MONTHLY CHRONOLOGY FOR 1861

SIGNIFICANT EVENTS ON EVE OF WAR

Jan. 3 - President Buchanan refuses South Carolina demand for removal of troops from forts in Charleston harbor and announces public property of U.S. will be protected.

Jan. 4 - Georgia's Governor Brown notifies Senator Toombs that state troops have been ordered to occupy Fort Pulaski in Savannah harbor to prevent Federals from taking it over prior to a convention to vote on secession.

Jan. 5 - By Presidential proclamation, the day is set aside as one of "humiliation, fasting, and prayer," and churches over the nation are crowded.

Jan. 6 - Interior Secretary Thompson, when informed by the President that 250 U.S. troops were on their way to Charleston, S.C., in the Star of the West, resigns from the Cabinet and sends warning of what is happening.

Jan. 8 - Garrison of Citadel cadets on Morris Island fires on Star of the West and drives it out of Charleston harbor.

EVERY CHURCH BELL IN AMERICA WILL BE EXPECTED TO RING at 11 o'clock the Sunday morning of January 8 as a symbol that the Civil War Centennial, greatest commoration ever to be staged in this country, has officially begun.

This tolling of bells, a tocsin that on more than one occasion awakened early America to a crisis, is expected to inspire residents of the U.S. to a greater appreciation of the privileges they share because their divided ancestors of a century ago were able to stack arms after a destructive war, lay aside their differences, and work together in building the mightiest nation on earth.

To mark the occasion, President Eisenhower will deliver by radio and television from the White House a special message calling on all Americans to participate.

Clergy of all faiths will go to their pulpits that morning backed by a special booklet prepared by the National Centennial Commission to aid them in choosing themes for religious services. It is entitled "Times that Tried Men's Souls."

In many parts of the nation, special programs arranged by the localities themselves will be given during the day. Some will be simple ceremonies and others will be on a more elaborate scale.

Two of the most important of these will be at the tomb in New York of General U.S. Grant and that at Lexington, Va., of General Robert E. Lee. A battalion from West Point will participate in the former, at which will appear a prominent speaker, to be announced later. At the latter, Dr. Francis Pendleton Gaines, former president of Washington and Lee University and today recognized as perhaps the greatest living authority on Lee, will be the principal speaker.

Special ceremonies will be held on this date at each of the military service academies. At Charleston, S.C., a three-day program is planned for January 7-9, and will be climaxed by a parade, a reenactment of the Star of the West incident, and a banquet.

WEST VIRGINIA'S CENTENNIAL COMMISSION recently called a statewide meeting of Centennial planners at Charleston and received a pleasing response. Governor Cecil Underwood was among the speakers. Communities outlined their individual programs, showing that the state will have a full five-year observance marking its part in the war.
WHITE HOUSE VISIT

The National Centennial Commission members and staff, shown here at the right, were photographed just after they had made a recent visit to the White House to confer with its honorary chairman, President Eisenhower.

During the visit, the President informed the group that he had a deep personal interest in the success of the Centennial program, and that the Civil War was more than just a hobby with him.

The White House visit preceded the annual meeting of the Commission, at which it was voted unanimously that honorary memberships should be awarded all persons forced to retire from the agency through political or other reasons. Included in this group will be President Eisenhower, Vice President Nixon, Senators Bricker, Martin, Morton and O'Mahoney, and Congressmen Wint Smith and Frank Coffin.

A DEFINITE PROGRAM OF NAVAL PARTICIPATION in the Centennial was outlined at a recent conference of Navy and Defense Department and National Commission officials at the Pentagon. Available for use during the discussion was a complete information plan, including a chronology of important naval events during the Civil War.

Announcement was made at the session that the Navy will operate as a part of its Centennial program a museum ship that will visit ports on the Atlantic, Gulf, Mississippi and Great Lakes. On board will be displayed diaramas, Civil War equipment, and other items, all demonstrating the Navy's role. Plans also call for the showing in ports where the vessel stops of a 40-minute film, "The Navy in the Civil War."

All naval districts and installations, both at home and abroad, will be alerted to the official opening of the Centennial on January 8. A message from the President will be read at special ceremonies, and all chaplains have been supplied with copies of the National Commission's religious booklet to aid them in preparing themes for special religious services.

EVIDENCE OF GUN COLLECTORS' INTEREST in the Centennial has been manifested by a gift of $100 from the Wabash Valley Gun Collectors' Association, Inc. The money will be used to defray expenses of the National Commission.

THE MARYLAND STATE LEGISLATURE, for the first time in its history, will meet outside the capital at Annapolis this winter.

The Frederick County Civil War Centennial, Inc., announces that the Legislature, while it is in session this winter, will come to that community on February 15 to stage a reenactment of its meeting of April, 1861, in which a resolution calling for the secession of Maryland was defeated.

The session will be held in the late afternoon and will be followed by a banquet at which Major-General U. S. Grant, III, chairman of the National Commission, will speak. Maryland's Governor Millard Tawes and a number of prominent government officials from Washington are expected to be present.

THE AMERICAN GUN, a new luxury magazine for American sportsmen and gun enthusiasts published by Madison Books, Inc., of New York City, has devoted its entire first or winter issue to the Civil War. Amply illustrated with color and black and white photographs and drawings, it has 16 articles on various phases of the war by authorities on the respective subjects. This is an outstanding production.

VICKSBURG is planning a musical drama, "Gun Boats 'Round the Bend," to be presented the last Friday in March and each Friday night thereafter for 14 weeks. Each of these dates will be dedicated to a Northern state represented by a monument in the Vicksburg National Park — Wisconsin, Minnesota, Michigan, Illinois, Kansas, Indiana, Pennsylvania, New York, Ohio, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Missouri, West Virginia, and Iowa.

A SPECIAL CANCELLATION, to call attention to the restaging of the battle of Lexington, Mo., on May 18, has been authorized by the Post Office Department. It will be used on all outgoing first-class mail from that community during the period from January 1 to June 30. The reenactment will be fought by cadets of Wentworth Military Academy there.
WHAT DO YOU KNOW ABOUT THE WILLIAMS MACHINE GUN? Colonel E. H. Hoffman of Woodstock, Va., whose hobby and profession is that of gunsmithing, owns one of these weapons and would like to learn as much as he can about it, including units by which it was employed.

VICE ADMIRAL STUART H. INGERSOLL, member of the National Commission and former head of the Naval War College at Newport, R. I., will be the principal speaker at Boston, Mass., on April 7 when the state government is taken over by high school students.

This annual program, identified as Student Government Day, will be tied in this year with the commemoration of the Civil War. Admiral Ingersoll will address a joint session of the student legislature in the Senate chamber of the State House.

AN INFORMATION CENTER for the District of Columbia Centennial Commission will be opened January 9 in the old Belasco Theater on Lafayette Square, directly across from the National Commission headquarters and in front of the White House.

FORT SUMTER SPECIAL, a pullman train operated over the R., F. & P. Railroad, will leave Washington, D. C., for Charleston, S. C., at 8:20 p.m. April 11 and will return at 7:20 a.m. April 14. While attending the Fort Sumter reenactment, passengers will use their pullman accommodations as a hotel and will shuttle back and forth to points of interest by bus.

WHO FIRED THE FIRST SHOT? That's the title of the first of a series of "untold" stories on the Civil War THE SATURDAY EVENING POST published in its December 17 issue. All written by Ashley Halsey, Jr., associate editor, they will appear periodically.

KENTUCKY is organizing to make sure it has full participation in the nationwide Centennial program and that all of its important Civil War dates are recognized. One of its latest steps was the appointment by Governor Bert Combs of Paul Brannon to serve as coordinator of Centennial activities. In this role he will provide liaison between all historic and patriotic groups and the State and National Commissions.

To launch the Centennial on January 8, the state will hold special ceremonies 100 miles apart at the birthplace at Fairview of Jefferson Davis and that at Hodgenville of Abraham Lincoln.

A MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR ALL THE CIVIL WAR DEAD will be held by the Diocese of Charleston, S. C., on January 14 at the Cathedral of St. John the Baptist. Assisting the Most Rev. Paul J. Hallinan, Bishop of Charleston, in the Pontifical Requiem Mass will be priests who are descendants of men who participated in the siege of Charleston. The Rev. William J. Croghan, rector of Bishop England High School, will preach the sermon.

MISSISSIPPI'S OPENING CENTENNIAL EXERCISES, scheduled originally for January 9, have been postponed until March 28, John D. Holland, chairman of the State Commission, reports.

One of the major causes of the postponement was delay in delivery of uniforms. Several thousand of these, patterned after those worn by the Mississippi Greys during the war, have been ordered. They will be featured in a giant parade scheduled for the March date, at which time the Secession Convention of 1861 will be reenacted.

ONE OF THE FIRST MAJOR EXHIBITS IN THE SOUTHWEST will be opened by the Dallas Philological Society in the public library at Dallas, Texas, May 29-June 27. Entitled "The Confederacy: Its Impact on the Cultural Life of Dallas," it will include "several rare unpublished and seldom exhibited items of considerable historic value."

A 55-MINUTE DOCUMENTARY entitled "Echo of the Dark Years," featuring nearly all of the speakers who participated in the National Centennial Assembly at St. Louis last May, has been prepared by Radio Station WOWO at Fort Wayne, Ind., and is now available to the various state commissions. Its object is to give a preview of some of the major events to be included in the five-year Centennial commemoration. Application should be made to Cal A. Bollwinkel, program manager, 128 W. Washington Blvd., Fort Wayne.

NEWS BY BILLBOARD, a flashback to the custom of a century ago when people rushed to the newspaper office to read the "latest bulletins from the front," will be available to residents of Trenton, N. J., during the Centennial. Each week during the five-year period a small glass-enclosed case in the vicinity of State and Broad Streets will describe the progress of the war, giving day-by-day accounts 100 years after.

THE CONFEDERATE HIGH COMMAND of St. Petersburg, Fla., will sponsor a special display of Civil War relics, documents and other items in the Maas Department Store there January 9-23. General Donald A. Ramsay, commander, reports that the exhibit will be in direct liaison with the Centennial.
THE CIVIL WAR BOOK SHELF
(A Quarterly List of New Titles)
Prepared for the Civil War Centennial Commission
by
James I. Robertson, Jr., Editor
Civil War History

(For the purpose of bringing our readers up to date, this initial list includes those books published in the last three-month period).

GENERAL AND SPECIFIC STUDIES

Affleck, C. J., and Douglas, B. M., Confederate Bonds and Certificates (privately printed)
Angle, Paul M., and Miers, Earl S., Tragic Years: 1861-1865 (2 vols., Simon and Schuster)
Barrett, John G., North Carolina as a Civil War Background, 1861-1865 (N. C. Department of History and Archives)
Battles of the Civil War — Kurz & Allison prints (Pioneer Press)
Carley, Florence F., Confederate City: Augusta, Georgia, 1861-1865 (University of South Carolina)
Dowley, Clifford, Lee’s Last Campaign (Little, Brown)
Downey, Fairfax, Storming of the Gateway: Chattanooga, 1863 (McKay)
Dulour, Charles, The Night the War Was Lost (Doubleday)
Filler, Louis, The Crusade Against Slavery, 1830-1860 (Harper)
Glover, Edwin A., Bucktailed Wildcats: A Regiment of Civil War Volunteers (Yoselof)
Harkness, David J., Heroes of the Blue and Gray (University of Tennessee)
Harwell, Richard, The War They Fought (Longmans)
Helper, Hinton R., and Fitzhugh, George, Ante-bellum (Capricorn Books)
Jones, Robert H., The War in the Northwest (Oklahoma)
Jones, Virgil C., The Civil War at Sea: Volume I: The Blockaders (Holt)
Lord, Francis A., They Fought for the Union (Nevins, Allen, The War for the Union: War Becomes Revolution, 1862-1863 (Scribner)"
O’Connor, Thomas H., Massachusetts in the Civil War: Volume I: The Call to Arms (Massachusetts Civil War Centennial Commission)
Pakula, Marvin H., ed., Centennial Album of the Civil War (Yoselof)
Sideman, Belle B., and Friedman, Lilian, Europe Looks at the Civil War (Orion)
Silber, Irwin, Songs of the Civil War (Columbia University)
Steere, Edward, The Wilderness Campaign (Stackpole)
Thompson, Wesley S., Tories of the Hills (Parrill Press)
Vandiver, Frank E., Jubal’s Raid (McGraw-Hill)
Wellman, Manly Wade, Harpers Ferry: Prize of War (McNally of Charlotte)
Westerine, Irving, 1861-1865: The Adventures of the Civil War Told with Pictures (Pageant Books)
Wiley, Bell Irvin, Why Georgia Should Commemorate the Civil War (Natiwide Insurance)
Winks, Robin W., Canada and the Civil War (Johns Hopkins)

BIOGRAPHIES

Butler, Lorine Letcher, John Morgan and His Men (Dorrance)
Cunningham, Frank, Knight of the Confederacy: General Turner Ashby (Naylor)
Donald, David, Charles Sumner and the Coming of the Civil War (Knopf)
Lomask, Milton, Andrew Johnson: President on Trial (Farrar)

PERSONAL MEMOIRS, LETTERS, ETC.

Billings, J. D., Hard Tack and Coffee. Edited by Richard Harwell (Lakeside Classics)
Brobst, John P., Well, Mary: Civil War Letters of a Wisconsin Soldier. Edited by Margaret B. Brobst (University of Wisconsin)
Fremantle, A. J. L., The Fremantle Diary, 1862-1865. Edited by Walter Lord (Capricorn Books)
Gaston, Robert H., and William H., Tyler at Sharpsburg. Edited by Robert W. Glover (W. M. Morrison)
Goodman, Thomas M., A Thrilling Record (Thomas R. Hopper)
Harper’s Weekly — weekly reissuance begins with December 28, 1860, number. Introduction by James I. Robertson, Jr. (Living History, Inc.)
Jackson, Isaac, Some of the Boys: The Civil War Letters of Isaac Jackson, 1862-1865. Edited by Joseph O. Jackson (Southern Illinois University)
McKee, James C., Narrative of the Surrender of Command of U. S. Forces at Port Fillsmore, New Mexico, July, 1861 (Stagecoach Press)
Schorz, Carl, Reminiscences of Carl Schorz. Introduction by Allen Nevins (Scriber’s)
Shearer, James J., Confederate Chaplain: A War Journal. Edited by Joseph T. Durkin (Bruce)
Whitman, Walt, Walt Whitman’s Civil War. Edited by Walter Lowenfels (Knopf)

LINCOLNIANA

Hayes, Melvin L., Mr. Lincoln Runs for President (Citadel)

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MAJOR GENERAL U. S. GRANT 3D, CHAIRMAN; KARL S. BETTS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR.