

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

Highlights from GBA's annual tour with Ed Bearss

From 10 to 13 March, Ed Bearss led his fourth annual tour for GBA. These tours have raised over \$20,000, and we hope to announce soon the results of ongoing negotiations to acquire sites. Below is a sampling of our stops at Cassville, New Hope Church, Pickett's Mill, Dallas, and Allatoona Pass. More photos are on our web site: www.georgiabattlefields.org/tours.htm.



Ed explains the battle that didn't happen at Cassville.



The group at GBA's New Hope Church property.



Ed leads the group—including Coach Dooley—into the ravine at Pickett's Mill.



Ed in full voice at the site of the Orphan Brigade charge east of Dallas.



Bill Scaife helps guide the group at Allatoona Pass.



A group photo before heading home.

Peachtree Creek twilight tour scheduled for 6 July

At the request of the Atlanta Preservation Center, GBA will lead a twilight tour of the core of the Peachtree Creek battlefield starting at 7 p.m. on 6 July. This follows last July's twilight tour that highlighted GBA's role in designing and funding two new historic markers relating to the Battle of Atlanta. See the Atlanta Preservation Center's web site www.preserveatlanta.com for more about the tour, and call 404 688 3350 to make reservations.

National Preservation Month gets publicity

May was National Preservation Month. The 8 May issue of *Parade* magazine ran a cover story, and you may have noticed more articles about preservation in the various media.

As part of preservation month, the third week of May was declared National Heritage Tourism Week, and the Civil War Preservation Trust (CWPT) released a report on heritage tourism. The report is titled *Blue, Gray, and Green: A Battlefield Benefits Guide for Community Leaders*. At the 2004 CWPT annual conference in Nashville, President Jim Lighthizer gave a preview of the report's findings (June 2004 newsletter), but the report provides detail and concrete suggestions.

David Peterson Associates conducted the study during 2003 and 2004. The conclusions resulted from hundreds of interviews and surveys at 13 battlefields, including Franklin, Shiloh, Corinth, Brice's Cross Roads, Mill Springs, Perryville, Wilson's Creek, and Port Hudson in the Western Theater. The survey data show the battlefields attract affluent, well-educated tourists who come specifically to visit historic sites. These tourists are likely to stay longer and spend more than the average visitor. The report quantifies the state and local taxes generated by the visitors and asserts that a new job is created for every 700 non-local visitors. The report also includes an index showing local decision makers how the economic factors may be applied when deciding whether to preserve battlefields or permit rezoning and development. The report is available at www.civilwar.org/news/append/BGG_2005_lowres.pdf.

At the press conference called to release the report, CWPT President Lighthizer emphasized that preservation produces continuing economic benefits at minimal cost, while development can bring benefits but only at substantial and often increasing cost (for roads, sewers, schools, etc.).

State preservation declaration not backed up by action

On 6 May, Governor Perdue proclaimed May as Historic Preservation Month in Georgia. The Georgia theme for 2005 is Historic Preservation Makes Heritage Tourism Possible. Tourism is a \$25 billion industry in Georgia, second only to agriculture. The heritage tourism theme echoes the findings of the annual state preservation conference held in Thomasville in early April.

While Georgia has many historic sites that could draw tourists, GBA finds it ironic that historic marker maintenance—a simple, relatively cheap (~\$200,000 per year) program that would help tourists find historic sites—has again been left out of the state budget for fiscal year 2006. About 50 markers are now in storage because funds for reinstallation are lacking, and other markers are missing without any prospect of producing replacements. Support for preservation will suffer because tourists—and residents—may not know the location of historic sites.

John Culpepper appointed to Georgia Civil War Commission

Governor Perdue has appointed John Culpepper to the Civil War Commission. Culpepper is city manager of Chickamauga and has been active in regional planning efforts. He has advocated for protection of Chickamauga National Military Park, in part because of its potential to attract heritage tourism, and is on the board of directors of Friends of the Park. Culpepper replaces Mary Alice Alexander, who had served as commission chair from 2002 to 2004.

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