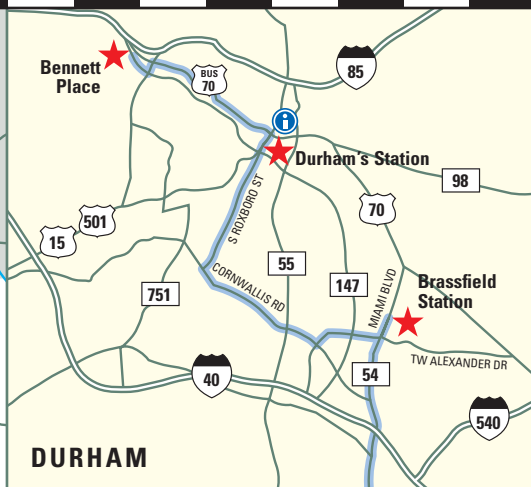
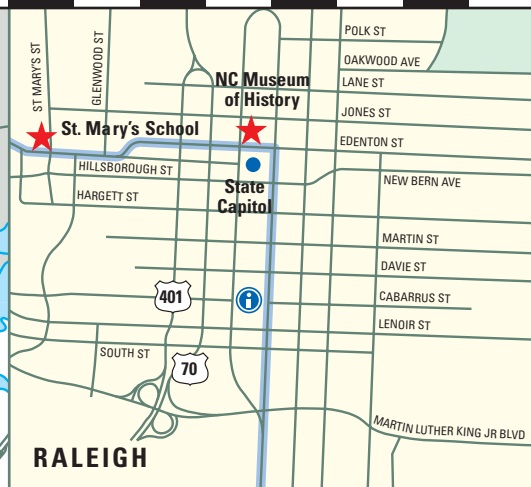


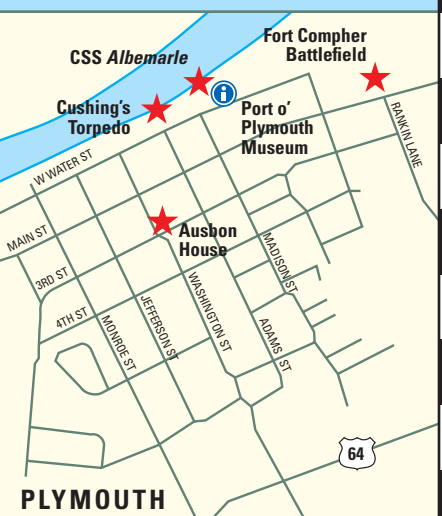
Bird's-eye view of the C.S. Military Prison, lithograph by G.A. Kraus in 1886, Salisbury, N.C.



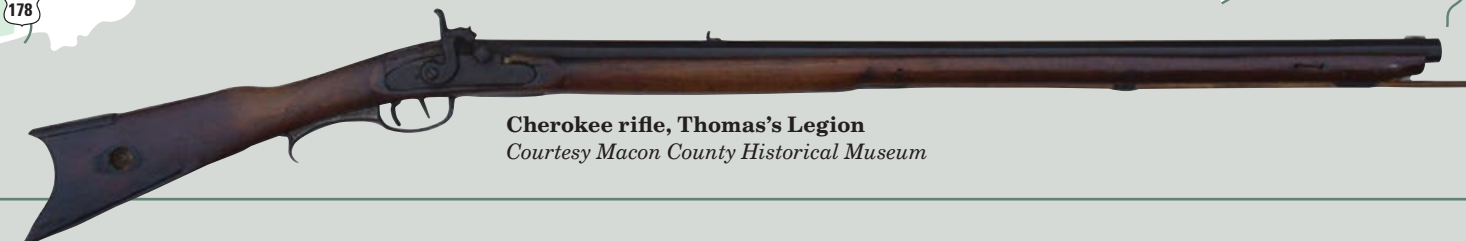
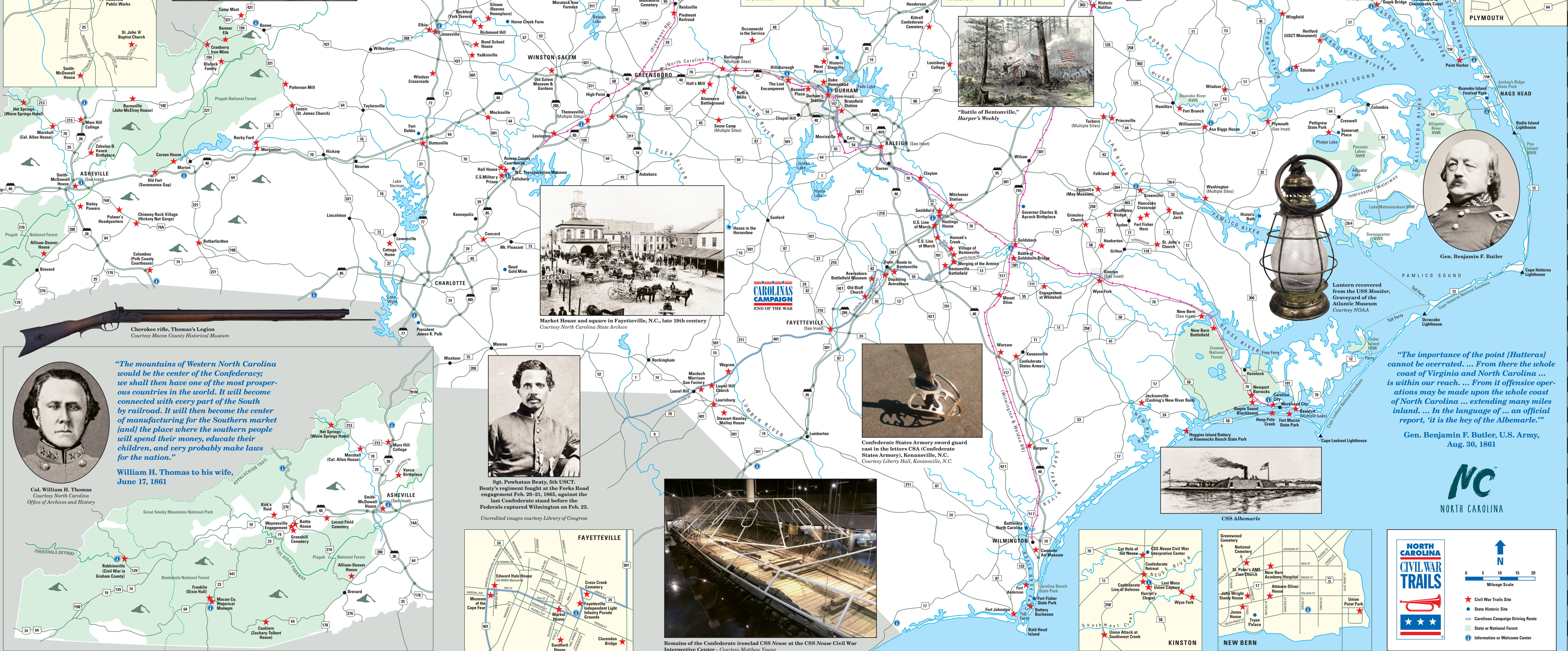
DURHAM



RALEIGH



PLYMOUTH



Cherokee rifle, Thomas's Legion
Courtesy Macon County Historical Museum



Col. William H. Thomas
Courtesy North Carolina
Office of Archives and History

"The mountains of Western North Carolina would be the center of the Confederacy; we shall then have one of the most prosperous countries in the world. It will become connected with every part of the South by railroad. It will then become the center of manufacturing for the Southern market [and] the place where the southern people will spend their money, educate their children, and very probably make laws for the nation."

William H. Thomas to his wife,
June 17, 1861



Sgt. Powhatan Beaty, 5th USCT.
Beaty's regiment fought at the Forks Road engagement Feb. 20-21, 1865, against the last Confederate stand before the Federals captured Wilmington on Feb. 22.

Uncredited images courtesy Library of Congress



FAYETTEVILLE



Remains of the Confederate ironclad CSS Neuse at the CSS Neuse Civil War Interpretive Center - Courtesy Matthew Young



Confederate States Army sword guard cast in the letters CSA (Confederate States Army), Kenansville, N.C.
Courtesy Liberty Hall, Kenansville, N.C.



"Battle of Bentonville."
Harper's Weekly



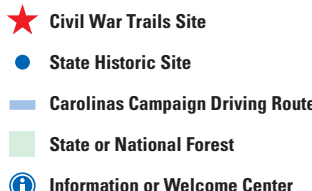
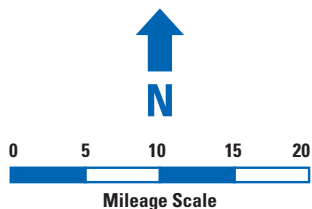
Lantern recovered from the USS Monitor, Graveyard of the Atlantic Museum
Courtesy NOAA

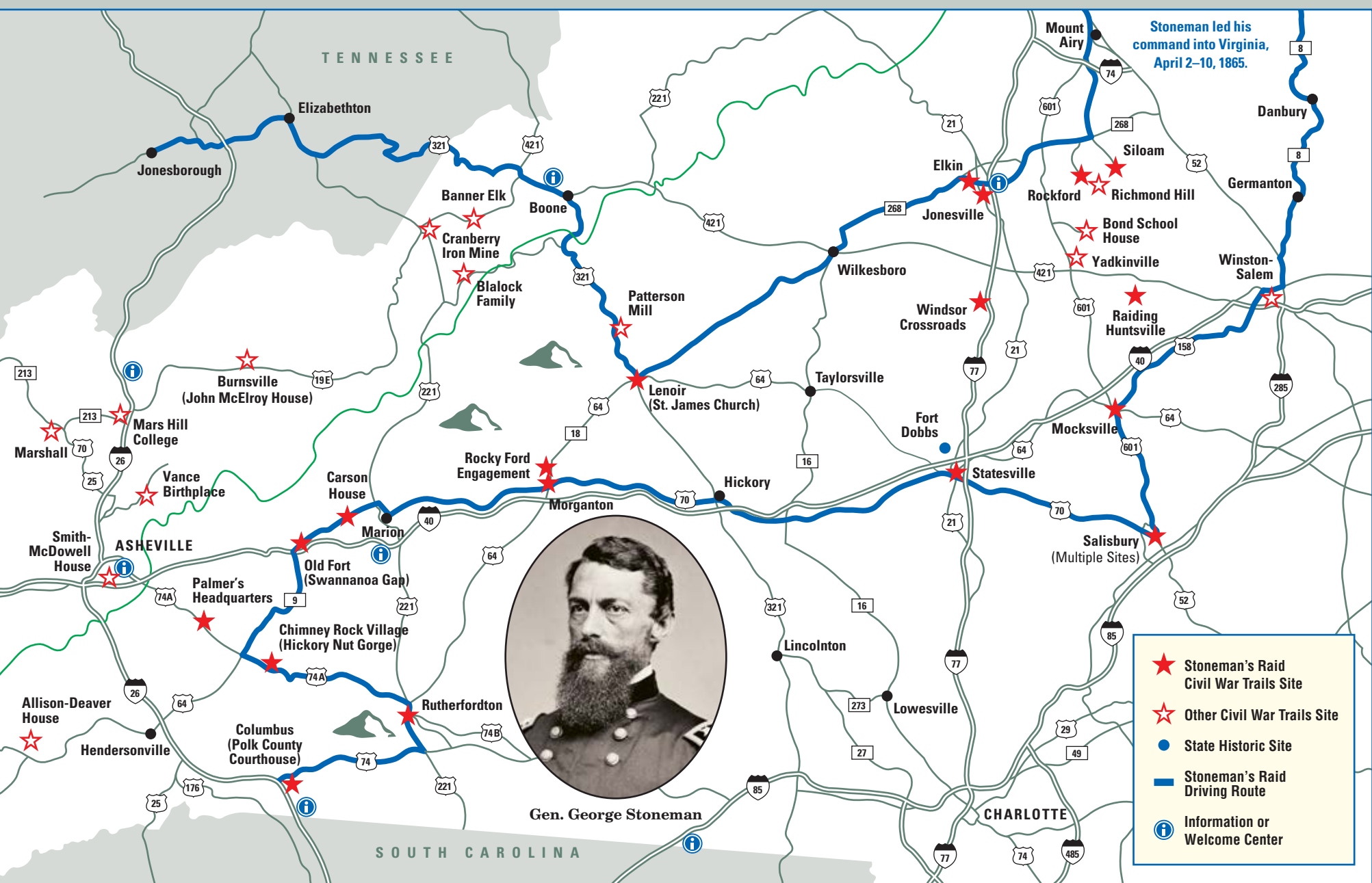


Gen. Benjamin F. Butler

"The importance of the point [Hatteras] cannot be overrated. ... From there the whole coast of Virginia and North Carolina ... is within our reach. ... From it offensive operations may be made upon the whole coast of North Carolina ... extending many miles inland. ... In the language of ... an official report, 'it is the key of the Albemarle.'"

Gen. Benjamin F. Butler, U.S. Army,
Aug. 30, 1861



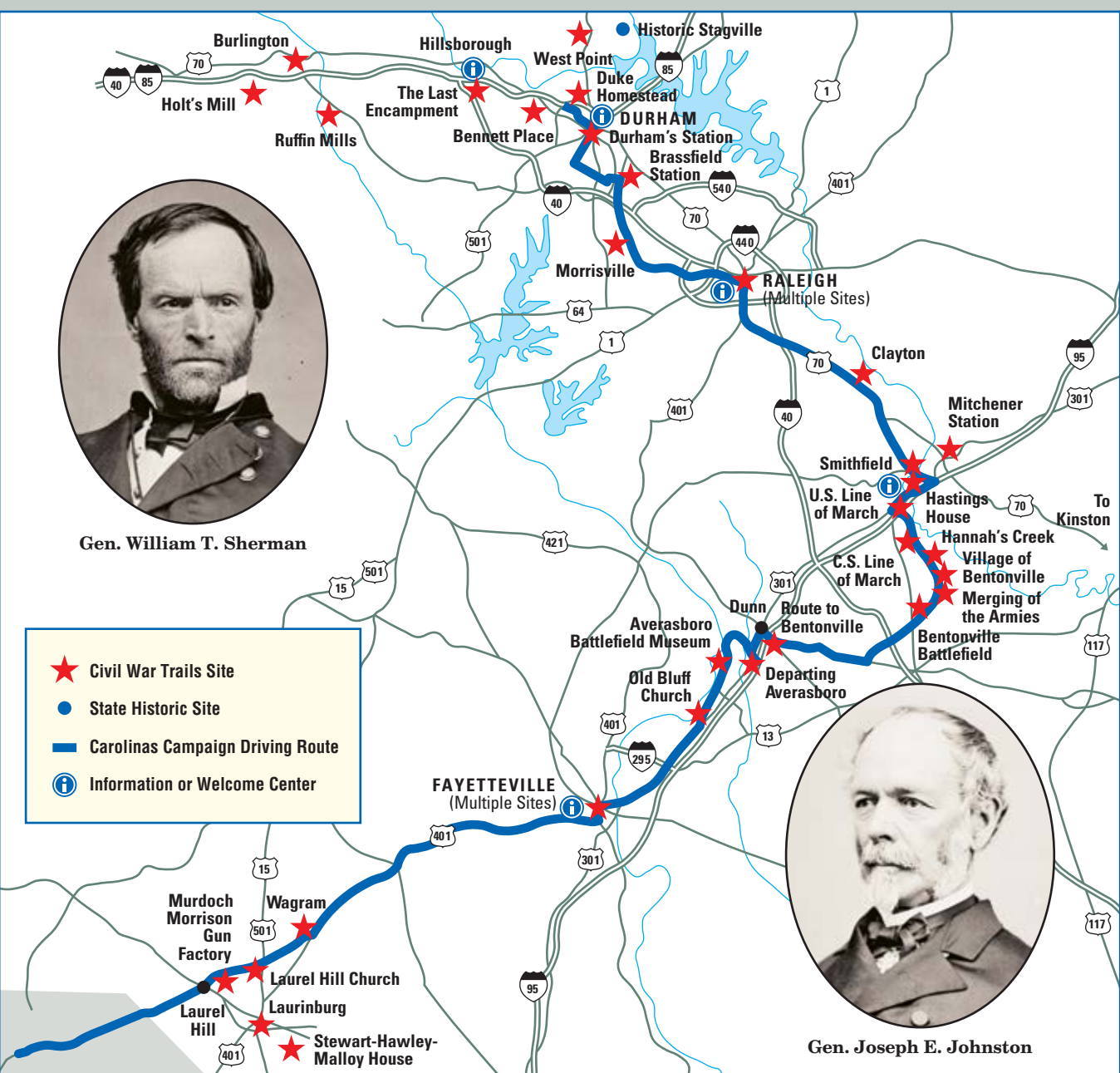


STONEMAN'S RAID

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, North Carolina, 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, divided his force, reunited it in Jonesville, and raided Virginia, April 2-10. 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.

Part of Stoneman's force 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, some of Stoneman's men 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.



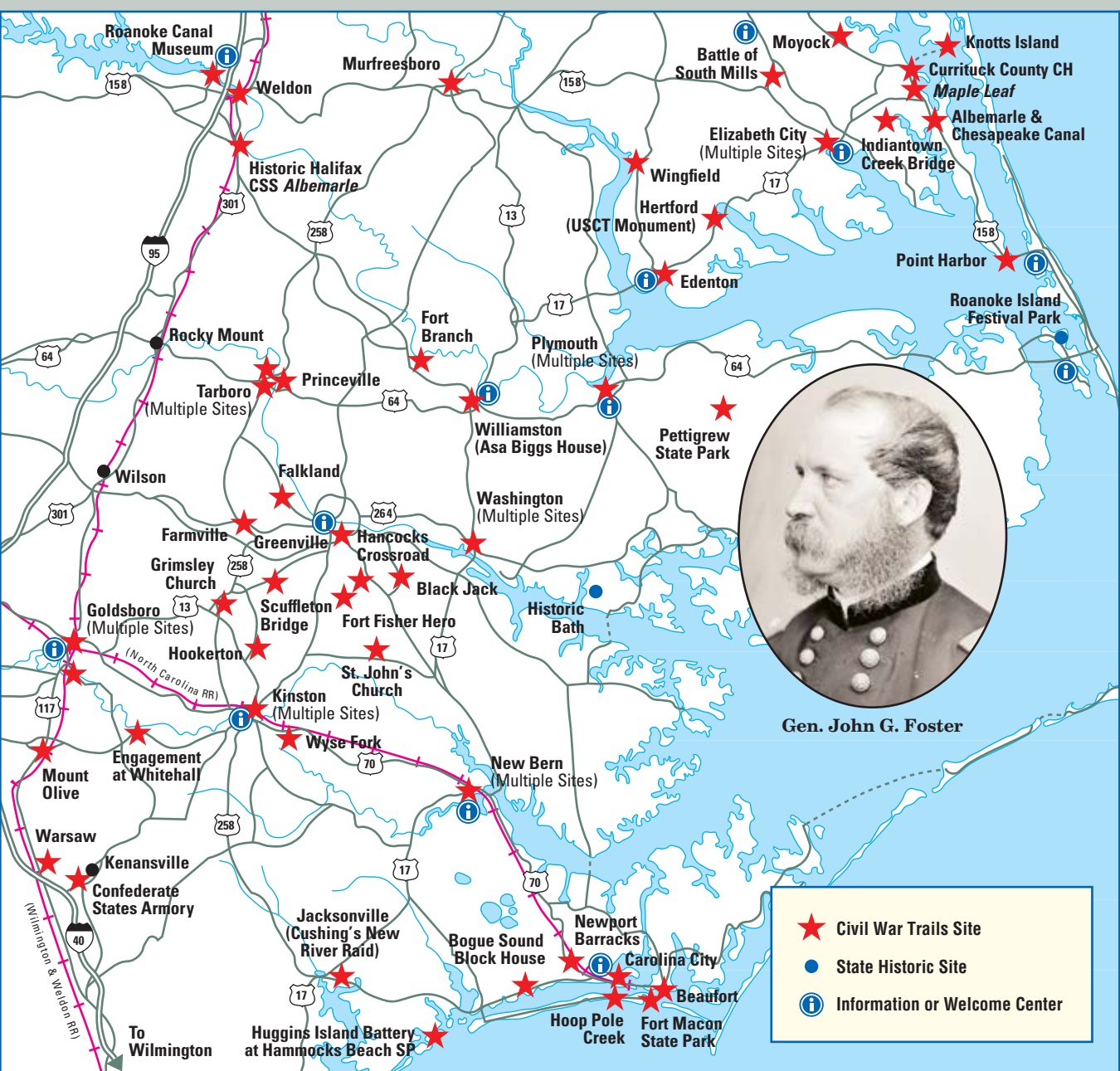
CAROLINAS CAMPAIGN

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 Wyke 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 Aversboro. 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.

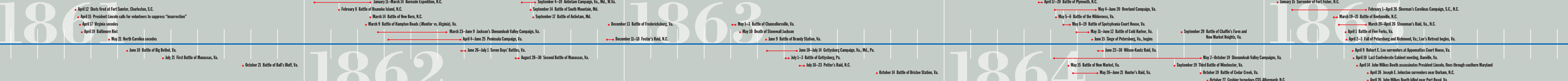


RAIDS AGAINST THE LIFELINE

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 between the two cities. 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 Riot of April 19, 1861, and some of the last Confederate casualties of the war occurred 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 Virginia 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 self-emancipated enslaved men 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.

WAR WITHIN A 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 Boundary (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. They 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 Mountaineer*

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

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burgawnc.gov

The Crystal Coast
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crystalcoastnc.org

Visit Currituck
252-435-2947
visitcurrituck.com

Dismal Swamp Canal
252-771-8333
dismalswampwelcomecenter.com

Visit Duplin County
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uncorkduplin.com

Visit Edenton
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visitedenton.com

Discover Edgecombe
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discoveredgecombe.com

Visit Elizabeth City
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visitelizabethcity.com

Greene County Chamber
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greenecountychamber.org

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Visit Kinston
252-523-2500
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Visit Martin County
800-776-8566
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Murfreesboro Historical Association
252-398-5922
murfreesboronc.org

Visit New Bern
800-437-5767
visitnewbern.com

Onslow County Tourism
910-347-3141
onlyinonslow.com

Perquimans County
252-426-8484
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Explore Southport, NC I
910-457-7927
cityofsouthport.com

City of Washington TDA
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