

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

Vince Dooley Battlefield Trust Fund created

During the 2025 Georgia General Assembly that ended on 4 April, the legislature passed a bill to create the Vince Dooley Battlefield Trust Fund, which will be used to acquire battlefield properties. Read the full text of the bill at <https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/70326>.

Now comes the hard part, which is identifying a recurring funding source for preservation. In Tennessee, a similar Act allocates part of the tax on every title transfer to a preservation fund. We'll have to see what the next General Assembly does in 2026.

Georgia Historical Society honors Georgia Battlefields Association

On 18 April, Georgia Historical Society (GHS) president Todd Groce presented Georgia Battlefields Association (GBA) president Joe Trahan a citation acknowledging GBA's 30 years of contributions to historical preservation and education in a ceremony at the Carter Library.



GHS president Todd Groce (in blue blazer) presents citation to GBA president Joe Trahan. On the left are GBA board members Mary-Elizabeth Ellard (secretary), Russ Hickman, and Joe Gaskin. On the right are board members Bill Gurry, Charlie Crawford, Jim Wentworth (vice president), and Skip Johnson.

The historical marker in the background, installed in 2010, was funded in part by GBA.

Photo by Cheryl Trahan

Georgia Historical Society President Todd Groce's prepared remarks:

Good morning, and welcome to this presentation of a Georgia Historical Society Presidential Citation to the Georgia Battlefields Association. On behalf of the Georgia Historical Society, it is an honor for me to recognize GBA for 30 years of work dedicated to the preservation of Civil War battlefields and sites across our state.

To quote President Abraham Lincoln in his Gettysburg Address, "We have met on a great battlefield of that war." The July 22, 1864 battle of Atlanta was fought on the ground around us, historic battlefield land that many years ago was lost to development.


This [the Carter Presidential Library] is an appropriate site for today's ceremony. We are standing in the shadow of a historical marker that was a joint project of GHS and GBA. It is one of a half dozen that we collaborated on during the Civil War 150th anniversary—fifteen years ago—that tell stories about people and events previously left out of the public narrative about the war.

This site is also appropriate for another reason. Its development years ago speaks to the relevance and necessity of GBA. While we could have easily gone to Resaca or some other battlefield that GBA has successfully preserved, it seems more compelling to stand here on ground that was lost to remind ourselves, to quote Lincoln again, of "the great task remaining before us."

Since its founding in 1995, GBA has helped to preserve and interpret thousands of acres of historic land, taking it out of development forever, ensuring that it will always be there to teach and inspire future generations of Americans. Because of visionary leadership and generous financial support, you have become a model for other preservation organizations across the country.

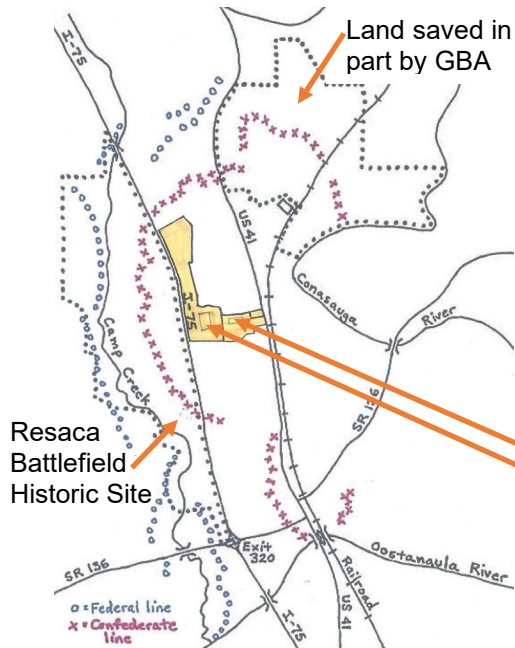
But as the lost battlefield we stand on today attests, your work is not over. Pausing to recognize your 30th anniversary is an occasion to celebrate past victories. It is also a reminder of the challenges that still lie ahead. Our state is rapidly growing, and undeveloped battlefields continue to be lost. In the noble work of saving this land, GBA will continue to lead the way, ensuring that these sacred places will always be here as an outdoor classroom and a memorial to those who, as Lincoln said, "gave the last full measure of devotion."

Congratulations and thank you, GBA, for all you do for the field of history and the people of this state. Here's to 30 more years!

See a video of the presentation on our Facebook page. 

Resaca rezoning plan defeated

As usually happens, Georgia Battlefields Association was alerted by local preservationists about a rezoning application, this time in Gordon County. Two rezoning requests from A-1 Agricultural to I-1 Light Industrial included three properties totaling 89 acres in the middle of the Resaca Battlefield overlay district. The requesting companies plan to build two warehouses. In the review process, the county Historic Preservation Commission voted unanimously to deny the rezoning requests on 3 March. Georgia Battlefields Association and American Battlefield Trust (among others) submitted letters to the county Board of Commissioners supporting denial of the requests. At the 10 March meeting of the Planning and Zoning Commission, GBA trustee Jeff Wright appeared in opposition. Jeff reported that six property owners, warehouse builders, and attorneys attended to support the rezoning, and—although not everyone could speak in the allotted time—about 40 people attended to oppose. The Planning and Zoning Commission split 2-2 on the requests. On 1 April, the Board of Commissioners voted 3-2 against the application.



Warehouse concept presented with rezoning requests. Buildings in orange; parking in gray; new roads in white.

Two proposed warehouses. Three properties contained in rezoning requests are highlighted in yellow.

Unfortunately, such victories are often temporary, as lawsuits and subsequent rezoning efforts may follow.

The only way to permanently preserve battlefield land is for a preservation organization, such as Georgia Battlefields Association or American Battlefield Trust, to

buy the land and either retain ownership or transfer it to a national, state, or local government who will formally agree to preserve it. Help us build up our funds by donating at [this link](#).

Old Clinton War Days return 3 & 4 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 Saturday and Sunday, gates open at 9 a.m. and troop assembly follows immediately. Between scheduled events, tour the historic buildings, including the McCarthy-Pope House, the oldest house in town. Proceeds (\$5 for adults, \$3 for ages 6-18, 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 north of US 129. Turn north off US 129 onto Randolph St at the traffic signal by the Exchange Bank. If you use a direction-finding app, enter 412 Pulaski St, Gray GA 31032. For more information, call 478 251 6745 or see the web site <http://www.oldclinton.org/war-days-3/> or [Old Clinton Historical Society](#) on Facebook.

GBA 2026 tour: Will be 9-12 April and will cover the opening of the Atlanta Campaign.

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