

G E O R G I A

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

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. Tours will be at 1 p.m. on 6 & 20 March and are free. Beginning on 1 March, you can register at www.preserveatl.eventbrite.com. The GBA tour is event 23 on page 34 of the 2021 Phoenix Flies program. www.preserveatlanta.com

GBA will also lead a 27 March tour of the northwest sector of the city of Atlanta's 1864 defense line that ran through what is now the Georgia Tech campus. The tour filled quickly, but you can register for the standby list at www.civilwarroundtableofatlanta.org/activities.htm.

Georgia Battlefields Association town hall meeting via Zoom

GBA will hold its first town hall meeting for members via Zoom from 7 to 9 p.m. on 15 March. Many of you have already met the new officers, but you'll have a chance to ask questions, not only about their ideas and potential initiatives, but any other subject relating to the organization. If you'd like to join, e-mail us at info@georgiabattlefields.org. We'll respond via e-mail with the meeting ID number and passcode.

American Battlefield Trust Park Day is 10 April

American Battlefield Trust is hoping to hold its annual park day on 10 April. This is an opportunity to help maintain national, state, and local historic sites. Only four sites (listed below) in Georgia have registered so far. Virus concerns have caused other sites to hope that developments in the coming weeks will allow a more informed decision, so check the web site often. <https://www.battlefields.org/events/park-day/volunteer-opportunities>. **Note:** Some sites, such as Shoupade Park, hold the event on dates other than 10 April.

Prater's Mill		info@pratersmill.org (706) 694-6455
Shoupade Park	17 April	riverlinega@gmail.com (404) 699-2326
Jeff Davis Historic Site		jeffersondavishistoricsite@gmail.com (229) 831-2335
Kettle Creek Battlefield		wjc1@aol.com (678) 409-4644

Battlefield monuments

Each year, Congress must pass appropriations bills to fund operations of the federal government. Congress often misses the deadlines for passing the various bills, and fiscal years often begin with government agencies and departments operating under continuing resolutions rather than approved budgets. On 24 July 2020, the House of Representatives passed by a vote of 224-189 the Environment, Military Construction, and Veterans Affairs Appropriations Act 2021. The Act included a section to remove all physical Confederate commemoration works, such as statues, monuments, sculptures, memorials, and plaques, from National Park Service sites within 180 days of the enactment of the legislation. Interesting that the specification was included in an annual appropriations bill rather than being proposed as an amendment to the 1966 National Historic Preservation Act. Final passage of the Act would have meant removal of monuments from Gettysburg, Vicksburg, Chickamauga, Shiloh, Antietam, and every other NPS battlefield. The Senate did not agree to the section, and it was not included in the final bill; but we expect the initiative to resurface.



If the same wording as last year's proposed legislation becomes law, the Smith death site (left) and Georgia (right) monuments would be removed from the Chickamauga battlefield.



General Joseph E. Johnston monument relocated in Dalton

Early on 6 February, the monument that includes a statue of Joseph E. Johnston was removed from the downtown Dalton intersection where it had stood for over a century. Unlike many similar monuments around the U.S., it was not put in storage. Rather, it was relocated to another Dalton location, the house where Johnston had his headquarters from late December 1863 to mid May 1864. You can read about the history of what is now known as the Huff (a post-war owner) house at <http://www.whitfield-murrayhistoricalsociety.org/historicproperties/huffhouse.html>.



Monument at the intersection of Crawford St. and Hamilton St. in downtown Dalton, where it stood for over a century (12 October 1912 to 6 February 2021). GBA photo.



Monument behind Huff house (visible at right). Reconfiguration of the monument base is pending. It now faces W. Hawthorne St. Photo courtesy of Bob Jenkins.

The United Daughters of the Confederacy (UDC) owns the monument. According to a press release from the attorney representing the UDC in this matter, the City of Dalton notified the local chapter on 8 July 2020 that the UDC needed to move the monument as any permissive easement that allowed its continued placement in the public right of way in downtown Dalton would no longer be permitted. The City gave the UDC a reasonable period to arrange the monument's relocation. The UDC indicated it was willing to move the monument provided that a suitable location could be found and that funds for the movement could be found since the UDC did not have the money to do so. Some members of the community volunteered to raise the money, and the Community Foundation of Northwest Georgia agreed to accept donations and dispense the funds if relocation could be arranged. The Whitfield-Murray Historical Society agreed to receive the monument at the Huff house, which it owns and operates as a museum and meeting facility. The UDC asked for bids on the relocation using local companies, and sufficient funds were raised by early this year. The City of Dalton assisted with permitting and traffic control during the movement of the statue but otherwise spent no tax dollars on the relocation.

This was the only full statue of Johnston until 2010 when another was installed near Bentonville battlefield in North Carolina. <https://www.ncpedia.org/monument/joseph-johnston-monument>

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March 2021

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