

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

Oakland Cemetery vandalized again

Over the night of 27-28 February 2021, vandals again struck the Confederate section of Atlanta's Oakland Cemetery, much as they did in late May 2020 (July 2020 newsletter). Paint was again applied to the Confederate obelisk and the statue of the mortally wounded lion. Contextual signage was also defaced. Much of the graffiti was vulgar and was quickly covered by the cemetery staff, but what is shown in the photos allows you to imagine what is shrouded.

As far as we can tell, the local media has not covered the story; and the city government that owns the cemetery apparently prefers not to comment.

Georgia Battlefields Association's position remains unchanged. While we have advocated for battlefield monuments to be in a special category, damage to public property is a crime whether or not it occurs on a battlefield, and criminals should be pursued and prosecuted. Damage to cemeteries is egregious.



Obelisk with tarp around base.



Lion.



Contextual sign.
Photos by Carlton Mullis

GBA annual tour scheduled for 7-10 October 2021

We completed our March 2020 Columbus-based tour just in time, but we delayed our 2021 tour because of virus concerns. Considering the vaccination rate, we've now planned our 2021 tour for 7-10 October. Since safety is our primary concern, we won't accept registrations until we're more confident that we can conduct the tour with minimal risk. We'll be based in Macon and will see sites relating to the Stoneman's cavalry raid of July 1864, the early days of the 1864 March to the Sea, and the later days of Wilson's 1865 raid. We'll also see sites relating to Macon's role as a manufacturing center and Milledgeville's role as state capital.

Perry Bennett dedicated to marker repair

Those of you who participated in our 2018 tour with Ed Bearss will remember U.S. Army LtCol Perry Bennett for helping with our visit to Battle of Utoy Creek sites. Since Perry retired from the Army, he has repaired and reinstalled several Georgia Historical Markers. Last October, he had a large role in reinstalling Battle of Atlanta markers near the Inman Park rail station (November 2020 newsletter). More recently, he cleaned, repaired, and repainted two more markers: The Extended Line marker on Ga 85 between the Atlanta airport and Riverdale, and the Battlefield Landmark marker on the west side of US 41 in Jonesboro. See photos. Georgia Historical Society supplied the specialized fasteners that secure marker bases to their posts.



Left: Extended Line marker before being reattached level.

Right: Battlefield Landmark marker before and after.

Photos by Perry Bennett.



Reminder: American Battlefield Trust Park Day is 10 April

American Battlefield Trust (ABT) is holding its annual park day on 10 April. This is an opportunity to help maintain national, state, and local historic sites. **Note:** Shoupade Park is holding its event on 17 April. For events outside Georgia, see the ABT web site <https://www.battlefields.org/events/park-day/volunteer-opportunities>.

Prater's Mill	info@pratersmill.org (706) 694-6455
Dalton Cemetery	msowder@dalton.net (706) 278-3925
Resaca Cemetery	johnbidy@bellsouth.net (706) 581-5366
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

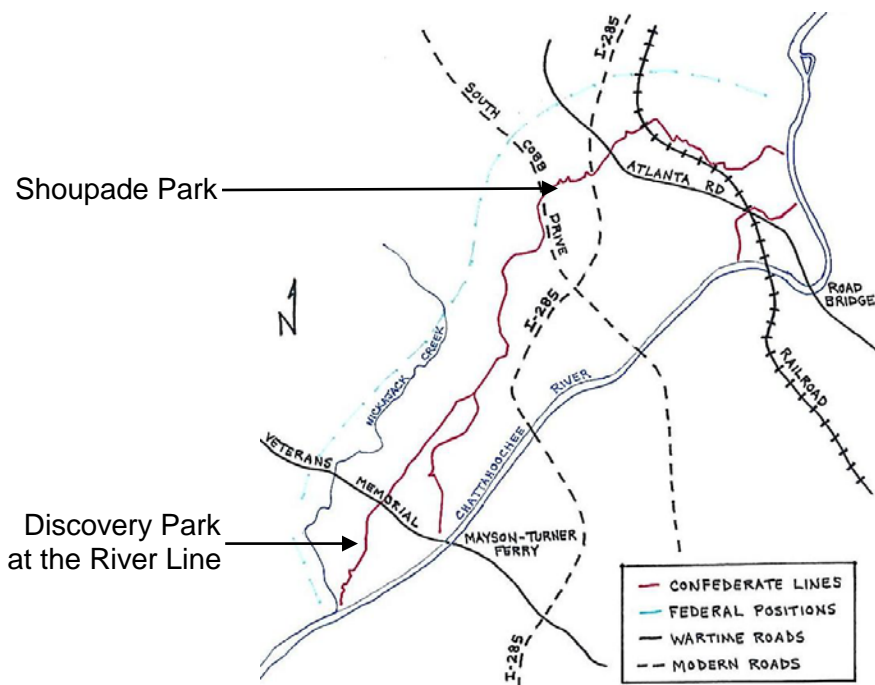
River Line Park opens, and neighborhood program initiated

Shoupade Park, a section of the River Line earthworks, is mentioned above as a participating site in American Battlefield Trust's Park Day program. Another section of the River Line is in the news because new parking spaces, restrooms, trails, and signage officially opened on 31 March and made the recently named (June 2020 newsletter) Discovery Park at the River Line much more accessible. The park contains a long trench, a unique fortification known as a Shoupade, and an artillery anchor fort, so named because it anchors the end of the line.

The River Line Historic Area (RLHA) organization, which has done so much to preserve the remnants of the River Line and educate the public about the significance of the sites, is looking for more people to join its Neighborhood Ambassador program, designed to facilitate relations between adjacent neighborhoods and the RLHA. Each ambassador:

- Is a neighborhood "arm-chair" advocate for the RLHA historic and natural resources mission
- Lives within the geographic boundaries of the Historic Area
- Serves as a liaison between his or her neighborhood and the RLHA

Learn more about the program at the RLHA web site. <http://riverline.org/about/>



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