



## State Capitol — North Carolina's seat of government during the Civil War

### Downtown Raleigh, N.C.

The cannons at the Confederate monument are from Fort Caswell, which was located on Oak Island at Old Inlet (Western Bar). Caswell was part of the Cape Fear River defense system.

The cannons at the statue of George Washington date from 1778, and were captured by Federal forces in Edenton in 1862.

Raleigh was occupied by Union forces on April 13, 1865. Gens. **William T. Sherman**, **Henry W. Slocum**, and **Jeff C. Davis** stood at the statue of George Washington as the 21st Wisconsin infantry marched into Capitol Square (following the arrival in Raleigh of Gen. **Judson Kilpatrick's** cavalry). Sherman subsequently established his headquarters at the Governor's Palace, due south at the end of Fayetteville Street. North Carolina governor **Zebulon B. Vance** had already fled the capital city.

A Union soldier pilfered an original copy of the state's Bill of Rights from the Capitol building; but overall, Raleigh fared well at the hands of Sherman's army. The "City of Oaks" was spared the destruction wrought on Columbia, South Carolina.

Union Lt. **George Round** established a signal station atop the Capitol dome and accidentally crashed through the skylight, nearly falling 100 feet to the stone floor of the rotunda. Later, when Gen. **Joseph E. Johnston** surrendered to Sherman on April 26, Lieutenant Round launched a barrage of colorful signal rockets — and for a second time nearly fell to his death from the Capitol dome.