

# GEORGIA

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# BATTLEFIELDS

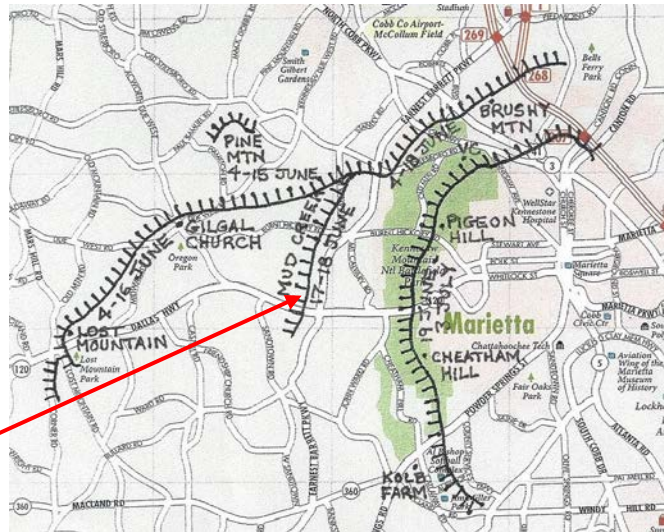
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## Mud Creek Line property rezoning denied

Cobb County government denied rezoning application Z-98, which related to a property through which the Confederate Mud Creek Line passed in mid-June 1864. On 3 May, the county planning commission denied the application 5-0, and on 17 May, the full board of commissioners also voted 5-0 against. A GBA representative attended both meetings. His assessment is that the presentations for and against the rezoning did not affect the vote as much as the pre-meeting volume of e-mail, referenced at both meetings by the applicable district commissioner. So, thanks to all of you who contacted the commissioners to oppose the rezoning.

The rezoning applicant still has the option to file suit (within 30 days) against the county. The suit would go to arbitration without a public hearing, so we may be contacting you to again send e-mails to the commissioners if we determine that a suit has been filed.



Z-98 property

## Resaca Battlefield State Historic Site now open

The Resaca Battlefield State Historic Site opened under bright skies on 13 May. Over 1,200 acres became available for purchase almost 20 years ago, with the state of Georgia buying 505 acres in March 2000. The economic recessions of 2001 and 2008 and their effect on state budgets frustrated attempts to create a park until now. The entrance to the park is immediately west of I-75 exit 320. For mapping apps: 183 Resaca Lafayette Rd NW, Resaca GA 30735. For now, operating hours are Friday-Sunday 7 a.m. to 8p.m. 1 April through 31 October and 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. 1 November through 31 March.

The state parks web site [www.gastateparks.org](http://www.gastateparks.org) will eventually have information. Since Gordon County will be operating the park, see [www.gordoncountyparks.org](http://www.gordoncountyparks.org); but the best site for information remains Friends of Resaca Battlefield's [www.resacabattlefield.org](http://www.resacabattlefield.org), where you can find more photos of the opening ceremony.



Above: Ken Padgett of Friends of Resaca Battlefield at the lectern.



Right: GBA representatives at the ceremony—Treasurer Lloyd Thompson, trustee Cindy Wentworth, forestry advisor Jim Wentworth.

## Olly Keller's legacy

GBA Vice President and founder Oliver J. Keller, Jr., died on Lincoln's birthday in 2008, but his influence is still felt. During the 13 May ceremony to open the new Resaca Battlefield Historic Site, Friends of Resaca Battlefield President Ken Padgett acknowledged Olly's efforts to preserve Resaca, especially his persistence in getting the state to buy the site.

On 5 May, Olly's efforts even farther in the past were recognized. After service in the Navy during World War II and Korea, Olly lived in Springfield, Illinois, where he and his father were both involved in preservation. Among other things, Olly helped establish the Springfield Civil War Round Table, and this was recognized when he received the Round Table Founder's Award at a ceremony in the Old State Capitol, which—through the fund-raising efforts of Olly's father—had been completely dismantled, repaired, and reassembled as part of its preservation in the 1960s. Olly's widow Joan and daughter Louisa were present to accept the award.

Both Olly and his father got their first name from their ancestor Oliver Dickey, whose father was Abraham Lincoln's roommate at a Washington boarding house when both served in the House of Representatives from 1847 to 1849. Oliver Dickey himself was a law partner of Thaddeus Stevens and one of the 1860 Republican National Convention delegates who formally notified Lincoln of his nomination to be president. In 2003, in memory of his father, Olly donated a Lincoln-signed letter and photo to the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum.

Photo shows Ed Bearss (center) and Olly Keller (second from right) at the Polk monument during the 2006 GBA tour. On the far right is Giles O'Neal, who helped GBA with property negotiations and acquisitions. Giles died earlier this year.



## June events

At 10 a.m. on 11 June, Mary-Elizabeth Ellard will be leading a tour of the Battle of Atlanta in East Atlanta in her capacity with the B\*ATL organization. Details and registration info will be available by 30 May at [www.batlevent.org](http://www.batlevent.org).

Kennesaw State Civil War Center is holding its 1<sup>st</sup> annual Vince Dooley Leadership Seminar from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. on 18 June at the KSU Center, Room 400, 3333 Busbee Drive in Kennesaw. Speakers include Coach Dooley, Bud Robertson, and Jim Ogden. Fee is \$75 and includes lunch. Register at <http://cwc.hss.kennesaw.edu/> or call 470 578 2551.

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