MONTHLY CHRONOLOGY FOR 1864

SIGNIFICANT EVENTS AS WAR CONTINUES

Oct. 1 - The famous Confederate agent, Mrs. Rose O'Neal Greenhow, on her way back from Europe with important dispatches and weighted down by $2,000 in gold in a pouch around her neck, drowns when she tries to escape to shore in a boat from the blockade runner Condor, driven aground off North Carolina.

Oct. 1 - Newspapers report the Confederacy's President Davis on a visit to Hood's army in the deep South. Quips the New York Daily Tribune: "It is more than likely that he is on his way to inspect the Mexican works on the west bank of the Rio Grande."

Oct. 3 - The feared Confederate raider, Captain Raphael Semmes, inactive since his vessel, the C.S.S. Alabama, was sunk by the U.S.S. Kearsarge off the coast of France the preceding June, leaves England on his way back to the Confederacy.

Oct. 5 - Because of the heckling attacks of Mosby's guerrillas, resulting in derailed locomotives and other damage, the Union abandons its efforts to rebuild the Manassas Gap Railroad as a supply line for Sheridan's army as it moves up the Shenandoah Valley.

Oct. 6 - Constantly attacked in his rear by guerrillas and disturbed by a shortage of supplies, Sheridan abandons his march up the Shenandoah Valley at Harrisonburg and turns back toward the base he had left near Harpers Ferry.

Oct. 7 - The dreaded Confederate raider, the C.S.S. Florida, is attacked and captured by the U.S.S. Wachusett in the harbor of Babia, Brazil, in violation of promises by her captain, Commander Napoleon Collins, that no hostilities would be pursued in Brazilian waters.

Oct. 12 - Rear Admiral David Dixon Porter assumes command of the North Atlantic Blockading Squadron and begins laying plans for the capture of Wilmington, N.C., the South's main port of entry.

Oct. 13 - Count Resseguiher, Maximilian's emissary in Guatemala, concludes intrigues to unite Central America to the Mexican Empire.

Oct. 14 - Mosby's guerrillas derail a Baltimore & Ohio express train west of Harpers Ferry and capture a $173,000 Union payroll.

Oct. 19 - The Sea King, obtained from England by the Confederacy and renamed the C.S.S. Shenandoah, rendezvous in the Madeiras with the tender Laurel, on board of which is her future captain, Lt. James Waddell, preparatory to beginning an active worldwide career of raiding on Union whalers and commercial ships.

Oct. 19 - By a night march, Jubal Early's Southern forces surprise and rout Sheridan's army in a pre-dawn attack on its camp on Cedar Creek, but the Union commander, on his way back from a visit to Washington, rejoins his troops in the late morning and rallies them, forcing the Confederates to withdraw, virtually ending the fighting in the Shenandoah Valley. In a report, Sheridan says of his arrival on the field: "I here took the affair in hand and quickly united the corps, formed a compact line of battle just in time to repulse an attack of the enemy, which was handsomely done at about 1 p.m."

Oct. 22 - President Lincoln issues a proclamation setting the last Thursday in November as a day of thanksgiving and prayer.

Oct. 23 - Confederate Gen. Sterling Price's army, continuing its raid through Missouri, is defeated by Federals under Gen. S.G. Curtis in a battle at Westport described as "the biggest Civil War engagement west of the Missouri."

Oct. 27 - In an offensive known as Hatcher's Run, a part of the Petersburg campaign, Grant fails in an attempt to cut the Boydton Road and the Southside Railroad.

Oct. 27 - The C.S.S. Albermarle, Cornfield-built ironclad used by the Confederates in the recapture of Plymouth, N.C., and constantly spied on by the Union is torpedoed and sunk at her moorings in the Roanoke River by a small-boat expedition commanded by young Lt. W. B. Cushing.

Oct. 29 - Capitalizing on the destruction of the Albermarle, Union gunboats attack and recapture Plymouth, N.C.

Oct. 30 - The C.S.S. Shenandoah captures her first prize, the new bark Aline, overhauled on her maiden voyage south of the Azores and carrying a cargo of railroad iron.
NEW HEADQUARTERS for the Ulysses S. Grant Association have been announced by that agency’s board of directors. After two years of residency in the Ohio State Museum, Columbus, Ohio, the Association has moved its files to the library of Southern Illinois University at Carbondale. John Y. Simon, executive director of the Association, will continue his duties while serving on the history staff at SIU. The first of fifteen proposed volumes of Gen. Grant’s correspondence is tentatively scheduled for publication next year.

ANOTHER SOUTHERN STATE has met its voluntary quota for the Jefferson Davis Association. Adam G. Adams, chairman of the Florida CWCC, has informed National Commission headquarters that his state has raised $500 to match the contributions of other Southern states for the publication of the papers of the Confederate President. These new funds will be forwarded to the Davis Association on the campus of Rice University.

A NEW FILM STRIP has made its debut in Centennial circles. Entitled "Immigrants in Hardee Hats--Wisconsin Fights the Civil War," the 40-frame strip is a product of the State Historical Society of Wisconsin (816 State St., Madison 6). Copies of this excellent visual summary may be either purchased or rented from the Society.

THE MICHIGAN CWCC, continuing its commendable publications program, has just issued "Michigan Institutions of Higher Education in the Civil War." Edited by Willis F. Dunbar, this 123-page work contains nine essays on as many educational centers in the Wolverine State. Copies of this paperback study are available from Floyd L. Haight, chairman of the Michigan Commission, 22307 S. Military, Dearborn, Mich.

JOHN MAY, chairman of the South Carolina Centennial Commission, was recently elected National Commander-in-Chief of the Sons of Confederate Veterans. The National Commission salutes Mr. May on this latest honor in a long and distinguished career.

A SOLDIER HONORED

Perhaps the only memorial to be erected to an individual during the Centennial years will be formally unveiled next month in North Tonawanda, N. Y. The recipient of this honor is Lt. Col. Lewis S. Payne (1819-1898), who, in addition to being a field officer in the 100th New York Infantry, also became one of the Civil War’s most accomplished scouts. The forthcoming ceremony to Col. Payne’s memory will be held November 11 in North Tonawanda under the auspices of "reactivated" Co. D, 100th “Eagle” Regiment of the Tonawandas. Funds for the plaque were raised in part from the sale of a special cover. For information on the ceremony and cover, contact Frank C. Bellinger, 61 Grove Street, Tonawanda, N. Y.
RESURRECTION OF A RAM

Large-scale efforts are underway in North Carolina to underwrite the restoration of the Confederate ram "Neuse." After three years of labor, salvage crews in May of this year raised the 300-ton hull from the bottom of the river where Confederates were forced to sink her a full century ago. The hull (shown at right being sprayed with a preservative) is now at the Governor Richard Caswell Memorial Site in Kinston, N.C.

Local agencies are employing various means to raise money for permanent preservation of the "Neuse." The North Carolina Confederate Centennial Commission has a number of souvenir commemorative coins pertaining to the "Neuse." They are available at fifty cents each from Box 1881, Raleigh, N.C.

In addition, the Lenoir County Confederate Centennial Committee (Box 824, Kinston, N.C.) is offering to donors certificates of commission in the "Confederate States Navy." These certificates are duplicates of original commissions issued by Jefferson Davis. They are available in the following ranks (with amount of contribution in parentheses): Boatswain's Mate ($5), Lieutenant ($6-9), Commander ($10-15), Captain ($16-24), Flag Officer ($25 or more).

Officials connected with this project are hopeful of raising $40,000 for the preservation of the "Neuse."

THE SONS OF UNION VETERANS of the Czechoslovak Society of America will premiere a new play, "So Brittle the Sword--So Fragile the Heart," next March in Chicago. Author-director of the production is Jerry F. Chmelicek, who wrote and staged the well-received drama, "Lincoln's First Love." The new 4-act drama will span the full Civil War period and emphasize the role of Czech-Americans in the sectional struggle.

DEATH HAS CLAIMED two more literary figures in the field of Civil War history: Alfred H. Bill, aged 85, who wrote "Rehearsal for Conflict" and "Beleaguered City," and Atlanta dentist Dr. L. Minor Blackford, author of "Mine Eyes Have Seen the Glory" and editor of several volumes on the wartime careers of members of his distinguished Virginia family.

"SHIPPENSBURG IN THE CIVIL WAR" is the title of a 320-page book just published by the Shippensburg Historical Society, E. Orange Street, Shippensburg, Pa. The volume includes summaries on the six infantry companies from that area which served in Federal armies, discussions of the two Confederate invasions of the regions, plus letters and newspaper items of the period. The book, in hard covers, is available at $5.35 from the Society.

EXHIBIT BEARS FRUIT

Pictured at left is the Indiana CWCC display exhibited recently at the Indiana State Fair in Indianapolis. Commission staff members Carolyn Stinnett and Bobbie Haggard flank the elaborate exhibit. An estimated 250,000 people viewed the items relative to the Hoosier State in the Civil War; and Indiana CWCC chairman Carl Zenor reported that more than 200 Civil War letters were obtained through the impetus of the display.

This month the Indiana Commission begins distribution of its centennial film strip to schools throughout the state. Delegates to the Seventh National Assembly saw the premiere of this still-picture history of Indiana during wartime.
SEVERAL NATIONAL COMMISSION OFFICIALS may be found in academic circles this fall. Chairman Allan Nevins, fresh from his recent unusual role as television commentator for the two national political conventions, is in England as Harmsworth Professor of History at Oxford. He will return to the States in time for next year's National Assembly in Springfield. Dr. Bell I. Wiley is lecturing in Europe this fall under the auspices of the State Department. Dr. Avery O. Craven is a visiting professor at the University of Wisconsin, while Dr. John A. Krout is in a similar capacity at Heidelberg College. National Commission director James Robertson continues as a part-time member of the history staff at George Washington University.

"LINCOLN AND THE GETTYSBURG ADDRESS," a volume containing papers read at a Commission-sponsored symposium last January, is now being distributed by the University of Illinois Press, Urbana. Included in the volume (priced at $2.95 per copy) are addresses by John Dos Passos, Paul H. Douglas, Arthur Lehman, Robert Lowell, and Reinhold Niebuhr. Allan Nevins edited the volume and added an illuminating introduction. Almost 1,000 advance orders were received before the book rolled off the presses.

A CONFEDERATE FORT BEFORE RESTORATION

Among the many historical attractions in Georgia is recently restored Fort McAllister, which was the primary bastion during the Civil War for the defense of Savannah against attacks from the sea. Construction of the fort—largely with slave labor—began in 1861; improvements were made over a period of two years. So impregnable was Fort McAllister that it successfully repulsed at least seven sea assaults. The fort finally fell in December, 1864, after Sherman's brigades attacked it from the rear.

The above photographs were taken in 1956, before restorative work began. They reveal vividly how Fort McAllister withstood the ravages of time. The large opening in the left photograph is believed to have been the main oven used for preparing the garrison's meals. The height of the opening measures eight feet. The smaller opening to the left led to one of the powder magazines.

In the center picture can be seen the earthen wall that faced the Ogeechee River. The fort's outer walls, of which this is one, were 40-50 feet thick at the base, and wide enough at the top for a one-lane road.

At right is a passageway in one of the powder magazines. Live oaken beams were used to shore up the tunnels. Doors to the left and right of this passageway led into the storage rooms.

The appearance of Fort McAllister today will be shown in a future newsletter.