MONTHLY CHRONOLOGY FOR 1863

April 1 – Admiral Farragut’s vessels proceed to mouth of Red River to blockade that stream – after losing the ram Lancaster to Confederate guns in an effort to get her past Vicksburg.

April 2 – U.S. gunboat St. Clair is disabled by Confederates above Fort Donelson on the Cumberland River.

April 6 – U.S. Senate Committee on the Conduct of the War, appointed in ’61, issues a voluminous report, barring facts, the New York Times says, “that show the President to be, as a military man, infinitely Gen. McClellan’s superior.”

April 7 – As predicted by Rear Admiral S. F. du Pont, commanding the Union fleet blockading Charleston, S.C., nine Federal ironclads fail in an attack on Fort Sumter.

April 7 – From headquarters of the Army of the Potomac is issued this report: “There are indications... that the enemy on the opposite side of the river (Rappahannock) are in possession of information from some point unfavorable to their cause. They are unusually careful to prevent any of their papers from getting into our lines.”

April 10 – In a message to the people, President Jefferson Davis calls on them to produce more grain and livestock, or “the consequences may prove serious, if not disastrous.”

April 12 – Gen. Banks starts a move along the west bank of the Mississippi in the vicinity of Ft. Biesland, La., designed to turn the Port Hudson defenses and envelop Confederates under Gen. Dick Taylor, but, by a skillful maneuver, the Southerners manage to escape.

April 13 – Union Gen. Stoneman leaves Falmouth, Va., near Fredericksburg, with 10,000 men to raid Lee’s lines of communication, but bad weather delays the movement more than two weeks, destroying its effectiveness.

April 14 – The U.S.S. Queen of the West, captured by the Confederates in February, is sunk by the Union sidewheeler Calhoun in Grand Lake between the Red River and Gulf of Mexico.

April 16 – Admiral David D. Porter gets 11 gunboats and transports past the Vicksburg batteries to join Gen. Grant at Hard Times, La. All vessels are hit repeatedly, and a twelfth, a transport, is sunk without loss of life.

April 17 – Col. Benjamin H. Grierson, to divert attention from Grant’s crossing of the Mississippi below Vicksburg, starts from Memphis on a 600-mile, 16-day raid through several states described as “one of the most brilliant cavalry exploits of the war.”

April 19 – Gen. Hooker makes a hurried trip to Aqua Creek for a four-hour conference with Lincoln, Halleck and Stanton. The armies around Fredericksburg, meanwhile, are held motionless by two bad storms within a week.

April 22 – Six Union transports and 12 barges managed to get past the guns at Vicksburg.

April 26 – Confederate shore batteries at Duck River Shoals on the Tennessee River are silenced by Union gunboats.

April 26 – Porter’s fleet starts bombardment of Confederate works in Grand Gulf, Miss.

April 27 – A report reaches Washington that Hooker’s army is in motion. Comments the press: “If it is true, the public will soon know it.”

April 28 – Washington’s National Intelligencer announces that Hooker ordered a movement on the 27th and that “at sunrise heavy masses of artillery and other troops” were crossing the Rappahannock.

April 30 – Hooker issues this notice from his headquarters: “It is with heartfelt satisfaction that the General Commanding announces to the army that the operations of the last three days have determined that our enemy must ingloriously fly, or come out from behind their defenses and give us battle on our own ground, where certain destruction awaits him.”
Meanwhile, three more names were added to the list of panelists who will take part in a discussion of "Outstanding State Contributions to the Centennial." They are the Hon. John D. Holland, mayor of Vicksburg and chairman of the Mississippi Commission, who will discuss the Vicksburg program planned for July; Louis M. Simon, executive secretary of the Gettysburg Centennial Commission, who will outline the July plans for his area, and Erwin C. Zepp, who will talk on the U. S. Grant Papers. Another who will appear in this group is Norman C. Larson, executive director of the North Carolina Commission.

In addition to Prof. Richard Hathaway, Bowdoin College of Maine, the panel on "The Role of Maine Governors in the Civil War" will include Dr. Richard Wood, Vermont Historical Society; Dr. J. Duane Squires, Colby Junior College, New Hampshire, and Dr. Kenneth Bernard, Boston University.

David J. Harkness of the University of Tennessee has accepted an invitation to appear on the panel discussing "Civil War Women."

**ROBERTSON GETS AWARD**

James I. Robertson, Jr., executive director of the National Commission, was presented the 1962 Harry S. Truman Award at recent ceremonies in Kansas City.

The award, a bronze and mahogany plaque, is given annually by the Kansas City Civil War Round Table "for meritorious service in the field of Civil War history." The presentation was made by Dr. Bert E. Maybee on behalf of ex-President Truman, who could not be present.

The ceremonies took place at a banquet at which the executive director was principal speaker. More than 150 persons attended.

**HAMmINGTON COUNTY, INDIANA, is conducting a survey through its Centennial Committee to determine the names of all Civil War veterans buried within its borders. If present plans are carried out, markers will be placed on all of those not presently identified.**

**EMANCIPATION PROCLAMATION FACSIMILE**

A facsimile of the Emancipation Proclamation, shown here being examined by two visitors at National Archives, where it is on display, now is available to the public in commemoration of the 100th anniversary of its signing by President Lincoln on Jan. 1, 1863.

As pictured in the inset, the facsimile is in the exact size of the original, is on fine-quality paper, and includes a one-page history of the famous document.

Copies may be obtained at 50 cents each from the National Archives Building, Pennsylvania Avenue and Seventh Street N.W., or by ordering from the National Archives and Records Service, General Services Administration, Washington 25, D. C.
CHANCELLORSVILLE DEDICATION

The new visitor center shown here, built on the Chancellorsville battlefield 10 miles from Fredericksburg and near the site where Stonewall Jackson was mortally wounded May 2, 1863, will be dedicated and formally opened at ceremonies at 2:30 p.m. May 5.

James I. Robertson, Jr., executive director of the National Commission, will be the principal speaker. Conrad L. Wirth, director of the National Park Service, will serve as master of ceremonies.

The center was built as a part of the National Park Service's Mission 66 program. Exhibits beneath its roof include dioramas, audiovisual devices, cases, and panels interpreting the battle of Chancellorsville and furnishing introductions to the Wilderness and Spotsylvania Court House campaigns.

OKLAHOMA'S CENTENNIAL COMMISSION has prepared a full-color map of Civil War activities in the Indian Territory. Twenty-nine combat sites, as well as 49 related installations, most of them identified for the first time, are included. The map is the work of Muriel H. Wright, editor of "The Chronicles of Oklahoma," and LeRoy H. Fischer, professor of history at Oklahoma State University. Copies are available without cost from the Planning Division, Oklahoma Department of Highways, Jim Thorpe Building, Oklahoma City 5, Oklahoma. Flat copies for display purposes will be sent if requested.

PHOTOGRAPHY UPSETS LEGEND

This picture made on the campus of West Point is on display at the Gamble Mansion, a museum at Ellenton, Fla. It was presented the U.D.C. by Mrs. Louisa B. Bartlett of Leesburg, Fla., a relative of W.H.C. Barlett, who was an instructor at West Point.

Legend identifies the young man on the right in white pants as Robert E. Lee, but authorities familiar with the development of photography say this could not be true. They point out that Lee was graduated from West Point in 1829, while the daguerrotype was not perfected until 1839, and wet plates did not come into use until 1855.

Added to this is information from West Point that detailed examination of the uniforms worn by the individuals in the photograph shows that they were of a type not worn before the Civil War. This was especially true, it is pointed out, of the kepi.

A SPECIAL CIVIL WAR PANEL has been arranged as a feature at the opening of a new library at Wantaugh, N. Y., April 24. Members will include Dr. Myron H. Luke, professor of history at Hofstra College; William K. Kaiser, of the Hofstra Alumni Association; Edward Smitz, director of the Nassau County (N. Y.) Museum, and Arnold Gates, secretary-treasurer of the New York Civil War Round Table. Arthur L. Hodges, chairman of the Nassau County Civil War Centennial Committee, will be moderator.

PRESENTATION TO GOVERNOR

The Massachusetts Civil War Centennial Commission recently presented Governor Endicott Peabody of that state with a copy of its latest publication — Volume 3 of the "Massachusetts in the Civil War" series.

The new volume, written by Dr. Edward W. Ellsworth of Wheelock College and entitled "A Year of Crisis, 1862-63," has a preface by the Governor. It is intended for use in junior and senior high schools of the state as a supplement to history textbooks.

Shown here with the Governor, second from left, are, left to right, Dr. Ellsworth, Dr. George D. Blackwood, Boston University, and Dr. Thomas H. O'Connor, Boston College, the latter of whom, with Dr. Jordan Fiore of Bridgewater State College, wrote the two previous volumes of the series.
THE CONFEDERATE HIGH COMMAND, according to its general-in-chief, Donald A. Ramsay, Jr., of Nashville, Tenn., has named Col. Daniel Francis Clancy of Columbus, Ohio, as "the outstanding Northerner of the Civil War Centennial," citing him for "distinguished, decisive Centennial leadership." Col. Clancy organized and commands the Buckeye Blues Brigade, made up of the First and Nineteenth Regiments of the Ohio Sons of Union Veterans Reserve, a unit that has participated in parades and battle reenactments in several states.

NEW JERSEY’S GOVERNOR RICHARD J. HUGHES has proclaimed a statewide commemoration of the Emancipation Proclamation. Formal ceremonies were held in his office March 20, at which time he also named a citizens committee to work with the Centennial Commission of that state in planning an appropriate observance. "The best commemoration lies not in what we say today but in what we do in the days and months ahead to complete the work begun by Lincoln," the Governor said.

A BOUND BOOK CONTAINING REPRODUCTIONS of card entries pertaining to the Civil War in that area has been prepared as a part of its Centennial observance by the Milwaukee Public Library. The card entries were taken from the Milwaukee Sentinel Index, earliest of the local papers in continuous publication, and were prepared under the old WPA program. Copies of the book can be obtained from the Central Library, Milwaukee, Wis., for $2.50, plus 20 cents postage.

A SPECIAL EXHIBIT BROCHURE prepared in connection with the Medal of Honor centennial in Illinois by the Midwestern Orders and Medals Society is available to the public. Copies may be obtained by sending 10 cents in coin or stamps for mailing costs to Gary C. Krug, 502 N. Waiola Ave., La Grange Park, Ill., chairman.