

GEORGIA BATTLEFIELDS

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

Annual tour will revisit 1864 campaign, 9-12 April 2026

In 2026, GBA will begin another multi-tour examination of what came to be known as the Atlanta Campaign. Our first swing through the campaign ran from 2004 through 2009, and our second swing ran from 2014 through 2019. While we'll certainly revisit some sites, we'll have some newly preserved land to show you and some changes to sites you may have seen before.

Dates: 9-12 April 2026

Meals: Breakfast at hotel, Thursday through Sunday.

Lunch and dinner provided Thursday through Saturday.

Guide: Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park historian [Jim Ogden](#).

Price: \$600 per person for members. \$625 for non-members, but that price includes membership for a year. Register for the tour at [this link](#).

Hotel: Dalton Fairfield Inn, starting at \$129 per night plus tax. Make reservations at [this link](#).

Last month's newsletter reviewed U.S. Army actions to prepare for the Spring 1864 campaign into Georgia. Here's what the Confederate forces in the area did over the winter.

In early December 1863, Bragg consolidated the Army of Tennessee around Dalton and ordered construction of infantry and artillery positions along the north-south running Rocky Face Ridge and in Mill Creek Gap and Dug Gap. The line would extend eastward from the ridge across Crow Valley to Potato Hill, then run south along the rail line, but the best thing Bragg did for the Confederacy was resign his command. President Davis then had to find a replacement. The only capable army commander Davis had found thus far had been Lee, who would not leave Virginia. Reluctantly, Davis finally chose Joseph Johnston, who reported to Dalton on 27 December. On 2 January, at one of Johnston's first meetings with his subordinate commanders, Cleburne presented his proposal to solve the south's manpower deficiencies by arming Black men. Johnston said this should not be discussed or disseminated further, but Walker sent a copy to Davis, who ordered all news of the proposal to be suppressed. We'll visit the house that was Johnston's HQ, where the meeting occurred.

Johnston then embarked on his best four months of service to the Confederate cause, improving morale by undoing Bragg's October 1863 reorganization that was largely based on Bragg's dislike of certain subordinates, reforming the supply system for both clothing and food, instituting a system of furloughs, and declaring amnesty for AWOL soldiers who returned to the army. Overall, the Confederate armies had 60,000 soldiers listed as AWOL at this point.

Morale also improved due to several snowball fights over what turned out to be a colder and snowier than usual winter in north Georgia. Water froze even in indoor wash basins.

Johnston pestered Richmond for more troops, which exacerbated his relationship with President Davis, who said Johnston would receive reinforcements only when he agreed to take the offensive. When Sherman embarked on the Meridian Campaign in February, Johnston was ordered to send three divisions to Mississippi. Two divisions were already headed west by rail when Thomas's 24 February probe of the Rocky Face defenses allowed Johnston to recall them.

On 27 February, the recently built Camp Sumter at Andersonville, Georgia, received its first U.S. prisoners.

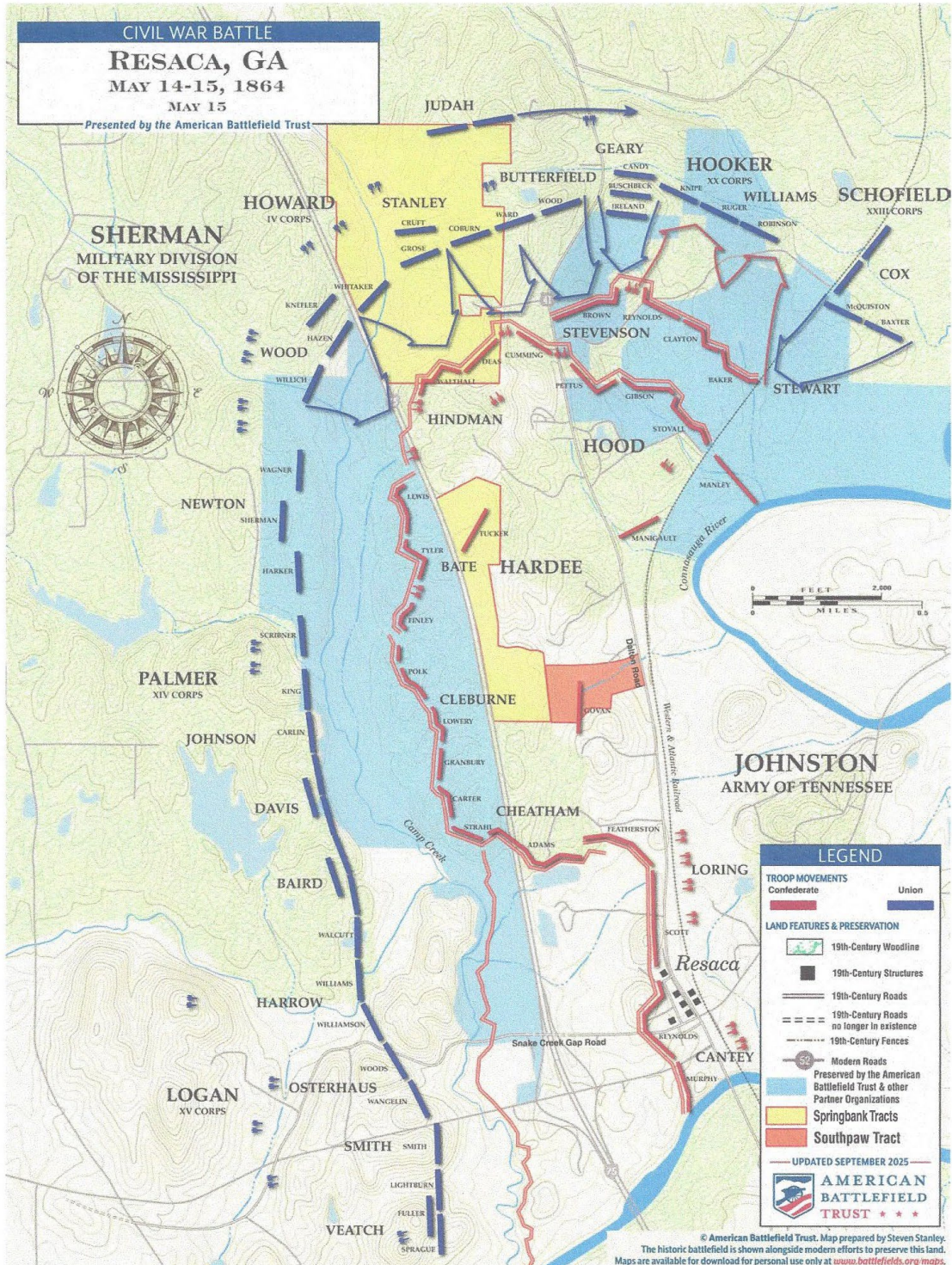
When Thomas Hindman had to yield his corps command due to an eye injury, Johnston preferred certain generals as a replacement. Davis rejected Johnston's requests and instead sent him Hood, who had recuperated in Richmond from the loss of his right leg at Chickamauga and had frequently met with Davis. Newly promoted to lieutenant general, Hood assumed corps command on 1 March and soon thereafter began communicating with Davis—at Davis's request--without informing Johnston.

On 19 April, Johnston staged a review of his two corps (under Hardee and Hood). The tour will visit the site of the reviewing stand. The condition and the morale of the Army of Tennessee was much improved from the dark days of early December, and Johnston deserves credit, but he continued to pester Davis for more troops.

More Resaca battlefield parcels under contract

It's appropriate that our 2026 tour will include a visit to Resaca. American Battlefield Trust (ABT) now has multiple parcels under contract to add to the State Historic Site acreage and the battlefield properties purchased or under conservation easement by ABT. Compare the properties in yellow and orange below to the map in the [May 2025 newsletter](#).

The total purchase price is \$1,800,000, and Georgia Battlefields Association intends to help, but we will need your help to do so. Please [donate](#) what you can as soon as you can.



Note new address

Georgia Battlefields Association
4203 Newpond Trail NE
Kennesaw GA 30144-1667

www.georgiabattlefields.org

November 2025