

# CIVIL WAR HERITAGE TRAILS<sup>SM</sup>

January-February 2015

NEWSLETTER

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[www.CivilWarHeritageTrails.org](http://www.CivilWarHeritageTrails.org)

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## Sherman Enters South Carolina

Thursday, January 5, 1865 - U.S. President Abraham Lincoln, having earlier sent his Secretary of War Edwin M. Stanton to Savannah, Georgia, ....

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*The Burning of Columbia, South Carolina*



*New Georgia Markers*



*Upcoming Events*

Atlanta Campaign  
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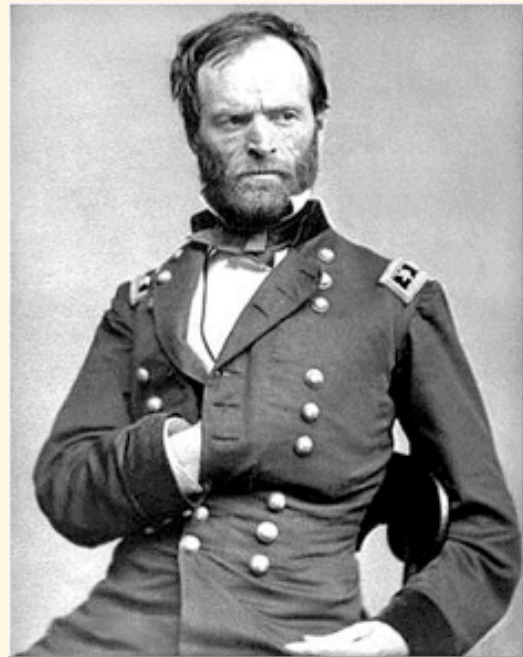
**Historical Timeline**  
**January & February 1865**

**Sherman Enters South Carolina**

**Thursday, January 5, 1865** - U.S. President Abraham Lincoln, having earlier sent his Secretary of War Edwin M. Stanton to Savannah, Georgia, to confer with Major General William T. Sherman, wrote to Stanton saying, *“Time, now that the enemy is wavering, is more important than ever before. Being on the down-hill, & some what confused, [keep] him going...”*



*U.S. Secretary of War Edwin M. Stanton*



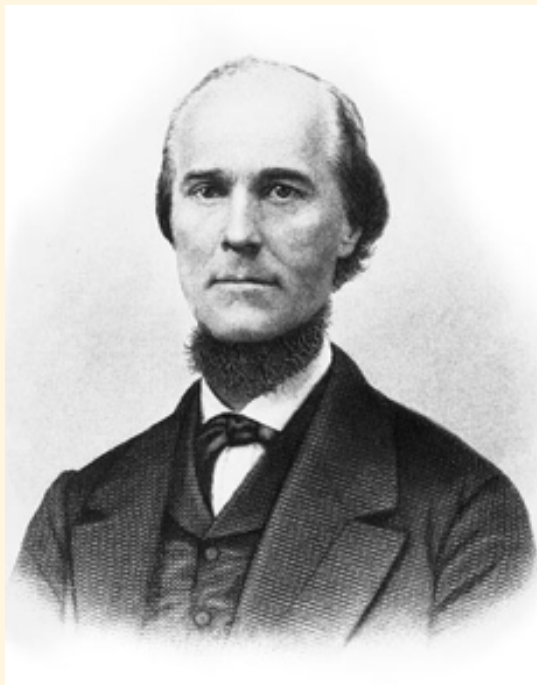
*Union Major General William T. Sherman*

**Thursday, January 12, 1865** - Confederate President Jefferson Davis continues his frustrating effort to find more troops for the defense of South Carolina. His plan includes bringing east from Mississippi most of what's left of the “Army of Tennessee.” Davis writes to Confederate Lieutenant General Richard Taylor, who is about to be placed in temporary command of that army, *“Sherman’s campaign has produced bad effect on our people, success against his future operations is needful to reanimate public confidence. Hardee requires more aid than Lee can give him, and Hood’s army is the only source to which we can now look.”*

**Saturday, January 14, 1865** - Federal troops begin moving inland from Beaufort, South Carolina, to new positions at Pocotaligo. They face only light resistance from Confederates.



*Confederate President Jefferson F. Davis*



*Georgia Governor Joseph E. Brown*

**Sunday, January 15, 1865** - The ironclad monitor, U.S.S. Patapsco, strikes an underwater torpedo (i.e. mine) near Charleston's Harbor, sinking with the loss of 62 lives. Meanwhile, Confederate President Jefferson Davis writes to one of his greatest political adversaries, Georgia Governor Joseph E. Brown, asking for Georgia troops to help defend South Carolina.

**Wednesday, January 18, 1865** - Preparing for his army's departure, Major General William T. Sherman transfers Federal command of the Savannah area to Major General John G. Foster.

**Thursday, January 19, 1865** - General Sherman issues orders to begin his army's advance across the Savannah River and into South Carolina. Some units begin almost immediately, while incessant rains delay the river's crossing by all units until February 1st.

**Saturday, January 21, 1865** - General Sherman begins moving his army's headquarters from Savannah, Georgia to Beaufort, South Carolina.

**Wednesday, January 25, 1865** - Skirmishing occurs for two days in the Pocotaligo, South Carolina area as more elements of Sherman's army begin their advance northward.

**Saturday, January 28, 1865** - Daily skirmishing by the greatly outnumbered Confederates, as occurs today at the Combahee River, does little to slow to the Federals advancing through the southern counties of South Carolina.

**Wednesday, February 1, 1865** - All portions of General Sherman's Federal army are now advancing generally north, moving from Savannah and Beaufort.

**Thursday, February 2, 1865** - The "Right Wing" of Sherman's army reaches the Salkehatchie River. Swamps and significant fighting at several locations slow the Federals only briefly.

**Friday, February 3, 1865** - More fighting along the Salkehatchie River at Rivers' Bridge and elsewhere result in Confederate retreat and resumption of the Federal advance toward Columbia.

**Saturday, February 4, 1865** - Skirmishing occurs at Buford's Bridge and elsewhere in South Carolina. Meanwhile, Confederate President Jefferson Davis writes to General Pierre G.T. Beauregard in Augusta, Georgia about the dire military situation.

**Tuesday, February 7, 1865** - Skirmishing occurs at Blackville, South Carolina, and elsewhere along the last railroad directly connecting South Carolina to Confederate states further west.



*The Federal 20th Corps Entering Blackville, South Carolina  
(Harper's Weekly)*

**Friday, February 10, 1865** - Skirmishing occurs along the seaward side near Charleston, South Carolina, as the defending Confederates nervously watch Sherman's advance through the countryside "behind" them.

**Saturday, February 11, 1865** - Daily fighting continues, at Aiken, Orangeburg and elsewhere in South Carolina as Sherman's army continues moving closer to the state's capital of Columbia.

**Tuesday, February 14, 1865** - Elements of Sherman's army reaches and crosses the Congaree River to close-in on Columbia.

**Wednesday, February 15, 1865** - Significant fighting occurs at several points along or near the Congaree River south of Columbia.

**Thursday, February 16, 1865** - Confederates hastily evacuate as much as possible from Columbia as Federals reach the river bank across from the city. Firing into the city, a few artillery shells strike the walls of the new South Carolina Statehouse still under construction.



*Bronze stars today mark where Federal cannon balls struck the South Carolina Statehouse*

**Friday, February 17, 1865** - Columbia, the capital city of South Carolina, is surrendered by its mayor and occupied by Sherman's army. Federal soldiers who had been held as prisoners in Columbia rejoice, as do the city's black residents. But controversy arises in the evening regarding how the fires that consume much of the city began. Coupled with the Confederate evacuation of Charleston and Fort Sumter (viewed by many as the "Cradle of the Confederacy") in order to avoid encirclement by advancing Federals this is a "back breaking" day for both South Carolina and the Confederacy. Several fine plantation homes near Columbia are also burned, including the home of Confederate Lieutenant General Wade Hampton who had just recently been transferred from Virginia in order to help defend his home state. A local minister later wrote of this day, "*Hell was empty, and all its devils were in this devoted city, learning new deviltry from Yankee teachers. A perfect reign of terror existed.*"



*The Burning of Columbia, South Carolina  
(Harper's Weekly)*

**Saturday, February 18, 1865** - The Federal army's destruction of buildings for military use in Columbia not already consumed by fire begins. This work continues for two days. Meanwhile, Charleston is formally surrendered and Federal soldiers begin occupying that city.



*Charleston, South Carolina in 1865  
(photos by George N. Barnard)*

**Monday, February 20, 1865** - Federal soldiers marching north from Columbia reach Winnsborough (Winnsboro), South Carolina.



*Winnsborough (Winnsboro), South Carolina  
(Harper's Weekly)*

**Wednesday, February 22, 1865** - Advancing Federals reach Camden, South Carolina on the Wateree River still facing only light opposition.

**Thursday, February 23, 1865** - Skirmishing continues near Camden while Sherman's 20th Corps crosses the Catawba River close to the North Carolina border. But three days of heavy rain causes delays until the 26th.

**Saturday, February 25, 1865** - General Joseph E. Johnston assumes command of all Confederate forces trying to halt Sherman's advance. Johnston's assignment is near impossible.

**Tuesday, February 28, 1865** - Skirmishing occurs near Cheraw, South Carolina and elsewhere near the North Carolina border.



*“Along the Trails”*

New interpretive markers along the  
**Atlanta Campaign Heritage Trail®**

<http://civilwarheritagetrails.org/ga-civil-war-trails-map/ga-atlanta-campaign.html>



*Installing the New Marker - near the Hardman Family Cemetery - on the campus of Emory University  
Decatur GA - “The Hardman Family Cemetery” (#27), GPS: 33.7953, -84.3097*



*Facing the Old DeKalb County Courthouse - Interpreting the Battle of Decatur  
Decatur GA - “Old DeKalb County Courthouse” (#28), GPS: 33.7750, -84.2966*



*Marker near the main entrance to - the “Georgia Railroad Freight Depot” - and “Trailblazer” signs  
Atlanta GA - “Georgia Railroad Freight Depot” (#32), GPS: 33.7516, -84.3889*

**Many thanks to the following individuals who have recently donated to Civil War Heritage Trails in order to honor their ancestors and help tell their story.**

**Laura Mitchell**

Private Andrew J. Autry, Company E, 12th Georgia Infantry

**Dr. Marshall P. Waters III:**

Sergeant John Nicholas Waters, Company E, 27th Georgia Infantry

**Beverly Moody:**

Private John L. T. Morgan, Company E, 8th Georgia Cavalry

## Honor Your Ancestors and Help Tell Their Story

Civil War Heritage Trails is a 501c3 non-profit organization supported through the generosity of many individuals, organizations and communities. This support is essential to telling the stories of the Civil War era throughout Georgia, Alabama and South Carolina. Now you have the opportunity to add your support and at the same time honor your Civil War era ancestor(s) who served and sacrificed so much.

For each \$25 tax deductible donation, your name along with the name, rank and unit (if known) of one of your ancestors will be displayed in a future newsletter issue, and on our website for an entire year. You will also have the satisfaction of knowing the Civil War era history they helped to make will be told for present and future generations to discover throughout Georgia, Alabama and South Carolina.

To donate, click on one of the “Donate” buttons located on [our website](#). Please be sure to provide us with the name(s) and unit(s) of your ancestor(s).

If you prefer to donate by mail, please include your check and ancestor’s information, and address your envelope to:

Civil War Heritage Trails  
POB 1864  
Evans, GA 30809

Your name plus that of your ancestor(s) will appear in a future issue of our newsletter, and on our website for an entire year. A donation receipt will also be mailed to you for your tax purposes.

To send us this information by donating through Paypal or Credit Card, go to [Civil War Heritage Trails](#)

Questions:  
[ContactUs@CivilWarHeritageTrails.org](mailto:ContactUs@CivilWarHeritageTrails.org)

## Upcoming Events

Details about these and more Civil War era events can be found at [www.CivilWarHeritageTrails.org](http://www.CivilWarHeritageTrails.org)

### **Alabama: “What the Yankees Did to Us; Sherman's Bombardment and Wrecking of Atlanta”**

Thursday, February 12, Elks Lodge 1648, 725 Franklin Street, Huntsville AL. Dr. Steve Davis from Atlanta will speak on the topic “What the Yankees Did to Us; Sherman's Bombardment and Wrecking of Atlanta” during the monthly meeting of the Tennessee Valley Civil War Round Table. FREE admission. Meeting starts at 6:30, but come at 5:30 to partake of the chicken buffet/salad bar offered by the Elks. [www.tvcwrt.org/](http://www.tvcwrt.org/)

**Georgia: Super Museum Sunday 2015** - Sunday, February 8, 12:00 noon to 4:00 pm, multiple sites in Savannah and throughout Coastal Georgia. Only once a year, from downtown Savannah to Statesboro and Darien, over 40 cultural institutions, historic sites, house museums, art museums and other points of interest in Coastal Georgia open their doors FREE to the public. Many museums and sites are related to the Civil War period. FREE admission. 912-651-2125, <http://georgiahistory.com/>

**South Carolina: 150th Anniversary of the Battle of Rivers Bridge** - Saturday & Sunday, February 7 & 8, Rivers Bridge State Historic Site, 325 State Park Road, Ehrhardt SC. A series of events at South Carolina's only state park devoted to military history of the Civil War in South Carolina will take place near the 150th anniversary of the battle that occurred here. Descendants of the soldiers who fought here are especially invited. FREE admission. 803-267-3675, [www.southcarolinaparks.com/riversbridge](http://www.southcarolinaparks.com/riversbridge)



[Emma Sansom Monument](#)  
[Gadsden, AL](#)



[GA Civil War](#)  
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[SC Civil War 150](#)