

# 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)

## Georgia Battlefields Association trustees hold annual meeting

The Georgia Battlefields Association annual trustees' meeting was held on 23 January via video conference. Trustees Zoomed in from California, Tennessee, Virginia, and Georgia.

GBA added six new trustees in 2019, and nine of our thirteen trustees had three-year terms expiring this year. Jeff Wright asked to leave the board but continue working on preservation projects. Jim Wentworth, Carlton Mullis, David Hull, and Charlie Crawford were re-elected to two year terms so the term expirations would be more evenly distributed. Stephanie Vale, Joe Trahan, Gene Murphy, and Dennis Dunleavy were re-elected to three-year terms. The terms of Mary-Elizabeth Ellard, Bill Gurry, and Lloyd Thompson continued. The board accepted the resignation of trustee Frank Chew, who started as a trustee in 2005 and served as treasurer 2005-2015. We sent a letter of appreciation to Frank, who now lives in Portland, Oregon. The current officers were all re-elected for one-year terms: President Joe Trahan, Vice President Jim Wentworth, Corporate Secretary Mary-Elizabeth Ellard, and Treasurer Bill Gurry.

Treasurer Gurry's report indicates GBA is on sound financial footing. We have funds, but what we haven't had in the last few years are prospective properties to buy or put under easement. Now, we do have three potential projects on which we're working in cooperation with the American Battlefield Trust.

We had an extensive discussion on an education initiative that would feature an interactive web site designed to support the state of Georgia learning objectives for history courses taught in the 4<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, and 11<sup>th</sup> grades. This will be a long term project on which we will coordinate with other organizations, and we'll include input from teachers. See [May 2020 newsletter](#).

The board approved trustee Dennis Dunleavy's motion that any GBA expenditures for battlefield acquisition or conservation easement be done in memory of National Park Service Chief Historian Emeritus Ed Bearss (1923-2020), for decades the nation's premier battlefield tour guide, who led 18 GBA annual tours that raised cumulatively over \$50,000. Ed also directed that over \$6,000 in contributions to his 2011 birthday event be donated to GBA.

We had an in-depth discussion about our annual tour. As you can read below, we are planning to proceed, though safety and health of the participants will always be our primary concern. We will keep you informed via our newsletter, web site, and Facebook page. Anyone who has registered for the tour will receive individual notification of changes and will have the option of a full refund if the tour dates are changed.

## GBA tour still set for 31 March to 3 April in Macon

**Hotel:** Springhill Suites at 4630 Sheraton Drive. The hotel is at I-75 exit 171 and is visible from the interstate. Phone the hotel at 478 803 9100. **Note:** Do NOT press 1 for reservations. Wait for one of the hotel staff to pick up and ask for the Georgia Battlefields Association rate of \$99 per night, which with taxes is about \$119.

**Cost & Registration:** \$430. Register online at [www.georgiabattlefields.org/tours.aspx](http://www.georgiabattlefields.org/tours.aspx), or mail check payable to Georgia Battlefields Association at PO Box 669953, Marietta GA 30066.

**Schedule:** We'll begin as usual with a Thursday evening reception at the hotel. We'll set up around 5 p.m. and hand out maps near 6 p.m. In an upgrade from previous tours, we'll be serving heavy hors d'oeuvres at the reception. If you wish, you can still go to dinner on your own afterwards. Several restaurants are available at I-75 exit 169, two miles south of the hotel. Friday: Route of the Left Wing during the early days of the March to the Sea: Eatonton, Cobb's Plantation, and Milledgeville, followed by a stop at Ocmulgee Mounds National Historical Park (NHP) to cover cavalry actions of July and November 1864. Dinner at Michael's on Mulberry. Saturday: Route of the Right Wing, including Old Clinton, town of Griswoldville, Griswoldville battlefield, Gordon, and Ball's Ferry. Dinner at Cannonball House in Macon. Sunday: Rose Hill Cemetery and downtown Macon sites relating to the town's significance as a manufacturing and supply center and Jefferson Davis' capture. A map of the tour appears in the [December 2021 newsletter](#).

**Note:** The bus company may change its policy by the time of the tour, but assume that masks will be required while you're on the bus. Masks may also be required at other venues, so please come prepared.

### **How much walking?**

We've had inquiries about the amount of walking involved. Friday will involve a walking tour of Milledgeville in the middle of the day. At Ocmulgee Mounds NHP in the afternoon, we'll walk from the parking lot to the location of Civil War earthworks, and we hope to have time for participants—if they wish—to explore at least some of the Native American mounds. Saturday will include a walking tour of Old Clinton early in the day, followed by some walking of the Griswoldville battlefield in the early afternoon. Sunday morning will include walking to cover part of Rose Hill Cemetery and a few blocks in downtown Macon.

### **Park Day is 9 April**

American Battlefield Trust (ABT) sponsors an annual Park Day, during which volunteers can help with maintenance of historic sites. This year's event will be held on 9 April.

Historic site support groups or managers can register their site to participate on ABT's web site <https://www.battlefields.org/events/park-day>, or you can contact ABT's Connor Townsend at [ctownsend@battlefields.org](mailto:ctownsend@battlefields.org) or 410 610 9226. Registration for volunteers is done through the site managers, so continue to watch the ABT web page to see which sites will be participating.

### **Georgia Historical Society announces Berrien award winner**

On 30 December, Georgia Historical Society (GHS) announced Charlie Crawford as the 2021 recipient of the [John Macpherson Berrien Award](#) that recognizes lifetime achievement in and service to Georgia history. Crawford was recognized for his work, both personally and through Georgia Battlefields Association (GBA), to preserve and make accessible historic sites in Georgia. The [Fall/Winter 2021 Georgia History Today](#) magazine has an article on page 13. Another article about the 2021 award is on Phil Gast's [Civil War Picket Blogspot](#).

During the Civil War Sesquicentennial (2011-2015), GHS's Civil War 150 Initiative resulted in the installation of new historical markers relating to the Civil War. The 2021 Berrien Award recognizes that GBA helped to fund ten of those markers, which was possible thanks to donations from our GBA members. Charlie developed and edited content for the markers and participated in the unveiling ceremonies for most of them. Since the Sesquicentennial, Charlie has continued to support GHS's marker program, reporting on missing and damaged markers, suggesting potential new markers, helping to install some, and publicizing the program.

Georgia Historical Society's past recognition of GBA included the 2013 Chapter Affiliate of the Year Award, GBA member Vince Dooley's selection for the 2014 Sarah Nichols Pinckney Volunteer of the Year Award, and Charlie's selection for the 2018 Volunteer of the Year Award.

Photo: 2014 historical marker unveiling in Savannah. Charlie Crawford at lectern, GBA member and later GHS chairman Vince Dooley, and Savannah State University professor emeritus Charles Elmore.



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