MONTHLY CHRONOLOGY FOR 1863

July 1 - Buford's Union cavalry, scouting ahead of the main army, meets a Confederate brigade under General Pettigrew that had moved on Gettysburg to capture a supply of shoes, and heavy fighting starts at 10 a.m. Other troops from both sides arrive and a battle develops, with the Southerners victorious in this first engagement.

July 2 - Confederate Gen. John Hunt Morgan starts on raid through Ohio designed to slow Rosecrans' advance on Chattanooga.

July 2 - In late afternoon fighting at Gettysburg, the Confederates make repeated and unsuccessful attempts to seize strategic positions in the battle line known as the Round Tops. A bloody struggle takes place in the Peach Orchard, Wheat Field and Apple Orchard.

July 3 - Lee strikes the center of the Union line at Gettysburg with 10 brigades, supported by 159 guns, but the Confederates are repulsed after battling across a half mile of open field in what became known as Pickett's Charge.

July 4 - Taking advantage of heavy rains, Lee starts withdrawing his troops from the Gettysburg lines and marches them back toward Virginia.

July 4 - The U.S.S. Tyler helps repulse an attack on Helena, Ark., by a large body of Confederate troops.

July 4 - Vicksburg, long under assault and siege by water and land, is surrendered by General Pemberton to General Grant.

July 6 - Rear Admiral John A. Dahlgren relieves Rear Admiral Samuel F. du Pont as commander of the South Atlantic Blockading Squadron at Port Royal.

July 9 - Port Hudson surrenders after a prolonged attack by Union naval and land forces, ending the long drive for control of the Mississippi River that had begun at Fort Henry in the north and New Orleans to the south early in '62. President Lincoln writes: "The Father of Waters again goes unvexed to the sea."

July 10 - A fleet under Admiral Dahlgren cooperates with troops under Brig. Gen. Quincy A. Gillmore in opening an attack on Battery Wagner in Charleston Harbor.

July 13 - In a combined expedition up the Yazoo River that results in the capture of Yazoo City, Miss., the U.S.S. Baron de Kalb is sunk by a Confederate water mine without loss of life.

July 13 - The Enrollment Act of March 3, '63, causes a draft riot to start in New York City. It lasts four days and results in property damage estimated at $1,500,000 and the death or wounding of more than 1,000.

July 14 - Union General Meade telegraphs War Department that Lee's army has escaped across the Potomac into Virginia.

July 15 - Confederate President Davis issues a proclamation calling for the drafting of all white men between the ages of 18 and 45.

July 22 - The U.S. public debt is reported to be $1,097,274,355, less by about $25,000,000 than anticipated.

July 23 - Lee's army is reported by Northern newspapers to be at or near Winchester.

July 23 - Reports the Richmond Whig: "The evacuation of Jackson, Miss., left in the hands of the enemy the rolling stock of the New Orleans, Jackson & Great Northern, the Mississippi Central, and the Mississippi and Tennessee Railroads. The motive power alone consisted of over 40 engines. The loss is incalculably important, and wholly irreparable. Nothing goes well in the Southwest."

July 25 - President Davis, admitting "trials and reverses," proclaims August 21 a "day of fasting, humiliation and prayer."

July 26 - After losing most of his raiders in a fight on the 19th, Morgan is brought to bay near Lisbon, Ohio, and forced to surrender.

July 30 - The Confederate partisan, John S. Mosby, makes a dash on Fairfax Court House and upsets Union army routine by capturing a number of sutters' wagons.

FOUR PUBLICATIONS THAT WILL BE REMEMBERED as an outgrowth of the Centennial are receiving unprecedented popularity at National Headquarters at 700 Jackson Place, N. W., Washington 25, D. C.

All are of major interest to followers of the important period in American history that took place during the five-year struggle between the firing on the Star of the West in Charleston Harbor in (more)
MOSBY MEDAL

The raid John S. Mosby, Confederate guerrilla leader, made on the town of Fairfax Court House in Virginia the night of March 8-9, 1863, has been commemorated by a special medal recalling the incident.

Copies of the medal have been presented by the Fairfax County Centennial Commission to members of the 17th Virginia Rifle Team and the Ninth Virginia Artillery Troop, who took part in a reenactment of the raid on the actual site on the centennial date.

In this daring foray behind Union lines, Mosby, leading 29 men, stole into the town at 2 o'clock in the morning, staged his raid, and escaped with Brig. Gen. Edwin H. Stoughton, an Austrian baron, R. B. Wordener, there on a visit, two captains, 30 privates and 58 horses. Not a shot was fired.

January, 1861, and the surrender of the C. S. S. Shenandoah, last Confederate ship to lower its flag, at Liverpool, England, in November, 1865. Upon request, copies are distributed by the National Commission without charge.

The most recent of these publications to come off the press is a 44-page booklet telling the role of women in the Civil War. Entitled "Our Women of the Sixties," it was written by Mrs. Sylvia G. L. Dannett and Miss Katherine M. Jones, well-known authors and members of the Commission's Women's Committee.


MANSFIELD COMMEMORATION

The battle of Mansfield, La., an engagement that went into the records also as the battle of Sabine Cross Roads and battle of Pleasant Grove, will be commemorated on its centennial anniversary, April 8, 1864.

This battle was a part of the Red River Campaign, a joint effort conducted by a Union army under Gen. N. P. Banks and fleet under Adm. David Porter. It was a fight, Porter later wrote, "the management of which would be discreditable to a boy nine years of age."

Already markers have been obtained by the Louisiana Centennial Commission for the Mansfield Battle Park and for the roadside and the old cemetery at Pleasant Hill.

When the commemoration is held next year, a large delegation is expected from Texas and the surrounding area.

A PANEL DISCUSSION will be held at San Francisco August 28 by the California Centennial Commission in conjunction with the annual meeting of the Pacific Coast Branch of the American Historical Association. All arrangements will be made by Col. Wm. T. Shaw, chairman of the Commission.

IRONCLAD ON DISPLAY

Confederates had high hopes of breaking the blockade in Mobile Bay when they launched the ironclad gunboat Muscogee on Dec. 22, 1864, at Phenix City, Ala., on the Chattahoochee River. But that was before they realized Union cavalry, then raiding through the area under Gen. James H. Wilson, would force them to set her afire.

In August, 1960, a young bank executive, Joe Willman, Jr., came upon the wreck of the burned vessel. It lay about 25 miles south of Columbus, Ga.

Salvage operations were begun with funds provided by the Georgia Legislature. Today a part of the gunboat is on display in the fairgrounds at Columbus. A Confederate naval museum will be built there to house it.
FLORIDA WILL COMMEMORATE

The ruins of the old Dunlawton sugar mill, shown here as it has been preserved since its destruction during the war, will be reminiscent of the program to be staged in Florida on July 26.

At that time the Volusia County Historical Commission of that state will commemorate the shelling of New Smyrna, Fla., on that date a century ago. One of the highlights of the program will call attention to the destruction of the Sheldon home and hotel on Old Fort Mound.

Mrs. Sheldon had lost an earlier home in the Seminole War in 1838. The dwelling destroyed during 1863 was a 40-room house built of lumber brought from the North by the Swift brothers, who for years cut live oak timber along the coast to fill orders of government shipyards.

When the shelling began, the Sheldon family took to the woods. A fire lighted to protect them from mosquitoes drew shells in their direction, and they retreated farther. Some of the furniture taken from the burning home by Union invaders was abandoned when they were fired on by a small Confederate force hidden in the surrounding brush.

After the war, a cottage was built on the site of the old home, and there Mrs. Sheldon lived until her death in 1903.

THE BATTLE OF CORYDON, only major skirmish in Indiana during the war, will be officially observed with a program at the Harrison County Fairgrounds in that community July 28.

The engagement was fought by Morgan's Confederate cavalry and the Sixth Regiment of the Indiana Legion, known as the "Homeguards."

The commemorative program will be sponsored by the Harrison County Historical Society and the Harrison County Centennial Committee. The Fort Knox Soldiers Chorus and two uniformed bodies, the 19th Indiana Regiment and the 18th Indiana (Lilly) Battery of the North-South Skirmish Association, will take part. After the ceremonies, they will dedicate a market at Morvin's Landing, near Mauckport, where Morgan first entered Indiana.

QUANTRILL'S DIABOLICAL MASSACRE

The burning of Lawrence, Kansas, by the bushwhacker, William Clarke Quantrill, will be recalled in that community August 21, the centennial date of the devastation in which about 150 men and boys were killed and property valued at a million and a half dollars was destroyed. This incident has been described as "a diabolical, unpardonable massacre, one which has no parallel in the Civil War."

As an adjunct to the program, the story is newly told in words and pictures, such as the one shown here of the pillage of the community, in a new volume called "The Missouri Sketch Book" that has just come off the press at Columbia, Mo. It was prepared by Clifton C. Edom, member of the faculty at the School of Journalism, University of Missouri. Scores of paintings, sketches, woodcuts, engravings, lithographs and photographs are included.

Quantrill, always a problem to the South, was never fully recognized as a partisan ranger fighting for the cause of the Confederacy. Instead, when a summation of partisan activity on the Southern side was prepared after the war, he was disposed of in this manner: "These independent partisan bands were far from being guerrillas, bushwhackers, or 'jaybuckers,' as were those of the type of Quantrill, who, during his brief career, left a trail of fire and blood through the disputed territory of Kansas and Missouri."
CHICKAMAUGA PROGRAM

It was "Indiana Day" at the Chickamauga National Military Park recently when the Governor of that state, the Honorable Matthew E. Welsh, and others took part in a program recalling the great battle fought there a century ago.

In this photo, Col. Allen P. "Ned" Julian, USA (Ret.), director of the Atlanta Historical Society, is shown as he presided as master of ceremonies.

Dozens of Indiana monuments and markers were rededicated during Governor Welsh's talk, the main address for the occasion. Members of Company B, 41st Georgia Voluntary Infantry, CSA, (reactivated), provided the color guard. This unit was known as the "Kennesaw Volunteers."

THE BATTLE OF HELENA, ARK., will be commemorated by that community on July 4 with a program that will begin at daylight, the hour the engagement actually started. Included will be a parade, a picnic at noon, afternoon ball games, and fireworks, a costume ball and a street dance that night. Six markers will be unveiled at Fort Curtis and at other spots where the shooting occurred.

THE SHOOTING GOES ON! The Washington Post recently published the following headline: "New Shot Is Fired in Civil War Fight." It topped an item that read:

"Another shot in the Civil War was fired yesterday in Suitland (Maryland).

"Mae P. Brown, 34, listed at 4902 Roanne Drive, Suitland, told Prince Georges police that she and two others had a discussion about the Civil War in her home about 5 a.m. During the polemics, a blank pistol, held in the hands of her husband, Joseph, 39, discharged.


"A warrant charging Brown with assault has been issued. He is still at large."

AN OFFICIAL RECORDS BROKER has now appeared on the scene. Col. John R. Hood, Jr., United States Air Force, 436 E Street, Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio, has volunteered to serve in that capacity gratuitously in order to bring together those who want to sell sets or parts of sets of the O.R. He recently wrote: "I am acting as a sort of 'clearing house' for those who are collecting the Official Records, both Army and Navy, at no profit to me." It's a hobby with him.

MORGAN MEMORIAL PROGRAM

Columbiana County, Ohio, will devote five days, July 24-28, to a memorial program recalling the events of Confederate Gen. John Hunt Morgan's raid into Ohio.

Morgan was captured July 26, 1863, near Lisbon, Ohio, the farthest north any Confederate force penetrated. On July 28, the capture and surrender will be fully reenacted on the actual site by more than 1,000 uniformed troops.

The program will be sponsored jointly by the three nearest towns, Lisbon, Wellsville and Salinesville. As an additional feature, the book, "Last Night and Day of Morgan's Raid," will be reprinted for the occasion. Special commemorative plates also will be available.

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