

# GEORGIA

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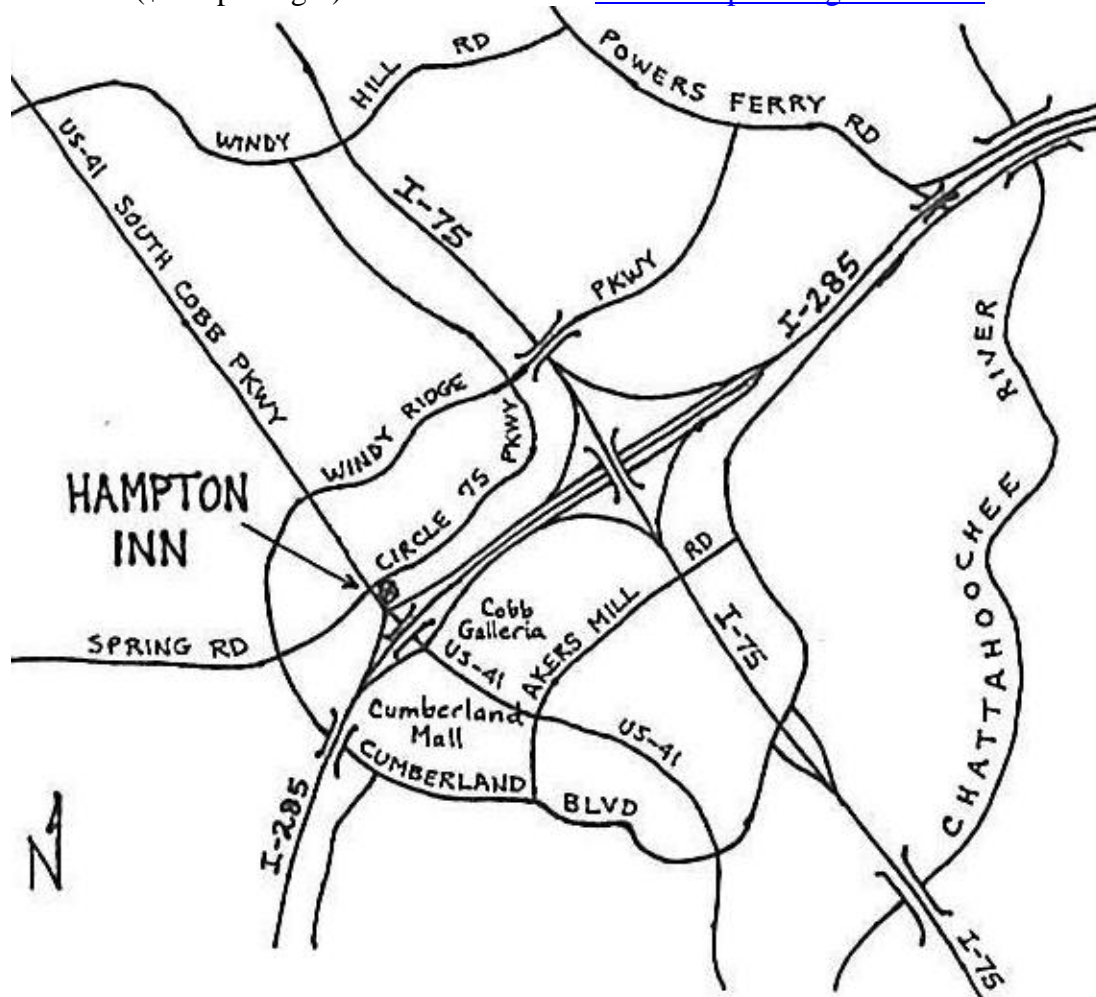
# BATTLEFIELDS

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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)

## Bearss 2007 tour is taking shape

Planning for GBA's annual tour led by Ed Bearss proceeds throughout the year, and we already have some of the 2007 itinerary solidified. The 15-18 March 2007 tour will open as usual with a welcome reception on Thursday (15 March) evening at the tour hotel, which will be the Hampton Inn & Suites Atlanta-Galleria, 2733 Circle 75 Pkwy. Call the hotel at 770 955 1110 and ask for the GBA rate (\$102 per night) or see the web site [www.hamptoninngalleria.com](http://www.hamptoninngalleria.com).



On Friday (16 March), we'll visit the sites of action on the northwest bank of the Chattahoochee as the Federals sought a crossing. The tour will include the New Manchester Mill (now in Sweetwater Creek State Park), twice visited by Stoneman's cavalry, patrolling downriver from the Confederate defenses. We'll see Pace's Ferry and Power's Ferry, two key crossing points. Paper Mill Park will provide a view of the mill ruins along Sope Creek, and we'll travel to the mouth of Sope Creek to see the site of the first crossing. In Roswell, we'll see the site of the Shallow Ford, the bridge destroyed as the Confederates withdrew, and the mill ruins along Vickery Creek. Dinner on Friday night will be at the Atlanta History Center, followed by a tour of the Center's Civil War exhibits.

Saturday's (17 March) trip will cover the Battle of Peachtree Creek. We'll see where the main rail and road bridges crossed the Chattahoochee River and how this location influenced the location of the Confederate Outer Line, occupied from 10 to 21 July 1864 and from which the 20 July assault at Peachtree Creek was launched. We'll visit the site where General Johnston received the telegram that relieved him of command. We'll see where the Federals crossed Peachtree Creek and the site from which General Thomas directed his defense. We'll finish by exploring the heart of the battle area on foot. Dinner on Saturday will be at a historic plantation house that General Sherman used as a headquarters during the Federal advance on the city. Dinner will be followed by a discussion about the Confederate change of command.

Sunday morning (18 March), we'll follow the route of McPherson's Army of the Tennessee as it advanced from Roswell towards Decatur. We'll see how McPherson's advance pressured the Confederate cavalry and caused General Hood to divert forces from the Peachtree Creek sector

to defense of the Bald Hill. We'll end with the opposing forces in place the day before the Battle of Atlanta, which will be the focus of the 2008 tour.

The objective of each tour is to raise money for preservation by showing the status of Civil War sites in Georgia. We also want to reward our members (and you **must be a member to register for the tour**) for their support by providing them an informative and enjoyable tour. Make your reservations by sending a check for \$395 to GBA at 7 Camden Rd NE, Atlanta GA 30309.

## New historical marker for the River Line



GBA has arranged for the placement of another historical marker, this time to identify a section of Johnston's River Line. The site is in the new RiverLine Hill development, on the west side of Oakdale Road, about a half mile north of Veterans Memorial Highway, in Cobb County. During the City of Smyrna rezoning process, developer KB Home agreed to preserve some of the rifle pits on the site and to reimburse GBA for the cost of the marker. GBA provided the text, photos, and map to the manufacturer, Atlanta Creative Graphics.

Present at the October 9 installation were (left to right in photo):

- Roberta Cook, River Line Historic Area, who encouraged the City of Smyrna to preserve the trenches during the rezoning process;
- Jason Harvey, KB Home, project manager for RiverLine Hill;
- Charlie Crawford, Georgia Battlefields Association;
- Wade Lnenicka, Smyrna city councilman, who supported preservation of the earthworks.

See [www.georgiabattlefields.org/markersRiverLineHill.htm](http://www.georgiabattlefields.org/markersRiverLineHill.htm) for a larger view of the marker.

An article about the new marker appeared in the 19 October *Atlanta Journal Constitution* Cobb County edition: [www.ajc.com/metro/content/metro/cobb/stories/2006/10/18/1019marker.html](http://www.ajc.com/metro/content/metro/cobb/stories/2006/10/18/1019marker.html).

## 150 years ago this month – November 1856

The 4 November vote results in the election of Democrat James Buchanan of Pennsylvania as president and John C. Breckinridge of Kentucky as vice president. At age 35, Breckinridge becomes—and remains—the youngest person ever elected to the office. As a former soldier, state legislator, U.S. representative and senator, federal judge, ambassador, and secretary of state, the 65-year old Buchanan appears well-qualified to be president; but his inability to address the issues prevents him from reversing the deepening sectionalism that will lead to war.

In February 2006, the University of Louisville's McConnell Center ([www.mcconnellcenter.org](http://www.mcconnellcenter.org)) announced the results of a survey of historians who were asked to rank presidential mistakes: Buchanan's failure to prevent secession ranked as the worst blunder in U.S. history. Andrew Johnson's mismanagement of reconstruction ranked second. By comparison to events many of us remember, Lyndon Johnson's escalation of the Vietnam War ranked third, Richard Nixon's Watergate cover-up was fifth, John Kennedy's Bay of Pigs invasion was eighth, Ronald Reagan's Iran-contra affair was ninth, and Bill Clinton's Lewinsky affair was tenth.

**Georgia Battlefields Association**  
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November 2006

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