

The War Comes to an End, 1864–1865 ^[1]

Share it now!



By late 1864, it was becoming clear that the South could not win the war. Atlanta fell to Union forces in September, and two months later Union General William Sherman began his “march to the sea,” with soldiers destroying supplies and tearing up railroads along the way. In March he reached North Carolina, and by then, Union forces had taken Wilmington and cut off the “lifeline of the Confederacy.” In April, General Lee surrendered at Appomattox, Virginia, and on April 26, Confederate General Joseph Johnston surrendered his army to Sherman near present-day Durham.

In this chapter, we’ll examine the events of the war’s last year, why the South could no longer continue fighting, and the terms of Johnston’s surrender.

Section Contents

- [Timeline of the Civil War, August 1864–May 1865](#)^[2]
- [North Carolina as a Civil War Battlefield, November 1864–May 1865](#)^[3]
- [The Destruction of the CSS Albemarle](#)^[4]
- [Wilmington, Fort Fisher, and the Lifeline of the Confederacy](#)^[5]
- [Lincoln's Plans for Reconstruction](#)^[6]
- [Stoneman's Raid](#)^[7]
- [Sherman's March Through North Carolina](#)^[8]
- ["Where Home Used to Be"](#)^[9]
- [The Battle of Bentonville](#)^[10]
- [The Assassination of Abraham Lincoln](#)^[11]
- [Johnston Surrenders](#)^[12]
- [Mustering Out of the Confederate Army](#)^[13]
- [Parole Signed by the Officers and Men in Johnston's Army](#)^[14]
- ["For us the War is Ended"](#)^[15]
- ["Can the very Spirit of Freedom Die out?"](#)^[16]
- [M](#)^[17][ay 1865 Advertisements](#)^[17]

User Tags:

[Chapter Cover](#)^[18]

[Civil War](#)^[19]

[North Carolina](#)^[20]

[North Carolina History](#)^[21]

[Students](#)^[22]

[Teachers](#)^[23]

[William Sherman](#)^[24]

[Creative Commons BY-NC-SA](#)^[25]

From:

[LEARN NC North Carolina History: A Digital Textbook](#)^[26]

Copyright Date:

2009

3 January 2018

Source URL: <https://ncpedia.org/anchor/war-comes-end-1864%E2%80%931865>**Links**

- [1] <https://ncpedia.org/anchor/war-comes-end-1864%E2%80%931865>
- [2] <https://www.ncpedia.org/anchor/timeline-civil-war-august>
- [3] <https://www.ncpedia.org/anchor/north-carolina-civil-war>
- [4] <https://www.ncpedia.org/anchor/destruction-css-albemarle>
- [5] <https://www.ncpedia.org/anchor/wilmington-fort-fisher-and>
- [6] <https://www.ncpedia.org/anchor/lincolns-plans>
- [7] <https://ncpedia.org/anchor/account-stonemans-raid>
- [8] <https://www.ncpedia.org/anchor/shermans-march-through-north>
- [9] <https://www.ncpedia.org/anchor/where-home-used-be>
- [10] <https://www.ncpedia.org/anchor/battle-bentonville>
- [11] <https://www.ncpedia.org/anchor/assassination-abraham>
- [12] <https://www.ncpedia.org/anchor/johnston-surrenders>
- [13] <https://www.ncpedia.org/anchor/mustering-out-confederate>
- [14] <https://www.ncpedia.org/anchor/parole-signed-officers-and>
- [15] <https://www.ncpedia.org/anchor/us-war-ended>
- [16] <https://www.ncpedia.org/anchor/can-very-spirit-freedom-die>
- [17] <https://ncpedia.org/anchor/may-1865-advertisements>
- [18] <https://ncpedia.org/category/user-tags/chapter-cover>
- [19] <https://ncpedia.org/category/user-tags/civil-war>
- [20] <https://ncpedia.org/category/user-tags/north-carolina-5>
- [21] <https://ncpedia.org/category/user-tags/north-carolina-6>
- [22] <https://ncpedia.org/category/user-tags/students>
- [23] <https://ncpedia.org/category/user-tags/teachers>
- [24] <https://ncpedia.org/category/user-tags/william-sherman>
- [25] <https://ncpedia.org/category/user-tags/creative-commons>
- [26] <https://ncpedia.org/category/entry-source/learn-nc>