

GEORGIA

BATTLEFIELDS

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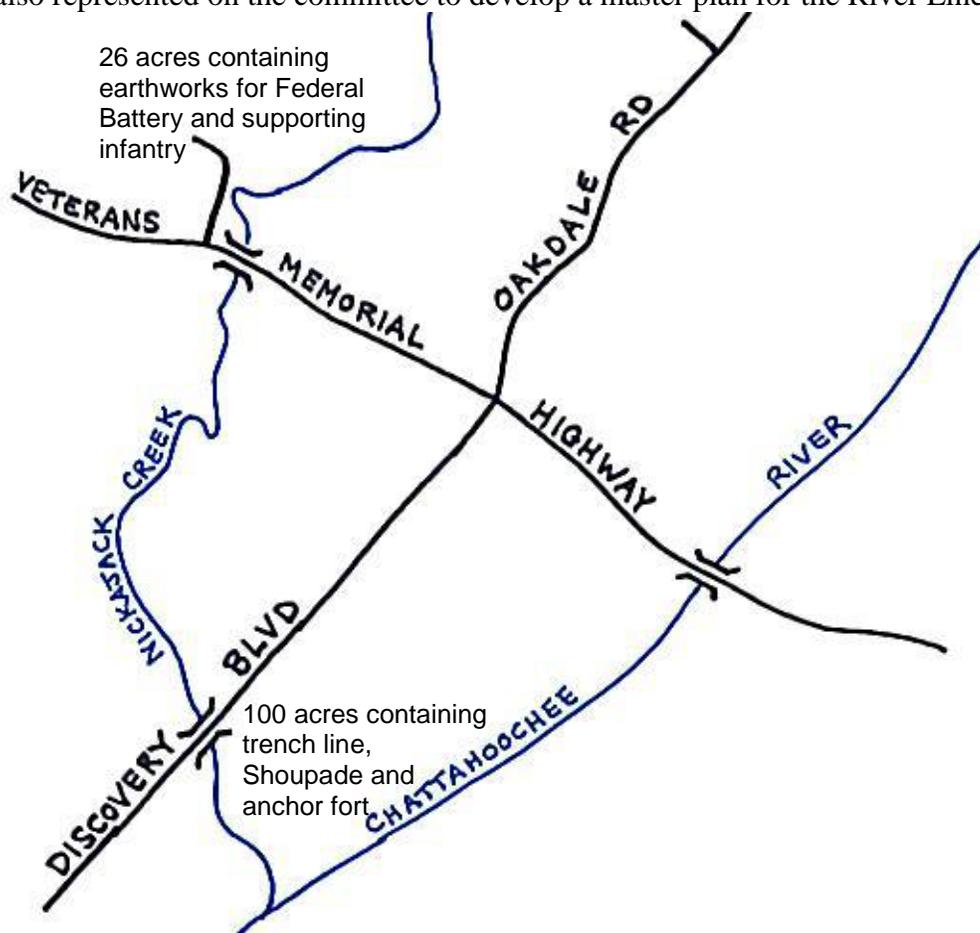
Battlefield grants announced

Each year, the American Battlefield Protection Program (ABPP) solicits grant applications for preservation projects. While the grant money cannot be used to acquire land, it does have a variety of purposes. The grant awards for 2009 were announced in late June.

The Mableton Improvement Coalition received \$45,000 to conduct a cultural resource inventory for the Johnston's River Line Battlefield Park. While the River Line has been the subject of many newsletter articles, this park is to encompass two parcels owned by Cobb County:

- 100 acres the county has owned for decades. This parcel contains the remnants of the Confederate line, including a Shoupade, an artillery fort, and an infantry trench.
- 26 acres the county bought in 2007 with park bond funds (Sept 2007 newsletter). This parcel contains the remnants of earthworks for a Federal artillery battery and supporting infantry.

Last January, Georgia Battlefields Association had advised Mableton Improvement Coalition on the wording of the grant application and had provided a letter of support; but the Coalition, the River Line Historic Area, and the local residents who supported the effort deserve the credit. GBA is also represented on the committee to develop a master plan for the River Line.



Other Georgia organizations receiving 2009 ABPP grants were:

Coastal Heritage Society - \$46,932 to build on the work of a previous ABPP grant. This archaeological investigation will define the boundaries of the 1779 Savannah battlefield. www.chsgeorgia.org/battlefield/home.htm

Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Historic Preservation Division - \$61,833 to confirm (via underwater archaeological investigation) that a shipwreck discovered by remote sensing is in fact the *Water Witch*, which was first a Federal gunboat, then captured and used as a Confederate gunboat. www.gashpo.org/content/displaycontent.asp?txtDocument=437

Other Civil War-related grants will go Rappahannock Station, Virginia; Kinston, North Carolina; Palmito Ranch, Texas; and Glorieta Pass, New Mexico. The complete list of grant recipients is at www.nps.gov/history/hps/abpp/grants/battlefieldgrants/2009grantawards.htm.

Camp Lawton subject of archaeological investigation

You might remember that the State Archaeologist's Office was in danger of being cut from the 2010 budget. Even though the office survived, it did take a drastic reduction in funding (May newsletter). Here's an example of why the office is important to preservation efforts.

The state archaeological services unit is currently working with Georgia Southern University (GSU) to develop a plan to find the archaeological remains of Camp Lawton, a prisoner of war camp built in late 1864 to house Federal prisoners evacuated from Camp Sumter, better known as Andersonville. The Confederate plan was to remove the prisoners from Andersonville in case the Federal armies under General Sherman attempted to liberate the camp after the fall of Atlanta. Ironically, the Confederates built Camp Lawton almost in the path the Federal forces took during their March to the Sea. Camp Lawton enclosed 42 acres—the largest Civil War POW camp—and was designed to hold 40,000 men, though its population never got above 10,000 because the prisoners were moved out (November 1864) not long after they were moved in (October). The site of Camp Lawton is now within Magnolia Springs State Park, five miles north of Millen, Georgia www.gastateparks.org/info/magspr.

State archaeologist Dr. Dave Crass is working with GSU Professor Sue Moore to determine appropriate field methods and a schedule. Since the camp was occupied briefly, artifacts may not be abundant. Additionally, the terrain was modified by park development, starting in the 1930s. On the other hand, there was an impressive range of buildings on the site. In addition to the stockaded enclosure, it included a commandant's house, officers quarters, hospital, brick bread ovens (which may never have been used) and other support buildings. Traces of these structures should remain.

Information for this article was adapted from the June/July issue of *Preservation Posts*, the online journal of the Historic Preservation Division, Georgia Department of Natural Resources. www.gashpo.org/content/displaycontent.asp?txtDocument=464

Don't look for Sesquicentennial on Georgia web site

The December 2008 newsletter mentioned that a Civil War Sesquicentennial section had been added to the Department of Economic Development's (DEcD) web site www.georgia.org. Unfortunately, the section was removed shortly thereafter. You can still find Civil War-related attractions (e.g., Pickett's Mill State Historic Site) by searching on the tourism-oriented web site www.exploregeorgia.org, but Georgia is missing an opportunity to market the Sesquicentennial.

DEcD is now working to restore the Sesquicentennial web presence using basic marketing funds since the state budget did not specify funds for marketing the Sesquicentennial. The oft-delayed *Crossroads of Conflict* guide to Georgia's Civil War sites will be a centerpiece of the new web presence, which is to be a separate web site that will transition after the Sesquicentennial into the state government's primary site for information on Georgia in the Civil War. We'll let you know when the site has been established.

150 years ago this month

On 27 August, Edwin Drake strikes oil near Titusville, Pennsylvania. This first oil well in the U.S. will prompt the rapid growth of a major industry. Petroleum will replace whale oil, which has been a substantial contributor to the economy. This is fortuitous because Confederate commerce raiders will heavily damage the U.S. whaling fleet in 1864 and 1865.

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