

GEORGIA

BATTLEFIELDS

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

Old Clinton "War Days" Festival is 5-6 May

The annual Old Clinton War Days event www.oldclinton.org/war-days-3/ occurs on 5 & 6 May. On both days, gates open at 9 a.m. and battle reenactments (Sunshine Church and Griswoldville) start at 2:05 p.m. The event also features food, crafts, and artifact displays. Proceeds (\$5 for adults, \$3 for children age 6 to 18) are used to preserve the Old Clinton Historic District. The memorial service at 8:05 p.m. Saturday at the Old Clinton Cemetery is free.

Old Clinton is 12 miles northeast of Macon, just a block west of US 129.

Annual Battle of Resaca reenactment 18-20 May

The Resaca reenactment is always one of the best such events. A portion of the proceeds goes towards preservation. For details, see www.georgiadivision.org/bor_reenactment.html.

Civil War Trust annual conference 30 May-3 June

The Civil War Trust annual conference will be based this year in Newport News and will cover both Revolutionary War and Civil War action in Tidewater Virginia. Georgia Battlefields Association will again be represented. www.civilwar.org/events/annual-conference

Progress on Cyclorama display

Some Georgia Battlefields Association trustees have participated in Atlanta History Center (AHC) discussions about the displays that will accompany the Cyclorama and locomotive *Texas*. Participants have included historians, staff from other museums, educational institutions, art galleries, non-profits, community groups, etc.

Based on input from these meetings as well as AHC's well established expertise on artifact display, tentative plans call for the upper gallery (where *Texas* is already in place) to focus on Atlanta's history and continuing status as a transportation hub. The Great Locomotive Chase will be addressed, but that event involved less than an hour of the locomotive's more than 50 years of service, thus the intent to expand the exhibit to include more about railroads as well as Atlanta's status as a highway nexus and home of the world's busiest airport.

Visitors will enter the Cyclorama through a lower gallery a floor below the upper gallery. On the large wall on either side of the doors leading into the painting will be a history of the painting itself: Why, where, and when it was painted; who painted it; where it traveled; how it wound up in Atlanta; where it has been displayed in Atlanta, how a diorama was added, what sections have been changed, how it was moved in February 2017, and how it has been conserved.

On the opposite wall of the lower gallery will be a display about how the painting has been perceived and interpreted. This will include the recounted memories—going back over 100 years—of people who have viewed the painting.

Once inside the Cyclorama space, there will be exhibits under the viewing platform, including kiosks where visitors can see frequently asked questions and type in their own, such as "Are Atlanta city buildings visible in the painting?" or "Who is the man on the black horse?"

Visitors will ascend to the viewing platform by stairs, escalators, or small elevators for those with limited mobility. The viewing platform is fixed, unlike the rotating theater seats used in the former building for the last 30+ years. A ten to twelve minute narration will play once an hour. A mobile phone app will allow a visitor to focus on a section of the painting and then retrieve pop-up windows with supplemental information about what's depicted in that section.

The painting itself is hung in a hyperbolic shape as originally intended. The lighting is much better than before and has caused many people to say "wow" upon first entering because they are literally and figuratively seeing the painting in a new light. It has been cleaned, damaged sections have been repaired, and missing sections have been repainted. Painting of the seven feet of sky cut from the top over a hundred years ago will begin soon.

The 1930s diorama was recovered from the Grant Park building and will be reinstalled.

Remember: These plans may change, especially as additional meetings are held, and not all the installations may be complete before the locomotive and painting again go on public display.

The meetings have also afforded GBA the privilege of seeing the progress on conservation of both artifacts, most recently on 21 April. Here are some photos from that and previous visits.



Texas Gallery: Information about locomotive chase and about *Texas* will be on brick walls.



Upper Gallery (in background) will focus on Atlanta as a transportation center.



Viewing platform: Note partially repainted 4'6" section (clouds yet to be done) thought to have been damaged by a roof leak in 1893.



Floor of Cyclorama gallery: Entrance to left and escalators to viewing platform to right. Note translucent covering of already conserved earth sections to prevent damage from paint drips when band of sky around top is repainted.

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May 2018

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