

# **ESSENTIAL CIVIL WAR CURRICULUM**

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## **A Long and Bloody Task: The Atlanta Campaign from Dalton Through Kennesaw to the Chattahoochee, May 5- July 18, 1864**

By Stephen Davis

### **Resources**

**If you can read only one book**

Author	<i>Title</i> . City: Publisher, Year.
Davis, Stephen	<i>A Long and Bloody Task: The Atlanta Campaign from Dalton through Kennesaw to the Chattahoochee, May 5 –July 18, 1864</i> El Dorado Hills, CA: Savas Beattie, 2016.

### **Books and Articles**

Author	<i>Title</i> . City: Publisher, Year.   “Title,” in <i>Journal</i> ##, no. # (Date): #.
Bailey, Anne J.	<i>The Chessboard of War: Sherman and Hood in the Atlanta Campaign of 1864</i> . University of Nebraska Press, 2000.
Barnes, W. T.	“An Incident of Kennesaw Mountain,” <i>Confederate Veteran</i> , 30, no. 1 (January 1922).
Bonds, Russell S.	<i>War Like the Thunderbolt: The Battle and Burning of Atlanta</i> . Yardley, PA: Westholme Publishing, 2009.
Blount, Jr., Russell W.	<i>Clash at Kennesaw: June &amp; July 1864</i> . Gretna, LA: Pelican Publishing, 2012.

Castel, Albert	<i>Decision in the West: The Atlanta Campaign of 1864</i> . Lawrence: University Press of Kansas, 1992.
Clauss, Errol MacGregor	“The Atlanta Campaign, 18 July-2 September 1864,” Ph.D. dissertation, Emory University, 1965.
Davis, Stephen	<i>Atlanta Will Fall: Sherman, Joe Johnston, and the Yankee Heavy Battalions</i> . Lanham, MD: Rowman and Littlefield, 2001.
_____.	<i>What the Yankees Did to Us: Sherman’s Bombardment and Wrecking of Atlanta</i> . Macon GA: Mercer University Press 2012.
_____.	<i>All the Fighting They Want: The Atlanta Campaign from Peachtree Creek to the City’s Surrender, July 18-September 2, 1864</i> . El Dorado Hills, CA: Savas Beattie, 2016.
Davis, Stephen et al.	<i>Blue &amp; Gray Magazine’s History and Tour Guide of the Atlanta Campaign</i> . Columbus, OH: The General’s Books, 1996.
Evans, David	“The Atlanta Campaign,” <i>Civil War Times Illustrated</i> , 28, no. 4 (Summer 1989).
_____.	<i>Sherman’s Horsemen: Union Cavalry Operations in the Atlanta Campaign</i> . Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1996.
Hood, John Bell	<i>Advance and Retreat. Personal Experiences in the United States and Confederate States Armies</i> . New Orleans, LA: The Hood Orphan Memorial Fund, 1880.
Jenkins Sr., Robert D.	<i>To the Gates of Atlanta: From Kennesaw Mountain to Peach Tree Creek, 1–19 July 1864</i> . Macon, GA: Mercer University Press, 2015.
Kennett, Lee	<i>Marching through Georgia: The Story of Soldiers and Civilians During Sherman’s Campaign</i> . New York: HarperCollins, 1995.
Kerksis, Sydney C.	“Action at Gilgal Church June 15-16, 1864,” in Kerksis, comp., <i>The Atlanta Papers</i> . Dayton, OH: Press of the Morningside Bookshop, 1980.

Luvaas, Jay, and Harold W. Nelson, eds.	<i>Guide to the Atlanta Campaign: Rocky Face Ridge to Kennesaw Mountain.</i> Lawrence: University Press of Kansas, 2008.
McDonough, James Lee and James Pickett Jones	<i>War So Terrible: Sherman and Atlanta.</i> New York: Norton, 1987.
McMurry, Richard M.	<i>Atlanta 1864: Last Chance for the Confederacy.</i> Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 2000.
Strayer, Larry M. and Richard A. Baumgartner, eds.	<i>Echoes of Battle: The Atlanta Campaign.</i> Huntington, WV: Blue Acorn Press, 1991.

### Organizations

Organization Name	Description, Contact information including address, email
Atlanta History Center	The Atlanta History Center, collects, researches and publishes the history of Atlanta. Their address is: 130 West Paces Ferry Road NW Atlanta GA 30305, 404 814 4031. Their website is: <a href="http://www.atlantahistorycenter.com/">http://www.atlantahistorycenter.com/</a>

### Web Resources

URL	Name and description
<a href="http://www.civilwar.org/battlefields/resaca/atlanta-campaign-overview/the-atlanta-campaign.html?referrer=https://www.google.ca/">http://www.civilwar.org/battlefields/resaca/atlanta-campaign-overview/the-atlanta-campaign.html?referrer=https://www.google.ca/</a>	The Civil War Trust publishes useful information on the Atlanta Campaign and battles including maps and photographs.
<a href="https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Atlanta_Campaign">https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Atlanta_Campaign</a>	Atlanta Campaign in Wikipedia has helpful timelines, maps and descriptions of the various elements of the campaign.

## Other Sources

Name	Description, Contact information including address, email
Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park	The Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park is operated by the National Park Service. The park and visitor center hours vary by season. The park is located at 900 Kennesaw Mountain Drive Kennesaw GA 30152, 770 427 4686. Their website is: <a href="https://www.nps.gov/kemo/index.htm">https://www.nps.gov/kemo/index.htm</a>
Atlanta Cyclorama	The Atlanta Cyclorama and Civil War Museum are located at 800 Cherokee Ave. SE, Atlanta, GA 30315 next to Zoo Atlanta in Grant Park. Cyclorama visiting hours are Tuesday-Saturday 9:15 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Closed on Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day and New Year’s Day and Martin Luther King’s Birthday. 404 659 7625. <a href="mailto:info@atlantacyclorama.org">info@atlantacyclorama.org</a> <a href="http://www.atlantacyclorama.org">http://www.atlantacyclorama.org</a>

## Scholars

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## Topic Précis

The Atlanta Campaign is generally divided into two parts—Sherman vs Johnston and Sherman vs Hood. Grant wrote to Sherman on April 4, 1861 instructing him to break up Joseph E. Johnston’s army and to destroy Confederate war resources in the process. The first part of Sherman’s campaign, from Dalton through Kennesaw to the Chattahoochee, saw his 110,000-man army facing Johnston’s Confederate force of half that size. Starting at Rocky Face Ridge on May 7, Sherman maneuvered against Johnston, repeatedly clashing and outflanking positions taken by the Confederate force and Johnston fell back from one position to another towards Atlanta. From Rocky Face Ridge, north of Dalton, Johnston took up a new position at Resaca south of Dalton on the night of May 12-13. On May 14 and 15 at the Battle of Resaca the Confederates held their line suffering 3,000 casualties to

the Federals' 4,000. Outflanked on the left Johnston retreated to a position below Cassville starting on the night of May 15-16. While he was retreating, Johnston was continually reinforced such that his army numbered some 62,000 by June 30. Fighting which took place on May 19 was inconclusive but Johnston decided to retreat across the Etowah River, burning its bridges behind him on May 20. In the first three weeks of the campaign Johnston had retreated 35 miles and given up two of the three river barriers between Sherman and Atlanta. Johnston next took up as position 6 miles long between Dallas and New Hope Church. After resting for a few days Sherman advanced and assaulted the Confederates at New Hope Church on May 25 suffering a defeat at their hands. Sherman suffered a second defeat on May 27 at Pickett's Mill. A Confederate assault at Dallas on May 28 was repulsed. On June 3 Johnston began sidling eastwards towards the Western & Atlantic Railroad. After resting briefly Sherman followed. From June 15 to June 22 the two armies clashed with the Confederates being repulsed with heavy losses in the Battle of Kolb's Farm on June 22. The Confederates took up a new position at Kennesaw Mountain and on June 27 Sherman launched a frontal assault. The Federals were repulsed with heavy losses. Sherman then maneuvered again to outflank Johnston who withdrew to a last position on the north bank of the Chattahoochee River on the night of July 4-5. Johnston's continual retreats alarmed both the people of Atlanta and President Jefferson Davis. Outflanked again by Sherman, Johnston retreated across the river on the night of July 9-10. Sherman again rested his army. Meanwhile Davis consulted with his military advisor Braxton Bragg and his most trusted General Robert E. Lee as to whether to relieve Johnston. On July 17, Davis relieved Johnston and placed John Bell Hood, promoted temporarily to General, in charge of the Army of Tennessee. John B. Hood had his work cut out for him, as did William T. Sherman.

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