

GEORGIA

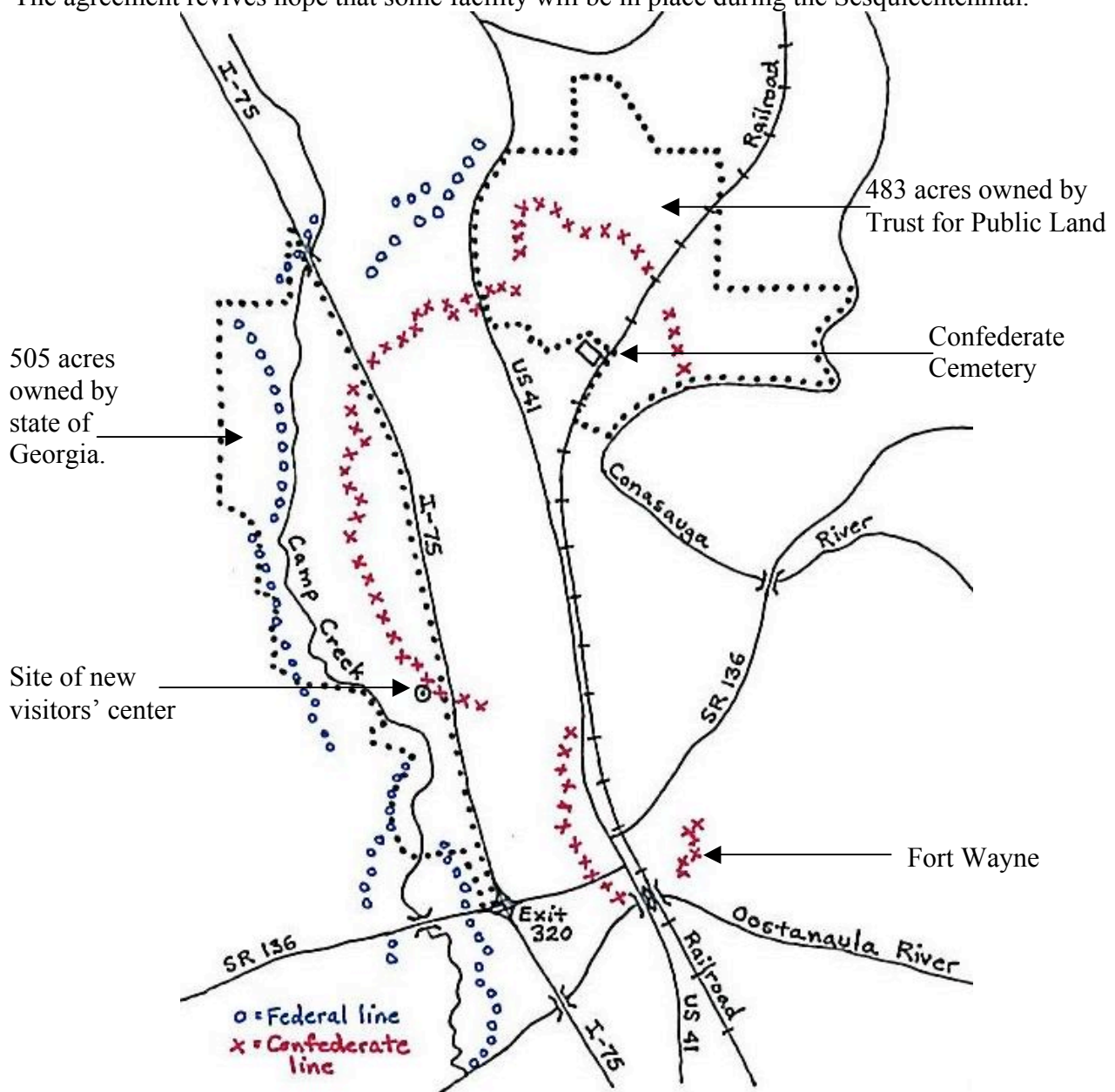
BATTLEFIELDS

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

New hope for Resaca Visitors Center

The state government's lack of interest may ironically bolster the chances for a visitors center at Resaca. As reported in the September 2009 newsletter, the Georgia Department of Natural Resources (DNR) suspended construction of the visitors center on the state-owned 505 acres west of I-75 (see map). Gordon County, realizing the potential of the site, negotiated with DNR about transferring funds so that the county could build the visitors center, access road, parking, historical markers, directional signs, etc. At the request of Friends of Resaca Battlefield (www.resacabattlefield.org), GBA contacted the Gordon County Commission to support the proposal, and the commissioners voted in favor on 20 November. The state Board of Natural Resources then approved the proposal on 2 December. In essence, the intergovernmental agreement transfers \$3,378,000 from the state government's project account to Gordon County. In return, the county is to build the visitors center, access road, etc., by July 2013 and operate the resulting facility under the same rules that would apply to a state park for 50 years.

The agreement revives hope that some facility will be in place during the Sesquicentennial.



Cobb County delays land acquisition decision

In mid November, the Cobb County Commission put a 90-day hold on decisions about what land to acquire with funds from the second \$40 million parks bond (December 2008 newsletter). While the previous parks bond was used to acquire some Civil War sites (September 2007 newsletter), GBA has heard that no Civil War sites made the final cut for this round.

State revenues continue to drop

Georgia Department of Revenue's December release of revenue data indicated another decrease. Total state revenues were down 16.2% for November 2009 compared to November 2008 and were down 15.4% for State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2010 compared to the same period in SFY 2009. November was the twelfth consecutive month of decline in state revenues.

When Governor Perdue proposes a SFY 2011 budget and the annual General Assembly considers it, preservation-related items (such as Historic Preservation Division, State Historic Sites, Civil War Commission, and Sesquicentennial planning) are certain to lose even more than the disproportionate reduction they took in the SFY 2010 appropriation.

Heritage Trails plans finally gain GDOT approval

After four years, Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) approved the engineering site plan drawings for three trails proposed by Georgia Civil War Heritage Trails (www.gcwht.org). We last reported on the trails effort in the January 2009 newsletter, covering Trails director Steve Longcrier's presentation to the Sesquicentennial steering committee; but the struggle to satisfy the conditions for spending the Transportation Enhancement Program funds has been ongoing for the better part of nine years. In a related story, the Associated Press wrote about the ten additional markers that are planned for the Macon area www.macon.com/220/story/926698.html.

Congratulations to Steve and GCWHT for prevailing against the state bureaucracy. We hope the pace of marker installation picks up accordingly along the Atlanta Campaign, March to the Sea, and Jefferson Davis Escape Route trails.

Downtown Atlanta tour now on DVD

The March 2008 GBA tour with Ed Bearss included a downtown Atlanta walking tour, during which we visited many of the wartime city's important sites photographed by George Barnard in September 1864. The tour was recorded by Three23 Films, and a 52 minute-long DVD titled "Civil War Atlanta: A walk through history" is now available. You can see the intro of the DVD on the web at www.three23.org/work-at-three23/civil-war-walking-tour/.

GBA is selling the DVD, including a tour map, for \$10 (\$15 if we have to mail it to you). We will have the DVDs available at Atlanta Civil War Round Table meetings or whenever we conduct a tour or give a presentation. Otherwise, you can request a DVD by sending a check to GBA at our regular mailing address: 7 Camden Rd NE, Atlanta GA 30309.

Bearss tour 2010

Dates: 11-14 March 2010

Hotel: Fairfield Inn, 20 Canyon Pkwy, Cartersville (I-75 exit 288). 770 387 0400.

Ask for the Georgia Battlefields Association rate of \$89 per night. With tax, the cost will be just under \$100. Includes breakfast and access to fitness center and indoor pool.

Price: \$395. Register by sending a check to GBA at 7 Camden Rd NE, Atlanta GA 30309.

You must be a GBA member to register. See our web site for how to become a member.

Topic: The Fall 1864 (mid September to mid November) campaign in northwest Georgia. This overlooked period featured a lot of marching, several skirmishes, and a battle at Allatoona Pass. We'll also visit Cedar Bluff, Alabama, site of Streight's surrender to Forrest in May 1863.

Georgia Battlefields Association
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