

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

GBA now on Facebook

Thanks to GBA member Russ Hickman, Georgia Battlefields Association now has a Facebook presence. <https://Facebook.com/georgiabattlefields>. Our Facebook page will include more event announcements and articles from outside GBA. We welcome feedback.

GBA contributes to Kettle Creek battlefield preservation

The Georgia Battlefields Association trustees voted to contribute \$20,000 towards the acquisition of additional land at the Kettle Creek Revolutionary War battlefield. The 180-acre purchase is being coordinated by Campaign 1776, a Civil War Trust program, and will more than double the current battlefield park preserved by Wilkes County and Kettle Creek Battlefield Association.

www.georgiaencyclopedia.org/articles/history-archaeology/battle-kettle-creek
www.kettlecreekbattlefield.org www.nps.gov/nr/feature/july/2011/kettle_creek_battlefield.htm
www.civilwar.org/learn/maps/battle-kettle-creek-february-14-1779

Other than indirect contributions to the Savannah Revolutionary War battlefield through Coastal Heritage Society www.chsgeorgia.org/American-Revolution, GBA had not previously expanded beyond its Civil War focus, and we did so after some debate. We voted in favor of the donation because few Revolutionary War battlefields are in Georgia, so such contributions are unlikely to compete long-term with efforts to preserve the more than 350 Civil War-related sites in the state. Further, we know the Civil War Trust is a reputable preservation organization.

GBA represented at 2017 Civil War Trust annual conference

As has been true since 1996, Georgia Battlefields Association was represented at the Civil War Trust annual conference, held this year in Chattanooga. In addition to battlefield tours, the conference presents an opportunity to learn of preservation initiatives and techniques. Further, GBA trustees were able to coordinate with Trust staff members on preservation opportunities.

Left photo: Some of the GBA members at the 10 June banquet. Standing left to right: Vince Dooley, David Hull, Larry Peterson, Charlie Crawford, Dan Hanks, Bill Porter, Joe Trahan, and Jack Davis. Seated are Kathleen Peterson, Mary Porter, and Cheryl Trahan. Right photo: GBA display in the exhibit hall, prepared by GBA vice president Mary-Elizabeth Ellard.



GBA assists Georgia Historical Society with marker location

A Georgia Historical Marker indicating the location of General A.P. Stewart's headquarters during the 20 July 1864 Battle of Peachtree Creek has been missing for six years, possibly stolen and taken to a disreputable metal recycler. www.hmdb.org/marker.asp?marker=50625. Georgia Historical Society, having assumed responsibility for repairing and replacing markers since the state of Georgia closed its historical marker repair shop a few years ago, asked Georgia Battlefields Association for help in verifying the location of the headquarters, which the marker indicated was in the Ira Foster house. GBA was able to find the Foster house by consulting the [Atlas to Accompany the Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies](#).

Nash Farm battlefield park update

GBA sent an e-mail in late May regarding the Nash Farm Battlefield Park. In a series of events beginning in March, Henry County Commissioner Dee Clemmons, who represents the district in which the park is located, requested the removal of a reconstructed earthwork, the removal of a Confederate second national flag from one of the three flagpoles on the property (the U.S. flag and the state flag remain on the other two poles), and the removal of any Confederate flags visible from the outside of the museum building. Many of the artifacts in the museum were on loan from a private collector, and the last request prompted that individual to remove the artifacts. The museum then closed in late May. Subsequent statements and press releases from Commissioner Clemmons and from other parties questioned the historical significance of the site, referring to it as undocumented. Media coverage included other assertions that we could not verify. Rather than appear at the 6 June county commission meeting, Georgia Battlefields elected to send a letter to the county commission. Here is the content:

As an organization dedicated to historic site preservation, Georgia Battlefields Association is concerned about the loss or potential loss of a site that can be used to educate people about what happened there as well as about the Atlanta Campaign and the Civil War in general.

Archaeological and archival evidence indicates that what is now the Nash Farm Battlefield Park was the site of a 20 August 1864 cavalry fight and a 3 September 1864 infantry fight, the latter marking the effective end of the Atlanta Campaign. We're particularly concerned that the historical marker, monument, and interpretive signs might be removed from the park. These are important educational tools for anyone visiting the park without benefit of a competent, non-partisan guide.

Regarding increasing use of the park for recreation: Nash Farm Park is owned by the county, so the county government is entitled to decide how the park can be of greatest benefit to the citizens. Georgia Battlefields Association requests that any earthworks remaining from the September 1864 occupation of the site not be disturbed and that no construction occur without the opportunity for archaeologists to examine the affected area.

Independently, the Georgia Civil War Commission sent a letter, as did Dr. David Evans, who wrote [Sherman's Horsemen](#), the definitive account of Federal Cavalry actions during the Atlanta Campaign. Dr. Evans refuted the contention that the site had no historical significance.

Georgia Battlefields Association will continue to work to prevent removal of the monument and interpretive markers and to retain the site's designation as a battlefield.

On a related issue, the controversy over removal of Confederate monuments led the *Atlanta Journal Constitution* to devote the entire editorial page of its 11 June 2017 Sunday edition to "The ongoing skirmish over Confederate monuments." Commenting were:

Andre Jackson for the paper's editorial board

www.myajc.com/news/opinion/opinion-take-entire-tale-not-fragments/15gKQVAx3TtLDeebv31NDO/

Sheffield Hale for the Atlanta History Center

www.myajc.com/news/opinion/opinion-bringing-clarity-history-monumental-community-decisions/eFqd500iA4vn0IsjPCPLTN/

Barry D. Wood, a Washington writer and broadcaster.

www.myajc.com/news/opinion/opinion-pulling-down-confederate-statues-disgrace/odcE5dSwEI4f8AcnlwOW5L/

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July 2017

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