

# 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)

## **2004 tour with Ed Bearss will focus on Northwest Georgia**

Thanks to our members for their ideas on where to go with Ed Bearss on next year's Georgia Battlefields tour. The tours led by Ed have become an important fund raising vehicle for GBA, so we're especially mindful that the tours should go to sites that our members want to see. While we received good rationale for several tours (such as Port Royal & Charleston, Revolutionary War sites King's Mountain and Cowpens, etc.), the GBA trustees were ultimately persuaded by arguments to keep the tour in Georgia.

Though Ed often conducts tours of northwest Georgia, GBA intends to offer an intense examination of the Atlanta Campaign, visiting sites not usually (if ever) seen on other tours. We'll start at Ringgold and see where Andrews' Raid ended, Ringgold Gap, Catoosa Springs, Prater's Mill, Varnell, Crow Valley, Potato Hill, Dalton, Mill Creek Gap, Tunnel Hill, Dug Gap, Davis's Crossroads, Snake Creek Gap, and Resaca. While plans to develop Resaca as a historic site have been delayed by budget constraints, the State Parks & Historic Sites Division has agreed to provide GBA a guided tour of the property now owned by the state. This includes areas not normally accessible to individual visitors. Additionally, we'll visit privately owned sites. If time permits, we'll also visit Rome Crossroads, Adairsville and Cassville, though they may have to wait for the 2005 tour.

Our preliminary planning for 2005 envisions a tour of Rome, Kingston, Allatoona Pass, New Hope Church, Pickett's Mill, Dallas, the Brushy Mountain Line, Pine Mountain, Gilgal Church, Kennesaw Mountain, Smyrna, the River Line, and the crossings of the Chattahoochee. We hope this approach will provide a fuller understanding of the campaign, rather than attempting to go from Chattanooga to Atlanta in one tour.

The 2004 tour will be scheduled for late March (instead of late February as in 2002 and 2003), so we hope for less chance of cold or damp weather. We'll provide more details on tour dates and the host hotel in coming newsletters and on our web site.

## **Utoy Creek ceremony set for 28 June**

A ceremony to celebrate the preservation of Federal trenches near Utoy Creek is currently scheduled for 10 a.m. on Saturday, 28 June. The parcel of just over 100 acres was bought principally with money from the City of Atlanta and the Arthur M. Blank Family Foundation. (See newsletters of March, April, August, September, and December 2002.) Scheduling of the ceremony has been complicated by the organizers' desire to have Arthur Blank and Atlanta Mayor Shirley Franklin attend, so the date cannot be considered firm as of this writing.

After the ceremony, attendees will have the opportunity to take tours of the earthworks. Bob Price, a Georgia Civil War Commission consultant who greatly facilitated the preservation process, will guide participants to the trench lines, built by the Union XIV Corps in August 1864. The site is in southwest Atlanta, just west of Westview Cemetery. Easiest access is off Flamingo Drive, where Willis Mill Road becomes the Lionel Hampton Bike Path.

## **David Cason: One man making a difference**

David Cason is familiar to those who remember the effort to save the Griswoldville battlefield. Mr. Cason's contribution kicked off the fund raising for Griswoldville, and he contributed more money when the effort appeared to be falling short. The happy result was the November 1998 dedication of a state historic site. Most recently, David Cason has donated money to restore a Confederate battle flag. The flag has been shipped from Thomaston to a firm in Maryland and will return to the Upson Historical Society when restoration is complete.

A retired teacher, David Cason inspires us all with his dedication to preservation. GBA is proud to have him as a member.

## Civil War Commission selects officers for coming year

At its May meeting, the Georgia Civil War Commission elected officers for the 2004 state fiscal year (1 July 2003 – 30 June 2004). Continuing as chair is Mary Alice Alexander. Returning to the treasurer position is current vice chair Dan Childs. Mauriel Joslyn, the current treasurer, will become vice chair. The new secretary will be Jack Swertfeger.

The Commission has 15 members, with the governor, lieutenant governor, and speaker of the house each appointing five. As shown below, commissioners come from several areas of the state.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Residence</u>	<u>Appointed by</u>
Mary Alice Alexander, Chair	Atlanta	Governor
Dan Childs, Treasurer	Loganville	Governor
Charles Elmore	Savannah	Governor
Valeria MacPhail	Roswell	Governor
Phil Secrist	Kennesaw	Governor
Tommy Barber	Duluth	Lt Governor
Karl Barnes	Atlanta	Lt Governor
Kelly Barrow	Zebulon	Lt Governor
Marla Bexley	Stone Mountain	Lt Governor
Eunice Mixon	Tifton	Lt Governor
Todd Groce	Savannah	Speaker of the House
Gene Hatfield	Jonesboro	Speaker of the House
Mauriel Joslyn, Vice chair	Sparta	Speaker of the House
Jack Swertfeger, Secretary	Atlanta	Speaker of the House
Susan Vaughn	Conyers	Speaker of the House

## Civil War Commission exits from trails effort

GBA newsletters over the last three years have covered the multiple Civil War trails efforts in Georgia. One initiative by the Georgia Civil War Commission envisioned two demonstration trails: One largely through Cobb County (Sandtown March Trail) and the other from Macon to Ball's Ferry. For a variety of reasons, the Commission has abandoned this initiative and plans to redirect the remaining trails funds towards: purchase of a house used as a headquarters and a hospital in Cobb County; and exhibits on Ball's Ferry and Griswoldville in a new museum planned for Macon's Cannonball House.

The Commission's exit from trails resolves at least in part the potential for confusion resulting from multiple driving trails. Some trails efforts—such as Northwest Georgia's Blue & Gray Trail and the Athens area Heartland of the Confederacy Trails—cover parts of Georgia and include brochures and directional signs, but the remaining statewide system is being developed by Georgia's Civil War Heritage Trails, Inc. ([www.gcwht.org](http://www.gcwht.org)). The GCWHT system will have its own site markers as well as directional signs, vehicle pull-offs, and brochures. The July 2002 newsletter (available on our web site, in case you can't find your copy) provides a longer review of driving trails in Georgia.

## Georgia Battlefields Association e-mail problem resolved

We apologize to those of you who had trouble e-mailing GBA at [info@georgiabattlefields.org](mailto:info@georgiabattlefields.org) for a few days in the middle of May. This was especially irksome since we've been asking our members to receive the newsletter and to contact us via e-mail to reduce our costs. The problem has been fixed, and we'll try to minimize any future inconvenience. Thanks for your patience.

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