GEORGIA BATTLEFIELDS **October 2026**
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2027 tour will continue covering the Atlanta Campaign

Dates: 8-11 April 2027
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 includes membership for a year.
Register for the tour at this link.
Hotel: Element Hotel. Location is at the baseball field complex southeast of Emerson, Georgia.
Call 678 605 9960 and compare Georgia Battlefields group rate ($139 plus tax) to whatever discounts you have. We'll have an online registration link soon.

Georgia Battlefields Association's 2026 tour finished with the 13-15 May 1864 Battle of Resaca, and the 2027 tour will pick-up the following day with the Battle of Rome Crossroads, which could just as readily be called the Battle of Calhoun. It was a small battle, but it continued a pattern of Johnston skillfully withdrawing his army (not an easy task in the face of a more numerous enemy) and delaying the U.S. Army's advance until the Confederate wagon trains were largely out of danger.

From Rome Crossroads, Sherman dispatched one division (14th Corps, 2nd Division under Jefferson C. Davis) towards Rome, in part to see if it could interdict part of Polk's army that was transferring from Mississippi to help Johnston, and in part to render Rome's industries, notably the Noble Brothers Foundry, unable to further supply the Confederate cause. Also on 17 May, and as would become typical throughout the Atlanta Campaign, part of Sherman's force engaged with the part of the Confederate force, in this case north of Adairsville. U.S. forces occupied Rome on 18 May and would remain there until October.

On 19 May, Johnston divided his forces, deploying Hardee's Corps to Kingston, Polk's Corps north of Cassville, and Hood's Corps northeast of Polk's, hoping they could surprise and rout any U.S. divisions advancing on Polk. Johnston's plan might have worked had not a U.S. cavalry division taken the wrong road and wound up behind Hood, which caused him to reorient his corps and ruin the surprise attack plan. The Confederates consolidated along a ridge east of Cassville, until a meeting that evening during which accounts differ about who advised holding the position and who advised withdrawal. Sherman established his HQ in Kingston and remained there for four days while he allowed more supplies to arrive on the repaired railroad, while he planned an advance "into the wilderness" south of the Etowah River. This would avoid confronting Johnston's new defense line along the Allatoona Range but would require supplying the U.S. forces by wagons traversing a region with few roads.

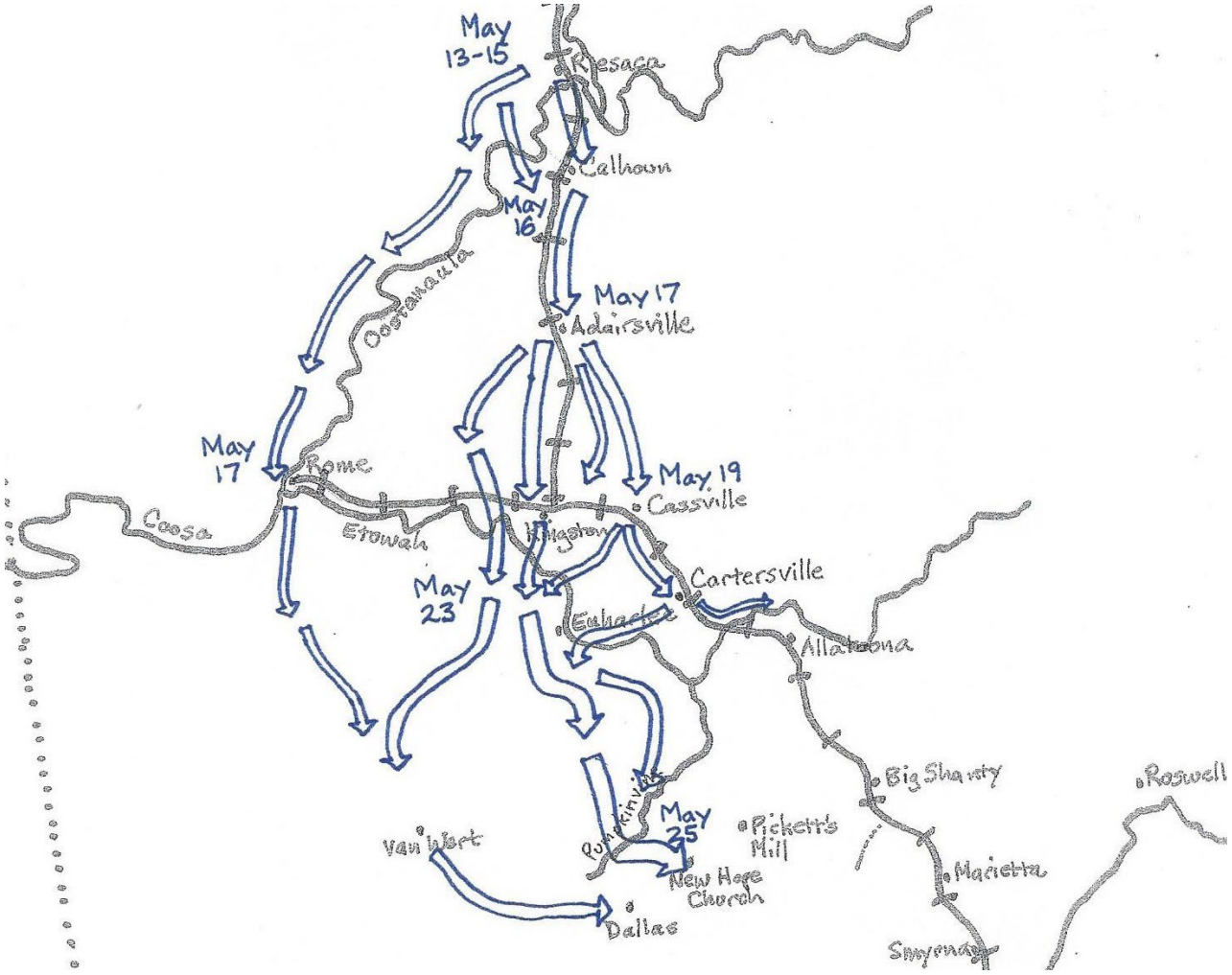
On 23 May, U.S. infantry divisions crossed the Etowah River and struggled through the wooded terrain, the passage made more difficult by rainstorms during a wetter than usual last week of May. At first, Johnston had trouble finding the U.S. forces, but the Confederates ultimately shifted southwest into Sherman's path. This resulted in a 25 May attack by Hooker's 20th Corps against the Confederates north of New Hope Church, abandoned in part by a stout defense and then by a blinding rain storm. The 26th was spent with each side deploying on opposite sides of the road from New Hope Church to Dallas and skirmishing to determine the enemy's position. With the information available, Sherman concluded that Johnston had withdrawn from the Allatoona Range, so U.S. infantry began probing northeastward in an effort to find the Confederate right flank and—hopefully—regain access to the railroad south of Allatoona. This led to the 27 May battle of Pickett's Mill, where there is now a state historic site and where one of the few night time attacks occurred.

Knowing now that Sherman was sliding his forces to the northeast, Johnston tried to discover if Sherman was weakening his right flank to the southwest. The Confederate probing attacks towards Dallas on 28 May were to involve two cavalry brigades and three infantry brigades. Despite some initial success, the cavalry

reported that the U.S. Army still firmly held a line south of Dallas, but their report didn't reach one of the infantry brigades in time to prevent a fruitless assault that resulted in heavy casualties.

On 1 June, a U.S. cavalry division occupied the railroad through Allatoona Pass and infantry regained access to the railroad over the next few days. By 4 June, Johnston had abandoned his lines and moved eastward to a new line starting at Lost Mountain and extending eastward to Brushy Mountain. Both sides received reinforcements: The Georgia Militia was released to Johnston's control on 1 June, and the U.S. 17th Corps arrived on 8 June. All movements were hindered by rain that persisted from 2 June through 13 June.

The 2027 tour will visit many of the sites mentioned above, and Jim Ogden will be adjusting—perhaps several times—the itinerary over the coming months. Come join us!



More on Section 106 of National Historic Preservation Act

The September newsletter explained the potential threat to the Section 106 review process that assesses the impact of planned development—frequently road construction or expansion—on historic sites. In an effort to bolster its own response to the reform proposal, American Battlefield Trust asked Georgia Battlefields Association for more information on GBA's experience with Section 106 reviews, and we provided summaries of 31 comment packages we have submitted over the past 16 years. Additionally, GBA trustee Jeff Wright sent a copy of his entire detailed response (on behalf of GBA) for one of those projects near Lee & Gordon's Mill at Chickamauga.

The National Trust for Historic Preservation hosted a meeting in Washington last week for several preservation organizations, including American Battlefield Trust, to develop a united response to the proposal. We expect more news on this topic in the coming months.