MONTHLY CHRONOLOGY FOR 1863

Jan. 1 - Galveston, Texas, with its garrison of 300 Federals, is recaptured by Confederates under Gen. John Magruder, aided by two steamers, the Bayou City and Neptune. The U.S.S. Harriet Lane is taken after a severe fight in which her commander, Jonathan Wainwright, is killed. The Federal flagship, Westfield, set afire to prevent her capture, explodes prematurely, killing her commander, W.B. Renshaw, and part of her crew.

Jan. 1 - President Lincoln issues a formal Emancipation Proclamation freeing all slaves in the seceded states. He urges the slaves to abstain from violence except in self-defense and says those of suitable condition will be received into the armed service to garrison forts and man vessels.

Jan. 4 - In sideline action in the Vicksburg campaign, Union troops under McClernand and gunboats under Admiral David Porter storm and capture Arkansas Post (Fort Hindman).

Jan. 5 - President Davis, newly returned from addressing the Mississippi Legislature, is serenaded by Richmonders at the White House of the Confederacy. In a brief appearance, he says he is happy to be back at the seat of a government established to perpetuate the principles that "animated our fathers of the first revolution."

Jan. 11 - The U.S.S. Hatteras is sunk off Galveston, Texas, by the C.S.S. Alabama under Raphael Semmes.

Jan. 14 - Four Union gunboats under Lt. Comdr. Thomas McKean Buchanan attack the C.S.S. J.A. Cotton at Bayou Teche, La., in a battle in which Buchanan and one of the South's best naval fighters, Lt. H.K. Stevens, are killed and the Cotton is burned.

Jan. 15 - Reports the New York Times: "The only information we have from the Army of the Potomac is that the Rebels were yesterday strengthening and extending their defenses."

Jan. 15 - The Northern press announces that the Confederates have completed a formidable ram at Little Rock, Ark., that may take advantage of high water to make a dash upon Union vessels.

Jan. 16 - The C.S.S. Florida, Captain John Maffitt, shut up at Mobile since September, escapes to sea in the early-morning darkness.


Jan. 19 - In a message to Congress, Lincoln announces he has signed a joint resolution authorizing the additional issue of $100 million in Treasury notes to carry on the war. Deploping the necessity of so large an issue, he urges the adoption of some plan to avoid further inflation.

Jan. 22 - Burnside winds up "Mud March" at Fredericksburg after rains bog down his army and make further progress impossible.

Jan. 26 - Hooker replaces Burnside as commander of the Army of the Potomac. It is announced that Burnside was relieved of command at his own request.

Jan. 30 - The U.S.S. Isaac Smith, patrolling in the Stono River in South Carolina, is damaged by gunfire from shore and captured.

Jan. 31 - Two ironclads built in the city of Charleston, S.C., the Palmetto State and Chicora, steam out against the blockade at that point and drive the Federal Squadron to sea.

SIX PANEL DISCUSSIONS revolving around the theme "The Far-Reaching War" will be featured at the sixth annual assembly of the National Civil War Centennial Commission.

This James I. Robertson, Jr., executive director, announced on his recent return from Boston, Mass., where the three-day meeting will be held at the Parker House May 22-24. While there he conferred with local committees making arrangements for the three-day meeting and reports that plans are progressing satisfactorily.

Panel leaders will be announced later. This is the schedule of subjects tentatively chosen:

May 22 -- "Civil War Medicine" and "The Role of New England Governors in the Civil War."

May 23 -- "Outstanding State Contributions to the Centennial" and "Civil War Women."

May 24 -- "A Civil War Book: From Conception to Consumption" and "Music of the 1860's."

Dinners will be held on the opening and closing nights in the Roof Ballroom of the hotel.
HARPER SUCCUMBS TO ILLNESS

The Ohio Centennial Commission's staff executive and the Ohio Historical Society's editorial consultant and secretary, Robert S. Harper, died Dec. 5 after a brief illness.

A native of Greensfield, Ohio, he served as a private in World War I and as a war correspondent in World War II. Several distinguished awards had been received by him for his writings on both Abraham Lincoln and the Civil War. Included in his journalistic career were jobs as a reporter and editor on both New York and Ohio newspapers.

His work with the Historical Society began in 1951, at which time he served as public relations director for the Ohio Sesquicentennial. He was one of the leaders in making arrangements for the National Assembly at Columbus, Ohio, last year.

'JOHNNY SHILOH,' a two-part drama based on the book of that name by James A. Rhodes and Dean Jauchius, will be given on Walt Disney's "Wonderful World of Color" show on television Jan. 20 and 27. The cast will include Brian Keith, Kevin Corcoran, Eddie Hodges, Darryl Hickman, G. V. Homeier, Edward Platt, Regis Toomey and Rickie Sorensen.

A CIVIL WAR THEME, with emphasis on stamps of the war period, has been chosen for the next International Stamp Exhibition Show at the Statler Hilton Hotel in New York City March 22-24. In addition to a large display of philatelic material, exhibits will include cannon, flags, rifles, tents, historical documents, maps, letters and many other items. The stamps will be arranged in cooperation with the Civil War Philatelic Society.

MEMBERS OF BOY SCOUT TROOP 670, Box 329, Manassas, Va., still have about 2,000 maps they would like to sell in order to raise money for a projected trip to a Scout ranch in New Mexico. The map covers the area of both campaigns of Manassas (Bull Run). The price is $1.50 per copy, or $2.50 if autographed by the artist, Harry J. Bausili.

WISCONSIN'S CENTENNIAL COMMISSION has set up a grants-in-aid program to encourage contributions and understanding through historical research, editing, or compilation. Grants will range up to $500 each, and are intended to defray travel, clerical and other expenses incidental to a research project. Qualified manuscripts produced with their assistance will be published by the Commission.

THE COMMON SOLDIER


The Library's collection now includes around 10,000 photographs of all kinds relating to the Civil War. A unique part of it is the tintype or ambrotype, the kind usually chosen by the common soldier. These are rare because, unlike the negatives used by Brady, no prints could be made from them.

This collection has been assembled under the direction of Hirst B. Milbollen, who has been with the Library 37 years. Persons with interesting photographs of this type which can be identified are asked to get in touch with the National Centennial Commission.
A DEDICATED MAN

Dr. Chester D. Bradley, shown here in the Casemate Museum at Fort Monroe, Va., became so interested in his work as its curator that he gave up a busy practice as an obstetrician at Newport News to devote more time to his work.

A native of Indiana reared in Chicago, he originated the idea of the museum, a part of the fort formerly used as living quarters for Army personnel, a number of years ago. A 30 per cent increase in visitors was recorded there during 1962.

One of these visitors was Captain Mikael M.W. Woblin of the Royal Swedish Army, who brought an official greeting to Fort Monroe from the officers of the old regiment of John Ericsson, designer of the Monitor that fought the Merrimack nearby in Hampton Roads.

CARLISLE, PA., visited by Confederate troops under Jeb Stuart during the stirring Gettysburg campaign in the summer of '63, will commemorate the occasion with a week-long centennial observance next June 23-30.

Included in the ceremonies will be a pageant, street parade, perhaps a reenactment of the shelling of the town, exhibits of Civil War relics from Carlisle homes, tours of historic sites, and religious services. A committee representing a cross-section of the citizenry and sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce and Tourists Bureau already is at work on plans.

DELWARE'S ROLE IN THE CIVIL WAR is reviewed in a 48-page booklet that has just been published by that state's Centennial Commission. Edited by W. Emerson Wilson, it has appeared in a limited edition distributed primarily among state agencies, but plans are under way to revise and reprint it at some future date.

THREE BOOKLETS OF MAJOR INTEREST to followers of developments in American history during the five-year period of the Civil War period are now available without charge at the National Centennial Commission.

They are (1) "Emancipation Centennial, 1962"; (2) "The Origins of the Land-Grant Colleges and State Universities," and (3) "Free Homesteads for All Americans," the last of these a discussion of the Homestead Act that drew so many families toward the West. Bulk quantities of each pamphlet will be sent upon request to official organizations.

FORT FISHER RESTORATION

Tourists and Civil War buffs are finding their way more frequently these days to the point along the Cape Fear River of North Carolina where the Confederates made one of their last stands, manning Fort Fisher on the way to Wilmington until its surrender in January, 1865.

The fort now is being restored through efforts of the North Carolina State Department of Archives and History. A.L. Hunnicutt, historic sites specialist in charge of the project, reports 160,000 visitors have appeared there since last March.

In the upper photo are six mounds used as powder magazines and bomb proofs, and as emplacements for eight heavy guns. The lower scene is from a room of the new museum recently erected there to display Civil War artifacts, including items taken from the Modern Greece, blockade runner sunk nearby during the summer of 1862.
RENO'S BURIAL

The item in the December 100 YEARS AFTER regarding the five-year gap between the death of Gen. Jesse L. Reno and his burial in 1867 has brought suggestions from many sources, some of them such veteran Civil War sleuths as Boyd B. Stutler, Charleston, W.Va., Preston S. Lincoln, Boston, Mass., T.R. Hay, Locust Valley, N.Y., Harry L. Decker, Hagerstown, Md., and John Winters and Col. Gay Seabourne of Washington, D. C.

From the information at hand, it appears that the general's body was embalmed at Baltimore and then was taken to Boston, Mass., where his wife and family were staying. Funeral services were held there on Sept. 19. The Boston Post of the 20th has this information: "At the close of the service, all present were permitted to view the body, and subsequently the coffin was deposited in the tomb beneath the Trinity Church on Summer Street, where it will remain till a permanent place of sepulture shall be obtained for it."

Mrs. Reno, a Washingtonian, later purchased a burial lot in Oak Hill Cemetery in Georgetown. She is buried beside her husband.

THE SOUTHERN HISTORICAL SOCIETY PAPERS, long a rich source of information concerning the Civil War, are to get what all people who have used them agree is their greatest need -- an index.

The project will be sponsored by the Richmond (Va.) Civil War Centennial Committee. J. Ambler Johnston, its chairman, announced that a group has been formed to undertake the work. Included are George F. Markham, Jr., Oconomowoc, Wis., who will do the actual indexing; E. B. Long and Ralph G. Newman, both of Chicago, and Robert W. Waitt, Jr., Richmond.

The papers are now in the possession of the Virginia Historical Society. When completed, the index will be published in book form with more than 300,000 index references. Publication is scheduled for June, 1965.

THE TAGS, NAME CARDS AND RIBBONS WORN BY CONFEDERATE VETERANS for purposes of identification or reunions in bygone years are sought by Riley W. Gunter, historian of the Nathan Bedford Forrest Camp No. 215, Sons of Confederate Veterans, 3364 Berea Road, Memphis, Tenn.

He is also seeking one of the Southern Crosses of Honor awarded veterans by the United Daughters of the Confederacy.

Items located by him will be added to a public collection that already has been shown at many Centennial gatherings.

STONEWALL'S FRIEND

Jay Winston Johns, the 74-year-old, transplanted Yankee from Pittsburgh who has spent many years building a memorial to the South's great leader, Stonewall Jackson, was the subject of a Sunday magazine article in the Washington Evening Star of Dec. 16.

An indefatigable worker who has not once backed off from his goal because of blindness and partial deafness, Mr. Johns' dream calls for a living memorial to Stonewall provided through contributions from the public. Already the Stonewall Jackson Memorial, Inc., which he heads, has raised more than $300,000.

A resident of Charlottesville, Va., he is shown here in the hallways of Jackson's headquarters at Winchester, Va., which the Memorial has bought and is restoring. It also owns the old Jackson home at Lexington, Va., and hundreds of acres of land on three battlefield sites that figured in Stonewall's valley campaign. The museums he has set up are open to the public without charge.