MONTHLY CHRONOLOGY FOR 1863

May 2 - In a surprise move, Lee sends Jackson on a sweep around the Federal right at Chancellorsville that rolls Howard's corps back with great confusion and heavy losses. While organizing a night attack, Stonewall is accidentally wounded by his own men.

May 3 - Jeb Stuart, taking command of Jackson's corps, launches a vigorous attack at dawn. Hooker, badly confused, is put temporarily out of action by the concussion of a shell while drawing back to a stronger defensive position. Lee, seeing that Sedgwick has broken through the lines on Marye's Heights at Fredericksburg, leaves Stuart to hold Hooker's forces and goes to reinforce Early in driving the Federals back from the town.

May 3 - Southerners at Grand Gulf, Miss., finding their position totally untenable, evacuate that town in the face of a fleet of gunboats under Admiral David D. Porter.

May 4 - Lee writes Jackson: "I have just received your note informing me that you were wounded ... Could I have directed events, I should have chosen for the good of the country to have disabled in your stead..." This is copied in Northern newspapers May 14, along with announcement of Jackson's death May 10.

May 7 - Adm. Porter, pushing his drive inland, takes possession of Alexandria, La.

May 7 - Lee issues a congratulatory order to his men citing the victory at Chancellorsville and urging them to unite on Sunday "in ascribing to the Lord of Hosts the glory due His name."

May 8 - A Union mortar flotilla opens a steady bombardment of Port Hudson, La.

May 9 - As Hooker withdraws to the north of the Rappahannock, a clamor for the recall of McClellan gets louder. Comments the New York Times: "We can tell the imps of action who are shrieking for the restoration of McClellan that their wind is wasted. The thing cannot and will not be done. The Government has not lost its memory, nor the people their senses."

May 11 - Jackson's body arrives in Richmond and is taken to the Governor's Mansion to await funeral services on the 12th.

May 18 - Southerners evacuate Haynes Bluff as Union troops and gunboats tighten the siege of Vicksburg.

May 21 - Federal troops and gunboats begin siege of Port Hudson, an important point on the Mississippi River.

May 21 - Yazoo City, Miss., is evacuated by the Confederates as Union gunboats push up the Yazoo River from Haynes Bluff.

May 23 - The Richmond Examiner, hinting at a probable invasion of the North, states: "There is really no reason for panic about Vicksburg. Whatever may be the result of the military operations around it, their interest will soon be eclipsed by far greater events elsewhere."

May 24 - Austin, Miss., is burned by Union troops under Brig. Gen. A. W. Ellet after a two-hour fight with Confederate cavalry.

May 26 - Northern newspapers announce that Grant's army is within one mile of the Vicksburg courthouse and that 6,000 Confederates already have been captured.

May 27 - The C.S.S. Chattahoochee is accidentally sunk with "terrible loss" of life by an explosion of her boilers.

May 27 - The U.S. gunboat Cincinnati is sunk by Confederate batteries at Vicksburg and 35 of her crew are killed and wounded.

May 30 - The U.S. Commissioner of Internal Revenue announces that the tax on incomes, levied to cover the heavy cost of war, must be assessed and paid in the district in which the assessed person resides, or where he votes.

May 30 - Mosby's guerrillas, armed with a little mountain howitzer, intercept a Union supply train at Catlett's Station on the Orange and Alexandria Railroad, only a few miles from Washington, and destroy the locomotive and 12 cars.

EVERY GOVERNOR IN THE NATION has been invited to take part in the sixth annual assembly of the National Civil War Centennial Commission at the Parker House in Boston May 22-24. In a letter recently mailed out from his office, Governor Endicott Peabody of Massachusetts wrote his fellow Chief Executives that he "heartily" joined with the Centennial Commission in urging their attendance.

"Massachusetts is honored," he said, "to be the site of this nationwide gathering. Here is a splendid opportunity to further the high purpose of the Centennial commemoration of a tragic event -- to enrich our sense of history, to honor our common heritage, and to reaffirm our nation's unity. It is in this spirit that I extend to you a warm and cordial invitation to the assembly."
The Governor expressed the hope that representatives of civic, educational and historical organizations throughout Massachusetts also will be in attendance.

Meanwhile, it was announced that plans for a panel on the subject "Music of the 1860's" have been canceled and that the period set aside for it, the afternoon of Friday, May 24, will be devoted to a boat ride for delegates to Fort Warren, a Civil War prison in Boston Harbor.

Other panels will stand as originally announced.

Added to the list of those who will participate are Dr. Jordan D. Fiore, Massachusetts State College Bridgewater, who will discuss "The Role of Rhode Island Governors in the Civil War," and Dr. Richard B. Stark, New York City, whose topic will be "Surgical Practices in the Confederate Army."

WEYMOUTH, MASS., realizing the value of experience, is willing to share some of the recently gained in staging a two-day Centennial commemoration. The affair, made up of displays, exhibits, demonstrations, lectures, and motion pictures, was such a success that its sponsors have offered to pass along the methods employed in arranging it. Interested persons should write Chester Kevitt, Curator, Weymouth Historical Society, 37 South Diersch Street, East Weymouth, Mass.

TENNESSEE, according to the executive director of its Centennial Commission, Col. Campbell H. Brown, is planning three commemorations for this year.

The first of these will come on July 6 in the form of a motorcade recalling the Chattanooga campaign. It will move from Beech Grove, where the first contact between hostile forces occurred, to Sewanee, scene of the last contact.

On Sept. 19, the battle of Chickamauga will be commemorated. This date is one day before the centennial of the conflict and was chosen at the suggestion of the Georgia Commission, which will arrange a program for the following day. Tennessee plans to place at the monument to troops from that state in Chickamauga Park wreaths representing each of the 66 units that took part.

The battle of Missionary Ridge will be commemorated in a somewhat unique manner. As was done by the Williamson County Committee in recalling the battle of Thompson's Station on March 17, selected students in the county high school will give brief talks identifying local landmarks with the action.

PARK SERVICE DIRECTOR HONORED

The Gold Medal Award of the District of Columbia Civil War Round Table, given annually as a tribute for special efforts to stimulate interest in the Civil War, recently was presented to Conrad L. Wirth, director of the National Park Service and a member of the National Centennial Commission.

The presentation was made by Maj. Gen. U.S. Grant, III, right, shown here just after he had bestowed the medal upon the director.

Mr. Wirth was recognized for his work in preserving Civil War battlefields through the Mission 66 program launched by the Park Service several years ago, and especially for timing project completions so as to coincide with anniversary battle dates of the areas involved, thus cooperating with the national Centennial observance.
PLANS TO PUBLISH THE JEFFERSON DAVIS PAPERS under sponsorship of the National Commission got full support from the Confederate State Conference at its annual meeting at Wilmington, N. C., recently.

Under the director of its chairman, the Hon. John A. May of Aiken, S. C., the Conference resolved that each of the Southern states should try to raise a minimum of $500 each toward the publication expense.

"This splendid action by the Southern States," commented James I. Robertson, Jr., executive director of the National Commission, "is indicative not only of their concerted efforts toward a lasting Centennial, but also is a most commendable step toward perpetuating the man who more than anyone else was the living embodiment of the Confederacy. The National Commission feels a great sense of indebtedness and gratitude to the Southern states for this action."

INDIANA WILL OPEN AN EXHIBIT of field sketches, drawings and watercolors telling the story of the 32nd Indiana Volunteers in the Sheldon Swope Art Gallery at Terre Haute May 12.

This collection of more than 100 items was the work of Capt. Adolf Metzner, a pharmacist who came to this country from Germany just prior to the war. His regiment, made up entirely of Germans, saw action in Kentucky, Tennessee, Alabama, Georgia and Tennessee. Carl A. Zenor, of the Indiana Centennial Commission, will speak at the opening of the exhibit. It will be open to the public each week day afternoon through June.

THE BUTTERNUT RIDGE MEMORIAL ASSOCIATION of Lorain County, Ohio, will stage a program commemorating the Emancipation Proclamation and Lincoln's Gettysburg Address at the Butternut Ridge Cemetery at Eaton Township at 2:30 p. m. May 26. This will be the fourth annual Centennial ceremony it has arranged.

FORT DELAWARE, a Civil War prison camp on Peapatch Island near Delaware City, Del., will be the scene of a sham battle at 1:30 p. m. June 9. More than 200 members of the North-South Skirmish Association, including Northern units from Delaware and Pennsylvania and Southern units from Maryland and Pennsylvania, will take part.

Interested persons are asked to contact Peter Geldof, Superintendent of State Parks, 3300 Faulkland Road, Wilmington, Del.

LEE'S CITIZENSHIP

The question as to whether Confederate General Robert E. Lee died without having his full citizenship rights restored is still in the news.

Recently Congressman James H. Quillen, Republican of Tennessee, introduced a bill that would restore full citizenship. Virginia Senator Harry F. Byrd, an honorary Confederate colonel, indicated there is evidence to support the contention that Lee's rights were never actually taken away.

Members of the Confederate High Command have been urging their respective congressmen to press for some kind of expression from Congress regarding Lee's citizenship to be made public at the Centennial observance of the battle of Gettysburg in July.
WHERE FARRAGUT FOUGHT

These scenes indicate the degree of progress made in restoring Fort Jackson, the Confederate stronghold on the Mississippi from which Southerners battled Farragut's Union fleet in his advance on New Orleans in the spring of 1862.

More than $200,000 was spent by the Parish of Plaquemine in restoring the fort. It can be reached by crossing the new Mississippi River bridge at New Orleans and following Louisiana State Highway 23. No admission is charged.

THE HOME WHERE LEE STAYED during the months immediately after the surrender, "Derwent," is to be restored by the Stonewall Jackson Memorial, Inc. Its chairman, Jay W. Johns of Charlottesville, Va., is interested in getting letters, or copies of letters, written from the old home by Lee while he was staying there.

THE JEWISH WAR VETERANS have given notice that they will co-sponsor appropriate Centennial observances and ceremonies throughout the country. As soon as details are completed, posts will be notified and members urged to participate in the events in their respective areas.

This information by regions already is available:
First and Second, Cypress Cemetery, Brooklyn, N. Y., date to be selected; Third, Pennsylvania Monument, Gettysburg, Pa., June 23; Fourth, Esquiline Cemetery, Columbus, Ga., May 19; Fifth, Chicago Hebrew Benevolent Association Cemetery, Chicago, date to be selected; Sixth, San Francisco, date and place to be selected.

MORGAN'S FAMOUS OHIO RAID of a century ago will be recalled with a boat trip, barbecue and other ceremonies in a program to be participated in jointly by Ohio, Indiana and Kentucky and arranged by the Louisville Centennial Committee. The Governors of all three states will take part.

Present plans call for the "Belle of Louisville," a paddle-wheeler, to leave Louisville at 9 a.m. July 13 and to arrive in Brandenburg about 1 p.m. for a barbecue and speaking. The main address will be given by Dr. A. D. Kirwan, professor of history at the University of Kentucky.

For further information, write Frank G. Rankin, Chairman, P. O. Box 1861, Louisville 1, Ky.

THE CENTENNIAL OF STONEWALL JACKSON'S DEATH will be commemorated on May 10 at the Virginia Military Institute at Lexington, Va., where he was a Professor at the outbreak of the war, with a dress parade of the entire corps. This will be followed on May 12 at 11 a.m. by a memorial service in the Lexington Presbyterian Church, of which Jackson was a member during his days there. Dr. Joseph J. Murray, pastor emeritus, will deliver a sermon on the character and religious life of the hero.