

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

Georgia Battlefields Association POSTPONES 7-10 October 2021 tour

The resurgence in virus infections and hospitalizations prompted the Georgia Battlefields Association trustees to POSTPONE our 7-10 October 2021 tour based in Macon. If you've already registered for the tour, you'll hear from GBA president Joe Trahan and treasurer Bill Gurry. We're transferring our tour plan to 31 March through 3 April 2022. Our web site www.georgiabattlefields.org and future newsletters will inform you when to register for 2022.

Oakland Cemetery's Lion of the Confederacy monument removed

On 16 August, the Atlanta City Council passed a resolution that the city should remove Oakland Cemetery's Lion of the Confederacy monument and place it in temporary storage. By the morning of 19 August, the Lion was gone. The length of its temporary storage is unknown.

Despite the addition of a contextualization marker in 2019, the monument, originally emplaced in 1904, has been the target of frequent vandalism over the last two years, most often painted but also chipped with hammers and pickaxes. Although words carved into the monument relate to unknown Confederate dead, no graves were beneath the monument.



The lion in better days.



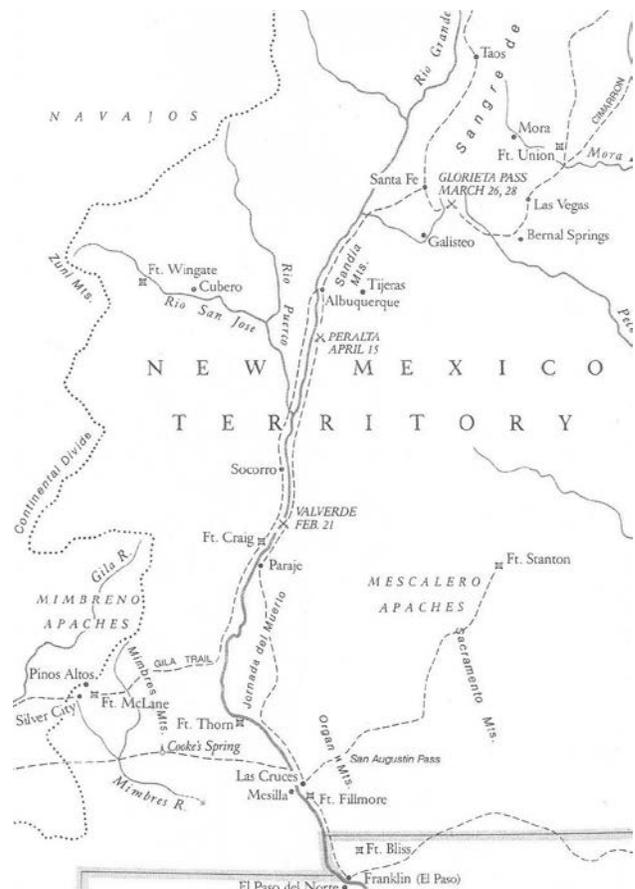
2019 contextual marker.



February 2021 vandalism.

Battlefield road trip – New Mexico

Before the Civil War, many people in the southern part of the New Mexico Territory felt the territorial government in Santa Fe was too far away to sufficiently address their concerns, and they feared more Indian attacks when several regular U.S. Army units were ordered east after Fort Sumter. Consequently, secession conventions in Mesilla and Tucson voted to create a Territory of Arizona (land below the 34th parallel in what are now the states of New Mexico and Arizona) and join the Confederacy. Confederate forces from Franklin (now El Paso), Texas, marched into this area in July 1861 and established a territorial capital at Mesilla. The larger Confederate objectives were to advance on California to seize gold mines and advance on Colorado to seize gold and silver mines. The Confederacy needed precious metals to improve its economic viability and help persuade European powers to recognize the fledgling government.



Map from The Civil War in the American West

Confederate offensives commenced in February 1862, with over 2,500 Texans under General Henry Sibley advancing from Franklin along the Rio Grande. U.S. forces in the territory also numbered about 2,500, and Colonel E.R.S. Canby appealed to the territorial governors of New Mexico and Colorado for volunteers. The Confederates prevailed in a 21 February engagement

at Valverde, driving Canby and about 1,200 men into Fort Craig, which the Confederates then bypassed and took Albuquerque and Santa Fe, the territorial capital. The Confederates' next advanced along the Santa Fe Trail towards Fort Union, where they hoped to seize U.S. Army supplies and establish a base for advancing into Colorado. Marching south from Colorado to counter the Confederates were volunteers under Colonel John Slough, who combined with New Mexico volunteers and some regular U.S. Army units at Fort Union. On 26 March 1862, the lead Confederate unit was surprised at Apache Canyon (west of Glorieta Pass) by a force of Colorado volunteer infantry and regular U.S. cavalry. This action involved about 400 troops on each side, and though U.S. forces got the better of the fight, both retreated after the engagement, the Confederates to Johnson's Ranch, and the U.S. forces to Kozlowski's Ranch.

On 28 March, about 1,300 Confederates under LtCol William Scurry advanced and encountered 800 Colorado volunteers and regular U.S. cavalry detachments west of Pigeon's Ranch (east of Glorieta Pass). Over the next six hours, the Texans drove the Coloradans from successive positions and achieved a tactical victory, only to find that disaster had occurred at their Johnson's Ranch base. A flanking column of 500 Colorado and New Mexico volunteers and two companies of regular U.S. infantry had crossed a mesa south of Glorieta Pass, burned the Confederate supplies and 80 wagons, and driven off the horses and mules. The Confederates now had few supplies and almost no wagons for collecting more. Their retreat to Texas was harassed by U.S. forces from Fort Craig, Apaches, and locals who resented the confiscation of supplies during the campaign. Sibley returned to Texas with half the force he had led northward. The retreat also prompted a Confederate withdrawal from Arizona (January 2021 newsletter).

Historical markers at Fort Craig, Albuquerque, and Santa Fe provide some information about the invasion and its repulse, but battlefield preservation has occurred only at the 26 and 28 March battlefields, even though they are bisected by I-25. The efforts of local preservationists, the Civil War Preservation Trust, and the state government resulted in 678 acres being preserved and deeded to the National Park Service as park of Pecos National Historical Park.

<https://www.battlefields.org/learn/civil-war/battles/glorieta-pass>

<https://www.nps.gov/peco/planyourvisit/maps.htm>

For accounts of the Confederate invasion of the southwest, see Part I of the late Alvin Josephy's [The Civil War in the American West](#). For the fight known as the Gettysburg of the West, see the late Don Albert's [The Battle of Glorieta](#). A recent book that addresses not only U.S. versus C.S. forces in the southwest but also those forces versus Apaches and Navajos and intertribal warfare is Megan Kate Nelson's [The Three-Cornered War](#).



Interpretive marker at entrance to 28 March 1862 battlefield trail.



Markers about U.S. troops.



U.S. artillery position.



Markers about Texas units.
The area had far fewer trees in 1862.



Map of Glorieta Pass area.

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