

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

Two new historical markers dedicated

On 6 October, a new marker addressing the participation of Colored Troops in two fights near Dalton was dedicated. Andrew Young was the featured speaker. Over 200 people attended the ceremony. See the marker text at www.georgiahistory.com/calendar/2010/10/6.

On 22 October, a new marker addressing the battles around Atlanta was dedicated on the grounds of the Carter Presidential Library and Museum. For the text of this marker, see www.georgiahistory.com/calendar/2010/10/22. GBA's Charlie Crawford spoke at the ceremony.

By helping to pay for both markers, GBA hopes to raise awareness of the almost 400 Civil War sites in Georgia and thereby increase support for preserving those that can still be saved.



Former US Ambassador to the United Nations and Atlanta Mayor Andrew Young (far right) addresses a crowd of over 200 at the dedication of the Dalton marker.

Left photo by Bob Jenkins. Right photo by Frank Chew.

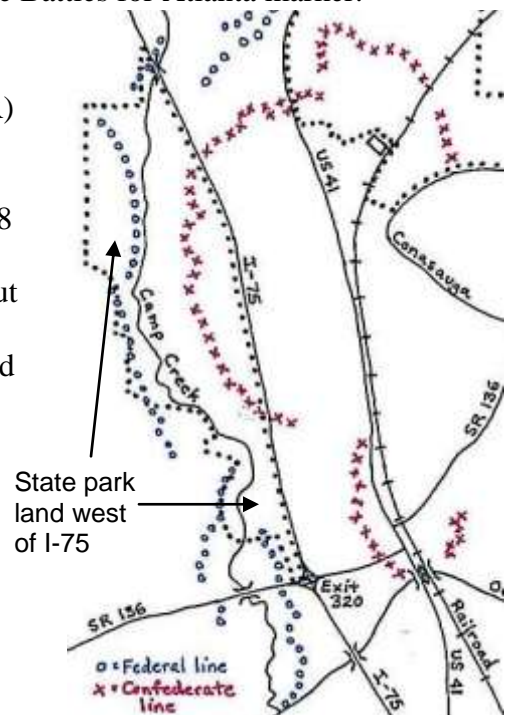


Georgia Historical Society President Todd Groce, GBA President Charlie Crawford, and Georgia Department of Economic Development Commissioner Heidi Green at the Battles for Atlanta marker.

Yet another plan for Resaca

Since the Georgia Department of Natural Resources (DNR) bought 505 acres of the Resaca battlefield in 2000, plans for the site's development as a state park have been thwarted by declines in the DNR budget. An October 2008 groundbreaking ceremony for a visitor's center gave hope that a facility might be in place by the Sesquicentennial, but it, too, fell victim to budget cutbacks. The latest effort envisions using \$3 million from an already authorized bond to construct almost everything but a visitor's center—i.e., an access road, parking, directional signs, walking trails, and interpretive markers, with at least an entrance area being in place by May.

The overall site plan has also been revised. The visitor's center—when eventually built—will be closer to S.R. 136 so that it should be accessible even if the Camp Creek Valley floods.



Time to apply for annual battlefield preservation grants

The American Battlefield Protection Program annual preservation grant process is underway. See www.nps.gov/history/hps/abpp/grants/battlefieldgrants/2011grants.htm for guidelines and an application form. If you don't have access to the internet, call Kristen McMasters at 202 354 2037. Mailed applications must be postmarked by 2 January 2011.

This year, grants went for projects at two Georgia sites: Chickamauga and Monteith swamp. A 2009 grant went to the Mableton Improvement Coalition for research on the River Line.

Unfortunately, an ABPP grant cannot be used to acquire land.

150 years ago this month

On 6 November, Americans entitled to vote (mostly free, white males) go to the polls to elect a president. Even in an age of limited communications and with a deeply divided electorate, the telegraph messages to Springfield, Illinois, indicate by 2 a.m. of 7 November that Abraham Lincoln will have enough electoral votes to be the next president. Lincoln writes that he went to bed shortly thereafter but didn't sleep much. While the eventual tally will show that Lincoln has won just under 40% of the popular vote, he receives 180 electoral votes, well more than the 152 necessary. Though Stephen Douglas receives 29.5 % of the popular vote, he gets only 12 electoral votes: John Breckinridge gets 18.1% and 72, and John Bell gets 12.6% and 39.

In the wake of the election, discussion of secession gathers steam. On 17 November, William Harris of Mississippi addresses a joint session of the Georgia General Assembly in Milledgeville. Mississippi's legislature had called for a secession convention, and Harris urges Georgia to do likewise. The General Assembly then passes a bill calling for a secession convention to meet on 16 January. On 21 November, Governor Joseph Brown signs the legislation, which specifies that elections for convention delegates will be held on the first Wednesday in January 1861.

150 years ago online

Charles Pou of GeorgiaInfo has prepared a web site that shows the events of 150 years ago, along with photos and contemporary documents and news accounts. GeorgiaInfo is part of the Digital Library of Georgia. <http://georgiainfo.galileo.usg.edu/CivilWar/titlepage.htm>

State Sesquicentennial web site now active

The Department of Economic Development's Sesquicentennial web site www.gacivilwar.org became active on 21 October. One of the features of the site is an events calendar: If you wish a local Sesquicentennial commemoration to receive the wider publicity resulting from inclusion on the state web site, please submit it for consideration to bbrown@georgia.org.

While the web site is still evolving, especially with added content, suggestions are welcome. Provide your feedback to info@gacivilwar.org.

GBA tour led by Ed Bearss set for 10-13 March in Augusta

Hotel: Homewood Suites, 1049 Stevens Creek Rd, Augusta GA 30907. Call 706 738 3131. Ask for the Georgia Battlefields Association rate of \$105 per night that includes breakfast.

Tour price: Still \$395 per person, but you must be a GBA member to register. Your reservation is confirmed when your check to GBA arrives at 7 Camden Rd NE, Atlanta GA 30309.

Subject: The end of the Confederacy and the importance of Augusta to the war effort. Stops include Crawfordville, Kettle Creek, Washington, Chennault, and Augusta.

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