

Primary Source: Railroad Timetables ^[1]

Travel by railroad was much faster than other options available in the 1850s. Adults typically walk at 3 to 4 miles per hour -- a bit less on hilly ground. A horse can travel 8 to 10 miles per hour at a trot -- a reasonable speed for a horse carrying a rider over a distance or for a team of horses pulling a carriage, though the speed of a carriage would depend on the condition of the roads as well.

Below are two railroad schedules from the Wilmington and Weldon Railroad which was completed in 1840. One railroad schedule is for the North route -- beginning in Wilmington and ending in Weldon -- while the other is for the south, which began in Weldon and ended in Wilmington.

Night Express Train -- North

To go into operation 31st of October, 1859.

No. of Stations	Distance from Wilmington	Dis. bet'w Stat'ns	Names of Stations	Arrives	Leaves	Time between St's	Time at Stations.	Remarks
1			Wilmington, a m		1:30			Terminus
2	9	9	North East,	1:54	1:54	24	0	N. S.
3	11	2	Marlboro',	2:00	2:01	6	1	R. S.
4	14	3	Rocky Point,	2:10	2:11	9	1	Flag.
5	22	8	Burgaw,	2:32	2:36	21	4	W.&W.
6	29	7	So. Washington	2:54	2:55	18	1	Flag.
7	33	4	Leesburg,	3:06	3:06	11	0	N. S.
8	38	5	Teachey,	3:20	3:21	14	1	P.No.4.
8 ½	43	5	Rose Hill,	3:33	3:33	12	0	W.&W.
9	48	5	Magnolia,	3:44	3:45	11	1	R. S.
10	55	7	Warsaw,	4:01	4:02	16	1	R. S.
10 ½	59	4	Bowden,	4:12	4:12	10	0	N. S.
11	63	4	Faison,	4:22	4:23	10	1	Flag.
12	70	7	Mt. Olive,	4:40	4:41	17	1	Flag.
13	75	5	Dudley,	4:54	4:56	13	2	Flag.
14	78	3	Everettsville,					Flag.
15	84	6	Goldsboro',*	5:16	5:46	20	30	Chan Eng
16	92	8	Pikeville,	6:07	6:08	21	1	Flag.
17	95	3	Nahunta,	6:16	6:18	8	2	Flag.
18	102	7	Black Creek,	6:38	6:39	20	1	Flag.
19	108	6	Wilson,	6:56	6:58	17	2	R. S.
20	116	8	Joyner	7:18	7:22	20	4	Flag.
21	125	9	Rocky Mount,	7:44	7:46	22	2	W.&W.
22	133	8	Battleboro',	8:06	8:08	20	2	Flag.
22 ½	137	4	Whitaker,	8:21	8:39	14	3	W.&W.
23	143	6	Enfield,†	8:36	8:39	14	3	W.&W.
24	154	11	Halifax,	9:06	9:08	27	2	R. S.
25	162	8	Weldon,	9:30		22		Terminus
*Breakfast.				†Wood and Water.				

Night Express Train -- South

To go into operation 31st of October, 1859.

No. of Stations	Distance from Weldon	Dis. bet'w Stns	NAMES OF STATIONS	Arrives	Leaves	Time between Sta	Time at Stations.	Remarks
25			Weldon, P. M.		8:45			Terminus
24	8	8	Halifax,	9:08	9:10	23	2	R. S.
23 ½	12	4	Ruggles,	9:22	9:23	12	1	
23	19	7	Enfield,	9:42	9:46	19	4	P.No.3.
22 ½	25	6	Whitaker,	10:04	10:05	18	1	Flag.
22	29	4	Battleboro',	10:17	10:18	12	1	R. S.
21	37	8	Rocky Mount,	10:39	10:41	21	2	R. S.
20	46	9	Joyner,	11:05	11:06	24	1	W.&W.
19	54	8	Wilson,	11:29	11:31	23	2	R. S.
18	60	6	Black Creek,	11:48	11:49	17	1	Flag.
17	67	7	Nahunta, A. M.	12:08	12:09	19	1	Flag.
16	70	3	Pikeville,	12:18	12:19	9	1	Flag.
15	78	8	Goldsboro',	12:43	12:48	24	5	Ch. Eng.
14	83	6	Everittsville,	1:06	1:07	18	1	Flag.
13	86	3	Dudley,	1:16	1:18	9	2	Flag.
			Milton,					Flag.
12	91	5	Mount Olive,	1:33	1:34	15	1	Flag.
11	98	7	Faison,	1:55	1:56	21	1	Flag.
10 ½	102	4	Bowden,	2:08	2:12	12	4	W.&W.
10	106	4	Warsaw,	2:24	2:25	12	1	R. S.

No. of Stations	Distance from Weldon	Dis. bet'w Stns	Names of STATIONS	2:46 Arrives	2:47 Leaves	21 Time between Sta	Time at Stations.	R. S. Remarks
6 1/2	120	5	Rose Hill,	3:02	3:03	15	1	W.&W.
8	123	5	Teachey,	3:18	3:20	15	2	P. No.1
7	128	5	Leesburg,	3:34	3:35	14	1	Flag.
6	132	4	So. Washington,	3:46	3:47	11	1	Flag.
5	139	7	Burgaw,	4:06	4:10	19	4	W.&W.
			Asheton,					Flag.*
4	147	8	Rocky Point,	4:30	4:31	20	1	Flag.
3	150	3	Marlboro',	4:40	4:41	9	1	Flag.
2	152	2	North East,	4:47	4:48	6	1	Flag.
1	162	9	Wilmington,†	5:10		22	1	Terminus

*16½ mile Station.

→Wood and Water to be taken only at the places marked, if it can be avoided.

†Take Breakfast.

Primary Source Citation:

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A modern map illustrating the route of the Wilmington and Weldon Railroad.

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- [The Wilmington and Weldon Railroad](#) ^[14]
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Primary Sources:



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This 1854 map of North Carolina shows the routes of various railroads, including the North Carolina Railroad

No. of Stations.	Dir. Night Ex. Train Wilmington, P. M.	NAMES OF STATIONS.	Arrive / Leaves		Time at Station.	REMARKS.
			MINUTE HOURS.	MINUTE HOURS.		
1		Wilmington, a.m.		1 30		Terminus
2	9	North East,	1 54	1 54 24	0	N. S.
3	11	Marlboro',	2 00	2 01	6	R. S.
4	14	Rocky Point,	2 10	2 11	9	Flag.
5	22	Burgaw,	2 32	2 36 21	4	W. & W.
6	29	So. Washington, . .	2 54	2 55 18	1	Flag.
7	33	Leesburg,	3 06	3 06 11	0	N. S.
8	38	Teachey,	3 20	3 21 14	1	P. No. 4.
8½	43	Rose Hill,	3 33	3 33 12	0	W. & W.
9	48	Magnolia,	3 44	3 45 11	1	R. S.
10	55	Warsaw,	4 01	4 02 16	1	R. S.
10½	59	Bowden,	4 12	4 12 10	0	N. S.
11	63	Faison,	4 22	4 23 10	1	Flag.
12	70	Mt. Olive,	4 40	4 41 17	1	Flag.
13	75	Dudley,	4 54	4 56 13	2	Flag.
14	78	Everettsville, . . .				Flag.
15	84	Goldsboro', * . . .	5 16	5 46 20 30		Chan Eng
16	92	Pikeville,	6 07	6 08 21	1	Flag.
17	95	Nahant,	6 16	6 18	8	2 Flag.
18	102	Black Creek,	6 38	6 39 20	1	Flag.
19	108	Wilson,	6 56	6 58 17	2	R. S.
20	116	Joyner,	7 18	7 22 20	4	Flag.
21	125	Rocky Mount, . . .	7 44	7 46 22	2	W. & W.
22	133	Battleboro',	8 06	8 06 20	2	Flag.
22½	137	Whitaker,	8 21	8 22 13	1	Flag.
23	143	Enfield, †	8 36	8 39 14	3	W. & W.
24	154	Halifax,	9 06	9 06 27	2	R. S.
25	162	Weldon,	9 30		22	Terminus

*Breakfast.

†Wood and Water,

[18]

The original printed timetable for the Night Express Train North.

No. of Stations.	Dir. Night Ex. Train Wilmington, P. M.	NAMES OF STATIONS.	Arrive / Leaves		Time at Station.	REMARKS.
			MINUTE HOURS.	MINUTE HOURS.		
25		Weldon, P. M.		8 45		Terminus
24	8	Halifax,	9 06	9 10 23	2	R. S.
23½	12	Ruggles,	9 22	9 23 12	1	
23	19	Enfield,	9 42	9 46 19	4	P. No. 3.
22½	25	Whitaker,	10 04	10 05 18	1	Flag.
22	29	Battleboro',	10 17	10 18 12	1	R. S.
21	37	Rocky Mount, . . .	10 39	10 41 21	2	R. S.
20	46	Joyner,	11 05	11 06 24	1	W. & W.
19	54	Wilson,	11 29	11 31 23	2	R. S.
18	60	Black Creek,	11 48	11 49 17	1	Flag.
17	67	Nahant, A. M.	12 06	12 09 19	1	Flag.
16	70	Pikeville,	12 18	12 19	9	1 Flag.
15	75	Goldsboro',	12 43	12 48 24	5	Ch. Eng.
14	83	Everettsville, . . .	1 06	1 07 18	1	Flag.
13	86	Dudley,	1 16	1 18	9	2 Flag.
		Milton,				Flag.
12	91	Mount Olive, . . .	1 33	1 34 15	1	Flag.
11	98	Faison,	1 55	1 56 21	1	Flag.
10½	102	Bowden,	2 08	2 12 12	4	W. & W.
10	106	Warsaw,	2 24	2 25 12	1	R. S.
9	113	Magnolia,	2 46	2 47 21	1	R. S.
8½	120	Rose Hill,	3 02	3 03 15	1	W. & W.
8	123	Teachey,	3 18	3 20 15	2	P. No. 1
7	128	Leesburg,	3 34	3 35 14	1	Flag.
6	132	So. Washington, . .	3 46	3 47 11	1	Flag.
5	139	Burgaw,	4 06	4 10 19	4	W. & W.
		Asheboro,				Flag. *
4	147	Rocky Point,	4 30	4 31 20	1	Flag.
3	150	Marlboro',	4 40	4 41	9	1 Flag.
2	152	North East,	4 47	4 48	6	1 Flag.
1	162	Wilmington, P. . .	5 10		22	Terminus

*16½ mile Station.

†Wood and Water to be taken only at the places marked, if it can be avoided.

†Take Breakfast.

[19]

The original printed timetable for the Night Express Train South.

3 January 2018

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