

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

Georgia Battlefields Association’s new treasurer Donald Olds

We’re happy to report we’ve found a new treasurer. Donald Olds grew up on a farm in northern Illinois. He earned the rank of Eagle Scout in 1977, received a B.S. in Finance at Illinois State University, and moved to the Atlanta area in the mid-1990s. He was a Boy Scout leader in the Atlanta area for almost 25 years, serving on many Atlanta Area Council and Foothills district committees, and was an assistant scoutmaster in Marietta for decades. He has volunteered with the [Kennesaw Mountain Trail Club](#) (KMTC) for over 15 years and is a founding member of the [Friends of Kennesaw Mountain NBP](#), an organization that now oversees volunteer trail maintenance and enhancements and also supports the park philanthropically. For many years, he was responsible for Eagle Scout projects and Boy Scout troop volunteer activities at Kennesaw Mountain, before becoming President of the Friends group. He’s also a trained KMTC crew leader and Trail Ambassador and volunteers with park youth activities.



With an interest in history and music, Donald is an active gardener, hiker, and backpacker, having enjoyed Scouting and personal trips with his son Preston. In the past few years, Donald and Preston have climbed Yosemite National Park’s Half Dome, traversed Rocky Mountain National Park’s Andrews Glacier, and climbed the Canadian Rockies’ Robson Glacier. They recently completed scenic trips in the Shenandoah National Forest and along the Wilderness Trail in Kentucky. Donald also has a daughter, Madison, who is a doctor specializing in internal medicine. He is retired from the financial services and property management industries and has lived in the same Kennesaw home for 30 years.

GBA 2026 tour: Will be 9-12 April and will cover the opening of the Atlanta Campaign.

Property saved at Rocky Face Ridge/Mill Creek Gap

The [January 2025 Georgia Battlefields newsletter](#) reported on three battlefield sites that preservation organizations, led by the [American Battlefield Trust](#), were trying to save.

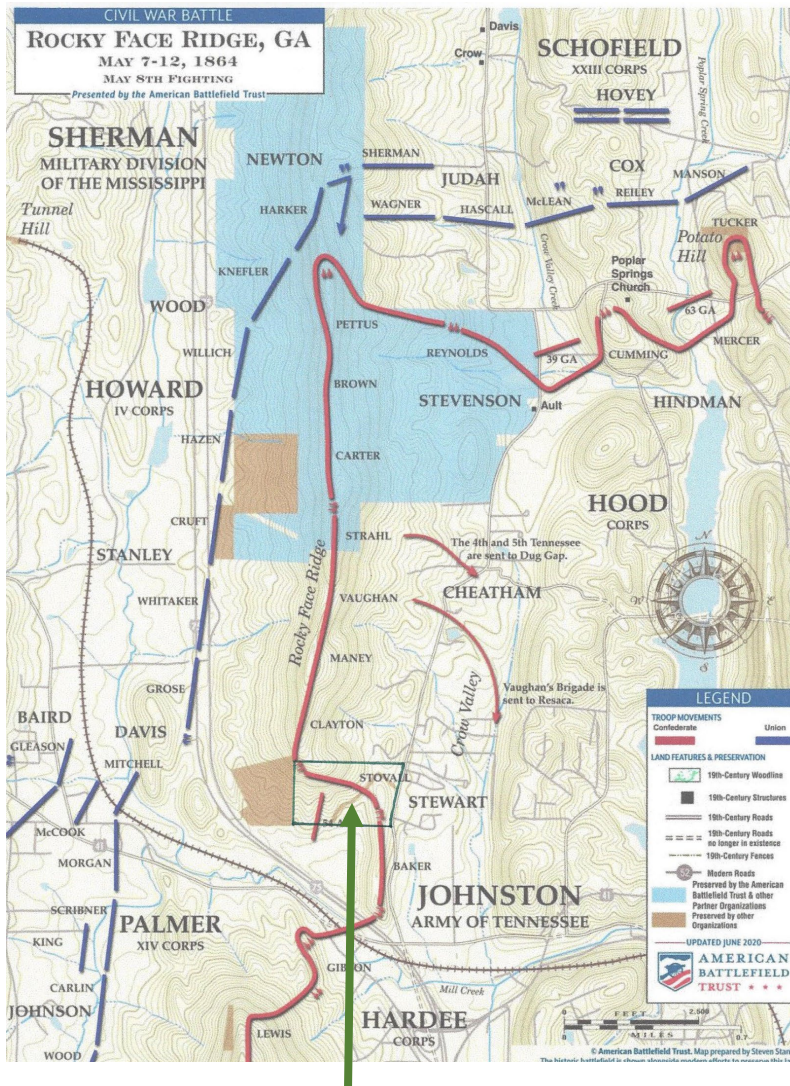
Site	Acreage	Price	Price per acre	Notes
Ringgold Gap	13.07	500,000	38,255	Includes buildings on site
Rocky Face Ridge	61.54	677,000	11,000	Forested hills
Kennesaw Mountain	2.63	1,035,000	393,536	Includes buildings on site

In the [February 2025 newsletter](#), we were glad to report success at the Kennesaw Mountain site. Now, we can report success at the Rocky Face Ridge site with the following contributions:

American Battlefield Trust	\$338,500
Open Space Institute	\$212,500
Save the Dalton Battlefields	\$126,000

Georgia Battlefields Association initially donated \$10,000 towards Save the Dalton Battlefields’ commitment ([see March 2025 newsletter](#)) and provided an additional \$24,000 as the deadline approached. GBA members provided \$5,000 individually.

We’ve worked with Save the Dalton Battlefields before, providing \$40,000 to buy two separate tracts totaling 11 acres on Potato Hill in Crow Valley, north of Dalton and also helping preserve sites on the south side of Mill Creek Gap.



61.54-acre property outlined in green.
American Battlefield Trust map.

Photo at right shows an artillery position on the property. At least two four-gun batteries occupied this site separately in the first five months of 1864. Embrasures are still discernible.

All photos courtesy of Save the Dalton Battlefields.



Below: December 2024 photos of earthworks on the property.



Georgia Battlefields Association
315 S. 5TH ST
GRIFFIN GA 30224-4343

www.georgiabattlefields.org

July 2025