



# The Regimental Bulletin

*Phil Kearny Civil War Round Table of Northern New Jersey*

\*\*\* NEXT MEETING \*\*\*

**Wed, June 21st @ - 7PM - Online Zoom Presentation**

See Details Below to Join In

## Colonel John M. Chivington

### Part 2

**Speaker: Joe Truglio**

Volume 19 Issue 6

**June 21, 2023**

Hasbrouck Heights  
Municipal Building  
320 Boulevard  
Hasbrouck Heights, NJ

### Officers of the Phil Kearny CWRT

[www.PhilKearnyCWRT.org](http://www.PhilKearnyCWRT.org)

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Back in October, PKCWRT President **Joe Truglio** graciously stepped in when our speaker had a last minute scheduling conflict. Joe gave us his new and revised talk on the infamous **Reverend & Colonel John Chivington**. In Part 1, Joe lead us through the first half of Chivington's life, right up to the beginning of the Civil War. Now Joe gives us Part 2, including the controversial Sand Creek Massacre.

Chivington (1821 – 1894) was an American Methodist pastor who served as a colonel in the United States Volunteers during the New Mexico Campaign of the American Civil War. He led a rear action against a Confederate supply train in the Battle of Glorieta Pass, and was then appointed a colonel of cavalry during the Colorado War.

Colonel Chivington gained infamy for leading the 700-man force of Colorado Territory volunteers responsible for one of the most heinous atrocities in American military history: the November 1864 Sand Creek Massacre. An estimated 70 to 163 peaceful Cheyenne and Arapaho – about two-thirds of whom were women, children, and infants – were murdered and mutilated by Col. Chivington and the Union volunteer troops under his command. Chivington and his men also took scalps and many other human body parts as trophies, including unborn fetuses. The Joint Committee on the Conduct of the War conducted an investigation of the massacre, but while they condemned Chivington's and his soldiers' in the strongest possible terms, no court-martial proceedings were brought to bear against him or his men. The only punishment Col. Chivington suffered was public exposure and the end of his political aspirations.

**Joe Truglio**, our PKCWRT President, is best known to our members, not only as our fearless leader, leading us on many of our Battlefield tours but also a noted Civil War author and speaker. He was a member of the New Jersey Civil War Sesquicentennial Committee, contributing to their many publications throughout it's term (2011-2015). He has served as a trustee for the R.E. Lee Round Table as well serves on the board of the Lincoln Group of New York.



**PKCWRT  
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**You must register with this new link before the meeting**

<https://us06web.zoom.us/join/zoom/register/tZEtf--rrDkqG9SFlopKizklwp1JPQHypVK>

# Reserve Your Room Now for the Annual PKCWRT Gettysburg Trip

**Friday, Nov 3rd - Sunday, Nov 5th 2023**  
at the **Best Western in Gettysburg**  
[click here for the link to book at the discounted PKCWRT rate](#)

This special rate is only available **until Oct 3rd.**

A block of ten rooms have been reserved under PKCWRT. The room rate is \$120-\$130 depending on the room bed size.

Our Saturday tour is with Jim Hessler, Gettysburg Licensed Battlefield Guide and author with the tour to be decided soon.

We are working on a Saturday night dinner and other add on details and exploring a trip to the old Gettysburg Electric Map now opened in Hanover...stay tuned.

**Please reserve your hotel today.**



**Jim Hessler**  
Gettysburg Licensed  
Battlefield Guide

**The following letter is from Private William R Acker, Co H, 1st New Jersey Cavalry, which is from the collection of PKCWRT member Dennis Buttacavoli, who transcribed and left the spelling as is.**

Camped Ni Bales Cross roads  
Sept the 10th 1862

Dear brother i take mi pen in hand to im form you that i am well at present and hope that those few lines may find you the same. i was glad to hear from you. we have had som very hard fiting sence i herd from you the last. i began to think you had fortgot me. we ar a laying in camp now a doing picket duty. wel i can tel you it is an aufel sight to see a battle field (1) to hear the report of the cannon and hear the screaming of the bum shel and the sharp crack of the musket and to see our brave soldiers fall and to see how quick the rankes is close up. wen we was in the fite at brandy station i had mi horse shot from under me and i com very ni being taken a prisoner but as good luck wold [would] have it their was a piece of wold [wood] and i ran and got in that and they was the writ at mi heals and hauling me and fiering at me but i escaped without a wond [wound] you wanted to know how mutch i get a month. i get thirteen dollars and we was promist one hundred dollars bounty and four dollars state pay.

I have sent mi money to Trenton bank by Senator Cooch (2) we haven't bin paid in four month. you wanted to know how we live doen her wel i can tell you we get plenty now but wen we was on the march so dayes we got a cracker and som dayes we got nothing

i am glad to here that they ar a volatiering so fast up their. i think we will have plenty of help. so i must bring mi letter to a clos by remaining yours truly  
Wm R. Acker

Direct your letters as yousual

Write soon and don't forget  
Excuses mi bad writing

1 The Battle of Brandy Station of August 20 1862

Brig.-Gen. Beverly H. Robertson in his report of the campaign in northern Virginia in 1862 says that a portion of his Confederate cavalry brigade attacked a Federal force guarding the railroad between Stevensburg and Brandy Station. The Federals were driven back to Brandy Station where for some time they offered a determined resistance to the approaching enemy, who finally charged and routed them. The losses were 3 killed and 13 wounded on the Confederate side and 64 of the Union participants captured, besides a number killed and wounded. Federal reports make no mention of the affair.

(2) Cook, Jonathan — of Trenton, Mercer County, N.J. Republican. D(2) delegate to Republican National Convention from New Jersey, 1860; member of New Jersey state senate from Mercer County, 1860-62. Burial location unknown

PKCWRT will remain online  
Zoom Meetings until further notice

## PKCWRT 2023 Schedule

**Wed. June 21 - 7pm**

**Joe Truglio**

**"Chivington - Part 2"**

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/6481111111>

## Summer Break July & Aug

For updates, and changes please visit  
[PhilKearnyCWRT.org](http://PhilKearnyCWRT.org)

**Wed, Sept 20th - 7pm**

**Pat Schuber**

**Holly Springs Raid**

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/6481111111>

**Wed, Oct 18th - 7pm**

**Jay Jorgensen**

**Gettysburg's Wheat Field**

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/6481111111>

## Annual Gettysburg Trip

**Nov 3rd - Nov 5th**  
**with Jim Hessler**

**Wed, Nov 15th -7pm**

**Lynn Herman**

**The New Mexico Campaign**

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/6481111111>

## Dinner Holiday Dinner

**Sat, Dec 2nd - 1pm**

**Robert Emil Crickenberger**

**Point Lookout Prison Camp, MD**

**Phil Kearny CWRT**

**Joe Truglio, President**

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# Phil Kearny Civil War Round Table

## Membership Form

**Dues are \$25 a year**

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**% Norm Dykstra**

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# Civil War NEWS

Vol. 48, No. 6

\$3.50

America's Monthly Newspaper For Civil War Enthusiasts

48 Pages, June 2022

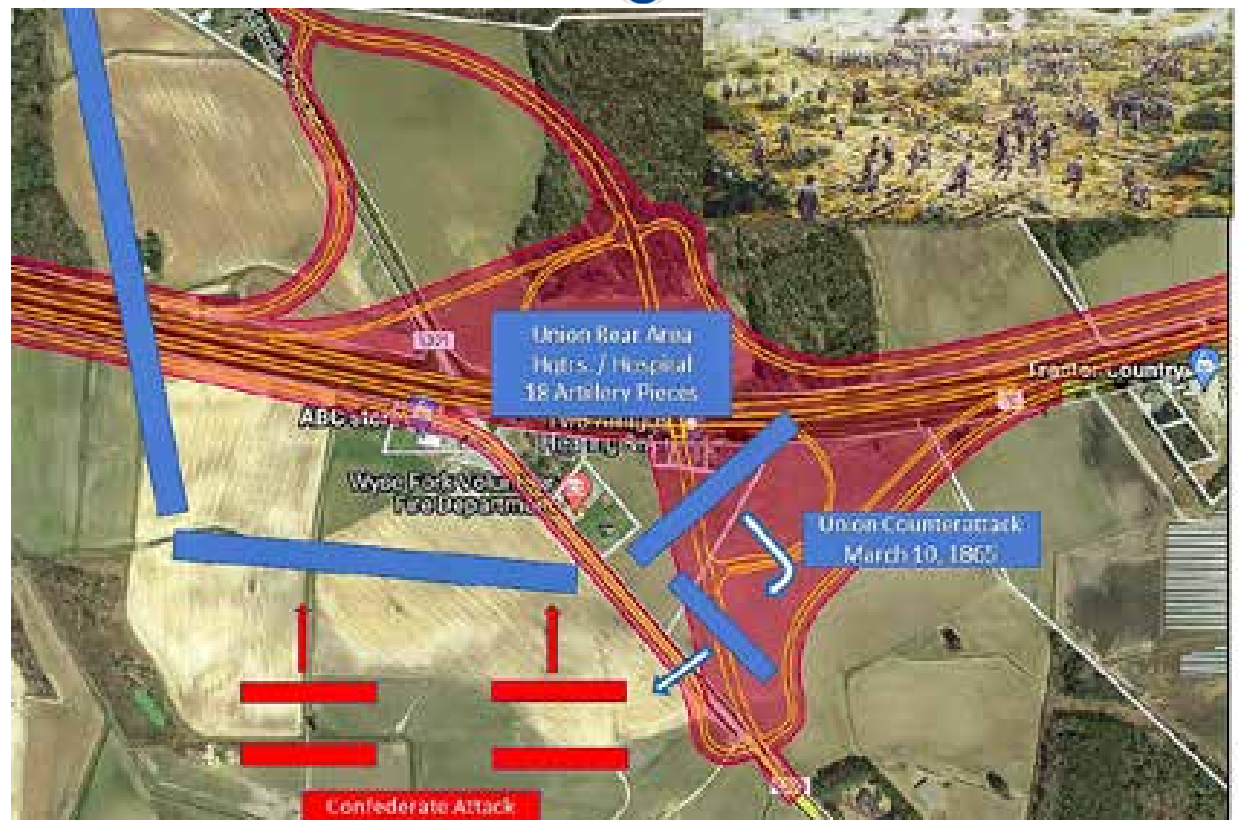
## National Register Battlefield Threatened by North Carolina Highway Interchange



KINSTON, N.C.—The Wyse Fork Battlefield, Kinston, N.C., some 4,000 acres of historically significant landscape is now threatened by a proposed construction project (TIP Project R-2553 (34460) for a new interstate (I-42) that will run from Raleigh to Morehead City. The planned North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) I-42 bypass includes an intersection that will destroy the core battlefield area as defined in the National Register.

The Wyse Fork Battlefield National Register District (NRD) application was submitted to the NC State Historic Preservation Office and filed as a NRD in 2015, federally designated as a NRD in 2017, and specifically honors North Carolina's third largest Civil War land engagement; it has several other historical and legally protected entities as well. In specifics, it would eliminate or relocate the historic Cobb House, the Union headquarters and field hospital, as well as the entire left flank of Maj. Gen. Jacob D. Cox's defensive line, the original intersection over which the armies fought, a 1781 Revolutionary War component, and portions of two other 1864 engagements within the NRD. There are also historically significant buildings and family graveyards. The existence of mass burials associated with the 1865 battle can be projected, based on the number of casualties, Union officer accounts, and current practices of interring those killed in action.

The Wyse Fork road junction is located on higher ground bordered several watercourses. The high ground is virtually surrounded by wetlands that dictated where the historical pathways that became roads traversed the landscape. The cross roads is part of a road network that minimized lower, swampy ground and provided



Proposed route laid over Wyse Fork Battlefield National Register Core Area.

a solid surface for foot, horse, and wagon traffic in the past, just as it does for today's motorized vehicles. Right-of-way acquisition is slated for 2023 so the final decision on impacting Wyse Fork has not yet been made.

On April 30, 2022, some 50 people, chiefly from eastern North Carolina, but others from as far away as Oregon, toured Wyse Fork NRD with specific attention paid to those areas most likely to be impacted by the project. Among the tour group were several descendants of soldiers who fought at Wyse Fork, including Karen Nethercutt, a descendant of Colonel John Nethercutt, 66th North Carolina Infantry, who also served on General Hoke's staff and rode through intense

artillery and musketry almost into the Union entrenchments on March 10, 1865.

From current landowners and other local residents, it was apparent that oral traditions about the battle are still common and relate to places, people, and specific events that are incompletely recorded. At the road junction the tour group was treated to a living history presentation by Wilbur King, who portrayed his great grandfather Sgt. John Parker Miller, Company H, 66th NC Infantry, who fought in the field just south of Dover Road/I-70 at Wyse Fork. He survived but was killed shortly after the war.

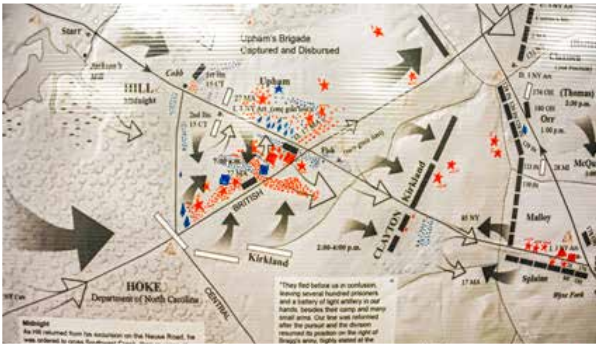


NC House of Representative Chris Humphrey and Karen Nethercutt, descendant of Colonel John Nethercutt.





Dennis Harper orienting tour with map showing documented military positions and recovered artifacts.



Map detail showing linear distribution of probable Revolutionary War bullets just above Kirkland attack arrow.

Greene Counties. He was very interested in the battle and the story of preserving the hallowed ground. "I think we're getting their attention," he said, referring to local efforts to ensure the battlefield survives as heritage tourism is a major revenue source for Kinston and Lenoir County. Mr. Humphrey recommended continuing to send letters to the North Carolina DOT about preserving the battlefield by altering the right-of-way.

### 1781

In the earlier fighting at Wyse Fork, British soldiers battered local militiamen, Major James Craig, 82nd Regiment of Foot, was commandant of the British forces occupying Wilmington, N.C. During the late summer 1781 Craig announced forfeiture of all property belonging to anyone who did not swear allegiance to King George III. He included prison and/or execution as penalties to encourage Patriots to reclaim their British citizenship. At the end of July, Craig left Wilmington heading for New Bern with his 82nd Foot, a detachment of artillery,

and Captain John Gordon's NC Independent Dragoons. Several skirmishes ensued; largely hit and run raids conducted by local militiamen who could not engage in a long fight because they were short of ammunition. Two skirmishes, on August 16, 1781, and August 21, occurred within the boundaries of the Wyse Fork NRD when approximately 150 Carolina militiamen tried to stop Craig but were scattered by Craig's Provincial dragoons. The number of casualties is unknown but probably low; Craig turned east, fought his way into New Bern and occupied the town for two days. Then the British returned to Wilmington, fighting another skirmish at Wyse's Fork. At least one, if not both, engagements fall well within the core National Register District where heavy 1865 fighting also occurred close to the road junction. The general linear orientation of two 18th century bullet distributions is perpendicular to, and along, the British Road approaching Wyse Fork from the south. The name of the road traditionally derives from British Army use during the Revolution.

During the 1970's, and again

in the summer of 2021, whilst collecting artifacts relating to the 1865 battle, local metal detectorists identified two linear distributions of round lead balls and other 1781-era artifacts within the National Register District. The linear distribution of the artifacts indicated a military event. The two round ball sizes (ca. .72 and .634-.645 inch) reflected standard bullets larger than Civil War sizes for the caliber .75 British Brown Bess (at least 10) as well as the .69-inch French muskets (117 bullets) arming Patriot militia and Continental troops after 1779. The total number of bullets, plus buckshot used in buck and ball rounds by both sides, and associated artifacts including coins, made it possible to attribute their presence to the fight against Craid's Punitive Expedition.

A caveat should be noted here. The weaponry of both Union and Confederate regiments is known; most Civil War infantry used elongated rifle bullets of the Minié type in calibers .58, .577, and .54. Probable Civil War round projectiles from Wyse Fork also include some round balls but these are much less pitted than the probable Revolutionary War examples found at Wyse Fork. More, less pitted round balls also came from other areas of the Wyse Fork NRD and may indicate Confederate use.

### 1865 – The Battle of Wyse Fork

There were at least two Civil War engagements at Wyse Fork prior to the better known 1865 battle. Both 1864 fights occurred in the NRD Core Area, as the combat ranged from the road junction west to Southwest Creek. Most of this skirmish was centered on the Dover



Wade Sokolosky orienting tour at First Day's fighting. The Cobb House is in the right background.



Wade Sokolosky discussing Confederate attack. Monument partially paid for by an Ohioan, lists known Confederate casualties.



Wilbur King gestures while discussing Confederate assault that came from the left background.

Road (modern Route 70) but it expanded around Kelly's (in 1864, Jackson's) Mill Pond where a bridge crossed Southwest Creek. The battlefield's core area was specifically defined to include the mill and strong Confederate entrenchments that guarded the stream crossing and extended to the nearby Neuse River.

Briefly, the last and largest Wyse Fork engagement took place from March 8-10, 1865. It was an attempt by the Confederates to stop a Union force coming from New Bern to reinforce Sherman's two armies marching into North Carolina. While often seen as a prelude to the even larger March 19-21 Battle of Bentonville, the fighting at Wyse Fork stands on its own as one of the last Confederate offensive efforts.

On March 8, 1865, General Robert F. Hoke's Confederate Division conducted a flank attack that destroyed a Union brigade and captured over 800 Yankees

just west of Wyse Fork. March 9 was spent probing for weak spots in the Union defensive line anchored at Wyse Fork; the Southern attacks were foiled by Federal infantrymen moving on shorter, internal routes behind their main battleline. On March 10, Hoke attacked again, this time against Union forces aligned along the Dover Road at Wyse Fork. The Federals numbered two well dug in divisions supported by a dozen cannon. As the Confederates closed in on their defenses, unengaged Union troops advanced against Hoke's right flank and opened a devastating fire into the 42nd North Carolina that helped cause the attack's failure. Simultaneous attacks against other parts of the Union position were thwarted by rapidly shifting temporarily unengaged troops to threatened areas where they held off the assaults. The Confederate forces were withdrawn across the Neuse



River overnight.

In the March 10 attack against the well dug in Yankees, the 42nd North Carolina lost a musician who became very famous during the late 1950's. His name was Thomas Dula. In the Kingston Trio's best-selling ballad about the soldier, they called him Tom Dooley. There are many similar, but too numerous to include here, stories about less famous participants in the fight.

### 1865 Burial Sites (Mass Graves)

Casualty totals for the two sides are difficult to reconcile. Information suggests there were

about 4,000 casualties of all sorts including prisoners of war. Captain J. Madison Drake, 9th New Jersey Infantry, reported that his regiment buried over 800 Confederates and 71 Federals. Regimental histories do not mention where these bodies were interred, but they noted the Confederates made seven attacks on March 9, and eleven on March 10. On March 11, the dead were buried in trenches dug in close proximity to the various clusters of the fallen; most were between the Lower Trent and Central roads, from the railroad south to beyond Wyse Fork. A mass grave is postulated immediately southwest of the present Wyse

Fork intersection. Both areas saw heavy fighting during the battle and other unreported graves must be presumed to exist in front of the Union positions.

### The Native American Military Presence

An ironic aspect to the Wyse Fork NRD's historical component is that Tuscarora Indians, a tribal group ancestral to North Carolina fought within the NRD on at least three occasions. Following their defeat in the 1711 Tuscarora War, the tribe migrated north and became the sixth nation in the Iroquois Confederacy. Company D, 132nd New York Infantry, was recruited during the spring and early summer of 1862. Lt. Cornelius C. Cusick successfully recruited over two dozen Native Americans for the company; including Isaac Newton Parker, a Seneca, whose brother Ely ended the war as a brigadier general on Ulysses Grant's staff. Often called the "Tuscarora Company," the unit had naturalized and native born Americans of European ancestry as well.

In late December 1862, the 132nd NY Infantry was ordered to New Bern, N.C., the same area their ancestors had occupied until 1711. The regiment performed a variety of duties, including manning outposts around New Bern and participating in patrols. Their first mission into the interior saw them as part of an 1864 exploratory raid on Kinston. Company D's part took them to Jackson's Mills, less than two miles west of Wyse Forks and within the NRD core area.

On June 21, 1864, the

Tuscarora Company attacked and took the Confederate outpost at Jackson's Mills, manned the entrenchments, then started intercepting messengers traveling to and from Kinston. Among their prisoners was Colonel Nathaniel Folks, 65th NC Infantry. In the meantime, another Union element attacked Wyse Fork and drove that outpost toward Kinston and the Tuscarora Company blocking their way. They started capturing the fleeing Yankees, one of whom paraphrased a line later used in Clint Eastwood's movie, *The Outlaw Josie Wales*, by saying "No one but a Yankee could play me such a clever trick as that." Eventually three 132nd New York companies captured five officers, 51 enlisted men, and a wagon train, plus killed or wounded another 20. When Kinston was seen as too strong a position, the expedition returned to the New Bern area June 23. The Tuscarora Company returned in December

1864 and skirmished along the Dover Road from Wyse Fork to Jackson Mills.

The 132nd returned in March 1865 and were engaged in skirmishing on March 6; on March 7, they got into a hot skirmish at Jackson's Mill Pond where they had fought the summer before. As Union units were shifted around, the Tuscarora Company was positioned in various places in the Federal defensive line, where they held off desperate Confederate attacks. The Iroquois infantrymen in 132nd New York were fighting on their ancestral land against the descendants of those who had forced them to leave over 150 years earlier. Wyse Fork was their last battle and they held firm, having fought, this time successfully, on ancestral tribal land.

project is state funded (Heather Lane, Contact US NCDOT). That statement is not accurate as the entire project is federally funded EXCEPT the Wyse Fork interchange.

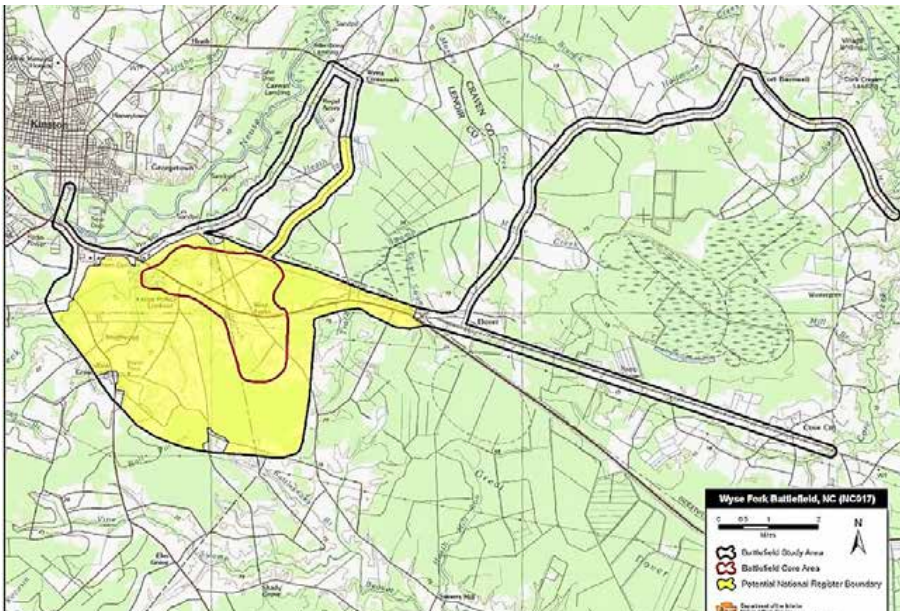
While federal funding requires mitigation of adverse impacts under numerous cultural resource preservation laws, the project also requires federal approval from agencies overseeing environmental considerations prior to construction. Before those agencies can issue their approval, mitigation of adverse impact to cultural resources must be undertaken under the provisions of Executive Order 11593, Archaeological Resources Protection Act (ARPA) and National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Thus, if the I-42 interchange affects the Wyse Fork NRD, and requires approval from federal agencies, including the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, even if not federally funded, Section 106 requirements about cultural resources (the battle's artifact legacy) must be met. This requirement is true for any stretch of I-42 requiring permitting actions whether it is federally or state funded. North Carolina was applying these same laws as early as 1975 under the aegis of the A-95 Review Process run through the Department of Cultural Resources.

As a caveat to how serious the NC DOT danger to Wyse Fork National Register District is, one example should suffice. NC DOT constructed a bypass (I-840) around northern Greensboro within the last four years. In complying with Federal cultural legislation, the DOT contracted with a competent, experienced professional archaeologist to conduct a cultural resources survey but apparently stipulated that the survey be conducted using test pits at certain intervals. The survey found no 18th century artifacts despite being immediately north of the central axis of the 1781 Battle of Guilford Courthouse NRD and immediately south of a grave site that contained bodies of three Continental soldiers killed on March 15, 1781. The right-of-way zone between the NPS border and the grave obviously should have been considered as a battlefield and surveyed using appropriate methods, including metal detecting along transects spaced less than eight feet apart across the entire area.

Between the Guilford Courthouse National Register property and the grave site, over 1,000 battle related artifacts were recovered by metal detectorists who made their collections

PVT. HENRY H. DAVIS	PVT. G. W. BOWLES	PVT. ANSLEY F. FLOYD
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Detail showing names of Company K, 42nd North Carolina, casualties.



### The I-42 interchange

Of multiple known proposals for the highway, most were situated well away from the Wyse Fork battlefield; however the currently planned route and its interchange entrances and exits affect the core battlefield area as well adjacent wetlands requiring permitting action from federal agencies other than the National Register. Lack of federal funding would tend to negate any federal requirements for considering cultural resources, which seems to be precisely why NCDOT is not using Federal money. In turn that means that North Carolina citizens will pay for the destruction of their common heritage with little more than lip service being paid to avoid damage. A March 23, 2022, statement by a NCDOT spokesperson states that the entire





Proposed alternative highway route This upper map's right side connects to the lower map's left side.



The eastern portion of the proposed route through the Wyse Fork Battlefield National Register District.

available to archaeologists in 2018. Between the artifacts and sworn pension applications filed by battle participants, it was possible to partially reconstruct how Delaware and Virginia soldiers held off a British attempt to outflank, and then cut off the Continental Army's retreat. While NC DOT observed the specifics of the law, they utilized outdated methodology and found nothing, then proceeded to grade the North Flank fighting area, followed by paving, before opening the roadway for traffic ca 2021. As stated in several reports, "Shovel testing at maximum 50 foot intervals proved useless ... the systematic metal detecting revealed the military occupation" (Geier et al 2016:18). While Geier's work was at a camp; a much shorter term, larger, and linear battlefield is even less likely to be found using test pits.

The example is only one of many, ranging from the unintended consequence of removing a marl bed in front of Fort Fisher, permitting the fort's

sea face destruction by the next hurricane, to the I-85 Yadkin River crossing where known sites were simply ignored. It would be a disaster for ever understanding details of what happened in 1865 and 1871 if any such ground alteration were to occur at Wyse Fork without a detailed archaeological study using now accepted methods to recover information. While wetlands and forests can be restored, an archaeological site can never be regenerated; once it is gone, it is lost forever. This is not a red line, or a line in the sand, that line was established with the National Register nomination. An addendum to the NC DOT published plans should include the borrow pits required for building the ramps and overpasses. Obtaining fill dirt would add as much as another 40-60 percent of the total area disturbed by the interchange. One stated position about the borrow pits is that folks are "not allowed to speculate on this." If that quote is an accurate portrayal of NC DOT's transparency and callousness, the National Register Battlefield is truly in great danger.

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<https://www.battlefields.org/visit/battlefields/wyse-fork-battlefield>

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