

# **ESSENTIAL CIVIL WAR CURRICULUM**

---

## **The Battle of New Bern, North Carolina, March 14, 1862**

By **Richard A. Sauer**

### **Resources**

**If you can read only one book**

Author	<i>Title</i> . City: Publisher, Year.
Sauer, Richard A.	<i>The Burnside Expedition in North Carolina: A Succession of Honorable Victories</i> (Dayton, OH: Morningside Bookshop, 1996, chap. 8 and 9.

### **Books and Articles**

Author	<i>Title</i> . City: Publisher, Year.   "Title," in <i>Journal</i> ##, no. # (Date): #.
Sauer, Richard A.	"Laurels for Burnside: The Invasion of North Carolina, January-July 1862," in <i>Blue &amp; Gray Magazine</i> 5, no. 5 (May 1988): 8-21, 44-62.
Sauer, Richard A. and William D. Gorges	<i>The Battle of New Bern and Related Sites in Craven County, N. C., 1861-1865</i> . New Bern, NC: New Bern Historical Society 1994.

### **Organizations**

Organization Name	Description, Contact information including address, email
New Bern Historical Society	The New Bern Historical Society owns and operates historic 18 <sup>th</sup> century Attmore-Oliver House and Gardens and the New Bern Battlefield Park. Their website is: <a href="http://www.newbernhistorical.org">www.newbernhistorical.org</a>

Craven Battlefield Preservation Associates	The Craven Battlefield Preservation Associates was founded in April 2015 to assist in preserving existing Civil War sites in Craven County, NC. Their website is: <a href="https://www.facebook.com/Craven-Battlefield-Preservation-Associates-496732163808082/">https://www.facebook.com/Craven-Battlefield-Preservation-Associates-496732163808082/</a>
--	--

**Web Resources**

**Other Sources**

**Scholars**

Name	Email
Richard A. Sauers	<a href="mailto:rsauers@wmmi.org">rsauers@wmmi.org</a>

**Topic Précis**

As part of his grand strategy for defeating the Confederacy, Major General George Brinton McClellan, the northern commander in chief, arranged for a number of expeditions to harass the fringes of the Southern states that would force the Confederacy to send troops to confront these expeditions, thus weakening the main field army in Virginia and making it easier for McClellan to attack. One such expedition, which resulted in the Union victory at the Battle of New Bern North Carolina on March 14, 1862, was placed under the command of Brigadier General Ambrose Everett Burnside. With about 15, 000 soldiers accompanied by an army-led flotilla of wooden gunboats and supply ships, Burnside captured Roanoke Island in fighting on February 6-7 and Union naval vessels destroyed the Confederate North Carolina naval squadron at Elizabeth City on February 10. Burnside advanced from Roanoke Island with about 11,000 men and the naval flotilla on March 11 and on March 14 at 7:30 a.m. the battle began as Burnside’s men advanced on the 4,000 Confederate defenders under Brigadier General Lawrence O’ Bryan Branch before the town of New Bern. Overmatched, the Confederate line broke and Branch retreated inland leaving New Bern to be captured by Burnside. New Bern was occupied by Federal forces for the rest of the war and threatened to the railroads further inland, forcing the Confederacy to leave a number of troops to defend the state against any sudden Union advance inland.

\*\*\*\*