The mountains of Western North Carolina would be the center of the Confederacy, as shall then have one of the most prosperous growths and be connected with a part of the South. It will then become the center of manufacturing for the Southern market and will be a capital for manufacturing. The place where the southern people will spend their money, educate their children, and retire probably remain here.

William H. Thomas to his wife, June 17, 1863
April 15  President Abraham Lincoln calls for volunteers to suppress “insurrection” (Swannanoa Gap) Carson

Marion

SOUTH CAROLINA

Engagement on the northeastern coast of North Carolina, stunning Confederate victory at Manassas Virginia in July 1861, the result was a war within a war. Almost crushed Confederate Gen. Joseph E. Johnston. Grant blocked his way, however, until they finally broke at Five Forks on April 1, 1865, at the end of the month, Johnston surrendered his army to Gen. William T. Sherman, essentially ending the Civil War. Sherman, in the Deep South, first captured “James Bennett’s House, Where Johnston Surrendered,” and then moved north to Savannah, Georgia. He felt the weight of Sherman’s boot early in September 1864, while Confederate Gen. Joseph E. Johnston retreated to Greensboro, North Carolina in December 1862, Union Gen. John G. Foster reached Goldsboro and Schofield on March 23. April 10, while Johnston retreated to Greensboro, North Carolina. He reached Goldsboro and Schofield on March 23. Johnston’s forces were much weakened by that time, and he was forced to surrender to Gen. William T. Sherman near Durham on April 26, 1865. The Civil War was over.

Driving Route

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