Primary Source: Railroad Timetables [1]

Travel by railroad was much faster than other options available in the 1850s. Adults typically walk at 3 to 4 miles per hour -- a bit less on hilly ground. A horse can travel 8 to 10 miles per hour at a trot -- a reasonable speed for a horse carrying a rider over a distance or for a team of horses pulling a carriage, though the speed of a carriage would depend on the condition of the roads as well.

Below are two railroad schedules from the Wilmington and Weldon Railroad which was completed in 1840. One railroad schedule is for the North route -- beginning in Wilmington and ending in Weldon -- while the other is for the south, which began in Weldon and ended in Wilmington.

Night Express Train -- North

To go into operation 31st of October, 1859.

No. of Stations	Distance from Wilmington	Dis. bet'w Stat'ns	Names of Stations	Arrives	Leaves	Time between St's	Time at Stations.	Remarks
1			Wilmington, a m		1:30			Terminus
2	9	9	North East,	1:54	1:54	24	0	N. S.
3	11	2	Marlboro',	2:00	2:01	6	1	R. S.
4	14	3	Rocky Point,	2:10	2:11	9	1	Flag.
5	22	8	Burgaw,	2:32	2:36	21	4	W.&W.
6	29	7	So. Washington	2:54	2:55	18	1	Flag.
7	33	4	Leesburg,	3:06	3:06	11	0	N. S.
8	38	5	Teachey,	3:20	3:21	14	1	P.No.4.
8 ½	43	5	Rose Hill,	3:33	3:33	12	0	W.&W.
9	48	5	Magnolia,	3:44	3:45	11	1	R. S.
10	55	7	Warsaw,	4:01	4:02	16	1	R. S.
10 ½	59	4	Bowden,	4:12	4:12	10	0	N. S.
11	63	4	Faison,	4:22	4:23	10	1	Flag.
12	70	7	Mt. Olive,	4:40	4:41	17	1	Flag.
13	75	5	Dudley,	4:54	4:56	13	2	Flag.
14	78	3	Everettsville,					Flag.
15	84	6	Goldsboro',*	5:16	5:46	20	30	Chan Eng
16	92	8	Pikeville,	6:07	6:08	21	1	Flag.
17	95	3	Nahunta,	6:16	6:18	8	2	Flag.
18	102	7	Black Creek,	6:38	6:39	20	1	Flag.
19	108	6	Wilson,	6:56	6:58	17	2	R. S.
20	116	8	Joyner	7:18	7:22	20	4	Flag.
21	125	9	Rocky Mount,	7:44	7:46	22	2	W.&W.
22	133	8	Battleboro',	8:06	8:08	20	2	Flag.
22 ½	137	4	Whitaker,	8:21	8:39	14	3	W.&W.
23	143	6	Enfield,†	8:36	8:39	14	3	W.&W.
24	154	11	Halifax,	9:06	9:08	27	2	R. S.
25	162	8	Weldon,	9:30		22		Terminus
	*Breakfast.				†Wood and Water.			

Night Express Train -- South

To go into operation 31st of October, 1859.

No. of Stations	Distance from Weldon	Dis. bet'w Stns	NAMES OF STATIONS	Arrives	Leaves	Time between Sta	Time at Stations.	Remarks
25			Weldon, P. M.		8:45			Terminus
24	8	8	Halifax,	9:08	9:10	23	2	R. S.
23 ½	12	4	Ruggles,	9:22	9:23	12	1	
23	19	7	Enfield,	9:42	9:46	19	4	P.No.3.
22 ½	25	6	Whitaker,	10:04	10:05	18	1	Flag.
22	29	4	Battleboro',	10:17	10:18	12	1	R. S.
21	37	8	Rocky Mount,	10:39	10:41	21	2	R. S.
20	46	9	Joyner,	11:05	11:06	24	1	W.&W.
19	54	8	Wilson,	11:29	11:31	23	2	R. S.
18	60	6	Black Creek,	11:48	11:49	17	1	Flag.
17	67	7	Nahunta, A. M.	12:08	12:09	19	1	Flag.
16	70	3	Pikeville,	12:18	12:19	9	1	Flag.
15	78	8	Goldsboro',	12:43	12:48	24	5	Ch. Eng.
14	83	6	Everittsville,	1:06	1:07	18	1	Flag.
13	86	3	Dudley,	1:16	1:18	9	2	Flag.
			Milton,					Flag.
12	91	5	Mount Olive,	1:33	1:34	15	1	Flag.
11	98	7	Faison,	1:55	1:56	21	1	Flag.
10 ½	102	4	Bowden,	2:08	2:12	12	4	W.&W.
10	106	4	Warsaw,	2:24	2:25	12	1	R. S.

No. of Stations	Distance from Weldon	Dis. bet'w Stns	NAMES OF STATIONS	Arrives	Leaves	Time between Sta	Time at Stations.	R. S. Remarks
9	113	5	Magnolia,	2:46	2:47	21	1	W.&W.
8½	120	5	Rose Hill,	3:02	3:03	15	1	W.&W.
8	123	5	Teachey,	3:18	3:20	15	2	P. No.1
7	128	5	Leesburg,	3:34	3:35	14	1	Flag.
6	132	4	So. Washington,	3:46	3:47	11	1	Flag.
5	139	7	Burgaw,	4:06	4:10	19	4	W.&W.
			Asheton,					Flag.*
4	147	8	Rocky Point,	4:30	4:31	20	1	Flag.
3	150	3	Marlboro',	4:40	4:41	9	1	Flag.
2	152	2	North East,	4:47	4:48	6	1	Flag.
1	162	9	Wilmington,†	5:10		22	1	Terminus

*16½ mile Station.

→Wood and Water to be taken only at the places marked, if it can be avoided.

†Take Breakfast.

Primary Source Citation:

Wilmington & Weldon Rail Road Company Time Table Number 5 from and after Monday, October 31st, 1859 Wilmington, NC: Fulton & Price, Steam Power Press Printers, 1859. Published online by Documenting the American South. University Library, The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. https://docsouth.unc.edu/nc/wwrr1859/wwrr1859.html [2]
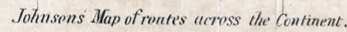
Places:

A modern map illustrating the route of the Wilmington and Weldon Railroad.

Related Topics:

- The Wilmington and Weldon Railroad [14]
- Wilmington & Weldon Railroad [15], from *Encyclopedia of North Carolina*
- Railroads [16], from *Encyclopedia of North Carolina*

Primary Sources:

OUTLINE-MAP
of
North Carolina
Compiled & Drawn by G. Schroeter
NEW-YORK.
1854

VIRGINIA

TENNESSEE

SOUTH CAROLINA

Johnsons Map of routes across the Continent.

Virginia & Tennessee R. R.

Marion · Abingdon · Jefferson · ASHE · SURRY · Danville · ROCKINGHAM · CASWELL · PE...

WATAUGA · WILKES · Rockford · STOKES · Germanton · Wentworth · Yanceyville · R...

CALDWELL · Wilkesboro · YADKIN · FORSYTHE · Greensboro · GUILFORD · North H... · OR...

Newport · YANCEY · Burnesville · Lenoir · Taylorsville · Mocks V · DAVIE · DAVIDSON · Lexington · RANDOLPH · CHATHA...

MADISON · BURKE · Marion · Catawba · Morganton · ALEXANDER · Statesville · IREDELL · ROWAN · Salisbury · Ashboro · COALFIELD...

HAYWOOD · Asheville · BUNCOMBE · McDOWELL · Newton · CATAWBA · Lincolnton · MECKLENBURG · Concord · CABARRUS · STANLY · MONTGOMERY · RICHMOND · MOORE · Pittsboro · Carthage

JACKSON · Waynesville · RUTHERFORD · Rutherfordton · CLEVELAND · LINCOLN · Charlotte · Troy · Wadesboro

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MEXICO · El Paso · Southern Route · TEXAS · Austin · Galveston · LOUISIANA · MISSISSIPPI · ALABAMA · GEORGIA · S.CARO LINA · Charleston · Savannah · FLORIDA

GULF of MEXICO · New Orleans

Northern Route from New York to Astoria .... 3025 miles | from Astoria to
South Pass .... 3450 | St. Francisco
Bentons .... St. Francisco 3300 | 750 miles more
Central .... Beaufort to 3125
Southern 3475

Charleston

Eng'd on Stone by F. Mohr

[17]

This 1854 map of North Carolina shows the routes of various railroads, including the North Carolina Railroad

No. of Stations	Dist. between Sta.	Distance from Wilmington	NAMES OF STATIONS	Arrives HOURS	Arrives MINUTES	Leaves HOURS	Leaves MINUTES	Time between Sta	Time at Stations	REMARKS
1			Wilmington, a m			1	30			Terminus
2	9	9	North East,	1	54	1	54	24	0	N. S.
3	11	2	Marlboro',	2	00	2	01	6	1	R. S.
4	14	3	Rocky Point,	2	10	2	11	9	1	Flag.
5	22	8	Burgaw,	2	32	2	36	21	4	W.& W.
6	29	7	So. Washington.	2	54	2	55	18	1	Flag.
7	33	4	Leesburg,	3	06	3	06	11	0	N. S.
8	38	5	Teachey,	3	20	3	21	14	1	P. No.4.
8½	43	5	Rose Hill,	3	33	3	33	12	0	W.& W.
9	48	5	Magnolia,	3	44	3	45	11	1	R. S.
10	55	7	Warsaw,	4	01	4	02	16	1	R. S.
10½	59	4	Bowden,	4	12	4	12	10	0	N. S.
11	63	4	Faison,	4	22	4	23	10	1	Flag.
12	70	7	Mt. Olive,	4	40	4	41	17	1	Flag.
13	75	5	Dudley,	4	54	4	56	13	2	Flag.
14	78	3	Everettsville,							Flag.
15	84	6	Goldsboro',*	5	16	5	46	20	30	Chan Eng
16	92	8	Pikeville,	6	07	6	08	21	1	Flag.
17	95	3	Nahunta,	6	16	6	18	8	2	Flag.
18	102	7	Black Creek,	6	38	6	39	20	1	Flag.
19	108	6	Wilson,	6	56	6	58	17	2	R. S.
20	116	8	Joyner,	7	18	7	22	20	4	Flag.
21	125	9	Rocky Mount,	7	44	7	46	22	2	W.& W.
22	133	8	Battleboro',	8	06	8	08	20	2	Flag.
22½	137	4	Whitaker,†	8	21	8	22	13	1	Flag.
23	143	6	Enfield,†	8	36	8	39	14	3	W.& W.
24	154	11	Halifax,	9	06	9	08	27	2	R. S.
25	162	8	Weldon,	9	30			22		Terminus

*Breakfast. †Wood and Water. [18]

The original printed timetable for the Night Express Train North.

No. of Stations	Dist. between Sta.	Distance from Weldon	NAMES OF STATIONS	Arrives HOURS	Arrives MINUTES	Leaves HOURS	Leaves MINUTES	Time between Sta	Time at Stations	REMARKS
25			Weldon, P. M.			8	45			Terminus
24	8	8	Halifax,	9	08	9	10	23	2	R. S.
23½	12	4	Ruggles,	9	22	9	23	12	1	
23	19	7	Enfield,	9	42	9	46	19	4	P.No.3.
22½	25	6	Whitaker,	10	04	10	05	18	1	Flag.
22	29	4	Battleboro',	10	17	10	18	12	1	R. S.
21	37	8	Rocky Mount,	10	39	10	41	21	2	R. S.
20	46	9	Joyner,	11	05	11	06	24	1	W.& W.
19	54	8	Wilson,	11	29	11	31	23	2	R. S.
18	60	6	Black Creek,	11	48	11	49	17	1	Flag.
17	67	7	Nahunta, A. M.	12	08	12	09	19	1	Flag.
16	70	3	Pikeville,	12	18	12	19	9	1	Flag.
15	78	8	Goldsboro',	12	43	12	48	24	5	Ch. Eng.
14	83	5	Everittsville,	1	06	1	07	18	1	Flag.
13	86	3	Dudley,	1	16	1	18	9	2	Flag.
			Milton,							Flag.
12	91	5	Mount Olive,	1	33	1	34	15	1	Flag.
11	98	7	Faison,	1	55	1	56	21	1	Flag.
10½	102	4	Bowden,	2	08	2	12	12	4	W.& W.
10	106	4	Warsaw,	2	24	2	25	12	1	R. S.
9	113	7	Magnolia,	2	46	2	47	21	1	R. S.
8½	120	5	Rose Hill,	3	02	3	03	15	1	W.& W.
8	123	5	Teachey,	3	18	3	20	15	2	P. No.1
7	128	5	Leesburg,	3	34	3	35	14	1	Flag.
6	132	4	So. Washington,	3	46	3	47	11	1	Flag.
5	139	7	Burgaw,	4	06	4	10	19	4	W.& W.
			Asheton,							Flag.*
4	147	8	Rocky Point,	4	30	4	31	20	1	Flag.
3	150	3	Marlboro',	4	40	4	41	9	1	Flag.
2	152	2	North East,	4	47	4	48	6	1	Flag.
1	162	9	Wilmington, †	5	10			22		Terminus

*16½ mile Station.
☞ Wood and Water to be taken only at the places marked, if it can be avoided.
†Take Breakfast. [19]

The original printed timetable for the Night Express Train South.

3 January 2018

Links

[1] https://www.ncpedia.org/anchor/primary-source-railroad-0 [2] https://docsouth.unc.edu/nc/wwrr1859/wwrr1859.html [3] https://www.ncpedia.org/category/user-tags/history [4] https://www.ncpedia.org/category/user-tags/mathematics [5] https://www.ncpedia.org/category/user-tags/north-carolina-5 [6] https://www.ncpedia.org/category/user-tags/north-carolina-6 [7] https://www.ncpedia.org/category/user-tags/page [8] https://www.ncpedia.org/category/user-tags/railroads [9] https://www.ncpedia.org/category/user-tags/students [10] https://www.ncpedia.org/category/user-tags/teachers [11] https://www.ncpedia.org/category/user-tags/transportation [12] https://www.ncpedia.org/category/user-tags/creative-commons [13] https://www.ncpedia.org/category/entry-source/anchor-north [14] https://www.ncpedia.org/anchor/wilmington-and-weldon [15] https://www.ncpedia.org/wilmington-weldon-railroad [16] https://www.ncpedia.org/railroads [17] https://www.ncpedia.org/media/map/map-north-carolina-0 [18] https://www.ncpedia.org/media/wilmington-and-weldon-0 [19] https://www.ncpedia.org/media/wilmington-and-weldon