

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

Mud Creek property update

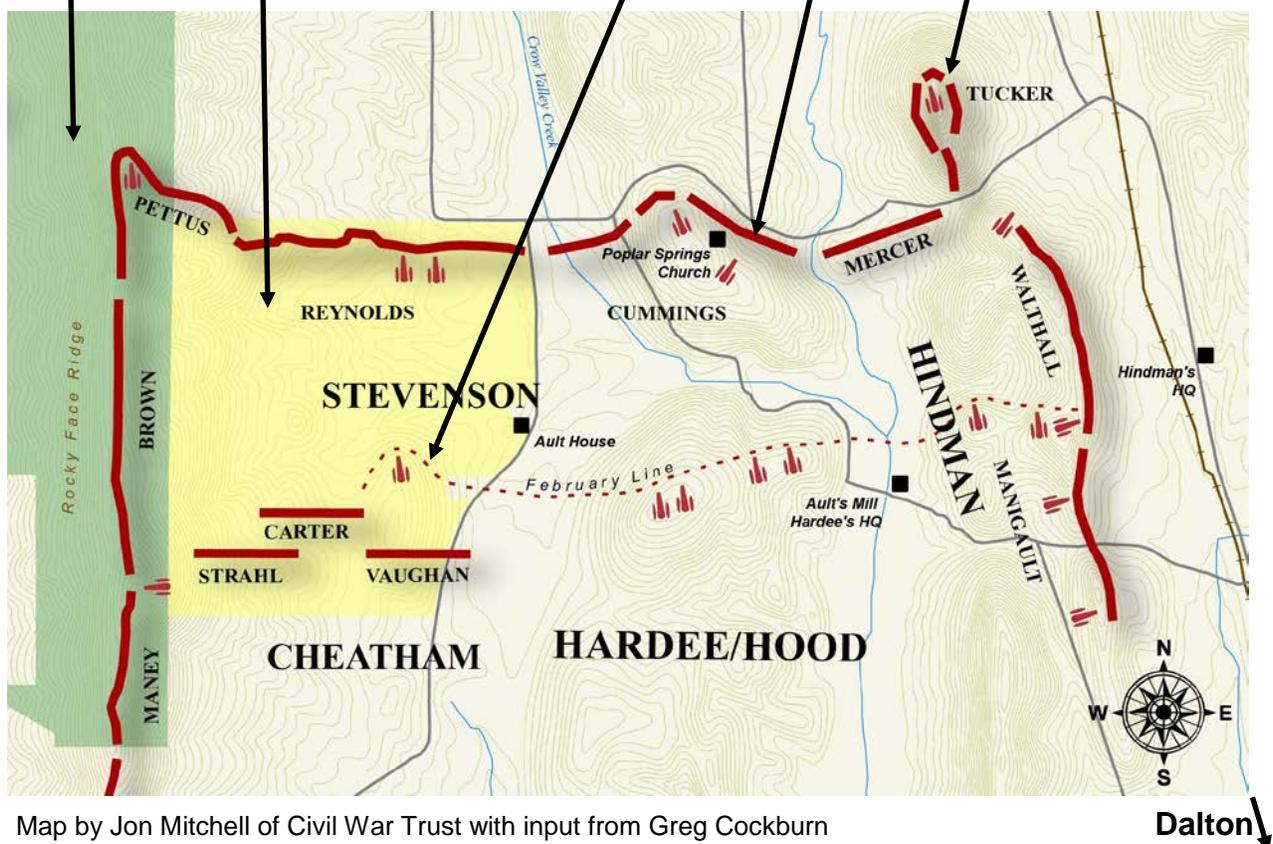
Cobb County rebutted the claim of the 6 June lawsuit regarding rezoning application Z-98 (May newsletter). We're waiting to see if the judge will assign a mediator and if the mediator will propose a settlement that will then be sent to the Board of Commissioners for a vote. Depending on the terms of a settlement, we may be asking you to contact the commissioners.

Help save land along Rocky Face Ridge

Civil War Trust www.civilwar.org has announced its campaign to save parts of four western battlefields: Shiloh, Stones River, Rocky Face Ridge, and Bentonville. The Rocky Face Ridge property is the 308 acres mentioned in the July newsletter. This property adjoins 625 ridge-top acres saved in part by the Trust in 2001 and extends into Crow Valley to the East.

On 15 July, Civil War Trust contacted Georgia Battlefields Association to ask that we **increase our contribution from \$10,000 to \$45,000, and we intend to do so**. Thanks to GBA members' previous generosity, we were able to respond quickly to the Trust's request; but **we'll soon launch a campaign to help replenish our reserves**. Please consider an extra donation.

625 acres saved in 2001 (green) 308 acres (yellow) Confederate Lines: February 1864; May 1864 Potato Hill 11 acres bought by GBA



Map by Jon Mitchell of Civil War Trust with input from Greg Cockburn

Georgia Battlefields Association in the media

The effort to save the 308 acre property on the east slope of Rocky Face Ridge (see article above) engendered interest from the *Dalton Daily Citizen*, the local newspaper. A GBA representative was interviewed and quoted in a 7 May 2016 front page article. This article in turn precipitated interest from the *Atlanta Journal Constitution*, and another interview resulted in an 18 June front page article "Metro Atlanta Civil War sites vulnerable to builders' plans." That story resulted in a request to GBA to speak to community residents in Cobb County next month, and a meeting with Georgia Humanities Council president Jamil Zainaldin precipitated his request for GBA president Charlie Crawford to submit a more personal story about the genesis of his involvement with preservation. That story ran online in the 18 July *Saporta Report*.

<http://saportareport.com/valley-forge-gettysburg-experiencing-history/>

We hope this publicity helps raise awareness of the need for and benefits of preservation.

Cannon newly displayed at Pickett's Mill Historic Site

Every Civil War artifact tells a story. A cannon newly displayed at Pickett's Mill State Historic Site might win a contest for most interesting story. <http://gastateparks.org/PickettsMillBattlefield>

For almost all cannons used in the Civil War, markings on each indicate manufacturer, weight, inspector, identifying number, etc. A gun now on display at Pickett's Mill is one of two bronze model 1841 12-pounder field howitzers manufactured by Cyrus Alger of Boston in 1851 for the Arkansas Military Institute. The muzzle was stamped with the number 9 and had an eagle and globe cast onto the barrel. Research by Michael Hitt indicates the gun was part of the Helena Artillery that served in the Army of Tennessee during the war. By 1864, the unit was better known as Key's Battery, which saw considerable action, usually supporting Cleburne's Division, during the Atlanta Campaign. Most relevantly, Key's Battery saw action at Pickett's Mill; and two of its guns (it's uncertain whether number 9 was one of those two) were crucial to repulsing the Federal attacks on 27 May 1864. On 25 July 1864, Key's Battery was issued Napoleons captured from the Federals during the 22 July Battle of Atlanta, and number 9 was sent to the Macon Arsenal. At war's end, the gun became property of the U.S. Army and was sent to the Washington Arsenal. In 1880, upon request from Georgia for cannons for the state militia, number 9 was one of four guns (including two originally belonging to the Georgia Military Institute) sent to Rome, Georgia. An 1886 flood affected the guns, and in 1887, when the Grant Park Commission requested that Governor Gordon provide four obsolete guns for display in Fort Walker in Grant Park, the Rome guns were selected. You can still find old photos of Fort Walker with No. 9 identifiable. Over the years, the gun was vandalized: initials scratched, dented, pieces broken off, overturned, etc. In 1985, all the guns were removed from Fort Walker. Number 9 was removed from its carriage and displayed on a Grant Park monument, from which it was stolen in summer 1993.

In February 2010, a tip about stolen goods led sheriffs to a Spalding County farm, where they found many stolen items, including a crate with a damaged cannon inside. Thanks to the efforts of Michael Hitt, the gun was identified as number 9. Once the story received wide distribution, the sheriff's department was contacted by the MacArthur Museum of Arkansas Military History and the U.S. Army, among other agencies, inquiring about its ultimate disposition. Eventually, the gun was reclaimed by the City of Atlanta and went back to the Cyclorama, where it sat in its crate in the entry foyer for a few years. In 2014, the Atlanta History Center (AHC) struck a deal with the City to restore and relocate the painting, locomotive *Texas*, and other artifacts in the Cyclorama building. AHC paid to have number 9 reconditioned by Historical Ordnance Works and mounted on a carriage built by the WPA for the city in the 1930s. When the Cyclorama reopens at AHC, number 9 and three other guns will be displayed. Until then, the gun is exhibited at Pickett's Mill, where it saw action over 150 years ago. State Parks & Historic Sites staff built the new display. Go see the gun and marvel at its long, strange trip.



Top left: 2010, the Spalding County Sheriff's evidence room.
Bottom left: 2012, the Cyclorama building foyer.
Right: 2016, Pickett's Mill Visitors Center.



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August 2016

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