

# GEORGIA

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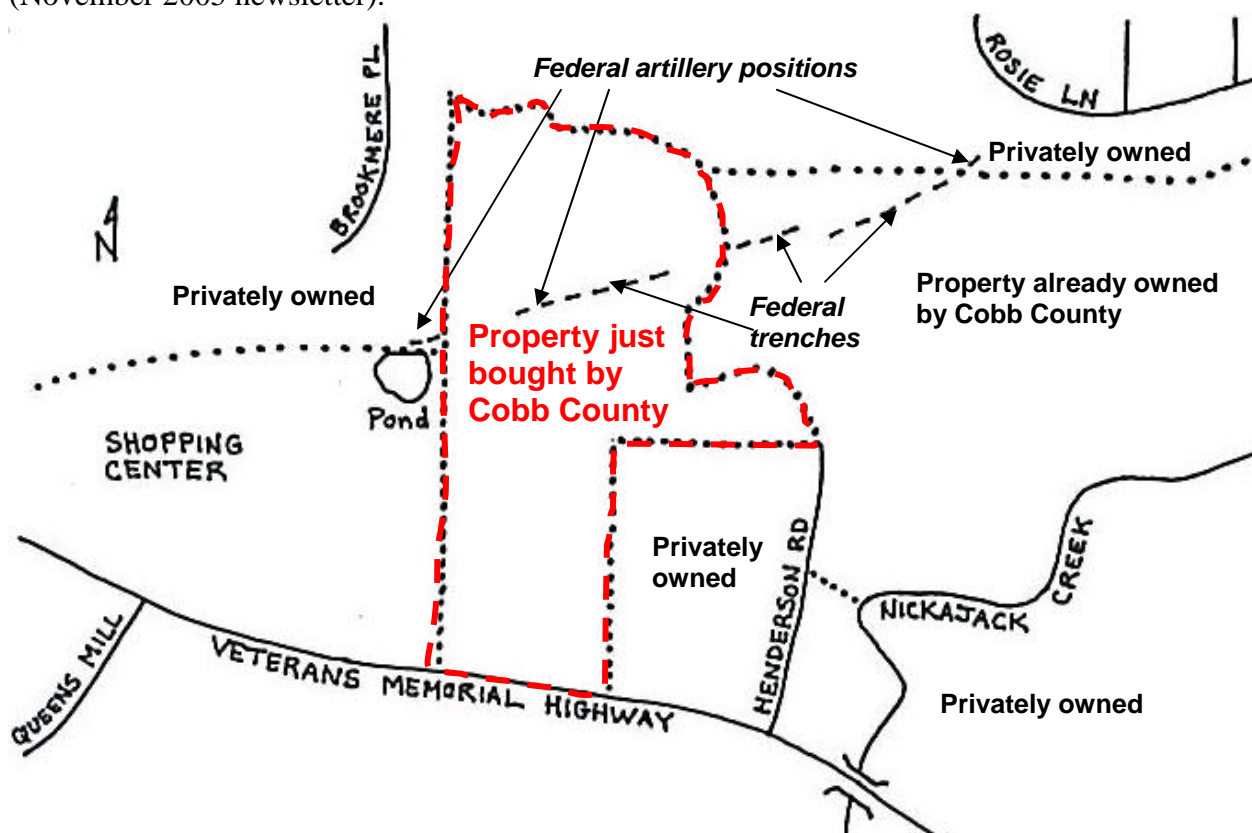
# BATTLEFIELDS

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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](mailto:info@georgiabattlefields.org)

## Cobb County approves purchase of first park property

At a 24 July meeting, the Cobb County Board of Commissioners approved the first purchase of a site from the list recommended by the Parks Bond property nominating committee (August 2007 newsletter). Cobb County closed on the Nickajack LLC property a week later, spending \$2.43 million for 15.45 acres. This site contains the remnants of a Federal artillery position and an infantry trench. It will be familiar to our readers as the subject of rezoning application Z-171 (November 2005 newsletter).



To the east, the Federal trench continues onto land already owned by Cobb County (August 2004 newsletter). To the west, just past the property boundary, is the remnant of a Federal artillery position that was partially destroyed by the construction of a detention pond for a shopping center (November 2003 newsletter). GBA believes this partially destroyed position and the artillery position on the newly acquired property were both occupied by sections of the 15<sup>th</sup> Ohio Battery between 5 and 10 July 1864 as the Federals deployed opposite Johnston's River Line.

Over the past two years, The Columns Group and Nickajack LLC have prepared this property for development. Three houses were knocked down and removed, and some tree cutting and grading occurred on the northern portion of the site. Thankfully, the earthworks were not affected. Unfortunately, once the residents moved out, dumping ensued; and debris has accumulated north of the trench line. In response to a request from Roberta Cook of the River Line Historic Area, Cobb County recently put gates across the access roads to deter dumping.

We frequently report the loss of or damage to a historic site; so we're glad to pass along the good news about this acquisition for park land. While GBA participated in the effort, a great deal of credit goes to Roberta Cook, who lives in the area and has testified before county commission meetings, written and phoned county officials, and provided information to the media. She also served on the Parks Bond property nominating committee that recommended inclusion of this site on the potential park list.

## Rocky Face Ridge fire

A fire that started on 16 August burned some acreage of Rocky Face Ridge north of Mill Creek Gap. This area was the scene of fighting in both February and May 1864. Most of the affected acreage was bought by Whitfield County in November 2001 to preserve the site. An initial inspection of the site indicates that no Civil War earthworks were damaged.

## Allatoona Pass ceremony scheduled for 6 October

A ceremony to mark the state's assumption of management for the Allatoona Pass battlefield (May newsletter) is scheduled for 11 a.m. on Saturday, 6 October at the site. Other weekend events will mark the 143<sup>rd</sup> anniversary of the battle (5 October 1864).

## GBA trustee appearances

The Fall issue of *Hallowed Ground*, the quarterly magazine of the Civil War Preservation Trust, will feature articles on the Battle of Kennesaw Mountain and other actions in Cobb County.

GBA submitted a summary of preservation efforts in the area.

September 7-9, Vicksburg MS, Civil War Preservation Trust annual Grand Review:  
Corporate Secretary Cindy Wentworth and her husband Jim will represent GBA.

September 12-14, Tifton GA, Governor's Annual Conference on Tourism:  
President Charlie Crawford will appear on the Civil War Sesquicentennial panel at 1:45 p.m. on Thursday, 13 September at the University of Georgia Tifton Campus Conference Center.

## Georgia Civil War Commission gets results with grants

The Georgia Civil War Commission has been minimally funded for several years. For State Fiscal Year 2008, the Commission again received only \$50,000. This is barely enough to pay the salary and benefits for one full time staff member and reimbursement for travel to quarterly meetings. Still, the Commission has gotten results from \$5,000 grants over the past year.

- A portrait of Elizabeth Grisham Brown, wife of Civil War governor Joe Brown, has been completed and is on display in the Old Governor's Mansion in Milledgeville. The family still holds the original portrait and allowed it to be photographed so that a near identical portrait could be painted.
- Ringgold City Council was awarded a grant to improve Cleburne Park, on the site where Major General Patrick Cleburne's division defended Ringgold Gap on 27 November 1863. For allowing the rest of the army to safely retreat with its remaining wagons and artillery, Cleburne was sometimes called the "Stonewall of the West."
- Catoosa County Commission was awarded a grant to improve the site where the Andrews raiders abandoned the locomotive General on 12 April 1862. While a monument sits next to the still-used railroad tracks, the site currently has no landscaping or parking.
- Walker County African American Historical Association was awarded a grant to inventory and assess Civil War, Reconstruction, and Jim Crow-era sites in Dade, Walker, and Chattooga counties. Historian Ray Evans has already produced a 272-page draft report.
- City of Chickamauga was awarded a grant towards the purchase of the Gordon-Lee Mansion, which was used as both a headquarters and a hospital (July newsletter). The City is scheduled to take title to the property on 12 September.

The Civil War Commission staff is also close to completing a substantial update to *Crossroads of Conflict*, a guide to the state's Civil War sites. The online version of the publication should be available on the Commission's new web site in the Fall, and the printed edition should be available near the end of the year.

Finally, the Commission reelected its officers at an 18 August meeting at Fort McPherson.  
Chair – John Culpepper of Chickamauga      Treasurer – Kelly Barrow of Griffin  
Vice Chair – Mel Steely of Carrollton      Secretary – Douglas Davis of Powder Springs

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September 2007

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