

# REENACTMENT OF THE BATTLE OF SANDERSVILLE

Every five years, the town of Sandersville brings Civil War history to life as reenactors from all over the Southeast recreate Sherman's occupation of Sandersville. Many of the activities take place on Forest Grove land.



**Battle  
reenactment  
on a big open  
field at Forest  
Grove**

**Depiction of  
Union Army  
encampment  
at Forest  
Grove**



**Aerial View of  
Forest Grove  
showing  
encampments  
and battlefield**



# VISIT FOREST GROVE

Come and visit this lovely, historic plantation! Tours are available by appointment with 24-hr notice ~~at a cost of \$5 per person.~~

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## Forest Grove

1200 Riddleville Road  
Sandersville GA 31082

# FOREST GROVE



## A historic Georgia plantation

Spared from General Sherman's torch during his March to the Sea, Forest Grove survives as part of Georgia's Civil War history.







## History of Forest Grove

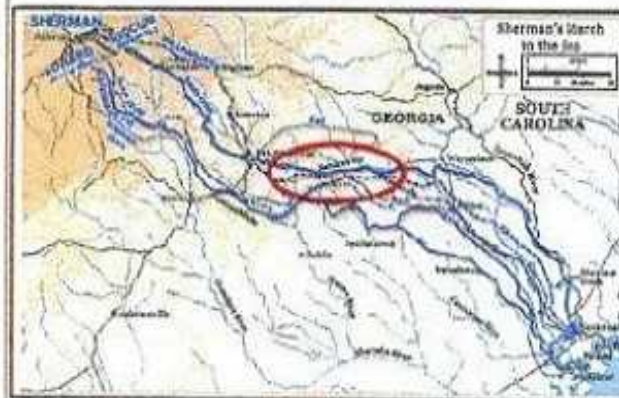
In the early 1840s, Colonel Thomas Jefferson Warthen and his wife, Sarah Wicker Warthen, bought Forest Grove as a second plantation and built an overseer's house. In 1851, tragedy struck when a fire destroyed their first plantation, "River Place", and killed their only son, "Tip". The grief-stricken parents and their five daughters moved to Forest Grove and occupied the overseer's house, which then became the main house at Forest Grove. In 1862, Col. Warthen was killed at the Battle of Ma'vern Hill. Since then, the house has been owned and occupied by five generations of direct descendants of Col. and Mrs. Warthen. The present owner/occupant, Lyle Wilkerson Lansdell, and her son Emil Amos Snizek are descended from the Warthens' youngest daughter, Tommie Warthen Wilkerson. Tommie is shown in the picture above, leaning on the gate with her son Julian Lyle (Jack) Wilkerson.

## Sherman's Army Comes to Forest Grove

In November of 1864, Sarah Wicker Warthen answered a knock on her front door and was greeted by one of General Sherman's captains. "Well, you see that we've whipped you!" he said. "No, but you have certainly overpowered us!" was her brave answer. Sherman's troops camped at Forest Grove, burned its outbuildings and looted food stores and objects of value, but spared the main house and out kitchen.

## General Sherman's March to the Sea

In 1864, General William T. Sherman strategized a plan to end the war quickly. Georgia, with its fertile farmlands, was the "breadbasket" of the Confederacy. General Sherman's troops were to march through Georgia from Atlanta to Savannah, confiscating food supplies to feed the Union soldiers and burning the properties of those who opposed them. The objective was to cut off the Confederate army's food supply and to frighten the South's civilian population into abandoning the Confederate cause. In fact, the first surrender of the Civil War occurred just a few months later, on April 9, 1865.



*Routes of Sherman's March to the Sea. Sandersville is shown inside the red circle.*

On November 26, 1864, Sherman's troops arrived in Sandersville. The ladies of Sandersville along with Methodist Reverend Anthony begged General Sherman not to burn the town, proclaiming "We are only women, children, and old men here!" Sherman's troops spared most of the town but burned the courthouse when they met with some opposition; several other buildings on the square also caught fire.