

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

Civil War Preservation Trust releases most endangered list

On 12 March, the Civil War Preservation Trust (CWPT) announced its most endangered site list for 2008 (www.civilwar.org/mebr2008/). GBA had nominated three sites: Rocky Face Ridge, Lovejoy's Station, and Defenses of Savannah (October 2007 newsletter). Savannah was among CWPT's ten most endangered sites, while Lovejoy's Station and Kennesaw Mountain were among the 15 additional at-risk sites (as they were in 2007).

GBA will be glad when we have many fewer sites to nominate for the endangered list.

Bearss tour successful and fortunate

From 13 through 16 March 2008, GBA conducted its eighth annual multi-day battlefield tour. For the sixth time, our principal guide was the legendary Ed Bearss, National Park Service Chief Historian Emeritus. The group visited sites related to the Battles of Atlanta, Ezra Church, and Utoy Creek, as well as the August 1864 siege of the city. We also walked the streets of downtown Atlanta to understand the city's significance as a wartime transportation, supply, manufacturing, and administrative center. George Barnard's famous September 1864 photos of the city were compared to today's views. We were also fortunate to visit Oakland Cemetery and the Cotton Mill Lofts (site of the wartime rolling mill) about five hours before a tornado heavily damaged those sites. Our Sunday morning (16 March) walking tour of downtown provided evidence of the 14 March storm's effect, as many sidewalks were littered with glass and debris.

Next year, we plan to cover the sites of the late July and mid-August 1864 cavalry operations (Sunshine Church, Brown's Mill, and Lovejoy's Station) as well as the Atlanta Campaign's concluding infantry battle at Jonesboro. Mark your calendars for 12-15 March 2009.



Ed Bearss in fine form at the Walker monument. Ed Bearss & Charlie Crawford near Utoy Creek. Bill Jarrett and Jack Keller give full attention. Grady Ireland and Vince Dooley observe the site.

Photos courtesy of Cindy Wentworth. More photos from the tour will soon be available on our web site: www.georgiabattlefields.org/tours.htm.

Brown wins Governor's Award for Historic Preservation

Georgia Civil War Commission staff member Barry Brown was presented the Governor's Award for Historic Preservation Stewardship in a ceremony at the Department of Natural Resources Board meeting on 26 March. GBA submitted the nomination package based on Barry's many years of service to the preservation community and especially for his extensive work on the forthcoming revision of *Crossroads of Conflict*, a guide to Georgia's Civil War sites.

Sesquicentennial steering committee meets again

Georgia's Civil War Sesquicentennial Steering Committee met again on 26 March.

The State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2008 amended budget has been passed by the legislature and signed by the governor. It includes \$500,000 for a survey of historical markers (to be conducted by the Georgia Historical Society, www.georgiahistory.com) and \$500,000 for community history programs (to be administered by the Georgia Humanities Council, www.georgiahumanities.org). The marker survey is in preparation to repair or replace the dozens of Civil War-related markers that are damaged or missing, hopefully before the Sesquicentennial.

At this writing, the SFY 2009 budget was still in negotiation. Rather than appropriating \$5 million for development of a state park at the Resaca battlefield (as the governor proposed), the current version of the budget authorizes issue of a \$3 million bond. Resaca-area legislators believe \$3 million is enough for the state to start construction on a visitor's center, access roads, walking trails, directional signs, and historic markers; though appropriations in coming years or outside funds will still be necessary to complete the project. A new visitor's center at Resaca is intended to serve as a gateway for tourists travelling south along I-75.

From a preservation perspective, the Sesquicentennial provides an opportunity to make more people aware of the many Civil War sites in the state. As awareness increases, so does support for preservation. Further, if we can increase the number of visitors to the sites, support for preservation should increase even more.

As reported in the February newsletter, the Georgia Tourism web site (www.georgia.org) will feature a Sesquicentennial or 150th Anniversary section that will initially contain links to sites (such as Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park, Picket's Mill State Historic Site, National Civil War Naval Museum in Columbus, etc.). The web site will also reflect a chronology of Georgia-related Civil War events. Again, the state point of contact for the Sesquicentennial commemoration will be Barry Brown at 404 692 4174 or bbrown@georgia.org. If you have a sesquicentennial event planned, please let Barry know so that it can be reflected on the tourism web site and in any state calendars and publications.

New Georgia Battlefields Association officers

With Olly Keller's death in February, GBA had no vice president. Consequently, the GBA trustees conducted elections in accordance with the by-laws. Cindy Wentworth leaves the office of Secretary to become GBA's new Vice President, and Gene Murphy is GBA's new Secretary.

Cindy grew up in several places, notably Louisiana and Missouri, as her dad was transferred for business. She is currently a U.S. Forest Service botanist working out of the Blairsville office.

Gene is originally from New York, where his father helped found the New York Civil War Round Table. Ed Bearss has been a friend of Gene's family for over 40 years. Gene currently works as an attorney in Atlanta.

Georgia Battlefields Association's officers as of 20 March 2008:

President – Charlie Crawford

Secretary – Gene Murphy

Vice President – Cindy Wentworth

Treasurer – Frank Chew

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