

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

It wasn't all moonlight and magnolias and there was nothing 'civil' about it
Roswell and Marietta let you see the Civil War your way with 'Southern Belles to Rebel Yells'

ROSWELL, GA– April 20, 2009 –No, there was nothing civil about the War Between the States—but that doesn't mean you can't be polite. Two historic Georgia gems, Roswell and Marietta, located north of Atlanta, have created a new guide and have the good manners to let visitors experience the Civil War as they like through a multitude of sites, sounds and stories. Download the "Southern Belles to Rebel Yells" guide (www.belles-rebels.com) and create your own adventure: antebellum house museums; a museum homage to *Gone With the Wind*; battlefield tours and a re-enactment; ghost tours on foot and by trolley; off-Broadway theatre in an old cotton warehouse; a new giant mill wheel stationed in a Heritage Center; a Teaching Museum that is all about being hands-on. See the slave quarters of plantation farmers; learn about the Southern ladies General Sherman arrested in Roswell; and follow the Cannonball Trail in Marietta.

Create your Civil War adventure, a la carte

-in Marietta

The most famous belle in fiction history holds court in Marietta, a town graced with an old-fashioned town square known as Antebellum Square and five National Register Historic Districts. Scarlett O'Hara's high opinion of herself is shared grandly by the Marietta *Gone with the Wind* Museum: Scarlett on the Square, a treasure trove of costumes and jewelry, signed first editions and contracts, movie props and scripts, scene drawings, posters, photographs and dolls relating to this belle and the one who created her, Miss Margaret Mitchell. Of special note: the Bengaline Gown worn by Vivien Leigh as Scarlett in the movie's honeymoon scene.

More living history unfolds at the circa 1845 Root House Museum, one of the oldest surviving frame houses in town and located a block off Marietta's picturesque Square. Here, visitors get not only a peek into the middle class home life of merchant William Root, Marietta's first

pharmacist, and his family, but an unscripted tour. Costumed docents give their storytelling skills a workout, adapting their narrative to each tour. At the Marietta Museum of History, a makeshift hospital and morgue during the “unpleasantness,” see Civil War weapons and ammunition.

Pick up a Heritage Passport from the Marietta Welcome Center (www.themariettasquare.com) to save on admission when visiting these three museums. Then do what Scarlett would do: shop the antiques and gift stores and galleries on the Square and pop into a coffee shop, bakery or bistro to refresh. Follow The Cannonball Trail, a self-guided walking or driving tour to explore Marietta’s five historic districts and historic buildings and homes—several of which served as Civil War hospitals and headquarters. Catch the trolley for a narrated tour that rolls from the Square, past grand antebellum homes and to the battlefields at Kennesaw Mountain. Conclude the day with a live production at Marietta’s glorious new Strand Theatre or the intimate Theatre on the Square, tucked in an old cotton warehouse, before turning in for the evening at one of Marietta’s B&Bs or the Hilton Atlanta/Marietta Hotel & Conference Center.

-in Roswell

Roswell is a place where visitors can truly experience the authentic story of the American South by visiting its three historic house museums. At the circa 1839 Bulloch House, learn about the life and times of a real Southern Belle: Mittie Bulloch grew up to become the mother of President Teddy Roosevelt and the grandmother of Eleanor Roosevelt. Her childhood home is located among the historic sites, museums, monuments, churches and cemeteries of Roswell’s 640-acre historic district, 122 acres of which are listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Bulloch Hall was the site of her celebrated 1853 wedding to northerner Theodore Roosevelt, Sr. See Mittie’s delicate little ivory hand fan, the oh-so feminine ladies parlor, and Cook’s beehive oven in the basement kitchen. Walk the grounds where reconstructed slave quarters narrate the story of “Slave Life in The Piedmont.”

Learn how a well-to-do farming family survived the (Civil) war years at Smith Plantation Home, a living history farm that looks today much as it did 164 years ago, right down to its original furnishings and 10 outbuildings that include corn crib, carriage house and slave quarters. See the circa 1842 home, Barrington Hall, that was built by the son of town founder Roswell King and is one of the finest examples of Greek Revival architecture in the U.S. Purchase “A Southern Trilogy” pass (www.visitroswellga.com/trilogy-tours.html) to save money while experiencing the authentic story of the American South.

Download an audio tour of the “Roswell Mills Exhibit” (www.visitroswellga.com/roswell-mills.html), located in The Heritage Center at the Roswell Visitors Bureau and learn about the women who were charged with treason, removed from their homes on General Sherman’s order and packed up part and parcel and banished north to prison and an uncertain future. Then explore Roswell’s Antiques Alley or its hodgepodge of specialty shops and choose from a slew of original, chef-owned eateries for dinner before heading to one of 11 hotels.

Ghosts in the cemeteries and streets! Rebels on the battlefields!

Ghosts prowl the streets, historic sites, cemeteries and battlefields in Roswell and Marietta. Unearth the bodies on an award-winning Roswell Ghost Tour (www.roswellghosttour.com) and hear the toilsome tales of the mill village and the spirits that reside behind the mansion walls. The tour traverses Founders Cemetery, the “better place” of some of the Bullochs and Roswell King, among others. More haunts are uncovered on a lantern-led Ghost of Marietta walking tour (<http://ghostsofmarietta.com>) in late spring or fall, or aboard Marietta’s Scari-etta Trolley Tour the first Friday of each month that includes visits to the Marietta National Cemetery, final resting place of more than 17,000 Union soldiers—10, 072 who were killed during the Civil War alone—and the Marietta Confederate Cemetery plus the Kennesaw Mountain Battleground where Johnston’s army of 63,000 men took on Sherman’s force of 100,000. In either case, bring a flashlight. . .and your courage.

If you plan your trip in late June, you’ll be able to witness a battlefield re-enactment. Each year, on the week-end nearest June 27, Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park

(www.nps.gov/kemo) commemorates the Battle of Kennesaw Mountain with infantry, artillery and Calvary demonstrations.

Pick up your Passport or a package and head to your Civil War adventure

Pick up a Roswell Passport and a Marietta Heritage Passport and you're on your way to experiencing a most un-Civil War in an adventure you design. Living history museums and heritage site, trolley tours—haunted or otherwise, superlative theatre, gardens, shopping and dining and special events, like the re-enactment, plus a storytelling festival in June and special Christmas celebrations—any and all can be part of your Civil War adventure. Click on www.belles-rebels.com to get started on your planning. Area hotels also offer packages:

Holiday Inn's "Southern Belles to Rebel Yells Southern Trilogy Package"

Rest and relax in Roswell's newest lodging facility (flat screen TVs, WiFi, outdoor pool, full service restaurant and lounge and onsite health/fitness center) and tour its Historic Homes to experience the authentic story of the American South.

Package includes:

- Sleeping room for two (your choice of 2 Queens or 1 King)
- Full hot breakfast buffet for 2
- Trilogy Pass for 2
- 2 Roswell Key Cards for discounts at participating restaurants and shops

Price: \$149 plus applicable tax; an additional night of rest and relaxation may be added for \$89 per night (plus applicable tax). Package valid through Dec. 31, 2009.

Holiday Inn Atlanta/Roswell
909 Holcomb Bridge Road
Roswell, GA 30076
770-817-1414 or 1-877-817-1414
www.holidayinn.com/roswellga

Hilton Atlanta/Marietta Hotel & Conference Center "Hip to Be Square-Shop & Stay Package"

Relax in upscale, contemporary double/double or king bedded guestroom with 42" flat screen TV, Hilton Serenity beds and bedding, Crabtree & Evelyn Bath Amenities and city or golf views.

Package includes:

- Deluxe overnight accommodations for one evening
- Breakfast for two
- Marietta Square Shopping Coupon Passport offering discounts from 10 to 20% off at participating vendors
- Complimentary shuttle service to and from the Square

Rates from \$101/night. Package valid through Dec. 31, 2009.

Hilton Atlanta/Marietta Hotel & Conference Center

500 Powder Springs Street

Marietta, GA 30064

770-427-2500

<http://www1.hilton.com>

Located in Atlanta's metro area, Roswell and Marietta are both rich in Civil War history and heritage. For a downloadable copy of the "Southern Belles & Rebel Yells" guide, visit www.belles-rebels.com. Purchase a Passport for savings on admission to several Civil War-related museums and sites, available in both Roswell and Marietta. For information about accommodations, shopping and dining, contact the Historic Roswell Convention & Visitors Bureau by calling toll-free 1.800.776.7935 or by visiting www.visitroswellga.com and the Marietta Welcome Center and Visitors Bureau at 1.800.835.0445 or www.mariettasquare.com. More information may be obtained from the Georgia Department of Economic Development, www.georgia.org.