

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

Governor orders more spending cuts

Governor Perdue ordered state agencies to cut spending by 4% starting in August because the State Fiscal Year 2011 (1 July 2010 - 30 June 2011) budget counted on \$375 million in federal Medicaid funds that are now in doubt. The Governor exempted K-12 education from the cut, meaning other state agencies will need to submit proposals assuming an even more severe cut.

The Department of Natural Resources, which administers funds for historic preservation and the operation of state historic sites, has cut funding by more than a third since SFY 2008. Further spending reductions are likely to mean more staff furloughs, elimination of positions, less maintenance, reduced operating hours, and perhaps the closing of some state parks.

American Battlefield Protection Program 2010 grant awards

American Battlefield Protection Program (ABPP) announced its annual grant awards for 2010 at www.nps.gov/history/hps/abpp/grants/battlefieldgrants/2010grantawards.htm. Two applications from Georgia were approved.

Friends of Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park (www.chickchatt.org) will receive \$32,100 to build on the work of a previous ABPP grant that developed a Geographic Information Systems (GIS) database. The latest grant will allow for preservation advocacy.

The LAMAR Institute, a non-profit archaeological research organization, will receive \$40,000 to conduct field research on the December 1864 Battle of Monteith Swamp. This site was part of the defenses of Savannah, which GBA nominated and Civil War Preservation Trust included on its 2008 ten most endangered site list (April 2008 newsletter).

Civil War Sites report final draft online

When Congress passed the Civil War Battlefield Protection Act of 2002, one provision of the act directed the Secretary of the Interior to update the 1993 Civil War Sites Advisory Commission (CWSAC) *Report on the Nation's Civil War Battlefields*; but Congress did not provide funding for the update, known as Civil War Sites II (CWS II), until 2005 and 2007. CWS II has been referenced in this newsletter (most recently June 2010), and Georgia Battlefields Association has participated in the field interviews, responded to the site questionnaires, and reviewed the drafts. A final draft is now online and can be viewed at www.nps.gov/history/nps/abpp/index.htm, where you'll see a list of the draft state reports in the left hand column.

The American Battlefield Protection Program (ABPP) asked GBA to comment on the final draft, and we submitted corrections both mundane and substantial. Since the ABPP operates on a tight budget and has only a few people on staff, the corrections may take a while; but they should be reflected in the final report.

A 1998 report done under contract for the Georgia Civil War Commission found almost 400 Civil War sites in the state, with a few dozen representing battles and many more representing training camps, bivouacs, factories, prisons, homes of well-known people, etc. The 1993 CWSAC report included 27 battlefields in Georgia at 25 sites (with Dalton and Fort McAllister each being listed twice for separate engagements). The synopsis of each battle is on the web at www.nps.gov/history/hps/abpp/battles/bystate.htm#ga. They are listed below chronologically.

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|----------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Fort Pulaski | 10. New Hope Church | 19. Utoy Creek |
| 2. Fort McAllister I | 11. Pickett's Mill | 20. Dalton II |
| 3. Davis' Crossroads | 12. Dallas | 21. Lovejoy's Station |
| 4. Chickamauga | 13. Marietta Operations | 22. Jonesborough |
| 5. Ringgold Gap | 14. Kolb's Farm | 23. Allatoona Pass |
| 6. Dalton I | 15. Kennesaw Mountain | 24. Griswoldville |
| 7. Rocky Face Ridge | 16. Peachtree Creek | 25. Buck Head Creek |
| 8. Resaca | 17. Atlanta | 26. Waynesborough |
| 9. Adairsville | 18. Ezra Church | 27. Fort McAllister II |

CWS II was limited to updating the listing for only these 27 battlefields. While this is unfair to other battles, such as those associated with the cavalry operations of the Atlanta Campaign (e.g., Brown's Mill, Sunshine Church), the legislation imposed these conditions.

The battles were evaluated for significance, condition, and threat of loss. The significance assessments from the 1993 report are unchanged for CWS II. Can you identify which two battles are in the highest significance category? The answer is at end of this article.

Concerning condition and threat, the legislation specified that changes should be noted, especially with an eye towards preservation opportunities. Thus, ABPP conducted field surveys as well as asking for input from local and state preservation groups. GBA helped with both.

The CWS II final draft characterizes six battlefields as totally overwhelmed by residential or commercial development: Dalton II, New Hope Church, Peachtree Creek, Atlanta, Ezra Church, and Utoy Creek, the last four battlefields being lost to the growth of Atlanta many years ago. Another eight battlefields were listed as badly fragmented: Dalton I, Allatoona Pass, Dallas, Marietta, Kolb's Farm, Kennesaw Mountain (despite protection of portions of both Kolb's Farm and Kennesaw Mountain by a national battlefield park), Lovejoy's Station, and Jonesborough.

Seven battlefields were categorized as having at least half of their historic landscapes intact: Davis' Crossroads, Resaca, Griswoldville, Buck Head Creek, Fort McAllister I & II, and Fort Pulaski; while less than half the historic landscapes remain at six: Chickamauga (despite the protection of a national military park), Ringgold Gap, Rocky Face Ridge (despite some land being preserved by the county government), Adairsville, Pickett's Mill (despite some protection by a state historic site), and Waynesborough.

GBA encourages you to review the final draft of the whole report. If you find errors, you may report them to GBA (using the e-mail address on the newsletter masthead or the return mailing address), or you may e-mail directly to ABPP: Kathleen_Madigan@contractor.nps.gov.

The two battles listed in highest significance category were Chickamauga and Jonesborough.

GBA identifies potential preservation opportunities for CWPT

As part of a Civil War Preservation Trust (CWPT) effort to identify preservation opportunities in Georgia, GBA participated in a meeting of potential donors representing charitable foundations and subsequently recounted areas of concern throughout the state.

CWPT primarily supports preservation efforts at battlefields identified in the 1993 CWSAC report (see article above) because most federal funding is steered towards those sites. Still, GBA has argued for inclusion of campaign-oriented sites and provided a map identifying the major campaigns that occurred in Georgia, namely: Chickamauga Campaign, Atlanta Campaign, October 1864 maneuvers in northwest Georgia, March to the Sea, Wilson's Raid, Davis' Flight. Additionally, selected sites relate to other campaigns (such as Ringgold Gap representing the end of the Chattanooga Campaign) or stand alone in their significance (such as Andersonville, Fort Pulaski, and Camp Lawton).

In subsequent correspondence with CWPT, GBA chose to emphasize preservation priorities consistent with those in the CWSAC report and the pending CWS II report (again, see article above). While this may draw attention away from smaller sites that GBA has pursued, it should enhance credibility if potential donors wish to verify our proposals.

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

www.georgiabattlefields.org

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