

# 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)

## Georgia General Assembly convenes

The annual meeting of the Georgia legislature convened on 11 January. The legislature's principal task is to pass a budget. On 15 January, Governor Perdue submitted his budget proposals, both for the remainder of the current State Fiscal Year (SFY 2010, ends 30 June) and for SFY 2011. While the final budgets are never identical to the governor's proposals, both will be constrained by declining tax revenues, with preservation-related programs especially hard hit.

In general, the governor's proposed budgets cut costs by increasing the amount of furlough days that each government employee must take and by eliminating most positions that are currently unfilled. Additional cuts for preservation-related programs in SFY 2011 include:

- \$400,000 from the tourism marketing budget: This will affect the state's ability to publicize any Sesquicentennial activities.
- \$50,000 from Civil War Trails, essentially eliminating state support.
- \$30,000 from a contract with Georgia Historical Society to install new historical markers.
- \$25,000 from the Georgia Civil War Commission, which takes funding to zero.
- \$47,600 from contracts for Regional Development Centers' historic preservation planners.

In adjustments to the current budget, the governor proposes to cut \$15,000 from the contract for new historical markers and \$11,422 from the Civil War Commission, which is essentially all the Commission had left for SFY 2010.

We'll let you know about the final budgets, but we don't expect much better outcomes.

## Tanyard Creek bike path construction underway

The bike path through the Peachtree Creek battlefield is under construction. GBA supported the effort of the local neighborhood associations to reroute the bike path from the largest open space in Tanyard Creek Park, and we were partially successful (May 2008 newsletter).



Construction near the Collier Road bridge over Tanyard Creek. One of the existing Battle of Peachtree Creek plaques is in the background, just to the left of the tree.



Course of the future bike path is visible to the left, shortly before it turns westward to cross Tanyard Creek, leaving most of the meadow as open space.

## GBA will again lead a tour for Phoenix Flies

Atlanta Preservation Center's annual Phoenix Flies program will again feature a tour of downtown Atlanta Civil War sites led by GBA on 20 March. You can see more information about this and the other tours at [www.phoenixflies.org](http://www.phoenixflies.org) and [www.preserveatlanta.com](http://www.preserveatlanta.com).

The March 2008 GBA walking tour of downtown Atlanta was recorded by Three23 Films, and a 52 minute-long DVD titled "Civil War Atlanta: A walk through history" is now available. The intro of the DVD is on the web at [www.three23.org/work-at-three23/civil-war-walking-tour/](http://www.three23.org/work-at-three23/civil-war-walking-tour/). You can order a DVD by sending a \$15 check to GBA at 7 Camden Rd NE, Atlanta GA 30309.

## **GBA assists with ABPP grant application**

GBA recently helped the Grant Park Conservancy apply for an American Battlefield Protection Program grant to analyze the preservation potential of Fort Walker, the last remnant of Atlanta's defense line constructed July-October 1863 under the direction of Lemuel Grant. Fittingly, Fort Walker is near the Cyclorama in the southeast corner of Grant Park, which is on land donated to the city by Grant. In 2009, GBA helped the Mabelton Coalition successfully apply for an ABPP grant to study Johnston's River Line in Cobb County (August 2009 newsletter).

## **GBA assists Forest Service with field survey**

On 20 January, two GBA representatives assisted the U.S. Forest Service in a field assessment of Civil War sites on National Forest land in northwest Georgia. Also participating were a history graduate student and an archaeologist. The earthworks and fortification remnants were near Dug Gap, on Chestnut Mountain, in Snake Creek Gap, and in Ship's Gap. The Forest Service will develop a plan to formally map the sites and also commission an archaeological survey.

## **Bearss tour 2010**

**Dates:** 11-14 March 2010

**Hotel:** Fairfield Inn, 20 Canyon Pkwy, Cartersville (I-75 exit 288). 770 387 0400.

Ask for the Georgia Battlefields Association rate of \$89 per night. With tax, the cost will be just under \$100. Includes breakfast and access to fitness center and indoor pool.

**Price:** \$395. Register by sending a check to GBA at 7 Camden Rd NE, Atlanta GA 30309.

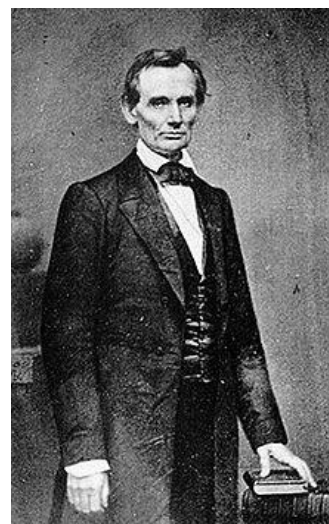
You must be a GBA member to register. See our web site for how to become a member.

**Topic:** The Fall 1864 (mid September to mid November) campaign in northwest Georgia. This overlooked period featured a lot of marching, several skirmishes, and a battle at Allatoona Pass. We'll also visit Cedar Bluff, Alabama, site of Streight's surrender to Forrest in May 1863.

## **150 years ago this month**

On 2 February, Senator Jefferson Davis (D-Mississippi) introduces legislation affirming that the federal government cannot prohibit slavery in the territories and must protect slaveholders there. An additional motivation for Davis is to commit other Democrats against Senator Stephen Douglas' policy of popular sovereignty before the party meets later in the year to select a presidential candidate.

On 27 February, Abraham Lincoln addresses an audience at Cooper Union, a privately funded college in downtown Manhattan. In this now famous speech, Lincoln argues that the federal government has the power to regulate and control the spread of slavery. This photo of Lincoln was taken in Mathew Brady's New York studio on the same day as the Cooper Union speech.



The decennial census is underway. Even with its inaccuracies, it provides an invaluable record of the nation on the eve of war. It indicates 31,443,321 people live in 33 states and 9 territories. Just under 4 million of these people are slaves. Just over 9 million people—including 3.5 million slaves—live in the 11 states that will secede. Even though every census has shown the trend of fewer people living on farms and more people living in cities, agriculture is still the most common occupation for men of working age.

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