

ROSWELL MILLS & THE CIVIL WAR

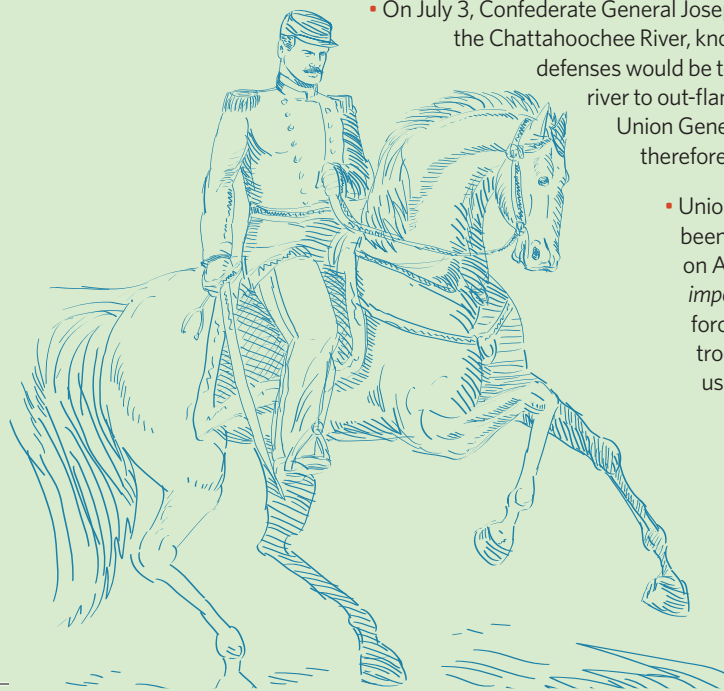
By 1840 Georgia ranked third in the nation in production of cotton cloth. Nineteen mills were operating, one of the largest was the Roswell Manufacturing Company. Roswell's mills produced tenting, flannels, cotton and wool cloth, yarn, rope, and a cloth that would become known as "Roswell gray," highly prized for Confederate uniforms. As the cloth became more and more scarce during the war, it was reserved for officers' uniforms only. Appearing in *The Southern Confederacy* in June 1864, and written by a correspondent from Roswell: "This factory is of immense value to our government and is operating chiefly for its benefit and the natural advantages surrounding will enable our forces to hold it against overwhelming numbers, should the enemy attempt to raid upon the place. We have sufficient artillery to command every approach, and the heights are well fortified." Just one month later the *Nashville Times* tells a far different story (July 1864): "a gentleman, a native of Massachusetts but for several years past engaged in manufacturing cotton near Atlanta, passed through the city yesterday. He states that General Sherman destroyed a very extensive cotton factory on the Chattahoochee, which had been run for the Rebel Government since the beginning of the rebellion, and from which they drew a large portion of their clothing. The loss is a very severe one for them." By the time Sherman's troops reached Georgia, the Union's resolve to end the war and break the back of the Confederacy was set. After all, Sherman had said: "I would make this war as severe as possible, and show no symptoms of tiring till the South begs for mercy."

- In May of 1864, three Union Armies under the leadership of General William T. Sherman began moving south from Chattanooga, TN, to capture Atlanta. His advance to Atlanta was delayed two weeks by fierce fighting at Kennesaw Mountain, culminating with a major battle on June 27.

- On July 3, Confederate General Joseph E. Johnston retreated south from Kennesaw to pre-constructed trenches on the Chattahoochee River, known as the River Line. Sherman knew that a direct assault on these Confederate defenses would be too costly in human lives, so he sent 4,000 mounted men twelve miles up river to out-flank the Confederate army. This flanking column was under the command of Union General Kenner Garrard. His mission was to capture the covered bridge at Roswell, therefore gaining a crossing point to threaten the Confederate position down stream.

- Union troops arrived in Roswell on July 5th. They discovered the covered bridge had been burned by retreating Confederate soldiers to slow the Union's advancement on Atlanta. When Sherman was notified he responded: "the bridge at Roswell is important and you may destroy all Georgia to make it strong." In only three days, Union forces rebuilt the bridge that measured 14 ft. high and 710 ft. long. Sherman had his troops burn this bridge after they crossed, to prevent the Confederate forces from using it.

- A mill employee hoisted a French flag above the woolen mill in order to claim neutrality; however, the letters CSA were found on the cloth being produced. The neutrality claim was proven false and an enraged Sherman ordered the mills burned and four hundred mill workers, mostly women, were charged with treason and sent north: "I repeat my orders that you arrest all people, male and female, connected with those factories, no matter what the clamor, and let them foot it, under guard, to Marietta, whence I will send them by cars to the north... the poor women will make a howl."



A Southern Trilogy

THE HISTORIC HOUSE MUSEUMS OF ROSWELL



BARRINGTON HALL
(1842)
535 Barrington Drive / 770-640-3855
Roswell's Founding Family

BULLOCH HALL
(1839)
180 Bulloch Avenue / 770-992-1731
A Love Story and so much more

SMITH PLANTATION
(1845)
935 Alpharetta Street / 770-641-3978
Success, Family Tragedy, and Change

"These mills and the whole country around here is owned by King & Co., they own all the stores, provisions, etc.: they allow no liquor sold in the town, and in truth run everything to suit themselves - Had their own paper currency, which circulated all through this country as better than Confederate Scrip." (from *The History of Chicago Board of Trade Battery* by John A. Nourse from records at the Chicago Historical Society, referencing July 7, 1864 during the Civil War and the burning of the Roswell Mills.)



Barrington King was co-founder of the town, with his father Roswell King. He served as President of the Roswell Manufacturing Company, a leading supplier of goods to the Confederacy, from December 1839 until his death in 1866. Six of Barrington King's sons served in the Confederate forces; 2 were killed and 2 were injured. This photo is of the Ice House that is still located on the grounds of Barrington Hall.

At Bulloch Hall, the reconstruction of this slave cabin, with its living quarters and exhibit, provides opportunities to explore and recognize the role of African-American slaves in the history of Roswell. This exhibit is dedicated to their legacy.



Slave Dwelling: This building is representative of a slave dwelling at the Archibald Smith Plantation Home. Though the exact age of the structure is unknown, it is believed to be one of the oldest on the site.

OTHER SITES TO SEE:



ROSWELL MILLS & OLD MILL PARK
On the banks of Vickery Creek, ruins of the 1853 Roswell Mill can be found. The mills were burned by Union forces with the

help of some of the Roswell Mill employees. Only the 1853 mill was rebuilt after the war and used until destroyed by fire again in 1926. The mill seen today was built in 1882 as an addition to the Roswell Manufacturing Company complex. The mill building now houses offices and events facilities.

LOST MILL WORKERS OF ROSWELL - ROSWELL TOWN SQUARE & SLOAN STREET PARK

400 Roswell mill workers (mostly women & children) were held under guard in the Town Square until they could be sent by wagons to Marietta and transported north by train. Although the women were charged with



treason, they were never tried for that crime but were imprisoned, ordered to declare allegiance, and eventually released, without provisions or assistance to get home. Some would make their way back to Roswell but what happened to others remains a mystery. One of the women, pregnant when deported, was sent to Chicago and left to fend for herself. It would take five years before she and her daughter would return on foot only to find her husband had remarried, because he thought she was dead. A monument is located in the park at **75 Sloan Street.**

ROSWELL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Located on Mimosa Boulevard

The historic Sanctuary, completed in 1840, was used as a hospital for Union soldiers from July 8, 1864 until shortly after July 17. A cabinet still carries the imprint of a checker board carved there by convalescing soldiers.

GREAT OAKS (1842)
Located on Mimosa Boulevard

Originally the residence of Rev. & Mrs. Nathaniel Pratt. Local clay was used for the bricks which were hand-molded by slave labor. The Pratts remained in the house during the Civil War, even though General John A. Logan headquartered there and his troops encamped on the lawns. Rev. Pratt wrote: "My front and back yard were full of horses and tents and

quartermasters stores up to my very door." (This site is now an events facility)

CHATTAHOOCHEE RIVER CROSSING

Located on Atlanta Street near Azalea & Riverside
Originally a covered bridge built in 1857 by the Roswell Manufacturing Company to aid in shipping to the railroad hub in Atlanta. The bridge was burned by retreating Confederate troops to prevent the Union Cavalry from gaining a crossing of the Chattahoochee River — but was rebuilt in three days by Union troops.

ROSWELL VISITORS CENTER
617 Atlanta Street, Roswell, GA 30075
770-640-3253 or 800-776-7935

The Roswell Visitors Center houses exhibits showcasing the history of the Roswell Mills and Mill Life. The exhibits are open to the public, free of charge. Visitors to the center will experience the warm hospitality for which the South is famous; view a short video of Roswell; and receive maps, information and assistance in making their Roswell visit an experience to remember.

There is so much to do and see, you may want to stay a night or two. The Visitor Center staff will be happy to assist you with Roswell lodging arrangements.

www.visitroswellga.com

WALKING TOURS

ROSWELL MILL VILLAGE/CIVIL WAR APP

Free from the App Store or Google Play.

Enjoy this app tour as you hear the stories of early Roswell, Roswell Mills, and the Civil War.

SELF-GUIDED WALKING TOUR OF ROSWELL'S HISTORIC DISTRICT

Maps available at the Roswell Visitors Center or by download at www.visitroswellga.com

ROSWELL GHOST TOURS

(770) 649-9922 | www.roswellghosttour.com

Toilsome tales of mill workers and spirits said to dwell behind the mansion walls are featured on this mile of easy walking. Call for tour times and prices. Reservations are required.

TEACHING MUSEUM-NORTH

793 Mimosa Blvd. - Roswell, GA 30075

770-552-6339 | www.teachingmuseumnorth.org

Exhibits of political, social, and historical interests document the history of the United States, Georgia, and Roswell.

Normally open Mon. - Fri. 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.

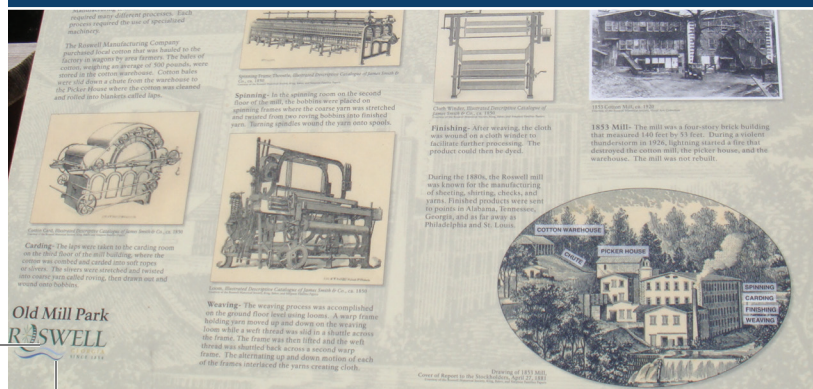
Call to confirm hours and admission.

GROUP TOURS

Group Tours may be arranged in advance by *Visit Roswell*.

Please call

770-640-3253 or 800-776-7935
or email groups@visitroswellga.com



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Atlanta Hotel

9995 Old Dogwood Road
Roswell, GA 30076
(770) 650-6444
www.atlanta-hotel.org

Number of Rooms 128



Baymont Inn & Suites

1500 Market Blvd
Roswell, GA 30076
(770) 992-7200
www.baymontinns.com

Number of Rooms 122

Number of Suites 14



Best Western PLUS

907 Holcomb Bridge Road
Roswell, GA 30076
(770) 552-5599
www.bestwestern.com

Number of Rooms 93

Number of Suites 56



Comfort Suites

3000 Mansell Road
Alpharetta, GA 30022
(770) 645-6060; (800) 228-5150
www.comfortsuites.com/hotel-alpharetta-georgia-GA290

Number of Suites 72



DoubleTree by Hilton Atlanta/Roswell

1075 Holcomb Bridge Road
Roswell, GA 30076
(770) 992-9600; (800)-222-TREE
www.doubletreeRoswell.com

Number of Rooms 172

Number of Suites 2



Holiday Inn Atlanta/Roswell

909 Holcomb Bridge Road
Roswell, GA 30076
(770) 817-1414; (877) 817-1414
www.holidayinn.com/roswellga

Number of Rooms 102

Number of Suites 33



Holiday Inn Express Alpharetta/Roswell

2950 Mansell Rd.
Alpharetta, GA 30022
(770) 552-0006
www.holidayinnexpress.com

Number of Rooms 70

Number of Suites 10



Intown Suites

1175 Hembree Road
Roswell, GA 30076
(770) 410-9094; (800) 553-9338
www.intownsuites.com

Number of Suites 137



La Quinta Inn Atlanta/Roswell

575 Old Holcomb Bridge Road
Roswell, GA 30076
(770) 552-0200; (800) 531-5900
www.lq.com

Number of Rooms 100

Number of Suites 3



Ramada Limited Suites

3020 Mansell Rd.
Alpharetta, GA 30022
(678) 461-7300; (800) 272-6232
www.ramada.com

Number of Rooms 60



Studio 6 Roswell

9955 Old Dogwood Rd.
Roswell, GA 30076
(770) 992-9449; (888) 897-0202
www.staystudio6.com

Number of Rooms 141

Number of Suites 20

For additional information please visit www.visitroswellga.com/lodging

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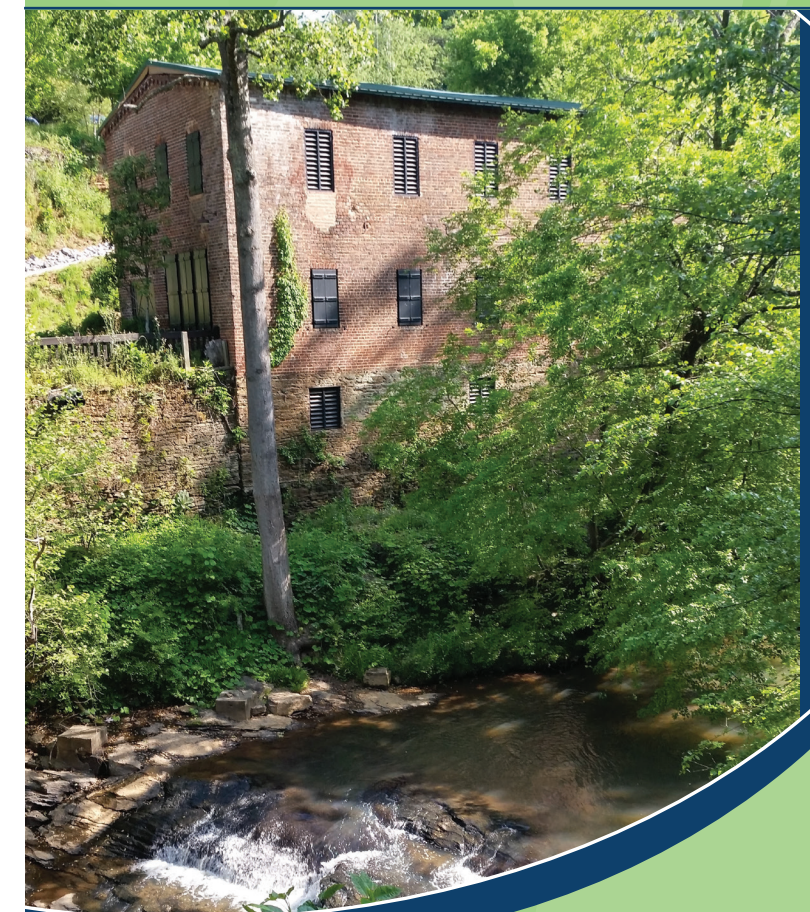


LODGING
With so much to see and do,
you'll want to stay awhile.



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THE CIVIL WAR — IN ROSWELL —



"There are places that need no historical marker because they are haunted; haunted by the spirits of men in blue and gray, now a part of the soil they fought over. If you stand quietly and listen, you can sense the clash of arms and see the skirmish, as if the gnarled old trees can't forget and whisper their story to your imagination..."

— From 'Faces & Songs' by Barry Etris

www.visitroswellga.com
MODERN SPIRIT. Southern Soul.