



Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park

GSU Honors College

2 April 2013

National Park System, Interior Department

- Over 3,000 acres, eight miles from north to south
- Visitor Center has movie about the battle, excellent museum and gift shop
- Volunteers in Parks program
- Over 20 miles of trail which are maintained by the trail club



Kennesaw Mountain Trail Club Trail Ambassadors



Topics

- ◉ Tactics, weapons and conditions
- ◉ Union Strategy in the West
- ◉ Atlanta Campaign of 1864
- ◉ Battle of Kennesaw Mountain
- ◉ Savannah Campaign of 1864 (March to the Sea)
- ◉ History of the Park
- ◉ 150th Anniversary of the Battle

Linear infantry tactics



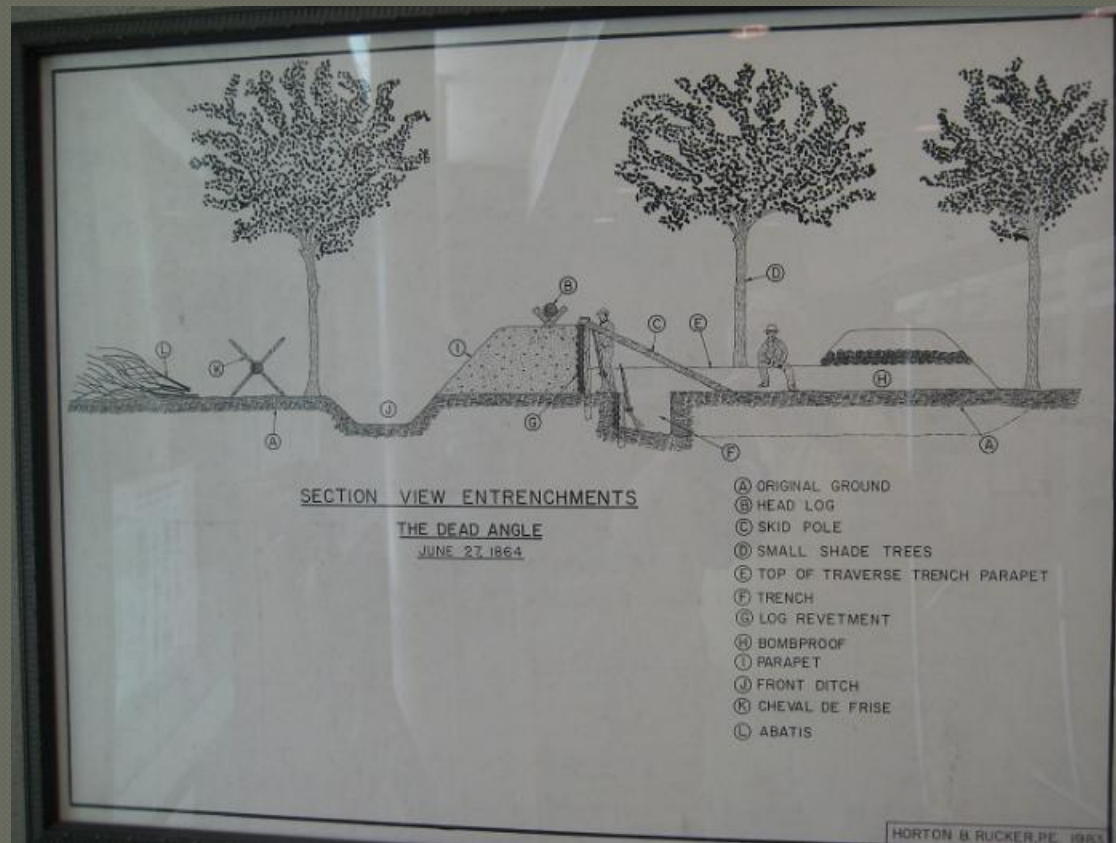
Trench with cannon (M1857 Napoleon 12 pounder)



Breech loading, range 1 mile



Soldiers as expert with spade and ax as with a musket



Still a threat: poison ivy

- “Twenty-five years after the fighting at Kennesaw, Colonel Benjamin Harrison, 70th Indiana, became the nation’s 23rd president. A native of Ohio, Harrison was promoted to brigade command later in the Atlanta Campaign, but not before suffering from the effects of poison ivy. While recuperating at a division hospital in late June 1864, he was succeeded in command of the 70th by LTC Samuel Merrill.” from Kennesaw Mountain June 1864 by Richard A. Baumgartner
-
- The susceptibility became life long and ultimately became a political liability: while campaigning for governor of Indiana in 1870, he became known as "Kid gloves Harrison".
- President Harrison’s reaction to poison ivy is an extreme case but it behooves us all to be able to identify and avoid the poison ivy and poison oak that is prevalent throughout the battle field park.



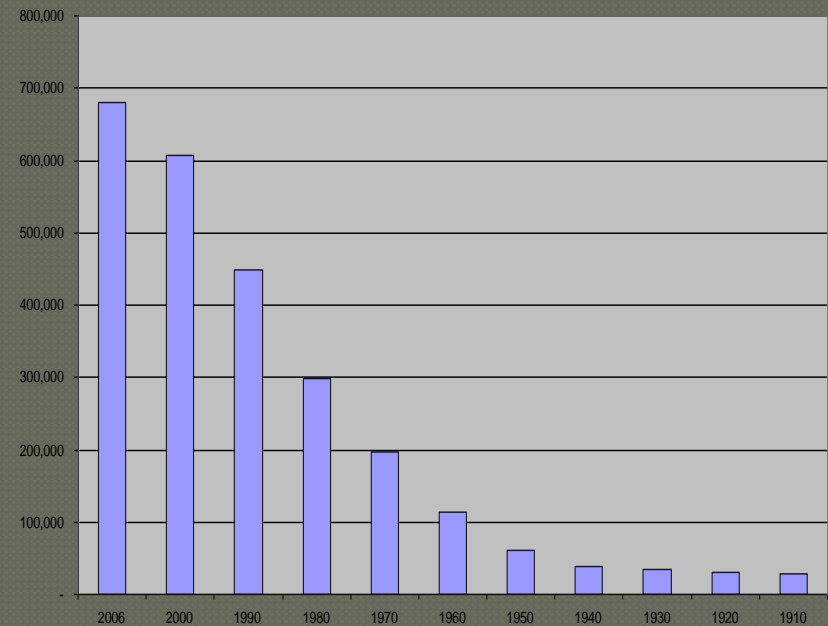
Population, preparation and weather

- ◉ How many people lived in Cobb County in 1860?
- ◉ When the armies arrived for the battle they had over 10 times as many troops as the inhabitants.
- ◉ The population of Cobb County is now over 600,000 and the area of the old 1860 Cobb County would have close to 1 million folks.
- ◉ 1.9 million people visit the Park annually.
- ◉ Kennesaw Mountain, Little Kennesaw and Pigeon Hill are steep and rocky
- ◉ It had rained heavily for days before the battle. Roads had been reduced to quagmires.

It was 1970 before the population of Cobb County exceeded the number of troops in the battle

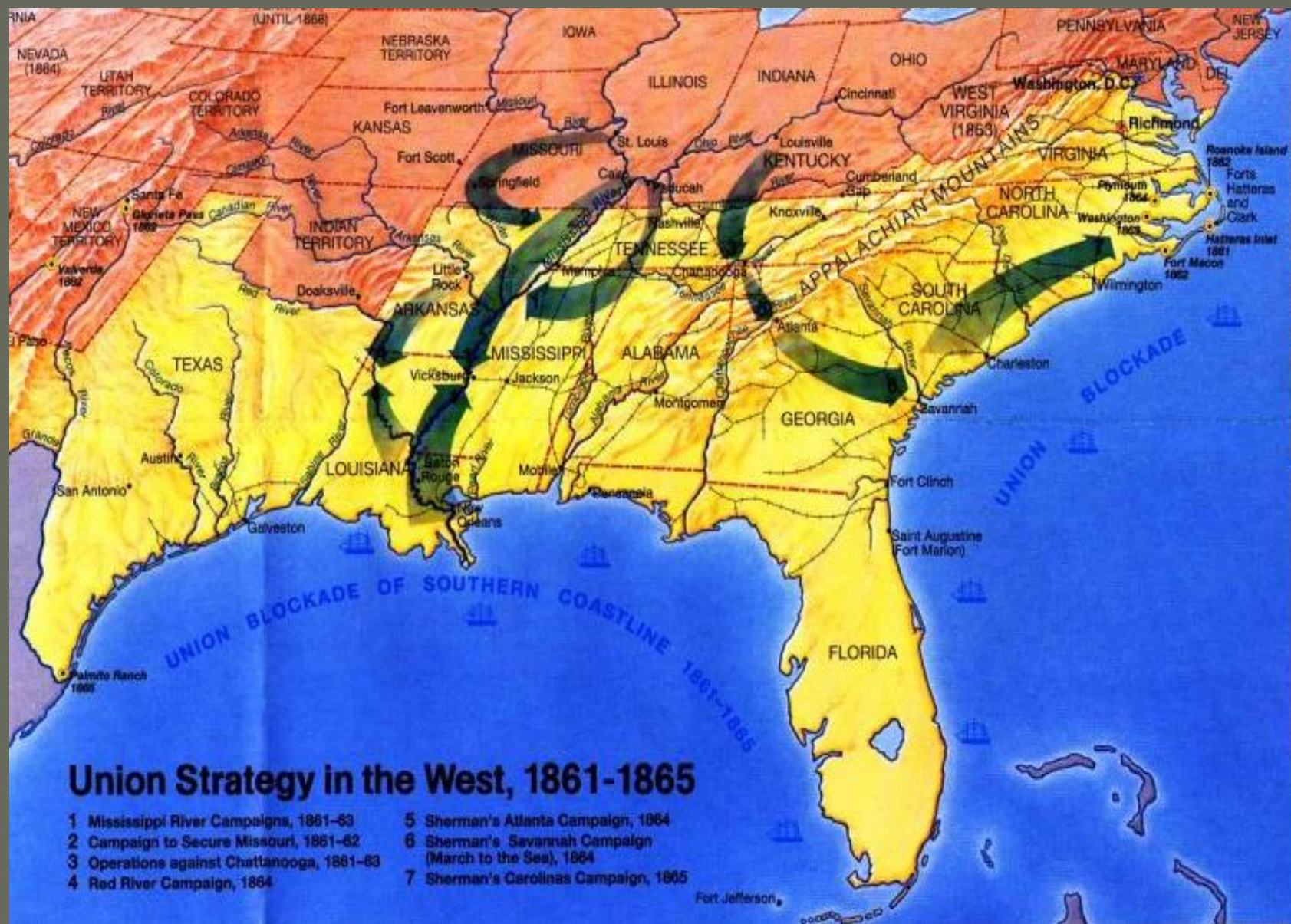


Population-Cobb Count GA (Source Census data)



Preparing for the Kennesaw Mountain Battle

- On June 10 Confederate engineers had laid out entrenchments covering every approach with cannon and rifle pits that extended 8 miles.
- By June 19, these strong Confederate earthworks extended from Big Kennesaw Mountain to Burnt Hickory Road. They crossed at New Salem Church and followed the ridges all the way to present day Dallas Highway. There the earthworks proceeded to Cheatham Hill and on to Kolb Farm.



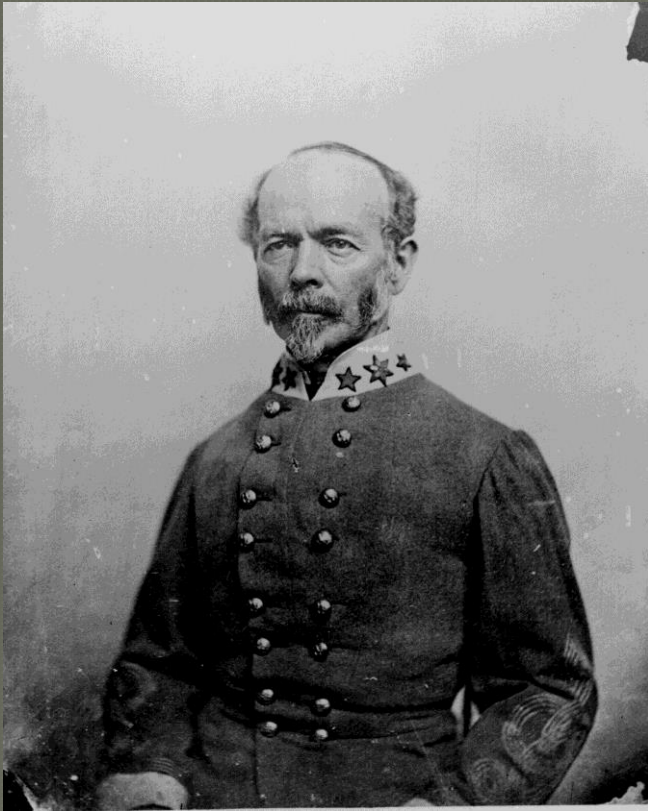
The Atlanta Campaign



- By spring 1864 the Confederacy was weakened by the mighty war power of the Union.
- General Ulysses Grant, Commander-in-chief, ordered **General William T. Sherman** at Chattanooga to attack the Confederate Army in Georgia,.
- Sherman's 100,000 men headed south in May. They confronted **General Joe Johnston's** 65,000 men. They were following the Western & Atlantic railroad south toward Atlanta.

Battle of Kennesaw Mountain

The Generals



Joseph Johnston
SOUTH

vs.



WILLIAM SHERMAN
NORTH

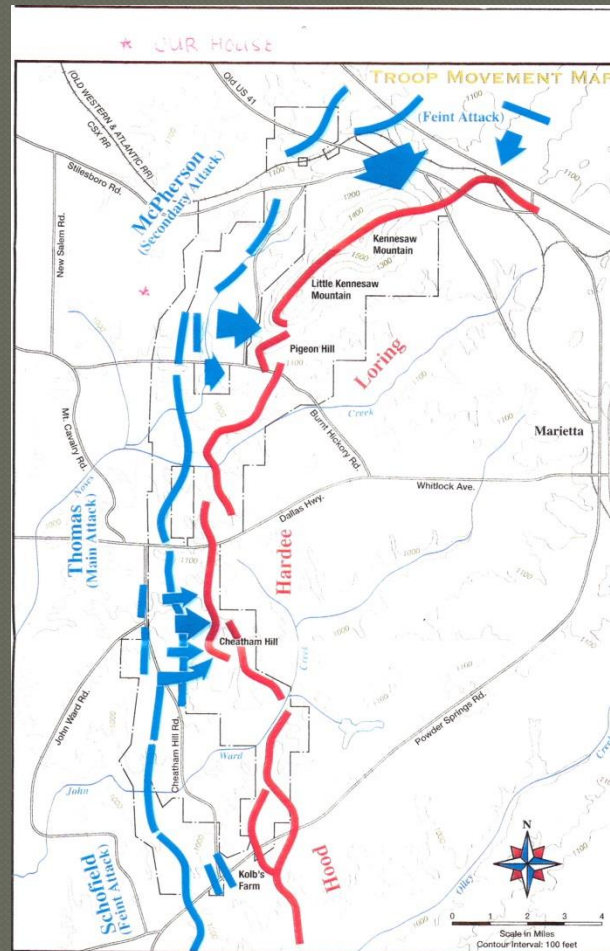
Gen. Joseph E. Johnston [CSA]

- 65,000 Troops
- 187 Artillery Pieces
- 6 miles of entrenchments ready to go
- Wet from 3 weeks of rain & tired from travel & battles during the move south
- Morale was high & supplies were good; fresh reinforcements were arriving

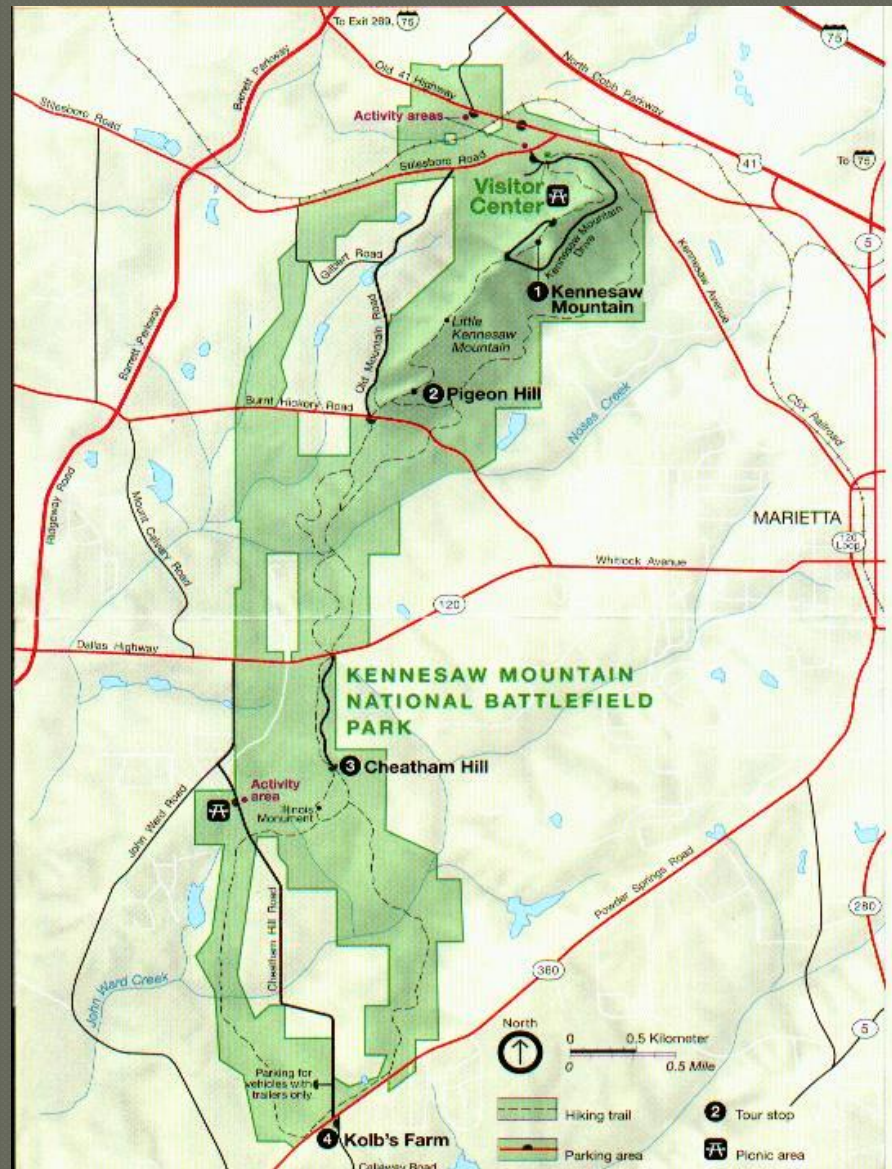
Maj. Gen. William T. Sherman [USA]

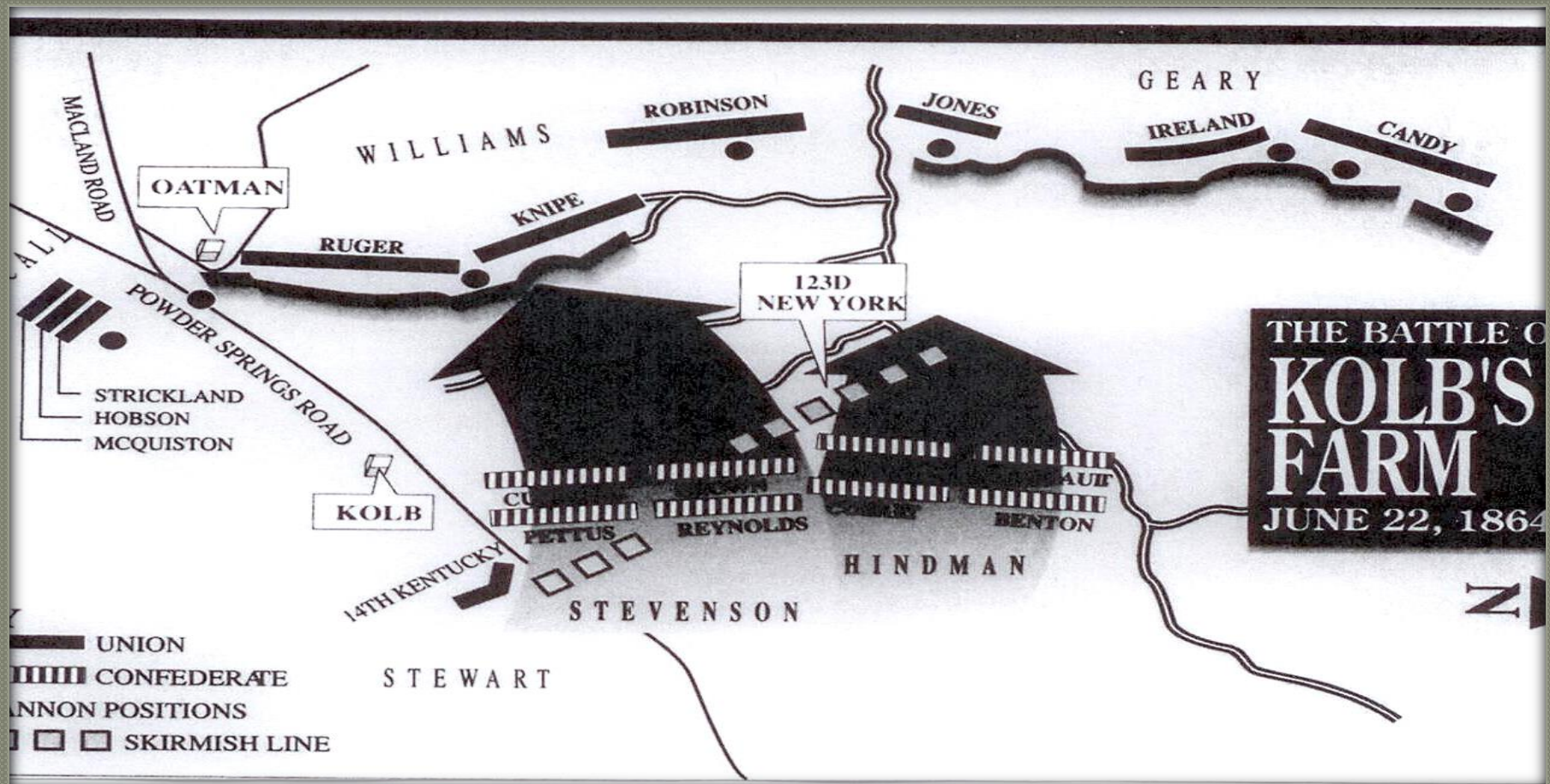
- 100,000 Troops
- 28,300 Horses
- 32,600 Mules
- 254 Artillery Pieces
- 5,180 Wagons
- 860 Ambulances
- 100 Locomotives
- 1,000 Train Cars
- 130 train loads of supplies daily
- Troops walking 18 miles/day
- 20 days more of supplies on wagon trains
- Arrived in Big Shanty on June 9th

Overview of Battle



Park Maps with trails identified





Kolb's Farm - June 22, 1864

In fields around Kolb's Farm, there was fierce fighting. Under General John Bell Hood, Confederates crossed the field and were cut down by 40 Union cannons in the woods. The Union loss was 350 men compared to the Confederate loss of 870 men.

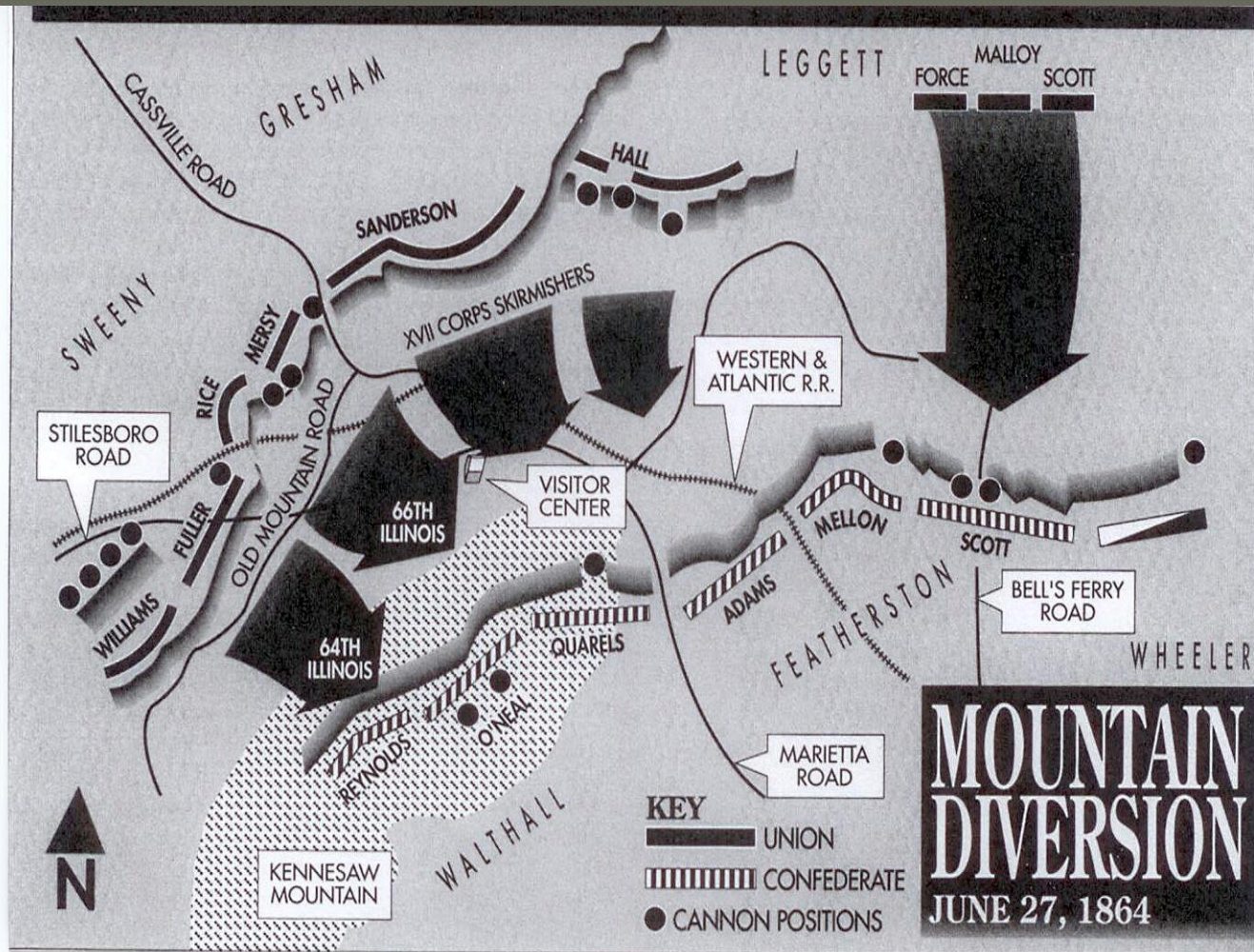
Kolb Farm, built in 1838, site of the first battle at Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park



Battle of Kennesaw Mountain

June 27, 1864

- Sherman's plan called for a diversionary move at Big Kennesaw Mountain and a two pronged assault at Pigeon Hill and Cheatham Hill.
- On June 27, at 8:00 am, a cannon bombardment began. The steep mountain and its Confederate defenders easily stopped the Union attack.
- The Union kept the Confederates busy so no reinforcements would be sent from Big Kennesaw Mountain to the two points of attack at Pigeon Hill and Cheatham Hill.



The mountain and its Confederate defenders easily stopped the Union attack.

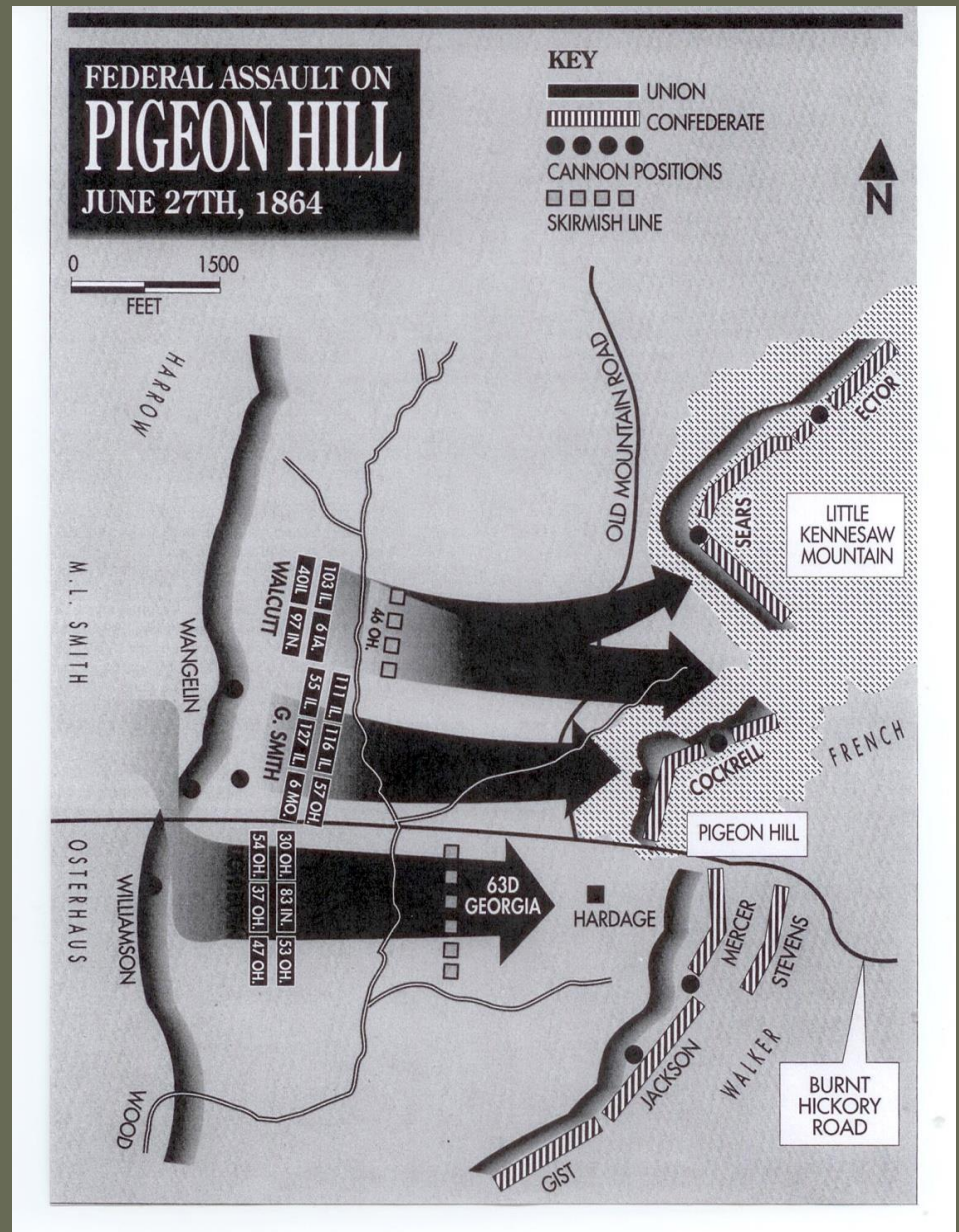
Pigeon Hill

Along Burnt Hickory Road, 5500 Union soldiers advanced toward Pigeon Hill. It was heavily fortified. Confederates rolled the large rocks down on the Union forces.

Missouri units fought each other.

South of the roadway, the 63rd Georgia regiment took a beating. The new recruits had never been in a major battle. Hand to hand fighting broke out and they retreated.

The battle lasted only two hours. It had cost 850 Union casualties, while the Confederates lost less than a third that many.



Union advance on Pigeon Hill





Little Kennesaw

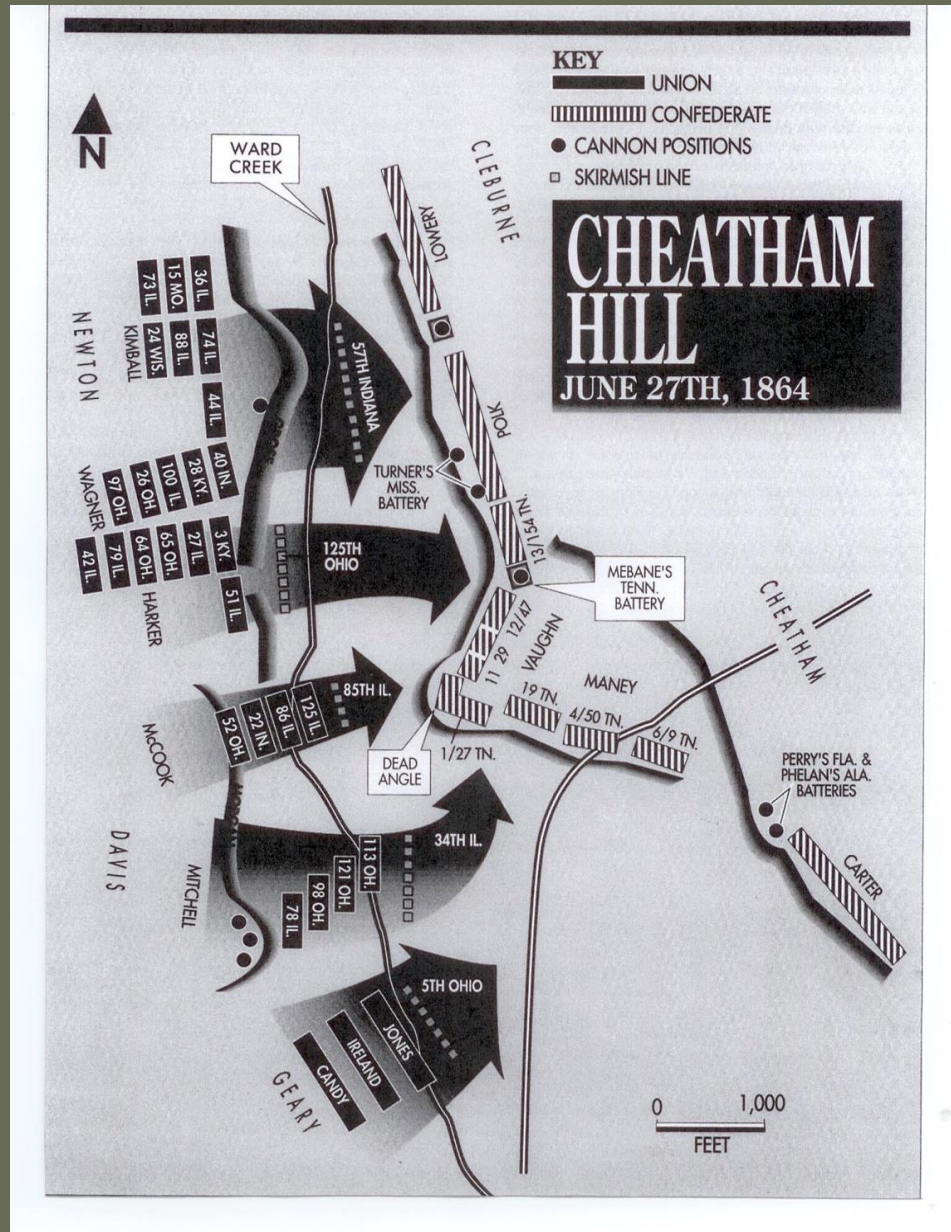
Cheatham Hill

The Confederates were protected by the earthworks on a wooded ridge. The attacking 8,000 Union soldiers had to move uphill.

Parallel Union columns rushed the earthworks . They advanced with fixed bayonets and there was brutal hand-to-hand fighting on top of the Confederate earthworks.

Both sides grimly named this place the “dead angle.”

The fighting cost the Union 1800 casualties and the Confederates about 400.



“Hell had broke loose in Georgia, sure enough”

Battle of Kennesaw Mountain

by Wilbur Kurtz



Significance of the Battle

- Kennesaw Mountain was a Confederate victory. But, the roads soon dried out and Sherman resumed his flanking maneuvers.
- “The Gibraltar of Georgia” was abandoned without more fighting. The Union soldiers marveled at the best fortifications they had ever seen.
- Sherman’s capture of Atlanta in September secured a second term for President Lincoln and assured the war’s continuation to its end a few months later.
- With Atlanta as his base, Sherman moved on Savannah in the “March to the Sea” campaign. Telegraph message to President Lincoln “I beg to present you as a Christmas gift the city of Savannah.” Sherman

How the Park came to be

- 1899 L.J. Dawdy, veteran of the 86th Illinois, Union Army, purchased a 60-acre tract within the Cheatham Hill area.
- 1914 on June 27, the Illinois Monument was unveiled during the 50th anniversary observance of the battle. It had been constructed by McNeel Marble Company of Marietta for \$25,000.
- 1928 – 1933 The property was deeded to the federal government and then the site was transferred to the **National Park Service**.
- 1935 Congress appropriated \$100,000 to purchase land and make improvements to the park and to designate it Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park.

How the Park came to be

- 1938-42 a Civilian Conservation Corps camp was established. Projects included construction of roads and trails, landscaping, fire protection and interpretation.
- 1939 the Hyde house became a museum and headquarters
- 1948 the Kennesaw Mountain Historical Association was formed
- 2002 the current museum was opened
- 2010 the solar power roof was installed on the Visitor Center

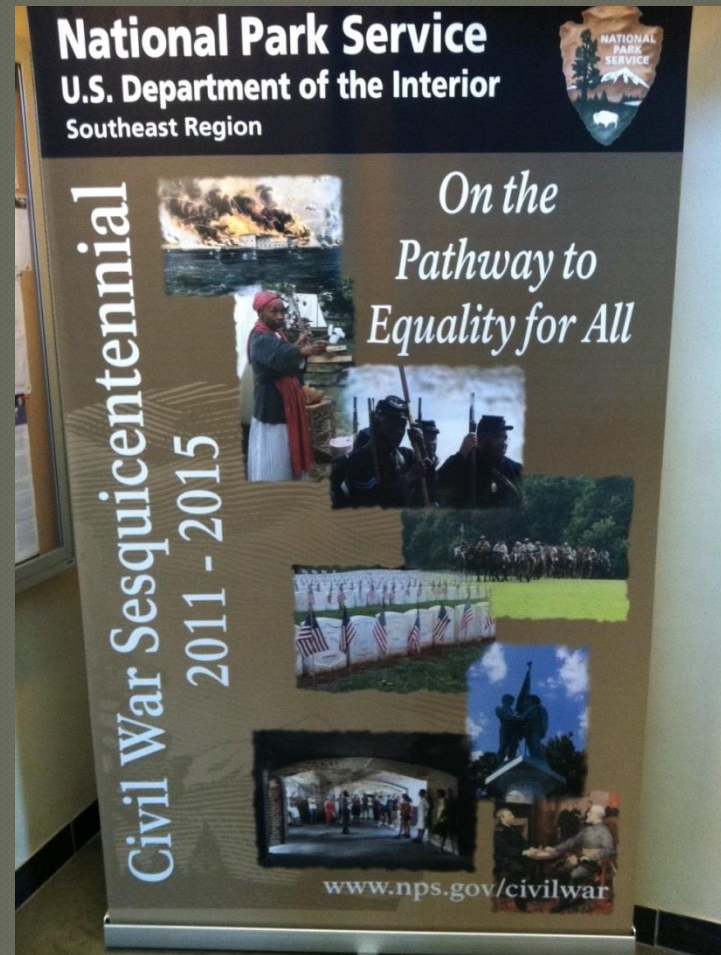
150th Anniversary of the Battle of Kennesaw Mountain: June 21-29, 2014

- 100th Anniversary of the dedication of the Illinois Monument
- 9 days of special events
- Encampments
- A New film



NPS national theme

“From Civil War to
Civil Rights”



Visitor Center



Museum



More information is available on our website:
<http://www.kennesawmountaintrailclub.org>



Causes of the Civil War

- Many, many books have been written on this subject.
- Your opinion is doubtless influenced by where you were raised.
- Example, Border state view.
- Immediate causes:
 - Secession of the southern states
 - Firing on Fort Sumter, SC
- These event created a Constitutional crisis: “the Members of the several State Legislatures, and all executive and judicial Officers, both of the United States and of the several States, shall be bound by Oath of Affirmation, to support this Constitution.” Article VI, The Constitution of the United States
- “I do solemnly swear that I will faithfully execute the Office of President of the United States, and will to the best of my Ability, preserve, protect and defend the Constitution of the United States.” Article II, Section 1. The Constitution of the United States

Situation 1861

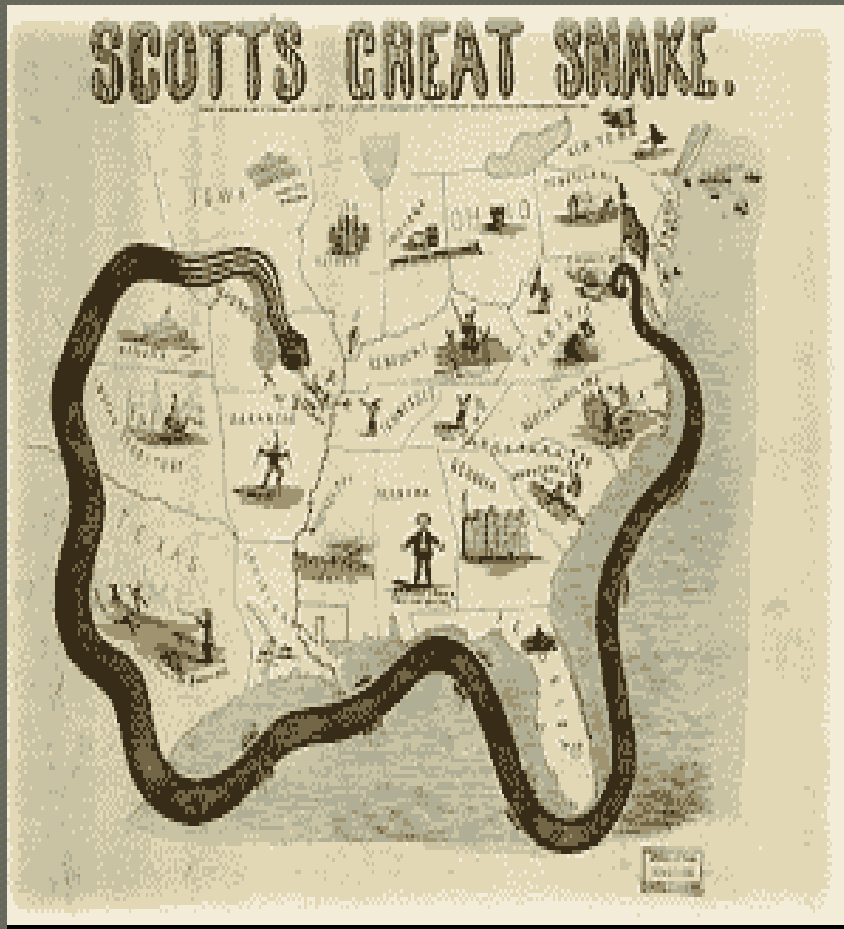
Lincoln was walking a tight-rope to keep the border states in the Union

Strength of Regular U.S. Army was 16,402

U.S. Fugitive Slave Law was in force

REGION	TOTAL POPULATION	TOTAL SLAVE-HOLDERS	TOTAL FREE PERSONS OF COLOR	TOTAL SLAVES	% Slaves
Total CSA	9,103,332	316,632	132,760	3,521,110	38.68%
Total Border States	3,136,961	77,335	118,027	429,401	13.69%
Total Union	19,203,028	0	237,183	0	
Total USA	31,443,321	393,967	487,970	3,953,761	12.57%
Source: US 1860 Census					

Strategy of each side



- Stated in simple terms, the aim of the Confederacy was to sustain its independence while the Union was intent upon restoring the Union. One side had defensive aims with time on its side; the other needed to take the war directly to its enemy.
- The Northern strategy was originally conceived by General Winfield Scott who, although elderly and in poor health, was able to devise what was called the "Anaconda Plan," named after the constricting South American snake. The plan envisioned the following, to:
 - Split the Confederacy by sending army and navy forces down the Mississippi River and occupy strategic points
 - Starve the Confederacy by blockading the Southern port cities, making it impossible for them to receive European support or goods
 - Invade the South and capture the confederate capital, Richmond, VA

Summary of prospects

	North	South
Population	22.4 million (3.1 million in border states)	9.1 million (including 3.5 million slaves)
Railroad mileage	20,000 miles of track	9,000 miles of track
Supply and communication lines	Long and exposed to hostile forces	Short interior lines—defending home territory
Gold reserves	\$56 million	\$27 million
Industry	Converted to war production	Little existed
Shipping	Merchant marine traded worldwide	Little; had depended on North
Theater of war	Enemy territory; unfamiliar	Home territory; well known
Military leadership	Some experienced officers	Many experienced officers from Mexican War
Military readiness of soldiers	Disproportionate number of immigrants; hiring of substitutes common; desertion	Young men accustomed to outdoor life, guns, horses; desertion also a problem
Public support	Public opinion sharply divided; Copperheads, draft riots, bounty jumpers	Generally supportive of war effort, but tax evasion and profiteering common