

GEORGIA

BATTLEFIELDS

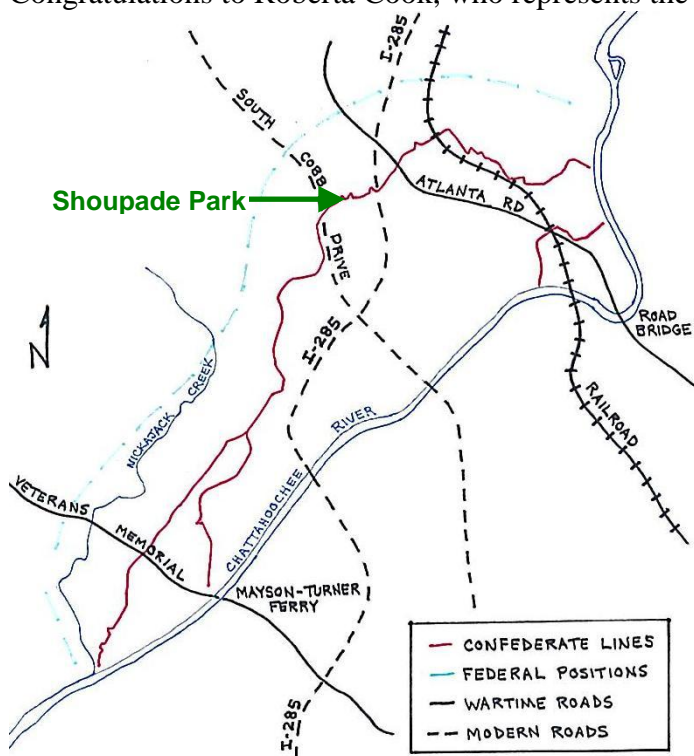
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Cobb County accepts Shoupade Park as county property

Several newsletter articles over the past five years have recounted GBA's efforts and those of several other organizations to preserve the remnants of Johnston's River Line along Fort Drive in Cobb County. In July 2005, the County Commission agreed to establish a county park on the site (August 2005 newsletter). In September 2007, Pulte Homes, the developer of the adjacent houses and condominiums, paid for the installation of four interpretive markers designed by GBA. The markers may be seen online at www.georgiabattlefields.org/markersFortDrive.htm.

In July 2010, with no county action for five years, Pulte Homes was eager to transfer responsibility for Shoupade Park and submitted to the county a proposal to deed the property to the homeowners' association. The original argument against such a proposal was that the homeowners would have little incentive to maintain the site or encourage public access. Believing this argument still valid, Roberta Cook of the River Line Historic Area mounted an effort against the Pulte proposal and sought GBA's support. While GBA agreed that having Cobb County accept the site as a park was the best outcome, we were skeptical that the commissioners would agree in light of the constrained county budget. Undaunted, Roberta persisted and at a 17 August 2010 Cobb County Commission meeting spoke against the Pulte proposal and for the county living up to its prior commitment. Homeowners' Association representatives and long time preservation supporter Mary Rose Barnes also supported this option. Consequently, the commissioners again agreed to accept ownership of the property, which was perfectly acceptable to Pulte Homes.

Congratulations to Roberta Cook, who represents the best of local preservation efforts.



Below: Roberta Cook in 2005 at the redan that is now part of Shoupade Park. For years, she has been working to save the River Line.



Colonel Jim Bogle dies

Colonel Jim Bogle died early on 15 August at age 94. The preeminent expert on the Andrews Raid and an esteemed railroad historian, Colonel Bogle spent 31 years in the Army, including service in WWII and Korea. His last active duty assignments were in the Atlanta area, and he retired here in 1967. A fifty year member of the Atlanta Civil War Round Table, he served as its president in 1967-1968 and as its newsletter editor for several years. He supervised restoration of the locomotive *Texas*, still on display at the Atlanta Cyclorama. His research, writing, and presentations have earned Colonel Bogle a place in the first rank of Civil War historians.

GBA can add its appreciation to the many accolades Colonel Bogle deservedly received. He was always willing to respond to questions and share his knowledge, and his memory remained remarkably sharp. An invaluable resource and a true gentleman, he will be missed.

New Atlanta History Center exhibitions

In addition to its permanent Civil War exhibition, "Turning Point," the Atlanta History Center will feature two temporary exhibitions relating to the Civil War: www.atlantahistorycenter.com.

"War in Our Backyards," which highlights long lost battlefields and buildings within the current Atlanta city limits, opened 7 August and will run until 1 October 2011. Once again on display are the large Wilbur Kurtz wall maps, along with selected Kurtz paintings, wartime maps from both sides, postwar maps of the fortifications around the city, furniture from houses occupied by Federal troops, and George Barnard's photos of wartime Atlanta. While many of Barnard's photos will be familiar to students of the Atlanta Campaign, several of them are displayed using both of the stereo views: Usually, only the better preserved of each pair is reproduced in print. The video presentation of the photo pairs allows for a three dimensional effect.

Especially interesting are interactive displays that allow users to focus on particular areas, compare wartime features to modern features and overhead images, see what areas of the city were destroyed during the Confederate evacuation and the Federal occupation, and discover whether a Confederate defense line or a Federal fort may literally have been in the backyard of one's home or workplace. GBA is glad to have played a small role in preparing the "War in Our Backyards" exhibition.

The second temporary exhibition is part of the Center's series "Civil War to Civil Rights" and will have a much shorter run, opening on 4 September and closing on 7 November 2010. "With Malice Toward None" is a travelling exhibition in honor of the bicentennial of Lincoln's birth and has been on tour since February 2009. The Atlanta History Center is the only venue in the South to host this exhibition organized by the Library of Congress. In addition to a selection of Lincoln artifacts from the Library's collection, the exhibition also features interactive displays.

Archaeological work at Camp Lawton

The site of Confederate prison Camp Lawton has long been known to be at least partly within Magnolia Springs State Park, north of Millen, and earthworks for the prison guards remain visible and interpreted within the park: www.gastateparks.org/MagnoliaSprings. Frequent participants of GBA's annual tour led by Ed Bearss may remember our visit to the site in 2002.

Camp Lawton was built in October 1864 as one alternative to Camp Sumter in Andersonville, which had already been the objective of one Federal raid and was assumed by the Confederates to remain a target. Consequently, about 10,000 men were moved from Andersonville to Camp Lawton, only to have Sherman's March to the Sea cause the Confederates to move the prisoners out of Camp Lawton in late November. Still, over 600 prisoners died while at Camp Lawton, and Federal troops who discovered the site relished burning the wooden enclosure.

Last year, Kevin Chapman, a Georgia Southern University graduate student, proposed an archaeological study of the site, since the exact position of the prisoner stockade was uncertain. Working at both the state park site and on the adjacent Bo Ginn National Fish Hatchery, the digging team quickly found evidence of where the pine posts had been as well as artifacts, including buttons, coins, and medical equipment. The 18 August announcement and display of the discoveries drew a crowd of about 1,000 and made national news: www.fws.gov/southeast. To prevent looting, new fencing and cameras were installed before the announcement.

These archaeological finds reinforce the argument for preserving Civil War sites.

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