

ESSENTIAL CIVIL WAR CURRICULUM

All the Fighting They Want: The Atlanta Campaign from Peachtree Creek to the City' Surrender, July 18-September 2, 1864

By Stephen Davis

Resources

If you can read only one book

Author	Title. City: Publisher, Year.
Davis, Stephen	<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.

Books and Articles

Author	Title. 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 & 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>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.
Davis, Stephen et al.	<i>Blue & 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: http://www.atlantahistorycenter.com/

Web Resources

URL	Name and description
http://www.civilwar.org/battlefields/resaca/atlanta-campaign-overview/the-atlanta-campaign.html?referrer=https://www.google.ca/	The Civil War Trust publishes useful information on the Atlanta Campaign and battles including maps and photographs.
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Atlanta_Campaign	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: https://www.nps.gov/kemo/index.htm
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. info@atlantacyclorama.org http://www.atlantacyclorama.org

Scholars

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Topic Précis

When General John Bell Hood took command of the Confederate Army of Tennessee on July 18, 1864, relieving General Joseph E. Johnston, Major General William Tecumseh Sherman's Federal forces were just a few miles outside Atlanta. Sherman's force was over 100,000 men, Hood's under 60,000. Sherman's plan was to avoid frontal assault and to cut off the three railroads that supplied Atlanta, to force its evacuation. Sherman's cavalry immediately cut two of the three railroads on the day Hood took command, The Georgia Railroad east of Atlanta and the Atlantic & West Point Railroad west of the city, leaving only the Macon & Western connecting Atlanta to Macon, south of the city. Part of Sherman's force, commanded by General George Thomas was approaching the city from the north and the force led by General James McPherson marching westwards towards the

city was ordered to further destroy the Georgia Railroad as it advanced. Hood saw a chance to attack the Federal forces while they were separated and on July 20 he did so at the Battle of Peachtree Creek. The result was a defensive victory for the Federals. On that same day Union forces closed to within two and a half miles from the city and began bombarding the city, a bombardment that would last 37 days until the City fell. Sherman determined to launch a cavalry raid to further damage the Georgia Railroad. Detaching the cavalry force guarding McPherson's left flank for that purpose left McPherson exposed. Told by his cavalry that McPherson's left flank was in the air, Hood again chose to attack on July 22 in what is known as the Battle of Atlanta. Though repulsed, the Confederates achieved some tactical successes. Sherman next chose to attack Atlanta from the west, sending General Oliver O. Howard's Army of the Tennessee to threaten the Macon & Western at a depot called East Point. Learning of this movement Hood again chose to attack. On July 28 at the Battle of Ezra Church the Confederates suffered significantly higher casualties than Howard's Federals but they stopped Howard from cutting the Macon & Western line and established strong defensive works. Sherman decided to attempt to cut the railroad well below the Confederate works using two separate cavalry forces. Both were defeated without being able to cut the railroad line. Hood decided on a cavalry raid of his own to disrupt Sherman's supply line on the Western & Atlantic Railroad running from Atlanta into norther Georgia. Though they did some damage this was quickly repaired and the Confederate cavalry raid was as unsuccessful as the Union raids. Another Union cavalry raid on August 18 destroyed some track on the Macon & Western to the south at Jonesboro but it was quickly repaired. Sherman finally decided that the only way to cut the city off was to use infantry. On the night of August 25-26, he took six corps on a wide sweep to the south, abandoning his positions north of the city by keeping a force in place to the west. On August 31 at a train depot called Quick Station eight miles north of Jonesboro Sherman's forces cut the Macon & Western. Hood learned that his last railroad had been broken when two southbound trains carrying reserve ordnance stores turned back to Atlanta. On the night of September 1-2, 1864 Hood abandoned the city. On September 2 Mayor James M. Calhoun formally surrendered. Atlanta had fallen. During the campaign from May to September both sides suffered approximately the same number of casualties, approximately 35,000 each.
