

GEORGIA

BATTLEFIELDS

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State willing to take donations for historical markers

Georgia has over 2,000 state historical markers, almost 1,000 relating to the Civil War. At any time, a number of markers are missing due to theft or are damaged, principally due to vehicle strikes but also due to construction, falling trees, bird droppings, etc. A 2010 assessment of the marker inventory revealed that about 60% of the Civil War markers needed repair or repainting, about 10% needed to be replaced, and over 60% needed new mounting posts. These numbers have undoubtedly increased since last year's survey. The cost to repair or repaint a marker is \$700-800 (depending on condition), to replace a marker is \$2,200, and to replace a post is \$300.

Traditionally, the state government was reluctant to allow private donations to replace or repair markers; but the recession of the early 2000s and the current recession have caused a change of policy. If you'd like to contribute to historical marker maintenance, even specifying a marker that needs to be replaced or repaired, contact the historical marker office at 770 389 7271 or e-mail frankie.newborn@dnr.state.ga.us.

Though it will not reflect the current condition, a listing of all (not just Civil War) state historical markers by county is at <http://georgiainfo.galileo.usg.edu/gahistmarkers/gamarkerscontents.htm>. Some of the entries have links to the full marker text and a photo.

GBA adds new trustee Mary-Elizabeth Ellard

Mary-Elizabeth Ellard has accepted election as a Georgia Battlefields Association trustee. Mary-Elizabeth grew up in Atlanta. She has an undergraduate degree in religion and zoology from Duke University. She then attended the University of Georgia for a master's degree and a doctorate in veterinary medicine. She has been in private small animal practice in Atlanta for almost 20 years and has served on the board of the Greater Atlanta Veterinary Medical Society.

Mary-Elizabeth says that family trips when she was a child rarely followed interstate highways, instead following the routes with the most historical markers. Her dad was instrumental in preserving part of the Utoy Creek battlefield in what is now the City of Atlanta's Cascade Springs Nature Preserve. Her love of history extends beyond the Civil War, as is indicated by her past service as president of the Biblical Archaeology Study Group of Greater Atlanta.



Mary-Elizabeth Ellard, her husband Bill, and GBA Vice President Cindy Wentworth.

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.

May is also Georgia Archaeology Month. The theme this year is "Gone But Not Forgotten: Rediscovering the Civil War Through Archaeology." The Society for Georgia Archaeology's annual spring meeting is on 14 May in McDonough, and the afternoon session will feature presentations on Civil War archaeology. Information about this and other archaeology events is available at www.thesga.org, or contact Tammy Herron at tfherron@gmail.com or 706 831 3169.

New Burning of Atlanta marker

The latest in Georgia Historical Society's Civil War 150 marker series was dedicated on 11 April <http://www.georgiahistory.com/containers/373>.

This marker concerns the Burning of Atlanta and is near the entrance of the Old Georgia Railroad Freight Depot fronting on Steve Polk Plaza, just east of Underground Atlanta. Speakers at the ceremony included former Georgia Commissioner of Labor Michael Thurmond (second from right) and Kennesaw State University Associate Director for the Study of the Civil War Era Hermina Glass-Avery (second from left).



Ed Bearss designates GBA for donations

National Park Service Chief Historian Emeritus Ed Bearss turns 88 on 26 June 2011. For several years, Ed has chosen a preservation organization to receive donations in lieu of gifts to him. This year, Ed has identified GBA as the recipient organization. We are, of course, grateful to Ed and honored that he thinks us worthy of this consideration. We hope to send a representative to Ed's party in late June in Arlington, Virginia, to accept the donated funds.



Ed at the 2009 GBA tour

Battle of Resaca reenactment is 20-22 May

The annual reenactment of the Battle of Resaca will occur on 20-22 May at the Chitwood Farm, part of the original battlefield. This land was recently afforded the protection of a conservation easement, to which Georgia Battlefields Association contributed \$50,000 (February newsletter). For more information, see the web site www.georgiadiivision.org or write Battle of Resaca, P.O. Box 919, Resaca GA 30735 or e-mail 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 have been great guardians of the site.

150 years ago this month – May 1861

- 6 Arkansas secedes. A Tennessee convention votes to secede pending a vote by the people, scheduled for early June. Confederate President Jefferson Davis signs into law an act recognizing a state of war between the United States and the Confederate States.
 - 20 North Carolina secedes.
 - 21 Meeting in Montgomery, Alabama, the Confederate Congress votes to move the national capital from Montgomery to Richmond, Virginia. A Virginia convention issued an ordinance of secession on 17 April, and the Confederate Congress admitted Virginia to the Confederacy on 7 May, but the people of Virginia did not vote to approve secession until 23 May.
- Throughout May, state governments north and south labor to enlist troops, commission officers (many of which are unqualified for the task), organize and train units, acquire weapons, and generally prepare for war. None of the states will prove to be particularly adept at the process.

Georgia Battlefields Association
7 Camden Rd NE
Atlanta GA 30309

www.georgiabattlefields.org

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