



The Georgia Historical Society The Lower Altamaha Historical Society

Historical Marker Dedication Program

“The Burning of Darien”

*Saturday, September 22, 2001, 3:00 p.m.
City Hall, Darien, Georgia*

*Welcome & Remarks on Behalf of Lower Altamaha Historical Society
Mr. Ed Meyer, President, Lower Altamaha Historical Society*

Remarks

Hon. David Bluestein, Mayor, City of Darien

*Remarks on Behalf of Georgia Historical Society
& Background on the Burning of Darien*

**Mr. Buddy Sullivan, Board of Curators and
Vice-President for Coastal Georgia, Georgia Historical Society**

Unveiling of the Marker by Dignitaries

Reception at Darien City Hall
The Lower Altamaha Historical Society

Text of Marker

The Burning of Darien

On June 11, 1863 the seaport of Darien was vandalized and burned by Federal forces stationed on nearby St. Simons Island. The town was largely deserted, most of its 500 residents having sought refuge inland. Lost were public buildings, churches, businesses and most private residences. Conducting the raid were units comprised of among the first African American troops to serve the Union cause, the 54th Massachusetts Volunteers under Col. Robert G. Shaw, and the 2nd South Carolina Volunteers under Col. James Montgomery. The burning of Darien, undefended and of little strategic importance, was one of the most controversial events of the Civil War.