DEBBIE POWERS
LESSON PLAN- CIVIL WAR WORKSHOP- JULY, 2008

GPS STANDARD- SSUSH9- The student will identify key events, issues, and individuals relating to the causes, course, and consequences of the Civil War.

CLASS- U.S. HISTORY- 11TH GRADE

SUBJECT:
The role played by The Atlanta Campaign in the Civil War

MATERIALS:
- Textbook reading- The Atlanta Campaign
- Map of Georgia
- Chronology of The Atlanta Campaign- http://ngeorgia.com/history/atlcamp.html
- Ken Burns video series- The Civil War
- Primary Documents:
  - Eyewitness to the Battle of Atlanta--- http://www.historynet.com/eyewitness-to-the-battle-of-atlanta.htm

TEACHING STRATEGIES:
- Direct instruction
- Class discussion
- Cooperative groups
- Reading for content
- Video clips

TEACHING:
Step 1- For homework the night before, students will read the section in their textbook dealing with The Atlanta Campaign & make a list of the key points that they think should be remembered. In order to get the students involved in a discussion, the next day, the teacher will write items from their lists on the board as well as things that they have left out. The teacher will get the students to arrange the events in the correct order & follow with a discussion of the campaign. Time- 1 class period

Step 2- In cooperative groups, students will trace Sherman’s route through Georgia using a map of Georgia & the chronology of events. Time- 1 class period
Step 3- Again in cooperative groups, students will read the letter & diary entries & discuss what the primary documents tell us about the Civil War. Time- 1 class period

SUMMARIZING: While in their cooperative groups, the students will produce one of the following items to show their understanding of The Atlanta Campaign & its role in the Civil War:
   (1) a letter from Confederate or Union soldier
   (2) a eulogy that would have been delivered at a soldier’s reburial after the war
   (3) the design of a monument that would have been built at one of the battle sites in The Atlanta Campaign
Chronology of The Atlanta Campaign

The Atlanta Campaign

Prelude
Opening Curtain
Sherman leaves his lifeline
A formidable foe
The battles for Atlanta
Chronology

Events during the Atlanta Campaign:

December 16, 1863
General Joseph E. Johnston is ordered to Dalton, Georgia (city history) to replace Braxton Bragg as commander of the Army of Tennessee.

April 24
Scouts begin to probe Rebel strength south of Ringgold, Georgia. This is the first activity that can be directly associated with the Atlanta Campaign.

April 27
This is the earliest generally accepted date for the start of the Atlanta Campaign. Rear echelon troop movement begins for the Army of the Tennessee (General John B. McPherson). Union scouts probe troop strength at Tunnel Hill.

May 1
Skirmish at the old Stone Church, east of Ringgold, Georgia. This date is the "official" date of the start of the Atlanta Campaign, listed as such in the Official Records.

May 2
Skirmish at Lee's Crossroads, near Tunnel Hill and near Ringgold Gap.

May 3
Skirmishes at Catoosa Springs and Red Clay.

May 4
This is one of the generally accepted dates for the start of the Atlanta Campaign. General George Thomas (Army of the Cumberland) [US] begins to move slowly east along the Western and Atlantic Railroad from Ringgold. Union troops in all departments begin to move into position for what will be the final summer of war. Skirmish at Varnell (Praetor's Mill)

http://ngeorgia.com/history/atlcamp.html
May 6
Skirmish at Tunnel Hill

May 7
This is the latest date for the start of the Atlanta Campaign. Army of the Tennessee [US] moves south from Lee and Gordon's Mill along Taylor Ridge, using it to cover McPherson's flanking movement. A division of the Army of the Cumberland [US] attacks Rebel skirmishers at Tunnel Hill.

May 8
Fighting commences along Rocky Face Ridge west of Dalton, specifically at Mill Creek and Dug Gap. Fighting along this spine of high mountains will continue until May 11.

May 9
McPherson's Army of the Tennessee runs into stiffer than expected Rebel resistance as he moves towards the Western and Atlantic railroad bridge near Resaca. In hostile territory, the general decides to dig in and await reinforcements. Sherman spends the night at the Clisby-Austin house in Tunnel Hill. Moving south after disembarking at the Red Clay depot, Schofield's Army of the Ohio encounters Joseph Wheeler's Confederate Cavalry near Varnell.

May 11
Carter Stevenson awakes to silence. He communicates that his men can find no soldiers immediately west of Rocky Face to Johnston, who orders a cavalry sweep of the area. Wheeler's cavalry find almost no Union soldiers.

May 12
Outflanked, with superior numbers to his rear, Johnston withdraws to Resaca.

May 14
Battle of Resaca, Day 1 - Almost 100,000 men poured out of Snake Creek Gap west of the tiny Georgia town of Resaca. Fighting occurred along the entire line although the heaviest fighting occurred to the north of the city.

May 15

May 17
Rome falls. After a small skirmish at Adairsville, Johnston sets up at Cassville. Sherman mistakenly ends up at Kingston.

May 18
General John B. McPherson spends the night at a present-day Georgia landmark, Barnsley Gardens.

May 19
Johnston withdraws to the Allatoona Mountains south of the Etowah River after an attack at Cassville, Georgia is cancelled. Sherman decides to regroup in Kingston.

May 23
Sherman leaves the Western and Atlantic and heads south from Kingston. In 1844 the General visited the Etowah Indian Mounds near Cartersville, Georgia. The W&A cuts through Allatoona Pass east of Cartersville, which Sherman remembered and avoided.

May 25
Battle of New Hope Church-- Johnston, forced by Sherman to abandon his stronghold in the Allatoona Mountains, moves to block the Union advance on Atlanta meeting Sherman's Army at a small church some 25 miles northwest of Atlanta.

May 27
Spreading their respective lines east from New Hope Church, Sherman and Johnston battle at Pickett's Mill.

http://ngeorgia.com/history/atlcamp.html
May 28
After 2 defeats in three days Sherman realized that fighting here was a mistake and moves east towards the railroad. Johnston tries to take advantage of this move by testing Sherman's right flank. Confederates General William Bates runs headlong into McPherson's regulars at Dallas after misunderstanding a signal from his cavalry.

June 1
General George Stoneman's cavalry captures Allatoona Pass. Realizing the mistake he made, Sherman orders his men to return to the railroad in Acworth.

June 4
Johnston takes a position on Lost Mountain and Pine Top and moves to Brush Mountain to protect the railroad.

June 8
U. S. President Lincoln nominated for second term.

June 14
Leonidas Polk dies during fighting at Pine Mountain.

June 18
The advance made by Sherman force Johnston to withdraw and reform a line at Kennesaw Mountain.

June 19
Fighting begins at Kennesaw Mountain.

June 22
Hood attacks at Koke Farm, halting Sherman's attempt to bypass Kennesaw.

June 27
Battle of Kennesaw Mountain. General George Thomas is repulsed in a bloody attack on the center of the Rebel line.

July 2
After McPherson moves to outflank Johnston, the Confederates General withdraws to Smyrna.

July 4
Intense fighting at Ruff's Mill turns Johnston's left flank. Johnston pulls back to the so-called Chattahoochee Line starting late today.

July 10
Johnston withdraws to the gates of Atlanta, carefully destroying all bridges over the Chattahoochee River. Skirmish in Alpharetta. Preston King is traveling to Atlanta to meet with Johnston as a representative of President Davis.

July 11
Davis informs Robert E. Lee of his decision to remove Johnston, asks Lee about his feelings on Hood as a replacement.

July 16
Moving east from Marietta, Georgia, Sherman's forces spread across the open land north of Atlanta. Replying to an inquiry about his plans made by President Davis, Johnston says, "As the enemy has double our number, we must be on the defensive. My plan of operations, therefore, must depend upon that of the enemy."

July 17
President Davis relieves Johnston of command and places John Bell Hood in charge. In a meeting with his men two days later Sherman instructs them to expect an attack at any moment, given Hood's aggressive nature. Sherman had found out about the change in command thanks to the Atlanta newspapers.

July 20
Hood attacks and loses at Peachtree Creek. From a point northeast of Atlanta along the Decatur Road (at the corner of present-day Dekalb Avenue and Degress St.) the first artillery shells fall on the city.

July 21

http://ngeorgia.com/history/atlcamp.html
A “bald hill” east of the city falls to men under the command of Mortimer Leggett. Renamed Leggett’s Hill, this rise offers Sherman an elevated place to fire artillery into the heart of downtown Atlanta. Sherman believes the city will be quickly abandoned. Forward troops report large-scale movement of Confederate forces.

July 22

The large-scale troop movements is not the retreat of the Army of Tennessee, but the movement of Hardee’s Corps on a 15-mile circuitous route to attack the Federal left flank in East Atlanta. General McPherson dies. Confederate loses may exceed 10,000 in this battle.

July 26

General George Stoneman leaves for a raid on Macon, Georgia, in an attempt to cut Hood’s supply line.

July 28

Concerned with Federal troop movement west of the city, Hood attacks and loses at Ezra Church.

August 4

Slow encirclement of the city of Atlanta continues with Federals crossing Utoy Creek. Over the next several days heavy skirmishing would occur in this area.

August 25

Sherman tires of waiting for Hood to leave Atlanta. Orders go out to six of seven division telling them to begin moving towards the Macon and Western Railroad, the last of the supply lines for Atlanta.

August 30

Forward units of Howard’s Army of the Tennessee cross the Flint River and take high ground west of Jonesborough, Georgia.

Aug. 31

**Battle of Jonesborough**—Day 1. Georgia native, General William “Old Reliable” Hardee moves to Jonesborough to protect the Macon and Western Railroad and launches an attack against Howard. Hood withdraws S. D. Lee from the “diversion.”

Sept. 1

**Battle of Jonesborough**—Day 2. Defending the small city of Jonesborough, Hardee bears the brunt of a massive assault, but Atlanta is about to be abandoned. With his communication and rail line cut, Hood realizes he can no longer hold the city of Atlanta and retreats to Lovejoy Station (now Lovejoy in Clayton County).

Sept. 2

Henry Siocum’s XX Corps moves into Atlanta, accepting the surrender of the city from Mayor James Caihoun.

September 3

Sherman wires Washington “Atlanta is ours, and fairly won...”

**The Atlanta Campaign**

**Prelude**

**Opening Curtain**

**Sherman leaves his lifeline**

**A formidable foe**

**The battles for Atlanta**

**Chronology**

If you would like a brief recap of these sites, click the “Free Brochure” button and we will be happy to send you some information.

On the Blue and Gray Trail:

The Civil War Diary of James Laughlin Orr, 1838-1919
(covers Sherman's march to the sea)

Contents

- Biographical info on James Laughlin Orr
- Introduction to a Civil War Diary
  (A talk delivered on November 22, 1960 by Samuel Orr to the Civil War Round Table of
  Evansville, Indiana)
- The Civil War Diary of James Laughlin Orr (November-December 1864)
  o Separate sheet inserted at random into the Diary (February-March 1865)

James Laughlin Orr = Kate Ann Howes

James Laughlin Orr was born 31 October 1838 in Evansville, Indiana. He was the son of Samuel Orr and
Martha Lowry. His parents immigrated from Ireland in 1834. The family lived for a while in Pittsburgh
and then came to Evansville in 1835.

Traditions of his boyhood are few as he seldom talked of himself. He was a famous skater, going for
miles on the frozen canal. At the age of 14 he was sent to Belfast for a year. His school books with the
commendation of teachers and monthly marks are still preserved and bear witness to the severe classical
course and the diligence of the young boy. His letters tell of visits with his grandmother and aunts and
uncles.

He also lived with a German family in Evansville for a year. In those days a knowledge of German was
necessary for business in Evansville, which was largely settled with Germans. He went into his father's
heavy hardware business on his return from Ireland at 15 years, having no further schooling, but
educating himself all his life by diligent reading of books and papers.

He remained in business until the beginning of the Civil War, when he promptly responded to the call to
the colors. He was commissioned a first lieutenant of the 42nd Indiana Regiment on 7 September 1861.
He was commissioned a captain on 2 July 1863. On 12 July 1865 he was commissioned a major by
brevet for efficient and meritorious service in the U.S. Army. These commissions are in possession of the
family.

http://www.crossmyt.com/hc/gen/civwdiar.html
To create the setting for the events described in the diary, reference should be made to a map on which the route from Cartersville to Savannah can easily be traced. Even a modern highway map can be used. For while some place names have disappeared in the last 100 years, enough remain to pin point the route. After the capture of Atlanta on September 1864, Confederate General Hood started for Tennessee by way of Florence, Alabama in an effort to distract Sherman from the over-all course of strategy that had been agreed upon between him and General Grant who was then in Virginia. Sherman divided his forces and sent Schofield’s army and Thomas’s army north from Atlanta under the command of General Thomas to deal with Hood. He, himself, turned his back on his regular lines of supply, cut loose from his base, and prepared to march from Atlanta to the sea -- one of the boldest and most imaginative strokes of the Civil War or any other war for that matter.

For the march, Major General William T. Sherman’s army consisted of 60,000 infantry and 5500 cavalry. The infantry were organized into two wings, the right wing commanded by Major General O. O. Howard contained the XVII Corps and the XV Corps. The left wing commanded by Major General Henry W. Slocum was composed of the XX Corps and the XIV Corps. The XX Corps was a relatively new organization made up of the veteran soldiers from the old XI and XII Corps who were combined into one unit and brought west after Gettysburg. The XIV Corps commanded by Brevet Major General Jefferson C. Davis was composed of three divisions. The second division commanded by Brigadier General Morgan was the one in which my grandfather served. The cavalry division was composed of two brigades and was commanded by Brigadier General Judson Kilpatrick.

During the major part of the march, Sherman and his headquarters moved with the XIV Corps, and General Slocum moved with the XX Corps. Since it is natural that the descriptions of the march should coincide largely with the activities of the commanding general, it is easy to identify many place names and events mentioned in the diary from other historical descriptions of the march. The General Foster referred to in the last paragraph of the diary was Major General Foster who served as the departmental commander for land forces on the south Atlantic coast.

After his discharge in the early Summer of 1865 with the rank of Major, James L. Orr returned to Evansville. We can well imagine what were his activities in the next few months, because on 31 October 1865 he was married to Kate Ann Howes, daughter of Lewis Howes, a wholesale grocer of Evansville and Memphis, Tennessee. He was active all his life in G.A.R., memorials, parades, and meetings. He died in February 1919 at the age of 80.

26 July 1994

A Civil War Diary

Cartersville, Ga. Nov. 12 - 1864
This day about 11 o’clock the last train north on the Georgia R. R. left for Chattanooga and R. R. connection with U. S. was thus severed. The telegraph operator took out his instruments & left early in the a.m. At 12 Gen. Sherman arrived -- hitched on his pocket instrument & probably that may be the last link binding us to the north. We are now adrift for a great raid. But whither? Quien sabe? Fair.

Nov. 13 Sunday
The Division moved at 6 a.m. across the Etowah River and began the work of destroying the railroad. About 7 miles was assigned as our task. The work was thoroughly performed -- ties torn up, placed in piles with the rails on them and fired. Army of the Tenn. near Marietta and 20th Corps at Atlanta. Iron twisted and bent. On this Sabbath day forty five miles of railroad from Cartersville to Atlanta was entirely destroyed. Bridge over Chattahoochie burned. Camped at Acworth. Cartersville, Cassville, Acworth burned all buildings of value to the enemy. Fair.

Nov. 27, Sunday
2nd and 3rd Div. moved at daylight on the Louisville Road. All the trains of the corps protected by the 1st Division ordered to Davisboro. Owing to delayed march of 1st Division head of the train did not move till about 1 o'clock. Order was as follows: 1st Div. corps, hdqtrs. & artillery, ammunition, pontoons, 3rd Div., 2nd Div. cavalry trains. I went with trains. 2nd Div. train reached camp about 7 1/2 p.m. Moved 8 miles. Fair.

Nov. 28 Monday
Ordered to move at daylight. Uncertainty about the road delayed us. Our train was on the road about 9 a.m. Went through Davisboro found troops there destroying the railroad. Camped on Ogeechee River. March 14 miles. Fair.

Nov. 29 Tuesday
At our crossing of the Ogeechee there is an extensive swamp, through which a causeway had been thrown up to afford passage for the water of a freshet, seven openings were left in the causeway spanned by bridges. The rebels had burned all of these making, with the one over the river, eight bridges destroyed within 3/4 of a mile. A road was made by corduroying the swamp with rail and debris of the bridges, to pass trains. Moved about 3 miles to Louisville and there parked trains. Our troops camped at Louisville last night. Holtum missing. Fair.

Nov. 30 Wednesday
The corps in camp about Louisville. No movement. Holtum brought in killed.

December 1, Thursday
2nd Div. with trains of corps hdqtrs. 3rd Div. and our own arrived at noon on the Milledgeville Road. 3rd Div. to our right supporting cavalry, 1st Div. on another road, towards R.R. I believe.
March 10 miles. Fair.

Dec. 2 Friday
Moved at 6 a.m. on Millen Road. 1st Div. joined us on a road intersecting ours from the right and took the advance. Camp on Buckhead Creek. March 12 miles. Fair.

Dec. 3 Saturday
Moved at 7 a.m. 1st Div. in advance. 20th Corps being on our front, had to take another road.
Swamp bridges burned. Pontoons put down. Camped 1 1/2 miles from Lumpkin Station. March 10 miles. Fair.

Dec. 4 Sunday

Dec. 5 Monday
Moved at 6 1/2 a.m. on road towards Savannah River. Passed near Jacksonboro, a mile south of it.
2nd Div. train in rear. All in camp by 8 p.m. Marched past three days through fine forests, crossing many small swamps, requiring corduroy and causing delay. 1st Div. behind us. Camp on Buck Creek, 6 miles from S.C. March 16 miles. Fair.

Dec. 6 Tuesday
Moved at 6 1/2 a.m. on the "River Road" to Savannah 2nd Div. train again in the rear. March 18 miles. Fair. Obstructions in the road by felling trees across it. Saw sugar cane growing.

Dec. 7 Wednesday
Head of column moved at 6 1/2 a.m. 2nd Div. train again in the rear. No opposition by the enemy except obstructions in the road and destroying bridges. Camp near Ebenezer Creek 26 1/2 miles from Savannah. Saw a butterfly today. March 16 miles. Fair. Disposition of the 14th Corps past three days has been as follows: 2nd Div. with trains of 2nd and 3rd Div. and corps ordnance and reserve artillery (19th Ind. Battery.) A brigade marching with trains of each division and one with corps trains. 1st Div. with its trains: 3rd Div. without transportation. Kilpatrick's cavalry. Thus reversing the usual order and advancing backwards, trains being in front and troops in the rear.

Dec. 8 Thursday
Troops moved about 3 miles clearing obstruction and pontooning big and little Ebenezer Creeks.
wealthy families there from Charleston fled for safety from the Yanks. Then quit Fayetteville on Cape Fear River to which point came a boat from Wilmington with very small amount of supplies. Moved on towards Goldsboro, left wing making a demonstration toward Raleigh and in swinging round to Goldsboro had pretty sharp fight on the 19th (of March) a few miles west of Goldsboro. Right wing coming up to support. Johnston wisely decided to leave -- he took to Raleigh. Whole army then ordered to concentrate at Goldsboro where we now are.
Eyewitness to the Battle of Atlanta

Civil War Times | 0 comments | # Print This Post | # Email This Post

You arrived here after searching for the following phrases:
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Click a phrase to jump to the first occurrence, or return to the search results.

In late July 1864, Major General William T. Sherman's Union army closed in on General John B. Hood's Confederate army defending Atlanta. On July 20 Hood launched a night attack against the Union right wing north of the city. Repulsed but undaunted, Hood turned to strike the Federal left wing. Major General James B. McPherson's Army of the Tennessee, east of Atlanta. He deployed Major General Benjamin P. Cheatham's corps northeast of the city and sent Lieutenant General William J. Hardee's corps around McPherson's left flank with orders to crush the Army of the Tennessee on the morning of July 22. Both corps were then to assault the rest of Sherman's host.


9/26/2008
Among the blue-clad soldiers moving against Atlanta was Major Thomas T. Taylor of Georgetown, Ohio. Twenty-seven years old and dashingly handsome, Taylor was a lawyer and sometime newspaper editor who had been with the 47th Ohio since the fall of 1861. During the opening phase of the Atlanta Campaign, Taylor had remained with his regiment, part of Major General John A. Logan's XV Corps, Army of the Tennessee. By mid-May he had been placed in command of Brigadier General Morgan Smith's divisional skirmishers, 13 companies in all. By July 22 he was highly adept in skirmish tactics, as we'll see in the following passage from the letter he wrote four days later to his wife, Nesta, describing what he saw, experienced, and did during the Battle of Atlanta, the most eventful day of his campaign. Taylor's letters have been lightly edited for clarity.

Anch as usual at daylight I went down to the skirmish line to learn the condition of things. Soon Gen T Morgan L. Smith sent an order to move forward my line and feel the enemy. I pulled forward and soon began driving his [the enemy's skirmish] line. At his skirmish pits I redressed it [Taylor's own line] and advanced on his main works and soon drove his skirmishers in, but without giving them time to form I hurried forward with a shout and a volley which set the rebels scurrying and a regiment of reserves in full and rapid retreat. In the main [outlying] works I again dressed the line and pursued them, capturing a few prisoners and two lines of skirmish pits and drove them square into their [main] works and occupied with my line a portion of the corporation of Atlanta, not more than 600 yards from their forts. Here they served us with "minie" [mini bullets], case and solid shot and shells. I soon discovered where their skirmish pits were and made my line crawl forward in some places within 20 yards of them and build gun batteries. I found one set of [his own skirmishers?] timid and backward and I had to crawl up to a point where I wished a post, show them the bearings and range and help them build it.

Their skirmishers were kept so close [to the ground] that I had only two wounded by musket balls. One solid shot knocked down a rebel and buried the man under it. A Captain thought he had come and wished to retire but I made it a point never to give up my ground if my flanks are protected (and) so they cannot help. I sent back for shovels to dig good pits but our Division General was not at liberty to send them to us. Our men in authority appeared to think the enemy were evacuating Atlanta because they were moving columns to the left. About 9 or 10 a.m. Logan's Senior Aide came out and I showed him how earnestly they [the Confederates] were working in town upon their fortifications and asked if it looked like an evacuation. He said no, I then asked him for tools, but they came not. Our Commanders appeared infatuated with the thought of evacuation of Atlanta.

After a time two regiments of infantry and a section of artillery were sent out as a second reserve. I laid down and got a good nap and awoke about 121/2 in. Just after I got up Lieut. [Adolph] Ahlers [of the 47th Ohio] and two men were wounded near me and I was struck with dirt, blood or something and Ahlers reported me wounded. My negro went to the rear with the horses, but came back. About 1 p.m. I moved to a high point in the line and sat down. Firing soon commenced and became very heavy on the extreme left and in the rear.

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Tags: 19th Century, American Civil War, Civil War Times, Historical Conflicts, Historical Figures

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- What We Learned... from the Hydespses


9/26/2008
After several paragraphs relative to sickness in the family and the difficulty of securing medical attention, the letter continues:

"...They all fear that I am taking the fever now, but I hope not. I feel very badly, but I have gone through enough to go to bed in a month until last night. There had been a great deal of sickness in this country since the army came in here. But I don't think there's much of it now. We have but few soldiers left in these parts now. The Yankees have their men in that part of the country. They are quite a few miles from our house."

E. Butler (1831-1886) a native of Orange County, New York, she lived to the age of 57, dying in her husband's arms. Butler was buried in the cemetery of Old Mount Zion Methodist Church on Stewart Avenue."

Some extracts from Miss Peterson's letter follow, with annotations in parentheses by the present writer."

"...except the house and the old kitchen and the smoke house. We have lost our cows down in Enfield, County, and Demps (another brother) lost his Gray cattle there."

All our Negroes are at home and they are the only ones in the neighborhood. You can imagine how it would take all the Negroes down in a neighborhood.

"...the old Negroes and children go shopping and farming."

"...The Yankees burn and sack homes, and Demps (another brother) lost his Gray cattle there."

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