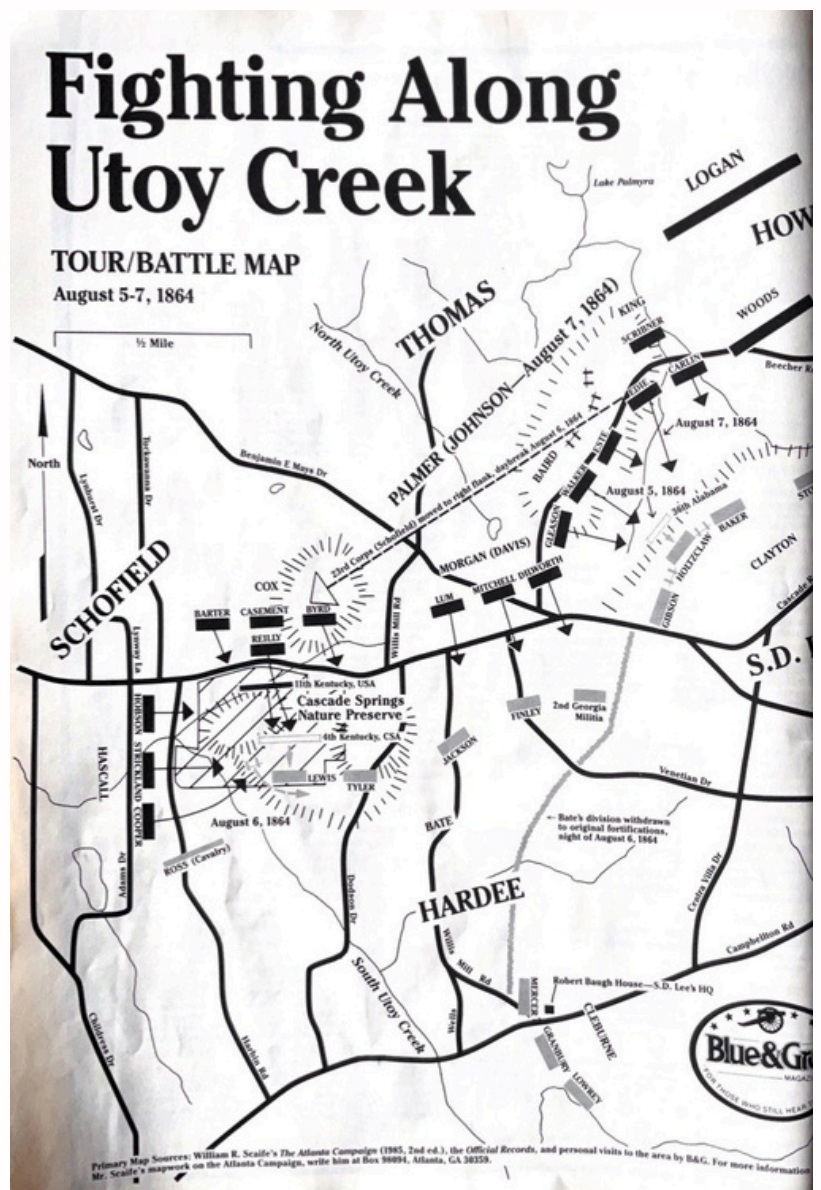


## Did You Know?

*The Civil War Battle of Utoy Creek Was Fought in Audubon Forest?*

### THE BATTLE OF UTOY CREEK

The Audubon Forest Neighborhood in southwest Atlanta sits in the middle of the battle map for the Civil War Battle of Utoy Creek. Fought August 5 – 7, 1864, the Battle of Utoy Creek was one of the five battles that jointly comprised the Battles of Atlanta that occurred from July 10 to September 2, 1864 as part of the Atlanta Campaign led by Major General William Tecumseh Sherman. General Sherman had decided not to attack Atlanta directly; instead, he planned to make a circuit destroying all of the railroads bringing food and supplies on the Western & Atlantic, Atlanta & West Point, and Macon & Western railroads. Assigned to take over for General Joseph Johnston who had failed to stop the Union Army advancing on Atlanta, 33-year-old West Point graduate John Bell Hood was tasked with leading the Confederate Army of Tennessee and stopping the Union troops advancing on Atlanta. General Hood's plans for his first three battles (i.e. the Battle of Peachtree Creek; the Battle of Atlanta and the Battle of Ezra Creek) were largely unsuccessful.



# AFNA HISTORY

He failed to cripple any part of the Union forces or to push the forces away from Atlanta, but he had managed to slow Sherman's drive on East Point thereby protecting a crucial railroad line south of the city that brought food and supplies to his army. On August 4th, Sherman decided to go forward with his plan to seize the Macon & Western Railroad at East Point.

Unknown to Sherman, in the previous week following the July 28th Battle at Ezra Church, Hood had directed his forces to fell trees in the heavy woods along Utoy Creek, and build abates - defensive obstacles made of felled or live trees with sharpened branches pointed toward the enemy and interwoven with bushes --- and dig trenches for rifle pits. When the Union forces tried to attack over the next three days, Hood's troops were able to push them back. Sherman sustained 845 casualties and losses over the three days of fighting while Hood had only 345 casualties and losses. Hood's troops also captured 200 prisoners and the Federal Colors (i.e., the Union's battle flags). The strong Confederate fortifications and the heavy losses forced General Sherman to change his plan to go to East Point. Instead, Sherman decided to increase his artillery fire and make Atlanta "a used-up community by the time we are done with it."



*The Battle of Utoy Creek depicted by artist and former Audubon Forest resident, Marc Stewart.*



*Georgia State Perimeter College students map old civil war earthwork built by Union troops in what is now Lionel Hampton Nature Preserve. Photo Credit: [news.gsu.edu](https://news.gsu.edu).*

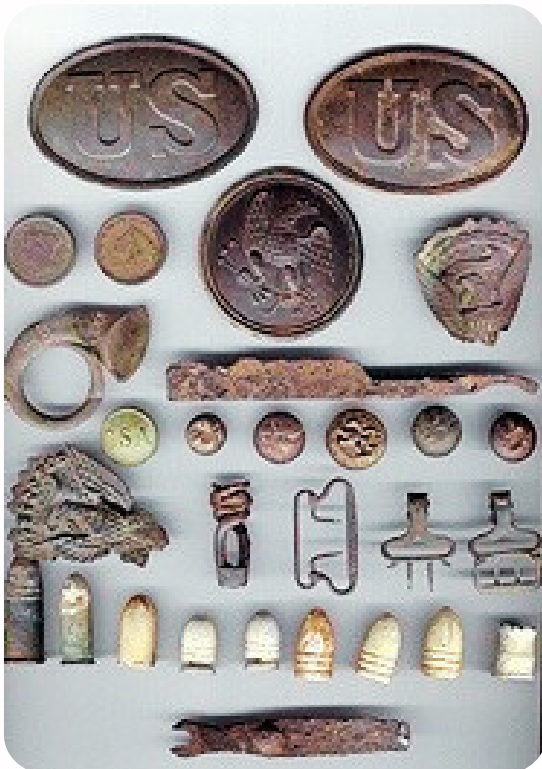


# AFNA HISTORY

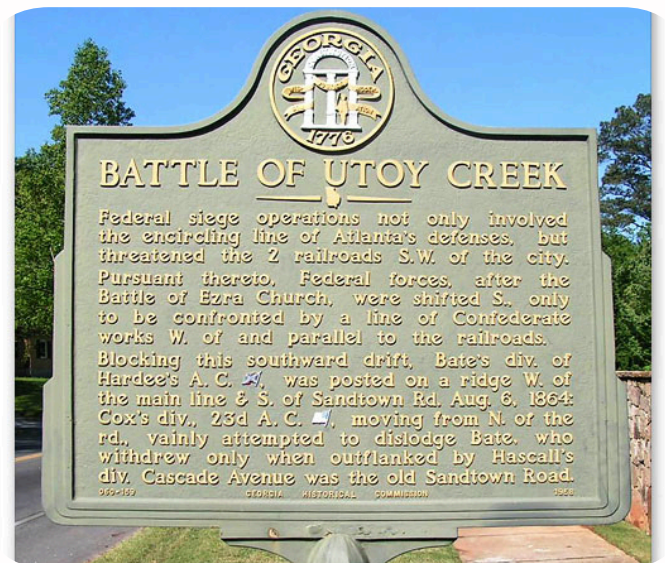
The major fighting occurred between Lickskillet Road (now Benjamin E Mays Drive) on the north and Campbelltown Road on the south with fighting along Sandtown (now Cascade) Road, Willis Mill Road and in Adams Park. Markers regarding the Battle of Utoy Creek can be found in the Cascade Springs Nature Preserve; in Westview Cemetery; on the golf courses of John White and Adams Parks, on Cascade Road at Woodland Terrace; and in the yard of the house at 1166 Flamingo Drive along Benjamin E Mays Drive. Some of the trenches can still be seen in the woods in Audubon Forest along Utoy Creek. Earlier residents of Audubon Forest reported finding Civil War relics, such as cannon balls, bullets, and belt buckles in their yards and in the surrounding woods.



*Historical marker located at 1166 Flamingo Drive. Photo Credit: Joanne Huntley*



*Relics found in Utoy Creek area. Photo Credit: Marc Stevens.*



*Historical marker located on Cascade Drive.*