

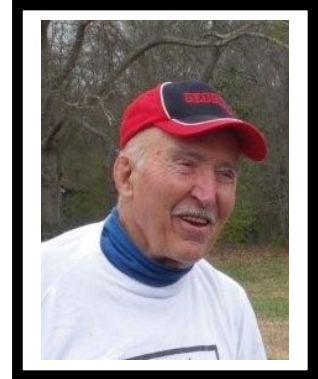
GEORGIA BATTLEFIELDS

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Ed Bearss, 1923 -2020: The passing of a Legend

Ed Bearss died peacefully at age 97 on 15 September in Brandon, Mississippi, where he had moved recently to live with his daughter. The remembrances and stories from people who knew Ed well or from those that met him only once are numerous. He was undoubtedly the premier battlefield tour guide, as well as a notable historian and combat wounded Marine. We celebrate his long and accomplishment-filled life and appreciate his great support for Georgia Battlefields Association. Photo taken when Ed was leading the 2009 GBA tour.

www.battlefields.org/RememberingBearss



McPherson monument site damaged; Walker marker defaced

Last month, we reported on damage to the fence around the McPherson death site monument in East Atlanta Village. Thanks to Henry Bryant, who lives nearby, we now know the damage was caused by a vehicle that skidded on the wet road and struck the post at the southwest corner of the monument, driving the concrete filled pipes into the posts on the southeast and northwest corners. Henry went door to door in the neighborhood until he found people who had heard the crash and went out to investigate.

Henry Bryant is head of the Battle of Atlanta in East Atlanta organization www.batlevent.org/ and has been working for several years to raise funds to rehabilitate the monuments that mark the sites where U.S. Major General McPherson and Confederate Major General Walker were killed during the 22 July 1864 Battle of Atlanta. GBA has donated money to the effort.

While the damage to the McPherson monument site was accidental, the damage to the historical marker near the Walker monument was intentional. In late August, both sides of the marker were spray painted (see photo). Several preservation groups are cooperating to determine how best to remove the paint.

Again, the McPherson and Walker monuments and markers recount battlefield events without bias and are not courthouse or capitol grounds statues or plaques. GBA feels strongly that battlefield markers and monuments that contain accurate texts should not be removed, and a marker or monument at any location should not be defaced or otherwise damaged. It is the purview of local governments to remove or reinterpret non-battlefield monuments.



McPherson monument fence damage: Vehicle hit post now in pieces in right foreground.



Walker monument site with RACIST! painted on marker. Photo by David Mitchell.

TV programs about battlefield monuments

GBA president Charlie Crawford was interviewed for AIB TV's "At the Table" program. The subject was battlefield monuments, which GBA and other preservation groups believe should not be removed. The program aired five times beginning 9 August and is now online at

<https://www.facebook.com/watchaibtv/videos/667792284157002/?extid=Rwc3O84WJ8DWoQtP>.

The second half of the program concerns bonding with your baby, an unusual pairing of topics.

A 27 June 2020 program by CNN's Michael Smerconish considered the Confederate state monuments at Gettysburg <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0wXQQZbbpqU>. Two of the monuments support the Lost Cause: The Mississippi monument refers to its soldiers fighting for a righteous cause, and the South Carolina monument refers to the sacredness of States Rights. <https://gettysburg.stonesentinels.com/confederate-monuments/confederate-state-monuments>

2021 Georgia Battlefields Association tour uncertain

The October newsletter would normally include details about the following year's GBA tour and an invitation to register. As you might imagine, scouting for hotels and bus routes for April 2021 is problematic in the absence of a vaccine for the virus, and we won't solidify plans until we believe we can conduct the tour with no or minimal risk of exposing participants to the pandemic. We'll let you know as soon as we feel that conditions permit.

2020 Battlefield Planning Grants

The American Battlefield Protection Program (ABPP), a division of the National Park Service (NPS), awards two types of grants. Land acquisition matching grants are funded by the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF), which received a boost from the Great American Outdoors Act (see August newsletter) signed into law on 5 August. Such grants are frequently mentioned in this newsletter when battlefield land is bought for preservation.

The second type of grant is for battlefield preservation planning. These grants are awarded annually but cannot be used to acquire land. For 2020, ABPP awarded \$1,198,000 to study fourteen battlefields in nine states, including one grant in Georgia. Georgia Southern University (GSU) received a \$116,247 grant for a proposal titled "The Devil Came to Georgia: LiDAR Survey and Remote Sensing of Two American Civil War Skirmishes in Jenkins/Burke Counties, Georgia." Jenkins County includes the town of Millen, which was a significant Confederate storage depot along a railroad. Not far north of Millen are Magnolia Springs State Park and the adjacent Bo Ginn National Fish Hatchery, which together contain the site of Camp Lawton, a POW camp that has already been the subject of GSU archaeological investigations. Burke County, immediately north of Jenkins County, includes the town of Waynesboro. Action around Millen and Waynesboro occurred in late November and early December 1864 during the March to the Sea. Since Civil War-related grants can be awarded only if they relate to a site included in the 1993 Civil War Sites Advisory Commission (CWSAC) report, the skirmishes are covered by Ga 026, Buck Head Creek <http://npshistory.com/publications/battlefield/cwsac/updates/ga.pdf>.

LiDAR (Light Detection and Ranging) uses pulsed LASERs (Light Amplification by Stimulated Emission of Radiation) to determine variations in light reflection, often when the area to be studied is obscured from visual examination. The results are typically used to make 3D (3 Dimensional) representations and can be used to find artifacts instead of disturbing the earth.

See all the 2020 grants at <https://www.nps.gov/articles/000/2020-planning-grant-awards.htm>. For more about the two types of grants, see <https://www.nps.gov/orgs/2287/index.htm>

Kennesaw Mountain Park trails have emergency location markers

An agreement between Cobb County government and Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park management has resulted in installation of Emergency Location Markers along the park's 21 miles of trails. If someone gets lost or injured in the park, they can call 911 and reference the numbers on the markers so park staff and emergency responders can get to the site as fast as possible. See a video about the Emergency Location Markers at www.youtube.com/watch?v=T3oqekzQnac.

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