

G E O R G I A

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

GBA 2018 tour less than six weeks away

Dates: 8-11 March 2018.

Sites: Battles of Atlanta, Ezra Church, 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.

Rooms at the GBA rate are sold out, though there is still room on the bus.

Central reservation number is 800 264 0729. Hotel number is 404 728 0708.

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

Henry County commission votes on Nash Farm Park

On 3 January, Henry County commissioners voted on a master plan for Nash Farm Park (see July 2017 newsletter). They essentially dusted off a 2008 plan that was proposed shortly after the county acquired the site. The plan calls for preserving a Civil War battlefield, though we're uncertain how that will be achieved with addition of walking paths, a garden, a playground, and an amphitheater also specified in the plan.

Preservation award for John Culpepper

Long time Georgia Civil War Commission chairman John Culpeper will receive a preservation award from Kennesaw State's Center for the Study of the Civil War Era at the director's day event on the morning of 17 February. Register at <http://bit.ly/directorsday2018>. More info at <http://cwc.hss.kennesaw.edu/about/news-events/e-cwc-2018-02-17-160434/>.

Preservation event at Kettle Creek Revolutionary War battlefield

The public is invited to a Civil War Trust event at 2 p.m. on 12 February to announce the preservation of additional land at the Kettle Creek Revolutionary War battlefield, about eight miles west of Washington, Georgia. www.kettlecreekbattlefield.org Georgia Battlefields Association contributed towards the acquisition of the land (July 2017 newsletter).

GBA again slated to lead downtown Atlanta tour for Phoenix Flies

For its annual Phoenix Flies series, Atlanta Preservation Center has again asked Georgia Battlefields Association to lead a downtown walking tour of Civil War Atlanta. Tours are scheduled for the afternoons of 3 and 17 March, but watch for details when the web site www.phoenixflies.org is activated later in February.

Georgia Battlefields Association trustees hold annual meeting

The GBA trustees held their annual meeting on 28 January. GBA now has eight trustees:

- Frank Chew
- Charlie Crawford, President
- Mary-Elizabeth Ellard, Vice President
- Bill Gurry, Treasurer
- Gene Murphy, Corporate Secretary
- Lloyd Thompson
- Joe Trahan
- Cindy Wentworth

The board approved the yearly financial report and proposed budget, considered ways to bolster the security of online transactions, reviewed our media policy, discussed ways to increase membership and revenue, and continued planning for the upcoming tour.

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. Ed Bearss and Jim Ogden are the guides. Details and registration for the tour are at www.chicagocwrt.org/battletour.html.

Georgia General Assembly and Governor's budget proposal

The Georgia legislature convened its 2018 session on 8 January. Carried over from the 2017 session is preservation bill HB 59, which focused on increasing use of tax credits to encourage preservation. The bill passed the House 139-27 but stalled in the Senate (May 2017 newsletter). Information about the bill is at www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/en-US/Display/20172018/HB/59.

For the past several years, the Governor's budget proposal has not included any preservation initiatives, and the SFY 2019 proposal is no different.

Confederate monument and street name news

Anticipating potential legislation, the *Atlanta Journal Constitution* commissioned a 3-5 January statewide poll of 940 Georgia voters. One question was "Should city and county governments be granted authority to relocate Confederate monuments?" 48.5% responded yes; 46.9% said no; 4.5% said don't know or preferred not to answer.

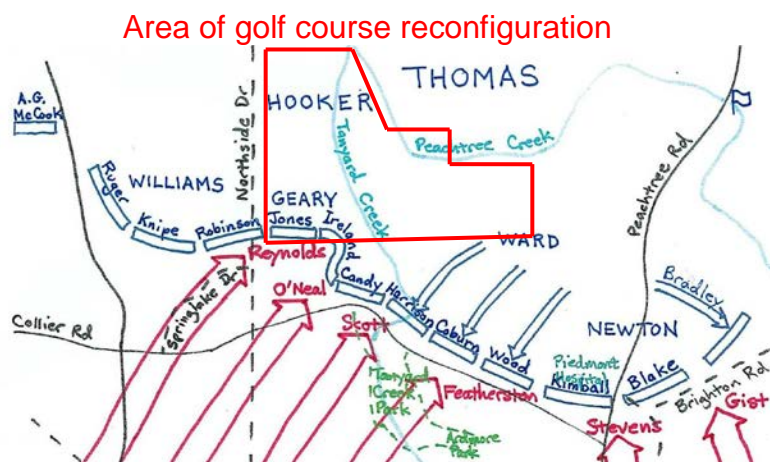
An update on the Confederate monument behind the old DeKalb County courthouse: The county commission voted in October to relocate the monument, and one proposal was to move it to the Decatur city cemetery; but in early January, the city of Decatur announced that it doesn't want the monument in the cemetery. On 23 January, the county commission voted to ask for proposals from outside groups willing to accept the monument and display it in a publicly accessible place with additional context about its origins. Current state law prohibits relocation.

Our November newsletter mentioned that outgoing Atlanta mayor Kasim Reed planned to announce in December what action the city would take on the street names and monuments committee report, but he left the task for mayor Keisha Bottoms, who has not made it a priority.

Golf course reconfiguration affects Peachtree Creek battlefield

The reconfiguration of Bobby Jones Golf Course will affect the site of the Battle of Peachtree Creek. The integrity of the site was lost decades ago, and the area of the battle is now covered with roads, houses, apartments, a large hospital, and many commercial buildings. In December, two Georgia Battlefields Association representatives examined a wooded hill on the golf course in response to a claim that earthworks remained, but we didn't find any evidence. As with the adjacent Northside Drive bridge replacement (February 2017 newsletter), GBA is concerned about the fate of any artifacts recovered during the extensive grading that is underway, so we contacted the Bobby Jones Golf Course Foundation www.bjgcfoundation.org that now leases the site from the state after a 2016 land swap with the city of Atlanta. The foundation president responded that the contractors have been notified to turn over any artifacts and added that the only items found so far are lots of golf balls, some of which likely belonged to at least one GBA trustee about 50 years ago.

Battle of Peachtree Creek,
20 July 1864



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Address correction requested
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