

# GEORGIA

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# BATTLEFIELDS

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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](mailto:info@georgiabattlefields.org)

## Atlanta site gets mention in national news magazine

The release of Civil War Preservation Trust's (CWPT) most endangered sites list for 2002 (see March newsletter) resulted in Georgia Battlefields Association gaining publicity in *U.S. News & World Report* ([www.usnews.com/usnews/issue/020311/ideas/11cultwatch.htm](http://www.usnews.com/usnews/issue/020311/ideas/11cultwatch.htm)). After CWPT referred *U.S. News'* Andrew Curry to GBA, he conducted a phone interview with GBA president Charlie Crawford. While only a small portion of the interview was included in the final article, it nonetheless gets GBA's name before a larger audience. More importantly, it increases national awareness of the threatened site in Atlanta.

## Preservationist Mary Alice Jordan honored

Mary Alice Jordan, a preservation leader and contributor to civic improvement in Central Georgia, was honored in March when she received a Governor's Award in the Humanities.

A GBA member, Mrs. Jordan has been pre-eminent in the cultural life of Washington County for over fifty years. She helped organize the county historical society, and she led efforts to restore the old jail and the Brown House as headquarters and museums for the society. (The Brown House was visited by Sherman on 26 November 1864, during the March to the Sea.) She edited a well-received history of the county, and she organized a historical cemetery walk. Beyond these specific preservation efforts, she chaired fundraising for a new county library, and she led the visit of a traveling Smithsonian Exhibit last year. Her other contributions to the civic life of Washington County would fill several more pages.

Georgia Battlefields Association is happy to recognize preservation leaders such as Mary Alice Jordan. She personifies the grass-roots effort that is key to almost every preservation success.

## Help maintain Georgia's Civil War sites on Park Day, 6 April

Many parks—national, state, county, and city—depend on volunteers for periodic repair and clean-up. Park Day is a nationwide event that focuses attention on park needs. Participating Civil War sites are on the Civil War Preservation Trust web site [www.civilwar.org/parkday.htm](http://www.civilwar.org/parkday.htm). Past volunteer activities included painting signs, reinstalling headstones, and laying trails.

Participating Georgia sites and the numbers for volunteers to call are:

- Chickamauga National Military Park 706 866-9241
- Prater's Mill, Varnell 706 694-6455
- Confederate Cemetery, Dalton 706 272-7676
- Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park 770 422-3696
- Sweetwater Creek State Park, Douglasville 770 732-5871
- Historic Oakland Cemetery, Atlanta 404 688-2107
- Cannonball House and Museum, Macon 478 475-2862
- Old Governor's Mansion, Milledgeville 478 445-4545
- Jefferson Davis State Historic Site, Fitzgerald 229 831-2335
- Fort McAllister, Richmond Hill 912 727-2339

While Park Day occurs only once a year, you can help state parks year round by contacting the Friends of Georgia State Parks and Historic Sites (FGSPHS). Contact any state park or historic site manager, call the FGSPHS executive director at 770 503-0800, or call the statewide volunteer director at 404 656-2770. The web site is [www.friendsofgastateparks.org](http://www.friendsofgastateparks.org).

## Old Clinton War Days 4-5 May

The Old Clinton Historical Society will hold its annual War Days 4-5 May. In addition to the antebellum structures that have been saved through unstinting efforts of the local community, the celebration will feature a crafts show, encampments, and reenactments. The reenactments start at 2 p.m. each day. Old Clinton is just off highway 129 near Gray, 12 miles northeast of Macon. For more information, contact Richard Durham at 478 986-5300 or e-mail [OCHS@hom.net](mailto:OCHS@hom.net).

## **Annual Resaca Reenactment 18-19 May**

While 500 acres of the Resaca Battlefield was purchased by the state in 2000, current budget restraints have hampered the development of a state park with suitable visitor center and trails; but Friends of the Resaca Battlefield ([www.resacabattlefield.org](http://www.resacabattlefield.org)) continue efforts to preserve the site. The annual reenactment of the 13-15 May 1864 battle is one of the largest such events in the state and always benefits preservation efforts. This year's event will again be at the Chitwood Farm on 18-19 May. For more information, contact Ken Padgett through the reenactment web site ([www.battleofresaca-gdra.org](http://www.battleofresaca-gdra.org)) or via e-mail: [2rebels@bellsouth.net](mailto:2rebels@bellsouth.net).

## **Antietam retains grisly distinction**

Revised casualty figures for the 11 September terrorist attacks indicate that the 1862 Battle of Antietam is still the deadliest single day for Americans. The latest death toll for all four plane crashes is 3,019 excluding the 19 hijackers. The total includes foreign passengers aboard the planes as well as non-Americans who worked in the World Trade Center towers. The number is greater than the 2,388 Americans who died at Pearl Harbor on 7 December 1941 but less than the 3,654 Federal and Confederate soldiers who died at Antietam on 17 September 1962. (Note: exact numbers for Antietam are problematic because of missing Confederate records. Some sources give the total dead as high as 4,710.) While other battles (such as Chickamauga) exacted a higher human toll, they occurred over multiple days.

The Civil War still provides a benchmark for our American experience. Thanks for helping us save the sites that still mean so much to our nation.

## **Road and railroad project threatens Rome's Fort Attaway**

Fort Attaway, one of three forts in the defenses of Rome, Georgia, is again under assault. The first attack was on 16 May 1864, when Major General Jefferson C. Davis's Federal troops approached Fort Attaway and clashed with Brigadier General Sul Ross's Texas cavalry brigade.

Much of the Fort Attaway site is currently owned by the Fowlers: David, Sr. and David, Jr. In a phone call to GBA, David, Jr., reported that the earthworks were still in pristine condition. Previously, he has discouraged visits to the fort, but he's now encouraging interest in the site in an effort to save it from any damage caused by a proposed road widening and railroad relocation.

In a 23 March article, the *Rome News-Tribune* ([www.romenews-tribune.com](http://www.romenews-tribune.com)) reports that a Georgia Department of Transportation official approached David Fowler, Sr. to sell part of his land for a project that involves widening U.S. 27, moving a railroad overpass, and building a new railroad trestle. That's when David Fowler, Jr., recognized the threat to Fort Attaway, the only one of the three forts around Rome that is not listed on the National Register of Historic Places. David Fowler, Jr., has also contacted the Georgia Civil War Commission and the State Historic Preservation Office about the next steps to take in his efforts to save the fort.

Fort Attaway is undoubtedly a historic site, but the question remains how much of the property should be saved. A Georgia Department of Transportation environmental study concludes that the fort is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places but also concludes that the road project will not affect historically significant portions of the site. David Fowler, Jr., believes the right of way for the project will impinge on viable parts of the fort.

Future newsletters will report who wins this second fight at Fort Attaway.

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