



..... VISIT .....

# CIVIL WAR TRAILS

IN ELIZABETH CITY

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## THE MARKERS

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These six historical markers reveal the untold stories of local Civil War history. In 1862 the Elizabeth City area was captured by the Union's Navy. The Federal army occupation lasted from 1862-65, and the local people were split between the warring factions of the pro-Union supporters (Buffaloes) and the pro-Confederate sympathizers (Guerillas). This bloody, murderous and lawless period is recalled by some as "the terrible time."

The Civil War is remembered for the great battles and the brilliant strategies of the generals that directed both armies. These markers are dedicated to the everyday people at home, who struggled and endured the atrocities of war. We dedicate these markers to honor these events and to address the lost history of the brave people that lived in the time of "Divided Allegiance."

## THE TOUR

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### **Battle of Elizabeth City (Feb. 10, 1862), Waterfront Park**

Union Commander Stephen C. Rowan disposed of Confederate Commodore William F. Lynch's "Mosquito Fleet," which had been "annoying U.S. naval vessels." Rowan's troops occupied Elizabeth City. For the remainder of the war, North Carolina's coastal rivers remained in Union hands.

### **The Burning of Elizabeth City (Feb. 10, 1862), N. Elliot Street and E. Colonial Avenue**

Local secessionists, who preferred to see Elizabeth City burn rather than under Federal control, asked Col. Charles Frederick Henningsen to set it afire as he evacuated his force. The fire destroyed the courthouse and about two-thirds of the town before Unionists put out the fires.

### **Ambush of Sanders and McCabe (Jan. 5, 1863), N. Elliot Street and E. Colonial Avenue**

Confederate guerillas shot and killed two men – Lt. Nathaniel H. Sanders, 1st N.C. Volunteers, and Unionist civilian Joseph T. McCabe, a former Confederate soldier – as they returned from an Emancipation party. The guerillas were captured and imprisoned.

### **Place of Execution (Feb. 9, 1863), Waterfront Park**

The guerilla war in Elizabeth City reached a new level on Feb. 9, 1863 when Lt. Thaddeus Cox, Co. D., 1st N.C. Volunteers rode 16 miles into the country to bring his family to town. On return, a gang of guerillas attacked Cox, killing him, his pregnant wife and four-year old daughter. Unionists asked company commander Capt. Enos C. Sanders to shoot all the jailed prisoners captured during the January attack. One prisoner, Addison White, was executed on the Waterfront.

### **1st U.S.C.T. Occupies the Town (August 1863), N. Poindexter Street**

In August 1863, the first U.S. Colored Troops encamped between what is now E. Burgess St. and the Pasquotank River as part of a garrison for Elizabeth City. The troops hoped to encourage the enlistment of area African Americans and to suppress guerilla activity.

### **Petition "... universal panic and distress." (December 1863), E. Main Street**

By December 1863, almost everyone in and around Elizabeth City had had enough of the violence and bloodshed. Local citizens convened meetings petitioning Union Gen. Benjamin F. Butler and N.C. Gov. Zebulon B. Vance to withdraw Federal and Confederate forces from the area. Their attempt to "secede from the secession" failed, and the guerillas continued to operate despite similar resolutions passed in four neighboring counties.