

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

Georgia Battlefields Association 2020 tour is 12-15 March in Columbus

It's increasingly unlikely that Ed Bearss will be able to join us for our March 2020 tour. This is disappointing for us and for many other organizations that will be similarly affected, but we appreciate all that Ed has done for GBA and wish him all the best.

GBA's annual tour will be 12-15 March 2020 and will be based in Columbus.

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.

Hotel: Hampton Inn at 2870 S. Lumpkin Rd, Columbus, which fronts on Fort Benning Road and is near the entrance to the post. The GBA group rate is \$129, but the ubiquitous taxes push the actual rate to \$155. Call 706 660 5550 and ask for the Georgia Battlefields Association rate.

To reserve a room online, enter

https://secure3.hilton.com/en_US/hp/reservation/book.htm?execution=e1s1 in your browser and specify Hampton Inn Columbus/South-Fort Benning, then enter group code CHHGBA.

Alternatively, copy the following link (supposedly a short cut) and paste it into your browser.

https://secure3.hilton.com/en_US/hp/reservation/book.htm?inputModule=HOTEL&ctyhocn=CSGFBHX&spec_plan=CHHGBA&arrival=20200312&departure=20200315&cid=OM,WW,HILT ONLINK,EN,DirectLink&fromId=HILTONLINKDIRECT

Last chance to register for Oakland Cemetery tour

GBA trustee Carlton Mullis will lead a Civil War-related tour of Oakland Cemetery for GBA members only at 1 p.m. on 9 November. Register by e-mail to info@georgiabattlefields.org. Meet at main cemetery gate that faces west on Oakland Venue.

Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park will have entrance fee

As of 13 November 2019, Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park visitors who arrive by vehicle will have to pay \$5 to enter any of the park's parking lots unless you have a senior, annual, or military National Park Service Pass or an America the Beautiful Interagency Pass. The NPS announcement was careful to label the fee as an entrance fee, because paying does not guarantee you a parking space. The Park will not accept cash: A credit or debit card will be required. For details, see the park web site. <https://www.nps.gov/kemo/planyourvisit/fees.htm>

The new fee is intended to help with park maintenance that is chronically underfunded by Congressional appropriations. Our September 2017 newsletter covered announcement of the proposal. Subsequent public comment was 85% in favor of the proposal. We presume the high favorable response was premised on the assumption that the revenue will, in fact, go to park user services and maintenance. We hope that's where the money goes.

In more exciting news, the park has 23 new wayside interpretive markers ready for installation.

GBA represented at American Battlefield Trust conference in Boston

American Battlefield Trust (ABT) www.battlefields.org held its annual Grand Review event 18-20 October in Boston. Emphasis was on Revolutionary War sites, whose preservation was added to the ABT portfolio at National Park Service's request about five years ago. GBA has helped ABT with preservation of Kettle Creek, Georgia, site of a 14 February 1779 battle, though we remain focused on preserving Civil War sites.

Some GBA trustees, as well as other GBA members, have also been members of ABT or its predecessor organizations for almost 30 years. GBA has worked with ABT on several projects within Georgia since GBA's founding in 1995, our first being Griswoldville in the mid 90s; and ABT helped GBA acquire the New Hope Church property that we still own. While we are in frequent contact with ABT staff, attendance at any of ABT's three yearly events affords us the

opportunity to interact face-to-face with old friends as well as new staff members. These conversations allow for more nuanced discussions than written correspondence or phone calls. Currently, GBA is pursuing two preservation opportunities that will involve help from ABT.

We pursue preservation opportunities using many of the same criteria as the 1993 Civil War Sites Advisory Commission report, namely significance, condition, and availability (including price). To these, we add threat—i.e., if development is imminent, a site will move up our priority list. Often we have to settle for concessions from the developer, such as preserving a trench while the remainder of the property is developed, rather than outright purchase of the property by GBA, another preservation group, or a local or state government.

GBA's attendance at ABT's Boston event occasioned an incident that illustrates how the current polarized environment might affect preservation efforts. While riding the Boston subway and wearing a GBA polo shirt, one trustee was asked by another rider if he was a Confederate, which prompted a reply that GBA is a battlefield preservation organization and does not memorialize the Confederacy. On purpose, our logo (see photo) is simply our name, without flags or soldiers or cannons or any other symbols.

Apparently, even our name alone suggests to some that we advocate for the Confederacy or are affiliated with groups that hold racist views. We don't, and we aren't. We advocate for battlefield preservation, whether the U.S. Army or the Confederates won the battle or the result was inconclusive. Our trustees include natives of Massachusetts, New York, Pennsylvania, and Illinois, as well as Georgia, Florida, Louisiana, and Virginia.



Several years ago, a GBA representative was interviewed on a radio program, along with a Civil War Preservation Trust (predecessor organization to the current American Battlefield Trust) representative. The program's host attempted to summarize the conversation by saying that she was glad some groups were trying to save "our Confederate sites." We tried to correct her assertion by emphasizing that we try to save all sites, whether they witnessed a Confederate victory or defeat.



Georgia Battlefields Association Trustees at American Battlefield Trust October 2019 Grand Review: Jim Wentworth, David Hull, Charlie Crawford. Photo by ABT's Brigid Leavy.



Fall color at Paul Revere capture site (monument beyond tree).



On Boston Common across from the state house is the memorial to Civil War's 54th Massachusetts Infantry and its commander, Colonel Robert Shaw, killed in the 18 July 1863 assault on Fort Wagner, near Charleston.

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