

GEORGIA

BATTLEFIELDS

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Cobb County announces desired parkland properties

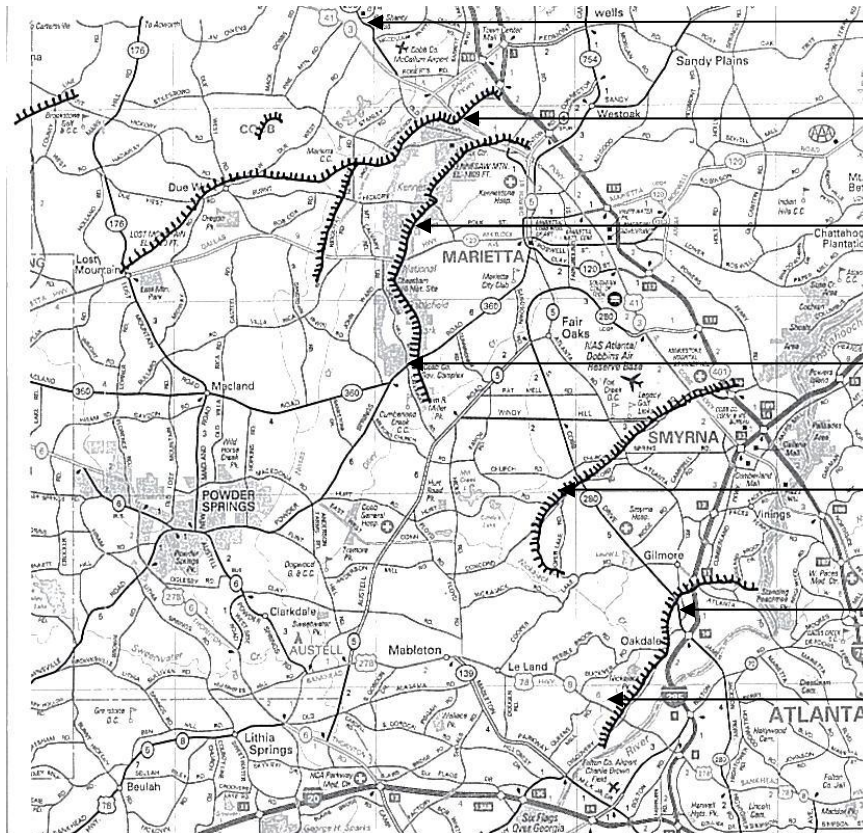
On 29 June, the Cobb County Commission released a list of 18 properties that the county will attempt to obtain as parkland (<http://prca.cobbcountyga.gov/parks-bond-info.htm>). The Commission reviewed recommendations from a committee formed as a result of last November's referendum to authorize a \$40 million bond (see May 2007 newsletter). The list is divided into four tiers, with tier one representing the most desired parcels. Four of the 18 properties include Civil War sites.

In tier 1 is the Nickajack LLC property, 16 acres in Veterans Memorial Highway, bordered in part by Henderson Road. This property contains earthworks from a Federal artillery section and an infantry unit, and it was the subject of rezoning hearing Z-171 (December 2005 newsletter). It is complemented by the Glass property in tier 3. This 5 acre parcel contains no earthworks that we have found, but it is immediately adjacent to the Nickajack LLC property and would preserve both the viewshed and the frontage on Veterans Memorial Highway.

In tier 2 is the Harding property, 10 acres on Powder Springs Road that abuts Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park land, east of the Kolb Farm. Listing for this land was supported by the Park Superintendent as well as Civil War Preservation Trust and GBA.

In tier 3 is the Hamby Property, 9.85 acres in the town of Kennesaw (Big Shanty during the Civil War). This acreage is in the middle of what was Camp McDonald, a Confederate mustering and training site. It was in front of guards along the periphery of the camp that James Andrews and his Federal raiders stole the locomotive General on 12 April 1862.

Listing of the properties does not guarantee their purchase, nor does it mean that GBA and other preservation organizations will stop trying to save properties that weren't on the list. Still, this is a positive development in the effort to preserve historic sites in Cobb County.



Hamby property (9.85 acres):
Site of Camp McDonald.

*Lost Mountain –
Brushy Mountain Line*

Kennesaw Mountain Line

Harding property (10 acres):
Traversed by Confederate
assault during 22 June 1864
Battle of Kolb's Farm.

Smyrna Line

River Line

Nickajack LLC (16 acres) &
Glass (5 acres) properties:
Federal line 5-10 July 1864.

GBA to appear in Nash Farm documentary

On 1 July, a GBA representative visited the Nash Farm to be filmed for a documentary that will be shown at the site visitors' center and may also be used for school programs and public service announcements. The specific topic was the importance of saving sites such as the Nash Farm (www.henrycountybattlefield.com).

The Nash Farm figured in two actions during the Atlanta Campaign: The 20 August 1864 clash between Kilpatrick's Federal cavalry and Confederate cavalry and infantry, and the 3 September 1864 infantry fight at the end of the campaign. Confederate infantry also camped on the grounds before moving to Palmetto in mid-September 1864. The Henry County portion (204 acres) of the site is now protected as a park, but the Clayton County portion (75 acres) is still subject to development. GBA is working with the Civil War Preservation Trust and local historians to protect the site through purchase or easement. (See April 2007 and August 2006 newsletters.)

GBA aids graduate student research

On 14 July, GBA conducted a tour of some Atlanta-area Civil War sites for Stuart Winchester, who is pursuing a master's degree in journalism at Columbia University. Currently a school teacher in New York City, Mr. Winchester had seen the Civil War Preservation Trust's (CWPT) annual list of endangered sites (April newsletter). Additional research prompted him to make media coverage of preservation the topic of his master's thesis. He subsequently contacted CWPT, which referred him to GBA for information about Georgia sites. Prior to the visit, GBA provided background information, maps, and references on the status of sites. The tour covered sites protected by national and local governments as well as some still privately owned.

GBA supports Atlanta Preservation Center grant request

Georgia Battlefields Association wrote a letter supporting the Atlanta Preservation Center (APC) in its efforts to obtain a grant to develop a program that will use the historic sites of Atlanta to educate K-8 students on architectural and cultural changes. The program is designed to use the location, size, and design of buildings, the positioning and width of streets, the placement of parks, etc., to explain how and why cities change. The tours of Civil War sites in downtown Atlanta prompted the APC to ask for GBA's support, which we were glad to provide.

150 years ago this month – August 1857

The American economy weakens as the end of the Crimean War and the improving harvests in Europe both reduce the demand for American exports, and California gold production levels off. The 24 August failure of the New York branch of a Cincinnati bank—of which most New York banks were creditors—signals the beginning of an economic depression that will last more than two years. When the *S.S. Central America* sinks on 12 September during a hurricane off North Carolina, it takes \$1.6 million in California gold and 400 passengers to the bottom. The news precipitates a panic on Wall Street. Almost 5,000 businesses will fail before the end of the year.

Jefferson Davis, speaking for many southerners, attributes the depression to northern extravagance and speculation. Southern newspapers rail against both the concentration of bank capital in New York City and the tariffs favored by the industrial North. Although the prices of cotton and tobacco initially fall, they rebound early in 1858 because of continued European demand; so the southern states suffer less than the rest of the nation. Southerners conclude that their agricultural economy is more stable than the North's commercial economy. They are also increasingly confident that the South can and should exist independently from the North.

Georgia Battlefields Association
7 Camden Rd NE
Atlanta GA 30309

www.georgiabattlefields.org

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