

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

Pickett's Mill reenactment is 1-3 June

Friday, 1 June: 2 p.m. presentation by site curator Dillan Lee: "1864, Year of Decision."

Saturday, 2 June: Military camps open, drills throughout the day.

- 1 p.m. departure from visitors' center for hike to cornfield to witness battle reenactment.
- Nighttime battlefield tour: Must pre-register by calling 770 443-7850.

Sunday, 3 June: Battlefield tours highlighting fighting in late May and early June 1864.

www.gastateparks.org/pickettsmillbattlefield

Ed Bearss designates GBA for award

As mentioned in previous newsletters, the Chicago Civil War Round Table 2018 tour chose to cover the opening of the Atlanta Campaign. Ed Bearss and Jim Ogden led the tour. Georgia Battlefields Association helped Chicago CWRT plan the tour and addressed the dinner gathering on 26 April. Chicago CWRT donates part of the tour profit to preservation and asked Ed to choose recipient organizations. Thanks to Ed and the Chicago CWRT, GBA received \$1,000.



Ed Bearss, Charlie Crawford, and Jim Ogden at 26 April Chicago Civil War Round Table (CWRT) tour dinner.



Chicago CWRT's Brian Seiter, GBA treasurer Bill Gurry, Chicago CWRT's Randy Doler, and GBA trustee Lloyd Thompson at 28 April tour dinner.

American Battlefield Trust is national preservation organization

On 8 May, the Civil War Trust announced a new umbrella organization titled the American Battlefield Trust www.battlefields.org. Many of our readers will be familiar with the Association for Preservation of Civil War Sites and the Civil War Trust, both organized in the late 1980s to preserve battlefields. In 1999, those organizations merged to become the Civil War Preservation Trust, and that name was subsequently simplified to the Civil War Trust.

In 2014, the National Park Service approached the Civil War Trust about enlarging its mission to include preservation of battlefields from the Revolutionary War and the War of 1812. The NPS had attempted unsuccessfully to find another organization willing to take on the task, and felt that the Trust's record and its relationship with the NPS indicated prospects for success. After consideration by the Trust's board and discussion with its membership, the Trust agreed to take on the additional responsibilities. The question then arose whether to modify the Civil War Trust name to more accurately reflect this change. An interim adjustment was creation of Campaign 1776, so that members could designate donations exclusively to Civil War or Revolutionary War preservation. Ultimately, again after discussion with its members, the organization's board agreed to create an umbrella organization called the American Battlefield Trust. Beneath the umbrella will be the Civil War Trust and a newly named Revolutionary War Trust. Reflecting the small number of War of 1812 sites, they will be handled under the umbrella organization. To reduce administrative costs, the same staff will service all three organizations.

The American Battlefield Trust annual conference is 30 May-3 June in Newport News and will cover both Revolutionary War and Civil War action in Tidewater Virginia. Georgia Battlefields Association is again sending representatives. www.battlefields.org/events/annual-conference
GBA looks forward to continuing to work with the national preservation organization.

Preservation still not a priority for state budget

On 2 May, Governor Deal signed the State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2019 budget (1 July 2018 – 30 June 2019). As has been the case for several years, preservation of historic sites is not a priority. The 2001 and 2008 recessions pushed battlefield preservation off the state's consideration list, and that remains the case. The May 2016 opening of Resaca Historic Site—acquired by the state in 2000—has been the only major battlefield preservation achievement by the state government in the last 20 years.

Potential preservation opportunities

We don't publicize properties that are being considered for preservation, because widespread knowledge of our interest could cause potential sellers to raise prices. Still, we think it's important to let our membership know that we are continuing our work. While we always have interest in general areas, we are presently working on two sites relating to the Atlanta Campaign.

Oakdale Road Shoupade site

The March newsletter referenced development of a Cobb County property that once contained a Shoupade, part of the Chattahoochee River Line. The property is subject of rezoning application Z-7. In discussions with the developer's attorney and with county commission representatives, River Line Historic Area representatives have achieved some modifications to the initial plan but have not achieved assurance that at least the elevation that formerly held the fortification will remain. Discussions continue.

Ringgold Cemetery vandalized

A section of Confederate graves in Ringgold's Nathan Anderson Cemetery was vandalized over the night of 21-22 April. A Confederate flag was stolen and its flag pole damaged. Two grave stones were broken, others were pushed over, and small stick flags were removed and scattered. While we can have a debate about monuments, desecration of grave sites is never appropriate.

Decatur monument presents intractable problem

Another protest on 5 May sought removal of the Confederate monument behind the old DeKalb County courthouse (February newsletter). While the city and county governments want the monument relocated, state law forbids such action except for the purposes of conserving or protecting the monument. One consideration is preventing damage (by blood or other materials, as has already happened) by relocating the monument to a less prominent site, but no other public or private property owners have been willing to take the monument, despite DeKalb County's request.

GBA leads tour for International Club

On 19 May, GBA led its Civil War Atlanta downtown walking tour for 15 members of the International Club of Atlanta (photo at right). Part of our mission is to raise awareness of Civil War sites, and tours are one way to accomplish that mission.



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