

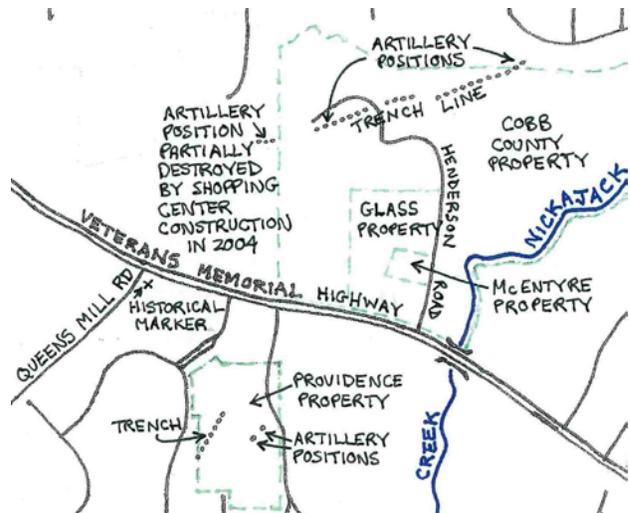
GEORGIA

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

River Line development approved

On 19 December, Cobb County Commission voted to approve a developer's plan to build 46 townhomes on the property that contains two artillery positions and a trench on the Providence property south of Veterans Memorial Highway (October, November, December newsletters). A GBA representative spoke in opposition. Since the proposed site plan preserves the earthworks, albeit surrounded by townhouses and with reduced buffers, the commissioners felt they could not negate the property owner's right to highest and best use of the land.



GBA 2018 tour will continue to follow the Atlanta Campaign

Dates: 8-11 March 2018. Ed Bearss will be primary guide.

Sites: Battles of Atlanta, Ezra Church, and Utoy Creek. Visit to Atlanta History Center to see locomotive *Texas* and Cyclorama being conserved. More details in October 2017 newsletter.

Hotel: Courtyard by Marriott Executive Park, 1236 Executive Park Drive, Atlanta GA 30329. GBA rate is \$117 per night (\$139.55 with tax). Central reservation number is 800 264 0729. Hotel number is 404 728 0708.

Cost & Registration: \$430. Register on line at www.georgiabattlefields.org/tours.aspx, or mail check payable to Georgia Battlefields Association PO Box 669953, Marietta GA 30066-9953.

Chicago Civil War Round Table tour 26-29 April 2018

Chicago CWRT will bring its annual tour to Georgia to explore the opening of the Atlanta Campaign through the Battle of Kennesaw Mountain. Details and registration for the tour are at www.chicagocwrt.org/battletour.html, or see Georgia Battlefields October newsletter.

Georgia Humanities President Zainaldin to retire

Georgia Humanities President Jamil Zainaldin announced he will retire at the end of January after 20 years with the organization. He was instrumental in bringing the New Georgia Encyclopedia online, among other initiatives. www.georgiahumanities.org

Georgia Battlefields Association's interaction with Georgia Humanities is based on mutual interest in promoting knowledge of history. Jamil was always supportive and friendly. He pursued knowledge not only for his own edification but also to encourage others to contribute.

GBA is glad that we have a good rapport with Laura McCarty, currently Georgia Humanities executive vice president, who has been announced as Jamil's successor as president.

Symposium on 3 February in Dalton

In conjunction with the Civil War Show in Dalton, Civil War News www.civilwarnews.com is staging a symposium beginning at 10 a.m. The speaker and topic line-up is:

- Gould Hagler My Favorite Confederate Monuments in Georgia and Alabama
- Sal Cilella The Graphic War: Collecting Civil War Prints for Fun and Profit
- Mike Shaffer Washington County, Virginia, in the Civil War
- Steve Davis Hood's Efforts to Defend Atlanta, July 18 – September 1, 1864

Georgia Gives/Giving Tuesday

Thanks to those of you who contributed to Georgia Battlefields Association on 28 November during the first combined effort of the Georgia Gives and Giving Tuesday programs.

150 years ago this month

On 5 January, Major General George Meade arrived in Atlanta to assume command of the Third Military District. Meade was welcomed at a banquet that included several prominent Georgians, such as John B. Gordon, who were glad to be rid of Meade's predecessor, John Pope. The reception was less cordial by mid January when Meade removed Georgia's governor, treasurer, comptroller general, and secretary of state for failing to comply with his directives to pay expenses for the state constitutional convention. Meade appointed Colonel Thomas Ruger, commanding a U.S. Army regiment garrisoned in Atlanta, as the provisional governor.

A tale of two markers

Many if not most newsletter readers are aware of the circumstances that led to the removal of General Joseph Johnston from command of the Army of Tennessee. Johnston was informed of his removal when he was handed a telegram on the evening of 17 July 1864 in the Dexter Niles house, where he had made his headquarters since 10 July. Though the Niles house was burned soon after, the site was subsequently marked for its significance, and a wooden marker was in place by 1905. Around 1920, a stone base surmounted by a pyramid of solid shot was placed at the site. In 1936, the United Daughters of the Confederacy moved the monument about 300 yards southeast of the original site and affixed a metal plaque as part of a Works Progress Administration project. In 1953, a Georgia Historical Marker was installed next to the monument. The content of the marker addressed the command change and included an arrow pointing towards the original location of the Nile house. In 1956, a marker was installed at the site of the Niles house. That marker contained more detail about the receipt and delivery of the telegram. Within the past five years, both marker posts were damaged, and the markers disappeared from public view. WestRock (formerly Mead Westvaco) is now selling the property around the monument and asked the United Daughters of the Confederacy (UDC) Atlanta Chapter to remove the monument to guard against damage when the land is redeveloped. UDC has decided to remove and store the monument in anticipation of reinstalling it later.

When Georgia Battlefields Association (GBA) heard about the request to remove the monument, we wanted to determine what happened to the markers. We contacted Georgia Historical Society (GHS), which has been responsible for the state marker program since 1997. We also contacted Georgia Tech Professor Bill Drummond, who has correlated several battlefields and historic sites to modern terrain through historical research and application of Geographic Information System (GIS) technology. GHS discovered that WestRock was storing both the markers, and Professor Drummond and his wife were able to determine the location of the Niles house and some history of the various monuments that had marked the site.

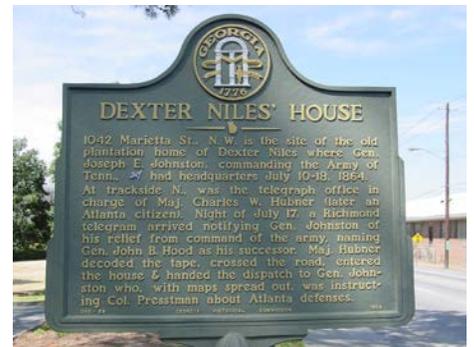
GBA looks forward to working with GHS to reinstall the markers at the correct location.



Command marker in better days.



Cannonball pyramid with broken post for Command marker at right.



Niles House marker in better days.

Georgia Battlefields Association
PO Box 669953
Marietta GA 30066-9953

www.georgiabattlefields.org

January 2018

Address correction requested
Return postage guaranteed