

ALAMANCE COUNTY

OTHER HISTORICAL EVENTS

For more exciting historical activities visit the Alamance Battleground State Historic Site. Other events include Colonial Living Week and the 18th-Century Militia Muster and Patriots' Day Celebration.



For details and information about special events, visit:

www.nchistoricsites.org/alamance



CIVIL WAR TRAIL

The Civil War Trails program interprets both the experience of the soldiers as they crossed the area on April 15, 1865 and how four years of conflict affected the local community. The program here is evenly divided between these two different aspects and allows our visitors to appreciate the complexity of the Civil War and its consequences on communities.

THE HISTORY OF ALAMANCE

On April 15, 1865 General Joseph Eggleston Johnston's reconstituted Army of Tennessee crossed into Alamance County, moving from Hillsborough and the grounds of the



Joseph Eggleston

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Johnston employed a three column march tactic for his strategic withdrawal, placing his artillery to the north in one column with an infantry corps marching on a parallel route along either side of the North Carolina Railroad tracks. For the most part, the artillery would have followed modern-day US 70 from Mebane through Haw River, Burlington, and Gibsonville. Currently, the only signage for these two columns is located in Downtown Burlington, at the Old Depot, where the two columns diverged the second column following NC 100 through Elon and into Guilford County.

It is the third corps, under the command of General William Hardee, that followed a more southerly line of march that has a more thorough set of interpretative signs, four in all.

NORTH CAROLINA TRAILS INFORMATION

1-800-VISIT NC



VISITALAMANCE.COM

1-800-637-3804
OR
336-570-1444

200 SOUTH MAIN STREET
BURLINGTON, NC 27215

One site is for Hardee's column, which had camped on the grounds of the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill and crossed into Alamance County along modern day Jim Minor Road. The initial Civil War Trails sign at this intersection with NC 119 links the experience of Hardee's men with soldiers from the Tuscarora War in 1711, the War of the Regulation in 1770, and the American Revolution in 1781, all four of whom had to cross the Haw River. Unfortunately for Hardee's men, they took the wrong road at the intersection of Jim Minor Road and NC 119.

The second stop is across the Haw River at Swebsonville and tells us about the results of this wrong turn; men drowned while crossing the flooded Haw River. Although on most days a peaceful, tranquil stream, when in flood, the Haw River is very treacherous.

The third stop along Hardee's route is in the Village of Alamance. Here again, the crossing of a typically placid stream-Great Alamance Creek-but in flood represented a real risk to life and limb.

The final stop along the corridor of Hardee's line of march is the Alamance Battleground from the War of the Regulation. It was here that the soldiers received confirmation that Lee had surrendered at Appomattox and became-in words of one of their officers-"a howling mob."

There are five stops that address the Confederate Home Front, all deal with some of the minorities that lived in Alamance County.

One such is in Haw River and details the experiences of the southern Diaspora after the Civil War, following the Huguenot (French Protestants) family of Nathaniel Polk DeShong, who moved to Paris, Texas after the war.

Another stop explains the service of the Occaneechi Band of the Saponi Nation to the Confederate War. This can be found north of Mebane at the Tribal Center.

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NORTH CAROLINA CIVIL WAR TRAILS



The final three stops are co-located in Snow Camp. The anti-slavery and Pacifist Quakers (Society of Friends), who refused to serve in the Army and suffered torture at Salisbury CSA Prison as a result and one of their brave ministers, Isham Cox, who worked to secure their liberty. The Abolitionist Wesleyans and their first minister in North Carolina, Adam Crooks, who was burned in effigy, twice poisoned, banned from speaking on two county courthouse steps (neither one was Alamance's in Graham), and was eventually banished from North Carolina for distributing copies of the Ten Commandments.

Finally, perhaps our most interesting local character who survived a lynching, Macajah McPherson. Not only does this stop tell of his survival but also about the workings of Confederate conscription and how it pitted families against their kith and kin.

Our last stop talks of Johnston's and Beauregard's skill as logisticians. Burlington soon became the key site of Confederate headquarters because of it was a railroad center for the North Carolina Railroad. It continued to be a hot spot during Carolinas Campaign as Johnston and Beauregard sought to prevent Sherman from moving into Virginia.

See inside for locations of Civil War Trail Markers and other North Carolina Highway Markers.

