Andersonville Prison
(GLC02244)
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The name “Andersonville Prison” recalls one of the most infamous incidents of the American Civil War. Established as Camp Sumter by Confederate officials in 1864, Andersonville was designed to hold 10,000 enlisted mean but by August of 1864, its population had swelled to over 32,000. By war’s end, nearly 13,000 Union prisoners, almost 30% of the prison’s total population, had died from ill treatment, malnutrition, poor sanitation, disease and exposure. After the war, in November of 1865, former Andersonville commander Henry Wirz became the only Confederate soldier executed for war crimes by the United States.

This map of Andersonville was drawn by Robert Knox Sneden after the war had ended. Sneden had enlisted in the Army of the Potomac in 1861 and served in the 40th New York volunteers as a map-maker. On November 27, 1863, Sneden was captured by men under the command of the celebrated John Singleton Mosby, “The Gray Ghost.” He was held in some of the worst and most infamous Confederate prisons of the war, including Andersonville Prison in Georgia. His map shows the conditions under which the prisoners lived.