

## **Anaconda Comes to Life**

**<http://civilwar150.longwood.edu>**

During the week of August 24<sup>th</sup> through the 30<sup>th</sup> in 1864, three major historical events took place in the American South. The Battle of Ream's Station occurred, Sterling Price began his movement into Missouri and General Sherman moved to capture Atlanta.

Ream's Hill was fought during the Richmond-Petersburg Campaign lasting from June, 1864 to March 1865. The Battle of Ream's Station began on August 24, 1864. Federal Corps moved southward along the Weldon Railroad. As they moved, they began tearing up the railroad tracks that they came across. On Thursday, August 25<sup>th</sup>, A.P. Hill's Confederate Corps struck against Federal infantry lines defeating Union General Hancock's Second Corps. The attack took place at Weldon Railroad – south of Petersburg. After the battle, Federal's would lose a total of 2,372 – 2,000 of which were captured or missing. Confederates, who pulled off the surprise attack, suffered only 720 casualties.

Following the attack, Hancock withdrew a large percentage of his men to the Union stronghold near Jerusalem Plank Road. The others waited on the arrival of Hill. Rebel General Hill dispatched units to take the defensive line in Petersburg. Although a Confederate victory, this battle failed to deter the growing number of Union Forces positioning themselves around Petersburg for the siege. Federals continued to move westward.

At the same time Confederate General Sterling Price, under the orders of his superior General Smith – who always had his eye fixed on Missouri – began moving his troops to re-take the State for the Confederacy. The goal of his movement was to capture the state and to hopefully sway Northern opinion away from Lincoln. Militarily, the task of Price was to invade

St. Louis and capture warehouses and its valuable supplies. If too much resistance was encountered, he was to abort the plan and focus his attention on crossing into Kansas and moving through Indian Territory “sweeping that country of its mules, horses, cattle, and military supplies”.

Sherman’s ‘March to the Sea’, the Atlanta Campaign, was a plan fixed on capturing crucial cities and towns throughout Rebel held territory, effectively destroying their means to wage war. The battle for Atlanta began on July 22<sup>nd</sup>. It wouldn’t be until August 31<sup>st</sup> that the Federals would capture Jonesborough and Confederate Forces began their retreat to Lovejoy Station. Atlanta was eventually captured with most of its buildings – both military and civilian – burned down.