MONTHLY CHRONOLOGY FOR 1861

Feb. 1 — Reports from Charleston, S.C., say military authorities there have completed their preparations for an attack on Fort Sumter and only await the order to open the batteries.

Feb. 4 — Delegates from North and South gather at the Willard Hotel to take part in a Peace Congress called at the instigation of Virginia. It is said former President John Tyler will probably be chosen to preside. All sessions will be closed.

Feb. 5 — Newspapers announce seizure of public property in Florida, Louisiana, and other Southern states.

Feb. 7 — Peace Convention delegates wait on President Buchanan in a body, but the press is barred from the interview.

Feb. 9 — An independent government of the Confederate States of America is organized at Montgomery, Ala., and Jefferson Davis of Mississippi and Alexander H. Stephens of Georgia are elected President and Vice-President.

Feb. 11 — President-elect Lincoln leaves Springfield, Ill., en route to Washington. Reports the press: "He made a farewell address to his neighbors just before the train started, which so affected both himself and his hearers that tears were copiously shed."

Feb. 15 — Lincoln, in a speech at Pittsburgh, urges everyone to keep cool, and predicts a "peaceful settlement of all our troubles."

Feb. 16 — Jefferson Davis reaches Montgomery from his Mississippi home, after making 25 speeches along the way. He declares on arrival that the time for all compromises had passed, that Southern independence must be sustained, even if war should follow, and that no propositions for a reconstruction of the Union could ever be entertained.

Feb. 23 — Lincoln arrives in Washington on early-morning train, after slipping out of Harrisburg, Pa., secretly to avoid trouble at Baltimore. Editorializes the New York Herald: "Never was there a man, in the history of the republic, who has held in his bands such immense power for weal or for woe to the country."

Feb. 25 — Peace Convention adjourns after more than three weeks of discussion in which virtually no progress is made.

NATIONAL CENTENNIAL HEADQUARTERS, cheered by an impressive formal opening of commemorative ceremonies on January 8, already has started plans for its fourth national assembly at Charleston, S. C., April 11-12.

"Members of the National Commission are very proud of the manner in which the nation observed the opening of the Centennial," commented Karl S. Betts, executive director. "We wanted the ceremonies to be quiet and dignified and humble, deeply religious in their significance and filled with tribute to our forefathers who fought a century ago that the political pattern of America might be determined, and that's the way they were."

A full panel of speakers will be arranged for the annual meeting, Mr. Betts said. All state commissions are expected to be represented.

Following registration in the morning, the meeting will open with a luncheon at noon, at which time the delegates will be welcomed by Governor Ernest Hollings of South Carolina. A banquet that night, presided over by Major-General U. S. Grant, 3rd, national chairman, will feature a speaker of national prominence.

All sessions will be held at the Francis Marion Hotel. Immediately after adjournment at noon on April 12, those in attendance will be invited to participate in ceremonies in connection with a reenactment of the firing on Fort Sumter.

VIRGINIA HAS ARRANGED TWIN PROGRAMS to attract attention to the details of the Peace Convention called through that state's initiative in 1861.

The first of the programs will be held in the old House of Delegates chamber in the State Capitol on February 4. It was there the Virginia General Assembly chose its peace commissioners and placed at the head of them ex-President John Tyler, who later presided over the convention in Washington.

The second program will be held the following day at the Washington Cathedral in the national capital at 4 p.m. Speaker for the occasion will be Dr. Francis Pendleton Gaines, chancellor of Washington and Lee University. A memorial plaque, later to be installed at the Willard Hotel where the convention met, will be dedicated at that time.
FORT SUMTER TO STIR AGAIN

Around this historic man-made island in Charleston harbor, carefully restored by the National Park Service, will center in April a series of ceremonies designed to point out the significance of the firing on Fort Sumter in April, 1861.

For one week the city of Charleston, S. C., will be host to the nation, with a part of two days of this period devoted to the fourth national assembly of the Centennial Commission.

On April 6, the historic drama, "The Burning Tide," will be presented by the Footlight Players at the famous Dock Street Theater. Performances will be repeated on April 7, 8, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 20, 21 and 22. Other events on the program will include tours of historic spots of interest, including Fort Sumter, and performances of civic ballet, symphony and choral groups. The reenactment of the firing is scheduled for the afternoon or evening of the 12th.

FACTS ABOUT THE CIVIL WAR, the booklet originated by the National Commission a year and a half ago, will be sold in the future only through the Superintendent of Documents, Washington 25, D. C. Remittance must be enclosed with orders. The price is 20 cents per copy, or 15 cents per copy in lots of 100 or more to a single addressee.

CALIFORNIA became the 44th state to establish a Centennial commission when, on December 15, Governor Brown appointed a distinguished group of citizens to serve as members. Justin G. Turner, a prominent Civil War buff of Los Angeles, was named chairman.

A 17-PAGE LIST OF CIVIL WAR PAINTINGS, DRAWINGS AND PRINTS in the Franklin D. Roosevelt Library has been published. Assembled by the late President over a 45-year period, this collection at the time of his death was looked upon as one of the largest in the country.

THE YMCA, which had its start at the beginning of the Civil War, will come in for special recognition by both the North and South during the Centennial. "The part played by the YMCA's 4,859 volunteers was a great contribution and merits special commemoration," General Grant, national Centennial chairman, said in a recent letter.

NEW YORK's MAYOR ROBERT F. WAGNER has named a Civil War Centennial Committee for the city, with Andrew S. Roscoe, president of Equitable Savings and Loan Association of Brooklyn, as chairman.

A COURSE ON CIVIL WAR SOURCE MATERIALS AND THEIR USE will be televised under the sponsorship of George Washington University here over a 15-week period beginning February 13. Dr. Robert Land, assistant chief, General Reference and Bibliography Section, Library of Congress, will direct. Programs will be given three mornings a week, some of them by prominent guest speakers.

PENNSYLVANIA IS LAYING EXTENSIVE PLANS for participation in the Centennial. These were discussed at a recent meeting of the Lincoln Civil War Society of Philadelphia, at which Lieutenant-Governor Davis read a proclamation setting up a statewide Centennial Commission. In recognition of his efforts in behalf of the Centennial, Executive Director Betts of the National Commission was presented a plaque by the Society.

ATTENTION ALL AREAS!

Requests for military bands, color guards, and other military participation in Centennial programs must be cleared through the National Commission. This is necessary, Defense Department officials point out, in order to save time and confusion. Contacts made otherwise, they say, will be referred to the Commission before action is taken.

CARLO, ILL., the Union naval base whence came the gunboats the Southerners along the Mississippi feared so much during the war, is planning a two-day program for April 22-23 to mark the anniversary of the date on which the armed troops were dispatched from Chicago to its protection. An excursion train will conduct passengers over the same route and lay over for the ceremonies.

PREPARED AND DISTRIBUTED AT CIVIL WAR CENTENNIAL COMMISSION HEADQUARTERS
MAJOR GENERAL U. S. GRANT 3D, CHAIRMAN; KARL S. BETTS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR.