

SOUTH ATLANTIC RAILROAD TRACK CONSTRUCTION FROM 1826 TO 1850

**Click on the name of the state to see
details**

South Atlantic Railroads

Written by Paul Marston

Tuesday, 18 March 2008 10:38 - Last Updated Monday, 18 August 2008 21:42

STATE

1826-30

1831-35

1835-40

1841-45

1845-50

TOTALS

CENSUS

CHANGES

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Florida

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21.00

21.00

21.00

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Georgia

238.76

217.96

190.50

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647.22

643.72

3.50

North Carolina

2.69

267.50

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8.78

278.97

248.50

30.47

[South Carolina](#)

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10.00

127.00

68.00

84.00

289.00

289.00

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Virginia

69.31

242.75

136.86

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48.76

497.68

515.15

-17.47

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TOTALS FOR INTERVALS

10.00

199.00

770.01

431.60

323.26

1,733.87

1,717.37

16.50

The Census data shown is for the year 1850 as reported in the 1860 Census.

See www2.census.gov/prod2/decennial/documents/1860e-06.pdf (pages 230-231).

Why are there differences between our figures and the Census Figures?

Here is an explanation state by state:

- Georgia:

1. **Macon and Western Railroad** - All of the 102 miles of this railroad was reported under this name, but this railroad only built the last 21 miles of it. It purchased the Monroe Railroad and Banking Company at a foreclosure sale. That railroad built the first 81 miles.

**2. Memphis Branch
Railroad and Steamboat
Company - This was
the company that built a 20
mile railroad from Rome,
Georgia to a connection
with the Great Western and
Atlantic Railroad. The 1860
Census does not show this
railroad at all for 1850, but
only for 1860 under the
name Rome and Kingston
Railroad. We can find no
evidence that it was ever**

called by that name legally although it was referred to by that name locally and during the Civil War. The name was actually changed to Rome Railroad Company of Georgia in 1850 and that was the name it should have been reported under. The 1880 Census corrected this error on page 351 and showed that it was built in 1848.

3. Great Western and

Atlantic Railroad (GA)

**- As we have explained
elsewhere**

**, 16.5 miles of this
railroad was in
Tennessee by 1850
leaving only 121.50 for
Georgia.**

- North Carolina:

1. Greenville and Roanoke Railroad (NC)
- All of the mileage in this railroad was assigned to Virginia as part of the Petersburg Railroad which acquired it in 1855. The 1860 Census says 80 miles for the two railroads

combined, but the 1880 Census says there was only 59 miles. It turns out that this railroad was abandoned in 1877 so the 59 mile figure is just for the Petersburg Railroad. What this tells us is that there were 21 miles in this railroad in 1850, but part of it was in Virginia

and part was in North Carolina. How much of the 21 miles was in each one? Since the 1880 Census did not list it, there is no state breakout available. Our fall back position is to reconstruct this railroad in Mapinfo™ and determine these figures. The answer is 12.22

**miles in Virginia and
8.78 in North Carolina
so 8.78 miles needs to
be transferred to North
Carolina.**

**2. Petersburg
Railroad (NC) -
This railroad also
terminated in North
Carolina, but this time
the 1880 Census tells**

**us that there were 2.69
of the 59 miles needs
to be transferred from
Virginia to North
Carolina.**

**3. Portsmouth and
Roanoke Railroad
(NC) - This was
still another railroad
that started in**

Virginia and ended in North Carolina.

Once again, the 1880 Census tells us that 19 miles of the 80 mile total need to be transferred to North Carolina.

4. Wilmington

**and Raleigh
Railroad - We
report the 161.50
miles under this
name because that
is who built it.**

**5. Wilmington
and Weldon
Railroad - The**

1860 Census reported that same mileage under this name because that is who owned it in 1860 even though it still had the old name in 1850.

- **Virginia:**

1. **Chesterfield Railroad** -

**This was another
railroad not in the
1860 Census for**

**the year 1850
because it was
abandoned in
1851 when the
Richmond and
Danville Railroad
reached the
village of
Midlothian where**

**the coal fields
were, but up to
1851 we need to
add these 13
miles to Virginia.**

**2. City Point
Railroad - We
report this 10 mile**

**railroad under
this name
because that is
who built it, but
the 1860 Census
reported under
South Side
Railway because
that is who**

**owned it in 1860.
Actually in 1850,
it was called the
Appomattox
Railroad.**

**3. Greenville
and Roanoke
Railroad (VA)**

- Once we deduct the 7.78 miles of this railroad that was in North Carolina from the total of 21 miles, that leaves 12.22 miles still in Virginia.

**4. Louisa
Railroad
Company -
That is who built
this 70.07 mile
railroad, but by
1860, it was**

**called the Virginia
Central Railway
so the Census
used that name.**

5. Petersburg Railroad (VA)

-

Once we deduct the 2.69 miles of this railroad that was in North Carolina from the total of 80 miles, that leaves 77.31 miles still in Virginia.

6. Portsmouth and Roanoke Railroad (VA)

- There are two problems here in that 19 miles were in North Carolina leaving 61 for

Virginia and the name was the Seaboard and Roanoke Railroad in 1860 which is why the whole 80 were reported under the latter.

**7. Seaboard
and Roanoke
Railroad -
See above.**

**8. South Side
Railway - See
City Point
Railroad.**

9. Virginia
Central Railway
- See Louisa
Railroad
Company.

10. Table of Adjustments:

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+20.00

M

G

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+13.00

C

T

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+16.50