

GEORGIA

BATTLEFIELDS

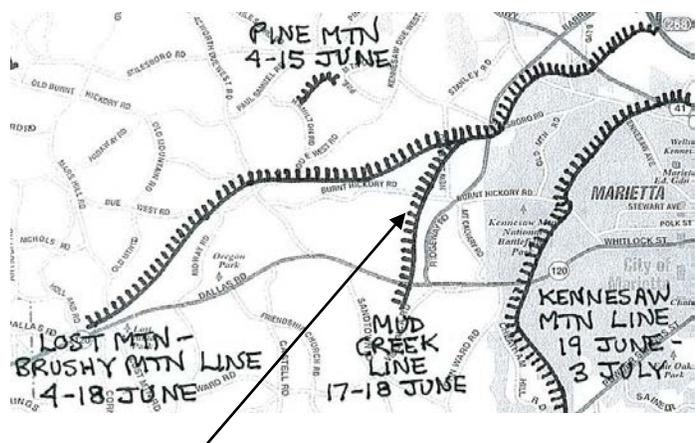
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Cobb County earthworks threatened by rebounding development

The 2008 recession severely reduced the construction of new housing in the Atlanta area, but development is once again increasing. Cobb County contains many fragments of Confederate earthworks from the Lost Mountain-Pine Mountain-Brushy Mountain Line, Mud Creek Line, Kennesaw Mountain Line, Smyrna Line, River Line and corresponding Federal earthworks.

Responding to a call about pending development that would destroy a trench from the Mud Creek Line, GBA trustees Mary-Elizabeth Ellard and Charlie Crawford examined the property on 22 March, along with local historians and preservationists Jeff Wright and William Lathem and the owner of a nearby property, John Cooke. We found a long, distinct trench. That evening, Crawford e-mailed the attorney representing the developer. The attorney responded that he would postpone the rezoning request (scheduled for 7 April) until a cultural resource study could be completed. The 1 April report on the study indicated a 960 foot trench was identifiable. At a 28 April meeting at the attorney's office, the developer presented a modified plan that preserves 700 feet of the trench. This plan was approved at the 5 May meeting of the Cobb County Planning Commission and the 19 May meeting of the County Board of Commissioners, although Crawford stated 260 feet would be lost forever and similar earthworks would be threatened as the housing market rebounded.

While GBA had a hand in preserving part of the trench, we hate to lose even a fragment. Cobb County once contained about 30 miles of Confederate earthworks. Some of those are preserved in Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park and in Cobb County's Shoupade Park, but most fragments are on private property, and some of those (e.g., Pine Mountain, Brushy Mountain) are preserved only by the civic mindedness of the land owners. We'll continue to work with local historians and preservationists to save what we can.



Section of Mud Creek line affected by development.

Left: Section of trench that continues for over 300 yards through the property. The trench faces to the right (west). In several places, Confederates lined the trench face with rocks.

Camp McDonald events 11 & 13 June

Camp McDonald was a large Confederate training camp in what was Big Shanty and is now the town of Kennesaw. In September 2014, the town of Kennesaw declared 11 June to be Camp McDonald day in recognition of the camp's opening date in 1861. www.campmcdonaldpark.org.

This year, celebratory events will be held on 11 June, and free tours of the site will be provided on 13 June. More information is available on the Georgia Sesquicentennial Commission calendar at www.gacivilwar.org/event/53659-inaugural-camp-mcdonald-day-events.

GBA leads downtown Atlanta tour

On 16 May, GBA led a tour of the Civil War sites of downtown Atlanta for a group from the Civil War Round Table of Atlanta. In return, the Round Table donated \$520 to GBA.



Civil War Round Table of Atlanta activities committee chair Terry Kingery (second from left) presents a donation check to Georgia Battlefields Association Vice President Mary-Elizabeth Ellard (left) and President Charlie Crawford (center) after downtown Atlanta tour. Also shown are members of the activities committee Stevan Crew (third from left), Robin Puryear (right), and Doug Brady (partially obscured by Robin). Photo by Hank Frampton.

150 years ago this month – June 1865

On 9 June, sparks from a locomotive land in a Chattanooga ordnance storage building, setting off an explosion and fire that kill or injure ten men and destroy ammunition, food, and forage.

On 17 June, President Johnson appoints James Johnson provisional governor of Georgia.

On 23 June, Confederate General Stand Watie, a Cherokee born in northwest Georgia, surrenders at Doaksville, Indian Territory (now Oklahoma), the last surrender of a field command.

CSS Shenandoah continues to ravage the U.S. whaling fleet in the north Pacific, taking at least 19 ships late in the month. One of the captured ships has a newspaper reporting Lee's surrender but also containing Davis's exhortation to keep on fighting.

On 27 June, a Military Department of Georgia is created to oversee reconstruction in the state.

On 30 June, Lincoln assassination conspirators are convicted by a military court in Washington.

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