

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

2016 tour with Ed Bearss

Dates: 10-13 March 2016.

Subject: Atlanta Campaign from Gilgal Church to the Smyrna Line, 15 June – 4 July 1864.

October newsletter has more info on itinerary. www.georgiabattlefields.org/newsletters.htm

Hotel: Hampton Inn, 871 Cobb Place Blvd, Kennesaw (just west of I-75 exit 269).

\$110 per night (\$130 including tax). Phone 770 426 0017.

Web site: <http://hamptoninn3.hilton.com/en/hotels/georgia/hampton-inn-atlanta-town-center-kennesaw-ATLTCHX/index.html>. If making room reservations online, use code GBA.

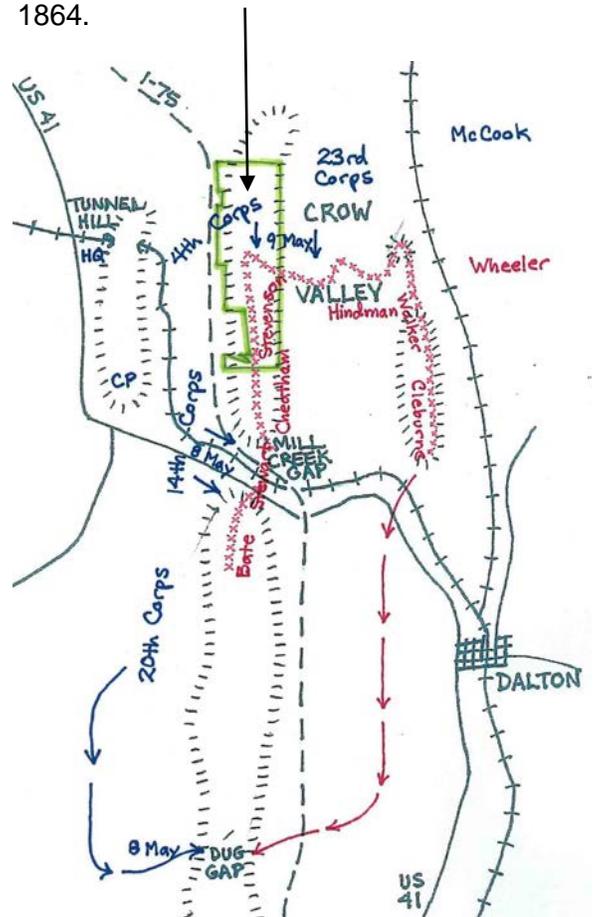
Register: Send \$395 check to GBA at P.O. Box 589, Tate GA 30177-0589.

Mountain bike park planned for Rocky Face Ridge

Battlefield land atop Rocky Face Ridge was saved 14 years ago (January 2002 newsletter) by an alliance of the American Battlefield Protection Program, Civil War Preservation Trust, Whitfield County government, and a local foundation. The 625 acres contain both Confederate and Federal fortifications, including trenches and stone walls. Some communications towers were on the land when it was saved, but it is otherwise undeveloped.

In October, the Whitfield County Board of Commissioners voted to approve a memorandum of understanding with the Northwest Georgia Chapter of the Southern Off-Road Bicycle Association, which will design and build a mountain bike park on the property. The county restricted the use of the top of the ridge, site of most of the fortifications. Commission Chairman Mike Babb, a strong supporter of preservation for many years, said he hopes the presence of bikers will decrease the damage and erosion caused by people on all-terrain vehicles. Local preservationists have shown mountain bike group representatives the fortifications, including those running down the slope of the ridge, and will be involved in the planning.

Outline indicates 625 acres saved in late 2001, shown with action from 8 & 9 May 1864.



Monthly tours of Battle of Atlanta to start in January

The Battle of Atlanta in East Atlanta organization (BATL) has conducted events near the anniversary of the battle (July) for several years, as well as conducting special events as needed and raising funds to preserve the Walker and McPherson monuments (see September 2011 newsletter). Beginning in January 2016, the organization plans to hold tours on the second Saturday of every month. BATL will be offering various tours on different parts of the battlefield. Once planning is complete, look for information on the organization's web site www.batlevent.org.

150 years ago this month – December 1865

On 9 December, Provisional Governor Johnson signs a joint resolution of the Georgia General Assembly ratifying the 13th Amendment. On 18 December, the requisite three-fourths of states having ratified, Secretary of State Seward declares the amendment abolishing slavery in effect.

On 14 December, Charles Jenkins takes office as Georgia's first elected governor during reconstruction.

GBA helps with tour for Houston Civil War Round Table

In early November, 13 members of the Houston Civil War Round Table participated in an Atlanta Campaign tour arranged by Kennesaw State University's Center for the Study of the Civil War Era www.kennesaw.edu/civilwarera/. Georgia Battlefields Association assisted with the last day of the tour, specifically covering the River Line, the crossings of the Chattahoochee, and the Battle of Peachtree Creek.

GBA conducts tours to help raise awareness of where Civil War events occurred, especially to show examples of sites that have been lost, preserved, or might still be saved. Further, groups taking the tour characteristically provide a donation to GBA.

Georgia historical marker program

You've probably seen Georgia Historical Markers, the familiar gold on green cast aluminum signs that are along many Georgia roads. About 40% of the markers relate to the Civil War, and many were installed in the 1950s in preparation for the Civil War Centennial. Since 1998, the Georgia Historical Society (GHS) has administered the state marker program. Markers installed by GHS are also cast aluminum, but they are easily distinguished from the previous state markers by their silver on black design. Since so many markers are close to roads, damage from vehicles is common. Typically, 60 or so of the 2200 markers are missing or damaged at any one time.

Through the GHS web site <http://georgiahistory.com/education-outreach/historical-markers>, any user can search for a historical marker. Further, groups may apply for a new historical marker, and anyone can report a marker that is missing or damaged. If you don't have access to the internet, you may contact Erica Carter at (912) 651-2125 x131 or toll free at 877 424-4789.



Georgia Historical Commission marker. In the lower left is 060-8, indicating Fulton County, alphabetically the 60th county in Georgia; and 8, originally indicating proximity to markers 7 and 9. In the lower right is 1954, the year of installation, in this case in preparation for the Civil War Centennial.



Georgia Historical Society marker. In the lower left is 2010.6, indicating this is the 6th GHS marker installed in 2010. In the lower right is 155-3, indicating this is the 3rd GHS marker installed in Whitfield County, alphabetically the 155th county in Georgia.

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www.georgiabattlefields.org

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