

G E O R G I A

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

Update on Southwest Atlanta Property along Utoy Creek

Progress is being made towards preservation of the SW Atlanta property that was one of the Civil War Preservation Trust's Ten Most Endangered Sites for 2002. (See previous articles in March and April 2002 newsletters.) A broad coalition of preservation groups, neighborhood associations, foundations, and environmental organizations is working to save the site.

The appraised value of the property is \$2.65 million. The Arthur M. Blank Foundation has pledged \$1 million towards the purchase, and City of Atlanta allocations (from the Greenway Acquisition Project, Greenspace Program, and Quality of Life Improvements Bond) will add as much as \$1.2 million. Even if the current landowner (Cascade Partners) agrees to the price, over \$400,000 must be raised. **GBA has pledged \$10,000** and hopes its members and other groups will do what they can to save this property. If you'd like to contribute, send your check to GBA Treasurer Art Carey at 2331 Fireside Ct, Jonesboro GA 30236-2671, and write "SW Atlanta" or "Utoy Creek" at the bottom of the check. Thanks for your help.

Update on Rome's Fort Attaway Site

The situation at Fort Attaway was first covered in the April *Georgia Battlefields*. Landowner David Fowler, Jr.'s efforts to save the site were also the subject of a 1 July article in the *Atlanta Journal Constitution*. Fowler has established the Fort Attaway Preservation Society with the objective not only of preventing relocation of the rail line closer to the fort but also preserving the site, offering it for public viewing, and recovering any artifacts. Contact the Society at 1202 DeSoto Ave, Rome GA 30165, or 706 234 0537, or fort_attaway@bellsouth.net.

The site's value apparently persuaded the State Historic Preservation Office, which is planning to ask the Department of Transportation to consider alternative routings of the rail line. While victory for preservation—and for David Fowler, Jr.—is not assured, the prospects are improving.

Texas monument planned for Allatoona Pass battlefield

Three men are leading an effort to place a monument to the Texans who fought at Allatoona Pass: Thomas "Clay" Williams of Abilene, Chuck Carlock of Dallas, and Jim Dale of Waleska, Georgia, plan to dedicate the monument on October 5th, the 138th anniversary of the battle. Speaking at the dedication will be Carlock, a historian and author (of *Firebirds*, which recounts his experiences in a helicopter gunship unit in Vietnam), and Guy Parmenter, president of the Etowah Valley Historical Society (www.evhsociety.org) and familiar to Georgia preservationists for his efforts to save the battlefield. The Army Corps of Engineers has given permission for the monument to be placed, and a contract has been let with a Marietta firm to carve the monument from Texas granite. The characteristic pink granite monuments honoring Texas units are already in evidence on battlefields across the South: You can see the monument to Granbury's brigade on the west side of Cheatham Hill Road in Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park.

The Confederate division attacking Allatoona Pass contained a Mississippi brigade, a Missouri brigade, and a brigade of four Texas and two North Carolina regiments, commanded by Brigadier General William H. Young, who was wounded and captured. The 10th Texas Cavalry (Dismounted)—one of the regiments attacking the star fort—was the subject of a unit history by Mr. Carlock, and Mr. Dale aided in the research for the book. Carlock's book inspired Williams to honor the Texas regiments in which his ancestors served, and he was further motivated during a visit to Allatoona Pass when he saw the Missouri monument, carved and dedicated last year (see October and January 2001 newsletters).

The Allatoona Texas Monument Campaign is accepting tax-deductible donations through the Etowah Valley Historical Society. Send contributions to Michael Garland, Treasurer, EVHS, P.O.Box 1886, Cartersville GA 30102. Write "for Texas monument" at the bottom of the check.

Civil War Commission elects officers for new fiscal year

The Georgia Civil War Commission, chartered by the General Assembly in 1993 to coordinate Civil War site preservation and heritage tourism, elected new officers at its 9 July meeting, the first meeting of state fiscal year 2003 (1 July 2002 – 30 June 2003).

- Chair Mary Alice Alexander - Secretary Kelly Barrow
- Vice chair Dan Childs - Treasurer Mauriel Joslyn

All are current commission members and established preservationists.

Industry, Trade & Tourism may drive trails coordination

Also at the 9 July meeting of the Georgia Civil War Commission, the Department of Industry, Trade & Tourism (ITT) representative (Fay Tripp of the Tourism Division) expressed concern about potential confusion resulting from ITT's attempts to market two, separate Civil War trail systems. (The separate trails efforts were covered most recently in last month's newsletter.) Tripp outlined the problem succinctly: "The Tourism Division markets to the public, and if the public is confused by multiple trails, they'll go elsewhere. The best approach is not to have duplicate trails." After discussion, the Civil War Commission agreed that ITT should host a meeting with the objective of helping the state develop a single, comprehensive message for marketing its Civil War attractions. While the new leadership of the GCWC (see item above) will determine its approach to the meeting, Tommy Barber (Chair at the time of the discussion) said that all relevant organizations—including GCWHT—should be invited to attend.

From a preservation standpoint, trails have never been an objective by themselves: Rather, they are a way to increase awareness of historic sites and thereby bolster support for preservation. Since negotiations to coordinate the different trails efforts have been stalled for over a year, ITT's initiative may not succeed. Still, GBA welcomes this breakthrough and will help in whatever way it can to prevent duplicate demands upon limited preservation resources.

Georgia Battlefields Association web site updated

GBA's web site (www.georgiabattlefields.org) has been updated. Familiar features—such as membership applications, links to related web sites, a newsletter archive, and a calendar of coming events—remain; but you'll also find an updated listing of Civil War Round Tables in Georgia, a review of GBA's activities, information on our tours with Ed Bearss, and more photos. As always, the web site was revised at no charge by Linda Woodward Geiger, who donates her time and talent so that funds stay in the preservation coffers. To see more examples of her work, visit www.woodward-geiger.com. Let us know (using the "contact us" feature) if you have comments on the web site or events you'd like us to include on the calendar.

Ed Bearss will lead GBA tour in February 2003

Georgia Battlefields Association is fortunate that Ed Bearss, the nation's premier battlefield guide, has agreed to lead another tour to raise money for battlefield preservation. As usual, Ed asks only that his expenses be reimbursed and is not receiving a fee for his inimitable services.

This tour will cover Georgia sites associated with Jefferson Davis's attempt to escape and with Wilson's Raid. The two events come together nicely, as troops under Wilson's command captured Davis near Irwinville on 10 May 1865. Tour headquarters will likely be Macon. Watch for details in coming newsletters and on the GBA web site.

Georgia Battlefields Association
2331 Fireside Court
Jonesboro GA 30236-2671

www.georgiabattlefields.org

August 2002

Address correction requested
Return postage guaranteed