

# 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)

**This month, we've modified the format of the Georgia Battlefields newsletter because so many timely articles were competing for space. We hope you enjoy the expanded edition.**

## **Civil War Preservation Trust releases most endangered list**

On 24 February, the Civil War Preservation Trust (CWPT) announced its most endangered site list for 2004. GBA's nomination of the Hell Hole (Dallas, New Hope Church, Pickett's Mill) was accepted as one of the ten most endangered sites, while GBA-nominated Brown's Mill was among the 15 additional "at risk" sites. (See October 2003 newsletter.) View the entire report on CWPT's web site: [www.civilwar.org/endangerednews/report2004.pdf](http://www.civilwar.org/endangerednews/report2004.pdf).

Earlier in February, GBA coordinated a visit by CWPT's director of real estate Noah Mehrkam. Noah met with local preservation leaders in the areas around Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park, southeast Cobb County (Johnston's River Line and opposing Federal earthworks), Paulding County sites near New Hope Church and Dallas, and the Brown's Mill cavalry battle site in Coweta County. The reception at each location was enthusiastic, and we hope this visit and the publicity generated by the release of CWPT's annual most endangered list will result in more awareness of Civil War sites in Georgia and funding to preserve them.

## **Next round of Chickamauga transportation study meetings**

GBA was represented on the 2 February Transportation Study Stakeholder Participation Panel. (See January 2004 newsletter.) The panel reviewed improvement strategies in four categories:

- North-south mobility and connectivity to Chattanooga (9 strategies)
- East-west mobility and mobility within Fort Oglethorpe (5 strategies)
- Gateway linkages between the battlefield and surrounding areas (7 strategies), and
- Battlefield visitor experience and operational improvements (14 strategies)

The strategies were evaluated for safety, cost, economic impact, etc. Discussion of the strategies raised many of the same points from previous meetings. Consequently, participants were invited to submit written comments, which GBA did on 24 February. A memorandum describing the reviewed strategies evaluation matrix will be available around 1 March on the study web site. ([www.dot.state.ga.us/dot/plan-prog/planning/studies/chickamauga\\_study/index.shtml](http://www.dot.state.ga.us/dot/plan-prog/planning/studies/chickamauga_study/index.shtml)) The draft final report will be available on the web site around 20 March, and a final public open house is scheduled for 5 p.m. on 30 March at Constitution Hall in Fort Oglethorpe. The study's final recommendations should help bolster those seeking to improve both traffic and the park.

## **GBA tour led by Ed Bearss tour is full**

Even though we added a second bus, GBA's 2004 tour of Ringgold, Dalton, and Resaca-area sites led by Ed Bearss is again sold out. Thanks for the great response. Whatever profit we make will go towards saving battlefields in Georgia.

## **Cooperation saves unique Cobb County fortification**

At a 20 January rezoning hearing, the Smyrna City Council voted to save a historic site in southeast Cobb County. The site contains the remnants of a Shoupade, a unique fortification named after its designer, Confederate Brigadier General Francis Shoup. In June 1864, Shoup used slaves to build the earthworks subsequently known as Johnston's River Line, which was occupied by Confederate troops in early July. The Shoupade on this site was part of the original line, before Johnston directed Shoup to extend the works to cover the Mayson-Turner Ferry.

The site is now surrounded by land that will be developed into condominiums, single-family homes, and soccer fields by The Columns Group, Inc. The Columns Group was amenable to preserving the fortification and had paid for a cultural resource assessment of the site. While The Columns Group will proceed with the development, it will protect the Shoupade with a fence and donate the parcel on which it sits to the city of Smyrna.

Prior to the rezoning hearing, GBA sent the Smyrna City Council a letter requesting that the Shoupade be protected. The Georgia Civil War Commission provided a similar letter, but the bulk of the credit for saving the site goes to the mayor and council members, the developer, and the River Line Historic Area's Roberta Cook, who organized the effort.

## **Cobb County's Wallis House saved**

With cooperation from the Georgia Civil War Commission and Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park, Cobb County purchased the historic Wallis House at the end of December 2003. Commissioner Helen Goreham, a principal in the Kolb Farm Coalition (see December 2002 newsletter) before her election, was a strong advocate of the purchase. Cobb County will hold the property until Congress authorizes the National Park Service to accept the property. When funds become available, the Park Service will restore the house and interpret the site.

While the Federal and Confederate armies sparred in Cobb County in June 1864, the Wallis House served as both a hospital and a headquarters. The house remained in the hands of descendants of the wartime owners until the sale. The historic marker at the house can be seen at [www.cviog.uga.edu/Projects/gainfo/gahistmarkers/oohowardshqshistmarker.htm](http://www.cviog.uga.edu/Projects/gainfo/gahistmarkers/oohowardshqshistmarker.htm).

## **Kennesaw Mountain surrounded by development**

The Planning Commission (on 3 Feb) and the City Council (on 11 Feb) of Marietta approved an application to annex and rezone 14 acres east of Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park (KMNBP). The developer plans to build 32 houses, some within 30 feet of a park hiking trail. Park Superintendent John Cissell believes—and the developer's plans show—the site will be clear-cut, thus severely affecting the park's viewshed and the trail's safety and ambience.

Further, the Hays Farm is likely to suffer a similar fate. The Hays Farm abuts the western boundary of KMNBP on the north side of Dallas Highway. Despite National Park Service (NPS) efforts to buy the property in the 1930s and 1960s and ongoing efforts by Superintendent Cissell, the current property owner is about to sell 60 acres to a developer.

Only the land within the Park boundary is safe from the continued development of Cobb County. Well into the 1970s—50 years after the park's establishment—the view from atop Kennesaw Mountain was mostly trees and fields. Now, it is mostly rooftops. Congress has severely restricted expansions of National Parks, in part to protect property rights and in part to save money, so the land around KMNBP is more and more developed. As the sites transition from open space to houses, the ability of park visitors to envision the 1864 scene is further reduced.

## **Governor's budget proposes revised Greenspace program**

Governor Perdue's FY 2005 budget proposes borrowing \$20 million for green space. The Governor had cut the remaining \$10 million from the previous Greenspace authorization because that money would have come from the state's general fund. Instead the Governor proposes to borrow the money for a revised program, in which the funds will not necessarily go to the fastest-growing counties. Also, greater emphasis will be placed on working with land trusts and foundations and on leveraging private donations.

The Governor will probably appoint an advisory panel to develop a statewide conservation plan and identify green spaces eligible for the revised program. Greenspace funds from the previous program were used to save Civil War sites. (See February 2003 newsletter.)

## **Governor's budget deletes funds for Civil War Commission**

Governor Perdue's proposed budget deletes all funds for the Georgia Civil War Commission, chartered by the 1993 General Assembly to coordinate Civil War preservation and education activities. In the last few years, the Commission has received around \$55,000 to pay for two part-time support staff, reimburse Commissioners' expenses when they attend meetings, buy land, stage the Civil War Forum (see February newsletter), etc. The budget proposes that even this small amount be deleted and any administrative support for the Commission be additional tasking for the Department of Natural Resources' Historic Preservation Division.

By charter, the Commission has 15 members, with the governor, lieutenant governor, and speaker of the house appointing 5 each. (See June 2003 newsletter.) Three commission members asked not to be reappointed when their terms expired at the end of June 2003: Those positions have remained vacant, reflecting the Commission's low priority and impeding its work since a full membership quorum (8 members) is required to conduct business requiring a vote.

Georgia Battlefields Association was established in 1995 as a private, non-profit group to do some of the work that the Civil War Commission was restricted from performing by law (April 2001 newsletter). Subsequent rulings by the Attorney General required a total separation of the two organizations' officers and funds, though we continue to work together. GBA believes this further reduction of state support for preservation will increase the vulnerability of historic sites.

## **Federal battlefield preservation spending reduced but alive**

The Fiscal Year (FY) 2004 federal budget passed in late January appropriates only \$2 million of the \$10 million authorized under the Civil War Battlefield Preservation Act of 2002 (see September 2003 newsletter). Still, this allows the American Battlefield Protection Program to grant money this year. Early drafts of the legislation zeroed out all funding for the program.

Also, the annual transportation appropriation retained its specification that some portion of the federal money allocated to the states for transportation be spent on preservation. Again, early drafts of the bill made no provision for dedicated preservation spending.

President Bush's FY 2005 budget proposal (released 2 February) includes \$5 million from the Land & Water Conservation Fund for the battlefield preservation program. Since 1998, Congress has appropriated \$21 million for this and its predecessor program. As usual, all the federal funds are provided as matching grants, meaning that an applying organization must first demonstrate the ability to raise the same amount of money it is requesting.

## **Atlanta Campaign: 140 years ago – March 1864**

Confederate: After losing a leg at Chickamauga, Gen John B. Hood recuperates in Richmond. On 1 March, he is promoted to lieutenant general and corps command in Gen Joe Johnston's Army of Tennessee. On 12 March, Johnston asks for the return of Gen William Hardee, who had been sent to Mississippi to resist Sherman's advance on Meridian. A late snow leads to a widespread snowball fight on 22 March, principally between Bate's and Stewart's divisions.

Federal: With many 3-year enlistments expiring in the coming summer, the War Department orders a furlough for every soldier who reenlists. On 3 March, Gen William T. Sherman is in New Orleans conferring with Gen Nathaniel Banks about the upcoming Red River Campaign. Sherman orders two divisions of the Army of the Tennessee to join Banks: When Banks' disastrous campaign lasts into late May, Sherman will regret not having these 10,000 men. Beginning 17 March, the IX Corps leaves Knoxville en route to the eastern theater, and the IV Corps leaves Knoxville for Cleveland, Tennessee, east of Chattanooga.

After a trip to Washington to receive his commission as lieutenant general and appointment as commander in chief of all Federal armies, U.S. Grant meets with Sherman on 18 March on a train from Nashville to Cincinnati. Grant reveals that he will move his headquarters to Virginia and appoint Sherman as commander of the Military Division of the Mississippi. On 30 March, Sherman meets in Chattanooga with commanders of his three subordinate armies.

## **Georgia Battlefields Association trustees hold annual meeting**

On 8 February, the GBA trustees held their annual meeting. While the trustees meet periodically and communicate often, we hold one general meeting each year, normally in January. The current slate of officers was re-elected: President Charlie Crawford, VP Olly Keller, Secretary Elaine Rivers, and Treasurer Art Carey. Also continuing as trustees are Charlie Geiger (past president), Valerie Lyons, and John White. Copies of the treasurer's report are available to GBA members by contacting Art Carey at the address shown at the bottom of the newsletter.

Despite a successful year of aiding other preservation organizations in a variety of projects, GBA has continuing issues of how to increase membership and how to better use those members who volunteer to help. Further, we are eager to help purchase endangered sites, though we (and our allied preservation organizations) are having difficulty finding willing landowners.

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