

“North Carolina and the Civil War: The Bitter End, 1864-1865,” the final exhibit in a three-part series commemorating the 150th anniversary of the Civil War in North Carolina, has opened at the NC Museum of History in Raleigh. The exhibit series explores the nation’s bloodiest conflict from 1861 through 1865. It is located within the museum’s permanent military history gallery A Call to Arms. Admission is free.

The Bitter End, 1864-1865 begins in the spring of 1864, when heavy fighting in Virginia was thinning the ranks of Tar Heel troops. The exhibit concludes with the surrender of the CSS Shenandoah in Liverpool, England, on Nov. 6, 1865. Highlighted artifacts include revolvers, swords, battle flags and uniforms used by North Carolinians who persevered in the face of impossible odds.

The Bitter End, 1864-1865 showcases battle flags that have never been exhibited or have not been on view for many years. These historic banners have been conserved through funding provided by Civil War re-enactment groups and organizations. Flags on exhibit will be changed periodically to avoid prolonged exposure to light.

1864-1865: The Last Campaigns focuses on the fighting in Virginia at the Wilderness, at Spotsylvania Court House, and Cold Harbor. Artifacts include a Burnside carbine captured from a Federal scout and presented by Maj. Gen. Stephen Dodson Ramseur to his troops. Maj. Gen. Ramseur led an attack that saved the Confederate army at Spotsylvania Court House in May 1864. Also featured is the battle flag of the First Regiment N.C. State Troops that Pvt. John Reams of Northampton County carried into the Battle of Spotsylvania Court House, where he was captured during hand-to-hand combat.

Unavoidable Ending recounts the fall of the Confederacy and Gen. Robert E. Lee’s surrender at Appomattox Court House in Virginia on April 9, 1865. The exhibit also highlights the surrender treaty signed by Union general William T. Sherman and Confederate general Joseph E. Johnston at Bennett home, near Durham, in April 1865. On view is a Model 1850 foot officer’s sword used by Col. Paul F. Faison, 56th Regiment N.C. Troops, that was surrendered at Appomattox Court House. Artifacts associated with the Bennett home include a table and whiskey bottle used at the site.

Last at Liverpool concludes with a surprising and little-known footnote: the final act of the Civil War. “That act was the surrender of the CSS Shenandoah in Liverpool, England,” said Dr. Jeanne Marie Warzeski, Curator, N.C. Museum of History. “The Shenandoah was surrendered by its captain, Pittsboro native James Iredell Waddell, on November 6, 1865, and it was truly the last surrender of the war.” Liverpool was the unofficial home port of the Confederate navy. Museum visitors will see a Model 1852 U.S. naval officer’s sword and scabbard used by Capt. Waddell, as well as a ring he wore during his command of the Shenandoah.

Be sure to see The Bitter End, 1864-1865 and learn more about the stories of North Carolinians during the war’s final chapters. The exhibit is part of the N.C. Civil War Sesquicentennial, a statewide initiative organized by the N.C. Department of Cultural Resources in commemoration of the 150th anniversary of the Civil War in North Carolina. For more information go to www.nccivilwar150.com.

For details about the N.C. Museum of History, call 919-807-7900 or access www.ncmuseumofhistory.org or Facebook. The museum is located at 5 E. Edenton Street, across from the State Capitol. Parking is available in the lot across Wilmington Street. Hours are Monday through Saturday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Sunday, noon to 5 p.m. The Museum of History, within the Division of State History Museums, is part of the N.C. Department of Cultural Resources.



Model 1852 U.S. naval officer’s sword and scabbard used by Capt. James Iredell Waddell. They are featured in the exhibit North Carolina and the Civil War: The Bitter End, 1864-1865.

Wadesboro Seeking Public Input on Trash Service

The Town of Wadesboro is seeking public input as it explores ways to improve trash service. A public hearing will be held during the Monday, February 3rd town council meeting. The meeting begins at 5 p.m. at the Wadesboro Town Hall, located at 124-126 East Wade Street.

Wadesboro Town Manager Alex Sewell commented, “There are ways to significantly improve efficiency of trash collection and reduce costs. Before any changes are made, the Town hopes to learn what customers like about trash service, what they don’t like, and what changes customers would like to see in the future. These comments will be used to help improve service.”

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New Trails Link African American History, Culture

Paths have a way of crossing in history, and 2014 brings an intersection of new African American history and heritage trails across North Carolina. Both famous and ordinary people play a role in extraordinary stories that inspire a journey through the heart of the state. Choose your destination and find everything you need for the trip at VisitNC.com.

• **African American Music Trails of Eastern North Carolina** The newest culture trail from the North Carolina Arts Council springs from the rich sounds rooted in eight counties east of Raleigh. Jazz, blues, R&B, funk, gospel and hip-hop ring out on the 17-track CD that accompanies the book (published by UNC Press). Late, great artists (Thelonious Monk, Dr. Billy Taylor) and modern practitioners (Maceo Parker, the Rev. Luther Barnes) link past and present with extraordinary stories of time and place. The best starting points are the book and ncarts.org/experience-the-arts.

• **Trail of Flames, New Bern** North Carolina’s Colonial capital rescues a piece of devastating history from obscurity with the new Trail of Flames. The Great Fire of 1922 destroyed 40 city blocks and left one-third of the population — most of them African American — homeless. The trail, created by the Uptown Business & Professional Association, recounts the fateful day and connects it to the development of today’s New Bern. Find the path at trailofflames.org. While in New Bern, explore other dimensions of African American history through a self-guided walking tour and the Tryon Palace complex (choose the African American viewpoint on the hand-held History Navigator). Learn more at VisitNewBern.com.

• **Guide to Wilmington’s African American Heritage** Wilmington’s dramatic history and artistic predilection balance and blend the stories recounted in the city’s African American heritage guide, released this past fall in recognition of Emancipation Proclamation’s 150th anniversary and the Wilmington History Preservation Commission’s 50th. The 37 sites encompass historic events (the escape of 22 slaves from the Orange Street Landing, the Riot of 1898), artistry (Thalian Hall, the “Bottle Chapel” memorial to Minnie Evans), and places that highlight the contributions of African Americans to the city’s business, spiritual and civic life. Find the guide at www.wilmingtonandbeaches.com.

• **Winston-Salem African-American Art & Culture Guide** Freed and enslaved African Americans have been part of Winston-Salem’s story since the Moravians first settled here in the 18th century. The new African American Art & Culture Guide brings that long history into today’s vibrant arts and cultural life in Winston-Salem. Old Salem, a 21-block oasis within the modern city, preserves St. Philips Moravian Church (dating to 1861) and the reconstructed 1823 log church while acknowledging how segregationist sentiment chipped away at egalitarian Moravian ideals. The guide incorporates the African American presence at Reynolda House Museum of American Art, nearby Körner’s Folly and other attractions, and sites such as Diggs Gallery at Winston-Salem State University celebrate African American artistry. The guide’s itinerary leads to shops and restaurants of interest. Access the digital guide or request a print copy at www.VisitWinstonSalem.com.

• **Jacksonville/Onslow African-American Heritage Trail** The Jacksonville/Onslow trail, dedicated in 2013, commands attention for story lines that illuminate segregation in the mid-20th century. The Montford Park Marine Museum preserves the legacy of the first African American Marines, who fought bigotry as well as foreign enemies during World War II. Hammocks Beach, another site of major interest, glimpses the history of segregated beaches. Its illustrious history leads to the creation of a state park for African Americans, a designation that ended in 1964 with the Civil Rights Act. Connect via the digital guide at www.aahnt.netbookhost.com or online at www.onlyinonslow.com.

• **Halifax Maritime Underground Railroad Wayside Exhibit Trail** In the antebellum era, Halifax was a beacon for freedom seekers. The Roanoke River, a substantial population of free blacks and enslaved artisans, and proximity to an active Quaker population made the town a destination for runaway slaves. In 2011, “Olde Town of Halifax” became the Southeast’s first Network to Freedom District. Find tour information at www.nchistoricsites.org/halifax and an itinerary to extend the journey along the Inner Coast at www.discoverelizabethcity.com.

These newer trails join Durham’s African American Heritage Guide, Fayetteville’s African-American Cultural Heritage Trail, Edenton’s Harriet Jacobs Trail and others on North Carolina’s landscape. Learn more at VisitNC.com, a font of information about attractions, events and trip planning.

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Valentines Day Ball at Lockhart-Taylor Center

A Valentine’s Day Ball will be held at the Lockhart-Taylor Center on Friday, February 14, from 7 to 11 p.m. Everyone is invited to come out for an evening of music, dancing, heavy hors d’oeuvres and fun. The dress code is semi-formal. A photographer will be available. Music will be provided by Gatewood Productions.

Tickets are \$40 per couple and \$25 for singles. To purchase tickets please call Landric Reid at 704-695-7771.

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