

# Chapter 16

## Georgia in the Civil War

### Chapter Preview

#### TERMS

Confederate States of America, mint, draft, blockade, bond, inflation, Emancipation Proclamation, casualty, platform, racism

#### PEOPLE

Jefferson Davis, Abraham Lincoln, Francis Bartow, William H. T. Walker, Charles Olmstead, William Tecumseh Sherman, Henry Wirz

#### PLACES

Fort Pulaski, Fort Sumter, Atlanta, Fort Jackson, Fort Bartow, Fort McAllister, Richmond, Andersonville, Appomattox Court House





**S**ince the American Revolution, the power of the national (federal) government and the power of the individual state governments had been an issue. The government under the Articles of Confederation had shown that a stronger national government was needed, and so the Constitution had been written. Since then, one of the big debates in the United States, even in our own time, has been around the question of how much power each should have.

Other issues, including the tariff, had caused different opinions about the national and state governments' powers, but they did not push the two sides to war. Although slavery and states' rights had been the issues that led to the South's secession, the immediate concern for Abraham Lincoln when he took office was not slavery, but keeping the United States together. He was not willing, however, to give in on the national government's right to forbid slavery in the territories, so a compromise that would bring the seceded states back did not work out.

In the end, the North and South fought a four-year-long war that both preserved the Union and ended slavery. Although there were white Georgians who remained committed to the Union throughout the war, most, even those who had not supported secession, became enthusiastic Confederates. Georgia was important to the Confederacy because of its location, the supplies it produced, and the men it sent to fight. While Georgia saw some early military action along the coast, the actual fighting did not come to Georgia until late 1863 with the Battle of Chickamauga. In 1864, however, Georgia felt the full fury of war as the Union army under General William Tecumseh Sherman fought its way to Atlanta, captured that city, and then marched to the sea. For enslaved Georgians, the fall of the state to the Union meant liberation; for all Georgians, black and white, it meant rebuilding the state in a new way.

**Left:** General William Tecumseh Sherman (on horseback, on the right) ponders his next move during the gruelling battle for Atlanta in 1864.

# Section 1

## Georgia Goes to War

### As you read, look for

- the event that began the Civil War,
- the advantages and disadvantages of the North and South,
- important battles such as Antietam, Vicksburg, and Gettysburg,
- the Emancipation Proclamation,
- terms: **Confederate States of America, mint, draft, blockade, bond, inflation, Emancipation Proclamation, casualty.**

In early 1861, Georgia joined with other southern states in a confederation whose main purpose became fighting a war to be independent from the United States. In the early years, the battlefields were in other states, but Georgia provided men and supplies for the war effort. The major military action in Georgia was on the coast. Some forts fell to the Union, and the port

### Figure 30 Timeline: 1861 to 1865



<p><b>1861</b> Georgia helped form the Confederate States of America; Fort Pulaski occupied by Confederate forces</p>	<p><b>1862</b> Battle of Antietam; Fort Pulaski retaken by Union forces</p>	<p><b>1863</b> Emancipation Proclamation issued; Battles of Vicksburg, Gettysburg, Chickamauga</p>	<p><b>1864</b> Atlanta captured and burned; Sherman's March to the Sea; Savannah captured</p>	<p><b>1865</b> Lee surrendered at Appomattox Court House; Civil War ended</p>
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1861                      1862                      1863                      1864                      1865

<p><b>1861</b> U.S. Congress passed first income tax law</p> <p><b>1862</b> Homestead Act passed by Congress</p>	<p><b>1863</b> Gettysburg National Cemetery dedicated and President Lincoln delivered Gettysburg Address</p>	<p><b>1864</b> "In God We Trust" first appeared on U.S. coins</p>	<p><b>1865</b> Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) opened</p>
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of Savannah was blockaded. Georgia was spared military damage in those years. However, people's lives were disrupted as schools closed and those left at home had to do their own work and the work of the men away in the army. Although some slaves along the coast fled to the Union army in these early years, most remained slaves. Because Georgia was not under Union control in January 1863, the Emancipation Proclamation did not affect them until the military action of the war came to the state in 1864.

## Preparing for War

After secession, Georgia began preparing in case war came. But through the early spring, many Georgians did not believe that war would follow secession. Some wanted a speedy reunion with the Union if some agreements could be made with the North. Others simply hoped that they would remain independent and that the North would let them go. Those who supported secession believed that, since the states had voted to ratify the Constitution and join the United States, they also had the right to decide to leave the United States. They thought that the North was depriving them of their states' rights. Unionists believed that the union of the states as a country could not be dissolved. They thought that the Constitution was a compact of "We the People," and therefore the states could not pull out. Other Georgians had a strong belief that war would come. Cornelia Jones Pond, a planter's daughter in Liberty County, wrote in her memoirs that she had asked her father what would happen if Lincoln was elected and "he replied, 'War.' I never forget with what horror that answer filled me."

In the months between the election and the end of his term, President James Buchanan did not do anything to stop the states that seceded although he personally believed that secession was illegal. He hoped that by not making them angry, something could be worked out.

By the end of January 1861, seven states in the Cotton Belt had seceded. All seven sent delegates to a special convention in Montgomery, Alabama, where they voted to join together in what they considered a new country called the **Confederate States of America**. The president of that convention was Georgia's Howell Cobb. The new Confederate constitution was based strongly on the rights of the individual states and had a weaker central government. The delegates chose Jefferson Davis of Mississippi as president and Alexander Stephens of Georgia as vice president. Robert Toombs became the Confederacy's secretary of state, although he later resigned to become a brigade commander.



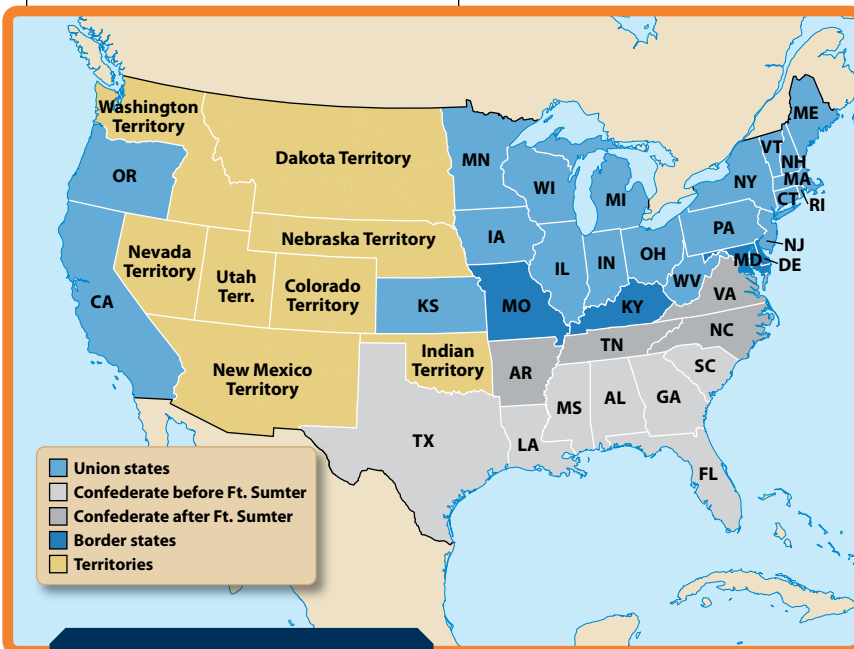
**Above:** Former Georgia Governor Howell Cobb served as president of the special convention that created the Confederate States of America in January 1861. One of Georgia's most prominent politicians, he had previously served as Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives, and as U.S. secretary of the treasury.

## Something Extra!

Thomas R. R. Cobb, the brother of Howell Cobb, was the main author of both the Confederate constitution and the 1861 Georgia constitution.

In March, a few days after Abraham Lincoln became president, Georgia's secession convention delegates met again, this time in Savannah. The convention accepted the Confederate constitution without sending it to the people for their vote. The delegates also wrote a new constitution for the state of Georgia. It was ratified in July by a vote of the people.

Georgia Governor Joseph E. Brown, a strong believer in secession, had quickly started to make Georgia independent. He called for volunteers for two regiments for Georgia's protection. On January 3, even before secession, he had seized Fort Pulaski from the federal government and claimed it for Georgia. After secession, he began to occupy other important federal government properties that were within Georgia's boundaries including the U.S. **mint** (a factory that made gold and silver money) in Dahlonega and the U.S. arsenal in Augusta. Augusta was one of only four arsenals in the entire South. It was full of weapons, including 22,000 rifles and muskets, which would be important if fighting came.



## The Beginning of the War

In South Carolina, the commander of Fort Sumter, located in Charleston harbor, refused to surrender the fort. In his inaugural address, President Lincoln had made it clear that he was going to keep U.S. government property that was within the borders of the states that seceded. Although he did not want to start any fighting, Lincoln believed that he had to back the fort's commander.

The fort was in desperate need of supplies, so Lincoln sent a supply expedition. He told South Carolina that he only wanted to get supplies

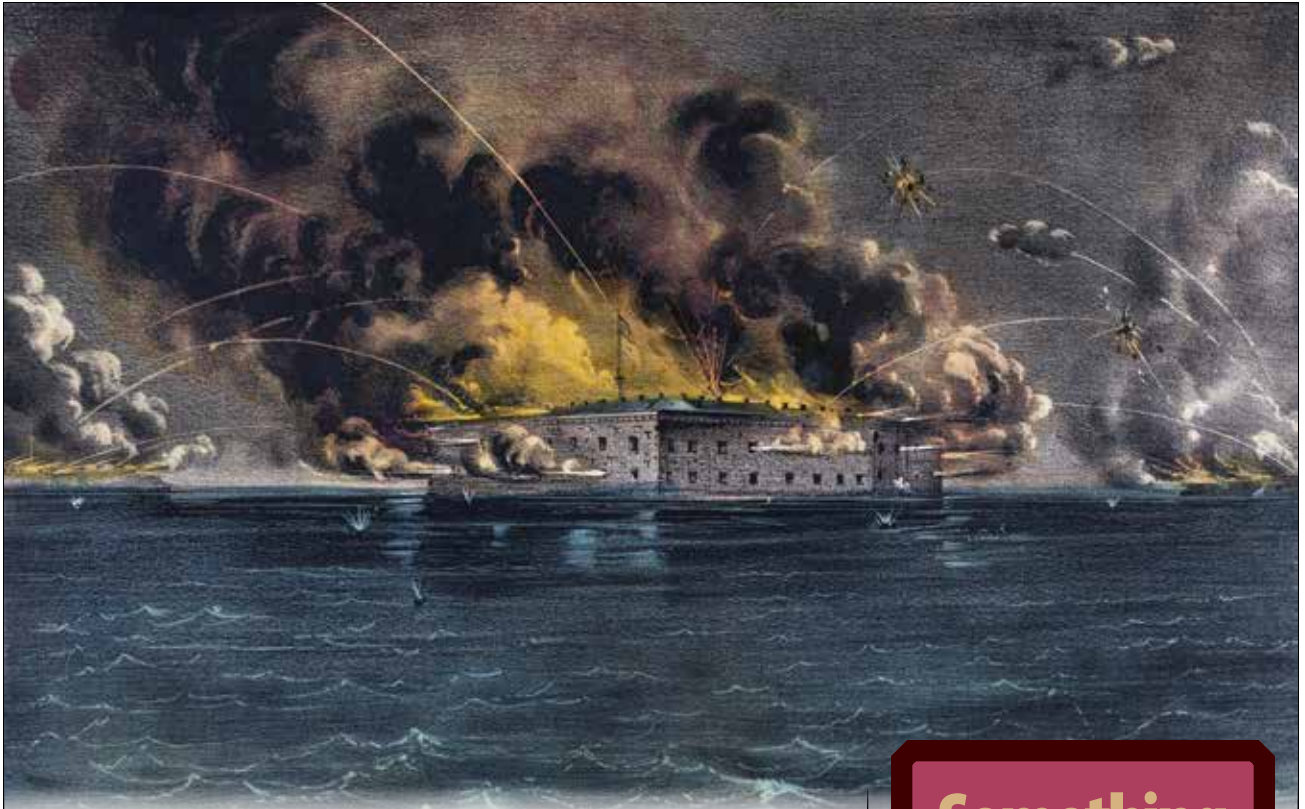
to the men. In April 1862, the Confederate government learned that the supplies were coming with an armed escort. Confederate President Davis gave the order to take the fort. Since Major Robert Anderson, the fort's commander, would not surrender, the Confederates opened fire. Two days later, the fort was forced to surrender.

Lincoln now considered the Confederates to be in open rebellion against the government of the United States. He called for state militias to join him in putting down the rebellion. He asked for ninety days of service because he believed the rebellion would be over quickly. In fact, most people on both sides thought it would not last long.

The war had begun. On both sides, citizens rallied behind their governments. Volunteers joined their armies, inspired by ideas of glory and adventure. Many of the ordinary soldiers of the North were motivated by

## Map 32 The Union and the Confederacy

**Map Skill:** How many states remained in the Union?



patriotism. In the South, ordinary Confederates, most of whom did not own slaves, wanted to defend their homes and families. As the war wore on, average soldiers on both sides became less enthusiastic. By spring 1862, the Confederate government had to begin to draft men to serve; the following year, the Union did as well. (A **draft** is a compulsory enrollment for military service.)

Before the surrender of Fort Sumter, eight slave states of the Upper South were still part of the Union. After the war began, they had a different decision to make: Would they fight against fellow slave states? Virginia seceded very quickly, followed by North Carolina, Tennessee, and Arkansas. Four others—Missouri, Kentucky, Maryland, and Delaware—decided not to secede, although their citizens were divided in how they felt about that. The western area of Virginia was so upset about Virginia's secession that it voted to form a new state—West Virginia—and rejoin the United States.

The Union had many advantages going into the war. It had a much larger population and most of the manufacturing in the country. Almost all weapons were made in the North. The Navy belonged to the Union. The North also had a stronger national government, an asset in wartime. The Confederacy had the advantage of fighting in familiar surroundings and having the support of the local population. Even southerners who had not supported secession believed that they had to defend their homes against invading troops. The Confederacy also hoped to get some economic and, perhaps, military aid from the British. They thought that the British would need southern cotton for their textile mills. That is one reason they thought they might be able to defeat the more powerful Union.

## Something Extra!

During the bombardment of Fort Sumter, men and women of wealth and position watched from the Battery, an embankment across the harbor from the fort.

**Above:** The first shots of the Civil War were fired at 4:30 a.m., April 12, 1861, at Fort Sumter in the harbor of Charleston, South Carolina. The commander of the fort, Major Robert Anderson, surrendered the following day.

## Figure 31 Resources: North versus South

	NORTH (23 states)	SOUTH (11 states)
Overall population	22 million people	9 million people (3.5 to 4 million were slaves)
Men of combat age	4 million	.8 million
Navy	Trained navy	None
Factories	100,000 with 1.1 million workers	20,000 with 100,000 workers
Miles of railroad track	22,000	9,000
Railroad equipment	96 percent of nation's supply	4 percent of nation's supply
Banks/Funds	81 percent of nation's deposits	19 percent of nation's deposits
Gold	\$56 million	None
Farms	67 percent of nation's total	33 percent of nation's total
Agriculture/Grain	64 percent of nation's supply	36 percent of nation's supply
Number of draft animals (horses, mules, oxen)	4.6 million	2.6 million



### Georgia's Contributions to the War Effort

Georgia began to change as the state took part in the war. Georgia leaders encouraged the growing of food crops instead of cotton. In fact, Georgia became one of the major producers of food for the Confederate army. The state also increased its manufacturing. Before the war, Georgia had bought most of the manufactured goods it needed from Europe or the North. Early in the war,

the Union plan was to **blockade** (prevent access to) all Confederate ports. The Union naval blockade cut off most imports, although not all. Daring adventurers, called blockade runners, risked capture to bring in needed goods. These blockade runners, mostly private ships, made money and became heroes in the South, but their efforts were not enough.

During the war, Georgia and the other Confederate states had to begin manufacturing their own goods. The port town of Savannah, along with the Fall Line towns of Augusta, Macon, Atlanta, and Columbus became important industrial centers. Other towns like Athens, Rome, and Dalton

### Map 33 The Union Blockade

**Map Skill:** Which Confederate states did not have ports blockaded?

also produced military goods. Savannah had one of the arsenals of the Confederacy. After a search throughout the South, Colonel George Washington Raines chose Augusta as the site for the Confederate Powder Works, which manufactured gunpowder for the entire Confederacy. In all the industries, women and blacks formed part of the work force because so many men were off fighting.

Women working in their own homes and in community places made cloth. Many women returned to the old-fashioned skills of spinning thread from raw fiber, then weaving it on looms into cloth. This is how many families, as well as many soldiers, were clothed during the war. Women often gathered together to sew the cloth. These sewing circles, as they were called, helped keep spirits up while they provided much-needed clothes, blankets, and bandaging for the troops. Textile mills in the state also produced as much cloth as they could, but there were not enough of them.

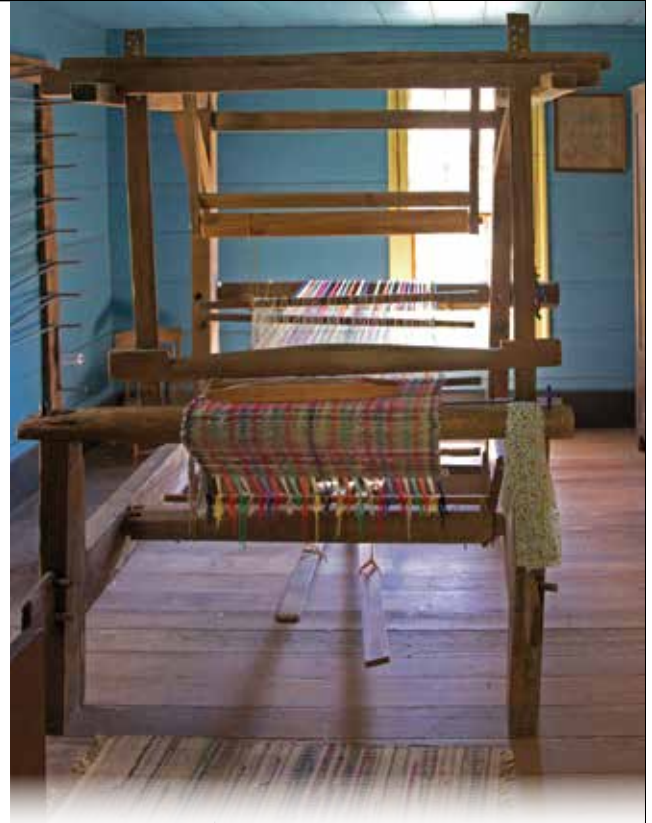
Georgia had a good system of railroads, but the lines now had to carry much more freight and many more passengers as troops went to the battlefronts. Although Atlanta was already becoming a railroad center in the 1850s, the war made it a significant city. Railroads met in Atlanta from all directions. The Confederate government made Atlanta a regional center for its Quartermaster Corps and commissary departments, which meant that goods for the armies were stored there until shipped to the places they were needed. Later in the war, that made Atlanta an important target for the Union Army.

### Georgia Women and the War

The home front in Georgia and other Confederate states was held together in large part by women. Most white women were enthusiastic at the beginning of the war, even encouraging their men to fight. Gertrude Clanton Thomas was the daughter of one of the wealthiest planters in the Richmond/Columbia County area. As troops, including Thomas's husband, received their orders, she wrote, "And to this [military] company my husband belongs, holding the rank of first Lieutenant and I can write this without one wish to have him remain with me. When Duty and Honour call him it would be strange if I would influence him to remain . . . when so much is at stake."

Throughout the Confederacy, white women encouraged or stood by their husbands. They wrote long letters to their men who were away. Some even traveled to the outskirts of encampments to be with their husbands near the battle front. As the war dragged on, however, women's letters increasingly urged their men to come home.

As men went off to war, women found themselves in far different roles from their prewar duties. They took over the plantations, farms, and shops. They did what they could to raise money needed for the cause, founded aid



**Above:** Confederate women aided the cause by using their looms to weave cloth for uniforms. This loom is on display at Westville.

## Something Extra!

In 1861, the U.S. Congress enacted the nation's first income tax to finance the war. It was eliminated in 1872.





organizations to help wounded soldiers, and, by the end of the war, were nursing men that they had never met before, an unthinkable task before the war. They worked hard to grow food and even raise cash crops.

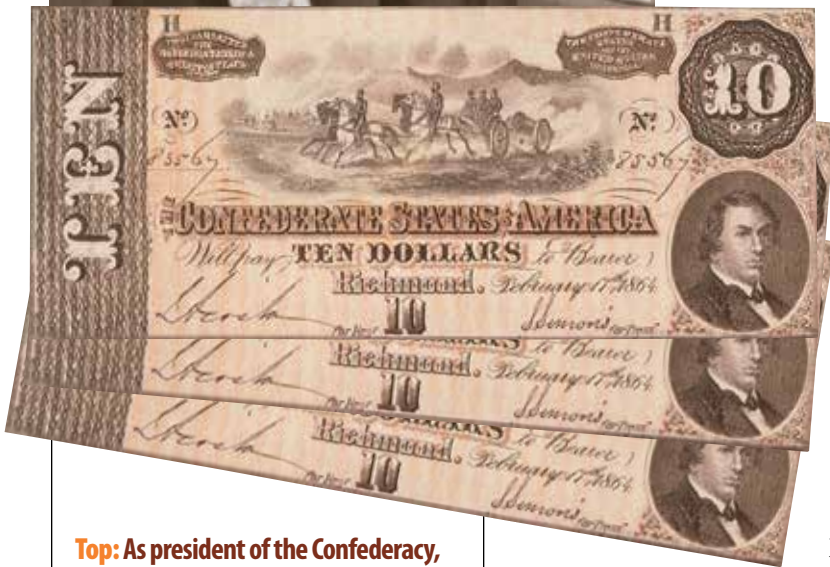
### The Economy of War

One of the major problems the state and the entire Confederacy faced was the economy. Paying for the war was a challenge. The Confederate government passed a small tax on property at the beginning of the war. The states' governments were supposed to collect it, but most did not. The Confederacy also borrowed money by issuing bonds, but many, including planters, were unwilling to lend money to the government by buying the bonds. (A **bond** is a document that serves as proof of a debt and that requires the payment of the debt plus interest.) Most of the money to pay for the war was simply printed up without anything at all, like gold or silver, backing it up. This meant that the value of the money depended on the faith people had in the Confederate government. As the war continued and people became less sure that the Confederacy might win, the money became less valuable. Merchants demanded more of it to pay for goods. In other words, **inflation** began. Inflation occurs when prices of goods and services go up. The decreasing value of the

money made many farmers less willing to sell their crops to the army if they were going to be paid with Confederate money. The army started simply taking what it needed and leaving behind IOUs that said the government owed the farmers' money. Most of what the government owed was never paid.

The economy was also affected by the Union blockade. Not only did the blockade keep goods from coming into the state, it also prevented goods from leaving. Farmers produced cotton but could not ship it out to the British textile mills that wanted to buy it. Great Britain then began to buy cotton from India and Egypt. So money that normally came into the state through trade was cut off during

the war. Because goods were not coming in, shortages occurred. Those on the home front had trouble getting the basics. Bread riots occurred in some Georgia towns. Even the army found it difficult to provide enough food, clothing, and shoes as the war progressed. The economy of the state was severely damaged by the end of the war.



**Top:** As president of the Confederacy, Jefferson Davis had the challenge of finding money to fund a war against a larger, wealthier opponent. **Above:** As the Confederate government printed more money with nothing to back it up, it became worth less and less.

## The Impact on Schools and Churches

Although Georgians were lucky that the actual fighting did not come their way until late 1863, many of the institutions of normal life were affected early when so many men left the state for battlefields in other states. Most of the state's colleges, including the University of Georgia, closed. Before the war, Georgia under Governor Brown had just begun to set up a public school system; that effort stopped. For the schools and academies that did remain open, more and more women became teachers. (Before the war, most teachers were men.) Like nursing, teaching became an acceptable occupation for females during the war. After the war, teaching and nursing became the two major professions available to women.

The war also affected religion. In the beginning, both the Union and the Confederate sides thought that God was on their side. Although many ministers had been against secession, they supported the state once the fighting began. Ministers were not required to fight, but some did. Others became chaplains, trying to boost the spirits of soldiers. When the war began going badly for the Confederacy, some ministers came to believe that God was angry because of the way slaves had been treated. For example, slaves had not been allowed to learn to read and so were unable to read the Bible. The laws against slave marriage were also seen as an evil. Some suggested God might be angry at a law passed late in the antebellum period that would not allow slaves to become preachers. This was especially troubling to Baptists, who believed that preaching was a call from God. If God had called slaves to preach and Georgia law had stopped them, perhaps God was upset. In spite of these concerns, the Georgia slave code did not change. In the end, many white Georgians could not explain why they lost the war if God was on their side. As Georgian John Jones wrote, "We must acknowledge that the providence of God has decided against us in the tremendous struggle. . . ."

## Early Fighting

After the incident at Fort Sumter, Lincoln had called out the troops for ninety days, hoping for a speedy end to the "rebellion." The general-in-chief of the U.S. Army was Winfield Scott, a hero from the Mexican-American War. Scott wanted to minimize fighting by using a naval blockade against southern ports. This, he thought, would make the South's economy collapse and make the South more likely to negotiate. But northerners, outraged by the attack on Fort Sumter and by secession, were ready for action. Both sides geared up for the first showdown.

In Georgia, Governor Brown had received a quick response to his call for volunteers. Thousands of Georgians joined up. But Brown hoped to keep Georgians, and their weapons, in the state for defense. He became one of



**Above:** Clergymen were not required to fight, but one who did was General Leonidas Polk, known as the "Fighting Bishop." He was killed by artillery during the Atlanta campaign.

## Something Extra!

Many commanders, in both the Union and the Confederate military, including Ulysses S. Grant and Robert E. Lee, gained their battlefield experience in the Mexican-American War.

## Something Extra!

Civil War battles often have two names. The Union named them after nearby streams, while the Confederates often called them by the nearby railroad depot or village.

**Below:** The first Battle of Bull Run (or Manassas) was the first major land battle of the war. The similarity of Union and Confederate flags led to great confusion in the field and what was expected to be an easy victory for the Union Army turned into a rout by the Confederates.

the least cooperative governors with the Confederate government. He held back supplies in Georgia and tried to maintain a good fighting force. He wanted to be prepared if war came to Georgia.

One Georgia colonel, Francis S. Bartow, took his Savannah unit of Oglethorpe Light Infantry Brigade to Virginia anyway, where he and many of his men met their deaths in the First Battle of Bull Run (known by the Confederates as the First Battle of Manassas). This battle made it clear that the war would not be over as quickly as either side predicted. Union soldiers with little training panicked and ran back toward Washington, D.C. The Confederate soldiers were also disorganized and did not follow the Union soldiers as they retreated. If they had, they might have had an even greater victory. Both Union and Confederate armies began to prepare for a longer war. Soon Georgians were on the battlefields of Virginia or Tennessee.

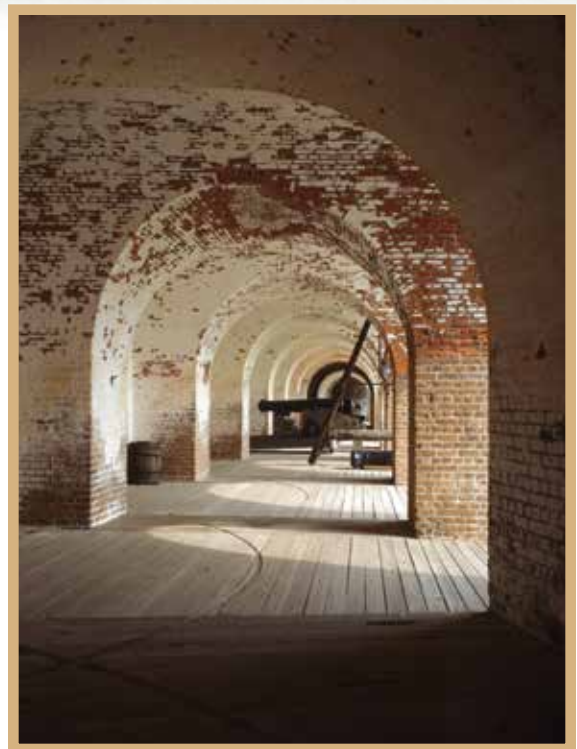
Georgia's first experience with Union troops was near Savannah. After the firing on Fort Sumter, residents of Savannah thought that they would be the target of a Union invasion and prepared to defend the city. Fort Pulaski on Cockspur Island at the mouth of the Savannah River had been built in the 1820s-1830s to guard the busy port. It had not been in use for some time when Governor Brown sent Georgia troops there in January 1861 before the Union could send troops. In fact, slaves had to be brought in to clear out the moat and help remount the cannon. In spite of the protection offered by the fort, many residents fled when the invasion of Hilton Head occurred in November. Wealthy Savannahians packed up family valuables and headed inland.





The commander at Savannah was Brigadier General William H. T. Walker, a Georgian. With the assistance of Confederate General Robert E. Lee, the city built batteries (fortified structures for artillery) and earthworks (embankments) and put stones and other obstructions in the river. Both Fort Pulaski and Fort Jackson received additional troops. Below Fort Jackson, Fort Bartow was built, and other forts went up on nearby rivers. But soldiers on Tybee and other islands were evacuated.

In the fall of 1861, the Union general for the Savannah area decided to take Fort Pulaski and occupy some of the islands. Planters fled as Union troops occupied the coastal islands. Some slaves ran away to the Union lines, where they provided valuable information to the Union soldiers. From January until April 1862, Union soldiers built defenses on nearby Tybee Island. Most of the work was done at night so the Georgians would not know what was happening. In April, the Union forces put in place new, more modern cannon. On April 10, Union Captain Quincy Gilmore demanded the surrender of Fort Pulaski. Confederate Colonel Charles Olmstead refused, and a bombardment of the fort began. Thirty-six hours later, with huge holes in the fort's brick walls, Olmstead surrendered. Union soldiers occupied the fort from then until the end of the war. Union occupation of the fort made it impossible for ships to come into the port of Savannah, a major economic problem for Georgia throughout the war. Fort McAllister, built in 1861 on the Ogeechee River, never fell to the Union navy, in spite of five attempts to take it.



**Top and above:** The massive brick walls of Fort Pulaski were considered to be impermeable to artillery until the development of a rifled cannon barrel, which was tested successfully for the first time against Fort Pulaski.



**Top and above:** General Ulysses S. Grant commanded the Union army at the Battle of Shiloh in 1862. His pivotal victory at Vicksburg in 1863 led President Lincoln to promote him to general-in-chief of the U.S. Army.

## The War in the East and the West

The major action of the war in the first two years happened away from Georgia. The Union forces divided into an army that would fight in the East and an army to fight in the West. The goal in the East was to take Virginia, especially Richmond, which had become the capital of the Confederacy after Virginia seceded. The army of the West aimed at taking the Tennessee and Mississippi rivers, while the U.S. Navy under Admiral David Farragut took New Orleans, another important southern port.

In Tennessee in early 1862, Union General Ulysses S. Grant won two victories before the Confederates slowed him down. Then, in a surprise on April 6 at a small church named Shiloh, the Confederates attacked. Two days later, the Confederates had to withdraw. With about 20,000 men killed or wounded, the Battle of Shiloh was the bloodiest fighting that had happened thus far in the war.

Meanwhile, Confederate General Robert E. Lee had just been appointed to head the Army of Northern Virginia at the beginning of June 1862. Lee was a West Point graduate from Virginia who had been in the U.S. Army since 1829. He had opposed slavery as “evil,” and he had also opposed secession. Yet when Virginia pulled out of the Union, he resigned from the U.S. Army and went home, not willing to fight against his state. A few days later, he accepted the position of commander-in-chief of Virginia’s military and, a few weeks later, a generalship in the Confederate Army. Lee managed to hold off Union forces in fierce fighting at what was called the Seven Days’ Battles from June 25 to July 1, 1862. That saved Richmond from Union capture.

## Antietam

Proud of his troops' performance in the Seven Days' campaign, Lee decided to go on the offensive. After winning a victory in the Battle of Second Bull Run (Manassas) in late August 1862, Lee went north into Maryland. Hoping to continue his momentum after the victory at the Battle of Second Bull Run (Manassas), Lee had several goals. He wanted to influence the coming mid-term elections in the Union. He also thought a Confederate victory might change public opinion about the war. He needed supplies, which he could get in Maryland. By moving the war out of Virginia, he would also take the fighting into the North, making them feel the sting of war. He believed that a victory might "liberate" Maryland, a slave state that remained in the Union.

Lee's forces, outnumbered 50,000 to 87,000, dug in for defense behind Antietam Creek near the town of Sharpsburg. Lee was opposed by Union Major General George B. McClellan's Army of the Potomac. McClellan's plan was to attack Lee's flanks (the left and right sides). Union forces attacked in the early morning hours, but they were driven back by the Confederates. For Union General Ambrose Burnside to attack the right flank, his troops had to cross a bridge (which was later named for him). Throughout that morning, a Georgia brigade under the command of Robert Toombs had fired at Union soldiers to keep them from crossing this crucial bridge over Antietam Creek. Toombs was wounded in the fighting. In spite of the Confederates'

**Below and bottom: General Robert E. Lee invaded Maryland to put pressure on the Union army. When they met at Antietam, it became the bloodiest day in American military history.**





## Something Extra!

In December, Lee won a victory at Fredericksburg, Virginia. In that battle, Georgian T. R. R. Cobb, author of the Confederate and Georgia constitutions, lost his life.

efforts, the Union broke through in the afternoon. However, by the time the Union troops regrouped on the other side, the Confederates' right flank had reinforcements. Despite vicious fighting, each army held its ground. The next day, the two armies gathered their wounded and buried their dead.

That day, September 17, 1862, was the bloodiest one-day battle of not only the Civil War, but all U.S. wars. Almost 6,000 were killed and 17,000 wounded at the end of that day of savage fighting. Several thousand of the wounded later died. During the night of September 18, Lee retreated back into Virginia, while Union General McClelland's troops began the grim task of burying the dead.

### The Emancipation Proclamation

In the summer of 1862, Abraham Lincoln had made the decision to tear down the institution of slavery. Beyond just the moral question of enslaving people was the fact that southern slaves working in the fields meant that southern white men could fight the North. Lincoln tried to find a way to free the slaves without causing the secession of the four slave states that had remained in the Union. Congress had abolished slavery in Washington, D.C., in April 1862, and in all U.S. territories in June of that year. Up to that point, all slaves who escaped to the Union Army or were captured had been considered captured property. In July, Congress declared all of them, and any slaves who came to the Union Army in the future, to be free.

During the summer, Lincoln drafted the **Emancipation Proclamation**. (*Emancipation* is the act of freeing enslaved people.) But he waited until he had a victory to make the announcement. Antietam, in spite of the horrible loss of life, was that victory. The Emancipation Proclamation said that, on January 1, 1863, slaves in the areas still in rebellion would become free. However, it did not apply to slaves in the border states that had remained in the Union. Because the United States did not control those areas still in rebellion (the Confederate states), no slaves became free on January 1. But as the Union Army conquered areas of the South, slaves became free.

Not everyone in the North was happy with the Emancipation Proclamation. The Northern Democrats believed that emancipation by the national government was unconstitutional in states where it had been legal. Many ordinary northerners believed in preserving the Union but not necessarily in freeing slaves, at least not until the fighting was done. In spite of the opposition, Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation on January 1, 1863, and asked slaves to refrain from violence.

The proclamation that affected the rebellious states caused people in other slave states to make changes. Missouri and Maryland freed their slaves. The three states that were already occupied by Union forces also abolished slavery. To make sure that other states did not bring slavery back after the war, Con-



gress and Lincoln supported a permanent amendment to the U.S. Constitution that would make slavery unconstitutional. In Georgia and other southern states, white slave holders feared if slaves found out about the proclamation they might rebel. Jefferson Davis responded with a proclamation that all free blacks captured by the Confederacy would become slaves.

## Vicksburg and Gettysburg

Meanwhile, the war continued in the East and West. In the West, Union General Ulysses S. Grant had failed to take Vicksburg, Mississippi, in the first attempt in the winter of 1862-1863. While the Union controlled the area north of Vicksburg, the troops found themselves stuck in Mississippi's swamps and mud trying to get around the town's defenses. Beginning on April 16, Grant's gunboats and transports began to run the Confederate batteries. On April 30, Grant's troops crossed to the east side of the river.

Instead of attacking Vicksburg immediately, from May 1 to May 17, Grant's troops defeated Confederates at the state capital, Jackson, and in four other places. When they attacked Vicksburg, however, they still could not take the heavily fortified town. They instead began to dig in and, for the next few weeks, laid siege. The town finally surrendered on July 4, 1863, after six weeks of being bombarded by cannon fire. This important victory gave the Union control of the Mississippi River.

Meanwhile, in the East, the Confederates had won a major victory in Virginia in May, when General Robert E. Lee's troops defeated a Union force almost twice as large at Chancellorsville. It was a remarkable victory against heavy odds. After two years of fighting in the East, the Union had not been able to conquer Virginia. With Lee's victory in Virginia and Grant's inability to take Vicksburg in Mississippi, northern morale was low in May 1863.

Confident of his troops after such a victory, Lee decided to try once again to invade Union territory, this time Pennsylvania. Lee hoped that a victory in the North might make the Union less willing to continue fighting. Confederate leaders also hoped that a Confederate victory might persuade the British and the French to recognize the Confederacy as an independent country. In June 1863, Lee's army of 75,000 men headed north through Maryland into Pennsylvania. The Battle of Gettysburg was a turning point in the Civil War.

The newly appointed commander of the Union Army of the Potomac, General George Gordon Meade, had been sent to protect Washington and Baltimore. As Meade's troops headed into northern territory, they were



**Above: The capture of Vicksburg after a prolonged siege and bombardment during which the population was driven to living in caves, gave the Union control over the Mississippi River and effectively cut the Confederacy into two. Opposite page, below: This painting imagines the joy of an old slave reading the Emancipation Proclamation.**



**Below: Georgia-born General James Longstreet disagreed with Robert E. Lee over strategy at Gettysburg.**

**Bottom: The Union victory at the Battle of Gettysburg, coming on the same weekend as the fall of Vicksburg, signalled a turning point in the war in favor of the Union.**



welcomed by the citizens, giving a needed boost to their morale. Union troops ran into Lee's troops almost by accident on July 1. From the beginning, the historic battle was a series of mistakes, arguments, and accidents. First, the fighting started before either army had all of its soldiers in Gettysburg. Second, Confederate General J. E. B. Stuart and his cavalry had gone off in another direction and could not be contacted. Third, Georgia-born General James Longstreet disagreed with Lee's tactics and wanted to get the Confederate troops between the Union Army and Washington. Lee rejected that strategy. On July 2, as Lee led his troops for a frontal attack, Longstreet and his men were late getting into position. When they finally did, the Union troops were on higher ground than the Confederates originally thought. Longstreet attacked anyway.

The bloody battle raged on and on. On the third day of the battle, perhaps the best-known fighting took place. General George E. Pickett led over 14,000 Confederate troops across an open field toward the Union forces on Cemetery Ridge. The Confederate lines were torn apart by Union artillery and rifle fire. In less than an hour, 7,000 Confederates had become **casualties** (those killed, wounded, or missing), and the attack—forever known as Pickett's Charge—was history. Union General Meade could have counterattacked, but he did not. He believed they had “done well enough.”

Lee was forced to retreat into Virginia, ending the hopes of the Confederacy for victory. In the battle, Confederate casualties numbered about 28,000 and Union casualties were about 23,000.

News of the victory reached Washington, D.C., on July 4, making the celebration even greater. Three days later, news of the Vicksburg victory arrived. The tide of war had turned. After the Battle of Gettysburg, the remaining



## Figure 32 The Gettysburg Address

*Four score and seven years ago our fathers brought forth on this continent a new nation, conceived in liberty and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal. Now we are engaged in a great civil war, testing whether that nation or any nation so conceived and so dedicated can long endure. We are met on a great battlefield of that war. We have come to dedicate a portion of that field as a final resting-place for those who here gave their lives that that nation might live. It is altogether fitting and proper that we should do this. But in a larger sense, we cannot dedicate, we cannot consecrate, we cannot hallow this ground. The brave men, living and dead who struggled here have consecrated it far above our poor power to add or detract. The world will little note nor long remember what we say here, but it can never forget what they did here. It is for us the living rather to be dedicated here to the unfinished work which they who fought here have thus far so nobly advanced. It is rather for us to be here dedicated to the great task remaining before us—that from these honored dead we take increased devotion to that cause for which they gave the last full measure of devotion—that we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain, that this nation under God shall have a new birth of freedom, and that government of the people, by the people, for the people shall not perish from the earth.*



battles of the Civil War were fought on southern soil. Any Confederate hopes of foreign recognition were also ended.

In November of that year, President Lincoln went to the battlefield to dedicate it as a national military cemetery. Lincoln's famous two-minute speech is known as the Gettysburg Address.

The defeat at Gettysburg made many in the South begin to talk about peace negotiations. President Jefferson Davis became increasingly unpopular. Another effect of Lee's defeat at Gettysburg was the British decision to remain neutral and not help the Confederacy. In spite of the negative effects on the Confederacy, the Union victories at Vicksburg and Gettysburg did not bring the war to an end.

### Reviewing the Section

1. Define: mint, draft, bond, inflation.
2. Which Georgian was chosen as the vice president of the Confederacy?
3. What was the purpose of the Union's blockade?
4. What resources would cause the most trouble for the South and be the greatest advantage to the North?

# Discovering Georgia's Past

## The Great Locomotive Chase

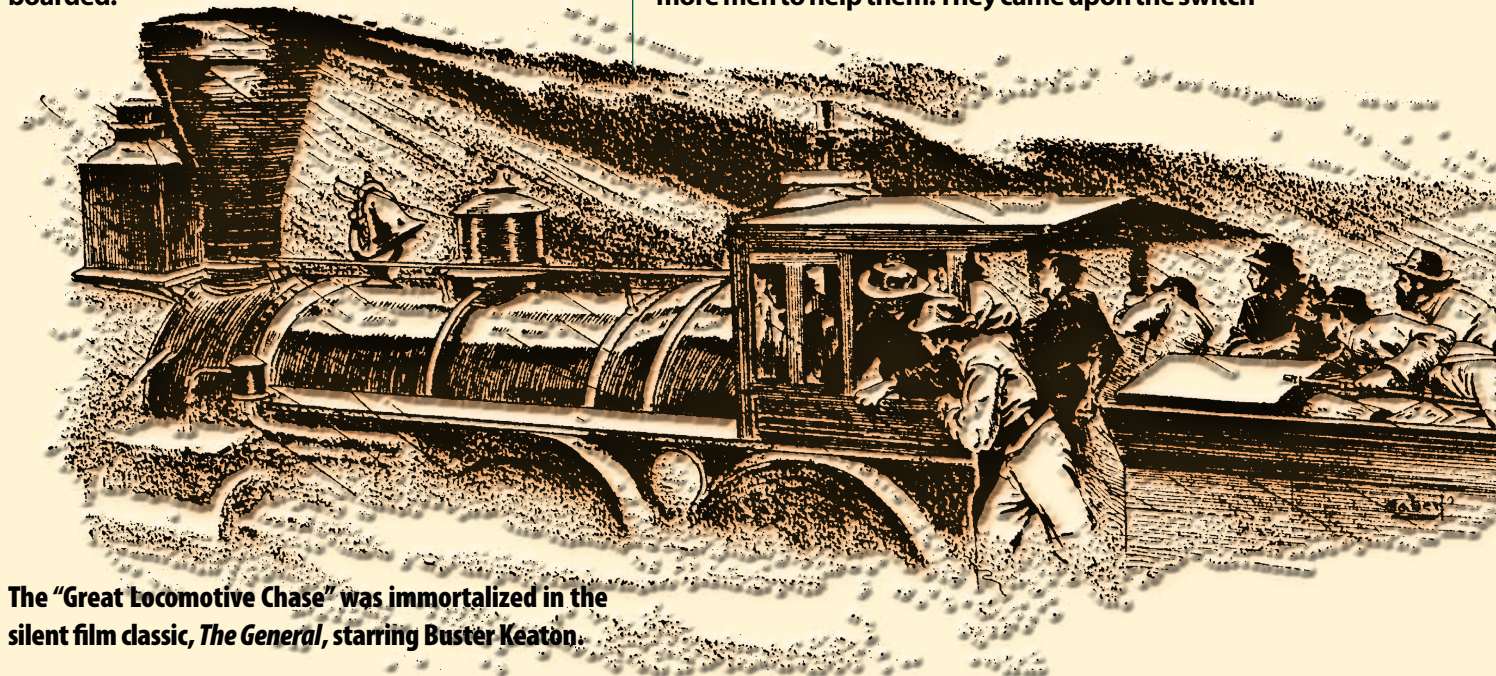
In the spring of 1862, Union forces were in Alabama planning to capture Huntsville before attacking Chattanooga, Tennessee. Kentuckian James Andrews, a merchant who traded between the Union and Confederate lines offered to lead a raid to disable the Western and Atlantic Railroad. Disabling the railroad would prevent supplies and, perhaps, reinforcements from getting to the Confederates in Chattanooga. Union General Mitchel Ormsby accepted the offer, and Union soldiers from Ohio regiments volunteered, including a few who had been railroad engineers.

On the morning of April 12, 1862, the *General*, a train owned by the Western and Atlantic Railroad that carried both passengers and war supplies, left Atlanta. At 5 a.m., it arrived in Marietta, where Andrews and his men, all disguised in civilian clothing, boarded.

The train stopped for breakfast at Big Shanty station, now Kennesaw. Conductor William Fuller and his crew were eating breakfast when they heard a familiar sound—the noise of the *General* and three boxcars pulling out of the station! Stunned, Fuller and his crew raced out the door and began running after the train. A seven-hour pursuit began.

The raiders had chosen to make their move at Big Shanty station because it had no telegraph. Along the way, they would cut telegraph lines, burn bridges, and destroy railroad tracks. What they did not count on was the spirit and determination of Fuller and his crew, who took the theft as a personal affront.

After running along the tracks for two miles, Fuller and his men found a platform handcar. They pushed themselves along the tracks, picking up two more men to help them. They came upon the switch



The "Great Locomotive Chase" was immortalized in the silent film classic, *The General*, starring Buster Keaton.

engine *Yonah*, which they commandeered. At Kingston, they picked up the engine *William F. Smith*, only to abandon it because the Union raiders had removed tracks. Finally, after still another foot pursuit, the weary but angry band of men met an engine named *Texas* headed south from Adairsville. They quickly climbed aboard and continued the pursuit. Since the *Texas* had been heading south, it had to pursue in reverse.

The *General*, which had been slowed by southbound train traffic, was north of Calhoun when the Union raiders saw an incredible sight. The mighty *Texas*, without any cars, was barreling down the railroad tracks—backward.

Andrews' raiders were now filled with fear. The law was very clear about the sentencing of spies. The raiders first tried unsuccessfully to pry up the rails. Next, they tossed crossties onto the tracks to stop their pursuers. Then they released two boxcars, but the *Texas* pushed them aside.

As they approached the wooden bridge over the Oostanaula River, Andrews set fire to the last boxcar, hoping that it would burn the bridge and stop the *Texas*. But the bridge was too wet from the previous day's rains to burn. Again, the *Texas* pushed aside the burning boxcar and continued its chase.

The race finally ended near Ringgold Gap, eighteen miles south of Chattanooga, when the *General* ran out of steam. The raiders fled but were rounded up within two weeks. Two months later, James Andrews and seven of his men were court-martialed and hanged in Atlanta. The remaining men were sent



The *General* is now on display at the Southern Museum of Civil War and Locomotive History in Kennesaw.

to Confederate prisons. Six of them escaped, and eight were exchanged for Confederate prisoners. Some later wrote stories of their exploit.

After the war, the soldiers of Andrews' Raiders received the Medal of Honor. However, because Andrews was not in the military, he did not.

Today, the *General* can be seen at the Southern Museum of Civil War and Locomotive History in Kennesaw. The *Texas* is on display at the Cyclorama in Atlanta.

## Section 2

# The War Comes to Georgia

### As you read, look for

- the battles in Georgia during the war,
- Georgia's Civil War prison at Andersonville,
- the end of the war,
- terms: **platform**, **racism**.

**The defeats of the weekend of July 4, 1863**, were disheartening for many Confederates. As the death rate of soldiers rose due to battle and to disease in the army camps, many Georgians became unhappy with the war. In 1862, the Confederate government had begun drafting soldiers into the army. The wealthy could afford to pay people to go as their substitutes, but middle-class farmers could not. By 1863, more disillusioned Georgians began to desert their military posts. Soldiers were not the only Georgians who were war-weary. By that time, the economic problems, including inflation and shortages of goods, also hurt morale on the home front.

During the first two years of the war, the battles had been fought in the West and in the upper South, especially Virginia. With the exception of the taking of Fort Pulaski, the blockade of Savannah and Georgia's coast, and the raids on the Western and Atlantic Railroad, the military aspect of the war had not come to Georgia.

In late 1863, however, the fighting did come to north Georgia. Although the Confederates were able to push the Union back into Tennessee for the winter of 1863-1864, the Union army returned in 1864. Union General William Tecumseh Sherman brought the war into Georgia that summer with his campaign to take first Atlanta, then Savannah. Savannah became Sherman's winter headquarters in 1864-1865 before he headed into the Carolinas in February 1865. The areas along Sherman's path were in ruins when the war finally ended in the spring of 1865.

**Left: The Kentucky Monument at Chickamauga commemorates the dead from that state at the second-costliest battle of the Civil War.**



## Chickamauga

While Grant had been working to take Vicksburg, Union General William Rosecrans had begun moving toward middle Tennessee on June 24, 1863. Opposing him was Confederate General Braxton Bragg, who retreated all the way to Chattanooga. Rosecrans' success had come without the bloodshed of Gettysburg.

The fighting got ever closer to Georgia. Lincoln had wanted Rosecrans to attack Chattanooga immediately, but Rosecrans waited until mid-August. Bragg expected to be attacked from the north, but the Union troops split into three groups and maneuvered south. Although Bragg got reinforcements from Virginia, in early September he decided to leave Chattanooga so he would not be trapped there, surrounded by the river and mountains. Bragg took his forces into north Georgia. The Union troops followed.

Confederate President Jefferson Davis ordered Bragg to attack Rosecrans and sent help. Confederate reinforcements under General Joseph Johnston arrived from Mississippi, and Georgian James Longstreet headed through the Carolinas and Georgia to join them. The first of Longstreet's forces got there on September 18. The real battle began on September 18 near Chickamauga Creek. The fighting was heavy on September 19, but Union lines held. On September 20, Rosecrans believed there was a hole in his line and moved forces to fill it. That created a real gap. Confederate troops under General James Longstreet attacked, driving Union forces back to Chattanooga.

The Battle of Chickamauga lasted three days. Because Bragg forced the Union out of Georgia, he was considered the victor. But the losses on both sides were horrifying: 16,000 Union soldiers and almost 20,000 Confederate men were killed, wounded and missing. These were the second highest losses of the war, after Gettysburg.



### Something Extra!

James Garfield (above) served as chief of staff for General Rosecrans at Chickamauga. Twenty-five years later, Garfield was elected president of the United States.



This watercolor sketch of an infantry charge at Chickamauga is by the great Civil War artist A. R. Waud.



Bragg's officers wanted to immediately follow the retreating Union troops and destroy the army, but Bragg refused. Instead, he decided to lay siege to Chattanooga. By early October, Union reinforcements arrived outside Chattanooga. In October, Lincoln had decided to put General Grant in charge, and he arrived on October 23. A few days later, Union troops were able to open one supply route into Chattanooga to get food to the hungry troops inside the city. Then in November, reinforcements under Union General William Tecumseh Sherman arrived. On November 24-25, Union troops drove the Confederates first from Missionary Ridge (southeast of Chattanooga) and then back into Georgia. Both armies settled in as winter came.

### **The Campaign for Atlanta**

As the troops wintered in Tennessee in 1863-1864, President Lincoln decided to place General Grant in command of all the Union armies. Grant believed in new strategies, including the idea of "continuous offense," even when the loss of life might be great. He thought it would end the war faster. He believed that the South had to give up the will to fight.

Union General George Meade received orders to advance on Confederate General Robert E. Lee in Virginia, and Grant chose General William Sherman to command the invasion of Georgia.



Sherman had been stationed in Georgia in the 1840s, serving at the U.S. Arsenal in Augusta, so he had some knowledge of the state. His first objective would be Atlanta.

During the first two years of the war, most battles had been short, some only a day, with long periods between fighting. In the spring and summer of 1864, that changed. Battles lasted longer, with sometimes very few days to rest in between. Another change in the strategy in 1864 was that the war was taken to the civilian population. Soldiers destroyed southerners' property as they marched through an area, and they seized livestock and food from the fields. Rather than relying on supplies being brought to them from behind, the Union soldiers lived off the land and farms. For several months in 1864, Georgia felt this total warfare.

When Sherman began his campaign for Atlanta, he had 98,000 troops to face the 65,000 troops of Confederate General Joseph E. Johnston, who replaced Bragg after the Chattanooga disaster. As Sherman marched through north Georgia toward Atlanta, Johnston was repeatedly forced to retreat from his defensive positions as Sherman's men swung around behind him. When the two armies met in a conventional battle on June 27 at Kennesaw Mountain, Sherman's troops had five times the number of casualties as Johnston's. Johnston's defensive tactics led Confederate President Jefferson Davis to replace him with General John B. Hood.

Sherman continued to fight toward Atlanta, and by late July he was on the outskirts. Sherman, however, could not take the city from its defenders, who were led by General Hood. Hood had tried to go on the offense against Sherman's troops; however, from July 20-22, the Confederates had close to 15,000 casualties in engagements. Hood went back on defense.

The war was becoming unpopular in the North, and many thought President Lincoln might lose the election in the fall of 1864. The Democratic Party of the North was running against him on a platform of opposing emancipation and trying to make peace with the South. (A **platform** is a statement of the principles and policies that a political party supports.) Georgia's Alexander Stephens was still the vice president of the Confederacy. He hoped that a



**Opposite page, above:** Ulysses S. Grant chose William Tecumseh Sherman to lead the invasion of Georgia. **Opposite page, below:** The Battle of Kennesaw Mountain was one of the major engagements between the forces of Sherman and Confederate General Joseph E. Johnston, as Sherman's army made its way to Atlanta. **Top and above:** The Battle of Atlanta is depicted on a 385-foot-long painting on display at the Atlanta Cyclorama.



# The Art of Politics



In the 1864 presidential election, Democratic candidate George McClellan ran on a platform of ending the war, while the Confederacy made overtures of peace to the North. This cartoon shows Robert E. Lee and Jefferson Davis surrounded by Union military leaders Sheridan, Grant, Farragut, and Sherman, showing how sincere they thought the peace overtures were.

**Below:** This locomotive roundhouse in Atlanta lies in ruins following the departure of Sherman's army.



Democratic victory against Lincoln might bring a cease fire (truce) and perhaps even an end to the war, with the South recognized as an independent country. Stephens and others knew that if Atlanta could hold out, at least past the election, a new president might come into power in the North.

Hood's and Sherman's armies fought the rest of July and August. Finally, Sherman pulled his troops from the trenches north of the city and sent them around the outskirts of Atlanta to destroy the railroads and cut Atlanta off from the rest of the South. Rather than have his army taken, General Hood withdrew his troops from the city. As he left, Hood burned military supplies that he did not want Sherman to get. On September 2, Sherman moved into Atlanta.

Hood at first went to northern Georgia, hoping to cut off the supplies Sherman and his men were getting from Tennessee. He was unsuccessful and had to retreat to Alabama. Sherman sent a telegram to Lincoln: "Atlanta is ours. . . ." Thanks, in part, to Sherman, Lincoln won reelection in the North.

## Sherman's "March to the Sea"

General Hood took his army through northern Alabama and then into Tennessee, hoping that Sherman would follow him. Sherman, however, was determined to march through Georgia from Atlanta to the Atlantic Ocean. His "March to the Sea" was aimed at making "war so terrible" that Georgia would want to end it. He wanted Georgia's citizens "old and young, rich and poor, [to] feel the hard hand of war." He also intended for his troops to live off the land as they traveled so they would not have to worry about getting supplies from the Union. Sherman wanted to bring the war to an end, and he believed that taking the war through Georgia would make that happen faster.

His troops left a burning Atlanta in mid-November and spread out over the countryside. They destroyed railroads and bridges, ate food from Georgia's fields, and burned up the cotton crop. At times, the troops were spread out from forty to sixty miles wide. In the Georgia state capital of Milledgeville, the Union soldiers held a mock (pretend) session of the legislature and repealed Georgia's ordinance of secession.

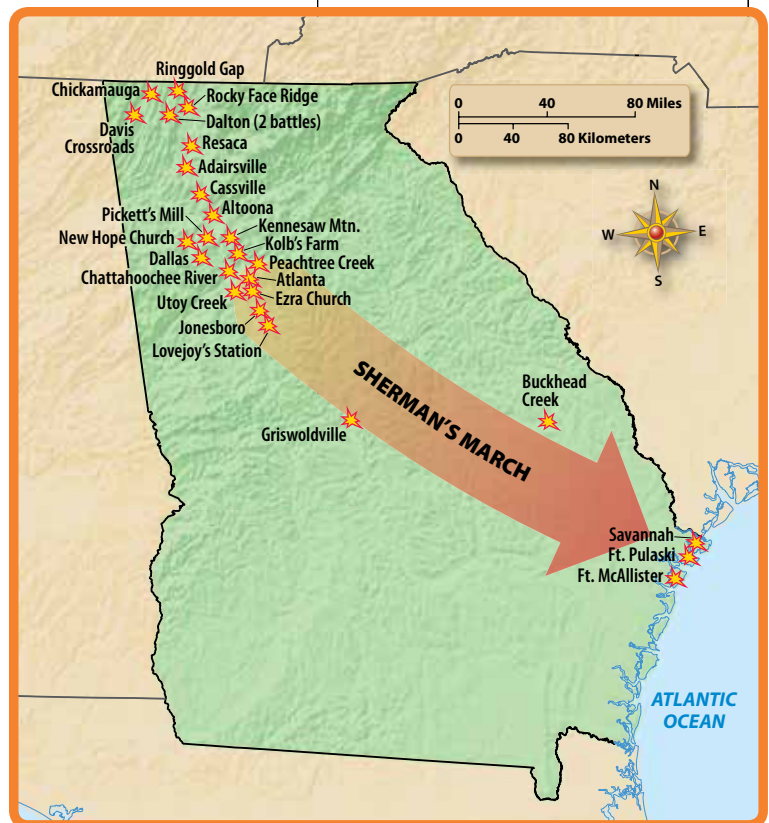
Cornelia Jones Pond described a visit of one Union division to her father's plantation in Liberty County. After rummaging through the home searching for valuables, they raided the livestock. The next morning, when the family went to the back porch, they found "no sign of life anywhere. The hen houses . . . had been emptied of all the poultry, the smoke house and store room doors and dairy were wide open and robbed of everything. The hog pens were empty and not a fowl, goose, turkey, or duck to be seen anywhere." The troops had left corn, peas, and rice, so the family at least had some food.

As Union troops marched the three hundred miles to the sea, African Americans left the plantations and followed them. For them, Sherman's march meant freedom. However, they often encountered racism from the northern troops. (**Racism** is abusive or discriminatory behavior toward members of another race.) Many northerners thought slavery was wrong, but they did not believe in the equality of blacks and whites. In spite of that, many African Americans, including Georgians, fought with the Union army.

Sherman's troops reached Savannah on December 21, 1864. The telegram he sent to Lincoln said, "I beg to present you as a Christmas gift the city of Savannah. . . ." In Savannah, Sherman also found 25,000 bales of cotton, which he sent north. Sherman wintered in Savannah, headquartered at the Green-

## Something Extra!

The cost of Sherman's march to Georgia and the Confederacy was enormous. Sherman himself estimated that it had caused about \$20 million in damage.



## Map 34 Georgia in the Civil War

**Map Skill:** In which direction did General Sherman march?



**Above:** As part of his strategy of bringing war to the people of Georgia, Sherman and his army relied on obtaining food and supplies by foraging at the farms and towns they passed by on their way to Savannah.

Meldrim House. In February, Sherman's army left for South Carolina, the state where both secession and the war had begun. While most of Georgia's capital Milledgeville had been spared destruction, much of Columbia was burned down.

These actions in Georgia and South Carolina accomplished what Sherman had hoped. More and more southerners were ready for peace. The desertion rate from the Confederate Army soared. Towns filled up with women and children, refugees from their ruined farms and plantations.

### **Andersonville Prison**

By 1864, the main Confederate prisoner of war camp for captured Union soldiers in Richmond had become overcrowded. The Confederate government decided to build a new prison camp deeper within the Confederacy. The site chosen was in Macon County in southwest Georgia near the railroad depot of Andersonville. The new prison covered sixteen acres and was meant to house around 10,000 men. A small creek ran through the site and furnished water. The prison opened in February 1864. In March, Captain Henry Wirz took over command. Unfortunately, Andersonville quickly became overcrowded. By August 1864, it held more than 30,000 Union prisoners.

This overcrowding led to major problems. The creek became polluted with sewage and garbage, contaminating the drinking water. This caused disease to sweep through the prison population. Food and other necessary items were difficult to get in a Confederacy dealing with shortages, so prisoners became malnourished. Even the guards had few food rations, but at least they could leave the prison to search for extra food. Heat and insects plagued the prisoners during the summer.

Under these horrible conditions, gangs emerged within the prison. The guards had great difficulty keeping them under control. In July, prisoners themselves executed six gang members and established a prisoner police force to try to keep some order. As Sherman and his men marched into Georgia's interior, many of the prisoners were moved. When some of the prisoners arrived at a quickly built camp in Savannah, the citizens of that city were shocked to see their bad condition. Some Savannahians even threw bread to them. By early October, Camp Lawton near Millen opened.

During the time of Andersonville's operation, almost 30 percent of those sent there died. Captain Wirz was blamed for many of the problems although some have argued there was little he could do. After the war, Wirz was charged with "excessive cruelty."

### The War's End

The last action in Georgia came when Union General James Wilson, with thirteen thousand men, came into Georgia from Alabama. Georgia General Howell Cobb and his three thousand militiamen offered only weak opposition. Columbus fell on April 16 and Macon on April 20. Governor Joseph Brown, Confederate Vice President Alexander Stephens, and General Howell Cobb were among the Georgians arrested by the Union troops. Robert Toombs managed to escape to Europe.

## Something Extra!

Today, Andersonville is the site of the National Prisoner of War Museum and a national cemetery where 13,700 Union dead are buried.

**Below:** Due to massive overcrowding and a lack of food and fresh water, almost 13,000 Union soldiers perished at Andersonville Prison. The officer in charge, Captain Henry Wirz, was executed for war crimes.





**Above:** This monument at Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park commemorates the soldiers from Georgia who died there, in one of the bloodiest battles of the bloodiest war in U.S. history.

Meanwhile in Virginia, Union General Grant laid siege to Petersburg and Richmond. In April, Lee was forced to abandon their defense. He headed south toward North Carolina. Unlike some of Lee's earlier opponents, Grant did not stand by and watch as Lee retreated. He ordered his 80,000 troops to pursue Lee's army, which was now down to around 35,000 men. Lee, seeing that further fighting would cost more lives without any victory, surrendered on April 9, 1865, at Appomattox Court House, Virginia. Grant was gracious after the surrender, allowing Lee's men to leave for home to plant crops.

On April 26, Confederate General Joseph Johnston surrendered to Sherman in North Carolina. By late May, all the other Confederate generals had surrendered. The Confederacy simply disappeared. Confederate President Jefferson Davis had fled from Richmond after Lee's retreat. He wanted to keep on fighting, but the majority of southerners were ready for the war to be over. Davis was captured by Union troops in Georgia. Unfortunately, as tired, ragged, and hungry Confederate troops came home, many stole food and other items along the way, continuing the chaos that the war had brought.

Both sides had paid dearly in the war. Over 260,000 Confederate soldiers and 360,000 Union soldiers were dead. Thousands of others were wounded; many were left crippled or blind. The South, where most of the actual military action had taken place, was physically devastated. Railroads had been pulled up, factories burned, and crops destroyed. The southern economy was in shambles.

Reactions to the war's end were varied. Many Confederate soldiers and their supporters on the home front were depressed by their defeat. White women often expressed relief that the war was finally behind them. Cornelia Jones Pond said in her memoirs, "Though regretting our defeat, I rejoiced that the War was over and that my husband was safe at home." Gertrude Clanton Thomas of Augusta wrote in her diary on May 1, 1865, "The war is over and I am glad of it. . . . It is humiliating, very indeed to be a conquered people, but the sky is so bright, the air so pure, the aspect of nature so lovely that I can but be encouraged and hope for something which will benefit us."

For black men and women, the end of the war meant freedom. When the announcement was made in Augusta, northern missionary William Russell said of the scene that a "great cry from every mouth and evidently from every heart" came from the slaves gathered at the commons. All Georgians, black and white, now faced an uncertain future. They would have to create a new society.

### Reviewing the Section

1. Define: platform, racism.
2. What were the two major campaigns fought in Georgia in 1864?
3. Why did General Sherman attack the civilian infrastructure between Atlanta and Savannah?

# Discovering Georgia

## General Sherman and the Green-Meldrim House

Even though Savannah residents had lived with Union soldiers at nearby Fort Pulaski since its capture in 1862, they had believed that they were relatively safe. As General Sherman left Atlanta on his march in the fall of 1864, many thought he would go somewhere else. However, as he neared the coast, it became clear that Savannah was his target. Since his soldiers were living off the land as they marched, they needed the supplies that could be delivered to them by navy vessels at the port of Savannah.

On December 13, Fort McAllister fell, and both Union and Confederate troops realized that Savannah would soon be in Sherman's hands. The approach to Savannah through the marshes, swamps, and rice fields was not easy. But General Hardee, in charge of Savannah's defense, knew it was a matter of time. In the end, the Confederates retreated across

the Savannah River, along with many citizens. Mayor Richard Arnold and several other leaders rode out of Savannah to find a Union officer to surrender to. Soon Union troops filled the city, just in time for Christmas.

This was not Sherman's first visit to Savannah. He had been in the city in the 1840s as a young soldier. He originally intended to stay at the Pulaski House, a hotel. Charles Green, a British gentleman, was a successful cotton merchant and shipper. Hoping to save his home and his cotton, Green offered his beautiful Gothic-style home to Sherman. Sherman wrote to his wife, "I am at this moment in an elegant chamber of the house of a Gentleman named Green. The house is elegant & splendidly furnished with pictures & Statuary. . . ." Sherman said, "a most excellent house it was in all respects." It was from the Green House that Sherman sent his telegram to President Lincoln giving him Savannah and 25,000 bales of cotton as a Christmas gift.

The house served as Sherman's headquarters until February 1865, when Union troops moved on, eventually heading into South Carolina. Charles Green lived in his house until his death. His son later sold the house to Peter Meldrim, a judge. In the 1940s, the St. John's Episcopal Church bought the home to use as a parish hall. Today, the Green-Meldrim House is a National Historic Landmark popular with tourists to Savannah.



# Chapter Review

## Chapter Summary

### Section 1 Georgia Goes to War

- In early 1861, seven seceded states met in Montgomery, Alabama, and formed the Confederate States of America.
- Alexander Stephens of Georgia was chosen as the Confederacy's vice president. Robert Toombs became the secretary of state.
- The Civil War began in April 1862 when Confederate troops fired on and captured Fort Sumter in Charleston Harbor.
- One Union strategy was to blockade southern ports, including Georgia's, to prevent supplies getting in or out. The blockade severely damaged the South's economy.
- In the early years of the war, most of the fighting was in the Upper South. On September 17, 1862, the deadliest battle of the war to date took place at Antietam, in Maryland.
- In September 1862, President Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation, which freed the slaves in the "areas still in rebellion."
- In early July 1863, General Lee took his forces into Pennsylvania, where he was defeated at Gettysburg. From that point on, the battles were fought on southern soil.

### Section 2 The War Comes to Georgia

- In September 1863, the first major battle in Georgia took place at Chickamauga Creek, south of Chattanooga. Confederate troops forced Union troops back into Tennessee in the bloodiest fighting since Gettysburg.

- Union General Grant assigned General William Tecumseh Sherman the task of taking Atlanta. Confederate General John B. Hood was unable to stop Sherman, who took control of Atlanta on September 2, 1864.
- In November 1864, Sherman began his "March to the Sea." Along the way to Savannah, Sherman's troops destroyed railroads and bridges, stripped food from Georgia's fields, and burned up the cotton crop. The devastation extended 40-60 miles wide.
- Sherman arrived in Savannah in December 1864.
- An infamous Confederate prisoner of war camp was located at Andersonville, Georgia. During the time it was open, over 13,000 Union soldiers died there.
- Confederate General Robert E. Lee surrendered to Union General Ulysses S. Grant on April 9, 1865. Over 620,000 Union and Confederate troops died in the war. Many thousands more were wounded.



### Understanding the Facts

1. Explain the significance of the battle of Antietam.
2. Explain the Emancipation Proclamation.
3. Describe the battle of Chickamauga, including the numbers of casualties and the outcome.
4. Summarize Sherman's March to the Sea including the overall purpose of this maneuver.



## Developing Critical Thinking

The story of Andersonville Prison is horrific. Henry Wirz, the southern commander of the prison, claimed he repeatedly asked for additional supplies and help. Northerners accused him of war crimes, and he was tried and executed after the war. Choose one side of this argument and prepare to discuss the issue with your classmates.



## Writing Across the Curriculum

Pretend that you are a 15-year-old soldier on the lines at the Battle of Chickamauga. Write a letter to a friend describing your daily activities, your food and supplies, life in your camp, and the battle in which you have just taken part.

**Below:** This drawing by New York artist Thomas Nast depicts troops from Sherman's army stopping by a farm house during the "March to the Sea." Do you think this is an accurate depiction?



## Extending Reading Skills

According to the information in this chapter, what *effect* did the Emancipation Proclamation have on the war?



## Exploring Technology

Use your favorite search engine to find out about United States war casualties. Look up key Civil War battles, as well as other wars such as the American Revolution. Make a graph or chart that compares casualties among these events.



## Practicing Your Skills

Research the secession dates of the southern states. Make a timeline that shows the secession of each state. Also include the 1860 election, the firing on Fort Sumter, and Lincoln's inauguration.