MONTHLY CHRONOLOGY FOR 1864

Jan. 2 — Admiral David G. Farragut, assigned the task of capturing Mobile Bay, announces from New York plans to get to sea within 24 hours. Meanwhile, he is notified the ironclad Tennessee, the ram the Confederates are building to meet his attack, will be ready for sea in 20 days, that she is a dangerous craft, considered by some more so than the Merrimack.

Jan. 7 — Senator Timothy Howe of Wisconsin introduces a bill reciting the sufferings of Union prisoners in the hands of the enemy and authorizing the President to call out a million men for 90 days' service, to be put under the command of General U.S. Grant for the purpose of carrying food and freedom to every soldier in a Rebel prison.

Jan. 7 — John Wilkinson, leader of the unsuccessful Confederate attempt to free prisoners held on Johnson's Island in Lake Erie, eludes the blockade and slips into Wilmington, N.C., his little steamer the only one of four that had left Bermuda simultaneously to get into port safely.

Jan. 9 — Republicans in various areas, including those in the Pennsylvania Legislature, begin booming Lincoln for a second term.

Jan. 9 — President Jefferson Davis of the Confederacy relays to Lt. Gen. Leonidas Polk at Meridian, Miss., a plan designed to bring about the recapture of New Orleans, with the resulting capture of the massive Union stores assembled there.

Jan. 10 — The Confederate guerrilla John S. Mosby suffers his worst defeat of his career in an attack on the Union camp at Loudoun Heights near Harpers Ferry, losing two of his three company captains.

Jan. 11 — Commenting on Senator Howe's bill, the New York Times says: "Of course we have no fear that this foolish bill will ever be passed." Citing the time required to get a million men into the field, properly led and properly equipped, the newspaper reminds that they go without experience and that "10,000 of such troops as Lee and Johnson command would be a match for 100,000 of them, and would readily drive that number off the field in utter rout."

Jan. 13 — Admiral John A. Dahlgren, commanding the blockade off Charleston, S.C., reports that the Southerners in that area are building 10 Davids, or torpedo boats, similar to the one that sank the Ironsides.

Jan. 15 — Commander James W. Cooke, Confederate naval officer reputed to be a battler who would "fight a powder magazine with a coal of fire," is assigned to take charge of the work on the Albemarle, the ironclad building in a cornfield in North Carolina, and to bring it bastly to completion.

Jan. 16 — Admiral Dahlgren requests "one or more" torpedo boats similar to those the Confederates are building, described as "40 to 50 feet long, five to six feet in diameter amidships, and tapering to both ends like a cigar."

Jan. 17 — The Union press reports that the bombardment of Charleston continues, that 417 shells were fired on the city in two days "with unknown damage."

Jan. 17 — Mosby's attack near Harpers Ferry is still in the headlines. Newspapers announce: "Mosby is reported to have been badly whipped in the recent attack at Harpers Ferry, but, notwithstanding his losses, he is said to be still harassing our men."

Jan. 17 — Admiral Farragut, arriving at the Pensacola Navy Yard, asks the service of two monitors with which to fight the ram Tennessee, saying that, "with them, I should not hesitate to become the assailant instead of awaiting the attack."

Jan. 18 — The Richmond Examiner reports: "Amid much that is gloomy in our military affairs, we find at least one subject of congratulation in the fact that during the past year our supplies of arms and munitions, and our military material generally, have increased." But Northern journals ignore this optimism, reminding that flour is selling for $150 a barrel in Richmond.

Jan. 22 — The Confederate Congress considers a law to provide wholesale conscription, drawing protests from many areas in the South, where it is pointed out that such a plan would deprive the Confederacy of its food-producing manpower.

Jan. 24 — A Union dispatch from Chattanooga to a Northern newspaper states: "It is positively known that the Rebel soldiers are killing their best mules for subsistence."

Jan. 26 — Reports of wholesale desertions from the Southern army are confirmed by newspaper dispatches.

Jan. 29 — Confederate General Thomas L. Rosser, raiding into West Virginia, overtakes a Union supply train, routs the guard of about 250 infantry with a dismounted attack, and captures 95 wagons.

NEW HEADQUARTERS FOR THE NATIONAL COMMISSION, though expected for some time, were announced suddenly late last month. Shortly after the first of the year, after almost six years' residency at 700 Jackson Place, Commission offices were to be transferred to the Federal Bar Building, 1815 H Street, N.W. As tentatively planned, the new headquarters were to occupy the southwest corner of the top floor of this two-year-old office building. The Commis-
sion's full, new address will appear in next month's newsletter.

Renovation of the structures on the west side of Lafayette Square occasioned the move. The pre-Civil War building that formerly housed the National Commission will become an annex to the Blair House, and the offices occupied since 1958 by the Centennial agency will after renovation be a part of Protocol Division, Department of State.

THE COMMISSION'S NEW HOME

At right is an architect's drawing of the Federal Bar Building, where the National Commission offices were to be moved soon after January 1. The main office of the four-room suite is designated by the two windows in the extreme upper left band corner of the building. Self-operated elevators give easy access to the 11th floor headquarters, which will be known officially in the building as Room 1118.

AN IMPOSING SYMPOSIUM on Lincoln's Gettysburg Address will be held in Washington on Monday evening, January 13, 1964, at the Department of the Interior auditorium. Sponsored by the National Commission and open to the general public, the program will begin at 7:30 p.m. with Dr. Allan Nevins presiding. Five learned and internationally respected scholars will analyze Lincoln's remarks in the light of their own knowledge. The speakers will be: John Dos Passos, member of the American Academy of Arts and Letters; Senator Paul H. Douglas of Illinois; Dr. Arthur Lehman Goodhart, former Master of University College, Oxford University; Robert Lowell, Recipient of the Pulitzer Prize and the American Academy of Arts and Letters Prize for Poetry; and Dr. Reinhold Niebuhr, Professor Emeritus of Union Theological Seminary.

Many of Washington's leading dignitaries have announced their intentions of being present. Copies of the remarks of each speaker will be obtainable on request from National Commission headquarters.

TWO IRREPARABLE LOSSES to the field of Civil War history came within hours of one another last month.

On Saturday evening, December 7, Dr. Otto Eisenschiml died in Chicago at the age of eighty-three. A chemist by trade and one of the founders of the Chicago Civil War Round Table, "O. E. " was the author of such provocative studies as Why Was Lincoln Murdered?, The Strange Case of FitzJohn Porter, and The Hidden Face of the Civil War. Many Round Tables remember him for stimulating and thought-provoking talks on all phases of the 1861-1865 conflict.

Shortly after midnight on the same evening, sixty-one-year-old Dr. William B. Hesseltine died of a heart attack at his Madison, Wisc., home. Hesseltine had spent thirty years as professor of American history at the University of Wisconsin. Among the scores of students who did graduate work under his punctilious tutelage are T. Harry Williams, Frank Freidel, Kenneth M. Stampp, and Frank Byrne. Dr. Hesseltine was the author of more than a dozen books, including Civil War Prisons, Lincoln and the War Governors, and a widely used textbook, The South in American History. Dr. Hesseltine was to be a featured speaker at the Seventh National Assembly
THE CONNECTICUT CWCC announces the publication of a brief biography of one of its distinguished citizens, Major General John Sedgwick. "Uncle John" is most remembered as the capable corps commander of the Army of the Potomac's VI Corps. In May, 1864, he was killed by a Confederate sharpshooter. Copies of this new summary of his life may be ordered from the Connecticut CWCC chairman, Albert D. Putnam, 1010 Prospect Avenue, Hartford, Conn.

PLANS FOR THE COMMEMORATION of the battle of Mine Creek, Kansas, continue to advance satisfactorily, according to Fred W. Brinkerhoff, the new chairman of the Kansas CWCC. Governors John Anderson of Kansas and John M. Dalton of Missouri have already accepted invitations to appear jointly on the October 25, 1964, program. By the time of that centennial date, the battle site will have undergone a complete restoration. Mine Creek is located a few miles north of Fort Scott in southeastern Kansas.

ON DECEMBER 14, the Delaware Centennial Commission, with its personable Vice Chairman, William T. Mahoney, presiding, commemorated in Wilmington the establishment a century ago of Tilton General Hospital. Dr. Gerald A. Beatty, President-Elect of the Medical Society of Delaware, made the principal address. Opened in March, 1863, the hospital occupied an entire city-block square and consisted of six parallel wooden wards plus dining room and administration building. In the course of the Civil War, several thousand soldiers received medical care at Tilton.

FORT SANDERS, 1963

On November 16 of last year, the Knoxville-Knox County Civil War Centennial Committee marked the centennial of the battle of Knoxville, Tenn., with a re-enactment of a portion of the assault on Fort Sanders. Some forty re-activated units took part in the recreation before an audience estimated at 3,500 persons. At left is a photograph taken of some of the "action." Shortly after this program, the University of Tennessee Press announced publication of Digby G. Seymour's Divided Loyalties, which recounts in detail the battle of Fort Sanders and other activities of the war in East Tennessee.

"MICHIGAN WOMEN IN THE CIVIL WAR" is the title of a new publication just issued by the Michigan CWCC. The 144-page booklet contains a wealth of material on Wolverine women in the sectional struggle. Dr. Bell L. Wiley, Chairman of the National Commission's Executive Committee, recently stated: "A quick examination of this pamphlet indicates that it is a substantial contribution to this phase of Civil War history." For copies and further information, contact Mr. Floyd L. Haight, Chairman of the Michigan Commission, 22307 South Military, Dearborn, Michigan.
JOHN HUNT MORGAN'S OHIO RAID has received new attention with a 32-page booklet published by the Brandenburg (Ky.) Methodist Church Men's Club. This synopsis tells the basic facts of, and adds some new information on, Morgan's 1863 foray into Ohio. Five photographs and two maps are included in the publication, copies of which are available from J. E. Troyan, Box 707, Brandenburg, Ky.

THE BATTLE OF OLUSTEE, FLA., will be commemorated February 22 with a varied program that will include a parade, barbeque, and re-enactment in Jacksonville's Gator Bowl.

A STRONG EFFORT IS BEING MADE to have a new school in the Bronx named for Capt. Oliver Tilden of the 38th N.Y. Capt. Tilden was the first man from Morrisania (now a part of the Bronx) to be killed in action in the Civil War. Civic, veteran and Masonic groups are cooperating in this project. Those interested in adding their voices to this program should contact Bert Sack, President of the Civil War Memorial Committee, 12 West 96th Street, New York 24, New York.

FORT McALLISTER, located near Savannah, Ga., provided Sherman with some of his stiffest resistance during the 1864 March to the Sea. The fort's defenders withstood several naval assaults before succumbing to a large-scale attack by Sherman's army. In November the Georgia Historical Commission officially opened the restored fort to the public. Funds for the restoration came largely from the State of Georgia and the Ford Foundation. The International Paper Company, which owned the property, deeded all land in and around the fort to the state. Fort McAllister is open every day except Mondays.

SITE OF NEW HEADQUARTERS

The drawing at left shows the location of the old and new headquarters of the National Commission. In relationship to its former offices at the corner of Pennsylvania Avenue and Jackson Place, the Commission's new quarters are three blocks westward and diagonally across the street from the Roger Smith Hotel, situated at the northeast corner of Pennsylvania Avenue and 18th Street. Unless announced differently in a future newsletter, the National Commission phone numbers (382-1225 and -26) will remain the same.