

Chapter 17 Consequences of the Civil War

The Craven area became embroiled in the Civil War in March 1862 with the attack on New Bern. U.S. troops landed near Havelock, NC and marched north towards New Bern, capturing installations along the Neuse and culminating in the Battle of New Bern in the Gratham area. Greatly outnumbered, the inexperienced local militia troops retreated through the Brice's Creek area and across the Trent River. Escaping along the route of the Atlantic and North Carolina Railroad toward Kinston and Goldsboro, the Confederate forces were also joined by a large group of civilian refugees fleeing Union occupation.

The town of New Bern escaped major damage with the exception of warehouse fires along the waterfront and the burning of the Washington Hotel on Broad Street. The waterfront fires are believed to be the result of artillery setting turpentine and cotton ablaze. The destruction of the Washington Hotel has been attributed to retreating Confederate forces.

With the local citizens' flight, many of the city's residences were occupied by Union troops. There are numerous photographs of New Bern during the war in John Green's book, *A New Bern Album*. The black population of New Bern was 2,891 at the start of the war. With the war, bands of contrabands (blacks) fleeing farms and their owners swelled the black population of New Bern to 10,782 by January 1865.¹

Outside the military district of the town, the county became a no-man's land of Union patrols foraging, Confederate skirmishes, without civil authority. Legal transactions such as wills and deeds were suspended until after the war.

John Humphrey, a Russell's District resident in 1860, joined the Confederate army in September 1861, at the age of 14 1/2, declaring he was eighteen. He served the entire war in the Craven and Lenoir County area as a Private. See the roster below. John served initially in the 1st Artillery at Fort Lane, south of New Bern on the Neuse River. The fort was abandoned with attack on New Bern and John eventually was transferred to the infantry, 67th Regiment Co. B also known as Whitford's Partisan Rangers.

A Selected Roster ^{2, 3}

CONFEDERATE TROOPS

ARNOLD, ALLEN J., Private, 2nd Regiment, Company F.
Resided in Craven County where he enlisted at age 19, May 27, 1861, for the war.
Killed at Chancellorsville, Virginia, May 3, 1863.⁴

ARNOLD, (ELISHA) FREEMAN, 67th Regiment, Company H.

BRYAN, EDWARD K., 1st Lieutenant, 2nd Regiment Company I.

Resided in Craven County and appointed 2nd Lieutenant to rank from May 16, 1861. Promoted to 1st Lieutenant to rank from October 20, 1862. Submitted his resignation on January 10, 1863, by reason of his having been appointed as Adjutant of the 31st Regiment N.C. Troops. Resignation officially accepted on January 22, 1863.⁵

BRYAN, JAMES T., Private, 2nd Regiment, Company I.

Born in Craven County where he resided as a seaman and enlisted at age 20, June 14, 1861, for the war. Wounded at Malvern Hill, Virginia, July 1, 1862, and died of wound on July 28, 1862.⁶

BRYAN, JOHN H., Private, 2nd Regiment, Company I.

Resided in Craven County where he enlisted at age 22, May 29, 1861, for the war. Present or accounted for until killed at Fredericksburg, Virginia, on December 13, 1862.⁷

BRYAN, WILLIAM G., Jr., 1st Sergeant, 2nd Regiment, Company I.

Born in Craven County where he resided and enlisted at age 27, May 31, 1861, for the war, mustered in as 1st Sergeant. Wounded at Fredericksburg, Virginia, December 13, 1862, and died in hospital at Richmond, Virginia, March 6, 1863, of "pneumonia."⁸

CLARK, HENRY J. B., Jr., 2nd Lieutenant, 2nd Regiment, Company F.

Resided in Craven County and appointed 2nd Lieutenant at age 19 to rank from May 16, 1861. Present or accounted for until killed in a railroad accident on the Raleigh and Gaston Railroad near Forestville, N.C., October 28, 1862.⁹

HUMPHREY, DANIEL E., Private, 3rd Regiment, Company K.

Resided in Onslow County and enlisted in Northampton County at age 19, July 5, 1861, for the war. Captured at Chancellorsville, Virginia, and paroled on May 4, 1863. Present or accounted for until captured at Kelly's Ford, Virginia, November 7, 1863. Confined at Point Lookout, Maryland, until paroled and sent to James River, Virginia, February 13, 1865, for exchange. Reported as present on a roll of a detachment of paroled and exchanged prisoners at Camp Lee, near Richmond, Virginia, dated February 18, 1865. Paroled at Goldsboro on May 6, 1865. "Came in for parole."¹⁰

HUMPHREY, JOHN, Private, 1st Regiment (Artillery) Company I (1st).

Born in Craven County where he resided as a farmer and enlisted at age 18, September 27, 1861 for the war. Transferred to Company B, 1st Battalion N. C. Local Defense Troops (Whitford's Battalion N. C. Partisan Rangers) April 16, 1863.¹¹

Private, 67th Regiment, Company B.

Transferred from 1st Company I, 10th Regiment N.C. State Troops (1st Regiment N.C. Artillery) April 16, 1863. Present or accounted for until transferred to Company B, 67th Regiment N.C. Troops on January 18, 1864.¹²

HUMPHREY, JESSE, Private, 2nd Regiment, Company F.

Resided in Craven County where he enlisted at age 23, May 27, 1861, for the war. Died in hospital at Fredericksburg, Virginia, August 28, 1861, of disease.¹³

HUMPHREY, LOTT WILLIAMS, Captain, 3rd Cavalry, Company H.

Transferred from Company B of this regiment upon appointment as Captain to rank from May 15, 1862. Submitted his resignation October 13, 1862 by reason of ill health and resignation accepted December 10, 1862.¹⁴

HUMPHREY, ROBERT W., Private, 2nd Regiment, Company K.

Resided in Onslow County and enlisted in Craven County at age 21, June 21, 1861, for the war. Wounded and captured at Chancellorsville, Virginia, May 3, 1863. Confined in hospital at Washington, D.C., until transferred to Old Capitol Prison, Washington, June 16, 1863. Paroled and sent to City Point, Virginia, June 25, 1863 for exchange. Exact date of exchange not reported. Present or accounted for until captured at Kelly's Ford, Virginia November 7, 1863. Confined at Point Lookout, Maryland, until paroled and sent to James River, Virginia, February 13, 1865, for exchange. Reported as present on a roll of a detachment of paroled and exchanged prisoners at Camp Lee, near Richmond, Virginia, dated February 18, 1865. Paroled at Goldsboro on May 6, 1865. "Came in for parole."¹⁵

HUMPHREY, WILLIAM J., Private, 2nd Regiment, Company F.

Enlisted in Craven County on May 27, 1861 for the war. May 1 - October 31, 1862. Muster roll states that he "died on march from Richmond to Culpeper."¹⁶

LANE, DANIEL W., 2nd Regiment, Company F.

LANE, LEONIDAS, Private, 2nd Regiment, Company K.

Resided in Pitt County and enlisted in Craven County at age 18, June 3, 1861, for the war. Died in September. 1962.¹⁷

LANE, WILLIAM, Private, 2nd Regiment, Company K.

Resided in Craven County and enlisted in Lenoir County at age 25, April 18, 1862, for the war. Present or accounted for until captured at Kelly's Ford, Virginia November 7, 1863. Confined at Point Lookout, Maryland, until paroled and transferred for exchange at Aiken's Landing, Virginia, February 24, 1865.¹⁸

LANE, WILLIAM B., 1st Regiment, Company H.

LANE, WILLIAM P., 67th Regiment, Company H.

TAYLOR, LOUIS G., 2nd Regiment Company F.

WETHERINGTON, ABNER M., Private, 2nd Regiment, Company F.

Resided in Craven County where he enlisted at age 26, May 27, 1861, for the war. Present or accounted for until wounded at Spotsylvania Court House, Virginia, May 12, 1864. Captured at Core Creek, near New Bern, July 27, 1864. Confined at Fort Monroe, Virginia, until transferred to Point Lookout, Maryland, August 12, 1864. Transferred August 16, 1864, to Elmira, New York, where he remained until

released after taking the Oath of Allegiance on June 3, 1865.¹⁹

WETHERINGTON, George, 10th Regiment, Company I.

WETHERINGTON, JAMES, Private, 2nd Regiment, Company F.
Resided in Craven County where he enlisted at age 25, May 27, 1861, for the war. Wounded at Chancellorsville, Virginia, May 3, 1863. Reported as absent wounded through January 1864, and as absent without leave after that date.²⁰

WETHERINGTON, JAMES R., Private, 2nd Regiment, Company F.
Resided in Craven County where he enlisted at age 25, May 27, 1861, for the war. Died at Camp Potomac, Virginia, December 25, 1861, of disease.²¹

WETHERINGTON, RUEL, Private, 2nd Regiment, Company F.
Resided in Craven County where he enlisted at age 35, May 27, 1861, for the war. Discharged at Camp Advance, Northampton County, July 9, 1861, by reason of "physical disability."²²

WETHERINGTON, RODERICK S., 1st Lieutenant, 2nd Regiment, Company F
Resided in Craven County and appointed 2nd Lieutenant at age 21 to rank from May 16, 1861. Wounded and captured at Sharpsburg, Maryland, September 17, 1862, and paroled. Died of wound September 20, 1862. Promoted to 1st Lieutenant on October 21, 1862, after his death.²³

WETHERINGTON, WILLIAM H., Private, 2nd Regiment Company F.
Resided in Craven County where he enlisted at age 28, May 27, 1861, for the war. Wounded at Chancellorsville, Virginia, May 3, 1863, and reported as absent wounded through December, 1863.²⁴

WETHERINGTON, Willis, 10th Regiment, Company I.

WHITE, BENJAMIN F., Private, 2nd Regiment, Company F.
Born in Jones County and resided in Craven County where he enlisted at age 19, May 27, 1861, for the war. Killed at South Mountain, Maryland, September 14, 1862.²⁵

For further CSA listings, see Appendix C, Craven County Roll of Honor.

UNION TROOPS

WETHERINGTON, RILEY, Private, 1st Regiment, Company G.
Born in Craven County and enlisted October 18, 1862 at New Bern, at age 36. Died June 3, 1863 at home on furlough.²⁶

WETHERINGTON, Ruel, Private, 1st Regiment, Company G.
Born in Craven County and enlisted on January 13, 1864 at age 35. Captured at Beech Grove, NC; paroled, admitted to hospital in Annapolis, MD April 1864 and transferred to 1st NC, February 27, 1865. (Formerly enlisted in CSA, see above).²⁷

The Atlantic and North Carolina Railroad line between New Bern and Goldsboro became a vital military route. Federal forces occupied the east bank of Batchelor's Creek from Beech Grove (The Neuse Road) to Clark's Brickyard (A & NC RR). The brickyard at Clarks became a staging area for supplies for a large federal encampment at between Batchelor's Creek and Clarks. A series of earthworks on the east side of Batchelor's Creek still exists on both sides (north and south) of the railroad line.

A group of graves exists east of Batchelor's Creek and south of the railroad. These Union graves have been attributed to a large explosion, but are most like results of disease. No markers are known to have existed and these graves were likely relocated to the National Cemetery in New Bern.

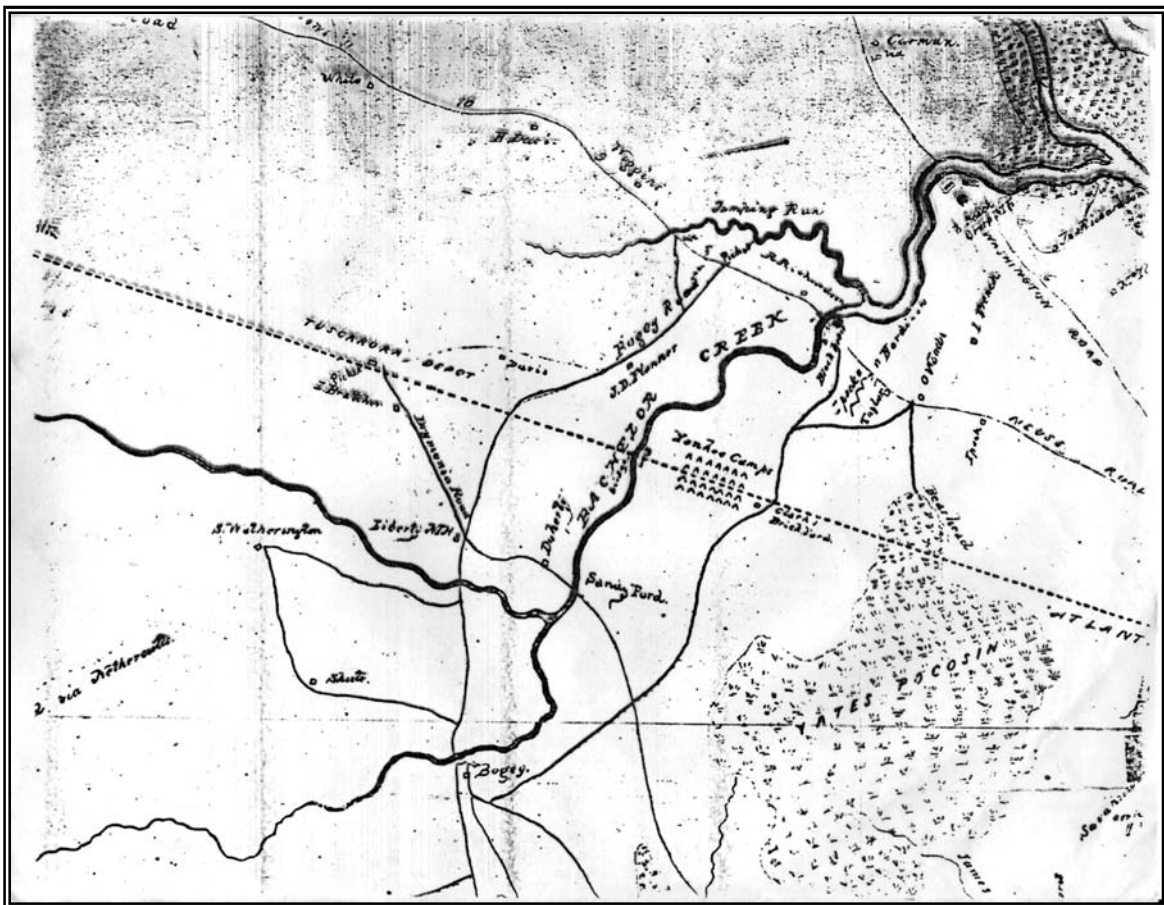


Figure 82 Guion Map, 1864

Lt. Col. Guion's map is located in the Perkins Library Collection at Duke University. The area shown here is only the Batchelor's creek area of a larger map. Included on the map is the Yankee Camp on the Creek, Clark's brickyard, the home of Solomon Wetherington, the Bogey home, and the Liberty Meeting House in Tuscarora.²⁸



Figure 83 Union Graves, Bachelor Creek Area

Unmarked gravesites believed to have relocated to the National Cemetery in New Bern.²⁹

An Account of the Explosion at Clarks from the Whitford Papers.

Sometime after the fall of New Bern a barrel that had once contained whiskey with all the original markings on it and then supposed to be full to the bung hole, was sent on the train from the town to Clark's brick yard the first station west from New Bern. Instead of whiskey a torpedo was in the barrel intended to be put down in Batchelor's Creek to destroy Confederate boats. But that was a secret "and where the carcass is the eagles will gather," thus when the barrel was about to be landed on the platform a crowd was there to meet it, and when it struck the floor exploded killing nine persons about one half natives and the other soldiers, Miss Betsy Green, a grand daughter of the James Green, so frequently alluded to, and sister of the late Judge George Green of New Bern, said in the writers hearing she heard distinctly the explosion and soon thereafter, of the slaughter from persons passing her residence, which was then in the country at "Clear Spring." . . .³⁰ (Author's note: distance of 5 miles)

An Account of a New Years Celebration at Batchelor's Creek

Soldiers eagerly anticipated holidays and the consequent variation in camp routine. New Year's usually passed quietly, though in 1864 and 1865, blacks began to recognize the occasion as the anniversary of Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation. According to one observer, New Bern Negroes turned out 'en masse' to hold a "grand celebration" of the Proclamation in 1865. In 1864, a

*New Year's party was enjoyed at the outpost on Batchelor's Creek. An elegant supper of fish, fowl, and beef was followed by puddings, pies, cakes, fruits, and nuts. Champagne corks popped and toasts followed. The gathering disbanded between one and two o'clock after rousing cheers were given the new year, the Union, and the army.*³¹

After the war, families returned and picked up the pieces, and struggled with the ruined economy. Family stories has John Humphrey walking home from Kinston, along the railroad, with only a silver dollar to shown for his efforts over 4 years of war.³²

John Humphrey took the oath of allegiance in 1867, and is listed in the North Carolina Extant Voter Registration of 1867.³³

Charles Pittman Humphrey and Donald H. Humphrey, Jr. have recovered many artifacts from the Bachelor Creek area. In Donald's possession is a boot pistol, reportedly owned by John Humphrey. Charles has collected a significant group of artifacts of the period including bullets, buckles, buttons, insignia, coins, and other items.

A silver Spanish coin, dated 1784, from the old Woodruff land, found by Charles in 2002, believed to be a lost Confederate item. Shown actual size, 28 mm.



Figure 84 *Spanish Silver Coin, 1784*

Collecting Civil War memorabilia for many years, Charles P. Humphrey has amassed many artifacts and details of the history of the western Craven County during the Civil War period.

Endnotes Chapter 17 Consequences of the Civil War

- ¹ A History of New Bern and Crave County. Watson. 1987. Craven County Library.
 - ² The Roster of Confederate Soldiers, 1861 – 1865. Jones. 1996. Craven County Library.
 - ³ Civil War NC Troops, 1861-1865. A Roster. Craven County Library.
 - ⁴ Ibid. Volume 3.
 - ⁵ Ibid. Volume 3.
 - ⁶ Ibid. Volume 3.
 - ⁷ Ibid. Volume 3.
 - ⁸ Ibid. Volume 3.
 - ⁹ Ibid. Volume 3.
 - ¹⁰ Ibid. Volume 3.
 - ¹¹ Ibid. Volume 1.
 - ¹² Ibid. Volume 3.
 - ¹³ Ibid. Volume 3.
 - ¹⁴ Ibid. Volume 2.
 - ¹⁵ Ibid. Volume 3.
 - ¹⁶ Ibid. Volume 3.
 - ¹⁷ Ibid. Volume 3.
 - ¹⁸ Ibid. Volume 3.
 - ¹⁹ Ibid. Volume 3.
 - ²⁰ Ibid. Volume 3.
 - ²¹ Ibid. Volume 3.
 - ²² Ibid. Volume 3.
 - ²³ Ibid. Volume 3.
 - ²⁴ Ibid. Volume 3.
 - ²⁵ Ibid. Volume 3.
 - ²⁶ North Carolina Union Volunteers.
 - ²⁷ Ibid.
 - ²⁸ Perkins Library Collection. Lt. Col. Guion map, 1864. Duke University, Durham, NC.
 - ²⁹ Located on Virginia H. Humphrey property. 2002.
 - ³⁰ *The Whitford Papers*. Colonel John D. Whitford. Page 300. Craven County Library.
 - ³¹ A History of New Bern and Crave County. Watson. 1987. Craven County Library.
 - ³² Family story related by Charles P. Humphrey. 2001.
 - ³³ North Carolina Extant Voters Registration of 1867. Wynne. 1992.
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