

G E O R G I A

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

GBA sends letter about Cobb County park acquisitions

Last November, Cobb County voters approved a proposal to issue \$40 million in bonds to buy land for parks. Since four Confederate defensive lines traversed Cobb County during the Atlanta Campaign and since most of the remaining fragments of these lines are in private hands, many historic sites could be incorporated into new county parks.

The four Confederate positions in Cobb County are:

- Lost Mountain-Pine Mountain-Brushy Mountain Line, Gilgal Church, Noonday Creek, and Mud Creek Line (4-19 June 1864). The 1993 Civil War Sites Advisory Commission report aggregated these actions under the title "Marietta."
- Kennesaw Mountain Line (19 June-3 July)
- Smyrna Line (3-4 July)
- River Line (4-10 July)

In the past three years, the Civil War Preservation Trust—acting on GBA nominations—has chosen three of these lines for inclusion in its annual list of most endangered and at-risk sites.

<u>Year</u>	<u>Most Endangered</u>	<u>At-Risk</u>
2007	Marietta	Kennesaw Mountain
2006	River Line	Kennesaw Mountain
2005	Kennesaw Mountain	

On 29 March, GBA sent a letter to the Director of Cobb County Parks, who is a member of the committee that will decide which properties to acquire. We asked that historical significance be given priority consideration when the committee decides which properties to buy.

Media coverage for GBA

The 13 March release of the Civil War Preservation Trust's annual most endangered site list resulted in some media coverage for GBA. The 14 March *Marietta Daily Journal* had a front page story on the Cobb County sites that made the most endangered and at risk lists. On 28 March, a GBA representative coordinated interviews for Georgia Public Radio. In addition to GBA, Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park Superintendent Dan Brown and two private property owners participated. Both the land owners have earthworks in their yards, and one property contains the Polk monument, erected in 1902.

GBA was also featured in a 23 April *Atlanta Journal Constitution* article about a Cobb County site that may be acquired using park bond funds (see article above). The site is along Henderson Road and was the subject of rezoning application Z-171 (see January 2006 and December 2005 newsletters). The site is part of the Federal line that opposed Johnston's River Line in July 1864. While the developer has cleared three houses from the property and graded for a detention pond, the artillery and infantry earthworks have thus far been unaffected and are currently surrounded by a chain link fence erected by the developer at GBA's request. With the slowdown in the housing market, the developer is willing to discuss selling the land to the county, but—as always—price will be crucial and the time for negotiation is limited.

We hope this media coverage results in greater support for site preservation.

State will manage Allatoona Pass site

Much of the Battle of Allatoona Pass site is owned by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers as part of the Lake Allatoona complex. A recent agreement transferred management of 214 acres of the site to the Georgia Department of Natural Resources' State Parks & Historic Sites Division. The site will be added to a similar agreement already in place for Red Top Mountain State Park. A transfer ceremony will likely be scheduled for a weekend close to the anniversary of the battle (5 October 1864). Since 1994, Etowah Valley Historical Society (EVHS: www.evhsonline.org) has maintained trails and erected signs at the site under an agreement with the Corps.

GBA leads tour of downtown Atlanta Civil War sites

The weather cooperated for the 24 & 31 March walking tours of downtown Atlanta sites. The Atlanta Preservation Center (www.preserveatlanta.com) approached GBA about designing and conducting the tours as part of the annual Phoenix Flies program. About 40 people participated on 24 March and 20 more on 31 March. The positive response would indicate that the tour will be repeated, though the scheduling is uncertain.

GBA trustee inspects Savannah area earthworks

As a result of a letter from GBA member John Abrahams, who helped research and edit the Summer 2005 *Georgia Historical Society Quarterly* article "Forgotten Battles" about Civil War actions as Federal forces approached Savannah 9-12 December 1864, GBA trustee John Cissell, former superintendent of Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park, attended a 31 March conference on the fighting. Barry Sheehy, author of the article, conducted a lecture, followed by a tour of Confederate earthworks near Shaw's Bridge, now on the grounds of Savannah Christian Preparatory School. Mr. Sheehy believes all Federal earthworks are gone, largely due to railroad construction after the war; but some Confederate positions remain. On 1 April, Cissell searched the area of Monteith's Swamp, west of Mulberry Plantation, but found no earthworks.

GBA will stay in touch with area preservation organizations to monitor the status of the earthworks that remain.

GBA members attend annual Civil War Conference

GBA members again participated in the Civil War Preservation Trust's annual conference, held 19-22 April in Portsmouth, Virginia. The conference provides an opportunity to learn about successful preservation and see if the techniques can be applied in Georgia. It also keeps GBA's name known by other preservation groups.



GBA members at the Civil War Preservation Trust conference (l to r): Charlie Crawford, Vince Dooley, Cindy Wentworth, Jim Wentworth, Larry Peterson.

100 years ago this month

On 26 May 1907, Marion Morrison is born in Winterset, Iowa. Under the stage name John Wayne, he will portray several Civil War characters, most notably a cavalry raid leader based on Federal Colonel Benjamin Grierson in the 1959 movie *The Horse Soldiers*. He also portrayed General William T. Sherman in a small role in the 1962 movie *How the West Was Won*.

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