

# GEORGIA

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# BATTLEFIELDS

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Published by Georgia Battlefields Association, Inc., a non-profit organization dedicated to preservation of Georgia's Civil War history and sites. Contact newsletter editor by e-mail: [info@georgiabattlefields.org](mailto:info@georgiabattlefields.org)

## GBA annual tour, 18-21 April 2024: Chattanooga & Ringgold

Focus for the 2024 tour is the October and November 1863 fighting for Chattanooga.

Guide: Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park (CCNMP) historian Jim Ogden.

Price: Unlike our usual two-and-a-half-day tours, this will be a three-and-a-half-day tour: All day Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, plus Sunday morning. The **price of \$580** includes bus transportation, handouts, three lunches and three dinners (Thursday through Saturday). If you can't join us for whole tour, send an e-mail (be sure to include your phone number) to [info@georgiabattlefields.org](mailto:info@georgiabattlefields.org), and we will correspond with you about a reduced price.

Hotel: TownePlace Suites, 6801 Ringgold Rd, East Ridge TN 37412, 844 202 9351. Hotel is just on the Tennessee side of the boundary with Georgia. Take I-75 exit 1 and go east on Ringgold Road (US 41) a little over a half mile. Hotel is on the north (left) side of the road. Hotel price includes breakfast. GBA rate for a king room is \$115 (\$135 if you include the unavoidable tax) per night. Queen double is \$125 (\$147) per night. To book online, use [this link](#). Note that online booking will be unavailable after 17 March 2024 (one month before the tour begins).

### Schedule

Wednesday (17 April): GBA representatives will be in the hotel lobby Wednesday evening to hand out maps and answer questions. Dinner on your own.

Thursday (18 April): The situation in mid-October 1863. Lookout Mountain, Bridgeport, Sequatchie Valley, Walden's Ridge, Brown's Ferry, Wauhatchie. Reception dinner at hotel.

Friday (19 April): Lookout Mountain, Cravens House. Dinner at [Sugar's Ribs](#).

Saturday (20 April): Orchard Knob, Missionary Ridge (several stops). Dinner venue is the Coolidge National [Medal of Honor Heritage Center](#).

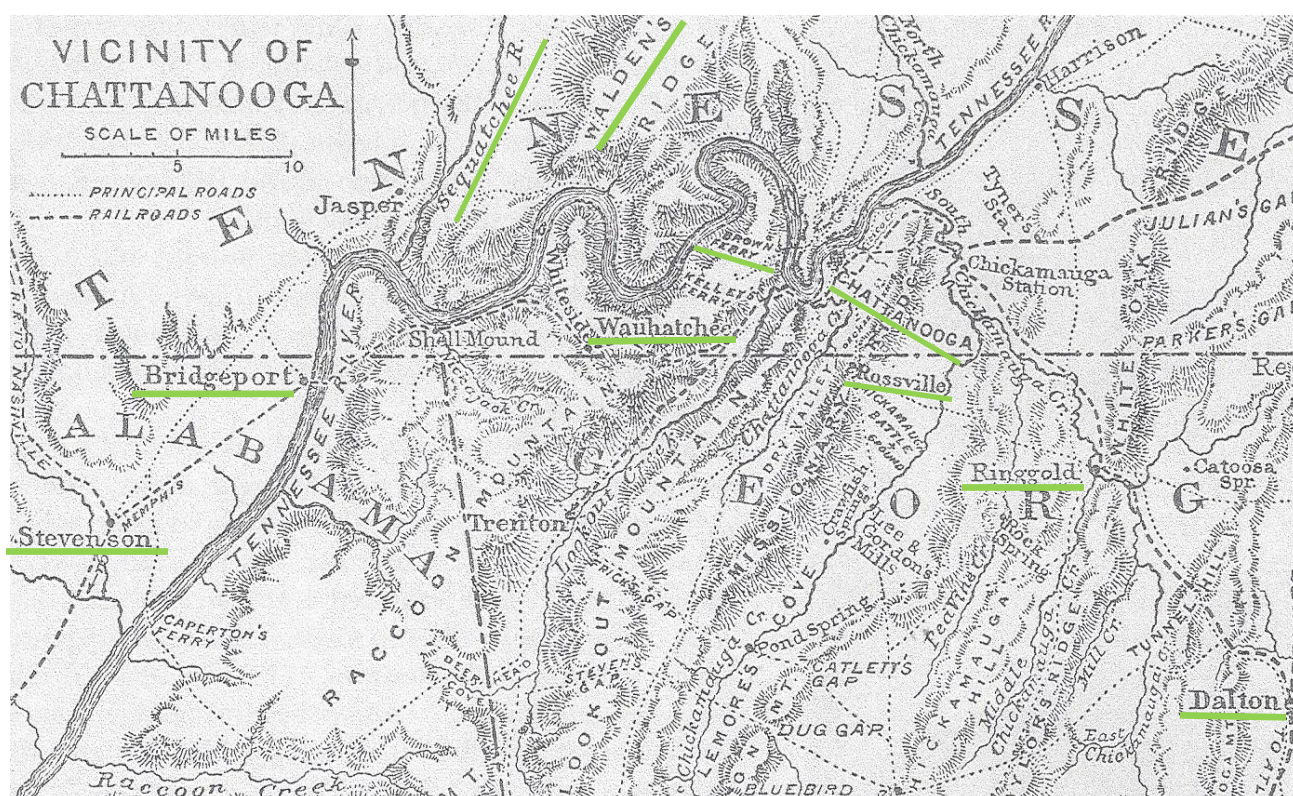
Sunday (21 April): Ringgold.

For more details on the significance of the sites, see [October Georgia Battlefields newsletter](#).

Registration: See our web site [tours page](#) and click the link to register. Use PayPal or a credit card to complete registration online, or you can mail a check payable to Georgia Battlefields Association to **PO Box 669953, Marietta GA 30066**.

If you have any trouble registering or paying online, contact us at [info@georgiabattlefields.org](mailto:info@georgiabattlefields.org).

Come join us for a comprehensive tour led by Jim Ogden, an unmatched guide.



Map from [Battles and Leaders of the Civil War](#), Volume 3, p. 640.



## Rocky Face Ridge Park obtains cannons through couples' generosity

Thanks to the generosity of Bill and Linda Blackman, Rocky Face Ridge Park (north of Dalton) has obtained two (non-firing) replica 12-pounder Napoleon guns.

The Napoleon was the most commonly deployed artillery piece for both U.S. and Confederate forces during the Atlanta Campaign. While the 3-inch Ordnance Rifle was gaining favor for longer range accuracy, the smooth bore Napoleon was more easily adapted for grape or canister fire to repulse attacking infantry or cavalry.

The replica Napoleons came from a hotel adjacent to Vicksburg National Military Park, where they had sat in front of the entrance for several years. When new hotel management decided the cannons were no longer wanted, [Blue and Gray Education Society](#) (BGES) bought them, subsequently offering them to Save the Dalton Battlefields for \$25,000, less than the price BGES had paid. In early August, Save the Dalton Battlefields contacted Georgia Battlefields Association and other organizations for help in raising the funds, or at least spreading the word about the need; but before GBA could publicize the request, the entire amount was provided by a local Dalton couple, Bill and Linda Blackman.



Napoleons just off the transport

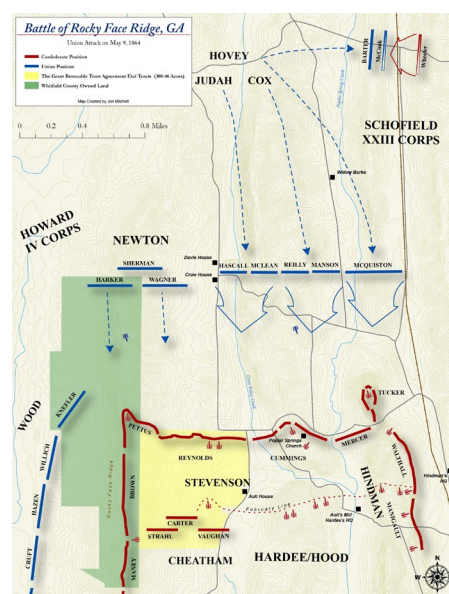


Bill and Linda Blackman

Dr. Blackman has long supported preservation efforts and was formerly president of the Whitfield County Historic Preservation Commission. He is a noted collector of Civil War artifacts, and he and Linda have been long time members of Georgia Battlefields Association.

BGES transported the guns from Vicksburg to Dalton, and they arrived at Rocky Face Ridge Park on 21 September. Georgia Battlefields newsletter readers may remember the two land purchases that comprise the park, which formally opened in July 2022. With help from local foundations, Whitfield County bought 625 acres along the ridge line (shown in green on the map at right) in 2002, and American Battlefield Trust and other groups helped to buy the 308-acre Grant property (in yellow) abutting the eastern slope of the ridge in Crow Valley in 2015.

The Confederate Army of Tennessee regrouped in Dalton after its disastrous defeat at Chattanooga in November 1863, and it posted advanced lines atop Rocky Face Ridge on either side of Mill Creek Gap, extending its right flank eastward across Crow Valley. U.S. forces under Major General George Thomas first probed Rocky Face Ridge in late February 1864 to prevent the Confederates from sending divisions to Mississippi to help oppose Major General Sherman's advance on Meridian. The next probe of Rocky Face Ridge came in early May 1864 as part of the initial U.S. advance during what became known as the Atlanta Campaign.



American Battlefield Trust map

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November 2023