

GEORGIA

BATTLEFIELDS

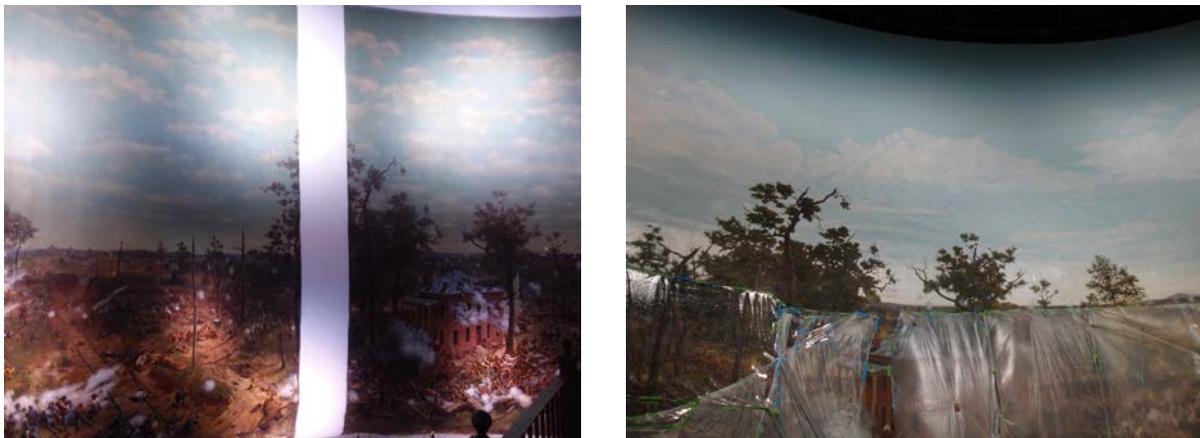
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Next GBA tour with Ed Bearss will be 7-10 March 2019

Ed called to say he was looking forward to joining us next March when we cover Atlanta Campaign cavalry actions and the decisive battle of Jonesborough (wartime spelling).

Cyclorama public opening slated for 22 February 2019

Restoration of the Cyclorama in its new building at the Atlanta History Center is complete. Using 1886 photos, conservators restored seven feet of sky at the top and two vertical sections (4'6" & 2'1") that had been removed to make the painting fit into prior locations. All the sky was repainted to reduce the number of puffy clouds that had been added to the original. The Center had allowed visits by appointment, but access was restricted beginning in late August to allow re-installation of the diorama at the base of the painting. Target date for opening to the public is now 22 February 2019, the anniversary of the painting's Atlanta debut in 1892. When re-opened, the new LED lighting will be set to reflect the sunlight at 4:45 p.m. on 22 July 1864.



Left photo from August 2017: Note missing 4+ foot section. Right photo from August 2018: Section restored, sky added at top, clouds reduced. Plastic protected against drips while the sky was being repainted. Also note more even lighting.

Confederate street names in Atlanta and monuments elsewhere

Previous newsletters have covered Atlanta city government's attempt to address the issue of Confederate monuments and street names. In October 2017, Mayor Reed established an advisory committee that reported its recommendations just after the November 2017 election. Mayor Reed said he would propose action on the recommendations before leaving office but instead left the issue for Mayor Bottoms, who has not made the issue a priority. In August 2018, city council member Carla Smith proposed action that would change the names of Confederate Avenue, E. Confederate Avenue, and Confederate Court. Media reporting on the issue prompted City Council president Felicia Moore to appoint council members Smith, Michael Julian Bond, and Natalyn Archibong to a committee to consider the November 2017 recommendations. Public meetings are 6:30 p.m. on 20 September & 9:30 a.m. on 25 September at City Hall.

At Agnes Scott College in Decatur, Georgia, two small stones originally installed by the United Daughters of the Confederacy were removed and stored. One stone, installed on Lee's birthday in 1922 near the main entrance to campus, marked a Federal position attacked by Confederate cavalry during the 22 July 1864 Battle of Atlanta. The other, installed in 1931 along College Avenue on the edge of campus, marked a proposed Jefferson Davis Highway.

On the evening of 20 August, protestors unlawfully pulled down the Confederate soldier statue ("Silent Sam") that stood on the University of North Carolina campus since 1913.

On 22 June 2017, the mayor of Richmond, Virginia, formed a commission to address the issue of Confederate monuments to Robert Lee, J.E.B. Stuart, Stonewall Jackson, Matthew Fontaine Maury, and Jefferson Davis on Monument Avenue. On 2 July 2018, the commission released its report www.monumentavenuecommission.org. The recommendation getting most press is removal of the Davis statue, though the stone structure of the monument should remain and be

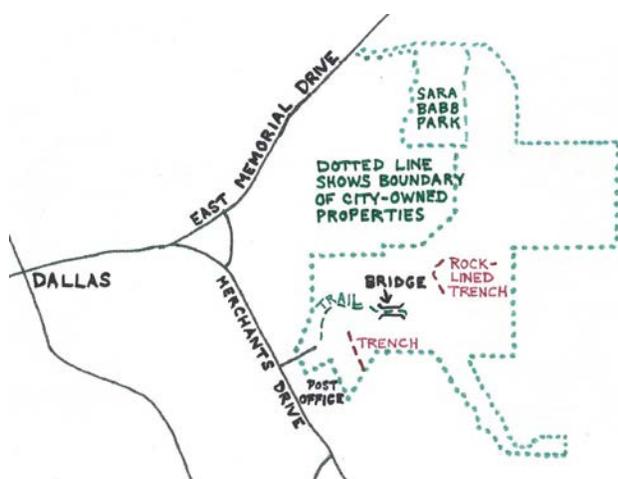
repurposed. The commission noted that “Of all the statues, this one is the most unabashedly Lost Cause in its design and sentiment” and also noted that Davis was the only non-Virginian.

Co-chair of the commission was American Civil War Museum CEO Christy Coleman, who appeared at Shenandoah Valley Battlefields Foundation’s 28 July conference on Confederate Icons and spoke about the commission’s work. At www.c-span.org, you can review the conference by searching for presenters’ names: Christy Coleman; Bud Robertson, Virginia Tech professor emeritus; Caroline Janney, new director of the Nau Center for Civil War History at the University of Virginia; and John Coski, American Civil War Museum historian.

City of Dallas preserves and interprets battlefield

Over the last ten years, the City of Dallas has acquired properties on the east side of town. Added to the existing Sara Babb Park, city-owned land now exceeds 200 acres relating to the 28 May 1864 Battle of Dallas, one of the engagements collectively referred to as the Hell Hole. Until recently, access to the remaining earthworks involved a lot of hill-climbing, often through undergrowth; but a new trail and bridge (see map) will provide easier access to much of the property. Phase two of trail construction will go northeastward then north to Sara Babb Park.

Dallas Mayor Boyd Austin deserves the thanks of preservationists for pursuing land acquisition and interpretation during his long tenure.



Looking west over bridge from end of trail phase 1.

150 years ago this month

On 3 September, the Georgia House of Representatives voted to remove 25 of its 29 black members on the grounds that the state constitution did not specifically recognize the right of black citizens to hold public office. Four members who were less than one-eighth black were allowed to remain. On 13 September, the Georgia Senate removed its three black members.

On 19 September, Philip Joiner, one of the expelled black representatives, led a 25-mile march from Albany to Camilla to attend a Republican political rally. As the marchers entered Camilla’s courthouse square, whites opened fire, killing about a dozen and wounding about three dozen of the marchers. Exact numbers are not known, as the marchers were also assaulted on their return trek to Albany. News of the massacre spread quickly by telegraph, and both political parties used the event to support their views on Reconstruction for the 1868 elections. A U.S. Army investigation indicated the sheriff deserved blame, but the Camilla mayor refused to investigate. Republican Governor Bullock asked the legislature to request additional U.S. Army troops, but the legislature declined. The Camilla Massacre and other incidents will prompt Congress to re-impose Reconstruction in Georgia in 1869.

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