

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 2018 tour will continue to follow the Atlanta Campaign

Dates: 8-11 March 2018. Ed Bearss will be primary guide.

Sites: Battles of Atlanta, Ezra Church, and Utoy Creek. Visit to Atlanta History Center to see locomotive *Texas* and Cyclorama being conserved. More details in October 2017 newsletter.

Hotel: Courtyard by Marriott Executive Park, 1236 Executive Park Drive, Atlanta GA 30329. GBA rate is \$117 per night (\$139.55 with tax). Central reservation number is 800 264 0729. Hotel number is 404 728 0708. Click [here](#) for online booking link.

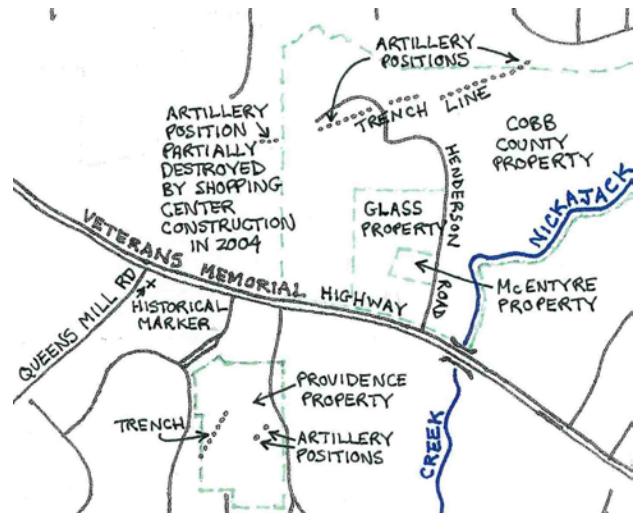
Cost & Registration: \$430. Register on line at www.georgiabattlefields.org/tours.aspx, or mail check payable to Georgia Battlefields Association PO Box 669953, Marietta GA 30066-9953.

Chicago Civil War Round Table tour 26-29 April 2018

Chicago CWRT will bring its annual tour to Georgia to explore the opening of the Atlanta Campaign through the Battle of Kennesaw Mountain. Details and registration for the tour are at www.chicagocwrt.org/battletour.html, or see Georgia Battlefields October newsletter.

River Line earthworks hearing

The Cobb County Commission postponed until 19 December their consideration of OB-40, the Other Business item that relates to two artillery positions and a trench on Providence property on the south side of Veterans Memorial Highway (October and November newsletters). On 14 November, the Commission approved using \$1.3 million of the 2008 Parks Bond funds to purchase the Glass and McEntyre properties on the north side of Veterans Memorial Highway. This actions supplements previous purchases that have saved Federal River Line earthworks.



Georgia Battlefields Association wrote again to Commissioner Lisa Cupid regarding the Providence property. Here is the text of that message:

Commissioner Cupid,

I know you get good support from Mandy Elliott and the county staff, but I'm sending along a map that helps me keep track of the historical sites along Veterans Memorial Highway west of Nickajack Creek.

In support of the River Line Historic Area, Georgia Battlefields Association has been trying to preserve these sites, and our representatives have appeared before the Cobb County Board of Commissioners or submitted our concerns on several occasions since 2002.

You can see that a Union artillery position was partially destroyed by construction of the Publix shopping center in 2004 (Woody Thompson was district 4 commissioner at the time), and that began a series of threats to the earthworks in this immediate area.

When OB-40 comes before you on 19 December, please give special consideration to the trench line and artillery positions on the property adjoining the Providence development. They deserve 50 foot buffers, though allowing them to remain in a woodland setting would be even better when explaining them to school groups or anyone who is interested in understanding the history of the area. Once they are surrounded by modern construction, the damage cannot be reversed.

Thanks to you and other commissioners for recently approving use of 2008 Parks Bond funds to purchase the Glass and McEntyre properties and for previously preserving the Union earthworks in the area.

Charlie Crawford, President, Georgia Battlefields Association

Please consider writing to Commissioner Cupid lisa.cupid@cobbcounty.org and copying her assistant Marva Harris marva.harris@cobbcounty.org and county preservation planner Mandy Elliott mandy.elliott@cobbcounty.org.

Confederate monument and street name news

A GBA representative appeared before the 1 November meeting of the City of Atlanta advisory committee on Confederate street names and monuments and requested that the committee keep historical markers separate from monuments that extolled white supremacy.

At its 13 November meeting, the committee announced it would recommend to the mayor that the monument on Peachtree Battle Avenue in front of the E. Rivers School and the Peace monument in Piedmont Park be removed from display and put in storage because of the wording on the monuments. A 2001 state law prohibits removal of Confederate monuments. The committee recommended the Confederate monuments in Oakland Cemetery remain but with additional context and without Confederate flags.

Regarding street names, the committee recommended the immediate renaming of “Confederate Avenue, East Confederate Avenue, and any street named after Nathan Bedford Forrest, John B. Gordon, Robert E. Lee, Stephen Dill Lee, or Howell Cobb. The aforementioned were significant Confederate military leaders and actively involved in white supremacist activities after the war, making them undeserving of the honor of a street name in Atlanta.” The committee also recommended formation of a longer-term committee to consider the dozens of other streets named for lesser known Confederates. Atlanta has an ordinance for renaming streets that may present an obstacle to quick action. Read the committee’s 40-page report [here](#).

Atlanta Mayor Reed plans to announce an implementation strategy the week of 4 December.

Atlanta History Center solicits input on Cyclorama exhibit

On 8 November, a GBA representative participated in a meeting at the Atlanta History Center (AHC) to consider exhibits that will support the display of the Battle of Atlanta Cyclorama. Among the questions are how much space to devote to the story of the battle, how much to devote to the origin and subsequent travels and restorations and conservation of the painting itself, how to make exhibits inviting for a range of visitors (young and old, city residents and foreign visitors, etc.), the amount of interactive and digital displays, reference to other battles in the Atlanta area, and a host of other considerations. Another GBA representative will participate in a similar session in early December, and AHC intends to have follow-on meetings before the November 2018 opening.

On 18 November, three GBA representatives participated in a review of an animated map that will be part of the exhibits in the upper gallery that will lead to the Cyclorama. The map will show military actions in Georgia from May 1864 through May 1865. It takes about ten minutes and will play on a continuous loop on a 9’ x 12’ screen.

150 years ago this month

On 9 December, the convention to revise Georgia’s constitution opened in Atlanta. Brigadier General John Pope, commanding the reconstruction Third Military District, selected Atlanta as the site for the convention because innkeepers in Milledgeville, the state capital, would not accommodate the 33 non-white delegates. Initially pleased with Pope’s assignment to command in March, many white Georgians had turned against Pope, and on 28 December, President Andrew Johnson relieved Pope of command and selected Major General George Meade instead.

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www.georgiabattlefields.org

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