GEORGIA BATTLEFIELDS **November 2026**
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

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. Use this link to make an online reservation at the GBA rate.
See October newsletter for more details about the sites to be visited.

Playing the long game

On 23 May 1864, Major General Sherman ordered his forces to cross the Etowah River in the Kingston area, thus avoiding assaults on General Johnston's Confederate line on the high ground around Allatoona Pass, but also heading away from the railroad that had been so useful in delivering supplies almost to Sherman's front lines. To use Sherman's phrasing, he "plunged into the wilderness" of Paulding County, Georgia, its road network not conducive for moving 90,000 troops, their artillery, and their supply wagons. Johnston correctly discerned the movement of U.S. forces and began moving his army to the southwest to avoid being outflanked. By 25 May, the 20th U.S. Army Corps hit the center of Johnston's still deploying line but was repulsed. Two days later, Sherman assigned Major General Howard to find—and hopefully turn—the Confederate right flank, but Cleburne's Confederate Division moved to the northeast in time to repulse Howard's attack. By 28 May, Johnston correctly concluded that Sherman would move his forces to the northeast to regain access to the railroad south of Allatoona Pass now that Johnston had abandoned the Confederate position there. If Sherman was moving to the northeast, he would at some point have to withdraw the U.S. forces on his right (southwest) flank. Johnston thought this might present an opportunity to attack the U.S. forces as they were moving and thus not protected by earthworks. To determine whether his assumption was valid, Johnston sent two cavalry brigades and three infantry brigades to advance on the U.S earthworks south of Dallas, Georgia. On the far left of the Confederate assault was Ross's cavalry brigade, ordered to initiate the attack, followed left to right by Armstrong's cavalry brigade attacking dismounted, then the infantry brigades of Smith, Finley (temporarily under Bullock), and Lewis, all from Bate's division.

The brigades of Ross and Armstrong had some temporary success but quickly reported to Bate that they found U.S. troops in force and protected by earthworks. Bate then sent messengers to his subordinate brigades with orders to call off the attack. Smith's brigade, nearest to Armstrong's attack, received the order and held back, but Bullock and Lewis did not get the word before their troops attacked and were repulsed.

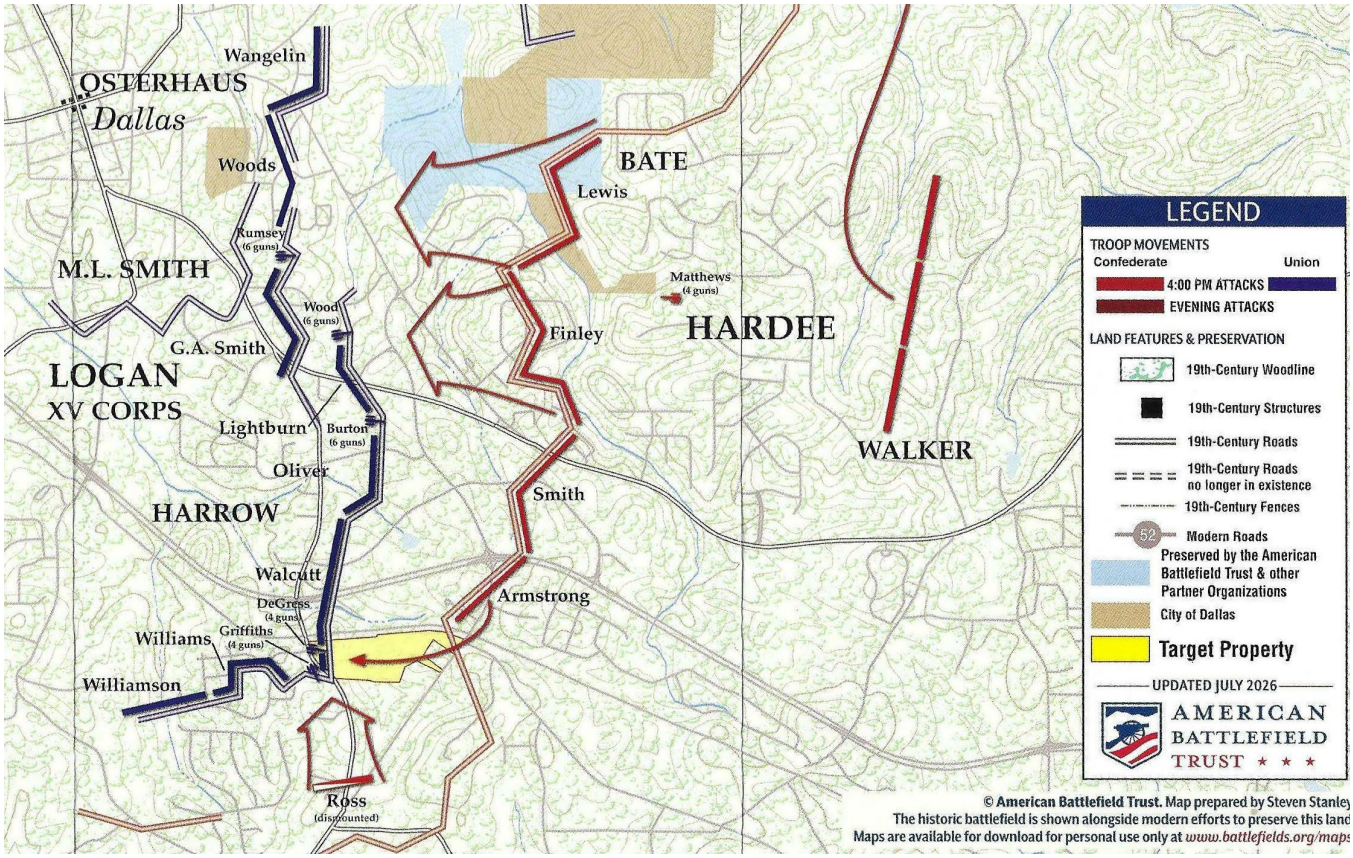
On the U.S. line, Battery H of the 1st Illinois Light Artillery Regiment was posted atop a rocky ridge, with revetments for each of its four 20-pounder Parrott rifled guns under Captain Degress's command. Immediately in front of the battery, the 97th Indiana Infantry Regiment was entrenched. We are fortunate that the revetments and the trench line are still discernible, as it's rare to find such a conjunction of surviving artillery and infantry works and to know the units deployed in them.

Georgia Battlefields Association representatives first met with the owners of the property containing the earthworks in 2000, and we met periodically with the owners until their deaths in 2019. We more than once offered to buy just the westernmost five acres that contained the earthworks, since the owners' residence was at the easternmost boundary of the 20-acre property. In 2010, with GBA's support, the City of Dallas made a similar offer. Although the property owner understood the

significance of the earthworks and maintained that he would not let them be destroyed by development, the owner and his wife never agreed to sell to GBA or the city or the American Battlefield Trust, which made an offer greater than the assessed value of the land.

Over the last year, the current owner (an heir) was twice approached by developers to buy the entire property. Since the rocky ridge is not suitable for construction, the developers suggested that the historical (western) part of the property might be donated to a preservation organization or a local government. In both cases, the developers' property evaluators advised not consummating the purchases. When the second proposal collapsed, American Battlefield Trust quickly approached the owner with an offer of $1,650,000 for the entire 20-acre property, and the owner accepted.

GBA has been pursuing this property for over 25 years, and we are gratified and relieved that the earthworks will be saved. We will be contributing funds to ABT to help buy the property, but we'll need your help, especially in light of the commitments we've made to purchases since early 2025 at Ringgold, Rocky Face Ridge, Resaca, and Kennesaw Mountain. We'll review all these purchases in the December newsletter, but please help us refill the funding limber chest.









Left & center: Artillery revetments. (Phil Gast photos).
Above: Infantry trench.