

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

State Historic Sites reduce staff and operating hours

On 27 May, the Georgia Department of Natural Resources announced changes caused by reductions in the State Fiscal Year 2010 budget (begins 1 July). The State Parks & Historic Sites Division will be severely affected:

- Reduced services and access at 5 (of 48) state parks.
- Reduced operating hours and increased reliance on volunteers at 12 (of 15) historic sites.
- Elimination of 12% of the workforce, and the remainder to endure involuntary furloughs.
- Increased fees for accommodations, interpretive programs, and parking.

The entire announcement is available on the state parks web site www.gastateparks.org.

Details for specific sites are best obtained by calling the site. For example, Pickett's Mill Historic Site had four positions cut: One employee retired at the end of May, two were laid off, and the site manager was transferred to Sweetwater Creek State Park. Pickett's Mill will now be open only on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday; and all maintenance responsibilities will be assumed by Red Top Mountain State Park, which would certainly lead to less maintenance except for the volunteer work by Friends of Civil War Paulding County. Most state parks have such friends groups that assume burdens the state government is unwilling to accept, but eventually the lack of funding will lead to further degradation of the facilities and even less access for the public.

On 28 May, Governor Perdue directed all state agencies to reduce spending by 25% in June due to a continuing decline in revenues. This largely anticipated cuts that took effect on 1 July.

We could see this train coming, even if no one knew the specifics (September 2008 newsletter). We'll continue to do what we can to preserve battlefields with or without state support.

GBA again provides volunteer staff for national conference

Georgia Battlefields Association members again attended the Civil War Preservation Trust (CWPT) annual preservation conference, held 4-7 June in Gettysburg. Also as before, we helped as volunteer staff on conference tours.



GBA members at the Civil War Preservation Trust Conference, held 4-7 June in Gettysburg: Vince Dooley, Jim Wentworth, VP Cindy Wentworth, President Charlie Crawford, Dan Hanks.

At one of the conference presentations, CWPT President Jim Lighthizer said the National Park Service has saved 75,000 acres of Civil War battlefields since the establishment of Chickamauga National Military Park in 1890. CWPT has helped save 25,000 acres of battlefields since 1990, including battlefields at Griswoldville and New Hope Church in Georgia.

2010 tour with Ed Bearss

For our March 2010 tour with Ed Bearss, we'll cover the October 1864 campaign, when General Hood attempted to force the Federals out of Georgia by attacking their railroad supply line; and General Sherman attempted to chase down the Confederates while pestering Generals Grant and Halleck with correspondence arguing that a march to the sea would be a more effective strategy.

At the Civil War Preservation Trust Conference in early June (article above), we were able to discuss the planned itinerary with Ed Bearss (see photo). Ed was enthused because he has never covered this campaign on a previous tour. Make plans to join us 11-14 March 2010.



Charlie Crawford talks with Ed Bearss about the March 2010 GBA tour. Bruce Guthrie photo.

150 years ago this month

On 1 July in Pittsfield, Massachusetts, Amherst College and Williams College play the first intercollegiate baseball game, with Amherst winning 73-32. Subsequent changes to rules and equipment have lowered the average scores.

On 5 July, yet another constitutional convention convenes in Kansas, this time resulting in an anti-slavery document.

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