

# 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)

## Old Clinton War Days return 30 April and 1 May

The Old Clinton Historic District will again host reenactments of the July 1864 Battle of Sunshine Church and the November 1864 Battle of Griswoldville. On both Saturday and Sunday, gates open at 9 a.m. and reenactments begin at 2:05 p.m. Saturday's activities conclude with a memorial service at the Methodist Church Cemetery. Before the reenactments, tour the historic buildings, including the McCarthy-Pope House, the oldest house in town, which will have displays relating to the Griswold Pistol Factory and other relics. Food, including items using Civil War recipes, will be available; and crafts of the era will be demonstrated. Proceeds (\$5 for adults, \$3 for ages 6-18, and free for ages 5 and under) are used to help preserve the historic district. Old Clinton is 12 miles northeast of Macon, just a block northwest of US 129. For more information and directions see <http://www.oldclinton.org/war-days-3/>.

## Battle of Decatur tour 7 May

Atlanta Civil War Round table is sponsoring a tour of the 22 July 1864 Battle of Decatur. Since it occurred as part of the much larger Battle of Atlanta, the Battle of Decatur is often given little mention if not overlooked altogether. Journalist David Allison, who wrote [Attacked On All Sides: The Civil War Battle of Decatur, Georgia](#) will lead the tour. See the Round Table's web site <http://www.civilwarroundtableofatlanta.org/activities.htm> for more information and to register for the tour.

## GBA 2022 annual tour was held 31 March to 3 April

We had great weather for our 2022 annual tour. We had 34 participants from seven states plus one GBA member originally from Scotland who now lives in Germany. The tour covered mainly what Major General Sherman called phase one of the March to the Sea—i.e., taking Milledgeville and getting his forces across the Oconee River, though we also picked up some of the July 1864 cavalry operations that we didn't cover during our 2019 tour. Two especially enjoyable stops were Old Clinton, where Old Clinton Historical Society's Earlene Hamilton led a three hour tour of the historic town; and the Old Governor's Mansion in Milledgeville, where Georgia College's Director of Historic Museums Matt Davis led what's called the Restoration Tour, which was of special interest to those of us who had been on the 2003 GBA tour when Matt showed us the early stages of the restoration. Schedule a tour of the Old Governor's Mansion through its web site <https://www.gcsu.edu/mansion>, and the upcoming Old Clinton War Days (see related article above) provides an opportunity to see a site with buildings that were there when Confederate and U.S. forces passed through the town in 1864.



Jim Ogden talks about events at the Old Capitol in Milledgeville.



Matt Davis introduces the Old Governor's Mansion tour.



Ocmulgee Mounds National Historical Park: Dunlap farm.



Earlene Hamilton talks at the courthouse site in Old Clinton.



Griswoldville battlefield: GBA's first preservation victory.



Rose Hill Cemetery group photo.

During our Sunday morning tour of Macon, we visited Rose Hill Cemetery's Confederate section, then memorably stopped by the Allman Brothers' plot, where John Miller played guitar and sang Sweet Melissa.

During an 18 April video conference call, the GBA trustees decided to base the next annual tour in Savannah sometime in April 2023, and we began more detailed planning for that tour.

## Volunteers help with historical marker maintenance

For over 15 years, Georgia Historical Society (GHS) has had responsibility for maintaining all Georgia historical markers, but GHS depends on volunteers to report markers needing maintenance and sometimes to perform the maintenance. Such a group of volunteers is the AT&T Pioneers-Northwest Metro Council, which won the [2021 Georgia Historical Society's Sarah Nichols Pinckney Volunteer of the Year Award](#). The Council has for the past few years been cleaning historical markers in Paulding and Cobb counties. Georgia Battlefields Association and every preservation or historically-minded resident and visitor thanks the AT&T Pioneers. To join in the effort to maintain historical markers, see <https://georgiahistory.com/education-outreach/historical-markers/maintaining-historical-markers/>

## American Battlefield Trust video trip to Tennessee and Georgia

In early March, the American Battlefield Trust (ABT: [www.battlefields.org](http://www.battlefields.org)) announced plans to travel from Chattanooga to Atlanta to shoot videos for its YouTube channel. ABT dubbed this the Western Swing and asked for donations to defray the estimated cost of \$17,000. Georgia Battlefields Association (GBA) quickly donated \$5,000, and some GBA trustees donated individually. The necessary funds were raised within a few days, and the ABT trip occurred 26-31 March. GBA was able to assist further with maps and suggested contacts at the various sites. ABT was clear from the start that it would not cover every site associated with the Chickamauga, Chattanooga, and Atlanta Campaigns, but the video team did cover several sites.



Video crew at monument marking site of Lieutenant General Leonidas Polk's death on Pine Mountain: Garry Adelman on left, Kris White in middle distance, and Chris Mackowski on right with camera.

GBA was able to help further with site explanations and maps at Pine Mountain and Gilgal Church, and a representative made appearances on the videos for the battles of Peachtree Creek <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w-fu11iX9dU> and Atlanta <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fpApAOPVypM>. Overall Western Swing videos are at <https://www.youtube.com/user/CWPTbattlefields/videos>.

ABT increased its video productions partly in response to educators requesting instructional videos while many schools were closed or on altered schedules during pandemic restrictions.

## American Battlefield Trust annual conference 12-15 May in Virginia

After a two year hiatus due to virus restrictions, the American Battlefield Trust is resuming in-person annual conferences, with this year's event based in Chantilly, Virginia. GBA has been present at every conference since 1996. <https://www.battlefields.org/events/annual-conference>

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