

# GEORGIA

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# BATTLEFIELDS

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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](mailto:info@georgiabattlefields.org)

## 2020 tour with Ed Bearss set for 12-15 March in Columbus

Our annual tour with Ed Bearss will be 12-15 March and will be based in Columbus.

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

**Hotel:** Hampton Inn at 2870 S. Lumpkin Rd, Columbus, which fronts on Fort Benning Road and is near the entrance to the post. The GBA group rate is \$129, but the ubiquitous taxes push the actual rate to \$155. Call 706 660 5550 and ask for the Georgia Battlefields Association rate.

To reserve a room online, enter

[https://secure3.hilton.com/en\\_US/hp/reservation/book.htm?execution=els1](https://secure3.hilton.com/en_US/hp/reservation/book.htm?execution=els1) in your browser and specify Hampton Inn Columbus/South-Fort Benning, then enter group code CHHGBA.

Alternatively, copy the following link (supposedly a short cut)

[https://secure3.hilton.com/en\\_US/hp/reservation/book.htm?inputModule=HOTEL&ctyhocn=CSGFBHX&spec\\_plan=CHHGBA&arrival=20200312&departure=20200315&cid=OM,WW,HILT\\_ONLINK,EN,DirectLink&fromId=HILTONLINKDIRECT](https://secure3.hilton.com/en_US/hp/reservation/book.htm?inputModule=HOTEL&ctyhocn=CSGFBHX&spec_plan=CHHGBA&arrival=20200312&departure=20200315&cid=OM,WW,HILT_ONLINK,EN,DirectLink&fromId=HILTONLINKDIRECT) and paste it into your browser.

We'll begin as usual with a 5 to 7 p.m. reception at the hotel on Thursday (12 March). We'll have some appetizers and drinks, and participants will receive tour handouts. You'll have a chance to talk with Ed and see the other participants you are likely to remember from prior tours. Dinner after the reception is on your own.

On Friday (13 March), we'll board the bus at 8 a.m. and head for Andersonville National Historic Site [www.nps.gov/ande](http://www.nps.gov/ande), which should take about 90 minutes to reach. We'll have some videos about the site to watch on the bus so that we don't have to spend time in the visitors' center auditorium. At the site, we'll have a guided walking tour, then head for lunch at a local restaurant. After lunch, we'll return to Andersonville to tour the National POW Museum. Back to the hotel to freshen up, then to dinner at a renowned Columbus BBQ restaurant.

On Saturday (14 March), we'll begin at the National Infantry Museum that is literally at the other end of the parking lot that it shares with the Hampton Inn. <https://nationalinfantrymuseum.org>. We'll have a guided tour there, followed by lunch at the museum's Fife & Drum Restaurant. After lunch, we'll take a short bus ride to the National Civil War Naval Museum, where we'll again have a guided tour. <https://portcolumbus.org>. We've arranged for Ed to pull the lanyard for a ceremonial firing of the big naval gun on the museum grounds. We'll have time to freshen up before dinner in downtown Columbus. Weather permitting, we may have an evening walk of some of the sites of important industrial facilities in wartime Columbus.

On Sunday morning (15 March), we'll board the bus at 8 a.m. and head to Linwood Cemetery, burial site of Generals Benning (for whom the fort is named) and Semmes and other notables and also the site of two sections of Confederate dead. From the cemetery, we'll head to downtown Columbus and see the site of the 16 April 1865 U.S. cavalry attack, rare because it was a nighttime attack on a town. We'll likely have time to stop at a few other sites that formerly held war-related industries.

Ed called to say he'll be there, and we hope you'll be there, too.



Modern view of the Chattahoochee River from a bridge that replaced the wartime bridge that was a focus of the 16 April 1865 night attack by the U.S. cavalry force led by Major General James Harrison Wilson. On the left (east) bank is Columbus, whose wartime industries, including a shipyard, made it an objective of Wilson's raid. On the right bank is Phenix City, Alabama, known as Girard in 1865.

## Ruff's Mill area archaeological study grant approved

Earlier this year, Georgia Battlefields Association wrote a letter of support for an application for a grant that would provide for an archaeological study of the Ruff's Mill area in Cobb County (May 2019 newsletter). In late August, the American Battlefield Protection Program, a division of the National Park Service, announced that The Lamar Institute had been awarded a grant of \$95,887.84. The institute wrote to express thanks for our support. [www.thelamarinstitute.org](http://www.thelamarinstitute.org)

Other Civil War-related grants:

\$55,000 to our partner American Battlefield Trust [www.battlefields.org](http://www.battlefields.org) to develop a guidebook on how to start and maintain a battlefield friends group.

\$60,000 to Preserve Maryland to create a land protection plan and build public consensus around preservation of the Falling Waters battlefield (Confederate retreat from Gettysburg).

\$32,375 to North Carolina Department of Natural and Cultural Resources to research the history and map locations of US Colored Troops at 20 battlefields in the state.

\$150,659 to Temple University (Philadelphia) to produce a legislative and administrative history of battlefield preservation efforts in the Federal Government.

To see the complete list of 2019 grants, including five that relate to the Revolutionary War, see [https://www.nps.gov/subjects/battlefields/upload/ABPP-FY19-Battlefield-Preservation-Planning-Grants\\_Project-Summaries.pdf](https://www.nps.gov/subjects/battlefields/upload/ABPP-FY19-Battlefield-Preservation-Planning-Grants_Project-Summaries.pdf).

## Contextualization marker installed at Decatur monument

On 13 September, workers installed a contextualization marker for the Confederate monument behind the former DeKalb County courthouse at direction of the county government. The text of the marker appears in our May 2019 newsletter.

In the photo at right (taken looking north), the old courthouse is in the background, monument obelisk is on the left, and contextualization marker is at lower right.



## Responding to e-mails

Georgia Battlefields Association frequently corresponds with the Georgia Historical Society, often about the wording or positioning of historical markers. Most recently, we were asked to review the wording on a replacement marker GHS will be installing in Vinings.

We were happy to provide the information requested. [www.georgiahistory.com](http://www.georgiahistory.com)

We were also contacted recently by a Barrow County resident who asked about the location of King's Tanyard and the 3 August 1864 battle in the area. We responded, but perhaps more importantly, we referred the inquirer to someone who is more knowledgeable than we are. We're happy to provide that service as well.

## Oakland Cemetery tour

GBA trustee Carlton Mullis will lead a Civil War-related tour of Oakland Cemetery for GBA members only at 1 p.m. on 9 November. Register by e-mail to [info@georgiabattlefields.org](mailto:info@georgiabattlefields.org).

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