

CIVIL WAR HERITAGE TRAILS

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NEWSLETTER

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Georgia
South Carolina

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Historical Timeline:
August 1864

Jonesboro

The Atlanta Campaign Reaches Its Climax



Monday, August 1, 1864 - Artillery guns of Union Major General William T. Sherman's armies fire into the heart of Atlanta, Georgia. Lawlessness occurs in several Georgia counties; robberies increase due to the effects of war.

Tuesday, August 2, 1864 Preparations continue for a Federal naval attack on the Confederate defenses of Mobile Bay, Alabama.

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Historical Timeline: August 1864

Along the Trails:

Atlanta Campaign Heritage Trail®

The Struggle for Atlanta Reaches Its Climax...

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Along The Trails



Upcoming Events

Upcoming Civil War Events in Alabama, Georgia, South Carolina

AL - The Battle of Decatur

GA - Kilpatrick's Raid - Lovejoy Station

SC - Free Admission - Fort Moultrie

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Atlanta Campaign
and March to the
Sea Brochures





The Civil War in Alabama, Georgia and South Carolina

Historical Timeline August 1864

by Jennifer Peyser
B.A., History, 2014

Monday, August 1, 1864 - Artillery guns of Union Major General William T. Sherman's armies fire into the heart of Atlanta, Georgia. Lawlessness occurs in several Georgia counties; robberies increase due to the effects of war.

Tuesday, August 2, 1864 - Preparations continue for a Federal naval attack on the Confederate defenses of Mobile Bay, Alabama.

Wednesday, August 3, 1864 - Federal forces land on Dauphin Island, Alabama, near the western entrance to Mobile Bay. Near Atlanta, Georgia, action is seen at Utoy Creek, which Federal troops have crossed to increase pressure on the lengthening Confederate defense line.

Friday, August 5, 1864 - Four Federal ironclad "monitors" and a wooden fleet of fourteen ships led by Rear Admiral David G. Farragut attack Confederate...



*The Confederate ironclad "Tennessee" and
Federal flagship "Hartford"*

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*The Battle of Utoy Creek, by Marc Stewart
August 6, 1864*

defenses at the entrance to Mobile Bay, Alabama. Steaming through a minefield near the powerful guns of Confederate-held Fort Morgan the lead Federal ironclad, the “Tecumseh,” strikes a mine (then called “torpedoes”) and rapidly sinks. The entire Federal fleet stops in fear of striking more mines. Sensing the possibility of disastrous failure, Farragut is credited with shouting, “*Damn the torpedoes, full speed ahead.*” He orders his flagship, the “Hartford,” around the ship immediately ahead of it and successfully navigates his ship through the minefield and into Mobile Bay. All other Federal ships quickly follow the Hartford’s wake. The Confederate ironclad “Tennessee” and two Confederate gunboats are overwhelmed and defeated resulting in Mobile Bay being permanently closed to Confederate blockade runners.

Saturday, August 6, 1864 - Serious fighting occurs near Utoy Creek (August 4 - 7), west of Atlanta, Georgia, as General Sherman’s forces continue moving south in their effort to cut the remaining railroads re-supplying Confederates still holding Atlanta. Heavy Federal losses are balanced against a forced Confederate withdrawal when they are out-flanked.

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Monday, August 8, 1864 - Confederate-held Fort Gaines on Dauphin Island, guarding the entrance to Mobile Bay, Alabama, from its west side formally surrenders to Federal forces. Meanwhile the more substantial Fort Morgan, guarding Mobile Bay's entrance from its east side, is placed under siege.

Wednesday, August 10, 1864 - Atlanta, Georgia, continues to be bombarded heavily by Federal artillery, causing great damage to the city. A skirmish occurs in Florence, Alabama, and at Lovejoy's Station, Georgia. Confederate Major General Joseph Wheeler and his cavalry division depart Atlanta to begin a largely unproductive month-long raid through northwest Georgia and east Tennessee.

Thursday, August 11, 1864 - A Federal expedition leaves Rome, Georgia, heading toward Jacksonville, Alabama.

Sunday, August 14, 1864 - Skirmishes occur at Pine Log Creek and Fairmont, near Dalton, Georgia. One Union soldier later writes:

"A body of rebel cavalry is raiding on our railroad lines, according to last accounts. No trains have come through from Chattanooga since Saturday. They were at Dalton on Sunday and demanded its surrender. To what extent they will succeed in interfering with our communications remains to be seen."

Tuesday, August 16, 1864 - As Federal cavalry raid Fairburn, Georgia (southwest of Atlanta) a small skirmish also occurs at Allatoona (northwest of Atlanta).

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[History Museum of Mobile, AL](#)



[GA Civil War Sesquicentennial](#)



[SC Civil War 150](#)

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Thursday, August 18, 1864 - Union Brigadier General Kilpatrick's cavalry begins a raid to the south of Atlanta, Georgia, with the aim of destroying Confederate railroads re-supplying Atlanta.



Union Brigadier General H. Judson Kilpatrick

Friday, August 19, 1864 - Combat occurs at the Flint River and at Red Oak, in Georgia, southwest of Atlanta. In Alabama, a skirmish occurs at Antioch Church.

Saturday, August 20, 1864 - Fighting occurs at Lovejoy's Station and Nash Farm south of Atlanta, Georgia. At the latter location, General Kilpatrick and his 4,700 cavalymen make a successful saber charge and escape through intercepting Confederates, yet without causing significant damage to Confederate rail lines. In South Carolina, Confederates burned the small village of Legareville on John's Island (near Charleston) in order to prevent its further use and plundering of it by Federals.

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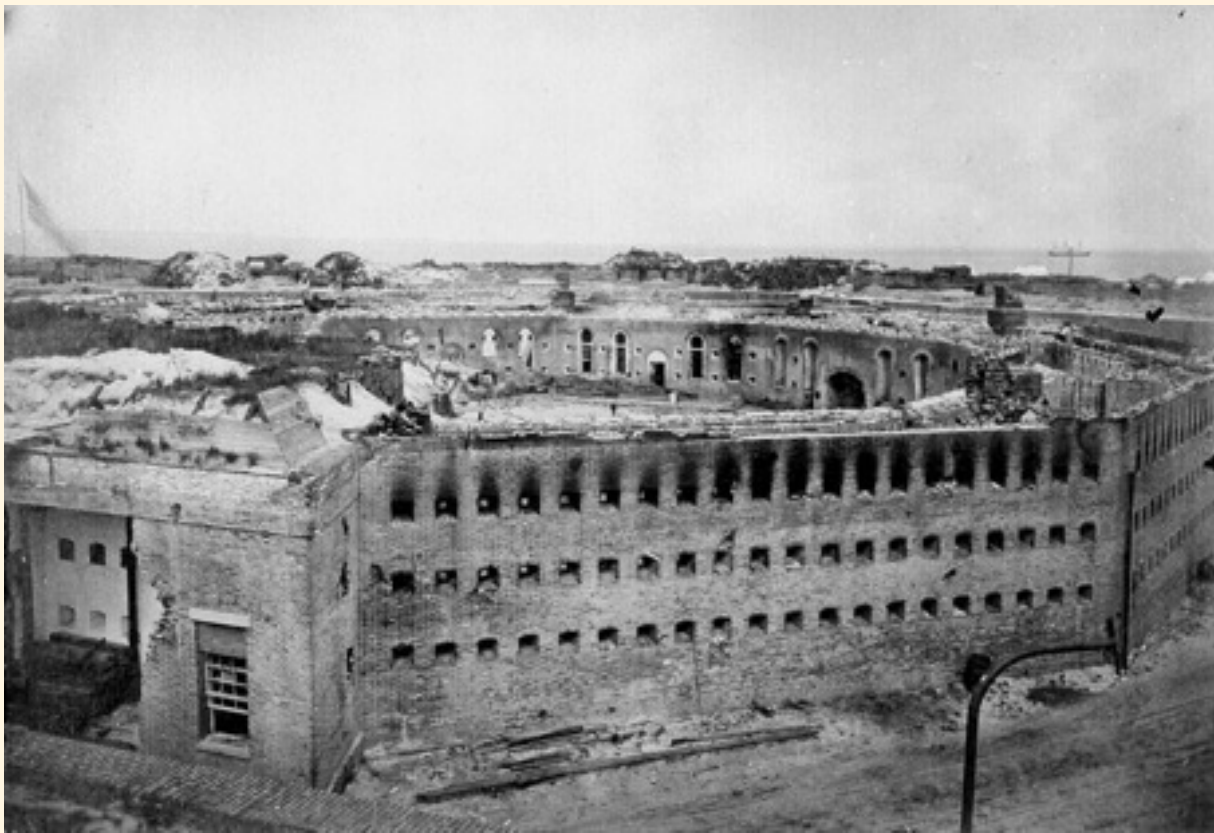
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Sunday, August 21, 1864 - Atlanta continues to be constantly bombarded by Federal artillery. Its constancy decreases moral and increases fear in Atlanta among its residents as the city's defense continually weakens. One Atlanta resident writes:

"It is said that about twenty lives have been destroyed by these terrible missiles, since the enemy began to throw them into the city. It is like living in the midst of a pestilence, no one can tell but he may be next victim..."

Monday, August 22, 1864 - Sporadic skirmishes break out at Jonesborough and Canton, Georgia. In Alabama, a fierce Federal bombardment of Confederate-held Fort Morgan occurs.

Tuesday, August 23, 1864 - Fort Morgan surrenders. Federal forces gain complete control of Mobile Bay and its defending forts (but not yet of the city of Mobile itself).



Fort Morgan, Alabama, after its surrender

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Confederate Lieutenant General William J. Hardee

Thursday, August 25, 1864 - After several failed Federal cavalry raids to destroy the railroads leading into Atlanta from the south, General Sherman begins marching most of his massive infantry divisions south around the west side of Atlanta in order to accomplish the same purpose.

Friday, August 26, 1864 - Skirmishes occur southwest of Atlanta, Georgia, yet commanding Confederate General John B. Hood is still unaware that most of Sherman's large force is on the move to cut-off the last Confederate rail supply line into Atlanta.

Tuesday, August 30, 1864 - Realizing his perilous position, General Hood sends the corps of Lieutenant General Stephen D. Lee south from Atlanta, Georgia, to defend the vital rail junction of Jonesborough (Jonesboro). But Lee's force is much too small to successfully oppose almost all of Sherman's juggernaut.

Wednesday, August 31, 1864 - A second Confederate corps arrives in Jonesborough, commanded by Lieutenant General William J. Hardee. With Federals having already reached the railroad in some locations the Confederates feel compelled to attack, suffering heavy losses.

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“Along the Trails”
Atlanta Campaign Heritage Trail[®]
Struggle for Atlanta Reaches Its Climax

www.civilwarheritagetrails.org/ga-civil-war-trails-map/ga-atlanta-campaign.html



*The Jonesboro
Depot
(Atlanta Campaign
Heritage Trail[®]
Interpretive Marker
Site #38)*

*The “Road to Tara”
Museum, inside the
Jonesboro Depot*



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*Stately Oaks
Plantation,
Jonesboro*

*Patrick Cleburne
Memorial
Confederate
Cemetery,
Jonesboro
(Atlanta Campaign
Heritage Trail®
Interpretive Marker
Site #39)*



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Atlanta Campaign Heritage Trail® Update



A new interpretive marker in the middle of the Peach Tree Creek Battlefield has recently been installed at Tanyard Creek Park in Atlanta
www.civilwarheritagetrails.org/ga-civil-war-trails-map/ga-atlanta-campaign.html
 GPS: 33.8105, -84.4030

Upcoming Events

Details about these and more Civil War era events can be found at

www.CivilWarHeritageTrails.org.



Alabama: The Battle for Decatur - Saturday & Sunday, August 30 & 31, 9:00 am to 4:00 pm daily, Point Mallard Park, Decatur AL. The Battle for Decatur reenactment commemorates the 4-day battle during October 1864, telling the story of Decatur's significant role in the War Between the States. Battles each day at 2:00 pm. Activities include a living history of daily camp life, Civil War relics displays, drill and firing of muskets, mounted cavalry patrols and Civil War related items for sale by sutlers. Musical performances throughout the day. Everyone is invited to a ladies' tea Saturday morning and to the military ball on Saturday evening. A guided tour along Decatur's Civil War Walking Tour through the Historic District will also be offered on Saturday. **FREE** admission. Directions: I-65 to Exit #334, west on AL Hwy. 67 (Point Mallard Parkway) toward Decatur, right on U.S. Hwy. 31 (heading north), right on 8th Street to park entrance. 256-350-2028, www.decaturovb.org.



Georgia: 150th Anniversary Reenactment of Kilpatrick's Raid on Lovejoy Station - Friday through Sunday, August 22 through 24, Nash Farm Battlefield Park, 100 Babbs Mill Road, Hampton GA. 150th anniversary reenactment of Union General H. Judson Kilpatrick's August 18-22, 1864, raid on Lovejoy Station along the railroad south of Atlanta. This is an all-cavalry event. The weekend includes the dedication of a monument to the 85 troopers killed in a saber charge. 404-281-8651, www.henrycountymbattlefield.com/



South Carolina: Free Admission Day at Fort Moultrie - Monday, August 25, 9:00 am to 5:00 pm, Fort Moultrie Visitor Center, 1214 Middle Street, Sullivan's Island SC. The National Park Service offers **FREE** admission to **ALL** of its parks, monuments and historic sites (whether or not connected to the Civil War) that normally charge an admission fee on the following dates during the remainder of 2014:

- August 25 – National Park Service Birthday
- September 27 – National Public Lands Day
- November 11 – Veterans Day

These **FREE** admission days include Fort Moultrie National Monument near Charleston. Admission to Fort Sumter National Monument is always free, although there is charge for the private ferry service to/from the fort. 843-883-3123, www.nps.gov/fosu/historyculture/fort_moultrie.htm