CIVIL WAR CENTENNIAL COMMISSION
700 JACKSON PLACE, N.W. WASHINGTON 6, D. C.

MONTHLY CHRONOLOGY FOR 1862

SIGNIFICANT EVENTS AS WAR DEVELOPS

May 2 — Newspapers announce the capture by Union General Burnside of Fort Macon, commanding the harbor of Beaufort, N. C.

May 4 — Gen. Winfield Scott predicts the war will be over by July 1, that by that time McClellan will have "completely subdued and driven the Rebels from the field."

May 4 — The Merrimack steams below Sewell's Point and remains in view until 4 p.m., but the Monitor fails to come out to meet her.

May 5 — President Lincoln, with Secretaries Stanton and Chase, proceeds by steamer to Hampton Roads to direct personally the stalled Peninsular Campaign.

May 9 — Gen. David Hunter proclaims martial law in Florida, Georgia and South Carolina and also that all slaves in those states are free, maintaining that martial law and slavery in a free country are incompatible. The press reports his action has caused a split in Lincoln's Cabinet and stirred the indignation of Lincoln himself.

May 10 — President Davis calls for a day of fasting and prayer in the South.

May 10 — Norfolk Navy Yard is set afire before being evacuated by Confederate forces in a general withdrawal up the peninsula to defend Richmond.

May 11 — The Merrimack is blown up by her crew to avoid capture.

May 15 — The Union's James River Flotilla, including the Monitor, attacks Drewry's Bluff and is forced to retire with ships badly damaged.

May 16 — Union fleet advancing up Mississippi River toward Vicksburg shells Grand Gulf, Miss.

May 19 — The Northern press reports Confederate treasury notes worth only 17 cents on the dollar.

May 19 — Lincoln issues proclamation denying the Federal Government authorized Hunter or any other commander to declare slaves of any state free and voiding the general's action. He cites his own recommendation to Congress in March that the Government cooperate with any state in the gradual abolition of slavery.

May 27 — Congressman Wadsworth of Kentucky declares during a debate in the House that, if the war is to be carried on over the emancipation of slaves, he will return to his home state and fight it out to the death against supporters of such a principle.

May 30 — Union General Halleck notifies the War Department that the Confederates have evacuated Corinth, Miss.

May 31 — Confederate forces, through errors in command, fail in attack at Fair Oaks and Seven Pines near Richmond. Their leader, Gen. Joseph E. Johnston, is wounded.

DELEGATES TO THE FIFTH NATIONAL ASSEMBLY of the Centennial Commission at Columbus, Ohio, this week will be asked to take part in assembling a penetrating assessment of the manner in which the nation now is observing the 100th anniversary of the Civil War.

With more than three years of observances still in the future, the National Commission wants to make sure America is fulfilling its solemn obligation to honor the deeds and the dead of the Civil War.

"Heritage compels us to make now a serious evaluation of both the war and its Centennial," says James L. Robertson, Jr., executive director of the Commission, in urging delegates to take an active part in discussions. Especially must we survey carefully what we have over-emphasized and what we have neglected in our treatment of that tragic era in our nation's growth.

"Through our discussions, and by earnest efforts, we hope we may take definite strides toward the real goal of this Centennial: a more united America -- bound together by the common cords of valor, pride and sacrifice willed to us by our forebears who were uniformed both in blue and in gray."

Unlike those of the past, which featured talks by individual speakers, this year's assembly will center around panel discussions aimed at bringing out individual thinking and an up-to-date appraisal of the national Centennial program as it has progressed up to the present. The theme will be the Civil War and its anniversary in the light of 100 years' perspective.
Those in attendance at the Fifth National Assembly of the Centennial Commission at Columbus, Ohio, May 4-5, will have a chance to view at close range the famous railroad engine "The General" that brought the Andrews Raiders into the headlines after "The Great Locomotive Chase" a century ago. It will remain on exhibit throughout the two-day meeting.

Renovated by the L. & N. Railroad, "The General" last month repeated the historic run from Atlanta to Chattanooga, bearing such dignitaries as railroad presidents, state governors, and members of Centennial commissions. Special services were held en route at Big Shanty, Calhoun, Adairsville, Ringgold, and Chattanooga.

As the engine sped along, pulling a remodeled passenger car, 175,000 spectators lined the tracks between the two terminals. In spite of the immense crowds, it pulled into Chattanooga only five minutes behind schedule.

'BEAUVOIR,' the last home of Jefferson Davis, will be the scene of commemorative ceremonies May 12. The program, arranged under the direction of the Gulfport Civil War Centennial Commission, in cooperation with the Mississippi Division of the Sons of Confederate Veterans and the cities of Biloxi, Gulfport, Long Beach and Pass Christian, will include an open air ceremony on the grounds at 2 p.m. and a dinner at the Broadwater Beach Hotel at 7:30 p.m.

THE PEA RIDGE MEMORIAL ASSOCIATION OF ARKANSAS is pursuing an ambitious program of marking sites such as Elm Springs, Cross Hollows, Lindseys Prairie and Bentonville in the area surrounding the battlefield. The drive is financed through voluntary donations, each contribution of a dollar or more entitling the giver to life membership in the association.

THE BATTLE OF HANOVER, PA., fought June 30, 1863, will be described in complete and authentic detail in a book now in preparation under the direction of a special committee of the Hanover Chamber of Commerce. The volume, to contain 160 pages and many illustrations, will be published to coincide with the centennial of the battle.

THE ADDRESS BY CARL SANDBURG delivered at the formal opening of the Library of Congress Civil War Centennial exhibit has been published in a limited edition of 1,000 copies. They are available at the Library at $3 each.

WINCHESTER, VA., which changed hands many times during the war, will reenact on May 26-27 the first battle fought there on May 25, 1862, by the forces of Union General Banks and Confederate General Stonewall Jackson. Participants will be garbed in blue and gray uniforms.

A GRANITE MONUMENT MARKING THE POSITION held by the First Delaware Regiment at the battle of Antietam will be presented the National Park Service on the site of the bloody contest May 26. The presentation will be made to Conrad L. Wirth, Park Service director, by Delaware's Governor Elbert N. Carvel. Maj. Gen. Joseph J. Scannell, state adjutant general, will be the principal speaker.

FORT DARLING ON DREWRY'S BLUFF BELOW RICHMOND, scene of a battle against the Monitor and other Union vessels in 1862, will be dedicated with fitting ceremonies May 12. Land around the fort, now undergoing restoration by the National Park Service, has been acquired and donated by Chesterfield County, in which it lies.

THE SACRAMENTO CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE, closing its first year of activity, wants to help other Round Tables get started in northern and central California cities. Merle Hussong, 1956 Fifth Avenue, Sacramento, is president. Its aim is to make the public realize what an important role that state played in the war.

THE 'MEET THE PROFESSOR' TV PROGRAM will have as its guest at 2:30 p.m., May 6, Dr. Bell I. Wiley, history professor, author and National Commission member.

SPECIAL BARS WITH THE WORDING 'CIVIL WAR CENTENNIAL' will be attached to medals the Daughters of the Union Veterans of the Civil War in Illinois plan to present on Honors Day at the University of Illinois, Champaign, May 4, and at Northwestern University, Evanston, May 31.

A DRIVE TO PRESERVE THE SITE OF A REBEL ARMORY, first to produce a gun under contract for the Confederacy, now is under way at Holly Springs, Miss. It is headed by Wilson Golden, Jr., Mahon Jones, Jr., and Frank Greer, who are now trying to raise $1,500 with which to buy six acres on which are located the main points of interest.

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