

# GEORGIA

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# BATTLEFIELDS

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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](mailto:info@georgiabattlefields.org)

## Peaceful transition of power at Georgia Battlefields Association

The Georgia Battlefields Association trustees held their annual meeting via video conference on 20 January 2021. Treasurer Bill Gurry and previous treasurer Lloyd Thompson were elected to new three-year terms as trustees. The other 11 trustees' terms continue. See our web site for a listing of all the trustees. [www.georgiabattlefields.org/gba\\_activities.aspx](http://www.georgiabattlefields.org/gba_activities.aspx)

The annual election of officers produced several changes.

**Joe Trahan** is GBA's new president and provides important continuity as he has been a GBA trustee for ten years. Joe is a native of New Orleans and participated as a youth in reenactments of the 1815 Battle of New Orleans. He received a B.A. in American Military History from Tulane University, an M.A. in Public Relations from Ball State University, and a Ph.D. in Mass Communications from the University of Southern Mississippi. He has over 40 years of public relations experience with governmental, educational, association, and non-profit organizations.



Joe Trahan (center) with American Battlefield Trust's Director of Real Estate Tom Gilmore (left) and Charlie Crawford.

Joe was also in the United States Army Reserve and commanded the 314th Public Affairs Operations Center in Birmingham, Alabama. In 1994, he helped with public relations for the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of D-Day and later retired from the Army as a lieutenant colonel.

For many years, Joe taught public relations at Georgia State University in Atlanta. He also operates a training and consulting company [www.doctrahanmedia.com](http://www.doctrahanmedia.com). Since 1998, he has conducted media relations training for more than 3,500 people yearly in the United States, England, Norway, France, Belgium, Paraguay, Mexico, and the Netherlands. In addition to being a GBA trustee, Joe is an American Battlefield Trust Color Bearer.

**Jim Wentworth**, GBA's new vice president, will also be familiar to many of you. Jim and his wife Cindy are longtime GBA members and have helped stage almost every GBA annual tour for fifteen years. Cindy served as a GBA trustee from 2006 through 2018 and was also vice president for several years, and Jim became a trustee in 2019. Both Jim and Cindy are retired from the U.S. Forest Service.

Jim 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 and worked for almost 30 years at the Chattahoochee National Forest. In addition to frequently helping with GBA events, Jim is an American Battlefield Trust Color Bearer.

**Gene Murphy** has ended his long service as the GBA corporate secretary but will continue as a trustee, which he has been since 2004. Gene is a native of New York and is an attorney specializing in real estate transactions, so this valuable expertise will remain available to GBA.

Gene will be replaced as secretary by **Mary-Elizabeth Ellard**, who served from 2015 to 2020 as GBA's vice president. Mary-Elizabeth is a native Atlantan with two undergraduate degrees from Duke University and a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degree from the University of Georgia. She carries on the preservation legacy of her father, Cecil Turner. As an Atlanta city alderman from 1961 to 1973, he advocated for, among other things, the acquisition of southwest Atlanta property that is now Cascade Springs Nature Preserve and contains earthworks from the August 1864 Battle of Utoy Creek.

Charlie Crawford, president from 2002 to 2021, was voted the honorific of president emeritus. Frank Chew, treasurer from 2004 to 2015, was voted the honorific of treasurer emeritus.

Thanks to Bill Gurry's efforts as treasurer, GBA's finances again passed an independent audit. Almost no battlefield land came on the market over the past year, but we are in good position to take advantage of any opportunities that arise.

We've done preliminary planning for our next tour that will cover sites in central Georgia, such as Griswoldville (an early preservation success for GBA in 1998), Old Clinton, Milledgeville, and Irwinville. The tour hotel will be in the Macon area. What we can't determine is the timing of the tour. We won't put 40 people in the confines of a tour bus until vaccinations have become available for everyone. We'll let you know via our web site, Facebook page, and newsletter when the dates have been set.

## Georgia Battlefields Association to lead March tours

GBA will again lead a Civil War Atlanta downtown walking tour as part of Atlanta Preservation Center's Phoenix Flies program. Detailed info will appear on Atlanta Preservation Center's web site [www.atlantapreservationcenter.com](http://www.atlantapreservationcenter.com) soon. Register by calling 404 688 3353 ext 15.

## PayPal payment problems

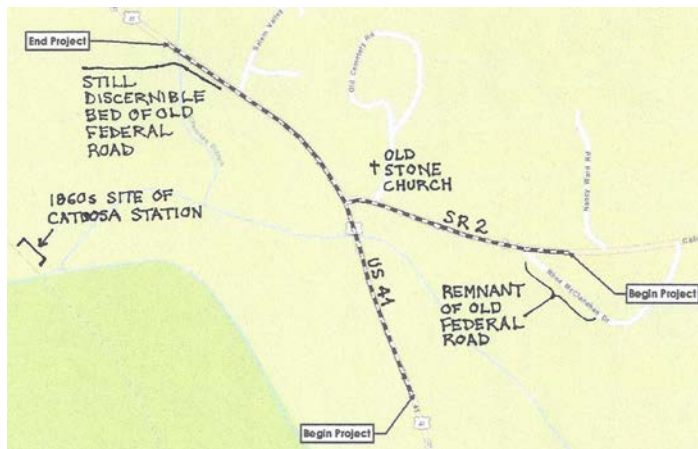
Through persistent effort, our treasurer Bill Gurry may have solved some of the problems that occur when you try to renew a membership or make a donation to GBA via PayPal (September 2020 newsletter); but if a problem does arise, Bill will contact you. Please respond if he does.

## Georgia Battlefields Association consulting on two more road projects

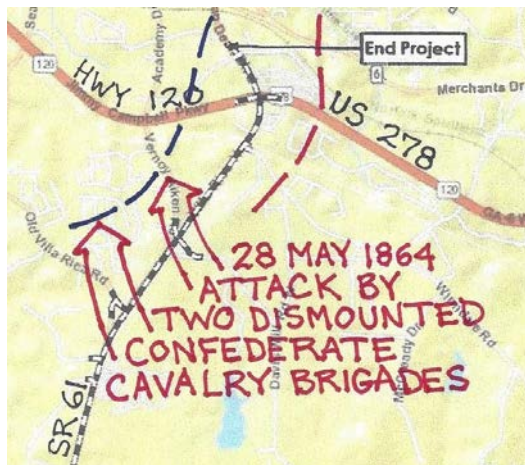
Georgia Battlefields Association is a consulting party for the evaluation of the potential impact on historic properties of two more Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) projects. Such evaluations are required by section 106 of the 1966 National Historic Preservation Act <https://www.achp.gov/protecting-historic-properties>.

One road project is east of Ringgold at the intersection of US 41 and State Road 2, near the Old Stone Church that was used as a hospital after the September 1863 Battle of Chickamauga and again after the November 1863 Battle of Ringgold Gap. A GDOT project a few years ago converted the Y intersection into a 90 degree intersection but also elevated part of the roadway, obscuring the vista of the church and creating water run-off issues. The new project is to turn the intersection into a roundabout. Nearby are remnants of the pre-war Old Federal Road. The area also witnessed an 11 September 1863 cavalry clash during the Chickamauga Campaign, and Longstreet's troops detained at nearby Catoosa Station before marching to Chickamauga. GBA trustee Jeff Wright, a native of Ringgold, is representing GBA.

The other road project is to widen SR 61 south of Dallas. On 28 May 1864, two Confederate cavalry brigades attacked across the area now transected by the road. Earthworks east and west of the road should not be affected, but we'll monitor the project.



Project to install a roundabout at the intersection of US 41 and SR 2, east of Ringgold.



Project to widen SR 61 south of Dallas.

**Georgia Battlefields Association**  
PO Box 669953  
Marietta GA 30066

[www.georgiabattlefields.org](http://www.georgiabattlefields.org)

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