

The Grand Army of the Republic and *The General* Come to Columbus, Ohio



The Western & Atlantic Railway locomotive, *The General*, on display near Columbus Union Depot in September 1888. It is likely the men pictured were members of the Andrews' Raiders that captured *The General* from the Confederate Army in 1862. W.A. Fuller the Western and Atlantic Conductor that chased and recaptured the locomotive may also be included. The photo is by the Baker Art Gallery, a Columbus photo studio.

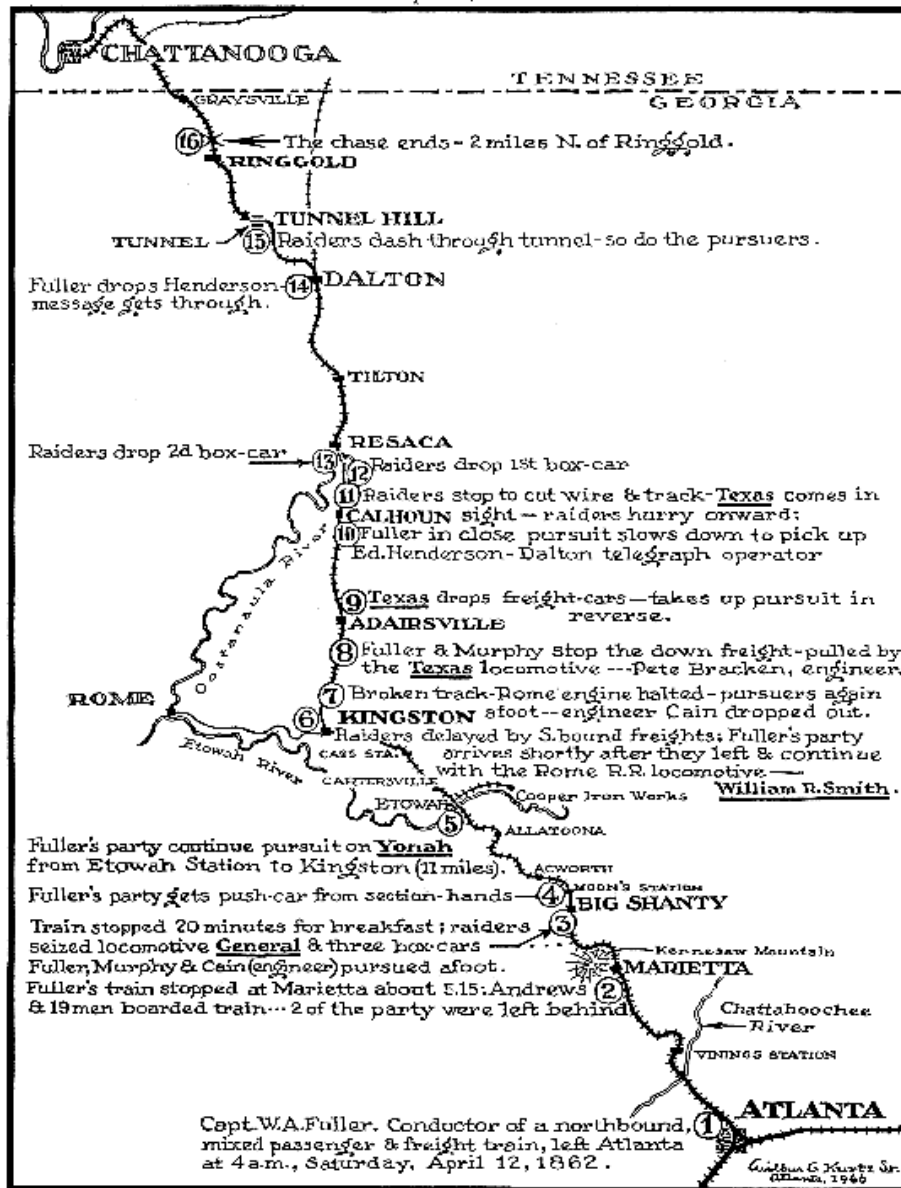
In 1862 nineteen of twenty-one Union raiders, all from Ohio, commandeered the *The General*, a Confederate Locomotive, on the Western and Atlanta Railway in Big Shanty, GA, just north of Atlanta. They traveled north almost to the Tennessee line before running out of fuel. The men had to abandon the locomotive and were captured at which time the story gets even more interesting.

The G.A.R. came to Columbus in September 1888 for one of their annual encampments. The G.A.R. members were veterans from the Union side of the American Civil War. Campgrounds were set up at several locations around Columbus for the veterans use. The association meetings were held at the Ohio State Fair Grounds. By 1888 Confederate veterans also attended the annual encampments.

The Western and Atlantic locomotive, *The General*, was on exhibit near Columbus Union Station, during the 1888 encampment. Surviving members of the raiding party held a reunion and it was reported that W.A. Fuller the Western & Atlantic conductor that recaptured the locomotive also attended.

Route Map of the Great Locomotive Chase

April 12, 1862



IN 1965 *The General* again returned to Columbus as part of the 100 year anniversary observance of the end of the Civil War. You can read a more complete narrative of the 1862 raid including the fate of the 21 Andrews' Raiders at -

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Great_Locomotive_Chase .