MONTHLY CHRONOLOGY FOR 1863

Aug. 2 - With Confederate Gen. R. E. Lee moving his army back toward Orange Court House following its defeat at Gettysburg, President Jefferson Davis advises it to select a base farther back than that formerly held at Fredericksburg before accepting the offer of battle.

Aug. 5 - The U.S.S. Commodore Barney, taking part in a joint Army-Navy reconnaissance of the James River, is severely damaged by a 1,000-pound electric torpedo above Dutch Gap, Va.

Aug. 5 - Union Rear Admiral David D. Porter, praising the charts prepared by the U.S. Coast Survey (now the U.S. Coast and Geodetic Survey) writes that, because of them, "gunboats have steamed through where the keel of a canoe never passed, and have succeeded in reaching points in the enemy's country where the imagination of man never dreamed that he would be molested by an enemy in such a shape."

Aug. 5 - Raphael Semmes in the C.S.S. Alabama captures the bark Sea Bride loaded with a cargo of provisions off the Cape of Good Hope. A local newspaper reporter, witnessing the incident, writes that a crowd on shore "did cheer, and cheer with a will, too," explaining that the cheers were not for either side, but in admiration "of the skill, pluck and daring of the Alabama, her captain, and her crew, who afford a general theme of admiration for the world all over."

Aug. 7 - With Charleston, S.C., under heavy attack by combined Union forces, Confederate Gen. Beauregard requests that the submarine H. L. Hunley, newly built at Mobile, Ala., be transferred to that point.

Aug. 8 - Gen. Lee writes President Davis from Orange Court House that "the general remedy for the want of success in a military commander is his removal," and requests that another commander of the army under his direction be chosen. The request is refused.

Aug. 15 - The submarine H. L. Hunley, brought to Charleston on two flat cars, draws an offer of a reward of $100,000 for the sinking of the U.S.S. New Ironsides or the U.S.S. Wabash, and $50,000 for every monitor sunk.

Aug. 16 - Lee institutes a system of furloughs whereby two Confederates for every 100 present for duty are allowed to go home, their time away ranging from 15 to 30 days, based on the distance of the states from which they come.

Aug. 16 - Union Gens. Rosecrans and Burnside order an advance on Knoxville and Kingston, Tenn., thus starting action that leads to the weeks-long Chickamauga campaign.

Aug. 17 - Naval forces under Union Admiral Dahlgren renew their joint attack on Confederate works in Charleston harbor.

Aug. 21 - Quantrill's raiders burn and plunder Lawrence, Kansas, killing 150 men and boys and destroying a million and a half dollars' worth of property.


Aug. 24 - President Davis wires Lee: "If circumstances will permit your absence, I wish you to come to Richmond."

Aug. 25 - Lt. Wood, in the captured Satellite, seizes the schooner Golden Rod, loaded with coal, and the schooners Coquette and Two Brothers, with a cargo of anchor and chain, at the mouth of the Rappahannock River.

Aug. 29 - The submarine H. L. Hunley, moored by lines to the steamer Etiwan in Charleston harbor, is drawn over on her side when the larger vessel moves away from her dock unexpectedly, is caused to fill with water, and drowns five of a crew of eight.

Aug. 30 - The Confederate transport steamer Sumter, mistaken for a Union monitor in fog and heavy weather, is sunk by friendly batteries on Sullivan's Island in Charleston harbor.

Aug. 31 - Lee writes Gen. Longstreet from Richmond: "I hope you will use every exertion to prepare the army for offensive operations and improve the condition of men and animals. I can see nothing better to be done than to endeavor to bring General Meade out and use our efforts to crush his army while in its present condition."

JULY, 1963, WILL RANK as one of the most active periods in the five-year commemoration of the Civil War. Highlighting the many centennial observances of this past month were large-scale programs held simultaneously at Gettysburg and Vicksburg.

The elaborate ceremonies at Gettysburg received nationwide attention and praise. On July 1, 8 governors and 18 official representatives of state executives joined Gov. William Scranton of Pennsylvania in placing wreaths at the Eternal Light Peace Memorial. Also on the program was Postmaster General J. Edward Day, who officially issued the Gettysburg "Civil War Centennial" commemorative stamp. Assistant Secretary of the Interior John A. Carver, Jr., accepted deeds to (more)
Pictured on the left is the July 1 ceremony at Gettysburg's Eternal Light Peace Memorial. Pennsylvania's Governor William Scranton, in dark suit, stands in the center. Seated to his left is Postmaster General J. Edward Day. On the Governor's right is Lt. Gen. Milton G. Baker. State governors or their representatives flank each side of the monument. Inscribed on the side of the memorial shaft is the phrase: "An Enduring Light to Guide Us in Unity and Fellowship."

An estimated 40,000 people witnessed the dramatization of Pickett's Charge on July 3. In the photograph on the right, part of the crowd is shown near the "High Water Mark." The white building in the background is the newly erected Visitor Center at Gettysburg.

tracts of land which such patriotic groups as the Military Order of the Loyal Legion and the Gettysburg Battlefield Preservation Association had obtained in their efforts to protect the entire battlefield site.

On the following day some 35,000 persons lined the streets of Gettysburg to view a gigantic parade. The theme of the three-hour display was "Strength through Unity." The climax of the Gettysburg program came on July 3, when 600 "Confederate soldiers" and 500 "Federal troops" re-created Pickett's Charge. Noted actor Walter Abel was narrator for the event.

The South Carolina Commission dedicated a new monument near the site of Kershaw's attack on July 2, and rededication services took place at the Virginia, North Carolina, New Jersey, and other monuments. Throughout the three-day program, groups of actors performed "Vignettes of History" at various locales on the battlefield. Mrs. Adele Gutman Nathan and Louis M. Simon planned and coordinated the Gettysburg ceremonies.

Vicksburg's commemoration, staged June 30-July 4, was a program of such well-planned variety as to have appeal to Civil War enthusiasts of all ages. Memorial services in local churches and on the battlefield officially opened the observance. On July 1 special ceremonies paid tribute to Confederate women. The Illinois Commission sponsored a brief but impressive service the following day at its state monument. Performances of the pageant, "Gold in the Hills," were staged on two evenings aboard the showboat Sprague. A gala Confederate ball and floor show on the evening of July 3 climaxed that day's activities. July 4 was marked by a Centennial Parade, military air show and, in the evening, by a giant fireworks re-enactment of the river battle of Vicksburg.

One of the more conspicuous features of the program was an historical seminar that extended over three days and treated of the military, economic, political, and social aspects of the Civil War. Featured lecturers were Park Historian Edwin C. Bearrs, Clement Eaton of the University of Kentucky, LeRoy H. Fischer of Oklahoma State University, and James Robertson of the National Commission.

Speakers at other events in the Vicksburg commemoration were Senator James O. Eastland, Congressman John Bell Williams, and Mississippi Governor Ross R. Barnett. Guests of honor at all functions were U. S. Grant, III, and John C. Pemberton, III, grandchildren of the opposing generals in the critical 1863 campaign for the city.

Mayor John D. Holland, Judge Ben Guider, and Frank E. Everett, Jr., headed the local committee in charge of the overall Vicksburg program.

SAME NAMES, SAME SETTINGS, DIFFERENT CENTURY

The recent commemorations at Vicksburg and Gettysburg occasioned reunions between descendants of well-known Civil War generals.

In the photograph at left, Gen. U. S. Grant, III (left), and John C. Pemberton, III, flank Vicksburg Mayor John D. Holland, who also is chairman of the Mississippi Commission. The trio stands on the spot where a century ago Gen. Pemberton surrendered Vicksburg and its 30,000 defenders to Gen. Grant.

Gettysburg's centennial also brought together two names familiar to the Civil War. Shown in the right photographs are George Gordon Meade, III, former President Dwight D. Eisenhower; and Robert E. Lee, IV. The great-grandsons of the opposing commanders at Gettysburg received special medals from Mr. Eisenhower on the 100th anniversary of the battle.
PACKED WITH 1,050 ENTHUSIASTIC PERSONS, the 49-year-old sternwheeler, Belle of Louisville, embarked Saturday, July 13, on a commemorative cruise down the Ohio River. Destination of the ship and its passengers was Brandenburg, Ky., where a century ago the Confederate raiders of John Hunt Morgan crossed the Ohio into Indiana on a now-famous foray. An all-day downpour forced cancellation of ceremonies planned at Brandenburg. However, a sizable crowd braved the rain to greet the Belle (left) when it docked in mid-afternoon. Later a barbecue picnic was served on board to some 1,300 persons. Dean A. D. Kirwan of the University of Kentucky delivered the day's principal address. Sponsor of the excursion was the Jefferson County (Ky.) Civil War Centennial Commission.

SPECIAL CEREMONIES held and to be held still at Chickamauga National Military Park include "Florida Day" (July 28), "Louisiana Day" (August 4), "Tennessee Day" (September 19), and the climactic service, "Georgia Day" (September 20). The Georgia Commission is in charge of all programs at Chickamauga.

A SOLID BRONZE REPLICA of the Great Seal of the Confederate States of America will be presented August 15 to the Warren Rifles Confederate Memorial Museum in Front Royal, Va. Sons of Confederate Veterans raised $1000 over a five-year period for purchase of the Seal. New Jersey's William M. Beard, a Past Commander-in-Chief of SCV, will be principal speaker at the dedicatory service.

CENTENNIAL MEDALLION RECIPIENTS

Three organizations recently received the National Commission's highest award, The Centennial Medallion, for extraordinary contributions to the 100th anniversary of the Civil War. On June 25 in Raleigh, Dr. James Robertson, Executive Director of the National Commission, presented a medallion to the U. S. Navy for its salvaging operations of sunken blockade-runners around Fort Fisher, N. C. Commander Victor Davis, project officer for the Fort Fisher undertaking, accepted the award on behalf of the Navy. Others in the photograph at left below are Dr. Christopher Crittenden of the N. C. Archives Department and Norman C. Larson, Executive Secretary of the N. C. Commission. At National Commission headquarters on the following day, William H. Kendall (center), President of the Louisville & Nashville Railroad, accepted The Centennial Medallion for his company's restoration of "The General." Kendall in turn presented to the Commission a special replica of the famous Civil War locomotive. On July 8, before the City Council of Richmond, Robertson bestowed a medallion on that city's Civil War Centennial Committee for its many and lasting contributions to the commemorative period. Chairman J. Ambler Johnston of the Richmond Committee is shown at right examining the award.

IN A JOINT COMMEMORATIVE SERVICE recently at Westminster, Md., the Delaware Commission and the Civil War Round Table of Wilmington dedicated a new historical marker to Corbit's Charge. Charles O. Fisher, William T. Mahoney, and John S. Spruance were speakers for the occasion. Donated by Mrs. Paul J. Nowland, the marker reads: "Here, June 29, 1863, Captain Charles Corbit led Companies C and D, First Delaware Cavalry, against General J. E. B. Stuart's Cavalry Division. Though repelled by overwhelming force, the attack delayed Stuart, and was a factor in his failure to reach Gettysburg battlefield before July 2."
THE TENNESSEE COMMISSION will shortly begin distribution of a "Directory of Civil War Memorials and Monuments in Tennessee." The booklet will include half-tones and short descriptions of the 70 extant monuments, Federal and Confederate, in the Volunteer State.

Two other works are in production by the Tennessee agency: "The Military History of Tennessee in the Confederate War" and an anthology of Tennessee writings during the conflict. Commission chairman Stanley F. Horn is preparing the latter.

ELEVEN ORIGINAL 1-ACT PLAY SCRIPTS relative to the Civil War are available to Little Theatre and other non-commercial drama groups. The scripts are the best of scores of plays submitted in a nationwide Centennial contest organized in 1960 by Maud Howell Smith of Washington, D. C.

Requests for further information, or for copies of the plays, should be addressed to City-Wide Division, District of Columbia Recreation Department, 3149 16th Street, N. W., Washington 10, D. C.

MOBILE HISTORY CLASS

Late in June, students and professors from High Point (N.C.) College visited Fort Monroe, Va., where they received greetings from the fort's commander, Col. Roy F. Zinser. Dr. Chester D. Bradley, Curator of the Casemate Museum, lectured to the group on the importance of Fort Monroe as a base for amphibious expeditions during 1861-1865.

Traveling in a motor caravan, the North Carolina aggregation carried tents, camp stoves, and a mobile reference library on the Civil War. Dr. David C. Cole (third from right), Chairman of the History Department at High Point College, was the leader of this history course on wheels.

THE FIRST OF A SERIES of Historical Commemoratives, issued by Frederick County Civil War Centennial, Inc., is now ready for sale. It is a Hooker-Meade souvenir half-dollar, commemorating the June 28, 1863, change of command of the Army of the Potomac from Gen. Joseph Hooker to Gen. George C. Meade. The medals are fifty cents each, plus an additional twenty-five cents mailing charge for five or less. Orders should be sent to Civil War Headquarters, Francis Scott Key Hotel, Frederick, Md.

"THERE STANDS JACKSON..."

After a year's production, the Virginia Commission and the State Department of Education have completed a black-and-white sound film entitled "Stonewall Jackson's Way." The 27-minute movie depicts the story of Gen. Thomas J. Jackson and his Valley fighters from their initial meeting at Harpers Ferry in May, 1861, to "Old Jack's" death following the 1863 battle of Chancellorsville.

The film is available for showing before schools and interested groups in the Virginia area. "It is designed," Commission director James J. Geary stated, "to help preserve for all Virginians—adults and children alike—an important part of their heritage, the story of this remarkable soldier and the men who served him with such devotion."

At left is a still-shot from the movie showing Jackson (portrayed by Dent Myers of Kennesaw, Ga.) and his brigade awaiting action at the battle of First Manassas.