

3/6/10

## Civil War Timeline *(from Civil War Experience on earlier iteration of VisitNC.com)*

For North Carolinians, the war moved to not one rhythm, but two. The first revolved around the events within the state, as they related to the war at large. The second involved North Carolina's troops at the front which was often far to the north or west. The following timeline plots the significant event of both.

1860

December 20, 1860 – South Carolina secedes.

1861

January 9, 1861 – Mississippi secedes.

January 10, 1861 – Florida secedes. Citizens seize Fort Caswell near Wilmington, NC.

January 11, 1861 – Alabama secedes.

January 19, 1861 – Georgia secedes.

February 1, 1861 – Texas secedes.

March 8, 1861 – North Carolinians vote against holding a convention to secede from the Union.

March 20, 1861 – Malinda Blaylock enrolls in Co. F, 26th North Carolina under the name of Sam Blaylock in order to be with her husband, Keith. Both Blaylocks are anti-Confederate and hope to desert once they near Union lines.

April 15, 1861 – Abraham Lincoln demands troops from states, including North Carolina. Fort Macon is taken by state troops.

April 16, 1861 – Forts Caswell and Johnston in NC are occupied by state troops.

April 17, 1861 – Virginia convention votes for secession.

April 21, 1861 – State troops seize the US Mint in Charlotte, NC.

April 22, 1861 – Arsenal at Fayetteville, NC seized by state troops.

May 6, 1861 – Arkansas secedes.

May 20, 1861 – North Carolina is the last state to leave the Union, voting to rescind its 1789 vote to approve the United States Constitution, instead of simply seceding.

June 10, 1861 – North Carolinian Henry Lawson Wyatt considered by some to be the first Confederate casualty of the war at the Battle of Big Bethel, VA.

August 27-29, 1861 – Battle of Hatteras Inlet, NC. Union seizes Confederate forts in America's first amphibious assault

October 7, 1861 – Confederacy signs alignment treaty with the Cherokee Nation.

1862

February 7-8, 1862 – Battle of Roanoke Island. Union forces take control of NC sounds and coastal rivers.

March 14, 1862 – Union General Ambrose Burnside captures New Bern, NC with its large ammo depot after an amphibious assault.

April 19, 1862 – Union forces unsuccessfully attempt attack South Mills, NC area fort protecting the Dismal Swamp Canal, an important supply route for Confederates.

April 25, 1862 – Confederates surrender Fort Macon, NC.

November 4, 1862 – North Carolinian Dr. Richard J. Gatling patents the six-barrel machine gun and sells it exclusively to the Union Navy.

December 16-17, 1862 – Battle of White Hall Ferry and Battle for Goldsboro Bridge. A portion of the Union forces under General John G. Foster demonstrate at White Hall Ferry, holding the Confederates in position. The remainder of the Union troops move to destroy the railroad tracks leading up to the Goldsboro bridge. Confederate troops under North Carolina native General Thomas Clingman are unable to stop the destruction.

#### 1863

March 13-15, 1863 – Confederate General and North Carolina native D.H. Hill launches an assault on Fort Anderson near New Bern, NC. After some initial success, Union gunboats arrive and force Hill to retire.

March 30-April 20, 1863 – General D.H. Hill moves on Washington, NC after his retreat from New Bern. Hill surrounds the city with fortifications but is unable to completely shut off supplies. After an inconclusive battle, Hill withdraws.

May 1863 – Slaves flock to Roanoke Island and protection of Union troops. Freedman's Colony established.

July 1-3, 1863 – Battle of Gettysburg. 26th NC Regiment suffers a troop loss of 86.3 percent, the greatest loss sustained by any one regiment on either side during the war. NC troops make it farther into Union lines than any others.

September 20, 1863 – North Carolina troops make it farther into Federal lines than any other Confederate soldiers at Chickamauga.

October 16, 1863 – Skirmish at Pungo Landing, NC.

#### 1864

February 1864 – Confederate troops retake Newport Barracks area at Fort Macon but are unable to hold.

April 17-20, 1864 – Battle of Plymouth, NC, the last major Confederate victory in North Carolina. Confederate ironclad CSS *Albemarle* sinks Union ships.

May 5, 1864 – CSS *Albemarle* fights seven Union gunboats to a draw at the mouth of the Roanoke River near Plymouth.

October 27, 1864 – Union Lt. William B. Cushing leads a successful attack to sink the ironclad CSS *Albemarle*, armed with a cask of gunpowder on the end of a wooden spar. Union forces retake Plymouth.

December 24-25, 1864 – First bombardment of Fort Fisher followed by unsuccessful amphibious assault by Union Forces.

#### 1865

January 13-15, 1865 – Second bombardment of Fort Fisher, followed by successful amphibious attack and capture of the Confederate stronghold. The fall of Fort Fisher – the largest earthen fort in the Confederacy – sealed the fate of Wilmington, NC.

February 22, 1865 – Wilmington, final port open to Confederate ships, falls to Union forces.

March 8-10, 1865 – Battle of Kinston, NC. In this battle, also known as Battle of Wyse Fork, Confederates unsuccessfully attempt to delay or halt the Federal advance on Goldsboro.

Confederate forces burn the ironclad CSS *Neuse* to prevent Union forces from seizing her.

March 10, 1865 – Battle of Monroe's Crossroads, NC, one of the largest cavalry engagements of the war.

March 11, 1865 – Union forces occupy Fayetteville.

March 12-14, 1865 – Union forces destroy the former US Arsenal at Fayetteville.

March 16, 1865 - Battle of Averasboro, NC. Confederate forces - outnumbered 5-to-1 - are unable to slow Union troops to keep them from uniting into a combined force of nearly 100,000.

March 19-21, 1865 - Battle of Bentonville is the last significant attempt to stop Union General William T. Sherman's invading army. It is the last major Confederate offensive of the war and the largest battle ever fought in North Carolina.

April 9, 1865 - The last charge of the Army of Northern Virginia under Lee was made by North Carolina troops.

April 9, 1865 - Lee surrenders. Half of all muskets stacked at Appomattox belong to North Carolina soldiers, and the last man to surrender is a North Carolinian.

April 13, 1865 - Union troops occupy Raleigh, NC.

April 14, 1865 - President Abraham Lincoln shot at Ford's Theater.

April 15, 1865 - Lincoln dies.

April 18, 1865 - Confederate President Jefferson Davis, his cabinet and 1,000 cavalymen enter Charlotte, making it the final capital of the Confederacy. Davis learns of Lincoln's assassination.

April 19, 1865 - Union forces under General George Stoneman skirmish with NC troops in Gastonia, west of Charlotte.

April 24, 1865 - Last full Confederate Cabinet meeting takes place in Charlotte, NC at Phifer home because Secretary of the Treasury George Alfred Trenholm stays there due to illness. Some believe Rhett Butler was modeled after Trenholm.

Apr. 26, 1865 - Largest troop surrender of the war, when General J.E. Johnston hands over his Army of Tennessee to General William T. Sherman at Bennett Place in Durham, NC

May 9, 1865 - A final shot of the Civil War is fired in a skirmish at Waynesville, NC. Thomas Legion, consisting largely of Cherokee Indians and mountaineers, surrenders to the 2nd North Carolina (Federal) Mounted Infantry.

July 4, 1868 - North Carolina is readmitted to the Union. ☐☐

1877

The last Federal re-occupation troops leave North Carolina.

