MONTHLY CHRONOLOGY FOR 1861

JUNE 1861

SIGNIFICANT EVENTS AS WAR DEVELOPS

June 1 - A unit of the Second U.S. Cavalry dashes through Fairfax, Va., a few miles west of Washington, D.C., at 3 a.m., shooing right and left, and kills Confederate Captain John Q. Marr, first officer killed in action during the war.

June 3 - Troops from McClellan’s Union army surprise a Rebel camp at Philippi, Va. (Now W. Va.), and Federal Colonel B. F. Kelley is erroneously reported killed.

June 4 - Reports are strong in Washington that Union troops are ready to march into Virginia from the national capital.

June 6 - Union ship Harriet Lane exchanges shots with a Confederate battery at Big Point near Fortress Monroe.

June 9 - Large concentrations of Confederates at Manassas Junction and Centreville are reported as Union forces extend their lines into Virginia.

June 11 - Confederate and Union troops meet at Big Bethel, Va., in the first land battle of the war, and the Federals are repulsed and forced to withdraw in disorder.

June 14 - Confederates at Harper’s Ferry, after burning the bridge across the Potomac River at that point, evacuate the stronghold and retire into Virginia.

June 17 - A Union train carrying troops from Alexandria is fired by a Confederate battery at Vienna, Va., and several Federal soldiers are killed and wounded.

June 17 - Newspaper dispatches say Union General Lyon has inflicted a severe defeat on Confederate forces at Boonville, Missouri.

June 18 - The press reports a Union army under General Patterson has crossed the Potomac and is marching on Harpers Ferry.

June 21 - Reports the New York Herald: "It seems evident from information which reached us last night that the theater of the first grand battle is to be in the vicinity of Washington."

June 24 - Several Union military leaders are called into conference with members of Lincoln’s Cabinet. The Secretary of War reports 225,000 men enrolled in the Federal armies.

June 27 - Captain James Harmon Ward, commander of the U.S. steamer Freeborn, is killed in an engagement with Confederate batteries at Matthias Point on the Potomac, the first naval officer to die in the war.

THE NATIONAL COMMISSION, acting under a section of the public law by which it was created, soon will begin extending tokens of approbation to organizations and individuals sinngled out as doing outstanding work in behalf of the Centennial. These tokens will appear in coveted of which will be the Commission's four classifications, the highest and most official medallion, shown here. Others will include certificates of distinction, achievement. Recipients will be chosen by a special Awards Committee, which last will consider applications from organizations and individuals. Other members will consist of Dr. David C. Mearns, Manuscript Dr. Wayne C. Grover, Archivist of the U.S.; Dr. Bell I. Wiley, Atlanta, Ga., and Conrad Service. All but Dr. Grover are members of the Central Park of the National Commission.

AIDS FOR ADVERTISERS is the title of a handy little booklet recently issued by the Committee on Advertising of the National Commission to provide some suggestions which may aid companies and their advertising agencies in coordinating their advertising and sales campaigns to take advantage of opportunities offered by Centennial observances. Kermit V. Sloan of The Curtis Publishing Company, chairman, recently received a letter from the National Better Business Bureau, Inc., that said: "We congratulate you for publishing this informative booklet. . . We think these guides should be very helpful to advertisers, advertising agencies and media."
Out of the great reenactment of the first battle of Manassas this summer may come a memorial that will benefit future as well as present generations. It is projected as a Civil War Hall of Fame, depicted at right by architect's drawing, a multi-million-dollar structure to be built on the battle site. Unlike any other existing museum, it will be a place where a person can sit down in a revolving chair and see the Civil War and its significance graphically unfolded around him.

Any profits made on the reenactment, scheduled to be staged in repeat performances July 22-23, will revert to the Hall of Fame.

Plans for the reenactment are well along. Gun carriages have been acquired at a cost of $35,000, horses at $12,000, and other items at proportionate expense. There will be no admission fee. Seats are still available through the First Manassas Corporation, 1129 Vermont Ave., N.W., Washington, D.C., at a charge of $4 for grandstand, $3.50 for bleachers, and $2.50 for chairs.

THE COAST AND GEODETIC SURVEY, known during the Civil War as the U. S. Coast Survey, is busily mapping its plans for participation in the Centennial. Newly published is a folder presenting a few of the colorful highlights of this agency's support of the military campaigns of the Sixties, as well as some of the projects it is considering as a part of its Centennial observance.

A SCHOOL FOUNDED BY UNION VETERANS in 1893 for their children and their dead comrades' children -- Scotland School for Veterans Children at Scotland, Pa. -- received an unusual Centennial memorial recently. It was a four-faced electric clock valued at $4,100 and presented by the Pennsylvania Department, Sons of Union Veterans, and its auxiliary. Colonel Lawrence M. Scarborough, deputy post commander of Carlisle Barracks and descendant of a Confederate veteran, was principal speaker for the occasion.

WASHINGTON IS AMONG THOSE STATES arranging early Centennial programs. At the request of the local camp of the Sons of Union Veterans and its auxiliary, the Governor arranged a special exercise at Olympia. After a three-gun salute was fired to the memory of the soldiers from that state who took part in the war, a rosying patriotic program, participated in by National Guard and American Legion color guards, was held in the rotunda of the Capitol.

A CIVIL WAR SPECIAL made up of modern air-conditioned coaches will leave Washington, D.C., and Alexandria, Va., via the R. F. & P. Railroad June 25 for a 57-mile tour of Seven Pines, Gaines Mill, Cold Harbor, Savage Station and other Peninsula Campaign battlefields. Passengers will change to buses at the Broad Street Station in Richmond.

A CONFEDERATE FLAG said to have been taken by troops of the Second Minnesota Regiment from Georgia soldiers during the 1864 invasion of that state has been returned. When Dr. Bell I. Wiley, National Commission member, spoke a few weeks ago at a banquet opening the Centennial in Minnesota, he was asked by John de Laittre, president of the Minnesota Historical Society, and Miss Anna Ramsey Furness, granddaughter of that state's Civil War Governor, to take the flag back to Governor S. Ernest Vandiver of Georgia. This was done with fitting ceremony.

THE FIRING ON FORT SUMTER was commemorated on the West Coast as well as the East Coast. The California Centennial Commission marked the anniversary with a simple retreat ceremony on the state's Capitol grounds in front of the Civil War Memorial Grove, an area dedicated to the Union dead.

B'NAI B'RITH has just published a handsome program guide to aid its lodges and chapters with their plans for participation in the Centennial observance. Included are such subjects as "Suggested Programs at Meetings," "Affiliation with State and Community Centennial Associations," and "Addresses for Inquiries and Information."

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA DIVISION, U. D. C., observed the Centennial recently by presenting complete sets of the organization's military crosses to the National War College at Fort Leslie McNair, the U. S. Marine Corps at Quantico, Va., and Georgetown University at Washington. In the presentation in the last instance, the crosses were given during the annual Military Day program, at which time tribute was paid to the 951 students from that institution who served during the war.
IOWA, already looking back on two successful Centennial commemorations, is centering attention on its annual State Fair the last of August and first of September. The theme this year will be the Centennial, and there will be special exhibits and special projects arranged through the assistance of the State Centennial Commission.

Recently the state held a special Iowa Day Commemoration at Vicksburg National Military Park to pay tribute to the memory of the Iowans who took part in that campaign. A few days later two buildings at Fort Des Moines, Iowa, were dedicated in the names of General Marcellus Crocker and Colonel James A. Williamson, Civil War leaders from Iowa.

YATES COUNTY, NEW YORK, one of the first areas in the state to arrange a Centennial program, has set an example for the rest of the nation. When the anniversary of the departure of the Keuka Rifles was observed at Penn Yan recently, under the sponsorship of the local Centennial Commission headed by Lyman H. Smith, the day was set aside by proclamation, store windows were appropriately decorated, and the occasion was a legal holiday.

PEEWEE VALLEY, the only locality in Kentucky to take note of the anniversary of Jefferson Davis' birth date last year, will do so again this year. The occasion June 3 will be marked by an address by Dr. Hambleton Tapp, chairman of the Kentucky Centennial Commission, by an open house, a cemetery program, and an evening program. As an additional feature, a bivouac will be set up by officers and men of the Headquarters, 13th Corps, Army of the Confederate States, Department of the West, all faculty members and students at Berea College, Berea, Ky.

THE VIRGINIA HISTORICAL SOCIETY has asked the State Centennial Commission to help in the recovery of historical manuscripts taken from Virginia during the Civil War, a step that coincides with the National Commission's hope of uncovering new records. As pointed out by Ralph Happel, park historian at the Fredericksburg National Military Park: "Even if original records were not brought back, scholars would benefit from knowledge of the existence and whereabouts of the material."

NORTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY will hold a Civil War Centennial symposium October 18-19. Major participants will include Bruce Catton, T. Harry Williams, David Donald and Charles P. Roland, all historians on the war era.

MISSISSIPPI, with Centennial events for 1961 scheduled in 25 of its towns and cities, is looking now to the programs within its borders for 1962. Localities have been asked to complete their plans for September 1. Meanwhile, inquiries from tourists, stimulated by thousands of copies of a calendar of commemorations distributed throughout the nation, have come in at such a rate that the total for the first four months of the year has exceeded that for all of last year.

In another ambitious step, the state has just brought about the publication of a multi-volume history entitled "Mississippi in the Confederacy." It was edited by John K. Bettersworth and James W. Silver.

OHIO IS PLANNING a two-day symposium on the theme of "The Ohio Valley in the Civil War" at the University of Cincinnati October 19-20. It will be sponsored by the Cincinnati Civil War Round Table of Cincinnati, Xavier University, Cincinnati and Hamilton County Public Library, and Historical and Philosophical Society of Ohio as a part of the state's observance of the Centennial.

GEORGIA'S HISTORICAL COMMISSION has erected 750 markers to pinpoint battles, skirmishes, cemeteries, hospitals, homes of leaders, and other sites of interest in that state. This is a part of its Centennial program that recently was highlighted by a reenactment at Savannah of the departure for Virginia of the Oglethorpe Light Infantry. A feature of the occasion was a recruiting office, with attendants in uniforms of the war period, at which volunteers for service in this unit were enrolled.

THE LABOR MOVEMENT, indebted to the Civil War era for much of its impetus, has been added to the supporters of the Centennial. By invitation from the National Commission, George Meany, president of the AFL-CIO, recently designated Stanton Smith, its coordinator of state and local groups, to serve as a member of the agency's National Advisory Council.

MICHIGAN has opened its Centennial with a statewide conference of civic, patriotic and historical groups at Detroit. The Governor, Mayor of the city, and Karl S. Betts, executive director of the National Commission, participated. As a special feature of the program, Floyd L. Haight, chairman of the State Commission, presented a plaque to the city to commemorate entry of the first Michigan regiment into the Federal service.

MISSOURI HAS ALREADY CHALKED UP one success on its Centennial records. It is the recent reenactment of the battle of Lexington in that state, one of the bloodiest of the early engagements. The fighting was restaged by Wentworth Military Academy Cadets, Army personnel and National Guard and R. O. T. C. units following a giant parade witnessed by thousands from many states.

OREGON, though far from the scene of Civil War battle action, has planned a lively Centennial program for this year. Already an exhibit has been opened in a store in Portland. This month a Civil War float will be entered in the annual Rose Parade in that city. In October a two-day observance at Baker will pay tribute to the memory of Colonel Edward Baker, resident of that state killed in the battle of Ball's Bluff, and supporting this and other programs will be a group called the Oregon Cannoneers formed to study the firearms used during the Civil War.
THE CIVIL WAR BOOK SHELF
(A Quarterly List of New Titles)

Prepared for the Civil War Centennial Commission
by

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Civil War History

GENERAL AND SPECIFIC STUDIES

Adamson, Hans Christian, Rebellion in Missouri (Chilton)
Angell, Paul M., ed., The Nation Divided (Fawcett reprint)
Baltimore during the Civil War (Peale Museum)
Bettersworth, John K., and Silver, James W., Mississippi in the Confederacy (2 vols., Louisiana State)
Campbell, Mary E., The Attitude of Tennesseans toward the Union, 1847-1861 (Vantage Press)
Crabb, Alfred L., Nashville: The Personality of a City (Bobbs-Merrill)
Eisenach, Otto, The Hidden Face of the Civil War (Bobbs-Merrill)
Gara, Larry, The Liberty Line: The Legend of the Underground Railroad (Kentucky)
Gibson, John M., Those 163 Days (Coward-McCann)
Harper, Robert S., Ohio Handbook of the Civil War (Ohio Civil War Centennial Commission)
Miers, Earl S., The American Civil War (Golden Press)
Rick, Estelle B., No More Muffled Hoof Beats (Dorrance)
Simpson, Harold B., Branding Brass—North and South (Texiana Press)
Schoen, Donald J., Two Flags Flying (Platt & Munk)
Stern, Philip Van Doren, Prologue to Stonewall (Indiana; Fawcett)
Woodford, Frank B., Father Abraham's Children (Wayne State)

BIOGRAPHIES

Davis, Charles S., Colin J. McRae: Confederate Financial Agent (Confederate Publishing Co.)
Dyer, John P., From Shiloh to San Juan (Louisiana State)
Life and Works of John Hay, The (Brown University Library)
Lowenfels, Walter, Walt Whitman's Civil War (Knopf)
Woodward, W. E., Meet General Grant (Fawcett reprint)

PERSONAL MEMOIRS, LETTERS, ETC.

Bell, John T., Tramps and Triumphs of the Second Iowa Infantry. Edited by Fleming Fraker, Jr. (Reprint; privately printed)
Higginson, T. W., Army Life in a Black Regiment. Edited by Howard M. Jones. (Michigan State reprint)
Putnam, Sally M., In Richmond during the Confederacy (McBride reprint)

LINCOLNIANA

Carpenter, Francis B., Six Months at the White House with Lincoln. Edited by John C. Freeman. (Century House)
Mearns, David, Largely Lincoln (St. Martin's Press)

FICTION

Delmar, Vina, The Big Family (Harcourt)
Divine, David, Thunder on the Chesapeake (Macmillan)
Honig, Donald, Walk Like a Man (Sloane)
Morrison, Gerry, Unsexed to the Sea (St. Martin's Press)

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