

GEORGIA

BATTLEFIELDS

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

Power line likely to avoid Resaca battlefield

The Tennessee Valley Authority announced on 21 December that it has chosen the route for the new power line in Whitfield and Gordon counties (November 2004 newsletter). The announced route has the least impact on the Resaca battlefield, though the lines are likely to be visible (to the east) from some parts of the field, especially in winter. Informal contact with TVA officials indicates they were surprised at the number of comments that opposed having the power line cross the battlefield. Thanks to all who took the time to respond. Friends of Resaca Battlefield, a partner with GBA, has more information on their web site: www.resacabattlefield.org.

Proposed state budget still short on preservation funding

The Georgia General Assembly opened its 2005 session on 10 January. The budget proposed by Governor Sonny Perdue was submitted to the legislature on 12 January. While the governor proposes to spend more money, preservation does not appear to be a priority.

One of the most visible and least expensive ways to renew preservation efforts would be to reopen the historical marker maintenance shop. Marker maintenance usually received around \$200,000 per year, but the shop was closed in October 2003 (November 2003 newsletter). Now, markers that are damaged or removed for road improvements are not reinstalled. About 20 markers are stored at the unstaffed maintenance shop, while another 25-30 are stored at facilities around the state. None will be reinstalled until funds are available, and the number will grow.

Please contact your legislators to support reopening the marker maintenance shop.

Growth of suburban Atlanta threatens Civil War sites

U.S. Census Bureau estimates of population growth indicate that four counties around Atlanta were among the ten fastest growing counties in the nation from mid 2000 to mid 2003. In percentage terms, Forsyth, Henry, Newton, and Paulding Counties were the 5th, 6th, 8th, and 9th fastest growing counties. Henry and Newton counties were the scene of cavalry actions during the Atlanta Campaign and were traversed by Sherman's columns during the March to the Sea. Paulding County witnessed heavy infantry fighting in late May 1864 with battles at New Hope Church, Pickett's Mill, and Dallas. This fighting and the threat of development earned the "Hell Hole" a spot on Civil War Preservation Trust's ten most endangered battlefields list for 2004.

Another measure of Georgia's urbanization came from the White House Office of Management and Budget, which designated seven new Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs) in Georgia based on the 2000 census. An MSA is a geographical area of one or more counties with an urbanized core of at least 50,000 residents. The same announcement added eight counties to the Atlanta MSA, which now totals 28 counties.

This is statistical confirmation of what the preservation community already knows: The growth of Atlanta and urbanization of Georgia is threatening Civil War sites that we hoped would be beyond development for years.

10-13 March GBA tour with Ed Bearss is filling up

To register for our next tour with Ed Bearss, you can e-mail info@georgiabattlefields.org; but your seat is confirmed only by sending a check for \$320 per person to GBA at 2331 Fireside Ct, Jonesboro GA 30236-2671. **Note: Each registrant must be a GBA member.**

Sites for the 2005 tour: Rome, Armuchee Creek, Adairsville, Kingston, Cassville, Cartersville, Etowah River sites, New Hope Church, Dallas, Pickett's Mill, and Allatoona Pass.

Hotel: Country Inn & Suites, just east of I-75 exit 290 near Cartersville. Rate for participants is \$65 for a standard room and \$85 for a suite. Breakfast is included. Call 770 386 5888.

GBA Board of Trustees annual meeting held 22 January

The Georgia Battlefields Association board of trustees held its annual meeting on 22 January. Three trustees had their terms expire in January: John White and Art Carey declined to run for reelection, while Charlie Geiger of Big Canoe was elected to another three-year term.

John White joined GBA's board shortly after retiring from Coca-Cola, but events conspired to keep him busy. Among other responsibilities, he served on the committee to select the current Coke CEO. Still, John contributed to GBA's preservation efforts and always provided wise counsel. Thanks to John for his service. See the next article for more about Art Carey.

To succeed Art, the board elected Frank Chew to be a trustee and treasurer. Originally from Macon, Frank has lived in Atlanta for almost 35 years and retired from Delta Air Lines as VP and treasurer. He has served on the boards of Woodruff Arts Center, Alliance Theater, and Atlanta Symphony Orchestra. We welcome Frank to the GBA board.

The trustees also discussed our continuing need for new members, a way to optimize the use of volunteers, and historic sites to buy. Coming newsletters will report on GBA's achievements and our plans for meeting our objectives.

GBA bids farewell to trustee Art Carey

GBA regrets to report the departure from our board of trustee Art Carey. Art has agreed to continue as treasurer through our tour led by Ed Bearss (10-13 March). Art stepped in as treasurer six years ago and has given exemplary service ever since. Our status as a tax exempt organization, our current registration as a corporation, and our healthy finances are his legacy.

Art retired from the Army as a colonel and in 2003 retired again from his job with the state of Georgia motor fuels division. Since then, he's been busier than ever, recently being elected VP of the local chapter of the Military Officers Association of America and also a member of his parish council, monitoring service to the needy both in his county and in Honduras. Thanks to Art for his service to GBA, his community, the state, and the nation. We wish him well.

GBA continues to raise awareness of need for preservation

GBA representatives frequently make presentations about and lead tours to Civil War sites. In every case, the primary objective is to make more people aware of the need to preserve the sites. On 6 January, we spoke at Heritage Sandy Springs about the Fall 1864 Campaign in northwest Georgia. On 29 January, we led a tour of Paulding County sites for the Civil War Preservation Trust Board of Trustees. From 10 January through 28 February, we're lecturing every Monday for Perimeter Adult Learning and Services on Georgia's role in the Civil War. On 7 March, we're leading a walking tour of the Peachtree Creek battlefield for the Atlanta Preservation Center.

Second Hell Hole symposium scheduled for 5 March

Friends of Civil War Paulding County (FOCWPC) will stage their second Hell Hole Symposium on 5 March 2005 at Chattahoochee Technical College auditorium off Highway 278 in Dallas. Invited speakers include Paul Bryant, Jr., former chairman of the Civil War Preservation Trust board of trustees; Sam Davis Elliott, biographer of General A.P. Stewart and president of Friends of Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park; Stephen Davis, historian and author of Atlanta Will Fall; and Charlie Crawford, president of Georgia Battlefields Association. Cost to attend is \$40 and includes lunch. For information or reservations, contact Norman Dasinger at 770 443 1459 or P.O. Box 861, Hiram GA 30141.

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