

# 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 Historical Society Sesquicentennial marker program

Since 1997, Georgia Historical Society (GHS) has been responsible for the installation of new historical markers for the state. Much like the familiar state markers installed since the 1950s, GHS markers are cast metal; but they are easily distinguished from the older gold letters on green background markers by their silver letters on black backgrounds.

Photo at right from GHS web site shows marker installed in 2002 at Dalton Cemetery.



While state efforts to commemorate the Civil War Sesquicentennial have been hampered by lack of funds and executive branch interest, other historical, education, and preservation groups have tried to recognize the event. For example, GHS has put priority on installing Civil War-related historical markers ([www.georgiahistory.com/containers/373](http://www.georgiahistory.com/containers/373)) and has invited Georgia Battlefields Association to participate. In return for GBA contributing to the cost of a new marker, GHS is sending draft texts to GBA for review. While GHS has an established procedure, including a historical review committee that gives final approval, GBA's suggestions have been accommodated on two markers that are pending installation: one relating to the battles around Atlanta, and one concerning U.S. Colored Troops fighting at Dalton.

## Raising awareness about the Atlanta Campaign

In addition to conducting its own tours, GBA leads tours for other organizations (such as the Filson Historical Society: see November 2009 newsletter) and helps preservation-related groups plan tours. In March, GBA spent three days helping Pamplin Historical Park (Petersburg, Virginia: see [www.pamplinpark.org](http://www.pamplinpark.org)) design both a two day and a ten day tour of the Atlanta Campaign. This involved visiting and explaining the significance of many sites as well as showing the most efficient driving routes.

GBA believes the Atlanta Campaign is still undervalued, even though it was certainly among the most decisive campaigns of the Civil War. To the extent that we can raise awareness of the campaign and the sites that are so essential to understanding why the campaign unfolded the way it did, we also increase support for saving the sites.

## May is Historic Preservation Month and Archaeology Month

The state budget is unlikely to include any increase for preservation-related programs on account of May being historic preservation month, but the Department of Natural Resources' Historic Preservation Division (HPD) is sponsoring lectures. The Preservation 101 seminar will be held on 4 May at the Old Courthouse in Decatur. A free lecture series co-sponsored by HPD and the Georgia Trust for Historic Preservation will be held every Thursday in May. Contact HPD at 404 656 2840 or see [www.gashpo.org/content/displaycontent.asp?txtDocument=420](http://www.gashpo.org/content/displaycontent.asp?txtDocument=420).

May is also Georgia Archaeology Month. The spring meeting of the Society for Georgia Archaeology will be 15 May at the Parks of Chehaw near Albany. Information about this and other events open to the public are at [www.thesga.org](http://www.thesga.org).

## Battle of Resaca reenactment is 14-16 May

The annual reenactment of the Battle of Resaca will occur on 14-16 May at the Chitwood Farm, part of the original battlefield. For more information, see the web site [www.georgiadivision.org](http://www.georgiadivision.org) or write Battle of Resaca, P.O. Box 919, Resaca GA 30735 or e-mail [csgrizly@comcast.net](mailto:csgrizly@comcast.net). As usual, some of the proceeds from the reenactment will go to preserve the battlefield. The Friends of Resaca Battlefield ([www.resacabattlefield.org](http://www.resacabattlefield.org)) have been great guardians of the site.

## Tanyard Creek bike path is formally opened

On 10 April, Georgia Battlefields Association representatives attended the ribbon cutting for the new bike path through Tanyard Creek Park. Since 2006, GBA has been helping the local neighborhood groups argue against putting the bike path through the meadow, the last open space relating to the 20 July 1864 Battle of Peachtree Creek. While we didn't get everything we wanted, the bike path stays mostly on the west side of the creek (see construction photos in February 2010 newsletter).

The formal opening of the path included remarks from Atlanta Mayor Kasim Reed, who supports completion of the larger Belt Line project ([www.beltline.org](http://www.beltline.org)), which will also touch on the battlefields of Atlanta and Ezra Church. In a separate conversation, Mayor Reed expressed interest in learning more about Atlanta's Civil War sites. GBA will follow up on his request.

GBA president Charlie Crawford talks with Atlanta Mayor Kasim Reed at the 10 April ceremony for the new bike path through Tanyard Creek Park. Photo by Henry Howell.



## 150 years ago this month

On 9 May, former members of the American Party and the Whig Party meet in Baltimore to form the Constitutional Union Party and nominate former speaker of the house, secretary of war, and Senator John Bell of Tennessee for president. For vice president, the new party selects former representative, governor of Massachusetts, secretary of state, and senator Edward Everett.

From 16 through 18 May, the Republicans meet in Chicago for only their second national convention. On the third ballot to select a presidential candidate, former representative Abraham Lincoln garners a majority over William Seward, who led on the first two ballots. On the second ballot for vice president, the Republicans choose Senator Hannibal Hamlin of Maine. The party platform specified that slavery should not be allowed to expand to new territories or states.

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