

G E O R G I A

BATTLEFIELDS

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GBA nominates sites for most endangered list

Paulding County's "Hell Hole" nominated for ten most endangered category

GBA has nominated "The Hell Hole" area of Paulding County for the Civil War Preservation Trust's (CWPT) annual list of most endangered sites. In late May 1864, Federal armies under Major General William T. Sherman sought to get around the strong Confederate defenses anchored on Allatoona Pass. The Union forces crossed the Etowah River west of Allatoona and plunged into the wilderness that was then Paulding County. The resulting battles at New Hope Church (25 May), Pickett's Mill (27 May), and Dallas (28 May), the miserably wet weather, the tangled terrain, and the nearly continuous shelling and sniping caused those who lived through the action to call this area "The Hell Hole."

In the last decade, Paulding County has increasingly become a suburb of Atlanta. A July 2003 report by the U.S. Census Bureau indicated Paulding County led the state in percentage of new housing constructed (7.7%) and ranked fourth in the entire nation. While Pickett's Mill State Historic Site protects 750 acres of core battlefield, trenches immediately outside the Site have been bulldozed in the last five years. Although GBA owns 4 acres and the Atlanta History Center owns 14 acres of historic ground near New Hope Church, a new shopping center and road construction continue to alter the appearance of the principal site. Near Dallas, 20 acres containing Orphan Brigade trenches were saved through intervention by developer Ken Hardy and the City and County governments, but housing and road construction has destroyed other earthworks. (See June 2001 newsletter.) Near both New Hope Church and Dallas, well-preserved earthworks—including two artillery sites—are in private hands and remain vulnerable.

GBA is working with Friends of Civil War Paulding County to publicize the threat to these sites.

Brown's Mill and Cobb County Federal earthworks nominated as "At Risk" sites

The Civil War Preservation Trust's annual list of most endangered sites contains two categories: ten sites that are considered most endangered sites and fifteen sites that are at risk. For the 2003 list, the Hell Hole was in the at risk category. For the 2004 list, GBA has nominated two sites: Brown's Mill, site of a 31 July 1864 cavalry battle about three miles south of Newnan (see last month's newsletter); and southeastern Cobb County's Federal earthworks, constructed in early July 1864 to oppose Johnston's River Line (see May 2003 newsletter). For both sites, residential and commercial construction associated with Atlanta's growth is bringing renewed danger.

For the Brown's Mill site, GBA is working with the Coweta County Planning Department, the Georgia Civil War Commission, the Newnan-Coweta Historical Society, the Newnan Chapter of the United Daughters of the Confederacy, and David Evans, the premier historian of Federal cavalry operations during the Atlanta Campaign. For the Cobb County earthworks, GBA is working with the River Line Historic Area, the Georgia Civil War Commission, and Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park.

Nomination of the sites does not guarantee their inclusion on the most endangered list, but the more people and organizations that are aware of the threat to these historic properties, the better our chance of saving them.

CWPT's annual list of most endangered sites is normally announced in late February. The most current list is on CWPT's web site: www.civilwar.org/news/topten2003/introduction2003.htm

Macon's Cannonball House celebrates 150 years

In November, the historic Cannonball House (www.cannonballhouse.org) will be 150 years old. The November newsletter will have more information on the events marking this milestone, or contact the Cannonball House staff at 478 745-5982.

Another piece of Resaca battlefield saved

On 3 September, Friends of Resaca Battlefield (www.resacabattlefield.org) announced the acquisition of 65 more acres of the historic site. The Friends persuaded the Gordon County Board of Commissioners to commit \$133,000 in Greenspace funds towards the purchase price, and the Friends also obtained a \$62,000 grant from the Center for Civil War Living History.

The site is on a hill east of the town of Resaca and was called Camp Wayne when it was used as a Confederate training camp. Friends vice president Ken Padgett asserts that the site contains the only surviving entrenchments built by the Georgia Militia. After the Battle of Resaca (13-15 May 1864), Federal troops guarded the railroad and improved the fortifications. Artillery revetments are still identifiable. Like many Georgia sites, Camp Wayne is overgrown by dense foliage during the warmer months; but the Friends hope to build a walking trail within a year.

In 2000, the state government bought 500 acres of the Resaca battlefield after several years of efforts by the Friends of Resaca, Georgia Battlefields Association, the Georgia Civil War Commission, and concerned individuals. State plans for a historic site have been delayed by budget constraints, but a good part of the battlefield is saved. These continuing efforts by the Friends of Resaca Battlefield will help preserve more of the site.

2004 GBA tour with Ed Bearss update

As mentioned in the June newsletter, the 18-21 March 2004 GBA tour led by Ed Bearss will concentrate on Northwest Georgia, including Ringgold, Dalton, and Resaca. (See the adjoining article about more land being saved at Resaca.) Headquarters for the tour will be the Courtyard by Marriott at 411 Holiday Drive in Dalton (just north of Walnut Avenue, exit 333 off I-75). GBA has arranged a group rate of \$69 per night. Contact the hotel at 706 275 7215.

Breakfast is on your own, but most other meals (lunch and dinner on Friday and Saturday) are included in the tour price of \$295. To sign up for the tour, contact Olly Keller at 404 351 1211.

2004 Preservation Forum set for 26-27 February in Athens

The next Civil War site preservation forum sponsored by the Georgia Civil War Commission is scheduled for 26 and 27 February 2004 (Friday & Saturday) at the Foundry Street Ballrooms in Athens (www.classiccenter.com). Previous forums were held in February and November 2001.

The forum will again offer development unit credits to teachers. The Commission is preparing a list of topics and speakers. If you have suggestions, please call the Commission at 404 657 7294 or e-mail barry_brown@dnr.state.ga.us.

***Crossroads of Conflict* guide being updated**

Crossroads of Conflict is a magazine format guide to Civil War sites in Georgia. Published by the Georgia Department of Natural Resources' Historic Preservation Division and the Georgia Department of Industry, Trade & Tourism's Tourism Division, the guide has gone through two editions, with the last being published in 1998 and stocks of both editions being exhausted. Since then, sites have been newly acquired or preserved (e.g., Resaca), markers have been relocated by road construction, phone numbers have moved to new area codes, web sites have been developed, etc. Consequently, the Georgia Civil War Commission members and staff are engaged in a comprehensive updating of the information in the guide. This involves revisiting most sites to confirm directions, mileage, marker locations, etc. Several people have asked when the guide might again become available, and the best estimate is sometime in mid to late 2004.

**Georgia Battlefields Association
2331 Fireside Court
Jonesboro GA 30236-2671**

www.georgiabattlefields.org

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