

GEORGIA

BATTLEFIELDS

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Governor signs Fiscal Year 2010 budget

On 13 May, Governor Perdue signed the Fiscal Year 2010 budget (begins 1 July 2009). He vetoed three sections passed by the legislature, but none of these related to preservation.

As reported in the May newsletter, the State Parks & Historic Sites Division reorganized to eliminate the Historic Sites Region, distributing its assets to the geographic regions. While we're glad that the personnel were retained, this nonetheless reflects a de-emphasis of historic sites. Also, the Historic Preservation Division's State Archaeologist's Office was cut by \$179,000.

In happy contrast to our earlier information, the Georgia Civil War Commission was funded at \$25,000. While this will allow only minimal operations, it is nonetheless preferable to the zero funding the Commission has often received in recent years.

Sesquicentennial Steering Committee meets

The Civil War Sesquicentennial Steering Committee met on 19 May for the first time in five months. The signed state budget (article above) eliminated marketing funds (May newsletter) for the Sesquicentennial commemoration, but the state will continue to spend money to draw tourists to historic sites, though we don't know how much money can be devoted to this effort.

The lack of funding will not reduce state control of Sesquicentennial commemoration activities since the committee never intended to centrally direct events. Rather, the goal was to provide a common calendar where communities could register their events and also to provide support by marketing to a wider audience and granting money, if available. While grants are currently problematic, marketing will be done to the extent funding allows.

The survey of state historical markers (January newsletter), conducted under the auspices of the Georgia Historical Society, found approximately 1,000 markers related in some way to the Civil War, and 150 of those were missing or needed repair. Since the survey was completed, a GBA trustee sighted at least one newly-damaged marker, so the number can only grow. The FY 2010 state budget provides no funds for marker maintenance. The last batch of repaired markers is in the State Parks & Historic Sites warehouse, where they await installation; but no more markers are in the repair pipeline. Marker repair remains a priority for the Committee, so any funds that become available will go at least in part to marker repair and in part to marketing historic sites.

The long-awaited revision of *Crossroads of Conflict*, the official state guide to Civil War sites in Georgia, should go to the printers in early July. This substantially enhanced document will be about 230 pages long and will feature many color images and maps. The enhancements increased the printing costs, and the guide is likely to sell for \$25-30. It should be available at visitors' centers or through direct order by late summer. The content of the document will also be available online so that those interested in specific sites can retrieve the information.

GBA's persistent theme at the Sesquicentennial Steering Committee meetings is that Georgia has many Civil War sites and museums to market, even if we don't get much (or any) state funding. What we need is coordination and action: the Sesquicentennial has already begun, as evidenced by the "150 years ago this month" features we have been running in the newsletter since 2006.

GBA asks Cobb County to buy historic site

In early May, GBA wrote to the Cobb County Parks Department to advocate purchase of a historic site using park bond funds approved last November (December 2008 newsletter). In Spring 2007, we wrote a similar letter relating to park bond funds approved in November 2006, and historic properties were included in Cobb County's recommended list of acquisitions (August 2007 newsletter). The historic site we're concerned with in the current instance contains the remnant of a Shoupade, the unique forts associated with Johnston's River Line, built by slaves in late June and early July 1864.

Civil War Sites status update – CWS II

The October 2008 newsletter reported on a visit to Georgia by representatives from the American Battlefield Protection Program (ABPP) in its efforts to update the 1993 Civil War Sites Advisory Commission (CWSAC) report: See www.nps.gov/history/abpp/CWSII.htm. Early in May, ABPP sent questionnaires asking for updates on each of the 27 Georgia sites identified in the 1993 report. Georgia Battlefields Association helped the National Park Service identify the people best qualified to update each site. While GBA tries to monitor all Georgia sites, we make no pretense about being more expert than local preservationists and historians. Still, GBA responded for six sites: Peachtree Creek, Atlanta, Ezra Church, Utoy Creek, Jonesboro, and Griswoldville. GBA also took the opportunity to argue again for inclusion of additional sites, such as the Chattahoochee River Line and the Savannah defenses.

Separately, Civil War Preservation Trust (CPWT) asked GBA to provide a summary assessment of all 27 sites so that CWPT could respond to an ABPP query about which sites still had land that could be preserved. Our response was that 18 of the sites—even including those partially protected by the National Park Service—still had land that could be protected.

- Chickamauga
(land outside the national park)
- Davis' Crossroads
- Ringgold Gap
- Rocky Face Ridge
- Dalton I
(overlaps Rocky Face Ridge)
- Resaca
- Adairsville
- Allatoona Pass
- Pickett's Mill
- New Hope Church
- Dallas
- Marietta
(includes Pine Mountain, Gilgal Church, etc.)
- Kolb's Farm
- Kennesaw Mountain
(land outside the national park)
- Lovejoy's Station
- Griswoldville
- Buckhead Creek
- Waynesborough

GBA also responded that is no additional land remains to be saved at nine sites:

- Dalton II
- Peachtree Creek
- Atlanta
- Ezra Church
- Utoy Creek
- Jonesboro
- Ft McAllister I (protected by a state park)
- Ft McAllister II (protected by a state park)
- Ft Pulaski (protected by national park)

150 years ago this month

A huge deposit of silver and gold is discovered near what is now Virginia City, Nevada. Yet another westward migration spurred by mining (following those to California and Colorado) will increase Southern fears of another free state further tipping the political scales, particularly in the Senate. Nevada will become a state on 31 October 1864, while the war is underway.

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Address correction requested
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