

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

State budget has little for preservation and may get worse

On 8 June, Governor Perdue signed the State Fiscal Year 2011 (1 July 2010 – 30 June 2011) budget. As expected, the budget contained no good news for preservation-related programs. For example, the Georgia Civil War Commission received no funds to award grants, and the reduced hours and staffing at state historic sites (such as Pickett's Mill) will remain in effect. Also ominous is the continued decline in state revenue. Revenue for May 2010 was down 6% compared to May 2009. This is the 17th time in the last 18 months that Georgia's revenue has fallen. If this trend continues, the Governor may issue guidance to state agencies to reduce spending below what the SFY 2011 budget allows, as he did in July 2009 for SFY 2010.

Civil War Preservation Trust holds annual conference

The Civil War Preservation Trust annual conference was held in Lexington, Kentucky in early June and featured tours to battlefields in that state. Georgia Battlefields Association was well-represented, as indicated by the photo taken at the Lexington Cemetery, burial site of Henry Clay, John C. Breckinridge, John Hunt Morgan, Gordon Granger, Ben Helm, and most of Mary Todd Lincoln's family. Left to right are Vince Dooley, GBA vice president Cindy Wentworth, Jim Wentworth, GBA president Charlie Crawford, Jack Davis, Jan Loftis, and Dan Hanks. Also attending but not on this tour was GBA trustee Joe Trahan. Photo by CWPT's Frank DeLuca.



During the conference, CWPT president Jim Lighthizer announced a goal of having CWPT save a total of 50,000 acres of battlefield land by the end of the Civil War Sesquicentennial in 2015. CWPT and its predecessor organizations have saved 29,000 acres since 1990.

In contrast to state governments and many other non-profit organizations, CWPT's revenue is up 20% in 2010 compared to 2009. CWPT also earned a four-star rating from Charity Navigator, an independent rater of non-profit organizations.

Bill would add land to Kennesaw Mountain National Park

In late April, U.S. Representative Phil Gingrey (R, GA-11) introduced H.R. 5152, which would adjust the boundary of Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park to include the Wallis House and Harriston Hill. The bill was co-sponsored by Representatives John Lewis (D, GA-5) and Jack Kingston (R, GA-1).

The eight acres containing the house and hill are now owned by Cobb County. The house was the headquarters for Federal General O. O. Howard in mid June 1864, and the hill behind it was used as a Federal signal station.

Additions to existing battlefield parks are rare. The bill stipulates that the added land must come through donation or exchange.



The Wallis House, with state historical marker in front and Harriston Hill behind.

150 years ago this month

Campaigning for president, one third of the senate, and all of the house of representatives is underway. Adhering to the standard practice for presidential candidates at the time, Republican nominee Abraham Lincoln remains in his home town, writing and answering letters and giving interviews; while Northern Democrat Stephen Douglas goes against precedent and travels to make speeches. Most of the campaigning is done by supporters of the four candidates: Lincoln, Douglas, Southern Democrat John C. Breckinridge, and Constitutional Unionist John Bell. Southern politicians increasingly say some states will leave the union if Lincoln is elected.

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