

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

12-15 March tour in Columbus

GBA's annual tour was 12-15 March 2020 and was based in Columbus. Thanks to those who participated in our book exchange, GBA raised more funds than in any prior book exchange. For the excursions, we had mostly clear and warm weather for our visits to Andersonville National Historic Site, the National Infantry Museum, and the National Civil War Naval Museum, for our evening walk along the Chattahoochee River to see the sites of the former steamboat wharf and the naval shipyard, and for our visits to Linwood Cemetery and the Battle of Columbus Plaza. See more about the tour at www.georgiabattlefields.org/tours.aspx and also to see more photos.

While our group was at the Naval Museum, GBA trustees Mary-Elizabeth Ellard and Stephanie Vale noticed another visitor who seemed especially enthused about the exhibits. The young man was Dalton Shuman, from Savannah, who had asked his parents to bring him to the Naval Museum for his 14th birthday. We had had a raffle for our group to see who would pull the lanyard on the naval gun outside the museum, and when GBA trustee Joe Trahan won the raffle, he promptly turned over his ticket to Dalton. Here is what Dalton wrote about the experience.

An Experience of a Lifetime

While visiting the National Civil War Naval Museum in Columbus on 14 March for my birthday, I met a wonderful group of people who let my family and I tag along on their tour. I later discovered they were a part of the Georgia Battlefields Association. When Ms. Mary-Elizabeth Ellard handed me tickets, I did not know what they were for but was told they were raffle tickets for someone to pull the lanyard on the 7-inch Brooke rifle on the museum grounds. I politely refused because I have pulled the lanyard on our 3-inch ordnance rifle many times, but Ms. Ellard insisted, so I took them. Several other people found out it was my birthday and handed me their tickets, so by the time of the drawing I had a good number of tickets.

When the drawing came, the number chosen was not one I had. I was happy. I figured it would give someone else a tremendously cool experience. Mr. Joe Trahan had the winning number and offered me his ticket. I asked him to keep it, but he insisted, so I graciously accepted.

When I got to the gun I was so excited. I thought it would be just like pulling the lanyard on our gun, but it was totally different. Pulling the lanyard on something that has 3 1/2 lbs. of powder in a round is a really big rush! When I heard "Ready," I was really excited but a little scared. I thought, "What if it misfires? What will I do?" But when the Museum's Mr. Jeff Seymour said "Fire," I pulled the lanyard, and the gun went off! BOOM!! I was relieved! The sound echoed across the valley! This was so awesome and truly the experience of a lifetime! Thanks to Georgia Battlefields Association for letting me fire the cannon.

-Dalton Shuman



Group photo at the Naval Museum. Dalton Shuman is third from right in the front row.



Dalton Shuman pulling the lanyard on the Naval Museum's 7-inch Brooke Rifle.

GBA led Phoenix Flies Civil War Atlanta tour on 7 March

Our 7 March Civil War Atlanta downtown walking tour took place as scheduled and drew 22 participants. All remaining Phoenix Flies events were cancelled as of 14 March due to concerns about COVID-19. http://www.atlantapreservationcenter.com/phoenix_flies.

American Battlefield Trust Park Day postponed

American Battlefield Trust's annual park day <https://www.battlefields.org/events/park-day> has been postponed. In its announcement, the Trust suggests you contact the parks and see if they have rescheduled individually. The Georgia parks that were participating in Park Day are:

Chickamauga National Park	will_wilson@nps.gov (706) 866-9241 x137
Prater's Mill	info@pratersmill.org (706) 694-6455
Dalton Cemetery	msowder@dalton.net (706) 278-3925
Resaca Cemetery	johnbiddy@bellsouth.net (706) 581-5366
Kennesaw Mountain	kemo_volunteer@nps.gov (770) 427-4686
Jeff Davis Historic Site	jeffersondavishistoricsite@gmail.com (229) 831-2335
Fort McAllister State Park	michael.ellis@dnr.ga.gov (912) 375-2339

Atlanta Civil War Round Table cancels April meeting

As is true for many group events, the Atlanta Civil War Round Table 14 April meeting has been cancelled. For any event you plan to attend, be sure to check the organization's web site.

Kennesaw State University spring trip to Fort Donelson postponed

Kennesaw State University's Center for the Study of the Civil War Era has altered its event schedule, including postponing the 18-19 April overnight tour to Fort Donelson. Check <https://chss.kennesaw.edu/cwc/index.php> for details on rescheduling.

National Parks closed due to virus concerns

As of 24 March, National Parks in Georgia are closed. Roads through the parks are open, but check with each park to determine any other availability.

Chickamauga National Military Park	https://www.nps.gov/chch/index.htm
Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park	https://www.nps.gov/kemo/index.htm
Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area	https://www.nps.gov/chat/index.htm
Andersonville National Historic Site	https://www.nps.gov/ande/index.htm
Fort Pulaski National Monument	https://www.nps.gov/fopu/index.htm

Kennesaw Mountain is again most visited battlefield park in 2019

National Park Service statistics for 2019 indicate Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park was the most visited Civil War battlefield park in the country.

Kennesaw Mountain	2,621,050
Chickamauga/Chattanooga	977,158
Gettysburg	925,117
Fredericksburg/Spotsylvania	906,800
Vicksburg	576,456
Manassas	510,427

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