

STONEMAN'S RAID

On March 24, 1865, Union Gen. George Stoneman led 6,000 cavalrymen from Tennessee into western North Carolina and southwestern Virginia to disrupt the Confederate supply line by destroying sections of the Virginia and Tennessee Railroad, the North Carolina Railroad, and the Piedmont Railroad. He also sought to liberate Union prisoners-of-war held in Salisbury and hoped to deprive the Confederate armies of supplies, cut off avenues of retreat, and encourage Unionists in western and central North Carolina.

Stoneman struck at Boone on March 28, then divided his force and sent part into Virginia on April 2; it returned to North Carolina a week later. On April 12, the Federals occupied Salisbury and burned the already abandoned prison, as well as public buildings, industrial structures, and supply depots. Stoneman moved west the next day, dividing his command again in the face of limited resistance. Other than a fight at Swannanoa Gap, Stoneman and his cavalrymen encountered only bushwhackers and isolated groups of Confederate soldiers.

Stoneman's forces approached Asheville on April 23, negotiated a truce, and rode through the streets on April 26, while Confederate Gen. Joseph E. Johnston surrendered to Union Gen. William T. Sherman near Durham. Two days later, part of Stoneman's force returned to Asheville to loot. Other elements either continued to Tennessee or joined the pursuit of Confederate President Jefferson Davis into Georgia. Stoneman's Raid had ended.



CAROLINAS CAMPAIGN

On December 21, 1864, Union Gen. William T. Sherman completed his "March to the Sea" and captured Savannah, Georgia. He soon headed north through the Carolinas, planning ultimately to link his army with those that Union general-in-chief Ulysses S. Grant accompanied in Virginia.

Sherman marched into South Carolina on February 1, 1865. Confederate Gen. Joseph E. Johnston concentrated his forces in central North Carolina. Sherman divided his army into left and right wings and entered the Tar Heel State early in March. Union Gen. John M. Schofield's troops, en route to Goldsboro from Wilmington, repulsed Confederate Gen. Braxton Bragg's forces at Wyse Fork near Kinston on March 8-10.

Sherman occupied Fayetteville the next day, then marched north. On March 16, Confederate Gen. William J. Hardee delayed Sherman's left wing near Averasboro. Johnston attacked Sherman three days later at Bentonville, where the Confederates at first routed the lead Federal division. The two Union wings then merged and almost severed Johnston's line of retreat on March 21. He withdrew toward Smithfield that night, and Sherman reached Goldsboro and Schofield on March 23.

Sherman advanced toward Raleigh on April 10, while Johnston retreated to Greensboro. Learning of Gen. Robert E. Lee's April 9 surrender at Appomattox Court House, they came to terms on April 26 at Bennett Place near Durham after much negotiation. Johnston surrendered almost 90,000 Confederate troops in the Carolinas, Georgia, and Florida.

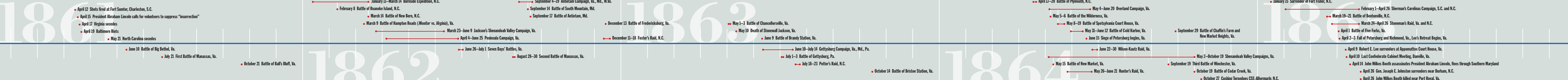


RAIDS AGAINST THE LIFELINE

North Carolina's factories supplied Confederate armies with shoes, clothing, weapons, and other necessities during the war. In addition, ships loaded with European goods ran the Union blockade of the Southern coastline to such ports as Wilmington, North Carolina, guarded by Fort Fisher. A network of rail lines, especially the Wilmington and Weldon Railroad and the Petersburg Railroad (also called the Weldon Railroad), transported supplies to Gen. Robert E. Lee's army in Virginia.

After Federal forces occupied most of North Carolina's barrier islands and coastline in 1862, they attacked the state's railroads, factories, and naval facilities. In December 1862, Union Gen. John G. Foster marched from New Bern to Goldsboro and burned the Wilmington and Weldon Railroad bridge. Union Gen. Edward E. Potter, raiding from New Bern in July 1863, destroyed mills, trains, and bridges, including the Wilmington and Weldon Railroad bridge at Rocky Mount. The Confederates quickly restored rail service after each raid. In October 1864, U.S. Navy Lt. William B. Cushing destroyed the ironclad CSS Albemarle at Plymouth, in one of several attacks on river defenses.

By August 1864, Wilmington was the last major Confederate seaport open to blockade runners. After two attempts, Union forces captured Fort Fisher on January 15, 1865, then secured rail centers such as Goldsboro. Lee's supply line was cut, and the war ended three months later.



THE EASTERN CAMPAIGNS

From the beginning of the Civil War until its end, the proximity of the national capitals—Washington, D.C., and Richmond, Virginia—made the Eastern Seaboard a center of military activity. Union blood was first shed in the Baltimore Riots of April 19, 1861, and some of the last Confederate casualties of the war fell in North Carolina four years later. The tides of war swept over Maryland, Virginia, and North Carolina again and again.

Confederate President Jefferson Davis directed a defensive war at first. When U.S. forces marched into northern Virginia in July 1861, the result was a stunning Confederate victory at Manassas Junction. The Federals fared better along the northeastern coast of North Carolina, where Gen. Ambrose E. Burnside defeated Confederate gunboats and land forces.

Gen. George B. McClellan led a massive U.S. army up the Peninsula against Richmond in the spring of 1862, but Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee repulsed it near the city limits in the Seven Days' Battles in June. In the Shenandoah Valley, meanwhile, Gen. Thomas J. "Stonewall" Jackson defeated several Union armies before joining Lee at Richmond. Together, the generals marched north and bested Gen. John Pope's force at the Second Battle of Manassas in August. Lee then invaded western Maryland to rally support, supply his army, and gain foreign recognition for the Confederacy. His hopes were dashed at Antietam Creek on September 17, 1862, the bloodiest day in American history, and he retreated to Virginia.

President Abraham Lincoln soon issued the Emancipation Proclamation, making the conflict a war for freedom as well as for the preservation of the Union. Freedmen and escaped slaves throughout the East flocked to the Union colors and joined regiments of United States Colored Troops (USCTs).

In 1863, after Lee's victory at Chancellorsville in May and the death of Jackson, Lee marched north again through Maryland and into Pennsylvania. When he confronted Union Gen. George G. Meade's army at Gettysburg, the Confederate tide was turned back again. North Carolinians, meanwhile, experienced both conventional and unconventional warfare. Near the coast, Federal expeditions disrupted Confederate supply lines, temporarily disabled railroads, and destroyed manufacturing centers. In the western mountains, neighbor fought neighbor as Unionists and Confederates conducted a bloody "war within a war."

Union commander-in-chief Gen. Ulysses S. Grant launched simultaneous attacks in the spring of 1864 against the Confederates throughout the South. He accompanied Meade's army in Virginia during the Overland Campaign, maneuvered Lee ever closer to Richmond, and finally besieged him there and at Petersburg. A succession of Federal commanders pressed Confederate forces in the Shenandoah Valley and laid waste to the "Breadbasket of the Confederacy." Gen. Philip H. Sheridan eventually swept the Shenandoah clear of Confederates under Gen. Jubal A. Early. In southwestern Virginia, eastern Tennessee, and western North Carolina, Union cavalry raided salt works and railroads. Gen. William T. Sherman, in the Deep

WAR WITHIN THE WAR

Secession and war divided western North Carolinians, and neighbors and families quickly came to blows as angry words gave way to fists and guns. Confederate conscription acts fostered resistance, the mountains sheltered deserters from both sides, and armed bands brutally settled scores. Western North Carolina and East Tennessee also produced two notable leaders, one Confederate and one Unionist.

Confederate Col. William H. Thomas of North Carolina, the only white man to serve as a Cherokee chief, had helped establish the Qualla Band (Eastern Band of Cherokee reservation) north of Franklin. He organized Thomas's Legion of Cherokee Indians and Mountaineers in Knoxville, Tennessee, in 1862, with 400 Cherokee in two of his companies. It fought in Tennessee, Kentucky, and Virginia and largely prevented the Federal occupation of western North Carolina.

In 1864, Maj. George W. Kirk, a Unionist native of Greenville in East Tennessee, organized the 3rd North Carolina Mounted Infantry (U.S.). He recruited men and boys from western North Carolina, especially in nearby Madison County, as well as in East Tennessee. Kirk and his men became famous, or infamous, for their raids on Confederate sympathizers and training camps in western North Carolina.

Cherokee veterans of Thomas's Legion at the 1903 Confederate Reunion in New Orleans.

THE CIVIL WAR REVISITED

The following further explore and expand upon the story of the Civil War:

- North Carolina Division of Tourism, Film & Sports Development**
4324 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-4324
800-VISITNC
www.visitnc.com
- North Carolina Office of Archives and History**
919-807-7280
www.ah.dcr.state.nc.us
- North Carolina Historic Sites**
919-733-7862
www.nchistoricsites.org
- Civil War Preservation Trust**
888-606-1400
www.civilwar.org
- COASTAL REGION**
Breunswick County
800-795-7263
www.ncbrunswick.com
- Cape Fear Coast CVB**
877-945-6386
www.explorecapefearcoast.com
- Chowan County TDA**
800-775-0111
www.chowancounty.com
- Crystal Coast TA**
800-786-6962
www.sunny.com
- Currituck C. of C. and Visitors Center**
252-453-9497
www.currituckchamber.com
- Dismal Swamp Canal Welcome Center**
252-771-8333
www.dismalwetland.com
- Duplin County TDC**
910-296-2181
www.duplintourism.org
- Elizabeth City CVB**
866-324-8948
www.discoverec.org
- Greene County C. of C.**
252-747-8090
www.greenechamber.com
- Greenville-Pitt County CVB**
800-537-5564
www.visitgreenvillenc.com
- Kinston-Lenoir County CVB**
800-869-0032
www.visitkinston.com
- Martin County TTA**
800-776-8566
www.visitmartincounty.com
- New Bern/Craven County CVB**
800-437-5767
www.visitnewbern.com
- Onslow County Tourism**
800-932-2144
www.onslowcountytourism.com
- Pender Co. TD**
888-576-4756
www.visitpender.com
- Perquimans County C. of C.**
252-426-5657
www.perquimans.com
- Washington County T & T**
252-793-3248
www.visitwashingtoncountync.com
- Currituck C. of C. and Visitors Center**
866-324-8948
www.visitcurrituck.com
- Dismal Swamp Canal Welcome Center**
252-771-8333
www.dismalwetland.com
- Duplin County TDC**
910-296-2181
www.duplintourism.org
- Davidson Co. Historical Museum**
336-242-2035
www.visitdavidsoncounty.com
- David Co. of C.**
336-751-3304
www.daviecountync.com
- Durham CVB**
800-446-8604
www.durham-nc.com
- Averasboro Battlefield & Museum**
910-891-5019
www.averasboro.com
- Bentonville Battlefield**
910-594-0789
www.bentonvillebattlefield.com
- Burlington/Alamance Co. CVB**
800-637-3804
www.burlington-area-nc.org
- Greater Raleigh CVB**
800-849-8499
www.visitraleigh.com
- Halifax County TDA**
800-522-4282
www.visithalifax.com
- Johnston County Visitors Bureau**
800-441-7829
www.johnstontourism.com
- Greater Goldsboro Travel and Tourism**
919-734-2245
www.greatergoldsboro.com
- Greater Raleigh CVB**
800-849-8499
www.visitraleigh.com
- Halifax County TDA**
800-522-4282
www.visithalifax.com
- Johnston County Visitors Bureau**
800-441-7829
www.johnstontourism.com
- Davidson Co. Historical Museum**
336-242-2035
www.visitdavidsoncounty.com
- David Co. of C.**
336-751-3304
www.daviecountync.com
- Durham CVB**
800-446-8604
www.durham-nc.com
- Averasboro Battlefield & Museum**
910-891-5019
www.averasboro.com
- Bentonville Battlefield**
910-594-0789
www.bentonvillebattlefield.com
- Burlington/Alamance Co. CVB**
800-637-3804
www.burlington-area-nc.org
- Greater Raleigh CVB**
800-849-8499
www.visitraleigh.com
- Halifax County TDA**
800-522-4282
www.visithalifax.com
- Johnston County Visitors Bureau**
800-441-7829
www.johnstontourism.com
- Greater Goldsboro Travel and Tourism**
919-734-2245
www.greatergoldsboro.com
- Greater Raleigh CVB**
800-849-8499
www.visitraleigh.com
- Halifax County TDA**
800-522-4282
www.visithalifax.com
- Johnston County Visitors Bureau**
800-441-7829
www.johnstontourism.com

THE CIVIL WAR REVISITED

The following further explore and expand upon the story of the Civil War:

- Laurinburg/Scotland County Area C. of C.**
910-276-7420
www.laurinburgchamber.com
- Lexington TA**
866-604-2389
www.visitlexingtonnc.com
- Lincolnton-Lincoln County C. of C.**
704-735-3096
www.lincolntonchambernc.org
- Northampton County C. of C.**
252-334-1383
www.northamptonchamber.org
- Orange County Visitor Center**
919-732-7741
www.historichillsborough.org
- Rockingham County TDA**
800-316-7625
www.ncnorthstar.com
- Rowan County CVB**
800-332-2343
www.visitrowancountync.com
- Statesville CVB**
877-531-1819
www.visitstatesville.org
- Stokes County ED**
336-933-2496
www.stokescounty.com
- Thomsonville Tourism Commission**
800-811-9907
www.thomsonville.com
- Vance County Tourism**
252-438-2222
www.kerrlake-nc.com
- Yadkin Valley C. of C.**
336-526-1111
www.yadkinvalley.org
- Mountain Region**
Ashville CVB
800-920-1437
www.exploreshville.com
- Avery Co. C. of C.**
800-972-2183
www.averycounty.com
- Brevard/Transylvania C. of C.**
828-883-3700
www.brevardchamber.org
- Burke County TTC**
888-462-2921
www.discoverburkecounty.com
- Caldwell County C. of C./TDA**
800-737-0782
www.caldwellchamber.org
- Franklin Area C. of C.**
877-254-2583
www.franklin-chamber.com
- Graham County TTA**
800-470-3790
www.grahamcountytourism.com
- Haywood County TDA**
800-334-9036
www.smokeymountains.net
- Jackson County TTA**
800-962-1911
www.visitjacksoncounty.com
- Madison County TDA**
877-262-3476
www.visitmadisoncounty.com
- Maggie Valley Area Visitors Bureau**
800-624-4431
www.maggievalley.org
- McDowell County TDA**
888-233-6111
www.mcdowell.org
- Polk Co. T & T**
800-440-7848
www.nc-mountains.org
- Rutherford County TDA**
800-849-5998
www.rutherfordtourism.com
- Wilkes County C. of C.**
336-838-8662
www.wilkesnc.org
- Yancey County/Burnsville C. of C.**
800-948-1632
www.visityancey.com

Enjoy the scenic and historic countryside throughout North Carolina.

Follow this sign to discover more than 1,000 Civil War sites along ten breathtaking trails. Hundreds of sites are accessible to the public for the first time.

Follow these signs to more than 1,000 Civil War sites.



north carolina
visitnc.com 1-800-VISIT NC

NORTH CAROLINA TRAILS INFORMATION
1-800-VISIT NC
www.visitnc.com

VIRGINIA TRAILS INFORMATION
1-888-CIVIL WAR
www.visitva.com

MARYLAND TRAILS INFORMATION
1-888-CIVIL WAR
www.visitmaryland.org

TENNESSEE TRAILS INFORMATION
1-615-532-7520
www.tnvacation.com

WEST VIRGINIA TRAILS INFORMATION
1-800-CALL WVA
www.callwva.com