

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

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

Monument damage in Georgia

Since 2017, the GBA newsletter has reported occasionally on the status of Civil War-related monuments. In some cases, this involved changes to local or state laws, contextualization (i.e., adding explanatory markers), and—unfortunately—vandalism. This subject is not specified in our organizational objectives, but we address the issue for two reasons. First, we feel controversy about monuments will adversely affect sentiment for preserving battlefields and historic sites. Second, media organizations were referred to GBA by others who thought we could provide informed and objective information on the issue. While we have reported on attempts to address the monument issue in other states, we make no claim to report comprehensively and choose to focus on incidents in Georgia, such as the December newsletter's article on vandalism to the Disney Grave near Dalton. Two other Georgia incidents have been brought to our attention.

In August 2018, the Confederate monument in the Screven Memorial Cemetery was pulled down. The cemetery is in Sylvania, about halfway between Savannah and Augusta. The statue atop the monument was broken. A reward that eventually rose to \$10,000 was offered for information leading to arrest of the perpetrators but is as yet unclaimed.

Through efforts of the Sons of Confederate Veterans and the United Daughters of the Confederacy, the monument was repaired and rededicated on 26 October 2019.



August 2018 damage in Screven Memorial Cemetery



October 2019 restoration

The Allatoona Pass battlefield contains monuments from each state—north and south—that had units present at the 5 October 1864 battle. Ray Wozniak of the Sons of Union Veterans chapter that helps maintain the monuments reports that vandalism has become more frequent. In 2019, graffiti marred two Union monuments, and a heavy object (rock, hammer, etc.) was used to batter the Confederate flag representation on the North Carolina monument.

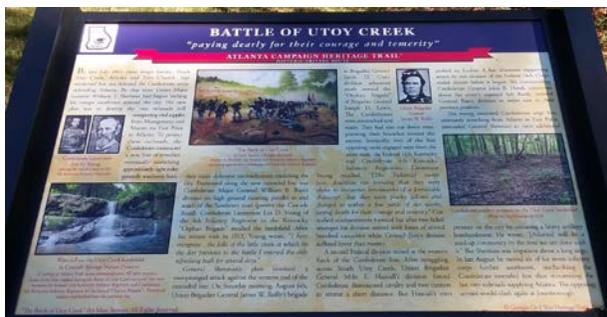


Allatoona Pass monuments

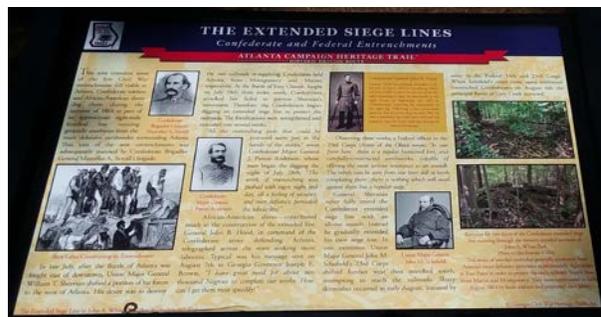
We deplore this trend of damaging and destroying monuments and are concerned that it reflects a larger historical illiteracy and unwillingness to consider and discuss the appropriateness of monuments that were installed in different eras without resorting to vandalism.

New Utoy Creek markers installed by Heritage Trails group

In October, Georgia Civil War Heritage Trails installed two markers relating to the early August 1864 fighting southwest of Atlanta. For 20 years, GCWHT has been emplacing markers under a U.S. Department of Transportation program that has been periodically reauthorized using various acronyms: ISTEA, TEA-21, SAFETEA, etc. <https://www.civilwarheritagetrails.org/>



Marker in Cascade Springs Nature Preserve



Marker in John A. White Park

Oakland Cemetery tour in gorgeous weather

GBA trustee Carlton Mullis led a Civil War-focused tour of Oakland Cemetery on 9 November. Carlton provided a wealth of information and anecdotes.



A sunny day and a great tour



Carlton Mullis (in gray hat) fills in many details

150 years ago this month – January 1870

On 10 January, the Georgia legislature convenes with the Negro legislators that were expelled in September 1868 reinstated. U.S. Army Brigadier General Alfred Terry and Governor Bullock disqualify 19 former Confederate legislators, and Terry reports reduced Klan activities.

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