

# GEORGIA

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# BATTLEFIELDS

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## Compromise on Peachtree Creek battlefield bike path

As reported in the February newsletter, Atlanta BeltLine, Inc. (ABI) proposed putting a bike path through the meadow on the east side of Tanyard Creek Park. Along with the adjacent neighborhood associations, GBA objected to this intrusion on the last green space remaining on the Peachtree Creek battlefield. GBA participated in meetings and walk-throughs, wrote a November article about the battlefield for the *Buckhead Reporter*, and was featured in a February article in the same newspaper (see March newsletter). After negative media reports of ABI's response to community input, negotiations about the course of the bike path took a different tone; and neighborhood groups were able to get ABI to agree to a compromise route. The planned bike path will now run under the existing railroad bridge at the south end of the park and continue on the east side of Tanyard Creek before crossing over a newly constructed bridge to the west side of the creek, leaving the meadow untouched for most of its length.

As part of the compromise, ABI asked that the stakeholders (GBA and the neighborhood associations) sign a letter to CSX asking permission to run the bike path under the post war railroad bridge. GBA agreed and signed the letter on 22 April.

GBA favored keeping the bike path entirely out of the meadow. Alternatively, we supported a proposal to have the path cross to the west side of Tanyard Creek farther south than the compromise specifies. Still, GBA now supports the compromise as the best alternative, given that any route on the west side of the creek is more expensive and affects more trees.

## GBA leads tour for national group

On 29 March, GBA president Charlie Crawford led a tour of Atlanta-area Civil War sites, including Johnston's River Line, Chattahoochee River Crossings, Confederate Outer Line, Battle of Peachtree Creek, and Battle of Atlanta. Tour participants were members of the Civil War Forum and came from Pennsylvania, Virginia, Minnesota, Tennessee, Maryland, New York, Michigan, Illinois, California, Colorado, Florida, and Canada, as well as Georgia. A photo from the tour's visit to Tanyard Creek Park (Battle of Peachtree Creek) accompanied an article on page 6 of the April 4-17 issue of *Buckhead Reporter* [www.reporternewspapers.net](http://www.reporternewspapers.net).



The Civil War Forum group had plenty of historians to answer their questions. From left: Russ Bonds, author of *Stealing the General*, winner of the Atlanta Civil War Round Table 2007 Harwell Book Award; Charlie Crawford, president of GBA; Gordon Jones, Vice President of Atlanta History Center; Steve Davis, author of books and articles on the Atlanta Campaign and former book editor for *Blue & Gray Magazine*; and Greg Biggs, president of the Clarkesville (Tennessee) Civil War Round Table and expert on Confederate flags.

## New Georgia Encyclopedia a source for Civil War information

The New Georgia Encyclopedia (NGE) is an on-line compilation of information about the state. As might be expected, it addresses Civil War events (e.g., the Atlanta Campaign) and related sites (e.g., the Atlanta Cyclorama). The articles are concise and written by experts. The NGE will be one of the sites linked to the Sesquicentennial web page, but don't wait to try it. Go to [www.georgiaencyclopedia.org/nge/Home.jsp](http://www.georgiaencyclopedia.org/nge/Home.jsp) and type a topic in the search box.

## GBA examines Cherokee County site

On 4 April, a GBA representative examined a site near Hickory Flat. The property owner suspected the rock walls might be Civil War-related, but inspection of the site and consultation of source documents suggest the walls were related to road stabilization for a logging operation.

Reported earthworks often turn out to be something else, and we usually don't report when that's the case. The significance of this incident was the manner in which the site was brought to our attention. The property owner called the Atlanta History Center, which will often respond as a courtesy even if the site is outside Atlanta; but in this case, the Center asked GBA to help. We're proud of our relationship with the Atlanta History Center and with other preservation organizations throughout Georgia and the nation, and we're happy to help when we can.

## GBA sends letter concerning historic buildings at Ruff's Mill

On 31 March, GBA sent a letter to Cobb County Commission Chairman Sam Olens, asking that the county give special consideration to historic preservation when deciding on a replacement for the Concord Road covered bridge, which was one of the sites of the 4 July 1864 Battle of Ruff's Mill. Copies were sent to the Georgia Department of Transportation, the Cobb Department of Transportation, the Cobb County historic preservation planner, and the relevant members of the Georgia House of Representatives.

The current bridge (a post war structure) limits traffic to one lane and restricts taller vehicles, such as commercial trucks, but also impedes emergency vehicles. While GBA favors the improved safety that will result from a new bridge, we did ask Cobb County to consider the effect of heavier vehicles on the nearby mill remains and on the rustic character of the site.

## GBA again provides volunteer staff for national conference



As it has for the past eight years, GBA again provided volunteer staff for the Civil War Preservation Trust's (CWPT) annual conference, held this year in Springfield, Missouri. Tours included Wilson's Creek, Missouri; Pea Ridge, Arkansas; Honey Springs, Oklahoma; and Mine Creek, Kansas.

In the photo are GBA member Jim Wentworth, GBA Vice President Cindy Wentworth, and GBA President Charlie Crawford at the Nathaniel Lyon marker on a chilly day at Wilson's Creek National Battlefield, Missouri.

## 150 years ago this month

On 11 May 1858, Minnesota is admitted to the Union as the 32<sup>nd</sup> state. The admission of each new free state raises the fear level in the South, which realizes that its representational advantage (through each slave counting as three-fifths of a person, even though slaves can't vote) is slipping away.

**Georgia Battlefields Association**  
7 Camden Rd NE  
Atlanta GA 30309

[www.georgiabattlefields.org](http://www.georgiabattlefields.org)

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