

Many sites in the Southeast Region of the National Park System played a significant role during the turbulent years of the American Civil War. These sites address the causes and coming of the war, events on both homefront and battlefield, and the continuing struggle for civil rights.

The Civil War marked a major turning point for the United States. Historians have called it the most important event in American history. From this defining struggle (1861–1865) emerged a nation much different from the one created by the revolution of 1776.

The cost of this conflict, which took the lives of more than 620,000 Americans, may best be appreciated on its battlefields. Some 10,500 conflicts raged across the severed nation, 384 of which have been designated "principal battles" of the war. Most of these are represented in red on the map below. Their stories may be found at www.nps.gov/history/hps/abpp/civil.htm.

Many well-known battles were fought in the area between the rival capitals of Washington, D.C., and Richmond, Virginia. This narrow corridor, bounded by the Appalachian Mountains and the Chesapeake Bay, formed

the heart of the Civil War's Eastern Theater.

Beyond the Appalachians lay the war's Western Theater. Bounded by the Ohio and Mississippi rivers and the Gulf of Mexico, this far-flung area was equally important to the overall strategy of the war. Defending this huge

territory constantly strained Confederate resources. As the Confederacy's untouched core grew smaller, troops from the Western Theater expanded their fight into the Southeast's seaboard states.

To visit the national parks and heritage areas in the Southeast Region, both battlefields and beyond, is to understand the impact of the war and its continuing



Legend

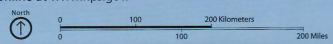
- National Heritage Areas

• - Principal Battles of the American Civil War

National Parks in the Southeast Region **Interpreting Civil War Themes**

- The Causes and Coming of the Civil War
- The Hallowed Ground of Epic Battles
- The War beyond the Major Battlefields
- From Civil War to Civil Rights

Many parks interpret multiple themes. To learn more, visit in person or online at www.nps.gov.



Savannah to end his destructive March to the Sea.

GULF OF MEXICO

General Scott's Great Snake

In the early days of the Civil War, Union General-in-Chief Winfield Scott proposed a two-pronged strategy for subduing the Confederacy: an advance down the Mississippi River to cut the South in two and a blockade of the Confederacy's coastline stretching over 3000 miles from Virginia to Texas. Critics called Scott's idea the Anaconda Plan, likening it to the coils of an anaconda suffocating its victim. The snake image caught on, giving the proposal its popular name.

However, sealing off the South's many ports and inlets proved a difficult task. At first, small but swift blockade runners routinely slipped past slower Union war vessels to bring Southerners critical goods such as boots, Enfield rifles, and medical supplies. But by war's end, the Union blockade had halted the export of cotton and reduced southern trade by two-thirds. Several coastal fortifications preserved by the NPS help interpret the blockade, such as Fort Pulaski, Fort Jefferson in Dry Tortugas, and Fort Pickens at Gulf Islands. Inlets along the Cape Hatteras coastline also played a role in this strategy.

National Heritage Areas

Committed to protecting and promoting the cultural, historical and natural assets of a region, National Heritage Areas play a vital role in www.nps.gov/history/heritageareas maintaining both the physical character and the cultural legacy of the United States.

NHA in Georgia also preserves the

The Atchafalaya NHA in Louisiana

produced nearly three million pounds of gunpowder. Augusta Canal NHA

evolution of southern agriculture leaving behind burned fields and

The Gullah-Geechee Cultural Heritage Corridor reaches from

September 1, evacuating Confederates burned Atlanta's

military facilities and supplies. Union troops occupied the

city on September 2, providing a big boost for Lincoln's re-election bid. By the end of the year, Sherman reached

> The Mississippi Delta NHA and interprets the important Civil

The Mississippi Gulf Coast NHA

FLORIDA

ST. PETERSBURG

The Mississippi Hills NHA was the location of several pivotal battles and the Battle of Brices Cross Roads

Though the Muscle Shoals NHA primarily tells the story of how the rocky shoals on the Tennessee River affected America's settlement General Joe Wheeler who was with President Jefferson Davis when they were captured. Wheeler's home typifies the slavery culture of the era.

Rice was the crop that produced enormous wealth in the Lowcountry for 200 years. Enslaved West Africans cleared the swamps to cultivate it. As cotton became king, it was

it. Many sites in the South Carolina **National Heritage Corridor** tell of their pre- and post-War experiences at Military Heritage Sites throughout the 320-mile area.

Tennessee Civil War NHA tells the whole story of America's greatest challenge, 1860-1875: the the demands of the homefront emancipation and the enduring legacies of Reconstruction.

