

# 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)

## **GBA celebrates 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary, continues preservation work**

GBA was incorporated on 24 March 1995. Since then, we've played a substantial role in preserving historic sites at Griswoldville, Resaca, and the Kolb Farm. Still, the work of preservation is never done. While the monthly newsletter provides reports on GBA's activities, we thought our readers would appreciate a summary of our activities over the past two years.

### **Represented the cause of preservation**

- Participated as a stakeholder in the Chickamauga Park Transportation Study.
- Attended Georgia House of Representatives Committee meeting in support of legislation to prevent disturbance of archaeological sites.
- Testified at Georgia Senate Committee on Electric Transmission Line location.
- Supported Shoupade preservation by letter to the Smyrna City Council.

### **Cooperated with other groups**

- Provided volunteer staff at Civil War Preservation Trust (CWPT) annual conferences.
- Hosted visit to Georgia by CWPT's director of real estate.
- Successfully nominated Georgia sites for CWPT's annual endangered list.
- Helped Grant Park Conservancy apply for ABPP grant to restore Fort Walker.
- Located a reenactor group for Jonesboro commemoration.
- Maintained reciprocal relationship with other preservation organizations, including Civil War Preservation Trust, Friends of Resaca, Friends of Civil War Paulding County, River Line Historic Area, Heritage Sandy Springs, Atlanta Preservation Center, Coastal Heritage Society, Georgia Civil War Commission, Georgia Civil War Heritage Trails, and Tennessee Civil War Preservation Association.

### **Lectured to raise awareness**

- Heritage Sandy Springs.
- Perimeter Adult Learning & Services.
- Senior Enriched Learning & Services.
- Chattanooga Civil War Round Table.
- Civil War Preservation Trust Board of Trustees meeting.
- Hell Hole Symposium.

### **Organized and led tours to raise awareness**

- Annual tours led by Ed Bearss, America's premier historic guide.
- City of Atlanta sites for Atlanta Urban Design Commission.
- Cobb County sites for Civil War Preservation Trust Grand Review.
- Battle of Peachtree Creek for Atlanta Preservation Center.
- Battle of Atlanta for Atlanta Preservation Center.

### **Contributed to or produced publications to raise awareness**

- Published monthly newsletter relating to preservation of Georgia's Civil War sites.
- Quoted in newspaper articles on preservation.

### **Maintained historic sites**

- Worked with other preservation organizations to pay for and install Battle of Atlanta markers.
- Monitored status of threatened sites.
- Owned and maintained 4.7 acres of battlefield property near New Hope Church.

When the news media publicize the threat to battlefield sites, GBA's membership tends to increase; but even when preservation is not making a front-page splash, GBA is working to save the sites. Often, we don't publicize our negotiations with property owners, principally because the owners insist on confidentiality.

Our finances are sound. Our principal recurring expenses are the newsletter printing and mailing (which you can help us reduce by receiving the newsletter electronically) and staging the annual tour led by Ed Bearss, on which we turn a profit that goes into our property acquisition "war

chest.” Every trustee is a volunteer, so you won’t read about us personally enriching ourselves at the expense of our preservation mission.

Our books are in good condition, principally because of treasurer Art Carey’s efforts. We have every confidence that Frank Chew, Art’s successor, will continue this trend. Note that with Art’s departure, **GBA’s mailing address has changed to 7 Camden Rd NE, Atlanta GA 30309.**

We hope you’ll continue to support GBA and urge others to join. Thanks for your help.

## **War in Georgia: 140 years ago – April 1865**

Georgia again feels the sting of invasion when a cavalry force of 13,000 men, led by General James H. Wilson, tears through Alabama and on 16 April takes West Point and Columbus. Wilson’s troops destroy any remaining industrial facilities in the two towns. Wilson refuses to believe the Confederates who say the war is over as they try to surrender Macon, but once he has established headquarters in the city on 21 April, he receives a coded message from Sherman, who writes that Lee surrendered in Virginia on 9 April and that Sherman and Johnston—who forwarded the message—are negotiating the surrender of much of the remaining Confederate forces. Wilson’s patrols roam the state, looking for any resistance to Federal authority. From mid-April, paroled Georgia veterans of Lee’s army begin returning to their homes, often on foot.

## **Preservation Trust annual conference 21-24 April in Chantilly**

Civil War Preservation Trust (CWPT) will hold its annual conference 21-24 April in Chantilly, Virginia. Georgia Battlefields Association will again provide volunteer staff for the conference. Theme of this year’s conference is “Lee Moves North,” and tours will include South Mountain, Harper’s Ferry, and Antietam. For more info, see the CWPT web site [www.civilwar.org](http://www.civilwar.org).

## **Annual Old Clinton “War Days” scheduled for 30 April-1 May**

The annual reenactment of the November 1864 Federal occupation of Old Clinton occurs this year on 30 April and 1 May. Gates will open at 9 a.m., and reenactments will start at 2 p.m. each day. Some of the proceeds are used to preserve the Old Clinton Historic District, which contains several ante-bellum structures. Old Clinton is about ten miles northeast of Macon, near Gray. Contact Earlene Hamilton or Richard Durham at 478 986 6383 or [rldurham1@alltel.net](mailto:rldurham1@alltel.net).

## **Annual Battle of Resaca reenactment is 21-22 May**

The 22<sup>nd</sup> annual reenactment of the Battle of Resaca will occur on 21 & 22 May at the Chitwood Farm, part of the original battlefield. This is always one of the largest and best run reenactments. For more information on participating or spectating, see the web site [www.georgiadivision.org](http://www.georgiadivision.org) or write Battle of Resaca, P.O. Box 919, Resaca GA 30735-0919 or e-mail [csgrizly@bellsouth.net](mailto:csgrizly@bellsouth.net).

As usual, some of the proceeds from the reenactment will go to preserve the battlefield. The Friends of Resaca Battlefield ([www.resacabattlefield.org](http://www.resacabattlefield.org)) have been great guardians of the site.

## **Ed Bearss leads another great tour**

From 10 to 13 March, Ed Bearss led another great tour for GBA. We’ll report more on the tour in a coming newsletter. Until then, you can see photos from the tour on our web site: [www.georgiabattlefields.org/tours.htm](http://www.georgiabattlefields.org/tours.htm).

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**[www.georgiabattlefields.org](http://www.georgiabattlefields.org)**

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