

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

GBA will lead Phoenix Flies downtown Atlanta tour on 2 & 16 March

Atlanta Preservation Center has again asked Georgia Battlefields Association to lead the Civil War Atlanta downtown walking tour, which is event 47 in the Phoenix Flies events program book at the link below. The free tours are at 1 p.m. on 2 and 16 March, but you must register at phoenixfliesreservations@preserveatlanta.com or call 404 688 3353 ext 15. Over 100 events are listed at http://www.atlantapreservationcenter.com/2019_Phoenix_Flies_Updates_FAQs.

Last chance to register for GBA 2019 tour with Ed Bearss

Dates: 7-10 March 2019. Ed Bearss is principal guide.

Sites: Cavalry actions at Brown's Mill (Newnan), Lovejoy's Station/Nash Farm, Sunshine Church, and Athens on Friday and Saturday. Decisive battle of Jonesborough (wartime spelling) on Sunday. Lunches and dinners included on Friday and Saturday. More details were in October newsletter. http://www.georgiabattlefields.org/pdf_files/GBAnews1810.pdf

Hotel: Hampton Inn at 7342 Hannover Pkwy N, Stockbridge GA 30281 770 389 0065

GBA rate is \$105 per night, plus all the annoying local taxes that raise the effective rate to \$120. Breakfast is included. You shouldn't need a confirmation number, but if asked, use 54717617.

Cost & Registration: \$430. Register online at www.georgiabattlefields.org/tours.aspx, or mail check payable to Georgia Battlefields Association to PO Box 669953, Marietta GA 30066.

Since time is short, please call Bill Gurry at 770 971 1863 if you plan to mail a check.

Note: We will have a book swap at the 6 p.m. Thursday reception at the hotel. For more information about the book swap, or if you would like to help by providing snacks for the reception, please contact Mary-Elizabeth Ellard at ellardw@bellsouth.net.

American Battlefield Trust Park Day is 6 April

American Battlefield Trust's annual park day will be 6 April. This is an opportunity to help maintain national, state, and local historic sites. Some of the national parks need help more than usual because of the shut-down earlier this year. <https://www.battlefields.org/events/park-day> If you don't use the internet, call Courtney Wilke at (202) 367-1861 x7222.

Sites in Georgia include:

Chickamauga National Park	Will Wilson will_wilson@nps.gov (706) 866-9241
Prater's Mill	Elaine Watkins info@pratersmill.org (706) 694-6455
Dalton Cemetery	Marvin Sowder msowder@dalton.net (706) 278-3925
Resaca Cemetery	John Bidby johnbidby@bellsouth.net (706) 625-7574
Pickett's Mill State Historic Site	John Nash jrnash@att.net (404) 229-0761
Kennesaw Mountain National Park	Amanda Corman amanda_corman@nps.gov (770) 427-4686
A.H. Stephens State Park	Melanie Boatwright andre.mclendon@dnr.ga.gov (706) 456-2602
Kettle Creek Battlefield	Walker Chewning wjcl@aol.com (678) 409-4644
Battlefield Memorial Park Savannah	Daniel McCall danmccallchs@gmail.com (912) 944-7457
Jeff Davis Historic Site	John Hughes lithoet@gmail.com (229) 425-4044
Blue & Gray Museum Fitzgerald	Aaron Benefield bgmuseum@mchsi.com (229) 426-5069

Be sure to check with the sites because some will hold Park Day on a different date from 6 April.

Old Clinton "War Days" Festival is 4-5 May

The annual Old Clinton War Days event www.oldclinton.org/war-days-3/ occurs on 4 & 5 May. On both days, gates open at 9 a.m. and battle reenactments (Sunshine Church and Griswoldville) start at 2:05 p.m. The event also features food, crafts, and artifact displays. Proceeds (\$5 for adults, \$3 for children age 6 to 18) are used to preserve the Old Clinton Historic District. The memorial service at 8:05 p.m. Saturday at the Old Clinton Cemetery is free. Old Clinton is 12 miles northeast of Macon, just a block west of US 129.

In February, Georgia Battlefields Association contacted the Jones County Historic Preservation Commission and the Board of Commissioners to argue against a rezoning that would have allowed commercial development of a property in the Old Clinton Historic District.

Atlanta Cyclorama opened to the public on 22 February

On 22 February, the restored Cyclorama opened to the public in its new home at the Atlanta History Center. Visitors to the Center are given tickets with a time for entry to the painting and diorama. The process for obtaining advance tickets is explained at this link: <http://www.atlantahistorycenter.com/explore/destinations/atlanta-cyclorama>

Visitors will pass the locomotive *Texas* display and the Zero Milepost on the way to the Upper Gallery, which gives some context about the Civil War and also brings back the interactive War in Our Backyards software that allows you to see what wartime events occurred in the Atlanta area. On the floor below is the Lower Gallery, adjacent to the Cyclorama's entrance. The Lower Gallery has displays about the painting process, including draft sketches.

Anyone who has seen the painting in its previous venue at Grant Park will likely be surprised at how bright it appears. This is a result of the extensive cleaning and restoration over the last two years and improved lighting. The diorama has been reinstalled using the restored figurines from before, but the artificial landscape was not salvageable, so an entirely new terrain was fabricated.

A new, 12-minute presentation about the history of the Cyclorama is projected on the painting. Gone is the recorded narrative about what the painting depicts. Instead, touch screens in the area below the viewing platform allow a visitor to select sections of the painting and read details about the events shown in that section. This area also has information about the restoration of missing sections and conservation of the whole painting.

The opening has drawn national as well as local media attention:

www.nytimes.com/2019/02/21/arts/design/confederate-monuments-cyclorama-atlanta.html



Upper Gallery: Texas at left.



Lower Gallery display.



A much brighter painting and diorama. Georgia Battlefields Association urges you to visit the restored painting and the new displays. Let the Atlanta History Center know your reaction.



Restored figurines.



Projection onto the painting.

150 years ago this month – March 1869

As of 3 March, 11,237 U.S. Army troops are on occupation duty in former Confederate states.

On 4 March, U.S. Grant is inaugurated as President of the United States.

On 12 March, Major General George Meade relinquishes command of the Department of the South (North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, and Alabama) and leaves Atlanta for assignment as commander of the Military Division of the Atlantic in Philadelphia.

The Georgia legislature adjourns after refusing to ratify the 15th Amendment, which states that the right to vote shall not be denied on account of race, color, or previous condition of servitude.

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Address correction requested

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