

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

City of Lovejoy rejects annexation and rezoning

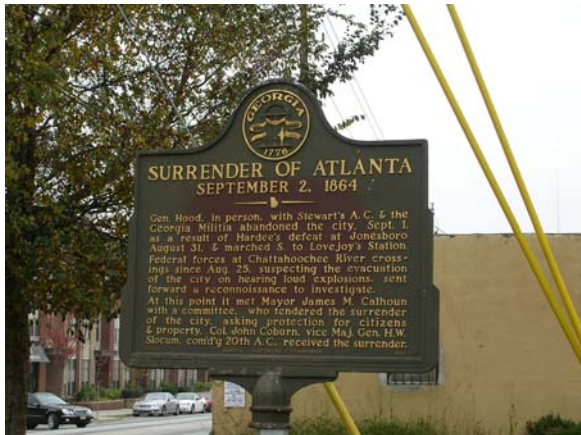
On 14 November, the Lovejoy city council voted 4-0 to reject a proposal to annex a historic parcel and rezone it to permit construction of 287 houses (see Lovejoy's Station articles in September, August and July newsletters). The vote had been delayed from August by legal issues. GBA had sent the mayor and city council a letter, requesting that the land be preserved as a battlefield. The 14 November meeting was well attended by people opposing the plan. Local historian Mark Pollard presented the argument for preserving the historic site and was instrumental in publicizing the threat and mobilizing opposition.

While the city council's vote is a victory for preservation, the danger remains. The property owner can still submit alternative proposals to the city or to Clayton County.

Jones County rejects new quarry near Sunshine Church

On 9 November, Jones County Commissioners rejected a mining company's request to establish a new rock quarry near the Sunshine Church battlefield. GBA was initially contacted by area preservationists in early August, and we submitted our opposition to the quarry (based on the effects of heavy truck traffic, noise, and dust) to the Middle Georgia Regional Development Center (RDC) on 20 August. Our comments were incorporated into the 14 September RDC review, which found "the proposed development is not in the best interest of the Region and, therefore, not of the State." While the County Commission's rejection is a preservation victory, the mining company can still appeal. Preservation is a never ending battle.

One historical marker reinstalled



The Surrender of Atlanta historical marker, knocked over in summer 2005, was reinstalled this fall at the intersection of Marietta Street and Northside Drive, just west of the Georgia Tech campus (see photo). The reinstalled marker is perpendicular to its original position and uses a metal mounting post instead of the original reinforced concrete.

While the destruction of other markers has been unlamented by the public, the demise of this marker drew coverage from the Atlanta media and helped prompt the legislature to approve some money for marker maintenance after a three-year hiatus.

Looking ahead to the State Fiscal Year 2008 budget

Now that the election results are in, GBA has received information about the state budget that Governor Perdue will submit to the 2007 General Assembly. The proposed State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2008 budget again makes no provision for historical marker maintenance. In the 2006 General Assembly, Senator George Hooks gained legislative approval for \$50,000 for marker maintenance in the SFY 2007 budget (see May 2006 newsletter). Before the General Assembly convenes in January, please consider contacting your state senator and representative to express your concern about the growing number of missing and damaged markers.

Some positive news relates to the Resaca battlefield. After missing a chance to buy 1200 acres in 1998, the state bought over 500 acres of the battlefield in March 2000. The Department of Natural Resources began developing a site plan that would provide for access roads, markers, directional signs, a visitors' center, and staffing (see June 2001 newsletter); but the worsening economy affected the state's budget, and the plan was put on hold. Still, in September 2002, the state did buy 1.71 acres that would provide the most convenient access to the site from SR 136 (I-75 exit 320). If our information about the proposed SFY 2008 budget is correct, the governor intends to ask for \$5 million to design a visitors' center and to install an access road and fencing.

Battlefields as marketing tools

The 12 November *Atlanta Journal Constitution* Homefinder section made explicit the use of battlefields as enticements to home sales. The Reserve development was touted because it is next to Pickett's Mill State Historic Site, and the Hays Farm development (which GBA and other preservation organizations unsuccessfully opposed) was cited because it abuts Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park.

We expect to see more such developments, since a recent analysis of metro Atlanta zip codes that reflected the greatest percentage growth in home prices included the areas of the Hell Hole sites in Paulding County and the River Line in Cobb County. Both sites have been on the Civil War Preservation Trust's ten most endangered site list in the last three years.

Also, an October report from the Atlanta Regional Commission reinforces the assumption that Paulding County Civil War sites will face a continuing threat. Of 20 metro Atlanta counties in the regional growth forecast, Paulding's population is expected to grow at the third fastest rate, increasing 171.6% by 2030.

Secession convention: This is not a "150 years ago" article

An early November gathering in Burlington, Vermont, labeled itself the First North American Secessionist Convention. The meeting drew representatives from a variety of groups, united in their disdain for the Federal government (see June 2006 newsletter). The frustrated attendees did acknowledge that a previous attempt at secession didn't go well.

GBA sends rep to opening of Mill Springs visitors' center

GBA trustee John Cissell attended the 4 November opening of a new visitors' center at the Mill Springs battlefield in southern Kentucky. The site has been preserved by the Mill Springs Battlefield Association (www.millsprings.net), which garnered funds from county government, federal programs, other non-profits (such as the Civil War Preservation trust), and individual donors. The Association and local volunteers play a major role in maintaining and interpreting the site. Support for the new building, which includes a museum, library, and gift shop, was bolstered by its potential as a community facility that can host civic events.

Sign up for Bearss 2007 tour

Dates: 15-18 March 2007

Hotel: Hampton Inn Atlanta-Galleria, 2733 Circle 75 Pkwy. Call the hotel at 770 955 1110 and ask for the GBA rate (\$102 per night) or see the web site www.hamptoninngalleria.com.

Sites: Chattahoochee River crossings, Confederate outer defense line, Federal approaches to Atlanta, Battle of Peachtree Creek.

Dinners: Friday at Atlanta History Center; Saturday at house that once served as Sherman's HQ. Register by sending a check for \$395 to GBA at 7 Camden Rd NE, Atlanta GA 30309.

Note: Only GBA members may register for the tour. See our web site for an application.

**Georgia Battlefields Association
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www.georgiabattlefields.org

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