

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

Next GBA tour led by Ed Bearss is 12-15 March 2015

Subject: Atlanta Campaign from 16 May to 4 June 1864. **Guides:** Ed Bearss and Jim Ogden.
Price: \$395 includes Thursday reception and meals on Friday and Saturday. Your registration is confirmed when your check payable to GBA arrives at 7 Camden Rd NE, Atlanta GA 30309.
Hotel: Fairfield Inn, 20 Canyon Pkwy, Cartersville GA (I-75 exit 288). \$101 (89+12 tax).
 770 387 0400. www.marriott.com/hotels/travel/atlev-fairfield-inn-and-suites-cartersville/

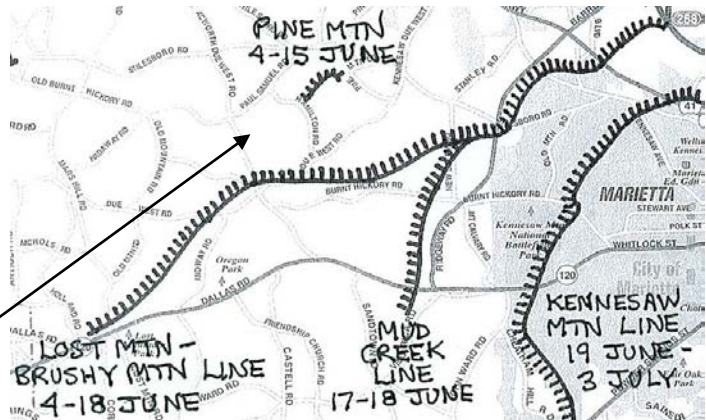
Georgia Battlefields Association is looking for our next treasurer

After ten years as GBA treasurer, Frank Chew is retiring to spend more time as a grandfather, among other things. Consequently, we're looking for a successor. There's no salary: We hope the satisfaction of helping us preserve battlefields will be sufficient recompense. Frank has agreed to remain through at least our annual tour next March, so there will be time to get his valuable insights about the job. If you're interested, please e-mail info@georgiabattlefields.org or send a letter to GBA at 7 Camden Rd NE, Atlanta GA 30309.

Cobb County development approved

With the recovery of the housing market, the recurring threat to historic sites was exemplified by Cobb County Commission's 21 October approval of a development that will include Confederate earthworks from early June 1864. The project will include 175 homes but will set aside land near the entrance to preserve earthworks that were identified in an August 2014 archaeological report. Nearby residents maintain that other earthworks are on the property but seemed principally concerned with the development's effect on traffic. In any case, the many earthworks still in private hands in Georgia are likely to be imperiled much as they were before 2008.

Earthworks in new development.



GBA supports another Georgia Historical Society marker

GBA helped fund and write content for the Georgia Historical Society's new March to the Sea marker, which was dedicated on 12 November in Atlanta. Shown in the photo are Carter Presidential Library and Museum Deputy Director David Stanhope, Georgia Historical Society President W. Todd Groce and board members Tommy Hills and Robert Brown, and GBA President Charlie Crawford. Photo courtesy of Georgia Historical Society.



Medal of Honor awarded 151 years after the action

Many of you probably saw the news about 1Lt Alonzo Cushing posthumously receiving a Medal of Honor for his actions at Gettysburg on 3 July 1863. In a 6 November White House ceremony, President Obama presented the medal to Cushing's distant cousin. Four Cushing brothers served during the Civil War (two in the army and two in the navy). Among the many people who contributed to the effort to get the honor for Cushing was Kent Masterson Brown, author of the 1993 book Cushing of Gettysburg. A Lexington, Kentucky, attorney, Brown is known in the preservation community for his work saving and interpreting the Perryville battlefield, among other sites, and for books, presentations, and tours relating to Kentucky and Gettysburg.

150 years ago this month

On 7 December, militia General Howard reports to Governor Brown on Atlanta's condition.

After being separated by 50 miles during the early days of the March to the Sea, Sherman's two armies are converging on Savannah. Cavalry action occurs again at Waynesborough in early December. On 3 December, troops pass through Millen and burn the depot, in part because of evidence found recently at the large, abandoned POW camp north of the town. On 8 December, Federal General Jefferson Davis orders the removal of a pontoon bridge at Ebenezer Creek immediately after the infantry passes, stranding a large number of slaves following the column. Some drown in an attempt to cross the creek, others are rounded up by Confederate cavalry. Some soldiers write home and to their legislators about the incident.

By 10 December, the Federals reach Savannah's defenses, manned by 10,000 Confederates under Hardee. Needing to establish contact with the U.S. Navy, Sherman sends cavalry south of the city to signal the fleet. On 13 December, the overwhelming of Fort McAllister opens a supply route to the coast. Reluctant to attack the strong defenses, Sherman is looking for ways to isolate Savannah. The Confederates, feeling that preserving 10,000 soldiers are more important than retaining the city, evacuate northward over the night of 20-21 December, burning the shipyard and scuttling several vessels, including *CSS Georgia*. The Federals enter the city, and Sherman sends his famous message to Lincoln, presenting the city as a Christmas gift. Sherman understates the eventual haul of 200 heavy guns, 35,000 cotton bales, and 13 locomotives.

While Sherman is approaching Savannah, Hood is approaching Nashville. Even though he has half the number of men as Thomas, Hood sends most of Forrest's cavalry towards Murfreesboro on 5 December to try to capture the large supply depot. The Confederates can't isolate the city, so the number of Federals continues to grow. By 6 December, Grant is pressing Thomas to attack and on 13 December orders John Logan to Nashville to relieve Thomas, even though the ground is so icy that horses and men have trouble standing. Finally, Thomas attacks on 15 December, pushing the Confederates back, and crushing them on the 16th. The Federals pursue the Confederates for the rest of the month in abysmal weather, with only the rear-guard actions of Forrest and Walthall preventing total loss. Still, Hood exits Tennessee with about half the men he had a month ago.

On 19 December, Sheridan dispatches 8,000 troopers on a raid into Central Virginia that will last until the 23rd. President Davis asks Lee to redeploy troops from Petersburg, but Lee replies that such a move would be too risky.

Fort Fisher guards the entrance to Wilmington, North Carolina, the last major port in the Confederacy. Another Federal expedition to take the fort is launched from Hampton Roads on 18 December, with Ben Butler commanding an assault force of 6,500. Naval bombardment of the fort begins on the 24th, but a failed landing the next day results in the fleet returning to Hampton Roads. On 30 December, Lincoln relieves Butler of command.

Salt is vital as a food preservative. On 3 December, the U.S. Navy attacks salt works at Tampa Bay, Florida; and on 10 December, Stoneman starts from Knoxville towards the Confederate salt works in southwestern Virginia, which he burns on the 20th.

On 6 December, in his message to the newly convened second session of the 38th Congress, President Lincoln writes the public debt is now \$1,740,690,489.49 and urges reconsideration of the proposed amendment to end slavery. On 15 December, Salmon Chase becomes Chief Justice.

As is true for most of the war, U.S. Army operations against the Indians continue, this time in Kansas and Arizona Territory.

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