

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

Savannah tour 13-16 April 2023

Hotel: [Hampton Inn & Suites Historic District](#) at 603 W. Oglethorpe Ave. 912 721 1600.

GBA rate is \$179 per night for Wednesday and Thursday nights and \$259 per night for Friday and Saturday nights. If you reserve for all four nights, it's \$219 per night. The almost 16% tax adds \$34.47 per night, for a daily total of \$253.47. Parking in the hotel lot is \$30 per night.

Meals: Breakfast is included in the hotel price. Lunch and dinner are included in the tour price.

Program: *Thursday* – Morning: Walking tour of the city's Revolutionary War sites. Afternoon: Walking tour of Bonaventure Cemetery. Evening: Reception at the hotel.

Friday and Saturday – Itinerary still being developed but is almost certain to include [Fort Pulaski](#), [Old Fort Jackson](#), [Wormsloe State Historic Site](#), [King's Bridge](#), [Fort McAllister](#), [Ebenezer Creek](#), and remnants of the 1864 landward defenses.

Sunday – Walking tour of Civil War sites in downtown Savannah. Tour ends at noon.

Guide: [Jim Ogden](#), Chickamauga & Chattanooga National Military Park historian.

Price: \$460 per person for the usual Thursday night through Sunday morning tour of Civil War sites. \$120 additional for Thursday tours. So, \$580 per person includes all tours.

Registration: Mail a check payable to Georgia Battlefields Association to **PO Box 669953, Marietta GA 30066**, or use PayPal or credit card to register online at our web site tours page <http://georgiabattlefields.org/tours.aspx>. If you have trouble, e-mail billgurry@bellsouth.net.

Remembering Vince Dooley

A reminiscence by Charlie Crawford

Most of you know of the 28 October death of renowned coach, athletic director, Marine Corps officer, mentor, philanthropist, and Georgia Battlefields Association member Vince Dooley. What brought Coach Dooley and Georgia Battlefields Association (GBA) together was a common interest in battlefield preservation and in insuring people knew the history of those battlefields. While many of the tributes to Coach Dooley have mentioned his M.A. in History and his service on the boards of the [American Battlefield Trust](#) (ABT) and the [Georgia Historical Society](#) (GHS), I hope this remembrance will inspire an even deeper appreciation of the man.

After a 2003 presentation, I was asked by an audience member if GBA could lead an Atlanta Campaign tour for a small group. In a subsequent phone call, we agreed on the dates for a three-day tour, and only then did he reveal that the participants would include Vince Dooley and his oldest grandson. Thus, I met Coach Dooley.

Our acquaintance deepened into friendship over the years as Coach participated in GBA's annual tours, and I would see him at historical marker dedications, American Battlefield Trust events, Civil War Round Table meetings, etc. He often told self-deprecating stories, and he was always gracious when his presence drew attention. One time when four of us were eating at a restaurant, I went to the restroom. Another diner intercepted me and asked, "Do you know who you're having dinner with?" I think the question was really an effort to confirm that one of the other people at my table was, in fact, Vince Dooley. Almost everyone recognized him, but few had met him in person. He was always willing to pose for a photo and even engage in conversation, though the better I knew him, the more I came to believe that he'd rather read a book—most likely a history book—than almost any other activity. Even so, being in the public eye for 60 years honed his social skills to the point that he could interact well in any situation.

My friendship with Vince drew me into the orbit of the force of nature known as Barbara Dooley. I was fortunate to be in the Dooley home on more than one occasion, and even when she was physically under the weather, she brought sunshine into every encounter I had with her.

When I had a heart attack in 2014, Vince was one of the first people who called after I got home from the hospital. He had heard that I received stents and asked how many. When I told him I had two, he revealed that he had five. When I described my attack symptoms, he said he first had symptoms when Georgia fell behind in a football game against Vanderbilt, and that rare event made him think his symptoms were just concern about losing. Georgia went on to win the game, and Coach followed advice to go to the hospital afterwards.

When our GBA tours included stops in the Athens area, he helped scout the sites and secure the assistance of local experts, which he was uniquely qualified to do.

In 2014, when our annual tour planned to visit the soon-to-be-opened [Resaca Battlefield Historic Site](#), the opening was delayed due to a dispute between the state government and a contractor. I asked Coach Dooley to call the Department of Natural Resources Commissioner, whose online biography indicated he had formerly been a high school football coach. Within an hour, Coach called back to report that GBA would have no problem accessing the site as planned.

At a 2018 ceremony celebrating expansion of [Kettle Creek Revolutionary War Battlefield Park](#), I met a boy wearing a University of Georgia football jersey. His father told me they heard Coach Dooley was coming to the ceremony, and they hoped to meet him. When Coach Dooley arrived, I pointed out the boy and his parents. Coach walked over to them immediately and held out his hand, prompting huge smiles from mom, dad, and son. They spoke for several minutes, and I suspect the family has told the story of meeting Vince Dooley many times since.

During GBA's 2018 annual tour, our bus stopped at a historic site, and the tour participants filed into the visitor center. The site manager was pleasantly surprised to find Coach Dooley among the group. We almost never gave advanced notice that he would be part of our group, in part to protect the relative anonymity that his humble nature seemed to prefer. The site manager asked if she could get a photo with Coach Dooley. I never saw him refuse such a request. She said her husband would be beside himself when she got home and showed him the photo.

These are just a few anecdotes about what Vincent Joseph Dooley meant as a friend to me and to Georgia Battlefields Association and what a great example he provided of how to be a decent human being to everyone he encountered.



2022 ABT conference. Seated: Barbara & Vince Dooley; Joe & Cheryl Trahan. Charlie Crawford standing behind Coach with Bill & Mary Porter.



GBA members at 2018 ABT celebration for saving more of the Kettle Creek battlefield: Bill & Mary Porter, Charlie Crawford, Coach Dooley, Bill Gurry.



Always willing to grant a photo request: With Earlene Hamilton of Old Clinton Historical Society.



Left: With Ed Bears at Kennesaw Mountain in 2013. Photo by Bill Gurry.



Right: Leading the way at Ruff's Mill in 2006.

Far right: Talking history with Jack Davis (left) and Dan Hanks at Fort Hawkins in 2019.



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December 2022