

# GEORGIA

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# BATTLEFIELDS

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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](mailto:info@georgiabattlefields.org)

## **Bulldozers destroy earthworks near Rocky Face Ridge**

On 6 January, a preservation-minded individual was driving through Mill Creek Gap and noticed bulldozers at work at the base of Rocky Face Ridge. Knowing that Civil War earthworks were in the area, he stopped to see what the bulldozers were doing. Sadly, the logging-related operation had already destroyed six artillery revetments and most of the rifle pits dug by Federal forces during their 8-9 May 1864 operations against the Confederates in Mill Creek Gap and on Rocky Face Ridge. The bulldozer operators were totally unaware of the significance of the ground.

All preservation groups have encountered property owners who willfully destroy earthworks, often because the owners fear restrictions on their plans for the land. Perhaps more often, we encounter owners who are unaware that their land has historic value: They may have inherited or bought it recently, and the damage is done before those who are aware of the historic value can intercede. Since we don't know which is the case in this instance, this article hasn't specified the location or identified the landowner. The destruction may have been unintentional, but the end result is that the earthworks are gone forever.

This incident reinforces GBA's nomination of Rocky Face Ridge South as a endangered site. Our hope is that awareness of the historic value of and the developing threat to this area will prevent destruction of the many trenches and artillery positions on the slopes of the ridge. The same danger exists for the Confederate earthworks in the Crow Valley area to the northeast. Even though Dalton-area groups and governments have been in the forefront of preservation efforts, the amount of historic land and the demonstrated threat make this a never-ending battle.

## **Greenspace Program saves historic sites great and small**

Since it was signed into law in April 2000, the Georgia Greenspace Program has helped save battlefields through protection of historic resources, one of its specific objectives. The full program is described on the state web site [www.state.ga.us/dnr/greenspace/description.html](http://www.state.ga.us/dnr/greenspace/description.html).

Previous issues of *Georgia Battlefields* have recounted cases of the program's success, including Kolb Farm Fourth Corner and Southwest Atlanta trenches. The program also works in less noted ways. For example, Bartow County's first purchase under the Greenspace Program was the site of Spring Bank, the home of Charles W. Howard, an educator, clergyman, and writer. Howard came to what was then called Cass County in the 1830s, bought 800 acres north of Kingston, and opened a school that operated into the 20<sup>th</sup> Century. Howard's daughter Frances was at Spring Bank when Federal troops arrived in May 1864. Her first hand account of this experience and the effect of the war on the civilian populace was published as *In and Out of the Lines*, which can be purchased through the Etowah Valley Historical Society's web site [www.evhsociety.org](http://www.evhsociety.org).

After the war, Spring Bank was briefly the residence of E.B.D. Julio, whose painting "The Last Meeting of Lee and Jackson" is one of the world's most reproduced artworks. Julio arrived at Spring Bank in summer 1879 in an effort to regain his health, but he died there only weeks later at age 36 and is buried in the Howard family cemetery. Though completed in 1869, Julio's famous painting was unsold at the time of his death. It was sold to settle his estate and was acquired in 1992 by the Museum of the Confederacy in Richmond ([www.moc.org/history/GENERAL.PDF](http://www.moc.org/history/GENERAL.PDF)). The painting itself has been the subject of articles and books, such as Estill C. Pennington's *The Last Meeting's Lost Cause* (1988).

Although Spring Bank burned in 1974, the land still contains the family cemetery, a gristmill, one of the largest and oldest oak trees in the state, and the spring for which the house was named.

While the Greenspace Program has proven popular with county governments, preservationists, environmentalists, and several other constituencies, it is not immune from the considerable pressures on the state budget. In his 15 January budget proposal, Governor Perdue cut 50% from funding for the Greenspace Program. What the General Assembly will do is unknown.

## **Old Clinton preservationist Anne Hamilton dies**

Anne Hamilton, who was instrumental in preserving Old Clinton (about ten miles northeast of Macon), died on 9 January. Mrs. Hamilton was born in Jones County and lived there all her 84 years. After retiring from teaching, she helped found the Old Clinton Historical Society and was active in preservation work for decades. For example, she obtained listing of Old Clinton in the National Register of Historic Places, organized purchase of several of the oldest buildings, and influenced the Georgia Department of Transportation to route US129 around rather than through the historic town. Longtime GBA member Anne Hamilton was a great preservationist, and we'll miss her. Please make donations in her name to Old Clinton Historical Society, c/o Kathy Ross, 170 Rudolph Street, Gray GA 31032.

## **Andersonville's Drummer Boy Museum receives state aid**

The December 2002 *Georgia Battlefields* newsletter covered the plight of the Drummer Boy Museum in Andersonville. Among other Civil War items, the museum contains 15 complete, original uniforms, including those for both Confederate and Federal drummer boys. The One Georgia Authority, a state program designed to address the economic development needs of rural areas, announced on 16 December that it will award \$500,000 to the City of Andersonville to purchase the collection. The grant announcement mentioned the museum's historic importance and cited the museum as the anchor for ten other tourist-related businesses.

## **Georgia Civil War Commission begins quarterly newsletter**

The Georgia Civil War Commission has begun publication of a quarterly newsletter. Commissioner Dan Childs, formerly president and newsletter editor for Georgia Battlefields Association, puts together the information about Commission activities and preservation efforts throughout the southeastern U.S. While there will be some overlapping coverage with the GBA newsletter, there will also be unique items in each publication. To receive the Commission's newsletter, contact Barry Brown at 404 657 7294 or [barry\\_brown@dnr.state.ga.us](mailto:barry_brown@dnr.state.ga.us).

## **Last chance to sign up for annual Ed Bearss GBA tour**

GBA is fortunate to have the nation's premier battlefield tour guide at our service again this year. For most of you, Ed Bearss is a familiar figure. For those of you who have never gone on a tour with Ed, you have missed an opportunity to learn history in the most enlightening and agreeable way. As usual, Ed accepts no fee, so all the profit goes to GBA's site preservation fund.

Guide: Ed Bearss, Chief Historian Emeritus, National Park Service.

Headquarters: LaQuinta Inn, 3944 River Place Dr, Macon GA 31210. Rate is \$70 per night.

Call 800 531 5900 or 478 475 0206. Mention GBA confirmation number 94146049.

Cost: \$295 to GBA members.

Schedule:

Feb 20 – Evening reception for Ed Bearss at LaQuinta Inn.

Feb 21 – Bus to Andersonville and Columbus. Sit down dinner at Sidney Lanier House.

Feb 22 – Bus trip along Davis's escape route, including Irwinville.

Reception at Cannonball House. Buffet dinner at Hay House.

Feb 23 – Bus to Milledgeville, Griswoldville, Old Clinton. Finish by noon.

Sign up or more information:

Elaine Rivers, 1028 Boston Ridge, Woodstock GA 30189. 770 592 5611, or [rivers.2@juno.com](mailto:rivers.2@juno.com).

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