

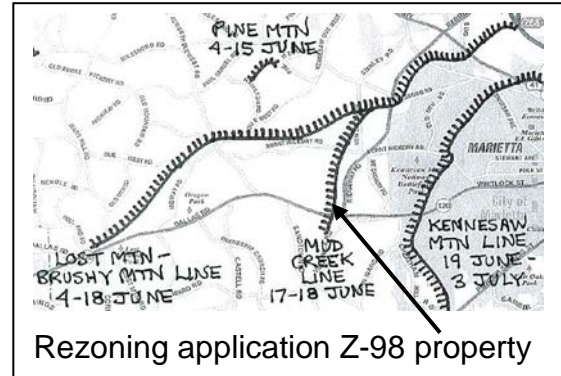
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BATTLEFIELDS

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Status of Mud Creek Line property

You may remember our coverage in the May, June, and July 2016 newsletters of Cobb County rezoning application Z-98, which related to a section of the Confederate Mud Creek Line that was occupied 17-18 June 1864. The July article reported that the county Board of Commissioners' denial of the application resulted in a lawsuit contending that the denial constituted an unlawful taking by preventing the property owner from realizing the full value of the property. The suit was assigned to a mediator, in this case a Cobb County judge. Georgia Battlefields Association has been following case 16104429 through the Cobb County Superior Court Clerk web site <http://ctsearch.cobbsuperiorcourtclerk.com>. The suit has been extended, and another pleading was filed on 30 June. We'll continue to follow the case.



Each preservation effort has both similarities and unique aspects. This particular case illustrates that no historic site is saved until it is owned by a preservation organization or a government (federal, state, county, etc.) that has formally committed to preserving the site as a battlefield. On the other hand, once a site is lost, it is almost impossible to restore. A notable exception is part of the battlefield at Franklin, Tennessee, which has seen significant restoration over the last 20 years <http://franklincharge.org>. This effort is also covered in Bob Zeller's book published by the Civil War Trust in June 2017: Fighting the Second Civil War: A History of Battlefield Preservation and the Emergence of the Civil War Trust. We found the book informative.

GBA assists new community improvement district in Atlanta

The Upper Westside Improvement District www.upperwestsideatl.org was created in 2016 by commercial property owners in northwest Atlanta with the objective of enhancing transportation, connectivity, and safety for the area through investment and community partnerships. The spine of the district is Howell Mill Road (see map). GBA was contacted by district representatives who are writing a history of the area as a foundation of the planning process. They were already aware that the area had a Civil War connection and asked GBA for more details, which we were glad to provide. The Confederate exterior line of 10-21 July 1864 passed through the area, and it was from this line that part of Stewart's Corps advanced during the 20 July Battle of Peachtree Creek. General Hood was at Stewart's HQ at the Foster residence during the battle. A few days later, part of the Federal 14th Corps advanced southward through the area and subsequently established a line to oppose the Confederate city defense line until late August. We hope our input leads to further awareness of the Civil War history of the area.



Map of Upper Westside Improvement District in Northwest Atlanta.

Time to renew Kroger Community Rewards designation

Thanks to those of you who have designated Georgia Battlefields Association under the Kroger Community Rewards Program. This designation must be renewed during the month of August every year. Go to www.krogercommunityrewards.com with your card number handy. Once you have signed in or registered, enter GBA's organization number 62803 or search for Georgia Battlefields Association. If you have any trouble with the process, e-mail us.

Renewed development means renewed threat to historic sites

The recovery from the 2008-2009 recession has meant an increase in land development, and this directly increases the threat to historic sites, especially in the counties around Atlanta. An example is the Mud Creek Line property addressed in another article in this newsletter.

The Office of Management and Budget includes 28 counties in the Atlanta Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA). The Census Bureau's 2016 estimate of the Atlanta MSA's population is 5,789,700, with Paulding being one of the three fastest growing counties compared to the 2015 estimate. Paulding has the battlefields of New Hope Church, Pickett's Mill, and Dallas, as well as both the Federal and Confederate march routes to and from those areas.

2018 tours

Georgia Battlefields Association has offered to lead the Civil War Atlanta downtown walking tour for the Atlanta Preservation Center's Phoenix Flies Program again in 2018. Tentative dates are 3 and 17 March, but watch for the formal announcement early next year.

We've also set our 2018 annual tour for 8-11 March. We'll cover the Battles of Atlanta, Ezra Church, and Utoy Creek, as well as the siege of Atlanta that lasted until late August 1864. We hope to visit the Atlanta Cyclorama and the locomotive *Texas* at the Atlanta History Center, too. We should have the full itinerary and hotel info in the October newsletter.

GBA representatives met on 11 July with representatives of the Chicago Civil War Round Table to help plan their 26-29 April 2018 tour that will cover the opening of the Atlanta Campaign through the Battle of Kennesaw Mountain. The tour guides will be Ed Bearss and Jim Ogden. Chicago CWRT plans to open the tour to non-members. Details are forthcoming.

Treasure in the attic

On 12 July, the Massachusetts Historical Society announced that it now had the sword carried by Colonel Robert Gould Shaw when he was killed during the 18 July 1863 assault on Fort Wagner. www.masshist.org/media/press-releases/articles/shaw-sword-2017-07-12. Shaw was a captain in the 2nd Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry when he was appointed colonel of a regiment of Negro soldiers, as they were then called, in April 1863. During the assault on Fort Wagner, the newly formed 54th Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry was repulsed and its commander was killed. Shaw and his dead men were stripped of equipment and buried in a mass grave. A Confederate officer used Shaw's sword for the remainder of the war.

On 3 June 1865, U.S. Brigadier General Charles Paine, commanding at New Berne, North Carolina, was informed that Shaw's sword was in possession of a Confederate officer in Goldsborough. Paine sent a detachment of U.S. Colored Troops to retrieve the sword, which Paine sent to Shaw's father, who confirmed it was his son's sword. Since Shaw had no children, the sword passed to his sister Susanna Shaw Minturn, who later gave the sword to her grandson. His children found the sword in the attic when they were cleaning out the house after their mother's death in 2016. Even though the sword would likely fetch a substantial price, the children gave the sword and a collection of letters and other artifacts to the Massachusetts Historical Society, where they will be on display for a limited time this year.

Stories such as this give renewed hope to archivists and curators everywhere, who are always waiting for a call about a treasure in someone's attic.

As a side note, Shaw's original regiment, the 2nd Massachusetts, participated in the Atlanta Campaign and was part of the city garrison while the Federals occupied Atlanta in Fall 1864.

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Address correction requested

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