



South Georgia  
History Project

# The Wiregrass Telegraph

*Promoting Educational Excellence in U. S. History!*

**Treeless  
Edition**  
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## Wiregrass

Linda Meadows, Cook County HS, writes:  
Can you give more details about the wiregrass itself? I was told by an old-timer about 20 years ago when my husband and I were cleaning an overgrown acre-sized family cemetery that we discovered near Nashville, Ga, that there were clumps of wiregrass in the cemetery and we left them alone. The clumps looked like 2-3 feet-long strands of wire. We were told that when Scotch-Irish settlers migrated to this area in the early 1800s via Burke County, GA, that they herded cattle with them and the grass sustained the cattle. There were also very large pines that someone has since cut out of that cemetery.



Linda, what you found was probably wiregrass although there is another common weed that looks very similar, without the white fuzz around the leaf base. Wiregrass is a perennial bunch grass that grows in dense, spreading tufts, reaching heights of 1½' to 3'. The leaves are long, thin, wiry, or needle-like with tufts of fine, white fuzz around the leaf base. Margins are rolled inward. Wiregrass flowers are tiny and close to the flower stalk and the fruit is a tiny, yellowish grain (seed). Wiregrass grows prolifically in flatwoods and dry sandhills. It's a common ground cover in longleaf pine forests and newly burned sites and depends on periodic fire to regenerate - the so called "fire ecology" of our region.

## From Senator Zell Miller's new book:

"Once upon a time, the most successful Democratic leader of them all, FDR, looked south and said, "I see one third of a nation ill-housed, ill-clad, ill-nourished." Today our national Democratic leaders look south and say, "I see one third of a nation and it can go to hell."

*A National Party No More*

*The Conscience of a Conservative Democrat*

On sale October 6, 2003

**Create a Timeline for your students!**

<http://www.ourtimes.com>

**Georgia Council on Social Studies website**

<http://www.qcss.net/>

**Georgia School Council - simplified AYP info**

at <http://www.georgiaeducation.org/>



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## **QCC Revision**

by Andy Preston, Ware Magnet School

The Georgia Quality Core Curriculum revision process is coming to a close. The teacher teams, which began their work in July and have been working most weekends in August and September, will be presenting their tentative completed task Saturday, September 27th. This work will be examined by the advisory committee, which has the power to make changes, before being submitted to the State School Supe. Kathy Cox and the State Board of Education.

Teachers from around the state have examined all grades and disciplines. SGHP founder Dr. Charles Walsh worked in the beginning part of the elementary curriculum and high school Economics and I worked with high school US history. Teachers can expect major changes in some of the subject areas. The objectives are now performance standards, which will help teachers and students to know clearly what the expectations are.

*NOTE: The Telegraph will provide information on the QCCs as soon as it becomes available.*

## **Georgia Council on Social Studies**

by Andy Preston  
SGHP participants are encouraged to attend the annual conference of the Georgia Council for the Social Studies. This year's conference will be October 16 - 17 at the

Augusta Riverfront Raddison Hotel. Almost 70 sessions and 50 exhibits will be featured. For more information please contact GCSS Executive Director Eddie Bennett, P. O. Box 675, Avondale Estates, GA 30002 or 770-426-3458.

Additional info at: <http://www.gcss.net/>  
*Andy is the outgoing President of GCSS.*

## **PRESS RELEASE - Sep 22, 2003**

LONG ISLAND CITY, N.Y. -- Saying that American history is one of the crucial subjects our children need to master, U.S. Secretary of Education Rod Paige today announced that 114 school districts in 38 states will receive \$98.5 million in Teaching American History grants. Paige also announced a new cooperative venture with The History Channel to help make students more aware of the importance of our civic holidays. **NOTE:** Two awards were received in GA - one in Henry County and the other in Savannah/Chatham County.

## **Editorial: Geo McClellan & Wes Clark**



When Doc Walsh found out I knew GEN Wes Clark he suggested a comparison with GEN George McClellan of Civil War fame, so here goes. "Little Mac" is known as the man

who trained the Army of the Potomac and established many of the training methods still used today. Like McClellan, Wes Clark



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is also a consummate trainer. He is responsible for training our modern mechanized Army as we know it - the Army of Desert Storm and the Army that took Baghdad in 3 weeks - at the National Training Center in the Mojave Desert for a 10 year period - 1982-1993. During my 6 rotations to the NTC as an Operations Officer I've spent hours talking tactics with him, sitting on a rock out in the middle of the desert in the wee hours when we couldn't sleep and hearing him critique my usually messed up operation. The guy is literally genius level in brainpower and a consummate politician - but his dark side and the reason I have an intense dislike for him, is that he uses and abuses people unmercifully. I've never met anyone that liked the guy or wanted to work for him - he is the only person I've ever met that is 100% pragmatic - his only consideration is the desired end state and nothing else matters. My operations staff always thought he slept in a box of dirt during the day and they may be right. How else is he like McClellan? Recall that Geo McClellan ran for office in 1864 in opposition to Lincoln as a peace candidate.



The war had not been going well in 1864 - Sherman had jumped off in May from Chattanooga into GA and was in a siege around Atlanta by

late June. Grant had piled up horrendous losses in The Wilderness, Cold Harbour and Spotsylvania and was in a siege in front of Petersburg.

The election of 1864 was a close run thing for Lincoln - never had a sitting President run for office in the middle of a war, especially with the Army's premier general opposing. Sherman's unremitting drive to take Atlanta was based on the knowledge that if he failed, McClellan might take office, sue for peace and allow the Confederacy to continue. The March to the Sea didn't start (NOV 15, 1864) until after Lincoln's election had been assured because it was so risky. How far will Clark go? Stay tuned.



## The Augusta Canal



Built in 1845 by Chinese laborers as a source of power, water and transportation, the Augusta Canal was one of the few

successful industrial canals in the American South. It's alive and well, totally functional and has been designated as an Historic District, the highest classification among heritage sites. This is a picture of the start of the canal, upriver from Augusta, at the diversion dam across the Savannah River.

<http://www.augustacanal.com>