



Barnsley RESORT

BARNESLEY RESORT'S PLACE IN
Resort's Origins Span Centuries and

the Supernatural

HISTORY
Feature Love, War, Rebirth and a Hint of

ADAIRSVILLE, GA— [Luxurious accommodations](#), outstanding customer service, and an amazing array of activities all draw guests to [Barnsley Resort](#). Part of what makes the resort so unique, however, is the romantic, tragic and compelling [history](#) of how it came to be. A fascinating tale of love, loss, murder and destruction, complete with a princely rescue, Barnsley Resort's origins read like fiction. This is a story that touches on elements of the Cherokee Indian nation, the devastating War Between the States, the turbulent days of Southern reconstruction, and, finally, the raw hunger of the 1930s Great Depression.

Like all great stories, Barnsley's begins with a love affair. Godfrey Barnsley was an Englishman who arrived in America in 1824 and amassed a fortune in the cotton and shipping trades. He married a Savannah belle, Julia Scarborough, and sought to build her a fabulous manor home, ignoring warnings that he was building on sacred Cherokee land, and it would bring a curse to his family. Soon things did take a tragic turn as both an infant son and Julia died before the estate could be completed. Godfrey fell into despair, abandoning his plans. However, legend holds that Julia's spirit appeared to him in the gardens asking for the estate to be completed for their children and future generations. He set about finishing Woodlands, complete with gardens modeled after the architectural designs of Andrew Jackson Downing that featured hundreds of varieties of roses and exotic plants and a luxurious 16-bedroom home that included modern plumbing, imported marble from Italy and France, and furnishings from around the world.

Less than 20 years later, the [Civil War](#) was in full swing. Situated directly in the path of Sherman's advance, the estate witnessed a battle on May 18, 1864. A friend of Godfrey's, Colonel Robert G. Earle of the Second Alabama Light Cavalry, rode to Woodlands to warn him of Sherman's troops' approach and was shot down within sight of the house. Because of his loyalty, he was buried at Woodlands. The troops' progress could not be stopped, and they descended on Woodlands. The Federal officer commanding the invading troops, U.S. Gen. James McPherson, forbid looting of the unfinished mansion, but his orders were disregarded. The ruins of Woodlands aren't the only structure on the property with historic ties. The Rice House, the resort's fine dining restaurant which is a more recent addition to the grounds, also bears the scars of a Civil War incursion. To this day, bullet holes are still visible on the exterior walls.

By the end of the war, Godfrey was nearly financially destroyed. He moved to New Orleans to try and salvage something of his fortune. Despite all the hardships, Godfrey's descendants continued to live at the Woodlands. One granddaughter, Addie Saylor, was a friend of Margaret Mitchell. She shared the stories of her family's hardships during the Civil War with the author, detailing how the tenacity and spirit of her mother Julia, Godfrey's

daughter who was named after his wife, eventually helped rescue the estate and its inhabitants from starvation. It is rumored that Margaret Mitchell used Julia as inspiration for Scarlet in *Gone with the Wind*.

Tragedy continued to follow the Barnsley family. In 1906 a tornado severely damaged the home, and a few decades later one of Addie Saylor's sons suffered an untimely death. During the 1930s depression, Addie's sons, a prize fighter and his brother, could not see eye-to-eye on the control of the estate and their differences escalated into murder. Blood stains from their deadly skirmish are still visible to this day in the resort's museum, which served as the kitchen of the former home. After years of despair, the gardens and manor house were auctioned off in 1942 and eventually fell into disrepair.

Overgrown and forgotten, Woodlands was rescued by Prince Hubertus Fugger Babenhausen of Augsburg, Germany in 1989. Restoring the ruins, reviving the gardens, and enhancing the property, Prince Fugger brought the land back to life. In 1991, it was opened to the public as Barnsley Gardens, a historic site and museum.

Today, the property exceeds Godfrey Barnsley's original vision as it serves as a one-of-a-kind, [Georgia luxury resort](#) destination with English country style cottages, world-class amenities, attentive service, and quiet serenity. Amenities include an [18-hole championship golf course](#), three restaurants, Springbank Plantation, the Outpost, and a [full-service spa](#). Guests can still explore the resort's dynamic past by visiting the intricately [landscaped gardens](#), the hauntingly beautiful ruins – a popular event site, and the onsite museum that houses remnants and artifacts from the storied family, which is managed by historian Clent Coker.

For additional information about the history of the property and the family, please visit www.barnsleyresort.com/about/history_overview.asp. To reserve a stay at the resort, please call 1-877-773-2447.

In the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains just 60 miles north of Atlanta, Barnsley Resort welcomes guests into a storybook romantic setting of incomparable service. Encompassing 3,300 acres, the historic Barnsley Resort offers a unique getaway experience. Originally built as an opulent estate in the 19th century, the grounds have been transformed into a world-class resort. All guests are lodged in private rooms, suites or cottages, all luxuriously appointed with a mix of old-world charm and modern convenience. Whether looking for a relaxing weekend, strategic meeting or an elegant wedding, guests will discover a retreat of privacy and perfection. Amenities include gourmet dining, immaculate gardens, historic ruins, a European-style spa, and exciting recreational choices such as world-class golf, wingshooting and hunting at Springbank Plantation – Georgia's most unique hunting preserve, and horseback riding along scenic trails. www.barnsleyresort.com.

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