



Current NPS Covid 19 Status - As of 7/28/21

- There is a mask mandate for all persons to wear masks while indoors in the Visitor Center.
- Shuttle bus is not restarting until March or so.
- The theater has closed until further notice - the NPS will not be showing the film at this time.

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Expect delays at Dallas Hwy and Whitlock Ave

Crews will start clearing work for the Whitlock Avenue trail segment of the Kennesaw Mountain Pedestrian Improvements on Monday, Oct. 25. Significant delays are expected along Dallas Highway/Whitlock Avenue between John Ward Road and Cheatham Hill Drive. Crews will be working in the area from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on weekdays, and road capacity will be reduced to one lane.

Traffic delays are expected to be worse in the afternoon in the westbound direction. Alternate routes are recommended.

For more information, contact Cobb DOT at 770-528-1623. Expected completion is July 30, 2023. Click [here](#) for more info on the project.



*9/4/21. Photo by
Mike Colletti*

Thank you Doesn't Seem Enough

By: Amanda Corman, Volunteer Coordinator

The weather is finally beginning to cool and soon the leaves will change color. We have finally reached Autumn. Even though we are approaching the winter months, we have begun a new fiscal year. In fact, we have already completed a month of the new fiscal year. As many of us know, each year seems to pass more quickly than the previous. We always ask: "Where did the year go?" "Is it the holiday season already?"

With the COVID-19 pandemic still fresh in our minds, we had high hopes for the FY2021 and hoped to bring volunteer opportunities back to pre-COVID positions. However, COVID still had the upper hand. That did not and does not deter the Kennesaw Mountain Volunteer. No, the park's volunteer program and its dedicated volunteer members continue to provide a beautiful and safe environment for our park visitors. An earlier article stated that, "Kennesaw Mountain volunteers will continue to adapt and overcome any change that we may be presented with in the upcoming year" and this was true. This will remain true. KEMO volunteers overcame and adapted and continue to do so. Due to the dedication of KEMO volunteers, KEMO continues to thrive.

Unfortunately, due to COVID precautions, we will not be holding our annual Volunteer-In-Parks Appreciation Dinner this year. It is always one of the most enjoyable gatherings for volunteers and staff alike. However, with this said, please know that Superintendent Patrick Gamman, myself, and all the other Kennesaw Mountain Staff members, continue to appreciate all the hard work and dedication given to this park. There are not enough words to truly express our gratitude to our volunteers. We hope that this time next year, we all will be able to meet again to express our gratitude in person as well as enjoy good food and good company.

Thank you and we wish each of you a happy and safe holiday season.

"As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words but to live by them." – John F. Kennedy

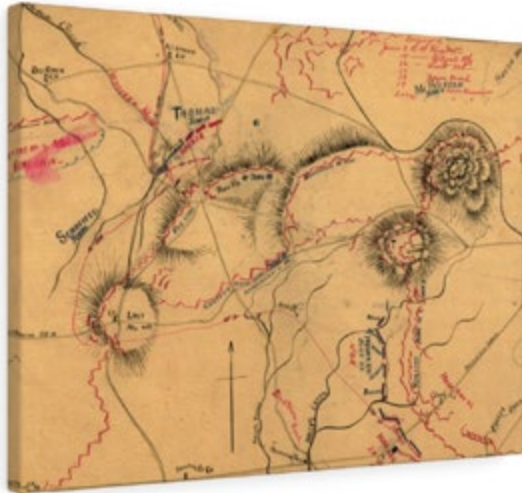


The Friends of Kennesaw Mountain Establish a Webstore

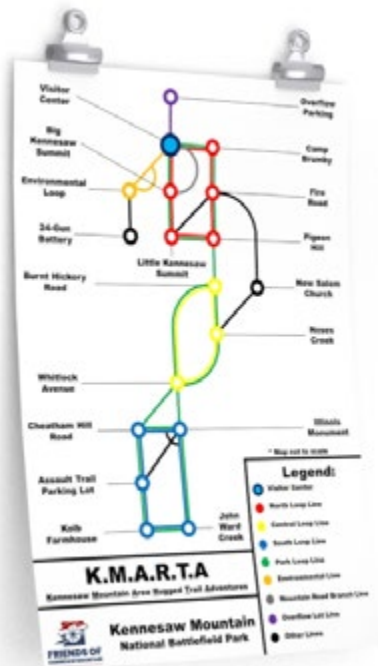
The Friends of Kennesaw Mountain is excited to announce our new webstore! Our first product is a unisex T-shirt, which is 100% cotton. The design on the back of the shirt shows Kennesaw Mountain and the Visitor Center. It is inspired by the New Deal travel posters from the 1930s. The shirt can be purchased online for \$20 at <https://friendsofkmnbp.org/shop/>. Visit our website! ***New items have been added!***

Andrew Bramlett

Some of the items for sale.



Front



Back

Newsletter Sign-up

Would you like to receive our newsletter? To sign up, click on the following link: <http://eepurl.com/hhkPhf>. Complete and submit this form. You'll be added to our subscription list.

Wish to unsubscribe? Simply follow the instructions at the bottom of the email forwarding the newsletter link, and you'll be permanently removed from our mailing list. To re-subscribe, you will need to use a different email address - removal is permanent for the original email address!

"Friends" is published Quarterly by the Friends of Kennesaw Mountain.

Editor: Fred Feltmann
770-516-9120

E-mail: faf1948@bellsouth.net

Additional Volunteers needed! Call today!

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<https://friendsofkmnbp.org/>



2022 Projects(s) - October status

- Lead the Pack - **Done**
- Raise funding for trail improvements, living history, new cannon & trailer - **in process**
Fundraising goal established for FY 2022
- Raise community support for new restrooms, Wallis House & Trail to Anderson Hill - **in process**
- Publish the 1st edition of our Park Guidebook - **In review process**
- Help with scripts for the Augmented Reality App filming has started and many stories are in work
- **in process**
- Support the battle anniversary (2022). Help to advertise, set-up as it occurs
- Support Volunteer Fair planning - **in process (current date of fair will be April, 2022)**
- Support the battle anniversary (June, 2021) & help to advertise - **accomplished**
- Continue support to all park activities - **continuing**
- Field of Flags 9/4 to 9/18 - **accomplished**
- Support Volunteer Fair planning in process Moved to early 2022 - **in process**

New

- **Provide funding/publicity/signs for 5 bike racks to promote alternative transportation to/from the Park (not for trail riding) - in process**
- **Provide support/funding for 160th Anniversary (June 2024) - in process**



FY 2022 Fundraising Goals Proposed

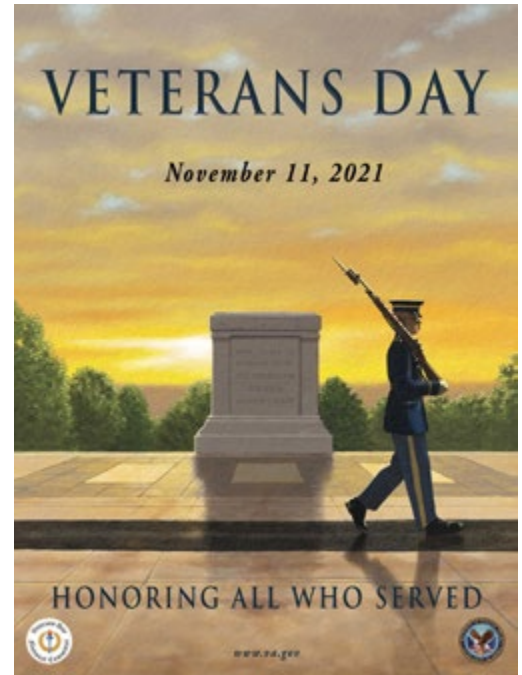
At the October Board meeting, fundraising goals were discussed.

Following is a list of the fundraising goals for the coming year:

- \$2,000 - FY 2023 Friends administrative budget.
- \$10,000 - Funds to be used in conjunction with the Park to acquire an additional cannon and trailer (total cost estimated to be \$82,000) for the Living History program.
- \$3200 - to provide for the purchase of 5 bicycle racks and signage for them.
- \$15,000 - seed money for the 160th Anniversary of the Battle of Kennesaw Mountain (June, 2024) - total estimate for event is expected to be approximately \$150,000.
- \$10,000 - to fund various activities of the Living History program, the Friends and the Kennesaw Mountain Trail Club.

Total to be raised during the current fiscal year - \$40,200. See the bottom of page 7 for ways to donate to the Friends for these projects.

In addition, the establishment of an Endowment Fund was discussed and approved. Details will be discussed at future Board meetings.



Contact List - Updated 10/24/21

| <u>POSITION</u> | <u>NAME</u> |
|------------------------|----------------------|
| President | Scott Mackay |
| Vice President | Donald Olds |
| Secretary | <i>Vacant</i> |
| Parliamentarian | Jason Sheppard |
| Treasurer | Tom Okerberg |
| Communications | Fred Feltmann |
| Newsletter Editor | Fred Feltmann |
| Website | Mark Angeli |
| Social Media | Andrew Bramlett |
| Fundraising | <i>Vacant</i> |
| Disbursements | Lewis Bramlett |
| Archives | <i>Vacant</i> |
| Membership | <i>Vacant</i> |
| Living History Liaison | Andy Cole |
| Trail Club Liaison | Jay Haney |

Grant Writer Needed

One of the ways of getting funds for the various activities supported by the Friends is to receive grants. To do this, the Friends need the expertise of someone who is versed in completing grant applications. If you are interested in this worthwhile endeavor, please contact Scott Mackay - President@TheFriendsOfKMNB.org. In the past the Trail Club has successfully applied for grants of \$10,000 and more. One of these successful efforts provided the funds to build the bridge across John Ward Creek on the Kolb Farm West Trail! Other grants that the Trail Club successfully applied for included the funding of the Ticket-To-Ride program providing transportation, program and materials to introduce grade school children to the park. So this is a very important and worthwhile position on the Friends Board. Our previous grant writer retired after 15 years of successful service to the Trail Club.

Board Members:

| | | |
|----------------|---------------|----------------|
| Lewis Bramlett | Scott Johnson | Jason Shepherd |
| Bart Henderson | John Nash | Kim Sherk |

| | |
|-------------------------|---|
| Website - Friends | https://friendsofkmnb.org/ |
| Website - NPS | www.nps.gov/kemo |
| Facebook Page - Friends | https://www.facebook.com/FriendsofKMNB |
| Facebook Page - NPS | https://www.facebook.com/KMNB |
| Twitter | https://twitter.com/FKmbp |
| Instagram | https://www.instagram.com/FriendsofKMNB/ |

* updated

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<https://friendsofkmnb.org/>

Friends Calendar Of Events/Notices

| <u>Date</u> | <u>Time</u> | <u>Location</u> | <u>Event</u> |
|-----------------|----------------|-----------------|------------------------------|
| October | | | |
| 10/21 | 6:30 pm | Virtual | Monthly Board Meeting |
| November | | | |
| 11/18 | 6:30 pm | Virtual | Monthly Board Meeting |
| December | | | |
| 12/16 | 6:30 pm | Virtual | Monthly Board Meeting |

Check out page 21/22 for NPS/KEMO-sponsored events for November.

Check out our website, the National Park Service/KEMO website and the KMTC website for the latest updates on KMNBP events. (See page 5, herein for the list of websites.) There are numerous tutorials, video articles and stories on the NPS/KEMO Facebook and YouTube pages.)

For upcoming events you can also check the Park Calendar:

<https://www.nps.gov/kemo/planyourvisit/calendar.htm>

We will also send out the monthly Park notices of activities by separate email.



**FRIENDS OF
KENNESAW MOUNTAIN**

The Friends Of Kennesaw Mountain

The Friends of Kennesaw Mountain's mission is to raise funds to support programs and projects at the Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park.

Your Membership helps to fund this mission.

Please join us.

Our website is FriendsOfKMNB.org.

Visit to find out more info, to donate, or to sign up for one of our Board positions or to register as a member of the Friends organization.

Our Mission:

The mission of the Friends of Kennesaw Mountain is to work in partnership with the National Park Service and the local community to raise annual funding for projects and activities in the Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park.

Programs supported: Outdoor Education

KEMO Trail Club

Living History

Trail Ambassadors

Sponsor's Corner A Special Thanks!

Each year we have members and volunteers who donate their time and talent in support of all the happenings at Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park. Following is a list, in alphabetical order, of the members and sponsors who have donated during 2020 through 2022.

Annual Donations to date: Financial calendar is 7/1/xx to 6/30/xx+1)

| | |
|---------------|------------------|
| 2020 | \$3,072.71 |
| 2021 | \$8,210.00 |
| 2022 | \$825.00 |
| Total: | 12,107.71 |



Corporate

Fox Dogs
SUNLIFE
JOHNSON & JOHNSON FOUNDATION



Individual FINANCIAL Y 2020*

7/1/2019 - 6/30/2020

MARK ANGELI
MIKE EVANS
JERRY GIVAN

JAY HANEY
JANET HART
SCOTT MACKAY

FINANCIAL Y 2021*

7/1/2020 - 6/30/2021

Fox Dogs
JOHNSON & JOHNSON FOUNDATION
PRINTING TRADE COMPANY

GINNY ACOCCELLA
LAUREN ADAMS
RICHARD ANGELI
PRISCILLA BAKER (IN MEMORY OF WILLIAM (BILL) COLLIER
LISA BECK
LEWIS BRAMLETT
LYNNE BROWNE
CATHY & BRAD BUTTS
JUDY BYRD
SUSAN CAOLO
ANDY COLE
KEVIN J. DUNN
FRED & ANDREA FELTMANN
CAROLYN & JOHN FRITZ
BILL GURRY
TODD HALL
LESLIE & BART HENDERSON
JIM HERMAN

SCOTT MACKAY
LESLIE & DONALD OLDS
KEN PIEHL
LAURIE RICHARDSON
DENISE RINAUDO
ANITA & NEAL RITCHEY
GRAIG ROPER
JASON SHEPHERD
TERRI STEINER
DEBBIE STOCKER
TODD TAYLOR
JOSH & KATIE TRUAX
LEAH URBEN
JESSICA & COLEMAN WOOD
JORDAN WATSON
JEFF WATTS
DAVID WHITE
JESSICA & COLEMAN WOOD

Four Ways To Donate

You can support the Friends in 3 ways:

1. Directly through our website - <https://friendsofkmnbp.org/giving-membership/donate/>
2. Through Guidestar - <https://www.nfggive.com/donation/83-4627827>
3. Through Amazon Smile (By way of donations when you make a purchase on Amazon) - <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/83-4627827>
4. QR Code:



FINANCIAL Y 2022*

7/1/2021 - 6/30/2022

FRED & ANDREA FELTMANN
TODD HALL
JAY HANEY
SCOTT JOHNSON
CARL LESTER
SCOTT MACKAY
TODD TAYLOR

* Starting this period, we will list donors for this Financial Year (e.g. 7/1/21 - 6/30/22)

Thanks for your support!

Kennesaw Mountain and the Swiss Alps

(In memoriam to USMC veteran, Jim Mathis,)

by Susan Caolo

I have experienced the Swiss Alps and Kennesaw Mountain many times, but until I met USMC veteran, James “Jim” Mathis, I never connected the two. Back in December 2017, I met Jim at the Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park Visitor Center while recruiting interviewees for the KMNBP Veterans History Project (VHP). A KMNBP staff member, who knew Jim, arranged the introduction. Jim greeted me with a big warm smile and genuine interest as I explained details about the Veterans History Project. When I asked if he’d be willing to participate, he responded like so many veterans do, “Yes, but I don’t have anything very interesting to share.” We spent the next few minutes sitting and talking casually in a corner of the KMNBP Visitor center. I was impressed by his vitality and passion for hiking and mountaineering for which he credited to his time in the Corps. He said he lived nearby in Marietta, so hiking KMNBP was part of his daily routine when he wasn’t in Switzerland guiding Alpine hikers. It was also at this first meeting that Jim proudly showed his HighPointer club card for individuals who ascend to the highest point in each of the 50 states. I don’t recall exactly how many state summits he had *not* completed, but I think it was less than 10, maybe even 5! Either way, this initial conversation made quite an impression as to Jim’s character and passion for the outdoors and mountaineering. I looked forward to learning more about his Marine Corps experiences and how they shaped his life after the service. We exchanged emails so that I could send the required paperwork and schedule a time for Jim’s official VHP interview.

On December 13, 2017, Jim and I met for the interview in the conference room of the KMNBP administration building. Jim and I had spoken numerous times about the Veterans History Project prior to December 13th, so the interview flowed like a comfortable conversation.

Jim was born on January 19, 1939 in Washington D.C. and he began his Marine Corps basic training at Parris Island, South Carolina on July 15, 1957. Jim joined the Marines shortly after graduating high school since he couldn’t afford college and he didn’t want to be drafted. Prior to high school, Jim thought he would join the Navy because of a Navy Chaplain he met on his newspaper route. The Chaplain took him to visit Anacostia Naval Air Station and bought him a sailor hat. But reading about Marines in *Battle Cry* by Leon Uris during his sophomore/junior year changed his mind.

Throughout the interview, Jim’s attention to detail and his natural storytelling ability made for compelling recollections of “first time” Marine related experiences. The rigorous physical training, discipline, travel by train, plane,

and ship and exposure to people and places he had never dreamed of seeing apparently became a way of life for Jim. As I listened to Jim talk about decades of guiding groups through the Swiss Alp villages in summer, I could visualize the beauty of my own summers in Switzerland many years ago. But I never connected Kennesaw Mountain to the Swiss Alps until I interviewed Jim for the Veterans History Project. I realized how important the people he met hiking at Kennesaw Mountain, the camaraderie, were to him.

Many of the veterans I interviewed also share a close connection to Kennesaw Mountain so I thought it would be appropriate to honor the memory of Jim Mathis by sharing his comments about the Marines and the friendships he made hiking Kennesaw Mountain. If you would like to listen to a short excerpt from the interview, follow this link and scroll down. www.scaolo.com/interviews

For more information about the 2017-2018 Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park -Veterans History Project, visit: <https://www.nps.gov/kemo/veteran-s-history-project.htm>

Special thanks to FRIENDS of KMNBP for funding the transcriptions of these interviews.

All interviews are archived forever in Washington D.C. at the Library of Congress – Veterans History Project. Visit: www.loc.gov/vets

Every veteran has a story worth telling, sharing, and preserving. I continue interviewing veterans to honor their service, their stories, and their memories. Contact: susan@scaolo.com



Interviews with Veterans – WWII to present day



005VHP **James E. Mathis , U.S. Marine Corps**
In Memoriam, January 19, 1939 - May 26, 2018



- ✧ **Branch:** U.S. Marine Corps
- ✧ **Rank:** Corporal E-4
- ✧ **Service Dates:** 07-15-1957 to 06-27-1960
- ✧ **Service Areas:** Lebanon, Japan
- ✧ **Conflict:** Lebanon Operation 1958
- ✧ **Unit/Battalion:** Gulf Battery, 2nd
Battalion 10th Marines; Charlie Battery;
1st Battalion; 12th Marines
- ✧ **Birthplace:** Washington D.C.



All interviews archived by the Veterans History Project at the Library of Congress for future generations

Visit: www.loc.gov/vets

Interviews conducted by Susan Caolo, www.scaolo.com



National Park Service
U.S Department of the Interior

Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park
900 Kennesaw Mountain Drive
Kennesaw, GA 30152

(770) 427-4686 phone
www.nps.gov/kemo

National Park Service, U.S.Department of the Interior, Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park, 900 Kennesaw Mountain Drive, Kennesaw, GA 30152, (770) 427-4686 phone,
www.nps.gov/kemo

Kennesaw Mountain News Release

Release Date: Immediately

Contact: Marjorie Thomas, Marjorie_thomas@nps.gov, 770-427-4686 x 231

John Ward Creek Crossing Closed to Horseback Riders

Kennesaw, GA – Effective immediately, the John Ward Creek crossing just south of the Illinois Monument is closed to horseback riders until further notice. This closure stems from a safety concern due to hazardous conditions relating to an unstable streambed. The closure affects the creek crossing between Milepost 3.5 and Milepost 4 of the Kolb's Farm East Trail.

Superintendent Patrick Gamman states, "We are concerned for the safety of all park users. Crossing John Ward Creek at this section of the trail poses a risk that we want to alert our horse community to, as it could potentially cause harm to both horse and rider. We will be working as quickly as possible to mitigate this problem."

Please contact the park at 770-427-4686 or visit the park's website at www.nps.gov/kemo for further information.

[The National Park Service](http://www.nps.gov)

About the National Park Service. More than 20,000 National Park Service employees care for America's 423 national parks and work with communities across the nation to help preserve local history and create close-to-home recreational opportunities. Learn more at the [NPS website](http://www.nps.gov), and on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/nps), [Instagram](https://www.instagram.com/nps), [Twitter](https://twitter.com/nps), and [YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/nps).

EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA™

The National Park Service cares for special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.

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<https://friendsofkmnbp.org/>

9/11 Thoughts In Passing

I volunteered to help at the 9/11 event. Not just because it was at the park but also because I had a cousin-in-law, a co-worker, and 4 other people from my hometown die on that morning in 2001. Also, I spent a little over a month at New York as a Red Cross volunteer helping with the search & recovery. But, even with all of that motivation, I probably would still have volunteered to help with the Field of Flags just because it was at the park that I care about.

The 20th anniversary memorial ceremony was quite moving for me. It is amazing what feelings come back when the bagpipe plays "**Amazing Grace**," the rifles blast out 21 shots, and the bugle plays taps. I stayed emotionally strong through all that but when they started reading the 2997 names of those people who died that day, I turned away and started walking the flags.

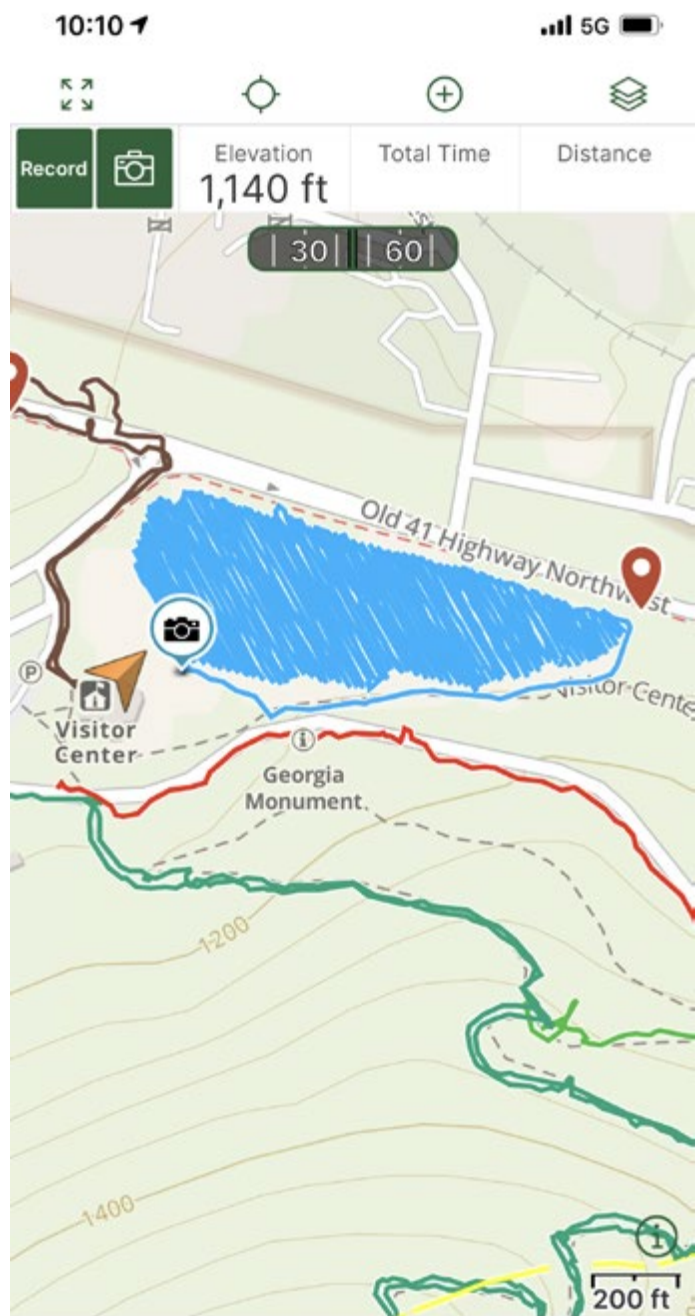
As I walked, I decided to pass all of the flags. I figured I could do it in less time than it would take to read all of the names but quickly learned I would need to be at a running pace to do that and at 68 years old I needed to stay at my normal hiking pace. I stopped to see every photo and read every posting that people had placed on flags. And, being in my park volunteer uniform, people would stop me to ask questions like "how long did it take to set up?" or "can you take our picture?" And, there was a lot of just "good morning, I hope you are enjoying the park."

I kept walking the flags, now more curious about how long it would take to pass 2997 flags placed 12' apart. I tried to estimate in my head but calculating while hiking is not one of my strong skills ($12' \times 2997 = 35,964$, divide that by $5280 = 6.8$ miles). Well, that math did not work anyways, maybe because the flags were farther apart than I guessed. My trusty GPS recorded 7.92 miles at 3 hrs and 49 mins. That made this my longest hike in months and gave me plenty of time to reflect on the 9/11 event.

9/11 brought us together stronger than we had been in my whole lifetime (I was born just after WW2). We are a country where freedom, liberty, and equality are our foundation. We live well together under our constitution and civil laws. Those few fanatics that tried to terrorize us ended up helping to make us even stronger.

Scott Mackay

President, Friends of Kennesaw Mountain
Crew Leader/Trail Ambassador, KMTC



Old 41 Highway at Kennesaw Avenue (Cobb DOT Project No. X2609)

The Georgia DOT is placing project information for review and feedback into an internet platform to allow citizens to review and comment on the proposed project. The purpose of this internet posting is to replace an in-person meeting, while allowing the public to review the proposed project, provide feedback, or write in with questions.

While this is a Georgia DOT effort, the project files are posted below to facilitate public review. This information is also posted at GDOT's Public Outreach Page.

• [Concept Layout](#)

Please note that all comments regarding this project should be provided to the Georgia DOT.

The public comment period starts 10/1/2021 and expires 10/31/2021.

Written statements may be submitted to:

Mr. Eric Duff
State Environmental Administrator
Georgia Department of Transportation
600 West Peachtree Street, NW – 16th Floor
Atlanta, Georgia 30308

Additional information may be found at:

<https://old-41-hwy-widening-0016410-gdot.hub.arcgis.com/>



9/14/21 - photo by Fred Feltmann

The Joro Spider!

Video: <https://youtu.be/6bFQdQcAZtk>

Article: <https://newswire.caes.uga.edu/story/8746/Spiders.-Spiders-Everywhere.html>

This spider has been seen at Kennesaw Mountain. Just beware of the webs they spin!



Photo courtesy of AC-Illust.com.



9/11/21 Field of Flags - Field Prep/ Flag Removal

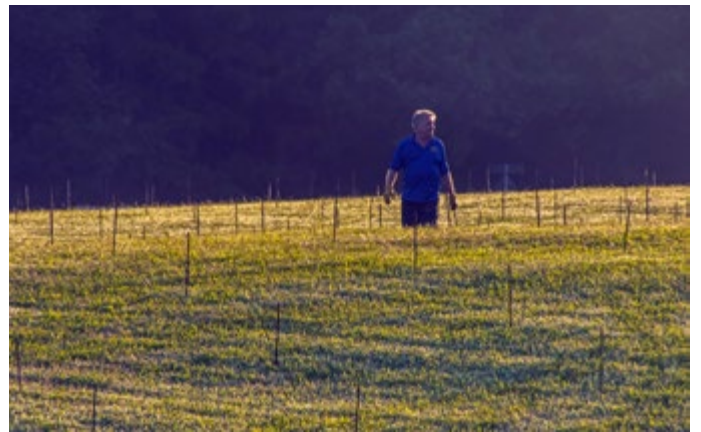
Photos by Fred Feltmann



Prep work accomplished primarily by sponsor Kiwanis Club of Marietta, as was a majority of the removal effort.



Below & right - flag removal - 9/18/21



9/4/21 - Field of Flag Procession/Flag Placement

Photos by Fred Feltmann



9/11/21 - Field Of Flags Memorial

Photos by Fred Feltmann



Travel to a Unique Place

By

Jay B Haney

Photos by

Anne Page Mosby

Where can you go that can only be reached by ferry, has no automobiles (taxis are horse drawn), was the 2nd National Park, has a battlefield from the War of 1812 and has the largest porch in the world? These are just a few of the marvels of Mackinac Island, Michigan.



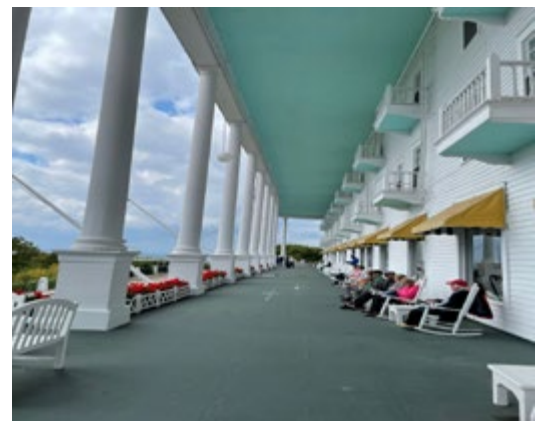
Mackinac National Park was established just 3 years after Yellowstone National Park. Because of Fort Mackinac and the U.S. soldiers already on Mackinac Island, it was an easy and economical transition into a national park. In the 1890's Fort Mackinac was decommissioned and in 1895 it was handed over to the State of Michigan and became Michigan's first State Park. President Grant signed the bill creating the Park. The Commander 23rd US Infantry Regiment also served as Superintendent of the Park.

Like Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park, Mackinac Island was also the site of a battle. In the War of 1812, British forces landed on the West coast of the island and marched inland to force the surrender of the US Fort by approaching it from the rear.

Other fun facts about the island include: home of the largest lilac tree in Michigan; site of medical research that discovered digestion is chemical; only 500 full-time residents and over 1 million visitors per year; Native Americans who called the island the place of the great turtle; and over 1,400 bikes for rent.



Old Fort, Mackinac Island, Michigan



View of half of the longest porch in the world at the Grand Hotel

Kennesaw Mountain's Lost Railroad

By Andrew J. Bramlett

When standing at the summit of Kennesaw Mountain, the railroad can be seen cutting through the landscape. Occasionally the sound of the horn can be heard as it passes White Circle. The railroad played an important role in the Battle of Kennesaw Mountain and the development of Marietta. At one time there were plans for Kennesaw Mountain to loom over a second railroad, that could have potentially impacted Marietta forever.

On December 21, 1836, the Georgia General Assembly approved the construction of the Western and Atlantic Railroad, also called the W&A or the State Road. The W&A was to be constructed and owned by the State of Georgia. When the railroad was finished it helped to establish the cities at its endpoints, Atlanta and Chattanooga. The W&A also led to the creation of smaller communities along its route, such as Marietta, Acworth, Smyrna, and the community of Big Shanty (later to be known as Kennesaw). The Western and Atlantic turned the mountain wilderness of Northwest Georgia into a highway of commerce.

As time went on, large transportation projects began to be undertaken by private corporations as opposed to state governments. On November 12, 1859, the Polk Slate Quarry Railroad was given its charter by the Georgia General Assembly. The company was authorized to build from any point on the Western & Atlantic Railroad in the city of Marietta... through the counties of Cobb, Paulding, and through Cedar Valley, in the county of Polk, to the Alabama line to connect with such other railroad as has been or may be chartered and authorized to be built by the State of Alabama through Jacksonville in the county of Calhoun, and also to build such branches and extensions to and from said road.

The Polk Slate Quarry Railroad's charter members were from Polk, Paulding, and Cobb counties. The charter members from Cobb were "Edward Denmead, David Irwin, Andrew J. Hansell, William Phillips, John Anderson, Henry H. Hierich, Thom. M. Kirkpatrick, Gary Davis, Alva Connell, Arnolders [sic] V. Brumby, William H. Robert, David Dobbs, Sr., [and] Norman L. Chester." These were some of the most influential people in the young county. Edward Denmead was an engineer who built portions of the Western and Atlantic, Arnoldus V. Brumby was the head of the Georgia Military Institute, and David Irwin was a prominent judge. Each of these men left landmarks still visible in Marietta; Edward Denmead's house, Ivy Grove, still stands near Kennestone Hospital, Arnoldus V. Brumby's house is now the Gone with the Wind Museum, and David Irwin built the iconic Oakton House on Kennesaw Avenue.

The January 1, 1860, edition of the *Chronicle & Sentinel* stated that the railroad would connect with the "Selma, Ala. Road at Jackson, Ala., thence by rail with Decatur, Ala., and Memphis, Tenn." A February 26, 1860, edition of the same paper elaborated on the distances of the route. From Marietta to Alabama the line would be 53 miles long. This would make the distance by railroad from Marietta to Memphis around 340 miles, 87 miles shorter than existing routes. An extension recently surveyed would add 24 miles in the direction of Stone Mountain. An article published on March 9 in the same paper explained the reasoning behind the Stone Mountain extension. At the time, all existing rail traffic from Charleston to Memphis was passing through Atlanta, but the proposed extension of the Polk Slate Quarry Railroad to Stone Mountain would allow trains to bypass Atlanta and reroute them to Marietta. This could have had drastic impacts on the Marietta economy.

Based on maps of the Atlanta Campaign, published by the War Department and Government Printing Office in 1895, the railroad would have passed by Kennesaw Mountain between Burnt Hickory Road and Cheatham Hill. Next it would travel southwest to what is now The Avenue West Cobb. It would also pass-through Dallas and Van Wert, a community in Polk County. Van Wert and nearby Rockmart were both known for their slate quarries, hence the railroad's name. Construction at Racoon Creek in Dallas would prove

challenging. The only other detail known about its route is that it would enter Alabama at Hurricane Creek Valley, but it is unknown where this creek was located.

Very little progress with the railroad was made over the next few months. On May 1, 1860, Edward Denmead was elected president of the company. According to the May 10, 1860, *Rome Tri-Weekly Courier*, the vote was unanimous among the board of directors. The May 22, 1860, edition of the *Southern Recorder* offered even more promising news: “It is understood that the work will be commenced as soon as the subscriptions reach the amount of five hundred thousand dollars, which will, without doubt, says the *Marietta Advocate*, be accomplished in a very short time.”

On July 20, 1860, the *Rome Tri-Weekly Courier* reported that “the sections of the P.S.Q [sic] Railroad from Marietta to the Paulding line were let on Wednesday last, to responsible contractors.” The July 29, 1860, *Daily Constitutionalist of Augusta* reprinted an article from the *Marietta Statesman* published two days before. It reported that ground was scheduled to be broken on July 30th. One of the contractors, John R. Winters, had already begun erecting shanties. “Hurrah for the Polk Slate Quarry.”

The August 29, 1860, *Planters Weekly* reported that surveying was set to begin on the Stone Mountain extension. The final article before the war mentioning the railroad’s progress was the October 10, 1860, *Daily Chronicle & Sentinel*. It noted the importance of shipping slate for roofing to major cities across the country. Of course, there was one fact that stopped further construction: the Civil War.

The first mention of the railroad after the Civil War is in the October 18, 1865, *Daily Telegraph* of Macon. The paper reported that the railroad had “entirely inadequate capital,” and had been sold to “Western capitalists (from Ohio principally) who guarantee its construction in the shortest possible time.” If completed the railroad would give the nation access to the slate, lime, lumber, and the oil reserves of Van Wert. The article noted that “if ever oil is obtained in Georgia it will first be found about a mile from Van Wert.” The prophecy was a dud, as no oil reserves have ever been found in our state.

The Polk Slate Quarry Railroad reappeared several times over the years. In 1866 there was a bill to transfer it to the state, but the bill was withdrawn. An article from the June 18, 1867, *Daily Constitutionalist* about a railroad connection between Atlanta and Decatur, AL, mentioned the route of the Polk Slate Quarry Railroad as a possibility. The railroad itself (as opposed to just its route) were revived in 1870, according to the *Cuthbert Weekly Appeal* from June 23, 1870. The railroad was also renamed the Marietta and Western Railroad. This revival of the railroad was granted \$15,000 per mile by the State of Georgia. The July 25, 1871, Richmond *Whig* listed the railroad among many others the state had given aid. In fact, they gave aid to so many railroads it was a major reason the state went into debt. The *Whig* referred to these grants like this as a “liberal donation (or theft, some call it who are not euphemistically inclined), of state credit.”

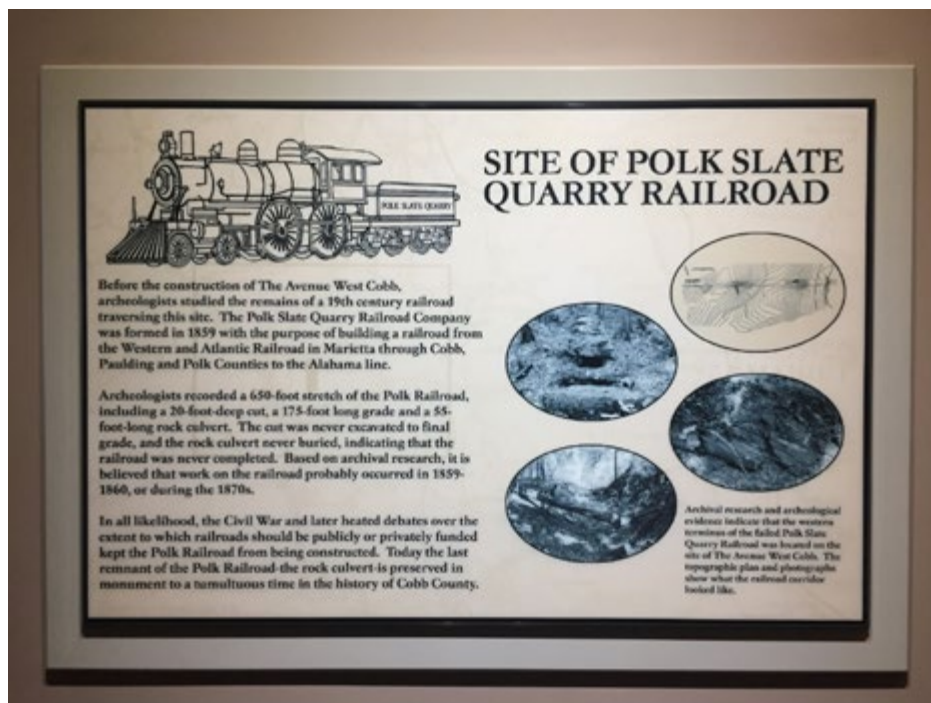
The board of directors of the Marietta and Western met several times in 1871 under the leadership of General William Phillips. The final mention of the railroad is in the September 8, 1871, *Marietta Journal*. After this the project seems to have died, never to be resurrected. The only trace left of the railroad is at The Avenues West Cobb, where a small marker about the railroad is dedicated on the site of the abandoned grading. A small display about the railroad is inside the Avenue’s office.

The Western and Atlantic Railroad, that Kennesaw Mountain watches over today, created Atlanta; but the forgotten Polk Slate Quarry Railroad could have had the chance to create a drastically different Marietta.



Map showing the Marietta area, including Kennesaw Mountain. “R.R. PARTLY GRADED is marked by a dashed line due west of Marietta.

Image credit: *Atlanta Campaign 3rd epoch*. By Edward Ruger, printed by the US Government Printing From the David Rumsey Map Collection.



Display at The Avenues West Cobb

Citizen Science Program?

- Involve visitors with science in the park
- Compile data to monitor health in the park
 - Water sampling
 - Bird species counts
 - Flowering plant species counts
 - More?
- Work sheets for now, app later?

Need a volunteer to explore how we would go about this – we will need to present our plan to the park



Interested in the investigation of the development of this potential program? Contact Scott Mackay at President@TheFriendsOfKMNBp.onmicrosoft.com



Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park Programs for November

All park programming is free and open to the public. No registration required.

**All programs are outdoors and weather dependent.*

Visitor Center Address: 900 Kennesaw Mountain Drive, Kennesaw, GA 30152

November 6 @ 11:00 am- Native American Program

November is Native American Heritage Month. This program, held at the Visitor Center, will trace the history of the indigenous peoples of Cobb County from their hunter-gatherer origins to today.

November 7 @ 11:00 am: Pigeon Hill Hike

On the morning of June 27th, 1864, the Union army would coordinate multi-faceted diversions and attacks against the Confederate 'Kennesaw Line'.

One of the major frontal assaults was up the rocky slopes of Pigeon Hill.

Join a ranger for this moderate .5- 1 mile hike along the battle line.

(Please meet the Ranger at the Burnt Hickory Parking Lot, GPS: 33.963276, -84.594391)

November 13 @ 11:00 am- 1 pm: Sherman/ Thomas HQ Rove

There will be a Ranger roving in the vicinity of the Sherman/ Thomas HQ site, near Activity Area 3. Come on out, say hello, and talk to us about the battle! (GPS: 33.933020, -84.604780)

November 14 @ All Day: Infantry Demo and Camp Life

Come on out for the LAST infantry demonstration of the year! Our living historians will set up a Union Camp in the field in front of the Visitor Center to showcase what life was like for the average Civil War soldier in the field. Rifle firings will occur at 10 am, 11 am, 1 pm and 2 pm.

November 20 @ 11:00 am- 1 pm: Illinois Monument Rove

There will be a Ranger roving in the vicinity of the Illinois Monument at Cheatham Hill. Come on out, say hello, and talk to us about the battle! (GPS: 33.936937, -84.596903)

November 21 @ 11:00 am Environmental Trail Hike

This 1.33 mile hike will take you along the foot of Big Kennesaw Mountain, where you will discover the flora and fauna of north Georgia as well as Native American and Civil War history. We'll meet at the picnic area near the Visitor Center.

November 24 @ 10:30 am & 12:30 pm: Abraham Lincoln's Thanksgiving

Celebrations of thankfulness for the harvest have existed since pre-history. Did you know that the story of this great American holiday has origins planted in the Civil War and with Abraham Lincoln? Come out and greet special guest Larry Elliot at the Visitor Center as he portrays the 16th president and the fascinating story of Lincoln and Thanksgiving!

November 27 @ 11:00 am: Importance of Battlefields

Join Ranger Amanda as she discusses the importance of preserving historic battlefields, and the preservation efforts taken by the National Park Service. This 30-minute ranger led program will be held on the Visitor Center's front patio.

November 28 @ 11:00 am: 24 Gun Battery Talk

The 24-Gun Battery was a Union artillery position made up of 4 light artillery units. Many of these positions still exist to this day. Join a park ranger at this location to learn about the significance of these guns during the battle of Kennesaw Mountain and the role of artillery in the Civil war.

***This program is not at the Visitor Center. Please meet the ranger at the trailhead of the 24-Gun Battery at Gilbert Rd (GPS: 33.976017, -84.599580).**

*** For more program details, please contact Visitor Center at 770-427-4686, ext. 0



Lincoln's Thanksgiving



When: November 24th, 2021 (10:30 am & 12:30 pm)

Where: Visitor Center Patio

Celebrations of thankfulness for the harvest have existed since pre- history. Did you know that the story of this great American holiday has origins planted in the Civil War and with Abraham Lincoln? Come out and see special guest Larry Elliot as he portrays the 16th president and the fascinating story of Lincoln and Thanksgiving! Programs will run for 30 minutes and begin at 10:30 am and 12:30 pm.



Become a supporting member of the Friends of Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park (KMNBP)

The Friends of KMNBP's mission is to raise funds to support programs and projects at the Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park.

These include:

Hiking/Equestrian Trail improvements and Maintenance

Museum improvements and expansion

Living History Demonstrations

Additional parking and restrooms

Guest speakers

More

Our long term goal is to establish endowments to provide perpetual sources of funding for the programs that make the park special for all of us and generations to come.

Website: <http://www.FriendsofKMNBP.org>

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/FriendsofKMNBP>

Instagram: <http://www.instagram.com/FriendsofKMNBP>

Twitter: <http://www.twitter.com/fkmnbp/>



Your annual membership will help us achieve our goals. We are a 501(c)(3) tax deductible organization. 100% of all funds received are put to use for and at the Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park.

Annual membership levels:

Individuals

- \$15 Corporal (Student)
- \$25 Sergeant
- \$100 First Sergeant
- \$300 Ordinance Sergeant
- \$500 Quarter Master
- \$1,000 Sergeant Major
- \$1,500+ General

Businesses

- \$150 Company
- \$300 Regiment
- \$500 Brigade
- \$1,000 Division
- \$15,000 Corps
- \$25,000+ Army

Please check with your company to see if they will match your gift.

Donations can be made on-line at:

www.FriendsOfKMNBP.org



Or, by mailing to:

Friends of KMNBP
905 Kennesaw Mountain Drive
Kennesaw, GA 30152

Sponsors/Partners Corner

Many thanks to our Sponsors and Partners for their support!



<http://americanhiking.org>



List of Abbreviations

KMNBP - Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park

NPS/KEMO - National Park Service/Kennesaw Mountain

VHP - Veterans History Project

Second Fiscal Quarter Newsletter Deadline

If you wish to have an article published in the January, 2022 Newsletter, please submit it to Fred Feltmann at faf1948@bellsouth.net no later than December 30th, 2021!

KENNESAW MOUNTAIN NATIONAL BATTLEFIELD PARK

Trail Maintenance Map

