

Isle of Wight County Division of Historic Resources

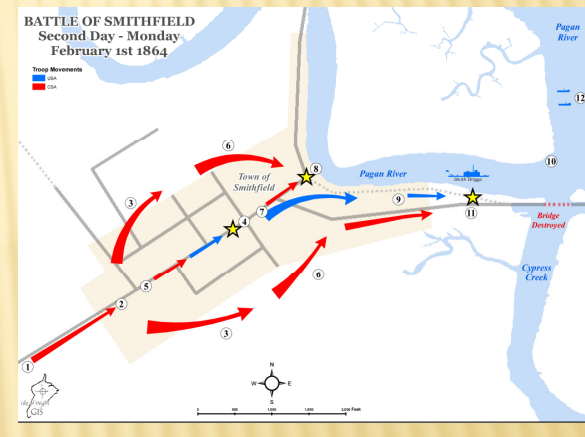
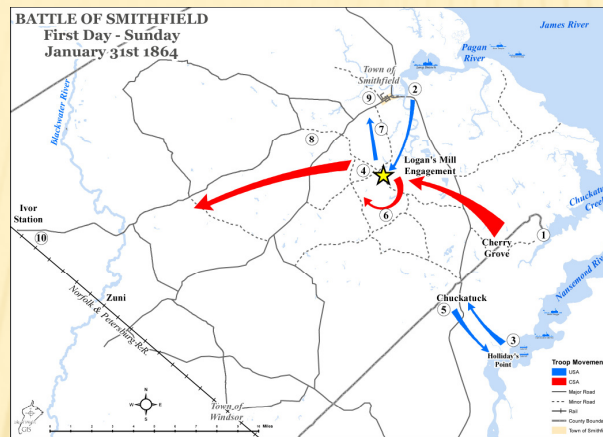
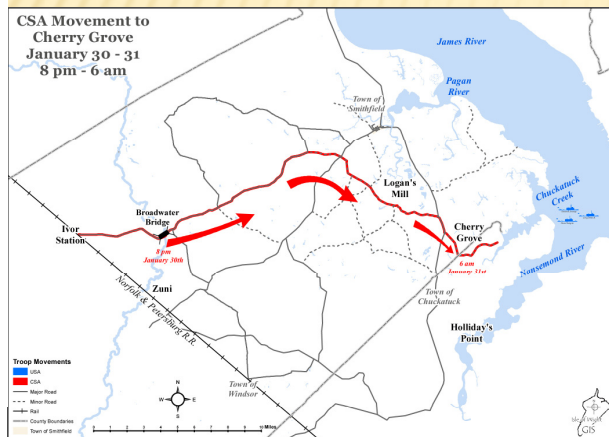
Battle of Smithfield 1864-2014

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January 30-31

January 31

February 1



U.S. Brig. Gen. Charles Graham left Norfolk in the gunboat *General Jesup* accompanied by the transport *Long Branch*. In a dense fog, the *General Jesup* grounded for a short time. At 3 p.m., Graham sent the gunboat *Flora Temple* toward Chuckatuck as a diversion. She also grounded and was pulled off by the *General Jesup*. All three boats anchored overnight off the Nansmond River.

Confederate Capt. Nathaniel Sturdivant with a two gun section from his battery, a squad of cavalry from the 7th Independent Virginia Cavalry Regiment and one infantry company from the 31st North Carolina Regiment were ordered by commander of forces at the Confederate winter camp Col. J.V. Jordan to march rapidly to Cherry Grove in response to a report that the gunboat *Flora Temple* had run aground.

- #1: 1 p.m. Sturdivant's forces leaves Cherry Grove after not locating *Flora Temple*.
- #2: 1:25 p.m. Capt. Lee's forces disembark at Smithfield, advance toward Chuckatuck.
- #3: 2 p.m. U.S. forces land at Holliday's Point to march to Chuckatuck, await Lee's forces.
- #4: 5 p.m. Clash at mill. One Confederate casualty. Union retreats to Smithfield.
- #5: 5 p.m. Union hears gunfire from Smithfield, withdraws to re-embark at Holliday's Point
- #6: 6 p.m. Confederates retreat, head to Ivor.
- #7: 7 p.m. Lee's landing party returns to Smithfield, clashes with local Confederates.
- #8: 7 p.m. Messenger sent to Col. Jordan that Union forces are bottled in Smithfield.
- #9: 8 p.m. Union barricades Main Street, sends messengers to Graham about situation.
- #10: 11 p.m. Sturdivant's forces return to winter camp.

- #1: 11:30 a.m. New units march from Ivor.
- #2: 11:45 a.m. Lee rejects Confederate demand for surrender.
- #3: Noon. Confederate forces divide to trap Union landing party in a double envelopment.
- #4: 12:15 p.m. Union constructs a second barricade on Wharf Hill.
- #5: 12:45 p.m. Exchange of cannon fire.
- #6: 1 p.m. Confederate advance on Union.
- #7: 1 p.m. Union sights *Smith-Briggs*.
- #8: 1:30 p.m. Confederates hit *Smith-Briggs*.
- #9: 1:45 p.m. Union forces attempt to reach the *Smith-Briggs* under sustained fire.
- #10: 1:45 p.m. Two launches from *Minnesota* fire their cannons at Confederate pursuers.
- #11: 2 p.m. Most Union forces and crew of the *Smith-Briggs* captured, wounded or killed.
- #12: 2:45 p.m. Launches from the *Minnesota* withdraw down Pagan River to *Shokokon*. Lee and three compatriots escape downriver.