

GEORGIA

BATTLEFIELDS

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Georgia Battlefields Association former treasurer Frank Chew dies

We're sad to report that Frank Chew, Georgia Battlefields Association's treasurer from 2005 to 2015, died on 16 September. Sadly, his wife of 58 years, Mary Anne, died just a month prior. Frank was an effective treasurer for GBA and a number of other non-profit organizations, but he was an even better colleague and friend. For his full obituary, [click here](#).

Photo at right: Then GBA treasurer Frank Chew and now GBA president Joe Trahan at the Savannah History Museum in 2012.



Return to Chickamauga: Georgia Battlefields Association annual tour 27-30 March 2025

While Georgia Battlefields Association (GBA) generally disdains counterfactual (What if...?) history, imagine if the Confederate government, in the wake of the early July 1863 defeat at Gettysburg and the loss of Vicksburg and the whole army defending it, had decided the cause was lost and surrendered. The pantheon of victorious U.S. Army generals would surely have included U.S. Grant and George Meade, but Sherman and Sheridan would not have made the top tier. Instead, the top three would likely have included William Rosecrans. While Vicksburg and Gettysburg dominated the headlines of late June and early July, Rosecrans had successfully maneuvered Bragg's army out of central Tennessee in what was termed the Tullahoma campaign. He did so without the considerable U.S. casualties of the Gettysburg and Vicksburg campaigns, and he was approaching the key Confederate transportation hub of Chattanooga. Rosecrans resented the lack of praise for his achievement, remarking that a high casualty count was not generally considered an indicator of a successful campaign.

Back to reality: The Confederate government did not surrender in July 1863, and Rosecrans went on to lead the Army of the Cumberland to the capture of Chattanooga on 9 September 1863; but our perception of Rosecrans is forever influenced by what happened over the next several weeks, when he fled the field during the Battle of Chickamauga and allowed his army to become almost surrounded and starved in Chattanooga.

GBA's annual tour last focused on Chickamauga in 2013, when incomparable historian Jim Ogden led us on a three-day tour that, unlike many Chickamauga tours, included the context of the U.S. Army's approach to the Chattanooga area, the Confederate withdrawal, and the reinforcement (from both east and west) of Bragg's army that contributed to Confederate success at Chickamauga, the only major victory for the Confederacy in the western theater.

Our perception at the end of the 2013 tour was we had provided important and frequently less covered events during the lead-up to the battle but left perhaps too little time to cover the combat of 19-20 September. Consequently, our 2025 tour will be four days instead of three. What follows is Jim Ogden's plan for the tour.

Thursday, March 27: We'll spend the day looking at William Rosecrans' late August and early September approach to Chattanooga. We go west and see Rosecrans' supply railhead at Stevenson and Bridgeport, Alabama, and river crossing sites at Bridgeport and Battle Creek (South Pittsburg, Tennessee), and then emulate George Thomas' Fourteenth Corps' climb over first Sand and then Lookout Mountain that helped force Braxton Bragg to abandon Chattanooga. We will then visit sites associated with Bragg's counteroffensive efforts against elements of the wide-spread Army of the Cumberland, most specifically in McLemore's Cove.

Friday, March 28: We'll spend Friday morning looking at sites associated with the events of September 18, 1863 (also a Friday), when Bragg yet again made an effort to strike Rosecrans. Ringgold, Leet's Tanyard, Alexander's Bridge, Reed's Bridge, and the fateful

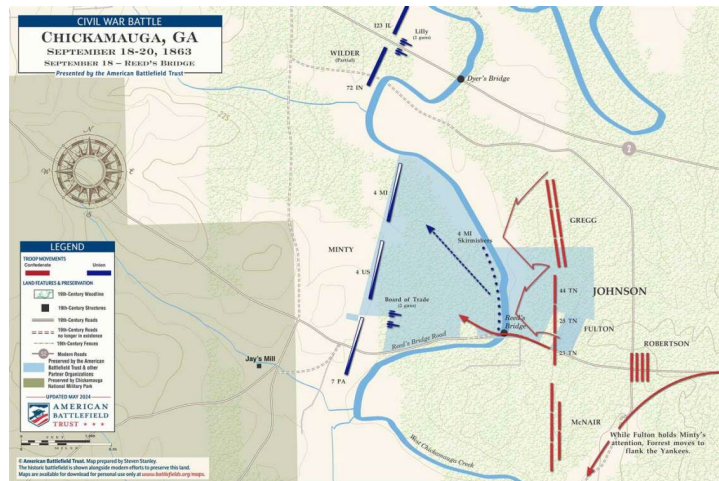
crossroads at Jay's Mill will all be visited, all important sites of Chickamauga's real first day. In the afternoon we will begin the discussion of the events of September 19, returning to Jay's Mill before moving on to Winfrey Field, Brock Field, and more.

Saturday, March 29: The morning of this day will be spent looking at some of the final actions of September 19, including those at Viniard Field before transitioning to some of the sites associated with events of the night of September 19 and the pre-dawn hours of September 20. In the afternoon we will look at the opening Confederate attacks on September 20 on the Confederate right, including those of John Breckinridge, Patrick Cleburne, and Alexander Stewart.

Sunday, March 30: This final morning of the tour will focus on the deciding actions of the battle—Rosecrans' ill-considered order, Longstreet's attack, the collapse of the Union right, and Thomas' stand on Snodgrass Hill.

Georgia Battlefields Association helped American Battlefield Trust acquire properties in the area of Reed's Bridge, which was not included in the park boundaries despite the action there.

See area highlighted in light blue on the map at right.



Tour administrative details

Guide: Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park historian Jim Ogen.

Price: As with our 2024 tour, this will be a three-and-a-half-day tour: All day Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, plus Sunday morning. The **price of \$580** includes bus transportation, handouts, three lunches and three dinners (Thursday through Saturday). If you can't join us for whole tour, send an e-mail (be sure to include your phone number) to info@georgiabattlefields.org, and we will correspond with you about a reduced price.

Registration: Register online using [this link](#). Alternatively, you can mail a check to Georgia Battlefields Association at 315 S. 5TH ST, Griffin GA 30224-4343.

Hotel: TownePlace Suites, 6801 Ringgold Rd, East Ridge TN 37412, 423 933 2700. GBA rate for a king room is \$125 (\$147 if you include the unavoidable tax) per night. Queen double is \$135 (\$160) per night. Price includes breakfast. To book online, use [this link](#). Note that online booking will be unavailable after 25 February 2025 (one month before the tour begins).

Schedule

Wednesday, 26 March 2025: GBA representatives will be in the hotel lobby Wednesday evening to hand out materials and answer questions. Dinner on your own.

Medal of Honor events in Chattanooga

GBA's [August newsletter](#) reported on the award of the Medal of Honor to two soldiers, Philip Shadrach and George Wilson, who participated in the Andrews Raid. From noon to 2 p.m. on 13 October, the [Medal of Honor Heritage Center](#) will host a discussion of how the efforts to gain approval of the awards eventually succeeded. At 3:30 p.m. at Chattanooga National Cemetery, Shadrach and Wilson will receive new headstones acknowledging their medals.

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