

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 trustees hold annual meeting

The Georgia Battlefields Association annual trustees' meeting was held on 15 January via video conference. Trustees Zoomed in from California, Tennessee, Virginia, and Georgia.

Mary-Elizabeth Ellard was elected to a new three-year term as a trustee. She has been a trustee since 2011 and was also re-elected as secretary. Other current officers were also confirmed for another one-year term: President Joe Trahan, VP Jim Wentworth, and Treasurer Bill Gurry.

Skip Johnson was elected as a new trustee. Those of you who have been on our annual tours are familiar with Skip and his wife Dale Ann, who are always the first to help with any task. Skip is an Elder of the United Methodist Church and has a Ph.D. in Personality and Theology from Emory University. He is a licensed Professional Counselor. Skip taught at Candler School of Theology and at Columbia Theological Seminary, where he was on faculty. Recently retired, he is pursuing a certificate in Native American Studies. He and Dale Ann have a daughter in college. A list of trustees is on our web site http://georgiabattlefields.org/gba_acivities.aspx

The GBA budget is in good shape to help with property acquisitions that we hope to accomplish in 2023 in conjunction with the American Battlefield Trust. Tour planning (see next article) continues as we get increasingly specific on tour stops and meal arrangements.

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 buffet and program at the hotel.

Friday and Saturday – Itinerary will include [Fort Pulaski](#), [Old Fort Jackson](#), [Wormsloe State Historic Site](#), [King's Bridge](#), [Fort McAllister](#), and [Ebenezer Creek](#).

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.

Georgia Battlefields Association will again lead Phoenix Flies tours

GBA will again lead a Civil War Atlanta downtown walking tour as part of Atlanta Preservation Center's Phoenix Flies program. The free tour will be held on 4 March and again on 18 March. Registration will be available on 17 February at www.preserveatlanta.com/Phoenix_Flies. Make sure you see the 2023 program and not the 2022 program when you open the web site.

GBA has led tours for Atlanta Preservation Center since 2004 and has led the Civil War Atlanta downtown walking tour since 2007, even completing one of the two scheduled tours in 2020 before COVID-19 caused the remainder of the program to be cancelled.

Park Day is 15 April

American Battlefield Trust (ABT) sponsors an annual Park Day, during which volunteers can help with maintenance of historic sites. This year's event will be held on 15 April.

Historic site support groups or managers can register their site to participate on ABT's web site <https://www.battlefields.org/events/park-day>, or you can contact ABT's Connor Townsend at ctownsend@battlefields.org or 410 610 9226. Registration for volunteers is done through the site managers, so continue to watch the ABT web page to see which sites will be participating.

Atlanta History Center produces Stone Mountain documentary

On 11 January, Atlanta History Center (AHC) premiered its half-hour documentary about the Stone Mountain, Georgia, carving that is the largest Confederate monument. The documentary and supplementary information are online at <https://www.atlantahistorycenter.com/monument/>. The documentary is also on YouTube at <https://www.youtube.com/@AtlantaHistoryCenter>. The information in the documentary has been on the AHC web site, but AHC is trying to reach a broader audience by developing video content.

Confederate monuments have been in the news more often since the 2015 Charleston church shooting, and monument removal efforts were spurred by that and subsequent events, especially the Unite the Right Rally in Charlottesville (2017) and the death of George Floyd (2020). The *Washington Post* has reported that five Confederate monuments were removed between 1865 and 2014, and at least 166 have been removed since. The GBA newsletter has reported incidents of vandalism and removal that occurred in Georgia.

As reported in the October 2022 GBA newsletter, the Defense Department will rename installations (notably Fort Benning and Fort Gordon in Georgia), streets, and buildings with Confederate associations. Further, the U.S. Army is planning to remove the Confederate monument in Arlington National Cemetery, though—as with many removals—the ultimate fate (installation elsewhere, storage, etc.) of the monument is uncertain.



Confederate monument in Arlington National Cemetery.

The Stone Mountain carving presents a daunting removal problem if for no other reason than its size. Relocation is out of the question. Blasting it off the mountain would be dangerous and very expensive. One inexpensive suggestion is to stop maintaining the carving and let vegetation (that grows from crevices in many parts of the mountain) and weathering ultimately obscure it, but this certainly won't satisfy those who want the carving gone soon.

As an organization dedicated to preserving and interpreting battlefields, GBA asserts that battlefield monuments that depict people who were at the site and describe what they did there should not be removed or relocated since they help us understand what happened at the site.

Dalton Civil War Show 4-5 February at Dalton Convention Center

Link to directions, fees, rules, etc. is http://www.mkshows.com/cgi-bin/show_display.asp?65.
Saturday speaker schedule:

- 10 a.m. Richard McMurry - Jeff and Joe: The Quarrel That Doomed the Confederacy
- 11 a.m. Steve Davis - The Atlanta Daily Intelligencer Covers the Atlanta Campaign
- Noon Gene Andrews - General Forrest at Fort Pillow: The Truth
- 1 p.m. Robert Jenkins - The 19 May 1864 Cassville Affairs and the Failed Confederate Strategy
- 2 p.m. Donna Faulkner Barron - The Man Who Carved Stone Mountain
- 3 p.m. Scott Sallee - The Deification, Sanctification, and Sainthood of Abraham Lincoln

Amazon Smile shopping affinity program ends 20 February

Thanks to those of you who have supported GBA through Amazon Smile over the years.

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www.georgiabattlefields.org

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