



**Volume 54, No 9**  
**September, 2014**

**2014 Officers:**

**Anne M. Peasley**, President  
(530) 320-5112  
[apeasley22@gmail.com](mailto:apeasley22@gmail.com)

**Robert E. Hanley**, IPP  
(805) 796-5895  
[acivilwar@aol.com](mailto:acivilwar@aol.com)

**Donald J. Hayden**, Vice President  
(916) 485-1246  
[djhbooklover@yahoo.com](mailto:djhbooklover@yahoo.com)

**Silver N. Williams**,  
Program Director  
(916) 408-4574  
[snw5678@aol.com](mailto:snw5678@aol.com)

**Paul G. Ruud**, Secretary  
(530) 886-8806  
[ruud@starband.net](mailto:ruud@starband.net)

**George W. Foxworth**,  
Treasurer  
(916) 362-0178  
[gfoxworth@sbcglobal.net](mailto:gfoxworth@sbcglobal.net)

**Nina L. Henley**, MAL  
(916) 481-4146  
[whenley@surewest.net](mailto:whenley@surewest.net)

**Wayne J. Henley**, MAL  
(916) 481-4146  
[whenley@surewest.net](mailto:whenley@surewest.net)

**VACANT**  
Editor

**SCWRT Website**  
[www.sacramentocwrt.com](http://www.sacramentocwrt.com)

**Kim Knighton**, Webmaster  
[webmaster@digitalthumbprint.com](mailto:webmaster@digitalthumbprint.com)

# Battle Cry

**Founded 1961,**  
**Newsletter of the Sacramento Civil War Round Table**  
**P.O. BOX 254702**  
**Sacramento, CA 95865-4702**  
<http://sacramentocwrt.com/>



## President's Message

Greetings to all. This month, we have a terrific meeting planned as none other than the devilishly handsome raconteur, Dennis Kohlmann, will captivate us with his presentation of "The Blockade." World traveler, wine connoisseur, inexhaustible, and widely-read reader, dancer extraordinaire, and our own Past President and Program Director (and probably every other office as well), Dennis is fun, educational, and best of all – married to the lovely and talented Garda who has donated her hand made Civil War patterned quilts for our raffles. (I will win this year, Silver.) Our Wednesday evening meeting promises to be one of the best this year.

It's September and our nights are getting cooler (finally), and we get to look forward to a pleasant Sacramento autumn. For those of us in the Round Table, the study of the summer and fall of 1864 takes on an especially grisly aspect as the concept of total war both in the Shenandoah Valley and in Georgia became a terrifying reality. Lincoln bleakly faced the upcoming presidential campaign with no notable bolstering successes of his newly appointed General, Ulysses Grant. George McClellan entered the presidential race. Jubal Early threatened Washington, getting off to an offensive start driving down the Shenandoah Valley, bypassing Harpers Ferry, crossing the Potomac River, and advancing into Maryland. Early caused quite a bit of mayhem for the Union.

Grant finally lost patience with Early, and knew that Washington remained vulnerable if Early was still on the loose. He found a new commander aggressive enough to defeat Early: Philip Sheridan, the cavalry commander of the Army of the Potomac, who was given command of all forces in the area, calling them the Army of the Shenandoah. Sheridan initially started slowly, primarily because the impending election of 1864 demanded a cautious approach, avoiding any disaster that might lead to the defeat of Abraham Lincoln. Throughout September of that year, Sheridan and Early clashed repeatedly. (I still haven't visited Winchester, VA, but I'm dying to. Imagine changing hands in War 47 times!)

Meanwhile in Georgia, Sherman succeeded in taking Atlanta, but not before that city burned. John Bell Hood evacuated Atlanta, burning military supplies and installations, causing a great conflagration in the City (the dramatic fire scenes depicted in the 1939 film Gone with the Wind). Union troops occupied Atlanta on September 2.

Back to the future. I've been hearing more good news concerning our West Coast Conference. We continue to receive donations for our raffle, and more people are signing up. I urge all our members to get on the list of attendees ASAP!

Hope to see you all on September 10<sup>th</sup>.

**Anne Peasley, President**

**MINUTES**  
**SACRAMENTO CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE**  
Wednesday, August 13, 2014  
**HOF BRAU RESTAURANT, 2500 WATT AVENUE, SACRAMENTO**

**ATTENDANCE –34**

**MEMBERS – 27:** Anne M. Peasley, President; Donald J. Hayden, Vice President; Paul G. Ruud, Secretary; George W. Foxworth, Treasurer; Steve Andrews, Jim Armstrong, Roy Bishop, Harvey Cain, Marsha Jutovsky Cain, Ardith A. Cnota, Mitchell M. Cnota, John W. Greer, Irene M. Grenier, Robert E. Hanley, IPP; Scottie Hayden, Dennis Kohlmann, Arnold Kunst, Barbara Leone, Rick A. Peasley, John Rice, Nancy B. Samuelson, Richard Sickert, Michael E. Werner, Robert A. Williams, Silver N. Williams, Program Director; John V. Zasso, Vivian S. Zasso.

**GUESTS – 7:** Amata Arrendo, George Costenbader, Alan Geiken, Chris Highsmith, Sherri Patton, Ray Valdez, Don Zajic

1. The meeting was called to order at 6:58 PM by President Anne Peasley.
2. Rick Peasley led the gathering in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.
3. President Peasley introduced visitors.
4. President Peasley thanked members for their continued Conference raffle donations.
5. The possibility of a discounted conference cost for students was discussed. The reaction was favorable even though it was mentioned that past efforts had not led to student attendance.
5. President Peasley welcomed Sherri Patton back to the Round Table. Sherri continues teaching history at Sacramento City College and led us in a discussion of an “Assessment of Social, Revisionist and Academic Civil War History.” Sherri’s interest in this topic was inspired and informed by Bruce Levine’s book entitled the “Fall of the House of Dixie.”
6. The discussion was centered on the riveting story of how the Civil War upended the economic, political, and social life of the Old South. The fall from power of the prewar elite and the transformation in identity of the common folk were considered issues.
7. The structure of the discussion did not lead to a single story to report in these minutes, but suffice to say the membership was stimulated and made significant contributions to the dialog.
8. President Peasley thanked Sherri with words and wine – members obviously enjoyed Sherri’s presentation style.
9. The meeting was adjourned at 8:17 PM and turned over to John Zasso who worked his usual magic in the wine and book raffle.
10. The next board meeting will be on Wednesday, September 10, 2014, at 10 AM at Brookfield’s Restaurant. Come one, come all!

**Paul Ruud, Secretary**

**Treasurer’s Report**

The cash balance following the August 13, 2014 meeting was \$4,466.42. Thanks to John Zasso, other members, and guests, the raffle brought in \$46.00.

**George W. Foxworth, Treasurer**

<b>Coming Programs for 2014 and 2015</b>		
<b>Date</b>	<b>Speaker</b>	<b>Topic</b>
September 10th	Dennis Kohlmann	“The Blockade”
October 8th	Tad Smith	“The Coins and Currency of the Confederacy”
November 12th	Tom Lubas	“Chicago, That Toddlin Civil War Town”
December 10th	Tim & Ginny Karlberg	“Captain John Groetsch”
January 14 <sup>th</sup>	Erin McCabe	“Women Who Fought in the Civil War”
February 11th	Nancy Samuelson	“Nathan Bedford Forrest”
March 11th	George Beitzel	“Flight To Oblivion”
April 8th	Richard Sickert	To Be Determined
May 13th	Paul Ruud	To Be Determined
June 10th	Don Hayden	Civil War Medicine
July 8th	Joe Maxwell	George Armstrong Custer, Part II
August 12th	Bob Hubbs	To Be Determined

### **NEWSLETTER CIVIL WAR ARTICLES**

Civil War articles/book reviews are welcome. The submission deadline is the 1<sup>st</sup> of each month for that month's Battle Cry. Submit your items in Microsoft Word or regular email to:

[gwoxworth@sbcglobal.net](mailto:gwoxworth@sbcglobal.net)

The Battle Cry is the monthly newsletter of the Sacramento CWRT. Submissions are subject to availability of space and size limitations. Submissions do not necessarily reflect the views of the organization or the Editor. The official address of this organization is: Sacramento Civil War Round Table, Post Office Box 254702, Sacramento, CA 95865-4702. <http://www.sacramentocwrt.org> is the web site address. Check the web for past newsletter editions and information about the group.



# 2014 West Coast Civil War Conference

Sponsored by Sacramento Civil War Round Table

# 1864

November 7 - 9, 2014, Crowne Plaza Hotel, Sacramento

Our Speakers are:

**Craig L. Symonds:** Joined the United States Naval Academy faculty in 1976. He served as Chairman of the History Department in 1988-1992 and was appointed Professor Emeritus on his retirement.

**Harold Holzer:** Is a leading national authority on Abraham Lincoln and the political culture of the Civil War. A writer, lecturer, frequent television guest, and Chairman of The Lincoln Bicentennial Foundation.

**Thomas Cartwright:** Is a leading authority and author on the Battle of Franklin who conducted tours of Western Theater battlefields for 20 years. Appeared on many TV shows and is a frequent CWRT speaker.

**Jim Stanbery:** Professor of Political Science and History at Los Angeles Harbor College, and speaker at the West Coast Civil War Conference for more than twenty years.

**Theodore Savas:** Is an attorney, adjunct college instructor, award-winning author, Partner and Managing Director of Savas Beatie LLC. He specializes in military history and the American Civil War.

**Ron Perisho:** A member of the Sacramento CWRT, Secretary-Treasurer of the Center for Civil War Photography (CCWP), and a Soils and Foundation Engineer specializing in repair of distressed structures.

The Conference cost is \$195 per person which includes Friday dinner, Saturday lunch and dinner, as well as all sessions. A full breakfast buffet is included for guests staying at the hotel.

Partial day attendance: Friday only \$50, Saturday only \$95, Saturday dinner only \$50, Sunday only \$50. There will be a no-host bar set-up Friday and Saturday evenings for your enjoyment before dinner.

For more information, contact Paul Ruud at 530-886-8806 or by contacting [www.sacramentocwrt.com](http://www.sacramentocwrt.com) where information and registration forms will be available.

Room reservations are available by calling Crowne Plaza directly 877-270-1393 or [www.crowneplaza.com](http://www.crowneplaza.com).  
**Crowne Plaza Hotel** has rooms set aside for us at \$99 per night, plus tax. Please mention the Conference.

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Please print this page, fill it out, and return the form with your check for your registration. Make checks payable to:

**Sacramento CWRT** and mail to: George W. Foxworth, 9463 Salishan Court, Sacramento, CA 95826-5233.

**Name / Organization as you want it on your badge**

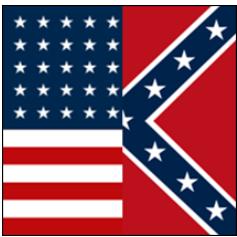
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## A Short Summary of The Atlanta Campaign May - September 1864

After the Chattanooga  
Campaign (See *Battle Cry* 2-07

article), Bragg retreated 25 miles south to Dalton, GA, and entrenched. Grant had not pursued, since he was concerned with going to Burnside's relief at Knoxville. As a result of public clamor, Bragg (who nobody liked except J. F. Davis) was relieved and was succeeded by Joseph E. Johnston (who everybody liked except J. F. Davis). The Confederates planned a new offensive into Tennessee and, during the winter of 1863-64, reinforced Johnston to about 62,000, including 2,000 cavalry under Joseph Wheeler. His corps commanders were Hardee, Hood, and (soon after the campaign started) Polk. After [Grant](#) was promoted to General-in-Chief of all Union armies, he left his favorite subordinate, [Major General William T. Sherman](#), in charge of the three Western armies. Grant's strategy was to apply pressure against the [Confederacy](#) in several coordinated offensives.

Sherman had 106,000 men in seven infantry corps and a cavalry corps. George Thomas's Army of the Cumberland consisted of the following corps: O. O. Howard's IV, J. M. Palmer's XIV, Hooker's XX, and W. L. Elliott's Cavalry Corps. James McPherson's Army of the Tennessee consisted of John A. Logan's XV, G. M. Dodge's XVI, and Francis P. Blair's XVII, Schofield's Army of the Ohio consisted of his XXIII Corps and Stoneman's Cavalry. J. E. Smith's (3d) division of XV Corps, XVII Corps, and three cavalry brigades were designated to guard the lines of communications.

Sherman's orders from Grant were "to move against Johnston's army, to break it up, and to get into the interior of the enemy's country as far as you can, inflicting all the damage you can against their war resources . . ." Since Atlanta was a vital supply, manufacturing, and communications center (early 1864 population was 22,000, dropping to 3,500 after Sherman's civilian evacuation order). Sherman advanced toward that City while Johnston was pressed back some 125 miles toward it. Key to Sherman's success, logically, would be his rebuilding and maintaining the Western and Atlantic Railroad.

Sherman's advance started 7 May, about the same time as Grant, with Meade's Army of the Potomac, started the offensive in the east. Since Johnston's position at Dalton was too strong to attack,

Sherman sent McPherson, preceded by Kilpatrick's Cavalry Division, to turn it from the west while Thomas advanced frontally along the Railroad. Schofield threatened the Confederate right. This resulted in the actions around Rocky Face Ridge, 5-9 May 1864. Johnston withdrew without becoming decisively engaged.

Johnston, now reinforced by Polk's Corps, took up a strong defensive position. The actions around Resaca, 13-16 May, were followed by another withdrawal when Sherman threatened further envelopment from the west. Thomas had recommended that his army outflank the Rebels via the little known Snake Creek Gap Road, but Sherman gave the assignment to McPherson instead. McPherson got "cold feet" on that lonesome road, and failed to attack; missing the "opportunity of a lifetime" according to Sherman.

Not finding favorable defensive positions either at Calhoun or Adairsville, as he had hoped, Johnston continued his retrograde. Sherman now advanced on a broad front, since the country had become more open. Garrard's Cavalry, supported by Jeff C. Davis's Division, captured Rome, GA, an important manufacturing and supply point. Johnston planned to take advantage of his own relatively concentrated position around Cassville and Sherman's separated corps to strike a counterblow. While Hardee and Wheeler's Cavalry checked the advance of McPherson and Thomas from the west and north, Hood on the right (east) was to attack Schofield as the latter moved with his smaller corps to attack Polk in the Confederate center. Hood, however, was faked out of position by the advance of McCook's cavalry on his own right; instead of preparing to attack west, he faced east to meet what he thought to be a threat to his own right. The delay caused by this error spoiled the timing of Johnston's plan, and the Confederates withdrew to a strong defensive position south of Cassville.

On 19 May, Thomas closed in from the west and Schofield from the north. There was skirmishing until dark. Although Johnston had intended to defend here, Hood and Polk convinced him that their part of the line was too vulnerable to enfilade fire. Johnston, therefore, retired during the night of 19 May to Allatoona Pass.

Sherman found this position too strong to assault. After giving his army three days' rest, he undertook another turning movement. McPherson's Army moved on a wide envelopment through Van Wert and approached Dallas from due west. Schofield on the left and Thomas in the center approached from the north.

This brought on the action at Dallas (New Hope Church), 25-27 May. Sherman then moved east again and forced Johnston to abandon his position to take up another one to protect the railroad. This led to the battle of Kennesaw Mountain, 27 June. Here Sherman deviated from his former strategy of turning, rather than assaulting, Confederate defenses; the result was a bloody repulse. Sherman's massive frontal assault against the well entrenched Rebels was a bad mistake, in which he lost 3,000 men. And nothing was gained! In Thomas' words, "One or two more assaults like that will use up this army." The Rebel loss was 800. Polk was killed 14 June at Pine Mountain.

Johnston's next stand was on the Chattahoochee River, 4-9 July. Sherman again turned his position and Johnston withdrew to Peach Tree Creek. The evening of the 17<sup>th</sup>, Johnston was relieved by Hood, who was known for his aggressiveness. Johnston's Fabian tactics had exasperated the Confederates, as they had the Romans. Hood had been a fairly successful leader at brigade and division levels, but was flat-out unqualified to become an army commanding general. (Within the first 10 days, his casualties were 15,000, 30% of his new command, and five months later he totally ruined his Army at Nashville on 16 Dec.) Truly and simply, Hood was an extreme example of the modern day "*Peter Principle*." Sherman wrote later that by his appointment, "the Confederates rendered us a most valuable service." (Some have reasoned that Hood's stupidity was an asset in that he did such dumb things opposing commanders had difficulty anticipating him.)

Sherman closed in on Atlanta from the north and east. McPherson executed the wide envelopment through Decatur. Thomas crossed Peach Tree Creek from the north. Schofield was between these wings. In the battle of Peach Tree Creek, 20 July, Hood suffered heavy casualties and failed to defeat Thomas's Army while it was astride the Creek. When Hood withdrew into the defenses of Atlanta, Sherman erroneously concluded that he was abandoning the City. As McPherson issued orders to move "in pursuit to the south and east of Atlanta," Hood sent Wheeler and Hardee on a 15-mile night march against McPherson's exposed south flank. This action, in which McPherson was killed, is known as the Battle of Atlanta, 22 July. The Confederates, however, were finally checked with a loss of about 8,500 as compared with a Union loss of 3,700.

McPherson's death precipitated a reorganization of command. Howard became C.G., Army of the Tennessee. Hooker, who ranked Howard and felt

himself entitled to McPherson's post, resigned command of XX Corps and was succeeded by Slocum. Palmer, a little later, resigned command of XIV Corps because he did not want to serve under Schofield, whom he claimed was junior. Jeff C. Davis became C.G. of XIV Corps.

By 25 July 1864, Sherman had invested Atlanta on the north and east. Hood's line of communications via the railroad to the south was still open, and Sherman now directed operations to cut it. This resulted in two failures: Stoneman's and McCook's Raids, 26-31 July, and the battle of Ezra Church, 28 July.

July ended with Hood's holding Atlanta with 37,000 infantry reinforced by 5,000 Georgia State Militia under G. W. Smith. Sherman had 85,000 infantry. The only cavalry he had fit for field service was Garrard's Division and a brigade that had joined Schofield after Stoneman's departure. Stoneman's Division had been all but wiped out. (McCook's Division had been dispersed and its fractions were seeking safety at various points on the Chattahoochee below the railroad.) Kilpatrick's Cavalry Division, which had been guarding communications to the rear, was ordered to relieve McCook's Division in protecting Sherman's right flank.

In another effort to extend his lines west and cut Hood's rail lines to the south, the XXIII Corps was moved from Sherman's left to the right and reinforced two days later by the XIV Corps. Positions thus evacuated were filled by Garrard's dismounted troopers in the former XXIII Corps sector, and by thinning the lines of the XX and IV Corps. This movement led to frustration on Utoy Creek.

Before Sherman could carry out his next plan, to move his entire force west of the Atlanta-Marietta R.R. and turn Hood's position by an advance south, he was diverted by Wheeler's Raid, 10 Aug.-10 Sept. On 16 August Sherman learned that the bulk of Hood's cavalry was near Dalton. He decided to take advantage of this situation to raid Hood's line of communications and force him to retreat. But Kilpatrick's Raid to Jonesboro, 18-22 Aug. 1864, was a failure.

Sherman then prepared to employ his infantry. The night of 25 August, he started regrouping his forces to turn Hood's west flank. On 27 Aug, his forces were on line along the Sandtown Road with Howard, Thomas, and Schofield from right to left. The next day Howard and Thomas reached the Montgomery and Atlanta R.R. at Fairburn and Red Oak Station, respectively. By midnight of 31 Aug, Schofield had cut the railroad at Rough and Ready; Thomas had cut it

about halfway between that place and Jonesboro. Howard had closed up to the latter place from the west.

The night of 30 Aug, Hood, knowing of Howard's location but not that of the other two commanders, had sent the Corps of Hardee and S. D. Lee to defend Jonesboro. The next day they made an unsuccessful attack. S. D. Lee was then ordered back toward Atlanta. Sherman then failed to destroy Hardee's isolated force. These actions are known as the battle of Jonesboro, GA, 31 Aug.-1 Sept. '64.

Hood evacuated Atlanta at 5p.m., 1 Sept, and the XX Corps took possession the next morning. Sherman pursued Hood to Lovejoy but found him concentrated with his entire command in a position that was too strong to be assaulted. Union forces returned to Atlanta 4-8 Sept. Thomas' command occupied the town, Howard's was located at East Point, and Schofield's was at Decatur.

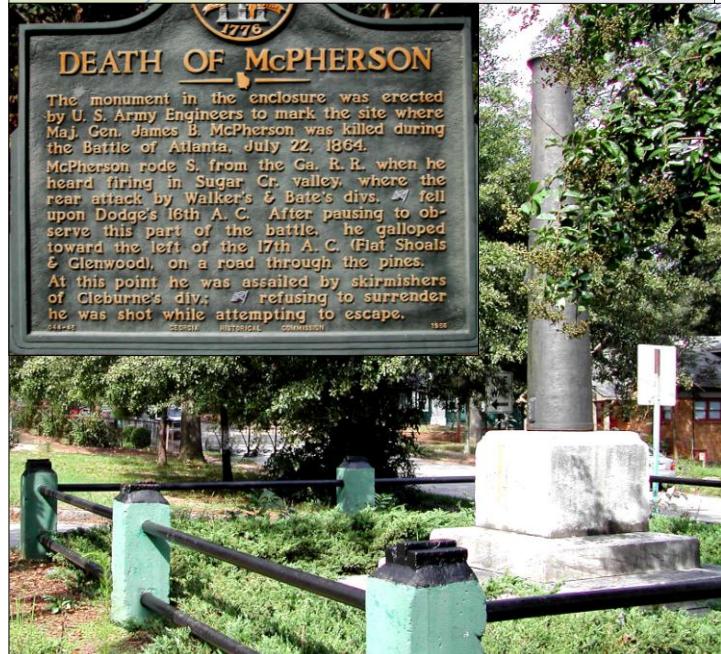
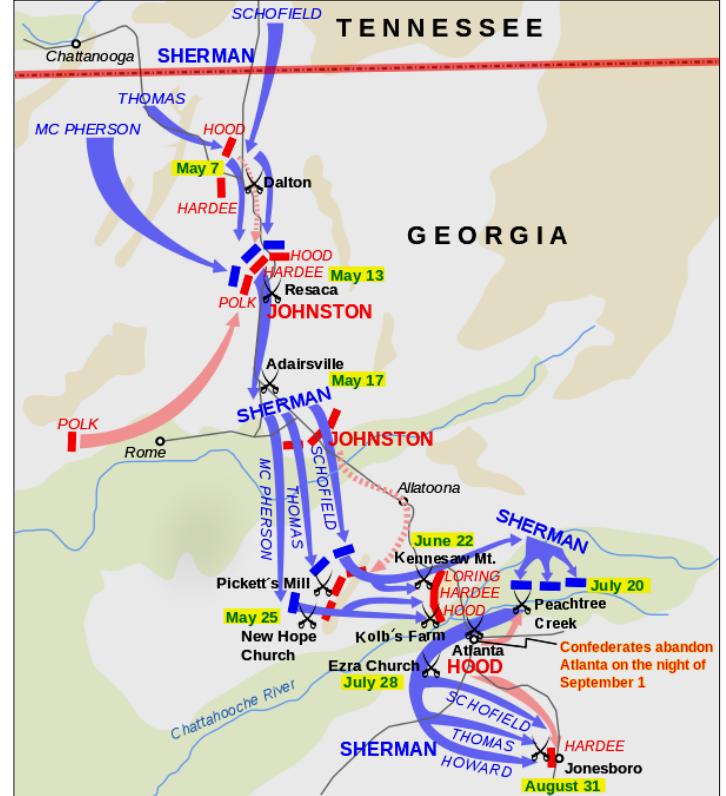
Unable to advance farther, but determined to hold his gains, Sherman ordered his Chief Engineer, Orlando Poe, to design a compact defense system covering the inner city only. This left much of the outlying residential areas within the firing lanes and required evacuation of most of the civilians from the City to convert it into an armed camp that could be held with the smallest possible force. While many of the citizens left on their own accord, needless to say, the order to evacuate was very unpopular.

In Sept, Hood moved north to attack Sherman's 140 mile line of communications to Chattanooga, with the hope that this would force him to abandon Atlanta. This operation was the beginning of the Franklin--Nashville Campaign (See *Battle Cry* articles of May and June 2014). After frustrating Hood's threat to his line of communications and then leaving Thomas to take care of Hood's subsequent disastrous invasion into Tennessee and the total defeat and destruction of his Rebel Army, Sherman in Nov. 1864 cut loose from the new Union base in Atlanta, after destroying its war material capabilities, and undertook his March to the Sea.

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R. A. Williams: 3-20-07, rev 7-18-14



# Summary of the Atlanta Campaign Photo Page

## Principal Commanders



Sherman



Thomas



McPherson



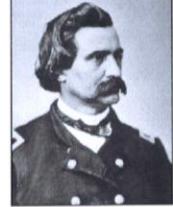
Schofield



Slocum



Howard



Logan



Blaire



Dodge



J. C. Davis



Poe



Johnston



Hardee



Polk



S. D. Lee



Hood



Atlanta and Vicinity, 1864  
Photographs Courtesy of George Barnard

