

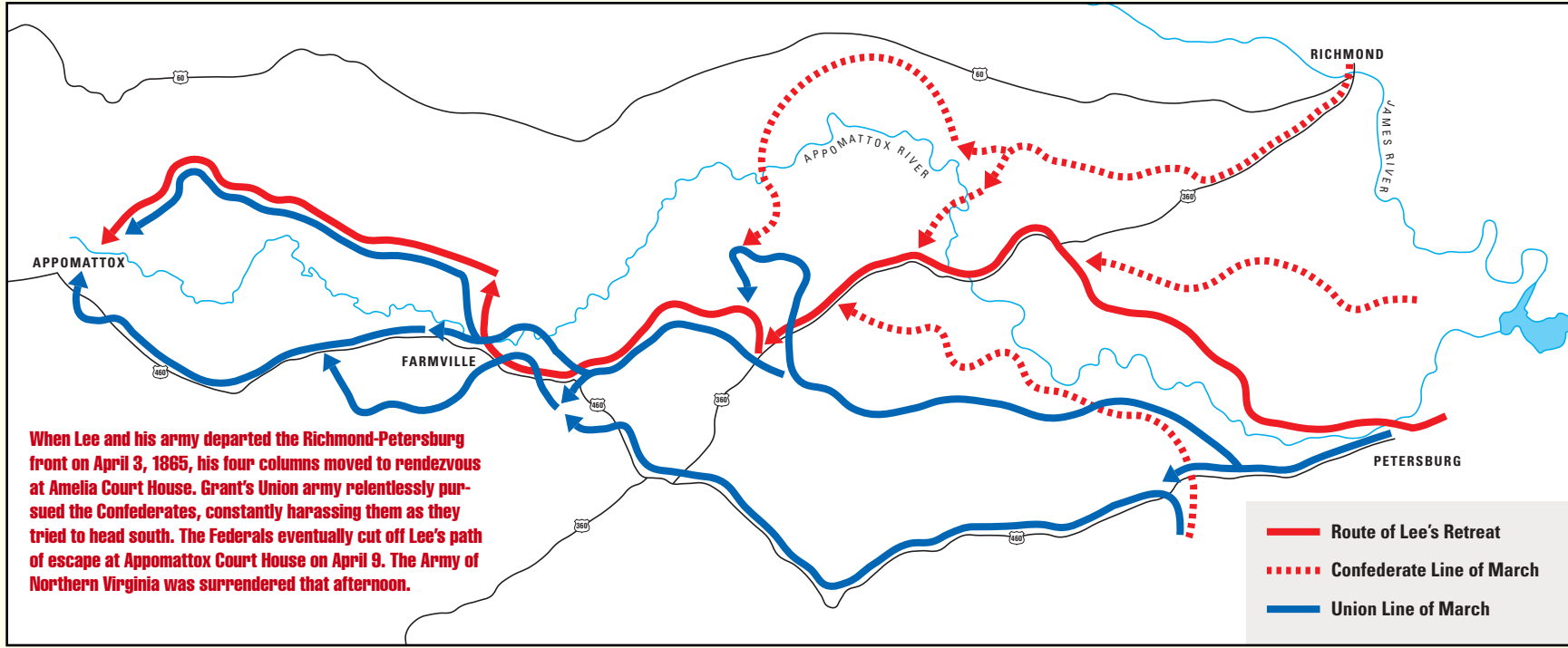
## LEE'S RETREAT

Early in 1865, as Gen. Ulysses S. Grant tightened the siege around Gen. Robert E. Lee and the Army of Northern Virginia in Richmond and Petersburg, Lee planned for the evacuation of his troops. He determined to march to North Carolina, consolidate his army with Gen. Joseph E. Johnston's, defeat Gen. William T. Sherman's army, and then turn on Grant. When the Federals broke through his lines on April 2, Lee put his plan in motion. The wings of his army were to rendezvous at Amelia Court House, resupply, and march to Danville along the Richmond and Danville Railroad.

Little went as planned. High water made crossing the Appomattox River difficult, delaying the rendezvous, and the anticipated supplies were not at Amelia Court House. Lee also lost his day's lead over the pursuing Grant while he waited, allowing Federal cavalry and infantry to block his path down the track at Jetersville. Deciding not to give battle, Lee turned west and began a series of three consecutive night marches. Grant's strategy – to press Lee from the rear while preventing him from turning south, get the cavalry in front of him, and then surround and compel him to fight or surrender – began to take effect.

Fighting by day and marching by night, Lee's exhausted and hungry men trudged toward Farmville, their next supply station. The column stretched for miles, slowed by a voluminous baggage train. At almost every watercourse, the men and wagons bogged down and Gen. Philip H. Sheridan's Union cavalry slammed into Lee's rear guard. On April 6, the Federals brought Lee to bay at Little Sailor's Creek, where in three separate engagements almost a quarter of the Confederate force was killed or captured. Lee, absorbing the magnitude of the disaster, remarked, "My God, has the army been dissolved?"

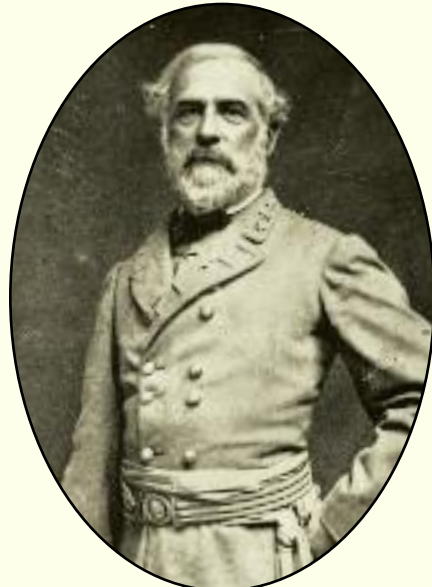
The survivors crossed High Bridge, the huge railroad trestle over the Appomattox River and the scene of intense combat earlier in the day, and made their way to Farmville. The next day, as they distributed rations from the trains at the depot, the gunfire of Federal cavalry was heard from the east. Lee also learned that Union infantrymen had successfully crossed the Appomattox River on a small wagon bridge below High Bridge and were threatening his line of



When Lee and his army departed the Richmond-Petersburg front on April 3, 1865, his four columns moved to rendezvous at Amelia Court House. Grant's Union army relentlessly pursued the Confederates, constantly harassing them as they tried to head south. The Federals eventually cut off Lee's path of escape at Appomattox Court House on April 9. The Army of Northern Virginia was surrendered that afternoon.



Ulysses S. Grant  
General-in-Chief, United States Forces



Robert E. Lee  
Commander, Army of Northern Virginia

march. He sent his troops across the river to dig in around Cumberland Church and fend off Union probes.

Beginning what would be their last night march on April 7, Lee's men headed for the next destination, Appomattox Station on the South Side Railroad, where supplies sent east from Lynchburg awaited them. Once replenished, the army would continue west to Campbell Court House near Lynchburg. But Union cavalry captured the station and the supplies and positioned itself between Lee and his next objective. With Federal infantry closing in behind him, Lee ordered a breakout attempt for dawn the next morning, April 9. Gen. John B. Gordon led the attack with a combined force of cavalry and infantry and fought his men to "a frazzle." The cavalrymen cut through their Federal counterparts and escaped, but then large numbers of Union infantry arrived in support. Gordon reported to Lee that it was no use. Flags of truce broke out. The shooting died away. And that afternoon, in the little village of Appomattox Court House, the war in Virginia came to an end.

## APPOMATTOX

At Appomattox Court House, on the afternoon of Palm Sunday, April 9, 1865, the slow process of national reunification began after four bloody years. When a final Confederate breakout attempt failed, Gen. Robert E. Lee accepted the inevitable, saying, "There is nothing left me but to go and see General Grant, and I had rather die a thousand deaths." That afternoon, Lee surrendered the Army of Northern Virginia to Gen. Ulysses S. Grant, ending the war in Virginia and removing the largest Confederate army from the field. Other surrenders followed, the next on May 3 in North Carolina under Gen. Joseph E. Johnston and the last on June 23, when Gen. Stand Watie capitulated in the Indian Territory.

Lee and Grant met in the village residence of Wilmer McLean – who had moved there to escape the war after the First Battle of Manassas had raged around his Northern Virginia home – to sign the surrender documents. The branches of Lee's army formally laid down their weapons and flags over the next few days. On April 12, it was the infantry's turn. As Gen. John B. Gordon led the depleted ranks up the hill to the village, Gen. Joshua L. Chamberlain, supervising the ceremony, ordered his troops to salute as the Confederates approached. Gordon reciprocated, "honor answering honor," as Chamberlain later put it, and then the Army of Northern Virginia passed into memory.

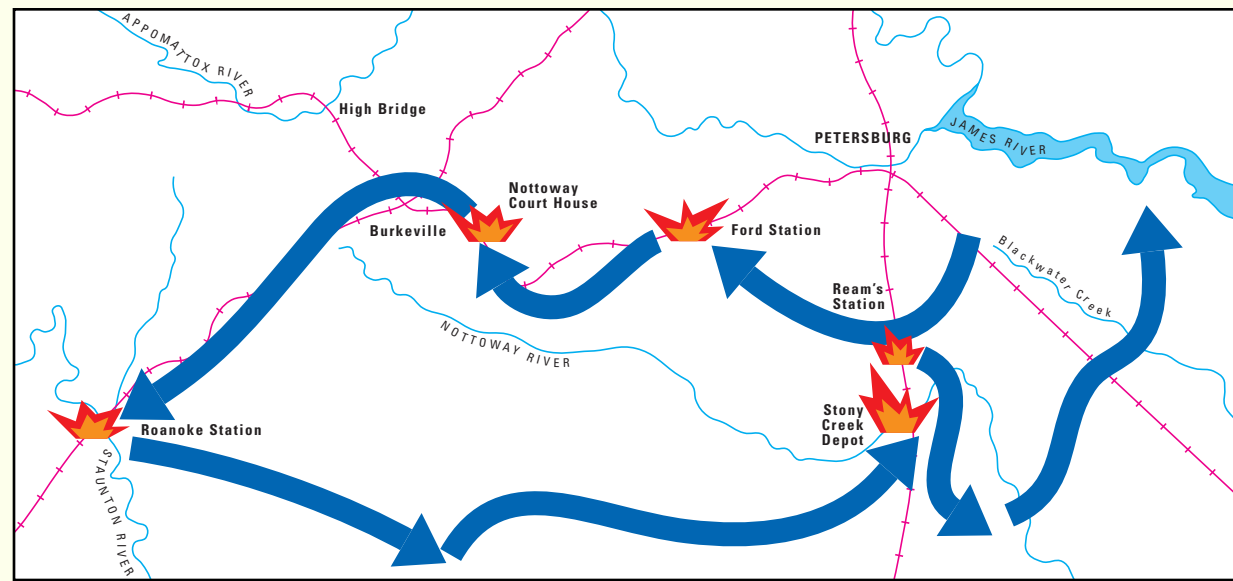


At Appomattox, on April 9, 1865, Robert E. Lee, commanding general of the Army of Northern Virginia, surrendered his men to Ulysses S. Grant and the Armies of the Potomac and the James. Though several Confederate armies under different commanders remained in the field, Lee's surrender signaled the end of the Southern States' attempt to create a separate nation. Three days later, the men of the Army of Northern Virginia marched before the Union Army, laid down their flags, stacked their weapons and began the journey back to their homes.

## WILSON-KAUTZ RAID

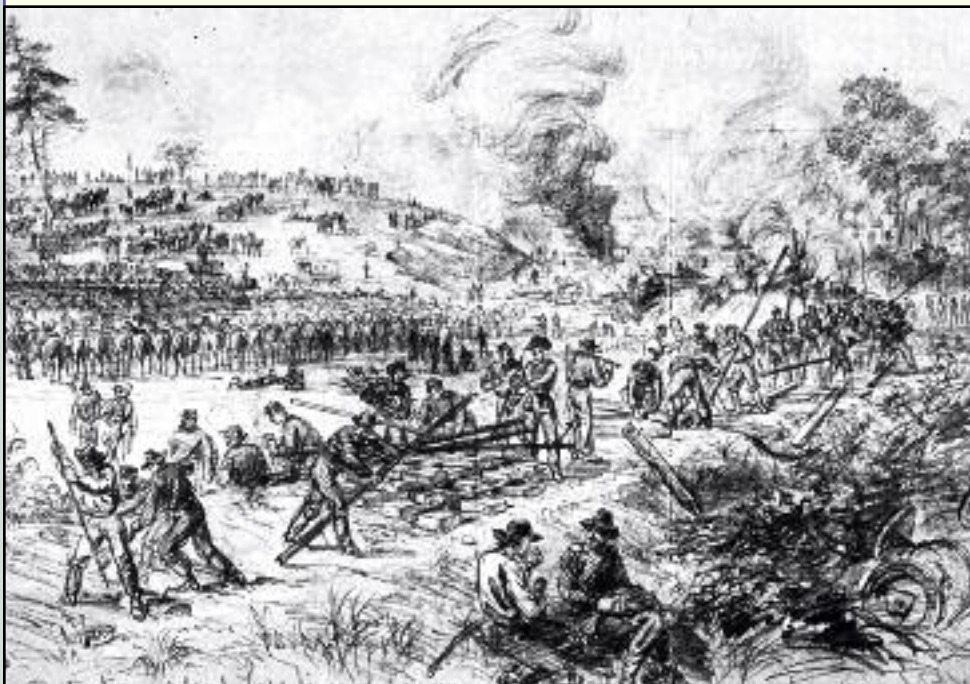
In late spring 1864, Union Gen. Ulysses S. Grant's Overland Campaign had ground to a bloody halt outside Petersburg and Richmond, defended by Gen. Robert E. Lee and the Army of Northern Virginia. In June, to deny Lee the use of the South Side Railroad and the Richmond and Danville Railroad for supplies, Grant sent Gen. James H. Wilson's and Gen. August V. Kautz's cavalry divisions south of Petersburg to destroy track and rolling stock.

On June 22, the Union cavalrymen marched down the South Side Railroad. Almost at once, however, Confederate cavalry commander Gen. W.H.F. "Rooney" Lee set off in pursuit. For the next three days, the raiders alternated destroying track and depots with fighting rear-guard actions. On June 25, they attacked the Staunton River Bridge crossing of the Richmond and Danville Railroad, where they were decisively repulsed. They then headed back to Petersburg by way of Ream's Station, where Wilson expected to find Union infantry but instead discovered Confederates surrounding him.



He and Kautz cut their way out and finally reached the Petersburg lines on June 30. Although the Federals had destroyed track, buildings, rolling stock, and supplies, they suffered almost 1,800 casualties. The Confederates soon made repairs and kept materiel flowing to Petersburg.

Artist Alfred R. Waud's wartime drawing of the Wilson-Kautz Raid.



General James H. Wilson



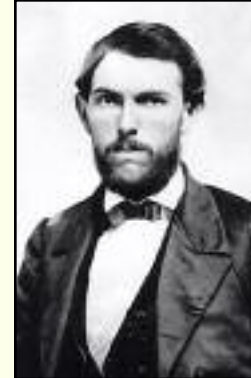
General August V. Kautz

## STAUNTON RIVER BRIDGE

When Gen. James H. Wilson and Gen. August V. Kautz began their railroad raid on June 22, 1864, Confederate cavalry Gen. W.H.F. "Rooney" Lee followed. First, however, Lee wired Capt. Benjamin L. Farinholt, who commanded the guard at the Staunton River Bridge on the Richmond and Danville Railroad, the raiders' main objective and an essential part of the Confederate supply line.

There, Farinholt and Col. Henry E. Coleman assembled a ragtag Confederate force of about 950 local defense troops, armed civilians ("old men and boys"), and regular soldiers on leave to defend the bridge against the 5,500 Federals. For two days they dug fortifications and emplaced artillery. When Wilson and Kautz arrived on June 25, their troopers charged several times but the Confederates drove them back. That night, with Rooney Lee pressing their rear, the Federals began a race for their lines at Petersburg.

Today, Farinholt's fortifications still stand guard over the bridge site. Most of the battlefield is protected and interpreted in Staunton River Battlefield State Park.



Confederate Captain Benjamin L. Farinholt

## LYNCHBURG

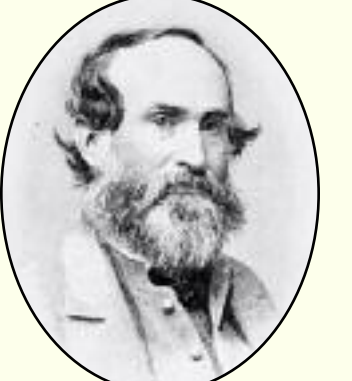
Lynchburg, the commercial hub of Virginia's western Piedmont, had also become a strategic military center with a huge hospital by 1864. A major Confederate army supply depot as well, it shipped materiel on the Orange and Alexandria, South Side, and Virginia and Tennessee Railroads that radiated from the city. When Gen. Ulysses S. Grant took command of Union forces in March 1864, he sought to occupy the Shenandoah Valley and then Lynchburg to disable the Confederate supply network.

After Union Gen. David Hunter routed Confederate forces at Piedmont on June 5, he soon captured both Staunton and Lexington, then crossed the Blue Ridge to probe toward Lynchburg. Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee, engaged in countering Grant's advance on Richmond and Petersburg after Cold Harbor, dispatched Gen. Jubal A. Early's corps (a third of his army) to save Lynchburg.

Early's corps arrived by train from Charlottesville in the nick of time on June 17, as Confederate cavalry slowed Hunter's march. While Early's men added to the fortifications erected by Gen. John C. Breckinridge's small garrison, Hunter made his headquarters south of the city at Sandusky. When his attack failed the next day, he retreated into West Virginia. Lynchburg was saved, and Early was free to execute another of Lee's plans, an attack on Washington, D.C.

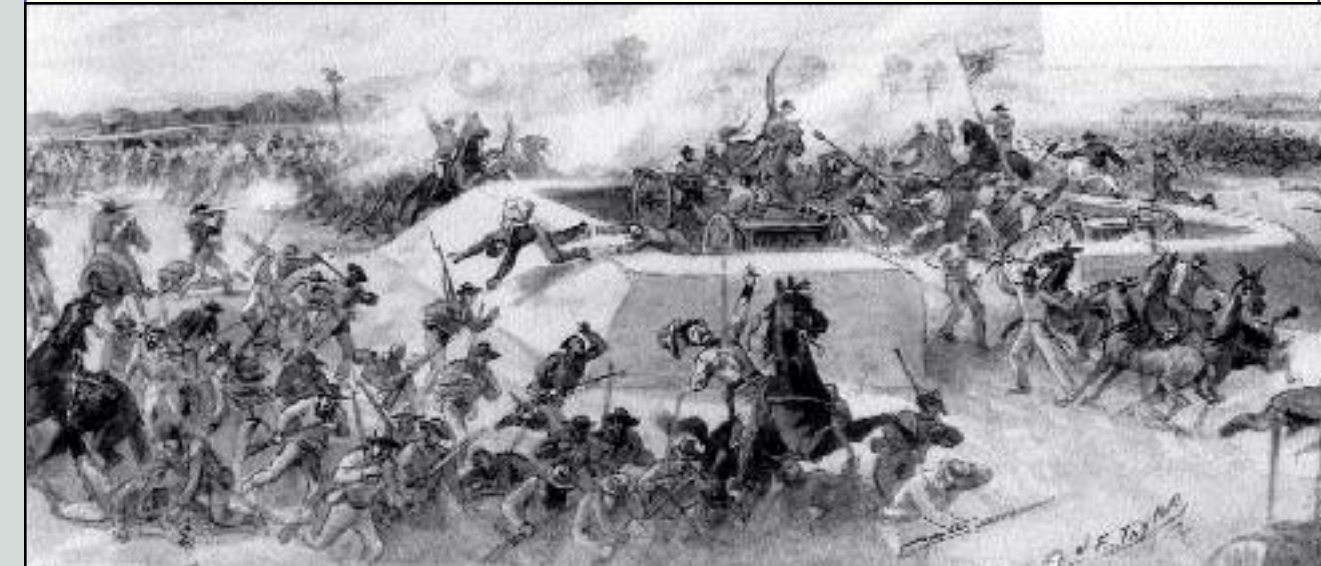


Union General David Hunter



Confederate General Jubal A. Early

Fort Early in Lynchburg was similar to this earthwork at Winchester. — Western Reserve Historical Society



## VIRGINIA CIVIL WAR TRAILS

# LEE'S RETREAT

THE FINAL CAMPAIGNS

## LEE'S RETREAT

THE FINAL CAMPAIGNS

Cover: About a week after the surrender at Appomattox Court House, Lee allowed Matthew Brady to take this picture in Richmond.



Amelia, Appomattox, Brunswick, Buckingham, Charlotte, Cumberland, Dinwiddie, Greensville, Halifax, Lunenburg, Mecklenburg, Nottoway, Pittsylvania, Prince Edward, Prince George and Sussex, and the cities of Danville, Farmville, Hopewell, Lynchburg and Petersburg.

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**Petersburg Visitor Center**  
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(804) 733-2400  
(800) 368-3595  
www.petersburg-va.org

**Hopewell Visitor Center**  
4100 Oaklawn Boulevard  
Hopewell, Virginia 23860  
(804) 541-2461  
(800) 863-TOUR  
www.ci.hopewell.va.us



Old City Cemetery, Lynchburg

**Lynchburg Regional Convention and Visitors Bureau**  
12th and Church Streets  
Lynchburg, Virginia 24504  
(800) 732-5821  
www.discoverlynchburg.org

**Danville Area Chamber of Commerce and Visitor Center**  
635 Main St.  
P.O. Box 1538  
Danville, Virginia 24543  
(434) 793-5422  
www.ci.danville.va.us

**Appomattox Court House National Historical Park**  
P.O. Box 218  
Appomattox, VA 24522  
(434) 352-8987  
www.nps.gov/apco

**Danville Museum of Fine Arts and History**  
975 Main St.  
Danville, VA 24541  
(434) 793-5644  
www.danvillemuseum.org

**Pamplin Historical Park & The National Museum of the Civil War Soldier**  
6125 Boydton Plank Road  
Petersburg, VA 23803  
877-PAMPLIN  
www.pamplinpark.org

The National Museum of the Civil War Soldier



The McLean House, Appomattox C.H. NHP

**Petersburg National Battlefield**  
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Petersburg, VA 23803  
(804) 732-3531  
www.nps.gov/pete

**Sailor's Creek Battlefield**  
c/o Twin Lakes State Park  
788 Twin Lakes Rd.  
Greenbay, VA 23942  
(434) 392-3435  
www.dcr.state.va.us/parks/parks/sailorcreek.htm

The National Museum of the Civil War Soldier



**Staunton River Battlefield State Park**  
1035 Fort Hill Trail  
Randolph, VA 23962-9801  
(434) 454-4312  
www.dcr.state.va.us/parks/srbbsp.htm

**Bilhartz, Hall & Co. rising breech carbine.**

## DANVILLE

By late February 1865, Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee had laid plans to evacuate the Army of Northern Virginia from Petersburg and Richmond as Gen. Ulysses S. Grant's strategy became clear: extend the Union left flank west, cut Lee's supply lines, and threaten his retreat route. After the Battle of Five Forks on April 1, when Gen. Philip H. Sheridan nearly accomplished those goals, Lee knew the time had come. On April 2-3, as the Federals broke through the Petersburg defenses, Lee led his men west, hoping to turn south to North Carolina. The Confederate government, meanwhile, boarded Richmond and Danville Railroad cars and headed for Danville.

Earthworks protected the town, a major Confederate supply, hospital, and prisoner-of-war center located near North Carolina. When government officials arrived in the afternoon of April 3, President Jefferson Davis and his cabinet settled into Maj. William T. Sutherland's mansion, held their last meetings, and awaited Lee's army. On April 10, however, Davis learned of Lee's surrender at Appomattox the previous day. That evening, he and the government fled to Greensboro, North Carolina, leaving Danville as the Last Capital of the Confederacy. During the next few weeks, until Union troops took control, chaos reigned as paroled Confederate soldiers looted Danville's warehouses of supplies for their trek home. After the Federals left on May 17, life in Danville slowly returned to normal.

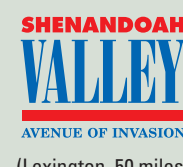
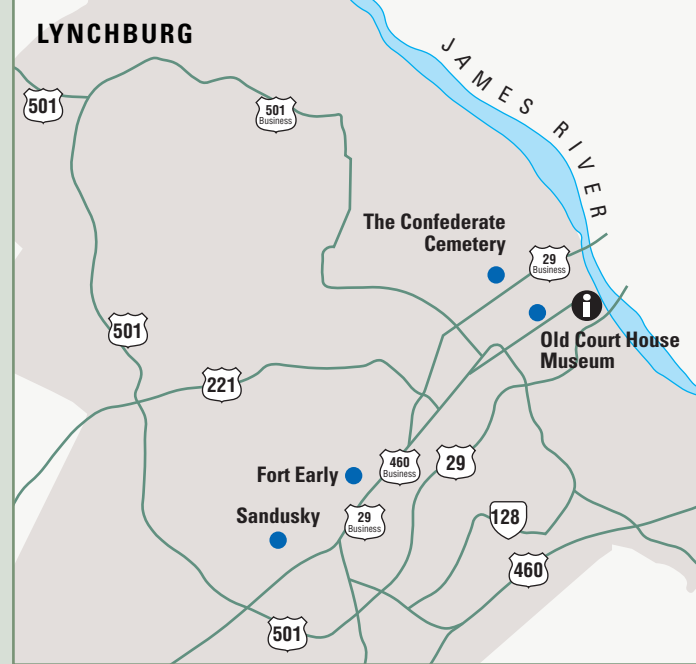
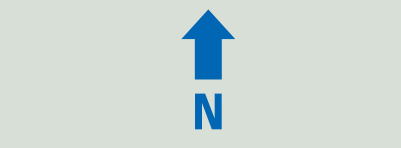
This circa 1900 view of the Sutherland Mansion shows the grounds that were little changed from the war years.



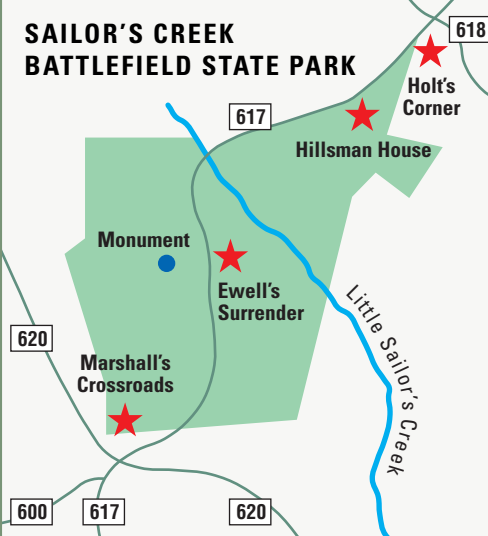
# LEE'S RETREAT

THE FINAL CAMPAIGNS

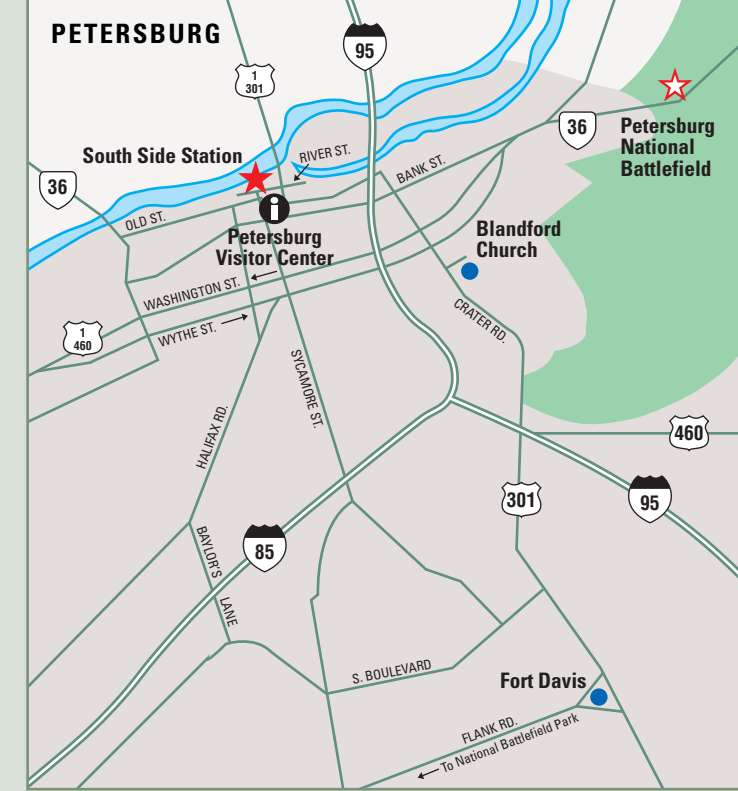
- Lee's Retreat Driving Route
- Wilson-Kautz Raid Driving Route
- Alternate Wilson-Kautz Raid Driving Route
- ★ Lee's Retreat Site
- ★ Wilson-Kautz Raid Site
- Other Civil War Site
- State or National Park
- ⓘ Information



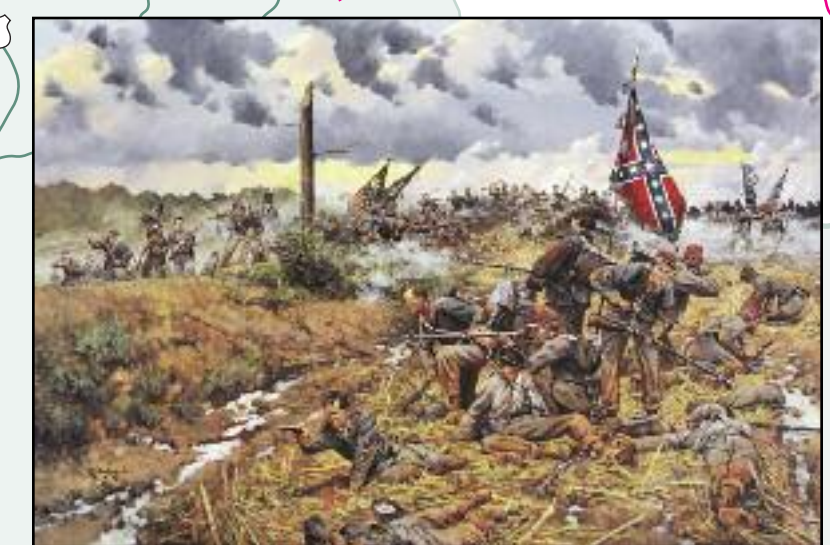
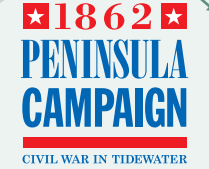
Surrender of Gen. Ewell's Corps at Sailor's Creek, by Alfred R. Waud.



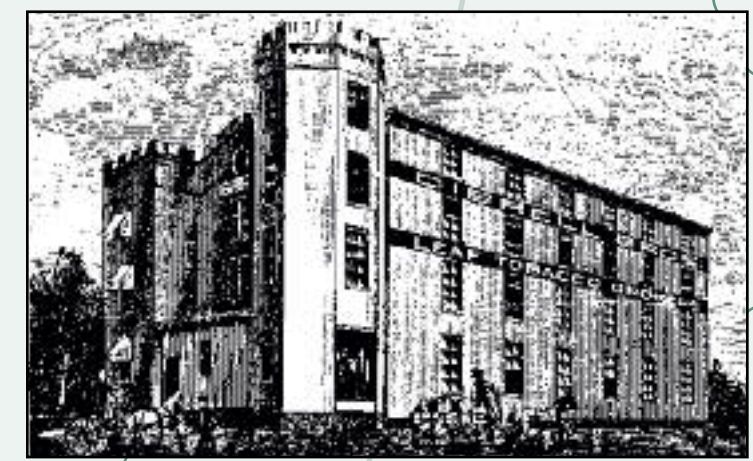
With its many historic sites and battlefields, the City of Petersburg today is a perfect place to begin your adventure through the final days of the Civil War.



Virginia is for Lovers



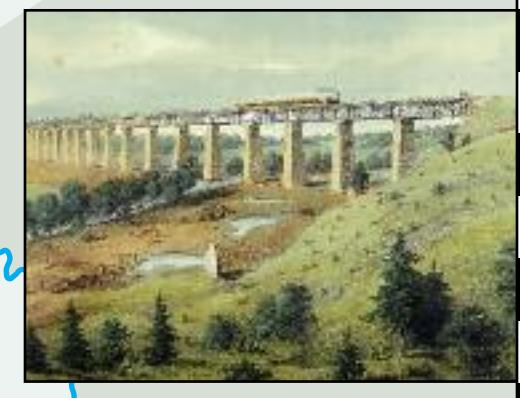
"Victory or Death, The Last Stand of the Savannah Vol. Guard at the Battle of Sailor's Creek, VA, April 6, 1865" by Keith Rocco.



This 1890's etching shows the Danville Prison much unchanged from its construction in 1855.



This communion set was stolen by the raiders from St. John's Church and recovered days later at Ream's Station.



Looking much the way it did in 1865, this rural part of Virginia is rich in scenic and natural resources. As seen in this Edward Beyer lithograph of High Bridge in Prince Edward County, the Appomattox River continues to be a strong link to the region.

- ★ **LEE'S RETREAT SITES** ★
  - ★ **South Side Railroad Station** - This railroad was Lee's last supply line coming into Petersburg. When it was cut, Lee was forced to withdraw from the Richmond-Petersburg front.
  - ★ **Pamplin Park Civil War Site** - Here the Union's Sixth Army Corps broke through the Confederate line defending Petersburg, causing a series of actions which led to the evacuation of the city that evening by Lee's army.
  - ★ **Sutherland Station** - The engagement here enabled Grant's forces to sever the South Side Railroad, Lee's last supply line into Petersburg.
  - ★ **Namozine Church** - A rear guard cavalry skirmish took place around the church as Lee's soldiers marched toward Amelia Court House.
  - ★ **Amelia Court House** - General Lee brought all his troops to this village from Richmond and Petersburg, hoping to continue into North Carolina and join forces with General Joseph E. Johnston's army.
  - ★ **Jetersville** - On his advance toward North Carolina, Lee ran into Union forces here, thus forcing him to change direction and march to Farmville.
  - ★ **Amelia Springs** - At this point, the Union army came in contact with Lee's rear guard as the Southerners completed their night march to avoid Grant's troops at Jetersville.
  - ★ **Deatonville** - Constantly pressing the Confederate line of march, Union troops fought a brief action here on the way to Farmville.
  - ★ **Holt's Corner** - At this road junction, part of Lee's army turned north while the main portion continued ahead to the crossing of Little Sailor's Creek.
  - ★ **Hillsman House** - Union and Confederate forces fought a battle here on the slope across the creek from this dwelling, with most of the Southern troops surrendering. The house was used as a hospital.
  - ★ **Marshall's Crossroads** - At this intersection, Union cavalry fought Confederate infantry. The Confederates eventually withdrew from the field or were captured.
  - ★ **Lockett House** - Fighting took place around this house as can be attested to by the numerous bullet holes that are still visible. It was later used as a hospital after the battle at the creek below.
  - ★ **Double Bridges** - The Confederate column and wagon train which turned off at Holt's Corner became bogged down while crossing Sailor's Creek and were attacked by Union forces.
  - ★ **Rice's Depot** - Confederate troops entrenched here to protect the road from Burkeville Junction and skirmished with Union troops advancing from that direction.
  - ★ **Cavalry Battle at High Bridge** - About 900 Union troops were sent on a mission to burn this South Side Railroad structure over the Appomattox River. In the engagement that followed, most were captured, and their mission was a failure.
  - ★ **Farmville** - This tobacco town of 1,500 in 1865 saw both armies march through it. Lee, hoping to issue rations here for his army, was unsuccessful and then crossed to the north side of the Appomattox River.
  - ★ **Cumberland Church** - Union troops, successfully crossing the river at High Bridge, attacked Lee's army around the church and forced him to delay his march until nightfall.
  - ★ **High Bridge** - Early in the morning, Confederate forces burned four spans of High Bridge but failed to destroy the lower wagon bridge. Consequently, Federal forces were able to continue their pursuit of Lee's army north of the Appomattox River.
  - ★ **Clifton** - Generals Grant and Meade used this location for their headquarters during the night. Grant stayed in the house, and it was here where he received Lee's second letter suggesting a peace meeting. He left the next morning and rode on to Appomattox Court House.
  - ★ **New Store** - At this point General Lee's army would change its line of march. Gordon's corps now took the lead while Longstreet's corps became the rear guard. They would continue to be pursued by Union army corps under the direction of Generals Humphreys and Wright.
  - ★ **Lee's Rear Guard** - Confederate General James Longstreet built breastworks here to protect the rear of Lee's army, most of which was four miles south at Appomattox Court House.
  - ★ **Battle of Appomattox Station** - In the evening, Union cavalry captured four trains of supplies at the station intended for Lee's army. Also captured nearby, after a brief engagement, were portions of the Confederate wagon train and twenty-five cannons.
  - ★ **Burkeville** - The junction of the South Side and Richmond & Danville Railroads, this location served as an important logistics and supply base during and after the Appomattox Campaign.
  - ★ **Crewe** - Originally called Robertson's Switch, near here General Grant made a cross-country night ride to join Generals Sheridan and Meade at Jetersville. Plans would be made for operations against Lee's army the next day.
  - ★ **Nottoway Court House** - Portions of the Union army passed through the village in their pursuit of Lee's army. Grant spent part of the evening of April 5th here.
  - ★ **WILSON-KAUTZ RAID SITES** ★
    - ★ **Prince George Court House** - U.S. Gens. Wilson & Kautz departed nearby for their 300-mile cavalry raid to destroy railroads in Southside VA.
    - ★ **Ream's Station** - Station burned by Wilson-Kautz raiders on June 22, 1864. During the expedition's return to Petersburg on June 28, a 10-hour skirmish ensued nearby between the Federal raiders and Confederate Gen. William Mahone's forces.
    - ★ **Dinwiddie Court House** - Before turning north to the South Side R.R., the Wilson-Kautz raiders destroyed local records and appropriated local livestock.
    - ★ **Five Forks** - The raiders passed here on their initial movement toward the South Side R.R. Here, Gen. Wilson learned of the Confederate attack on his rear guard at Dinwiddie Court House.
    - ★ **Ford's Depot** - The Wilson-Kautz raiders reached this point at sundown on June 22 and destroyed two trains and military supplies.
    - ★ **Black's & White's Station** - A local resident gave Wilson incorrect directions which allowed Confederate forces to block the Federal advance temporarily.
    - ★ **Battle of Nottoway** - First sizable engagement fought on the Wilson-Kautz Raid.
    - ★ **St. Mark's Store** - Parties of Union foragers roamed in search of food and horses, meeting sporadic resistance.
    - ★ **Burkeville Junction** - This junction of the South Side R.R. and Richmond & Danville R.R. was a key objective of the Wilson-Kautz Raid.
    - ★ **Meherrin Station** - Wilson, entrenched at Nottoway Court House, received word of Kautz's success in destroying Burkeville Junction. Both Union columns rejoined here by nightfall of June 24.
    - ★ **Keyville** - The combined Wilson-Kautz column reached here on June 25 and continued destroying track.
    - ★ **Drakes Branch** - The Union force halted here for two hours on June 25 and continued destroying track.
    - ★ **Carrington's Mill** - Rufus Barringer's North Carolina Brigade attacked the Federal rear guard on the hill north of here.
    - ★ **Mulberry Hill** - Union headquarters during the Battle of Staunton River Bridge.
    - ★ **Roanoke Station** - Railroad track was destroyed here just prior to the Battle of Staunton River Bridge.
    - ★ **Staunton River Battlefield St. Park** - Confederate earthworks remain from the June 25, 1864 battle.
    - ★ **Wylliesburgh** - Site of the expedition's first pause following the Battle of Staunton River Bridge. Parties of Federal troops took farm animals and personal property from area homes.
    - ★ **Christiansville** - Fatigued and disorganized following the rout at Staunton River Bridge, parties of Federal troops took farm animals and personal property from area homes.
    - ★ **Mt. Horeb Church** - Skirmish site where Confederate Gen. Rufus Barringer's N.C. Brigade struck the rear of the Federal column.
    - ★ **St. John's Church** - Communion set from the church was stolen by the raiders and recovered days later at Ream's Station.
    - ★ **Danieltown** - Seven local men captured 32 of Wilson's cavalrymen near here.
    - ★ **Smoky Ordinary** - Wilson's raiders camped here on their retreat to the Union lines at Petersburg following their repulse at Staunton River Bridge.
    - ★ **Double Bridges** - Wilson made a fateful decision here to proceed north toward Ream's Station.
    - ★ **Sappony Church** - Skirmish site where Wilson attempted to force his way through to Ream's Station just as C.S. Gen. Wade Hampton's cavalry appeared.
    - ★ **Stony Creek Bridge** - Following the skirmish at Sappony Church, the shattered remains of Wilson's command made a brief stand here.
    - ★ **OTHER CIVIL WAR SITES** ★
      - ★ **City Point/Hopewell** - At the confluence of the James and Appomattox rivers, the Union army was supplied from here via railroad and wagon. Gen. U.S. Grant's headquarters cabin remains here.
      - ★ **Blandford Church/Petersburg** - Special Confederate burial section and Tiffany glass windows commemorating the southern states.
      - ★ **Fort Davis/Petersburg** - One of a series of Union fortifications encircling the town.
      - ★ **Siege Museum** - Museum highlights events and lifestyles during Petersburg's Civil War siege.
      - ★ **Fort Early** - Earthen defenses remain from May 1864 Battle of Lynchburg.
      - ★ **Old Court House Museum** - 1856 court house houses museum of Lynchburg history.
      - ★ **Confederate Cemetery/Lynchburg** - 1806 cemetery with well-interpret Civil War section & medical museum.
      - ★ **Sandusky/Lynchburg** - Union Gen. David Hunter's HQ during May 1864 Battle of Lynchburg.
      - ★ **Danville Fortifications** - Earthen fortifications located on the hills overlooking the Dan River.
      - ★ **Danville R.R. Station** - Richmond & Danville R.R. terminus. Road used as supply route and later as an escape route for the Confederate government.
      - ★ **Prison No. 6/Danville** - Only survivor of tobacco warehouses converted into prisons during the war.
      - ★ **Sutherlin Mansion/Danville** - Known as the "Last Capitol of the Confederacy," Confederate Pres. Davis and his family stayed here April 3-10, 1865.
      - ★ **Bilhartz, Hall & Co./Chatham** - Site of 1862 manufacturer of rare "rising breech" carbine rifles.
      - ★ **Village View Manor/Emporia** - 1790s home hosted Confederate Gens. attempting to head off a Union raid against railroad bridges in Dec. 1864.

