

# GEORGIA

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# BATTLEFIELDS

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## Resaca: New historic site opens; another is pending

On 21 June, the Fort Wayne historic site formally opened. The 60 acre site is maintained by Gordon County. Friends of Resaca Battlefield [www.resacabattlefield.org](http://www.resacabattlefield.org) advocated for the purchase of the property and had a substantial role in its development. The site is on the south side of SR 136, just east of the town of Resaca, and now features gravel trails and a boardwalk.

On the west side of I-75, the 505 acre state historic site is finishing the initial construction phase, which will feature an access road into Camp Creek Valley from SR 136, just west of exit 320 (see March 2013 newsletter). Latest estimate is the road, pull-offs, kiosk, and rest rooms will be completed and the site opened in September.

Dotted outline indicates 474 acre easement.  
GBA contributed funding.

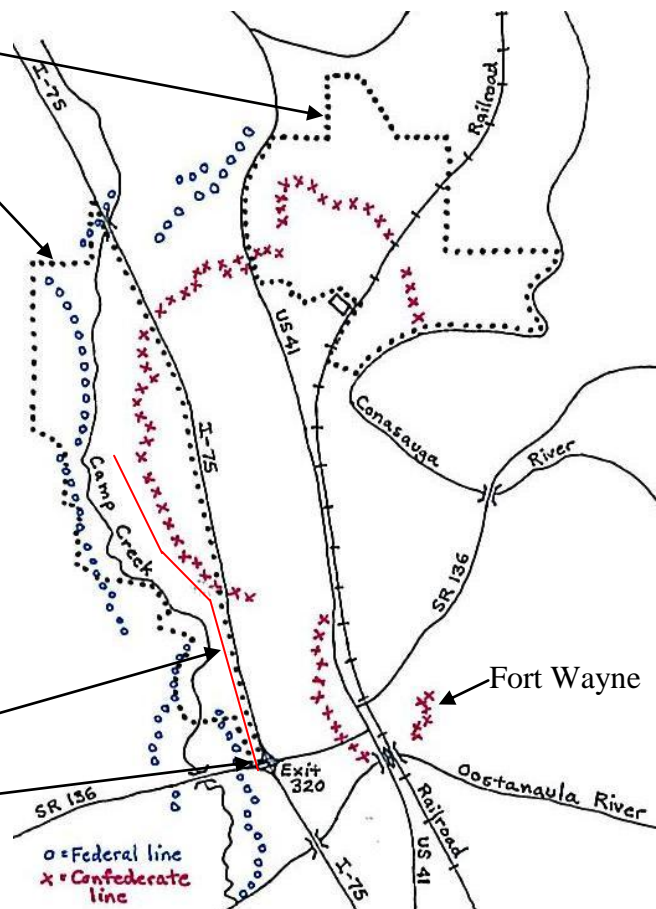
Dotted outline indicates 505 acre state park.



Entrance to Fort Wayne historic site.  
Earthworks are on hill in background.

New access road under construction.

Entrance to park under construction.



## 150 years ago this month

At the surrender of Vicksburg in July, Grant had about 70,000 men. In August, that force will be dispersed. Notably, the 9<sup>th</sup> Corps will move to Kentucky, then to Eastern Tennessee.

In Virginia, the Union and Confederate armies return to familiar ground near the Rappahannock. The usual cavalry scouting and skirmishing resumes. Leading a partisan ranger battalion, John Mosby will increase raiding activity in northern Virginia. On 8 August, Confederate General Lee offers his resignation to President Davis: Davis rejects the offer. Responding to Lee's plea for more troops to replenish the army, Davis declares amnesty for any soldiers absent without leave if they return but also writes Lee of the increasing problem of desertion in the Confederate forces. On 14 August, Union General Meade visits Washington to brief President Lincoln and his cabinet on Gettysburg and plans for coming campaigns.

In central Tennessee, Rosecrans continues to build his supply base at Murfreesboro and renews his advance southward on 16 August. On 21 August, a Union battery shells Chattanooga; and by the end of the month, the Federals are ready to cross the Tennessee River at several points.

Near Charleston, the unsuccessful assaults of July cause a change in Federal tactics. Instead, they build earthworks on Morris Island and bring in long range guns to shell Forts Sumter and Wagner. On 22 August, they begin shelling the city as well. On 29 August, the Confederate submarine *Hunley* sinks during a test run in Charleston harbor, killing all five aboard.

On 3 August, New York Governor Seymour asks President Lincoln to suspend the draft in New York City. Lincoln refuses to exempt any area from the draft. On 19 August, the draft resumes without the earlier violence, in part because troops are now stationed in the city.

On 18 August, President Lincoln personally tests the Spencer repeating rifle in Treasury Park.

Late in the month, a Federal cavalry raid in West Virginia destroys saltpeter works.

On 21 August, 450 guerrillas under William Quantrill attack the pro-Union town of Lawrence, Kansas. They kill 150 men and boys, and loot and burn.

On 25 August, U.S. General Thomas Ewing orders evacuation of four counties around Kansas City to reduce guerrilla activity. About 20,000 people are forced from their homes. Crops, barns, and houses are burned, leading to ill will that persists for decades and fosters the post war activities of anti-establishment groups such as the James and Younger brothers.

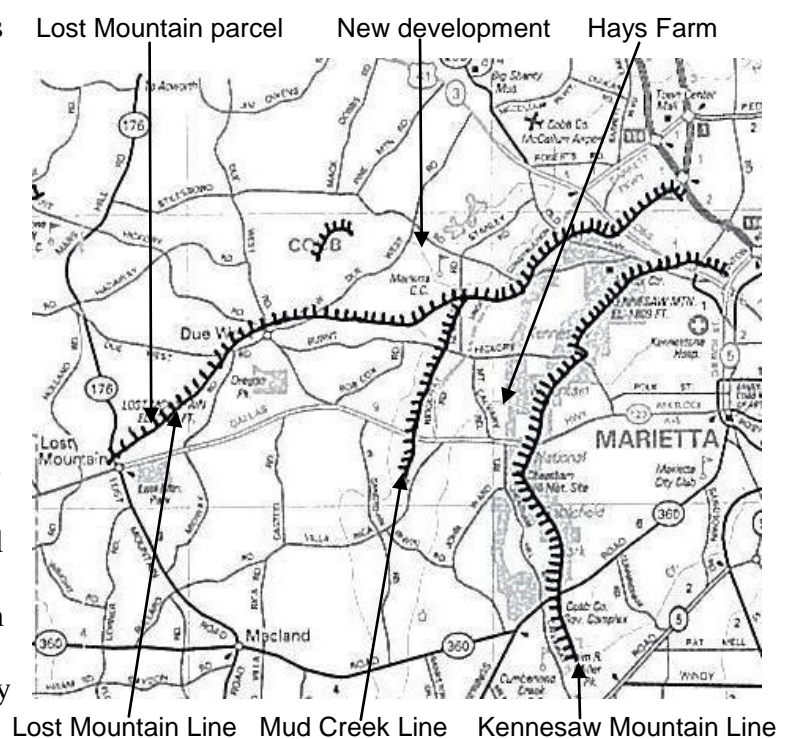
On 6 August, *CSS Alabama* captures a U.S. merchant ship within sight of the Cape of Good Hope. On 8 August, *USS Sagamore* captures four blockade runners off Indian River, Florida.

On 13 August, the U.S. begins a month long expedition against the Indians in Dakota Territory. On 20 August, Colonel Kit Carson renews operations against the Navajo in Arizona Territory, and on 29 August the army begins operations against the Navajo in New Mexico Territory.

## Cobb County earthworks saved

Three historic parcels in Cobb County have been the object of recent preservation efforts. The Trust for Public Land arranged for the purchase of two areas: 152 acres at Lost Mountain, and 41 acres of the Hays Farm. The Lost Mountain properties contain Confederate trenches from early June 1864, part of the Lost Mountain-Brushy Mountain Line. The Hays Farm property was the scene of combat 20-21 June 1864, after the Confederates had occupied the Kennesaw Mountain line (see January 2012 newsletter). In both cases, GBA wrote letters to representatives and senators supporting the use of federal funds to acquire the properties, but the bulk of the credit should go to the Trust for Public Land.

A third Cobb County parcel contains Federal earthworks from mid June 1864. Since 2008, development in the area had been minimal but is beginning again. The developer's original plan put a road directly through a trench line and artillery positions. A Cobb County historic preservation planner and the Cobb County Planning Commission district representative asked for GBA's comments and rationale for saving the earthworks on the 56 acre site. The planner then worked with the developer to modify the proposal so that the artillery positions and most of the trench are set aside, even while development occurs. Primary credit for this save goes to the county historic preservation planner.



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