
Given the importance of history, an accurate, “reader-friendly” book that details the history of the Civil War is a gift to readers who want to learn more than they studied of the war in school. Clint Johnson, who wrote this second edition of *Touring the Carolinas’ Civil War Sites*, believes that the American South must honor and celebrate the heritage of our ancestors. He has accomplished this by providing readers with a book they would want to read until the end.

The book is divided into twenty-one tours or battles of the Civil War which took place in North or South Carolina. In the second edition Johnson has reversed the order of the tours because the Civil War began in South Carolina, while the surrender of General Joseph Johnston in North Carolina ended the war in the Carolinas. For each tour the book contains numerous photos of homes, monuments, forts, war munitions, etc. Also, the reader can refer to road maps and historical markers to locate places to visit. Following a detailed history of each tour readers will find tips for touring each site. After visiting the Custom House in Charleston, S.C., for example, readers can shop “the market” where women (descendants of slaves) skillfully make grass baskets and keep alive a craft originating from Africa. The account of Robert Smalls, a young slave, is told including anecdotal information one may not find in most history books. Smalls secretly commandeered the *Planter*, a shallow draft boat used by the Confederate army, and delivered it into the hands of the Union army. The author provides exact directions as readers leave one site and travel to another following an organized route. Historical events are presented in touring fashion which also includes modern day places, such as the Riverbanks Zoological Park in Columbia, South Carolina. In the park visitors will find the ruins of a pre-Civil War cotton cloth mill; from the mill, the Union army shelled the Capitol Building.

The author read comprehensive histories for North and South Carolina and pulled together factual information to present a well written work. Johnson sought the assistance of chambers of commerce and historical societies to discover additional information for this book. These organizations and others are listed by state at the end of the book. The book is well indexed.

Readers who enjoy this book would also enjoy some of Johnson’s previous books, *Touring Virginia’s and West Virginia’s Civil War Sites*, *The 25 Best Civil War Sites*, and *Civil War Blunders*. Johnson, who has also authored articles in numerous newspapers and magazines on topics in business, history, and travel, lives in Ashe County, North Carolina.

*Touring the Carolinas’ Civil War Sites* is highly recommended for middle school students up through college and university students. Public libraries would also find this title to be valuable to their patrons.

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