The Atlanta Campaign
150th Anniversary Commemoration

In May of 1864 two of the most devastating events in Georgia’s history began, the Atlanta Campaign followed by the March to the Sea. This year, on Saturday, May 10 in Tunnel Hill, Georgia (near Dalton), at the beginning of the 150th anniversary of these epic campaigns, will be a special day of dedication for the Atlanta Campaign Heritage Trail®.

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Historical Timeline
April 1864
Sunday, April 3rd - A small skirmish occurs on Ducktown Road in northwest Georgia.

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Along the Trails:
A Few Sights on the Atlanta Campaign Heritage Trail®

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You are Invited to the…

Dedication of the Atlanta Campaign Heritage Trail®

And 150th Anniversary Commemoration of
the Beginning of the Atlanta Campaign & March to the Sea

Saturday, May 10, 2014 - 9:00 am to 4:00 pm
215 Clisby Austin Road - Tunnel Hill, Georgia
Dedication Ceremony at 1:00 pm

In May of 1864 two of the most devastating events in Georgia’s history began, the Atlanta Campaign followed by the March to the Sea. This year, on Saturday, May 10 in Tunnel Hill, Georgia (near Dalton), at the beginning of the 150th anniversary of these epic campaigns, will be a special day of dedication for the Atlanta Campaign Heritage Trail®. It will also be a day to celebrate the start of construction on the entire length of both the Atlanta Campaign and March to the Sea Heritage Trails. The public is invited to attend this day-long celebration. Admission to all events is absolutely FREE!

All Day: Tours of the historic Western & Atlantic Railroad tunnel, made famous by its part in the 1862 “Great Locomotive Chase,” and of the newly refurbished Clisby Austin House, a hospital for Confederate General John Bell Hood after the 1863 Battle of Chickamauga and the headquarters for Union General William T. Sherman during the first week of the 1864 Atlanta Campaign.
All Day: Living history demonstrations by Civil War re-enactors (camp life, drilling, shooting, etc.).
12:30 pm: Mini-concert of Civil War era music by the Eighth Regiment Band of Rome, Georgia.

1:00 pm: Dedication ceremony for the Atlanta Campaign Heritage Trail.
---The importance of education and of preserving our past by Coach Vince Dooley.
---Presentation on the “Campaign for Atlanta” by National Park Service Historian, Jim Ogden.
---Unveiling of the newest Atlanta Campaign Heritage Trail interpretive marker, “Tunnel Hill.”
---Cannon and rifle firing salutes by both Union and Confederate Civil War re-enactors.

~2:00 pm: Another mini-concert of Civil War era music by the Eighth Regiment Band.
The Civil War in Alabama, Georgia and South Carolina

Historical Timeline
April 1864

Sunday, April 3rd - A small skirmish occurs on Ducktown Road in northwest Georgia.

Four straight nights of Federal mortar shells rain down on Fort Sumter in Charleston Harbor.

Monday, April 4th - A Georgian serving in Confederate General Robert E. Lee’s Army of Northern Virginia writes to his fiance about his outlook regarding the fighting soon to come, “We all look forward to the approaching campaign with great interest; for we are confident that if successful, twelve months from today, we can see a termination of hostilities between the North and South. All are confident of success, and await only the approach of Grant to show their renewed determination to be free. Don’t despond; but have a brave heart, and encourage the soldiers all you can, and I believe you will soon see a free and happy people…..”

Tuesday, April 5th - Poorly clothed Federal prisoners of war at Camp Sumter in Andersonville, Georgia make a startling discovery when stripping the clothes off of a recently deceased comrade. “He” was a “she” who had disguised her sex while posing as a fellow soldier.

Thursday, April 7th - A small skirmish is fought at Woodall’s Bridge south of Decatur in north Alabama. The minor Confederate victory is attributed to Brigadier General James H. Clanton.

Friday, April 8th - The Federal navy leads a demonstration resulting in a skirmish on James Island near Charleston, South Carolina.

A small skirmish occurs at Paint Rock Bridge in northern Alabama. The Federal 73rd Indiana Infantry Regiment reports suffering one man killed and another wounded.

Sunday, April 10th - A detachment of the 4th Ohio Cavalry Regiment captures four Confederate soldiers during a scouting expedition to Dedmon’s Trace near Tunnel Hill, Georgia.

Monday, April 11th - A 3-day reconnaissance begins in northwest Georgia, between Rossville and LaFayette, by the 78th Illinois Infantry Regiment. Continued on Page 4
A detachment of the 60th New York Infantry Regiment scouts from Stevenson and Caperton’s Ferry in northeast Alabama. Meanwhile, a detachment of the 5th Ohio Cavalry Regiment skirmishes with Confederates at Kelly’s Plantation on Sulphur Springs Road.

**Tuesday, April 12th** - Company G of the 9th Ohio Cavalry Regiment skirmishes with Confederates near Florence, Alabama. Meanwhile, Federal units from Alabama, Ohio and Pennsylvania begin a 5-day reconnaissance from Bridgeport to Triana, Alabama.

**Wednesday, April 13th** - The Confederate 4th Alabama Cavalry Regiment successfully skirmishes with the Federal 9th Illinois Mounted Infantry near Decatur, Alabama. The Federals report casualties of 2 killed and 41 missing (and presumed captured).

Julia Johnson Fisher, staying in Camden County, Georgia, writes in her diary, “The country is threatened with starvation.”

**Thursday, April 14th** - A minor skirmish occurs at Taylor’s Ridge in northwest Georgia.

Confederate-held Fort Moultrie in Charleston Harbor fires on the U.S.S. Geranium.

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U.S.S. Geranium, used primarily as a tugboat.

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Historical Timeline: Continued from Page 4

**Sunday, April 17th** - Two small skirmishes near Decatur, Alabama, involve the 9th Illinois Mounted Infantry Regiment.

A “bread riot” of women occurs in Savannah, Georgia, caused by ever increasing food shortages.

**Monday, April 18th** - Another small skirmish occurs near Decatur, Alabama, this time involving the Federal 1st Alabama Cavalry Regiment.

**Tuesday, April 19th** - Ross’s Texas Cavalry Brigade is among the Confederate units involved in yet another skirmish near Decatur, Alabama. Confederates also fight pro-Union sympathizers near Pikeville, Alabama.

A Georgian Confederate soldier writes to his children, “I may fall in battle or die of disease and never return home to you at all. That is one great reason why I have written you such a letter as I have for you and your Mother to keep until you get older. Dear children, the present life is not all a person ought to live for. Every living person has a soul which is to live after the body is dead. The soul will live in either Heaven or Hell throughout an endless eternity…If I should never see you again in this world, I want you and your Mother, too, to so live in this world that you will meet me in Heaven, for I am trying by the grace of God for that blessed abode…”

**Wednesday, April 20th** - Confederate General P.G.T. Beauregard departs Charleston, South Carolina where he has commanded the city’s defense, having been re-assigned to command the defenses of Richmond and Petersburg, Virginia. Beauregard is succeeded in Charleston by Major General Samuel Jones.

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Thursday, April 21st - Federals destroy a Confederate salt works near Murrell’s Inlet, South Carolina.

A detachment of the 26th Iowa Infantry Regiment skirmishes against the Confederate 6th Alabama Cavalry Regiment at Harrison’s Gap, Alabama.

A Georgian Confederate soldier serving in Virginia writes of his expectations for the fighting soon to come in northwest Georgia, “Here we all expect [Johnston] will have an easy victory & recover Genl as Grant has drawn heavily on the western army for reinforcessments….”

Friday, April 22nd - A Georgia Confederate soldier writes to his wife about the religious revival sweeping through the army, “The day appointed by Pres. Davis and recommended by our beloved commander, Genl. Lee, for fasting and prayer, was, I am proud to say, properly observed in our brigade. Prayer meeting was held twice, and two excellent sermons delivered on that day…Since that time I have seen Mr. Hyman, a baptist minister of Thomas Ga. Brig., baptize and receive into the baptist church, nine of our best soldiers…On the night of the same day, quite a number were sprinkled into the Methodist Church.”

Saturday, April 23rd - A small Confederate force attacks a detachment of the 92nd Illinois Mounted Infantry Regiment at Nickajack Gap near Ringgold, Georgia. The Federals report casualties of 5 killed, 10 wounded and 13 missing (and presumed captured).

Sunday, April 24th - A Confederate inspector at Camp Sumter in Andersonville, Georgia reports that an additional facility needs to be built due to the overcrowding of prisoners there.
Another small skirmish occurs near Decatur, Alabama.

The 10th Ohio Cavalry Regiment begins a 2-day scout from Ringgold to LaFayette in northwest Georgia.

**Tuesday, April 26th** - The Chief Surgeon at Camp Sumter in Andersonville, Georgia reports that 718 Federal prisoners in the camp’s hospital have died principally due to a lack of supplies.

![Camp Sumter, Andersonville, Georgia](image)

**Wednesday, April 27th** - Another small skirmish occurs near Decatur, Alabama.

A lonesome Confederate soldier in Dalton, Georgia, writes to his family, “I do want to see you all mighty bad.”

The combined Federal armies now commanded by Major General William T. Sherman begin breaking their winter camps in northwest Georgia to prepare for the spring campaign. Confederates attack the Federal 3rd Kentucky Cavalry Regiment at Taylor’s Ridge, Georgia.

**Thursday, April 28th** - A newspaper reports on an unusual event occurring in Dalton, Georgia, attended by the Confederate army’s commander, General Joseph E. Johnston, “A most interesting
and impressive ceremony took place at the Episcopal Church in Dalton, Ga., on Wednesday last, in the confirmation, by Bishop Elliott, of four Generals of the Army of Tennessee, viz: Lieut. Gen. Hardee, and Gens. Govan, Shupe, and Strahl. The last named General was first received into the church by baptism, and then the rite of confirmation was administered to him with the others.”

510 Federal artillery shells are fired at Fort Sumter in Charleston Harbor over the next week.

**Friday, April 29th** - A large Federal reconnaissance occurs, involving at least 10 regiments, between Ringgold and Tunnel Hill in northwest Georgia. The 92nd Illinois Mounted Infantry skirmishes with Confederate pickets at Tunnel Hill. The spring campaign is about to begin.

**Saturday, April 30th** - Yet again there is a small skirmish near Decatur, Alabama.

Within days the relative quiet of only occasional skirmishing during the past few months will erupt into the deadliest combat of the war in the Deep South…the Atlanta Campaign.

*Union Major General William T. Sherman*
“Along the Trails”

A Few Sights on the Atlanta Campaign Heritage Trail®

Clisby Austin House  W & A Railroad Tunnel  Interpretive Marker, Rome

Calhoun Depot  View from Fort Hill, Dalton

Marietta Confederate Cemetery