraws across the river, prompting President Davis to dispatch Bragg, of all people, to assess the situation. On 16 July, Davis asks Johnston to share his plan of action, and Johnston characteristically provides a vague response. On 17 July, unable to tolerate the prospect of further withdrawals, Davis replaces Johnston with Hood, who is quite aware that he must take action. Hood attacks three times in nine days: 20 July at Peachtree Creek, 22 July east of Atlanta, and 28 July at Ezra Church. Each attack plan has merit, but execution of the plans is poor, resulting in the loss of 11,000 men. Federal losses are over 6,000, including McPherson, the highest ranking U.S. officer to die in action during the war. Sherman selects Howard to replace McPherson as commander of the Army of the Tennessee, causing Hooker to resign his corps command. Senior Confederate losses include Walker's death on 22 July and the wounding of Stewart and Loring on 28 July.

Unwilling to attack Atlanta's fortifications, Sherman determines to cut the railroads supplying the city. The railroad to Augusta is cut in mid-July before Hood's assaults, and—noting the success of Rousseau's 10-22 July cavalry operations against railroads in Alabama—Sherman sends cavalry to cut the lines to West Point and Macon. Two raiding forces cut the railroads briefly, but both meet disastrous ends: McCook at Brown's Mill on 30 July and Stoneman at Sunshine Church on 31 July. This reinforces Sherman's low opinion of cavalry.

Elsewhere, Federals advance in northern Mississippi and repulse an attack by S.D. Lee and Forrest at Tupelo on 14 July. Still, the Federals retreat towards Memphis, which is what the Confederates wanted. Minor actions occur in Arkansas and along the Florida coast throughout the month. The periodic shelling of forts around Charleston continues. U.S. troops operate against the Indians in Minnesota and in the Dakota, New Mexico, Arizona, and Idaho Territories.

On 9 July, *CSS Shenandoah* takes four merchant ships 35 miles off the Maryland coast. On 27 July, the U.S. Navy increases reconnaissance of Mobile Bay defenses.

Both governments get new Treasury Secretaries: Fessenden replaces Chase for the U.S. on 1 July and Trenholm replaces Memminger for the Confederates on 18 July. The U.S. Congress passes a harsh post-war reconstruction bill, but Lincoln refuses to sign it. On 5 July, concerned about guerrilla activities, Lincoln suspends the writ of habeas corpus in Kentucky.

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