MONTHLY CHRONOLOGY FOR 1861

May 1 - The New York Tribune reports that Ohio has offered 81,000 men since the President's call for troops and that 31,000 have been accepted.

May 2 - Capt. Oakes of the U.S. Army arrives in Washington from Texas with news that great military activity prevails throughout the South, that troops are gathering at the principal points, and that they look well, drill well, and are enthusiastic for the Rebel cause.

May 2 - Lincoln issues a proclamation calling for 83,000 more troops.

May 5 - Major Robert Anderson arrives in Washington from Fort Sumter and is reported to be "the lion of the day." His promotion to a colonelcy follows.

May 13 - The Union, preparing to start a blockade, gives notice to foreign ships in Southern ports to leave within 15 days.

May 15 - General Ben Butler issues a proclamation to the people of Baltimore notifying them that he has occupied the city for purposes of preserving the peace.

THE SERIES OF COMMEMORATIVE CEREMONIES that have taken place since the Centennial formally began on January 8 have only commendation from Major-General U.S. Grant, 3rd, chairman of the National Commission.

He revealed this in stressing anew that the Centennial is a grass-roots program, each phase of it emanating from the people and conducted by them. National Headquarters, he reminded, is only set up to aid and to coordinate; it will not dictate to or direct localities in what they do.

So it is to the grass-roots planners that his praise goes.

"We are much pleased with the response throughout the country and with the cooperation of the State Centennial Commissions in preparing these programs," he said. "I am glad the National Commission has been able to help, and I promise that its goal will be to keep the commemorations dignified and constructive.

If our programs continue as they have begun, the Centennial should be highly successful."

General Grant spoke while the echoes of one of the biggest ceremonies to date, the program recalling the firing on Fort Sumter a century ago, were still strong. This event, staged by the South Carolina Confederate Centennial Commission, drew thousands to the water's edge to watch a colorful, authentic attack simulated by fireworks and backed by loudspeakers recalling details.

Another recent ceremony, complete with parade and banquet, marked the anniversary of the assumption by General Robert E. Lee of the command of the armed forces of Virginia. Congressman William M. Tuck, vice-chairman of the National Commission, was the principal speaker.

Delaware opened its ceremonies at Wilmington recently with a program preceded by a luncheon attended by the Governor and 350 delegates from all over the state. Tribute was paid to the memory of General Grant, the Union leader, at birthday commemorations at Winchester, Va., April 26 and at Galena, Ill., April 29. The 16th annual Boy Scout pilgrimage at the tomb of Abraham Lincoln at Springfield, Ill., April 30 drew 10,000 Scouts from throughout the nation. Centennial Director Karl S. Betts was principal speaker.

Events scheduled for May include ceremonies at Fort Knox, Ky., marking the centennial of the creation of the 6th U.S. Cavalry (now the 6th Armored Cavalry stationed at that post), May 4; Commemorative exercises at Stradford, Va., Lee's birthplace, May 7; a ceremony at Camp Jackson, St. Louis, Mo., May 10; a reenactment of the departure of the 7th Tennessee Infantry from Lebanon, Tenn., May 19; rededication of a Confederate monument on the anniversary of the occupation of Alexandria, Va., by Union forces May 24, and an exhibit and tour of Civil War homes at Spotsylvania, Va., May 30.
FOUR FIRSTS IN BERKS - 1861. That's the title of a handsome booklet recently published by the Historical Society of Berks County, Pa., in memory of the Ringgold Light Artillery, which arrived in Washington on April 11, 1861, the first unit from the North to reach the city.

A MONUMENT TO A MAN WITH A SACK OF FLOUR will receive special attention during the Centennial. It stands in the cemetery at Stockton, Calif., a memorial to Reuel Colt Gridley, a patriot who paid a lost wager by toting a 50-pound sack of flour from Austin to Clifton, Nev., a distance of a mile and a quarter, and then raised $275,000 for the Sanitary Commission by selling and reselling that sack of flour throughout the nation, an effort that wrecked his health and led to his death.

CLARA H. BARTON, founder of the American Red Cross and the "Angel of the Battlefield to both Blue and Gray," will be memorialized by a marker to be erected by the Fairfax County Chapter of the Red Cross at Fairfax Station, Va., May 21. It was there in early September, 1862, after the second battle of Manassas, that she helped move more than 3,000 wounded soldiers to safety.

MASSACHUSETTS AND MARYLAND recalled the firing on the 6th Massachusetts Regiment as it passed through Baltimore on April 19, 1861, by joining hands at a banquet in that city staged on the anniversary of the event. Governors of both states were present and spoke feelingly of the value of the Centennial in emphasizing America's unshakable Union. The dinner was sponsored by the Maryland State Centennial Commission and the Maryland State Historical Society.

THE 16TH INFANTRY, one of the first units called out at the outbreak of the Civil War, will commemorate the occasion on May 3 -- even though it is now in Germany accomplishing a cold war mission. A parade through downtown Baumholder, followed in the evening by a pageant with expert narration and special music, will highlight the program. German citizens will be invited to participate.

THE ILLINOIS CIVIL WAR CENTENNIAL COMMISSION has recently published two slick-paper pamphlets to further its Centennial efforts. One of these is a report of its activities prepared for the Governor and members of the Illinois General Assembly, and the other is a review of the state's role in the Civil War by Clyde C. Walton, state historian.

THE ANNUAL MERITORIOUS ACHIEVEMENTS AWARD of the Civil War Centennial Committee at Fredericksburg, Va., will be given this year to Richard Bales, president of the Washington Civil War Round Table, for his work in music of the war period. Previous awards have been received by V. C. Pat Jones, Bell I. Wiley and Major-General U.S. Grant, 3rd.

THE BLUE AND GRAY MUSEUM dedicated at Fitzgerald, Ga., on January 8 is drawing visitors from all over the Nation. "The register of visitors in the museum is thrilling indeed," writes Mrs. Beth Davis, director of the Ben Hill County Civil War Centennial Commission. "Truly, it is like a roll call of the states."

ARKANSAS IS TO RECEIVE $450,000 with which to provide memorials to Confederate General Thomas C. Hindman. This sum will be provided by the liquidation of a family trust fund. Helena, home of the general, will receive $250,000; Prairie Grove, where he led his army against General Blount, $150,000, and Little Rock, $50,000.

FOUR FIRSTS IN BERKS - 1861. That's the title of a handsome booklet recently published by the Historical Society of Berks County, Pa., in memory of the Ringgold Light Artillery, which arrived in Washington on April 18, 1861, the first unit from the North to reach the city.

SUPPORT FOR THE NATIONAL COMMISSION'S PROGRAM of encouraging exchange scholarships between Northern and Southern educational institutions was given recently by its chairman, General Grant. Appearing as the principal speaker at a meeting of the Yale Club of Washington, D. C., he encouraged the group to sponsor such a scholarship and offered to contribute personally a substantial sum toward it.

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