

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

Bid to buy more of Resaca battlefield is unsuccessful

On 20 November, Trust for Public Land (TPL) auctioned 432 acres of land at Resaca, including portions of what the American Battlefield Protection Program has designated as Core Area and Study Area for the May 1864 battlefield. In 2008, TPL bought 483 acres (including the 432 up for auction) and was unable to sell it as a single property. Consequently, TPL divided the property into four tracts.

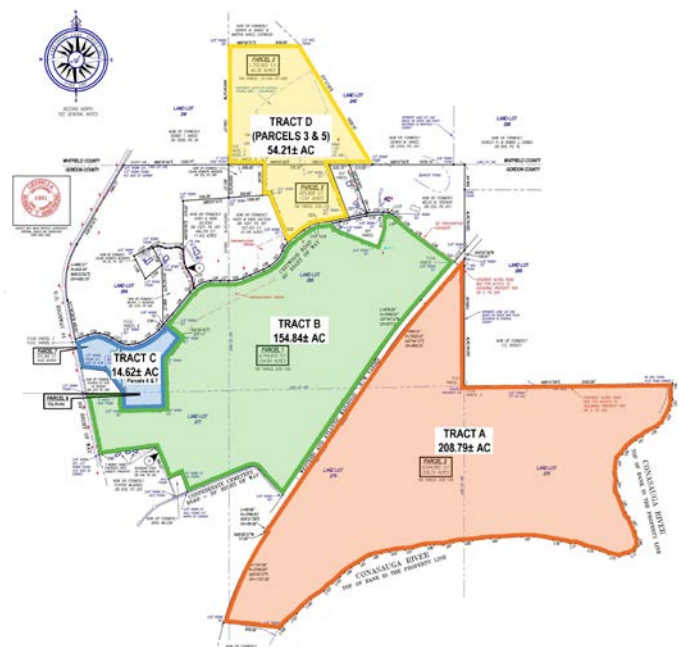
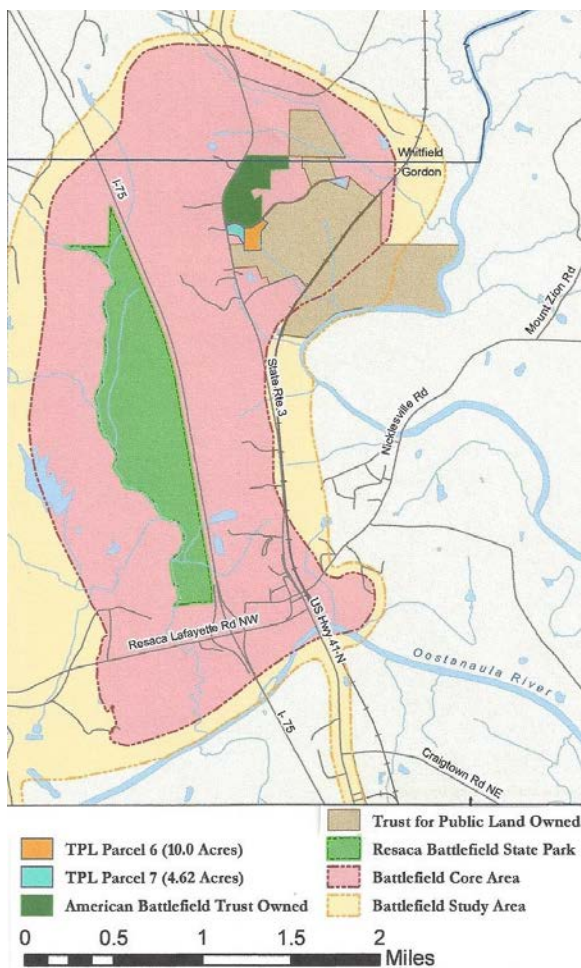
In 2010, Georgia Battlefields Association (GBA) contributed to the purchase of a conservation easement on 473 of the original 483 acres. See February 2011 newsletter, available on our web site www.georgiabattlefields.org. TPL withheld 10 acres from the easement. The easement was negotiated and purchased by the Civil War Preservation Trust (since succeeded by Civil War Trust and then American Battlefield Trust www.battlefields.org) and is held by Gordon County.

In 2012, GBA contributed to Civil War Trust half the amount for outright purchase of 51 acres already within the easement. The 51 acres includes the notable van den Corput battery site and other earthworks. See April 2012 newsletter.

For the 20 November 2019 auction, preservation groups were most concerned about Tract C, which contains Parcel 7 (4.62 acres already under easement) and Parcel 6 (the 10 acres not under easement). Our specific concern was that the unrestricted 10 acres could be developed into one or more private residences.

GBA and Friends of Resaca Battlefield pledged funds towards a Tract C bid submitted by American Battlefield Trust (ABT), but ABT's sealed bid did not prevail.

ABT will follow-up with the successful bidder (not publicly revealed as of this writing) to see if they will consider preservation of the land.



In colors on the map above are the 432 acres that Trust for Public Land put up for sale in the November auction. Tract C (blue) includes the 10 acres (Parcel 6) not under conservation easement. On the American Battlefield Trust (ABT) map at left, Tracts A, B, and D are shown in tan; Tract C is in orange (Parcel 6) and bright blue (Parcel 7). In 2012, GBA contributed to ABT almost half the purchase price for the 51 acres shown in dark green.

2020 tour is 12-15 March in Columbus

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

Confederate grave vandalized

Some of you may be familiar with the story of the grave of George Disney, a Confederate of the 4th Kentucky Infantry, who was killed on 25 February 1864 during the Federal advance on Rocky Face Ridge, west of Dalton. He was buried near where he died, high on the ridge on the south side of Mill Creek Gap. In 1912, a Boy Scout Troop rediscovered the wooden grave marker and arranged for a new headstone, which they carried up the steep slope and emplaced. A marker at the pavilion in front of the State Patrol office on US41 in Mill Creek gap relates the story.

https://georgiahistory.com/ghmi_marker_updated/george-disneys-grave/

The exact dates are unknown, but the gravestone fell over or was intentionally toppled in September and subsequently was lifted and dropped intentionally so it broke in at least three pieces. See photos. Save the Dalton Battlefields, with which GBA has worked on other preservation efforts, is trying to arrange for a replacement headstone, which—again—a Boy Scout Troop will carry up the ridge to install.

Vandalizing a grave is a crime and is not justified under any circumstances.

150 years ago this month – December 1869

On 22 December, Congress returns military rule to Georgia and specifies that, to be readmitted to the Union, the state legislature must remove unauthorized members and approve the 15th Amendment. Already headquartered in Atlanta, Brigadier General Alfred Terry is assigned as commander of the reinstated Third Military District.



Grave before vandalism



Photos courtesy of Bob Jenkins

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