

GEORGIA

BATTLEFIELDS

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Georgia Battlefields Association adds six trustees

Under its 1995 articles of incorporation and by-laws, Georgia Battlefields Association must have at least three and no more than 21 trustees. For most of our existence, we've had four to eight trustees: As of early May 2019, we had seven. After a discussion among those seven trustees, we decided to expand our board and added six more trustees by a vote on 20 May.

Why now?

In January 2020, we will lose one trustee who has decided not to run for another term, and we may lose another; so we began with the intent of finding people who would be willing to serve to keep the number at seven while simultaneously broadening the talent and experience base of the board. In our discussions, we also considered the age of the current trustees: one in the 80s, three in the 70s, two in the 60s, and one in the 50s. Some have had significant medical issues, so we decided to add members not only to increase the board's capabilities but also to increase prospects for continuity if disability affects some trustees.

How did we choose?

We developed a list of candidates using several criteria, including demonstrated interest in preservation beyond GBA membership, and help during our annual tours or other GBA events. Since most of our board deliberations are done via telecommunications, we considered GBA members who live outside Georgia.

We also had elimination criteria. Any person working for a government preservation organization (federal, state, or local) was ruled out because of possible conflict of interest if GBA takes a position contrary to the government agency. Further, the federal and state governments (and, we suspect, some local governments) have policies restricting employees from serving in a decision-making capacity for organizations that do work also performed by the government. This would rule out National Park Service employees, for example. We have worked over the years with many people already involved in advocating for preservation of specific sites, such as Friends of Resaca. These folks would be good candidates, but we wanted to avoid even the appearance of favoritism so that we could not be suspected of providing funds to a site in part because one of its friends group officers was also on the GBA board.

We ultimately contacted six candidates and were glad that all agreed to serve.

The six new trustees

Jim Wentworth grew up on a dairy farm in western Massachusetts. He has a B.S. in Wildlife Biology from the University of Massachusetts and M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in Wildlife Biology from the University of Georgia.

He spent over 30 years with the United States Forest Service and worked in Minnesota, New Hampshire, and--for the last 29 years--on the Chattahoochee National Forest in Georgia. He retired from the Forest Service in 2018 and lives in Blairsville, Georgia.

In addition to frequently helping with GBA events, Jim is an Atlanta Civil War Round Table member and an American Battlefield Trust color bearer.

David Hull grew up in rural central Florida and graduated from Washington & Lee University in Lexington, Virginia. After spending three years in the U.S. Navy, he received an M.B.A. from the University of Southern California.

He has resided for the past 34 years in Claremont, California, and has worked in various financial and management positions, primarily in the healthcare and financial services industries. He has been a high school soccer referee for the past 20 years.

David has been involved with various preservation organizations for the past 30 years, primarily the American Battlefield Trust, Shenandoah Valley Battlefields Foundation, and Georgia Battlefields Association.

Jeff Wright grew up near the Chickamauga battlefield and heard from his great-grandmother of her father's experience as a Confederate soldier. He has served on committees that erected monuments, including the Cleburne statue in Ringgold Gap. He now lives in Kennesaw and helped save several Cobb County sites that contain earthworks. He has written the texts and coordinated the placement of several historical markers in Cobb County.

Jeff served 25 years on active and reserve duty in the Air Force, retiring in 2007.

He serves on the Board of Marietta Confederate Cemetery and is a member of the Sons of Confederate Veterans, Cobb County Civil War Round Table, and American Battlefield Trust. He has helped Georgia Battlefields Association in efforts to protect the Mud Creek Line and the Lost Mountain-Brushy Mountain Line and has spoken on GBA's behalf.

Stephanie Vale grew up in Manassas, Virginia, and has lived there most of her life. She has an A.A. degree from Northern Virginia Community College and is currently pursuing her B.A. in History at Southern New Hampshire University. Her goal is to learn the history that has been forgotten and to continually learn the history around her.

Stephanie is a Manassas National Battlefield Park volunteer and has given numerous tours of the park and surrounding area. She is a member of Bull Run Civil War Round Table, where she serves on the Executive Committee as Marketing Chair. In addition, she volunteers for Prince William County Historical Preservation events and for City of Manassas history tours. Stephanie is also a Shenandoah Valley Battlefields Foundation Guard Member.

Her strong interest in researching her own history has become a joy. She has extensively researched and continues to research her father's Virginia and mother's Georgia roots.

Carlton Mullis grew up in Macon, Georgia and graduated from the University of Georgia with a B.A. in Political Science. After moving to Atlanta in 1996, he completed a B.S. in Criminal Justice at Georgia State University.

In 2017, Carlton retired as a Deputy Chief of Police at Georgia State University after over 30 years of service with three different agencies. For the 2019-2020 campaign year, he will be First Vice President of Atlanta Civil War Round Table. He also serves on the Advisory Committee for the Atlanta Area Zeta Beta Tau Fraternity Alumni Association.

Carlton is a volunteer tour guide at Historic Oakland Cemetery in Atlanta, where he gives regular overview tours, school tours, and the special topic Civil War tour. He has given over 100 of these tours since 2015. He already serves GBA by sending membership renewal reminders and acknowledgments and mailing the print version of the monthly newsletter.

Dennis Dunleavy, a native of Long Island, New York, and 32-year resident of northern Virginia, is a financial institution regulatory consultant. He graduated from the University of Notre Dame and served almost 36 years as a Principal Bank Examiner with the Comptroller of the Currency and the Federal Housing Finance Agency. He has certifications and commissions in federal bank examination, credit analysis, anti-money laundering, and fraud examination.

He served a decade as a leader of the Notre Dame Club of Washington DC and five years on the Notre Dame National Alumni Board, where he facilitated the activities of seventeen alumni clubs in the southern mid-Atlantic area.

Dennis has visited hundreds of historic sites, including numerous Civil War battlefields. He is a member of Bull Run Civil War Round Table and Appomattox 1865 Foundation.

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