

# 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)

## Where do you want to go with Ed Bearss in 2004?

GBA is grateful for the many positive comments about the February 2003 tour of central Georgia sites led by the incomparable Ed Bearss. Not only are the tours eminently enjoyable, they also raise money for site preservation. We've already received some suggestions for next year's tour:

- ??Port Royal, Honey Hill, and Charleston, with Hilton Head as the probable tour HQ.
- ??Revolutionary War sites: Cowpens, King's Mountain, Ninety Six, Kettle Creek.
- ??Cavalry operations around Atlanta: Moore's Bridge, Brown's Mill, Sunshine Church, King's Tanyard, Lovejoy's Station.
- ??The Approach to Atlanta, including Dalton area sites (Tunnel Hill, Prater's Mill, Crow Valley, Rocky Face Ridge, Dug Gap), Resaca, Cassville, Adairsville, Allatoona, New Hope Church, Pickett's Mill, Dallas, Pine Mountain, Gilgal Church, and Kennesaw Mountain.

While any of these tours would be good, we'd like to hear your ideas. Contact Charlie Crawford at [info@georgiabattlefields.org](mailto:info@georgiabattlefields.org) or at 1598 E. Nancy Creek Dr., Atlanta GA 30319-1731.

## Cobb County trenches may be next preservation opportunity

While the Confederate defenses of the Chattahoochee River crossings—"Johnston's River Line"—have received publicity over the last few years, the Federal works built to oppose the River Line have received less notice. That may change as the Georgia Civil War Commission and Cobb County organizations attempt to save some impressive remnants of the Federal works. At least four segments of the Federal line remain between Buckner Road and Nickajack Creek. Two segments contain artillery positions, probably those for the 10<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> Ohio batteries as they faced the Confederate River Line from 4 to 10 July 1864.

Although all four parcels have been affected by the building of adjacent houses in the last few years, some of the earthworks are in a fair state of preservation. A segment containing artillery revetments is in a parcel that appears to qualify as wetland and is unlikely to be developed. Another segment of about 20 acres has been placed under protection of a trust for two years, and the Civil War Commission will be offered first right of refusal when the trust expires. A third segment, which contains the other battery site, is littered with trash and a rusted car and also straddles a property line. The fourth parcel has trenches on 6 of its 16 acres, and it now has a sign that indicates 12 new homes are coming soon.

Saving sites in suburban Atlanta is always a difficult and expensive proposition. The Civil War Commission has contacted the American Battlefield Protection Program to see if federal funds might help acquire any of the parcels. Georgia Battlefields Association hopes to help the Commission save some of these earthworks.

## Bob Price recognized for saving Southwest Atlanta trenches

As reported in the December 2002 newsletter, a Southwest Atlanta parcel containing extensive Federal trenches along Utoy Creek was bought by the City of Atlanta. In recognition of his role in saving the site, Georgia Civil War Commission consultant Bob Price will receive the Historic Preservation Division's Preservation Achievement award in a ceremony at 3 p.m. on 9 May in the Capitol Education Center Building at the corner of Central and Mitchell Streets in Atlanta.

## 2004 budget includes \$10 million for Greenspace Program

The state fiscal year 2004 budget that passed on 25 April, the last day of the General Assembly, includes \$10 million for the Georgia Community Greenspace Program. In fiscal year 2003, the Program was allocated \$30 million in the original budget but received no funding in the mid-year adjustment. These reductions are likely to adversely affect preservation since Greenspace money has been used in some cases (notably Whitfield and Cobb Counties) to buy Civil War sites.

## History and Historical Tourism Commission issues final report

The Governor's Commission on Georgia History and Historical Tourism, established in late 2001 by Governor Barnes, conducted research and held meetings throughout the state during 2002 and issued its final report in February 2003. Many people familiar to the preservation community were members of the Commission. The report was released in February so that it would be available for the General Assembly. Unfortunately, GBA finds no evidence that it positively influenced the fiscal year 2004 budget. Full information about the Commission, its membership, its meetings, and a copy of the report are available at [www.gahistory.uga.edu](http://www.gahistory.uga.edu).

The Commission necessarily considered preservation-related issues since historic sites must be preserved in order for them to attract tourists—i.e., if there's nothing to see, people won't come to look. Further, visits to historic sites increase appreciation for them, and this results in more support for preservation.

The report lists 55 recommendations, 14 of which “deserve special and immediate attention.” Some recommendations involve little state spending, while others involve a lot, though any recommendation that increases state spending is especially unwelcome given the current budget problems. Among the recommendations most relevant for GBA:

- ?Develop a long-range plan to promote heritage knowledge, preservation, and tourism.
- ?Encourage better cooperation among relevant public and private agencies.
- ?Develop a coordinated system of historic sites, repositories, and museums.
- ?Preserve public records and artifacts.
- ?Improve stewardship of state-owned historic resources.
- ?Provide adequate and stable funding to the historic marker program. (See Nov 2002 newsletter.)
- ?Improve history education.
- ?Better utilize existing revenue sources (such as the federal TEA-21 program) to (among other things) purchase Civil War battlefields.

Governments are increasingly held to the business-like standard of showing a return on “investments”—i.e., spending. This is especially true when revenues are down and budgets are tight. The report addressed this issue by attempting to place a value on historical tourism. David Sutton of the University of Georgia's Carl Vinson Institute of Government writes in a report appendix that such calculations are difficult to test for statistical validity. Still, citing Georgia Department of Industry, Trade & Tourism figures, Sutton indicates tourism is a \$16.1 billion industry that provides about 200,000 jobs and generates \$645 million in tax revenue yearly.

In January, at the unveiling of the latest edition of the state's travel guide, former President and Governor Jimmy Carter said Georgia needs to be more competitive in attracting tourists. Carter mentioned that, 12 years ago, Georgia was second only to Florida among Southeastern states in spending to attract tourists. Now, Georgia is last, and Carter urged Governor Perdue and the General Assembly to increase spending to attract visitors. For 2003, the Georgia Department of Industry, Trade & Tourism has a budget of \$4,700,000, but only \$600,000 is to promote tourism.

The value of historical tourism can be estimated but never known precisely. Consequently, the return on investment in attracting tourists cannot be calculated with confidence and will always be subject to suspicions about the objective of the person or group doing the calculating. Still, the value of historical sites is inestimable. How do we place a value on a place where an ancestor camped and marched and fought and died? How do we calculate what it means to us as a people to better understand our history by being able to visit the site where the history was made? By this measure, state spending on preservation always yields an incalculable return. If you agree, please contact your senator and representative and tell them you support preservation.

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