

# 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)

## Additional web site access for members

On our Georgia Battlefields Association web site [www.georgiabattlefields.org](http://www.georgiabattlefields.org), we've added a section exclusively for members. Under the GBA Activities tab, you'll see a section labeled Maps & Documents. In this section, you'll have access to the GBA-constructed maps that have been distributed during our tours, plus some maps from public sources. It will not include maps from copyrighted sources. We will be adding other documents, such as our downtown walking tour handout that includes 1864 and 1866 photos of Atlanta from Library of Congress holdings.

To access the Maps & Documents section, you will need a password issued by GBA. Send an e-mail to [info@georgiabattlefields.org](mailto:info@georgiabattlefields.org). In the e-mail, include your preferred e-mail address, and also include a preferred password. We won't accept requests for passwords such as "1234" or "password," so choose something that will be more difficult to guess. You won't be able to change the e-mail or password without repeating the request procedure.

## Locomotive *Texas* due to return to Atlanta on 3 May

The locomotive *Texas*, which has been undergoing restoration at the North Carolina Transportation Museum since December 2015, is scheduled for transport to the Atlanta History Center on 3 May. [www.nctrans.org/Events/The-Texas-Locomotive.aspx](http://www.nctrans.org/Events/The-Texas-Locomotive.aspx)



The drawing (left) shows the projected display of *Texas* once construction of the Cyclorama building (at far left of drawing) and connecting hallway are complete. Photo (right) shows progress on north façade of new Cyclorama building



## Historic Site Preservation bill stalls

The July 2016 newsletter reported on Georgia House Resolution 978 that created a study committee on historic site preservation. The Speaker of the House subsequently appointed five representatives who held four meetings from 2 August to 29 December and issued a final report that became the basis for House Bill 59, introduced during the 2017 General Assembly that concluded in late March. House Bill 59 focused on increasing use of tax credits to encourage preservation, raising the annual limit on such credits from \$25 million to \$50 million, principally for large buildings. The bill passed the state House 139-27 but stalled in the Senate. It will remain on the Senate agenda for the 2018 session, so you may contact your state senator before or during the next General Assembly (begins January 2018) to express support for the bill. More information about the bill is at [www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/en-US/Display/20172018/HB/59](http://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/en-US/Display/20172018/HB/59).

## Cobb County commissioners finally approve issuing park bond

In 2008, Cobb County voters approved issuing a \$40 million bond, with the funds to be used to acquire green space for public parks. GBA has reported on the status of the bond, most recently in the December 2016 newsletter, when the county commissioners voted 3-2 against issuing a \$24.7 million bond. On 12 April, the commissioners voted 5-0 in favor of issuing a \$27.5 million bond, obviously less than the voters approved over eight years ago, but better than continued deferral. Historic sites were bought with the proceeds of the 2006 bond, and we'll wait to see if such sites are among those purchased with the 2008 bond funds.

## Annual Battle of Resaca reenactment 19-21 May

Resaca reenactment is always one of the best such events. A portion of the proceeds goes towards preservation. For details, see [www.georgiadiivision.org/bor\\_reenactment.html](http://www.georgiadiivision.org/bor_reenactment.html).

### 150 years ago this month – May 1867

The Ku Klux Klan is reorganized in Nashville: Nathan Bedford Forrest is named Grand Wizard.

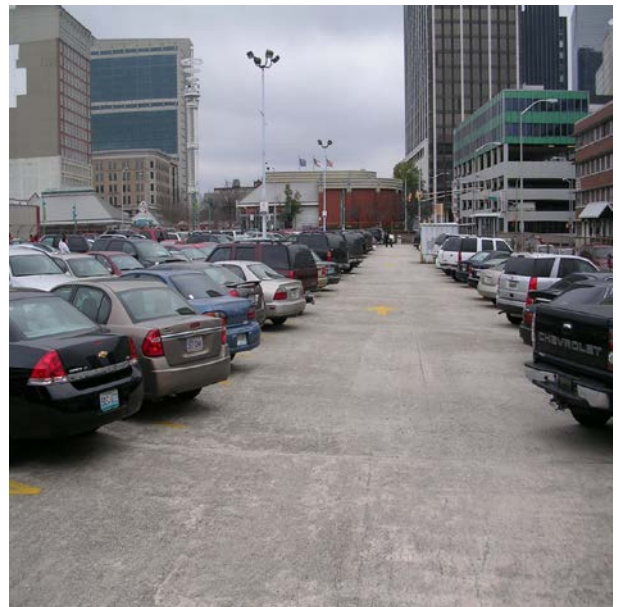
In the wake of a riot in Mobile, Alabama, Secretary of War Stanton directs that U.S. soldiers be stationed in towns rather than on the peripheries of towns. Third Military District Commander John Pope orders that civil authorities can be removed from office for failure to perform their duties, and he removes the Mobile mayor and police chief.

### Then and now

The photos below show the same location about 150 years apart. On the left is the destroyed general passenger depot for the four railroads serving Atlanta, a building commonly referred to as the car shed. The photo was taken between 14 November 1864, when the building was knocked down by a portable battering ram devised by engineering officer Orlando Poe, and the burning of the debris on 16 November, immediately before federal forces left Atlanta on the March to the Sea. The photo was taken from east of and above the wreckage, probably from an upper floor of Loyd's hotel on the east side of what was then Loyd Street. Visible behind the tree on the left is the roof of the Macon & Western Railroad freight depot, also called the rock depot because of its stone construction, before it was destroyed. In the right distance is the Georgia Railroad bank building and beyond it, the concert hall.

On the right is the same view today, showing the parking lot on the west side of Central Avenue (formerly Loyd Street) and south of Wall Street. The construction of the viaduct system in the 1920s raised the current Central Avenue to about the same elevation as the 1864 photo.

The opportunity for preservation was obviously lost 150+ years ago. Perhaps more disconcerting is the thought that of the thousands of people who walk and drive past this spot every day, probably no more than handful—if that many—know they are passing the site of one of the most famous photos of wartime Atlanta.



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