



★ TRAIL & AUDIO TOUR ★



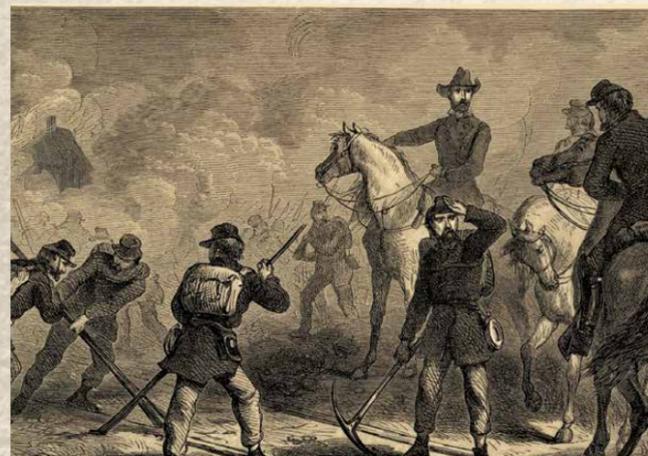
From the original painting by Mort Künstler "War is Hell!" © 2001 Mort Künstler, Inc.



defend itself from an assault from Brig. Gen. William B. Hazen's infantry, and on December 13, 1864, the fort fell, opening the back door to Savannah. After the fall of Fort McAllister, Hardee was convinced he must withdraw his small army and retreat, or be trapped in the city. Because no pontoon bridge material was available, Confederate engineers used flat rice barges and skiffs to build a bridge from Broad Street across the 1,000-yard channel to Hutchinson Island, then to Pennyworth Island and into South Carolina. The army escaped on the night of December 19, 1864. Savannah was free for the Federals to walk in.

### THE FEDERAL ARMY ENTERS SAVANNAH

At 4 a.m. on December 21, 1864, Savannah Mayor Dr. Richard Arnold surrendered the city to Federal Gen. John Geary at the intersection of the Charleston Railroad and the Augusta/Savannah Road. U.S. Treasury Agent A. H. Browne, who recently had arrived in Savannah to inventory captured Confederate supplies, suggested Sherman present Savannah to President Lincoln as a Christmas present. Realizing the president "enjoyed such pleasantries," Sherman wrote a short telegram to Lincoln: "I beg to present you, as a Christmas gift, the city of Savannah, with one hundred



Federal troops making "Sherman's Neckties"

and fifty heavy guns and plenty of ammunition, also about twenty-five thousand bales of cotton."

### THE AFTERMATH AND RESULTS OF THE MARCH TO THE SEA

The March to the Sea was devastating to Georgia and helped crush the economic heart of the Confederacy. An estimated \$100 million in damage had been inflicted on the state. The Federal army wrecked 300 miles of railroad, including bridges and telegraph lines. It seized 5,000 horses, 4,000 mules and 13,000 head of cattle. It confiscated millions of pounds of corn and fodder, and destroyed cotton gins and mills throughout the state. Of the damage inflicted, the destruction of the railroads permanently crippled the Confederacy's ability to wage war.

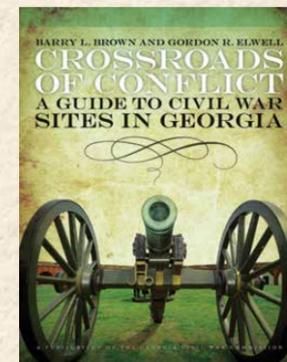
The march attracted a huge number of slaves to liberate themselves from bondage and follow the army through Georgia. To help remedy the problems caused by masses of refugees who needed to be fed and protected, Sherman issued Special Field Order No. 15 on January 16, 1865, a temporary plan granting each freed family 40 acres of tillable land on islands on the Georgia coast. Mules were also granted. Special Field Order No. 15 had little effect, as it was revoked in fall 1865 by President Andrew Johnson, who succeeded Abraham Lincoln after his assassination, but it has become one of the legendary proclamations of the Civil War. Within five months of the capture of Savannah, the Civil War would end, 500,000 slaves in Georgia would be freed and a new era of American history would begin.

### FOLLOW THE ROUTE OF THE MARCH TO THE SEA THROUGH GEORGIA

- Many of the sites included have interpretative signage. The highlighted sites offer a QR code giving you access to an audio tour.
- The audio tour is available on [www.GACivilWar.org](http://www.GACivilWar.org).
- Along this route enjoy outdoor activities such as hiking, camping, fishing and much more. Discover small towns with local restaurants, shops and attractions.
- Visit [www.GACivilWar.org](http://www.GACivilWar.org), [www.ExploreGeorgia.org](http://www.ExploreGeorgia.org) or one of our 11 Visitor Information Centers to plan your Georgia vacation.
- Follow @ExploreGeorgia on Facebook, Twitter and Pinterest to keep up with sesquicentennial events and activities happening in Georgia. #GACivilWar



Scan to experience a snapshot of this unforgettable story, with a free audio tour available on [www.GACivilWar.org](http://www.GACivilWar.org).



Crossroads of Conflict is available at [www.GACivilWar.org](http://www.GACivilWar.org), [www.ugapress.org](http://www.ugapress.org) and select retail outlets.

### FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, CONTACT

Dekalb Convention and Visitors Bureau  
1957 Lakeside Parkway, Suite 510  
Tucker, Georgia 30093  
770.492.5000  
800.999.6055  
[www.visitatlantasdekalbcounty.com](http://www.visitatlantasdekalbcounty.com)

Milledgeville  
200 West Hancock Street  
Milledgeville, Georgia 31061  
478.452.4687  
800.653.1804  
[www.visitmilledgeville.org](http://www.visitmilledgeville.org)

Savannah Visitor Information Center  
301 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.  
Savannah, Georgia 31401  
912.944.0455  
[www.savannahvisit.com](http://www.savannahvisit.com)



# March to the Sea (continued)

## THE PLAN UNFOLDS

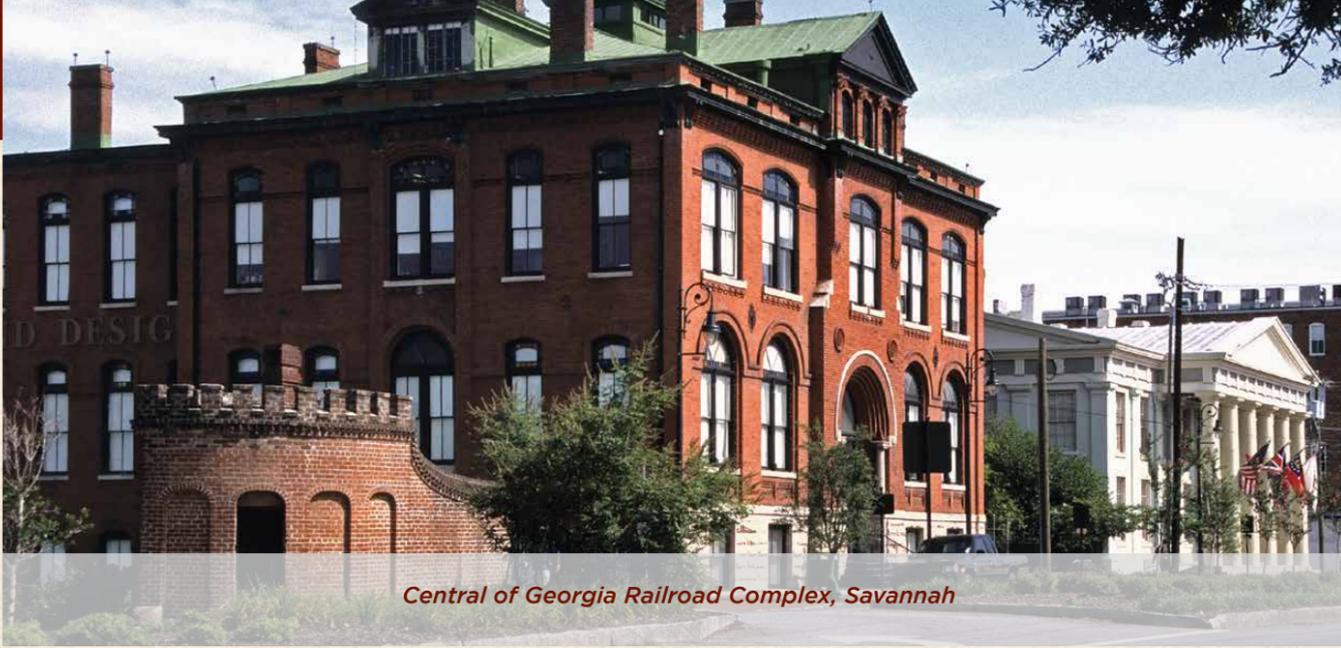
After the fall of Atlanta in September 1864, Gen. William T. Sherman needed to devise a strategy that would protect his army as well as maintain an aggressive offense that would cripple the South's ability to wage war. With Atlanta occupied, Sherman's line of communication was under constant threat from Gen. John B. Hood's Army of Tennessee to the north. Sherman presented his case to Gen. Ulysses S. Grant to march across Georgia: "I propose that we break up the railroad from Chattanooga and strike with our wagons to Milledgeville, Millen and Savannah. By attempting to hold the railroads, we will lose 1,000 men monthly and will gain no results. I can make the march and make Georgia howl."

By November 8, Grant sent Sherman a telegram stating simply, "Go as you propose," and the plan was

sealed to depart Atlanta and head toward the coast. Sherman's army would live off the land while breaking the Confederates' fighting spirit and means to make war by destroying Georgia's farms, mills, factories and rail facilities.

## THE OPPOSING FORCES

Sherman began the march on November 16, 1864, with 53,000 men and 5,000 cavalry, 1,800 artillery and 6,200 officers, 2,500 supply wagons, 600 ambulances, and 10,000 head of cattle. The army was divided into two wings, comprising two corps each. The right wing consisted of the 15th and 17th corps under Maj. Gen. O. O. Howard. The left wing consisted of the 14th and 20th corps under Maj. Henry Slocum. Brig. Gen. H. Judson Kilpatrick commanded the cavalry division that was to operate independently while supporting the two wings. Orders restricting foraging were issued before the march, but they were often ignored.



*Central of Georgia Railroad Complex, Savannah*

The Confederate forces were meager by comparison — about 15,000 men combined — and consisted of the cavalry corps of Maj. Gen. Joseph Wheeler, Georgia state militia and garrisons in Macon, Augusta and Savannah. The best that Confederate forces could hope for was to harass and delay the Federal columns as they cut through the state.

## THE MARCH

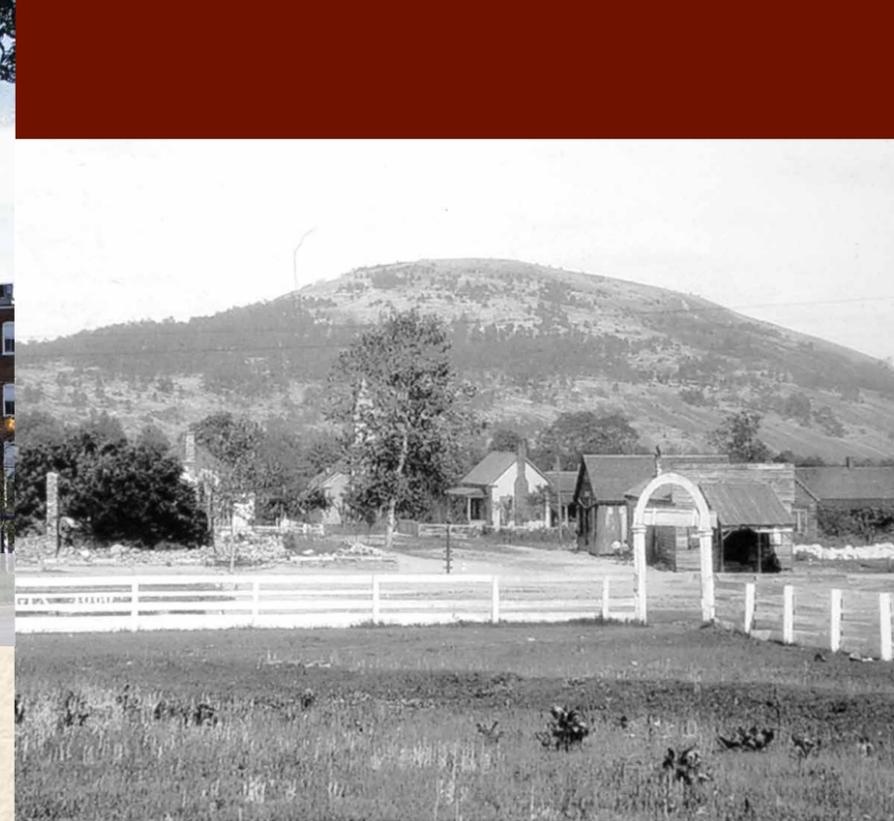
Sherman's army split into two wings and advanced by separate routes, generally keeping a distance of 20 to 40 miles apart while moving southward. The right wing marched toward Macon, while the left made a feint toward Augusta, though both cities were bypassed. The left wing went through Stone Mountain, Lithonia, Conyers, Covington/Oxford, Social Circle, Madison, Eatonton, Milledgeville, Sandersville, Tennille, Louisville, Waynesboro, Guyton, New Ebenezer and into Savannah. The right wing passed through McDonough, Jackson, Clinton, Irwinton, Bartow, Buckhead Church, Millen, Oliver, Springfield, Ft. McAllister, Midway, Doctortown and into Savannah.

The Confederate commander in Georgia was Lt. Gen. William J. Hardee, who was headquartered in Savannah. Neither he nor Gov. Joseph E. Brown could do anything more menacing than to annoy the Federal army as they

proceeded southward. Sherman's foraging parties became known as "bummers," and they terrorized civilians, raiding farms and plantations, taking provisions that were needed to survive the coming winter.

Confederate cavalry forces and a number of Georgia militia units skirmished with the Federal columns during the march, but only a few encounters of significance occurred. On November 22, 1864, while the right wing of Sherman's army was near Macon at the town of Griswoldville, Confederate State Line troops, consisting of men and boys either too old or too young for regular service, made an ill-fated attack against entrenched Union veterans armed with repeating rifles. The battle ended as a slaughter, as the Confederates suffered 650 casualties, while the Federals had less than 100.

The second large battle of the campaign occurred on the Ogeechee River in Richmond Hill, where Fort McAllister, a large earthen fortification, protected the approaches to Savannah from the south. Though the fort had weathered many attacks from the Union gunboats in the river, it was unable to



*Stone Mountain Village*

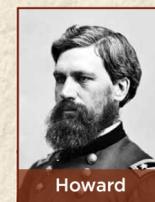
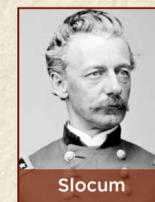
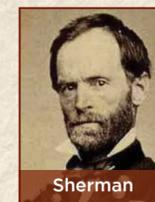
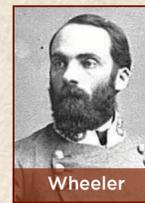


*Occupied Atlanta*

*Sherman's army marches into Savannah*



*Midway Church, Liberty County*



**Burning of Atlanta** – Though unauthorized destruction of Atlanta by fire had begun days earlier, authorized fires were set late afternoon November 15, 1864, causing “immense and raging fires, lighting up whole heavens.” Gen. Sherman’s chief engineer, Capt. Orlando Poe, estimated that 37 percent of the city was destroyed, which included an almost total loss of the commercial and industrial sectors. Splitting his army into two wings – the left led by Gen. Henry Slocum, and the right led by Gen. O. O. Howard – Sherman began his March to the Sea. **N 33.75235 W -84.38861**

## Left Wing

**1L – Stone Mountain Village** – The Federal Army spent the first night of the march camped in the vicinity of Stone Mountain Village, Rockbridge and Lithonia. Sherman wrote, “Stone Mountain, a mass of granite, was in plain view; the whole horizon was lurid with bonfires of rail ties, and groups of men all night were carrying the heated rails to the nearest trees and bending them around trunks.” The Stone Mountain Depot and public buildings were burned as the soldiers departed. **N 33.806639 W -84.170564**

**2L – Conyers** – By the time the leading elements of the Federal column reached Conyers, the rear was just leaving a smoldering Lithonia. As the army marched through, many of the inhabitants had fled to Social Circle and points south. The Georgia Railroad was destroyed through the town, and the depot was torched. The Confederate cavalry under Gen. Joseph Wheeler prepared to defend Augusta and Macon, though Sherman’s army bypassed both cities. **N 33.665362 W -84.01712**

**3L – Covington** – On November 19, 1864, the 14th Corps reached Covington and continued following Sherman’s orders to “forage liberally on the country and seize whatever is needed by the command.” The ransacking of the Burge Plantation by Federal troops – well documented in the memoir *The Diary of Dolly Lunt Burge, 1848-1879* – is typical of the destruction in the area. The museum at the Burge Plantation is open to the public. **N 33.596867 W -83.863183**

**4L – Oxford** – Emory College at Oxford was established in 1836 and was a major hospital center during the Civil War. A Confederate cemetery is located on the outskirts of the campus. **N 33.603000 W -83.858398**

**5L – Social Circle** – When the 20th Corps reached Social Circle, they found the depot and public buildings had been burned during cavalry raids in July; however, they captured a Confederate surgeon with \$3,000 in gold. The foraging was good, as the country was described as “overflowing with sweet potatoes, corn syrup and hogs.” **N 33.653800 W -83.720497**

**6L – Madison** – Considered by some to be “the most cultured and aristocratic town on the stagecoach route from Charleston to New Orleans,” Madison was a Confederate hospital center during the war. The Federals damaged the railroad depot, destroyed some cloth manufacturing and cotton ginning facilities, and looted much of the town. However, the beautiful homes of the town were left generally intact and can be visited today. **N 33.591899 W -83.477102**

**7L – Eatonton** – A textile factory at Stanfordville and the nearby Denham Tannery were burned in the vicinity of Eatonton, but the beautiful houses of the town were spared, possibly protected by the heavy rain falling while the army passed through. Author Joel Chandler Harris, working as an apprentice at Turnwood Plantation where he got his inspiration for “Uncle Remus,” watched the Confederates steal the horses and supplies as the army marched by. **N 33.325910 W -83.388280**

**8L – Milledgeville** – The wartime state capitol was where, on January 19, 1861, the Ordinance of Secession was passed. Nearly four years later on a cold November day, Sherman and 30,000 troops marched into Milledgeville. They vandalized the statehouse; held a mock legislative session; destroyed the state arsenal; and burned the penitentiary, central depot and the Oconee River bridge. Sherman and his staff used the Old Governor’s Mansion as their headquarters during their short stay in Milledgeville. **N 33.082468 W -83.222040**

**9L – Sandersville** – Sherman and his entire left wing entered Sandersville on November 26, 1864. The day before, 13 Union prisoners were executed by a vigilante mob of locals. With retribution in mind, Sherman ordered destruction of Sandersville and neighboring Tenille, but he was dissuaded by the pleadings of a local pastor. The courthouse and downtown district, four cotton warehouses and miles of track were destroyed. The county was looted of much of the available food, creating great hardship. Sherman’s headquarters in Sandersville, the Brown House, is a museum operated by the Washington County Historical Society. **N 32.987323 W -82.781973**

**10L – Louisville** – After crossing the Ogeechee River on smoldering timbers, an advanced column of Federals arrived in Louisville ahead of the main column on November 28, 1864, and ransacked the town. Much of Louisville was burned as the Federals departed, though many beautiful homes and churches survived the occupation and can be visited today. **N 32.999768, W -82.407935**

**11L – Battle of Waynesboro** – After crossing the Ogeechee River, the Federals encountered a stiffening resistance from the sparse Confederate forces in the Waynesboro area. Running cavalry engagements and constant skirmishing occurred in the area around Waynesboro beginning November 27 and culminated in the Battle of Waynesboro on December 4, 1864. In the battle, Kilpatrick’s cavalry and two brigades of infantry attacked Wheeler’s cavalry who fought behind barricades throughout the town. After inflicting heavy casualties, the Confederates were forced from their defensive position. **N 33.079052 W -82.007943**

**12L – Battle of Buckhead Creek** – Gen. Kilpatrick, on a mission to burn the railroad trestle over Briar Creek and free the prisoners at Camp Lawton, camped at Buckhead Church on November 27, 1864, when Gen. Wheeler’s Confederate cavalry attacked. The Federals fought a rear guard action that succeeded in stopping the Confederate advance and allowed for the burning of the bridge. Unknown to Kilpatrick, Federal prisoners at Camp Lawton already had been moved south to Blackshear and Thomasville. The 1855 Buckhead Church at the site of the battle can be visited today. **N 32.910718 W -81.966704**

**13L – Guyton** – On the Central of Georgia Railroad, Guyton served as both a major Confederate training camp early in the war, and later, an enormous Confederate hospital that covered nine acres along the railroad. When Sherman’s left wing came through, the hospital was abandoned and the patients were moved to Savannah. **N 32.336100 W -81.391670**

**14L – Ebenezer Creek Crossing/Jerusalem Evangelical Lutheran Church** – On December 8, 1864, Federal troops under Gen. Jefferson C. Davis crossed Ebenezer Creek on a pontoon bridge and promptly removed the bridge, leaving hundreds of recently freed slaves who had been following the troops stranded on the north bank. With Confederate cavalry approaching, many of the freed slaves panicked and jumped into the rain-swollen creek, drowning in their attempt to flee. The site is not yet open to the public, but information about the incident can be obtained at the Jerusalem Church, Jerusalem Evangelical Lutheran Church, built in 1767, is home to the oldest continuous Lutheran congregation in the state. Davis’ Federal column advanced on the town of New Ebenezer and occupied the site for several days, damaging the church and town before departing for the siege of Savannah. **N 32.378730 W -81.182610**

**15L – Savannah** – As Federal forces approached the city, in a culmination of the March to the Sea, Sherman planned a siege rather than a direct attack on the city’s strong defenses. Sherman’s force of 62,000 dug fortifications west of the city and began long-range shelling with siege guns. Confederate Gen. Hardee, deciding to preserve his army, reacted by spiking his big guns, dumping tons of ammunition into the Savannah River, and scuttling and burning naval vessels, including ironclad CSS Georgia. During the night of December 20, Confederate forces evacuated the city and headed into South Carolina. The Federals marched into the city the next day. When Sherman arrived on December 22, 1864, he telegraphed to President Lincoln, “I beg to present to you as a Christmas gift, the City of Savannah.” **N 32.080667 W -81.090159**

**16L – Central of Georgia Railroad Complex** – Built in the 1840s, the railroad complex was of great importance during the Civil War, keeping freight and military supplies moving throughout the South. When the Federal army occupied Savannah, the complex was spared, and following the war, it would continue operating until 1963. Today, the Georgia Railroad Museum complex, which includes the Savannah History Museum, makes up the largest and most complete antebellum railroad repair facility in the world. **N 32.075833 W -81.099722**

**17L – Fort Jackson/CSS Georgia** – The oldest brick fort in Georgia, constructed in 1808, Fort Jackson guarded the Savannah River’s main ship channel during the Civil War. The fort was evacuated on December 20, 1864, and the Confederate ironclad CSS Georgia, moored in the Savannah River by the fort since its construction in 1862, was scuttled to prevent capture. Set to be raised from the river as part of the Savannah Harbor deepening project, a red buoy marks its location. The fort houses a museum featuring Savannah naval history and artifacts from the CSS Georgia. **N 32.081914 W -81.094470**

## Right Wing

**1R – McDonough** – Sherman’s right wing spent the night of November 16, 1864, camped outside of McDonough. The McDonough Baptist Church was used to slaughter cattle, and public buildings were burned and looted. As the weather got colder that night, a number of buildings were stripped of siding for firewood. Several grist mills also were destroyed. The 1833 Globe Hotel on Jonesboro Street is one of the few structures in McDonough that survived the march and is standing today. **N 33.448866 W -84.14722**

**2R – Jackson** – The courthouse in Jackson, the seat of Butts County, was used as headquarters for the right wing commander Gen. O. O. Howard. On the march through the sparsely populated Butts County, the Federals inflicted \$1 million in damages as the columns advanced toward the Ocmulgee River. A Federal officer noted upon leaving Jackson, “a little sadder if not a little wiser community,” as nothing remained but a few civilians and their houses. **N 33.336116 W -83.937583**

**3R – Ocmulgee River Crossing** – Crossing the Ocmulgee River began on November 18, 1864, with pontoon bridges being laid across the wide expanse of the river. A heavy rainstorm hit during the crossing, making the steep hill on the eastern bank a quagmire of mud, so 1,000 soldiers were stationed there to help move the supply wagons and cannon. Hundreds of sick and underfed horses and mules that could not pull their loads were shot at the crossing and replaced with fresh animals acquired through forage. Local residents said the killed horses’ bones were visible for decades. The Planter Factory on the river near the crossing that produced cloth for the Confederacy was burned to the ground. **N 33.306409 W -83.836545**

**4R – Old Clinton** – Clinton, once a major manufacturing town with a large tanner, was occupied first by a force of 5,000 cavalry under Union Gen. J. Kilpatrick on November 19, 1864, followed by 15,000 Federal infantry. Due to harassment by Wheeler’s Confederate cavalry, the town was fortified. Upon their departure, about one-third of the town was destroyed, including homes, schools, churches and the large tannery. Today, with many buildings remaining from the Federal occupation, Old Clinton is an excellent example of an early 19th century Southern county seat. **N 32.999185, W -83.557638**

**5R – Battle of Griswoldville** – Before the war, Samuel Griswold produced cotton gins along the railroad in southern Jones County, which became known as Griswoldville. In 1862, he converted the factory to manufacture pistols for the Confederate government. On November 21, 1864, Kilpatrick’s cavalry destroyed a flour mill, gristmill and iron foundry before being driven from Griswoldville. Returning on November 22, 1864, with infantry, the Federals easily held off a succession of assaults by Confederate militia using their seven-shot repeating rifles. The ill-fated attack cost the Confederates 650 casualties, while the Federals suffered 92 casualties in one of the few infantry battles of the March to the Sea. **N 33.007985 W -83.538820**

**6R – Ball’s Ferry** – On November 25, 1864, Confederate Gen. Henry Wayne and 1,200 men set up a defensive position on the south bank of the Oconee River in anticipation of impeding the Federal army crossing of the natural barrier. The Federal advance was slowed as pontoon bridges could not be laid under constant Confederate fire. Federal troops crossed several miles upstream and flanked the Confederate fore out of the entrenched position. Today, Ball’s Ferry is a park with picnic tables and a boat ramp at the site of the fighting. **N 32.781825 W -82.958509**

**7R – Bartow/Spier’s Turnout** – On November 28, 1864, Federal troops destroyed the railroad from Davisboro to Bartow. That night, Gen. A. Williams and the 20th Corps camped at Bartow, and then continued tearing up track and destroying railroad facilities all the way to the Ogeechee River. Today, Bartow has a Civil War museum in the old depot. **N 32.527910 W -82.284390**

**8R – Millen Junction** – The Federal 17th Corps arrived in Millen on December 2, 1864, and burned the railroad inn, the depot and associated buildings, and a Confederate government warehouse. They moved on the next day, tearing up railroad track toward Scarborough. **N 32.8055 W -81.9422**

**9R – Camp Lawton/Magnolia Springs State Park** – The Confederate government constructed the prison camp at Magnolia Springs to alleviate the overcrowded and unhealthy conditions at Camp Sumter near Andersonville. At its height in October 1864, the prison contained more than 10,000 prisoners in its 42-acre enclosure. On November 22, 1864, Camp Lawton was evacuated as the Federal army advanced. Inmates were sent by rail to prison camps at Blackshear and Thomasville. On December 3, 1864, the Federals burned the stockade and associated buildings. Today, the prison site is within Magnolia Springs State Park and includes a museum. **N 32.873261 W -81.962050**

**10R – Ogeechee Church** – As Sherman approached the Little Ogeechee River on December 3, 1864, he expected resistance. The Confederates had gathered 4,000 troops under command of Gen. Lafayette McLaws that dug in on the neck of land between the Ogeechee and Little Ogeechee Rivers and awaited the Federal arrival, but Sherman sent a force around their left and outflanked the position, forcing the Confederates to flee without a fight. On December 5, 1864, Sherman established headquarters at the Lufburrow home, where he coordinated troop movements for the next several days. **N 32.52278 W -81.53418**

**11R – Battle of Shaw’s Dam/Ogeechee Canal** – Confederates in Savannah began to fortify the land approaches to Savannah to the north and west on December 3, 1864, only slightly ahead of the Federal arrival. On December 10, 1864, the first of several Federal assaults was made against Battery Acee that stood at the head of the dam across Shaw’s Rice Field at the Savannah/Ogeechee Canal. After a number of assaults, the Federals withdrew, but 10 days later would occupy the position as the Confederates withdrew from the city. Today, the remains of the earthworks from the Confederate defense lines still can be seen. **N 32.035650 W -81.16720**

**12R – Fort McAllister State Historic Park** – The fort was constructed as the southernmost defense of Savannah, protecting approaches from the Ogeechee River. It had a number of gun emplacements encased in thick earthen walls and had withstood numerous attacks from gunboats in the river during the preceding two years. On December 13, 1864, Federal troops attacked from the land approaches and overcame the garrison of 230 defenders. The fall of Fort McAllister opened the Ogeechee to the Federal navy and ensured the fall of Savannah. Today, the fort has been restored to its wartime appearance, and the visitor center houses a museum. **N 31.891800 W -81.194864**

**13R – Midway Church** – Sherman sent Gen. Judson Kilpatrick’s cavalry on a mission to shut down the Savannah and Gulf Railroad in Liberty County south of Savannah. Kilpatrick established his headquarters for several weeks at the historic Midway Church (1794). Horses foraged from surrounding plantations were corralled in the historic walled cemetery, and the church altar was used as a butcher block to cut meat to feed the soldiers. The Baptist church in Sunbury was burned to signal the Federal navy that the mission was successful. Today, the Midway Museum next door to the church controls access. Nearby Fort Morris Historic Site is a Revolutionary War fort that was occupied by Confederates during the war. **N 31.807364 W -81.4307640**

**14R – Doctortown** – As part of Gen. Kilpatrick’s mission to destroy the Savannah and Gulf Railroad, the bridge over the Altamaha River at Doctortown was a major goal. On December 16, 1864, a brigade of cavalry under Col. S. Akins and Federal infantry made several assaults against approximately 1,000 Confederate militia with several large guns dug in on the south bank at the bridge. Several assaults were unsuccessful, and the Federals, unable to gain their objective, withdrew on December 19, 1864. One of the Confederate guns from the engagement is on display at Phoenix Park in Waycross. **N 31.650315 W -81.832611**