

GEORGIA

BATTLEFIELDS

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Civil War Preservation Trust releases most endangered list GA has two sites: River Line among most endangered; Kennesaw Mountain at risk

On 28 February, the Civil War Preservation Trust announced its annual list of most endangered and at-risk Civil War sites. Among the most endangered sites for 2006 is the Chattahoochee River Line, nominated by GBA last summer (September 2005 newsletter). This newsletter has frequently reported on the continuing threat to the several fragments of Confederate and Federal River Line fortifications that remain in Cobb County.

One of the at-risk sites is the Kennesaw Mountain Line, which was among the most endangered sites in 2005. While part of the Kennesaw Mountain battlefield is protected as a National Park, it appears the park will eventually be surrounded entirely by housing developments.

GBA is glad to work with CWPT to bring attention to historic sites that should be protected. View the entire list of endangered and at-risk sites on the CWPT web page www.civilwar.org.

Atlanta is a vital city in part because of its growth, but the increasing number of people who want to live in the city's suburbs represents an unrelenting threat to the historic sites in the area.

Park Day set for 1 April

The Civil War Preservation Trust is again sponsoring park day, an annual event for volunteers to help maintain and preserve historic sites across the country (www.civilwar.org/parkday). Past volunteer activities included painting signs and fences, reinstalling headstones, and laying trails.

Contact these Georgia sites (going from Chickamauga to the coast) if you want to help:

Chickamauga National Military Park, Fort Oglethorpe www.nps.gov/chch
Contact Jim Szykowski at 706 866 9241 x121 or jim_szykowski@nps.gov

Tunnel Hill (Railroad Tunnel and Clisby Austin House) www.tunnelhillheritagecenter.com
Contact Rial Sloan at 706 673 2641 or rialnjan@alltel.net

Historic Prater's Mill, Varnell www.pratersmill.org
Contact Judy Alderman at 706 694 6455 or pratersmill@pratersmill.org

Confederate Cemetery, Dalton
Contact Marvin Sowder at 706 278 3925 or msowder@ocsonline.com

Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park www.nps.gov/kemo
Contact Benita Duling at 770 427 4686 or benita_duling@nps.gov

Sweetwater Creek State Park, Douglasville www.friendsofsweetwatercreek.org
Contact Don Scarbrough at 770 732 5871 or sweetwater_creek_park@dnr.state.ga.us

Old Governor's Mansion, Milledgeville www.gcsu.edu/mansion
Contact Matt Davis at 478 445 4545 or matt.davis@gcsu.edu

Jefferson Davis State Historic Site, Irwinville www.gastateparks.org/info/jeffd
Contact John Hughes at 229 831 2335 or jeff_davis_state_park@dnr.state.ga.us

Blue & Gray Museum, Fitzgerald www.fitzgeraldga.org/blue&graymuseum.htm
Contact Patricia Walker or Anna Brown at 229 426 5069 or bgmuseum@mchsi.com

Fort McAllister State Historic Park, Richmond Hill www.gastateparks.org/info/ftmcallister
Contact Danny Brown at 912 727 2339 or daniel_brown@dnr.state.ga.us

New state park will include Ball's Ferry historic site

On 25 January, the Board of Natural Resources accepted the donation of 537 acres along the Oconee River, about 40 miles east of Macon. The land was bought last year by the Ball's Ferry Historical Park Association, a five-county non-profit group, for just under \$1 million using mostly federal funds provided under a grant obtained by U.S. Representative Jim Marshall. The parcel includes the site where Confederate forces delayed a Federal crossing for a couple of days in late November 1864, during the March to the Sea.

Ball's Ferry State Park will lack any enhancements (trails, interpretive signs, etc.) until funding is appropriated. The park at Resaca has been in a similar status for almost six years.

Cobb County initiates marker program

Despite state government's refusal to maintain existing historical markers (February newsletter), Cobb County is erecting about 30 new markers using money from developers and up to \$60,000 in county funds. Uniquely qualified to lead the marker program is Phil Secrist, who was a history professor at Kennesaw State University and also led a study of Cobb County's historic sites for the 1976 bicentennial. He wrote a book on the Battle of Resaca and has led preservation efforts in the county and the state, serving on the Georgia Civil War Commission for over ten years, including a term as chairman. Perhaps most remarkable for a historian, Dr. Secrist also served a term (1988-1992) as Chairman of the Cobb County Board of Commissioners.



The first of Cobb County's new markers was installed in late January to recognize the action on 15 June 1864 at Pine Knob, near the current intersection of Hamilton and Kennesaw-Due West Roads.

As you can see from the photo, the format is very similar to the state historical markers.

The fighting in this area is covered as part of GBA's 2006 tour with Ed Bearss.

Reconstructed Savannah redoubt nearly complete

GBA has reported before on its cooperation with the Coastal Heritage Society regarding Civil War sites in the Savannah area. We're also happy to report that CHS has almost completed reconstruction of the Revolutionary War redoubt that figured prominently in the 9 October 1779 Battle of Savannah. To see more, visit the web site www.chsgeorgia.org/28971_Newsletter.pdf. Better yet, please visit the redoubt and the nearby museums the next time you're in Savannah.

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