MONTHLY CHRONOLOGY FOR 1864

SIGNIFICANT EVENTS AS WAR DEVELOPS

Mar. 1 — The Confederate ram Tennessee, appearing to be moving slowly, crosses over Dog River Bar and appears in Mobile Bay in full sight of the Union fleet under Farragut.

Mar. 1 — Union horsemen under Gen. Judson Kilpatrick and Col. Ulric Dahlgren, after a strenuous ride through mud and rain from near Culpeper, Va., during which they destroy rail connections with Lee's army at Orange Court House, advance on Richmond in separate attacks, but both are beaten off.

Mar. 2 — Young Colonel Dahlgren, trying to flee to safety after attack on Richmond, is ambushed by Confederate home guardsmen at night and killed. Northern newspapers, meanwhile, announce: "Lee's Communication with Richmond Severed. Hampton's Legion Badly whipped."

Mar. 2 — Rear Admiral David Porter arrives off mouth of Red River to prepare to cooperate with the Army in gaining control of Texas.

Mar. 3 — Union Navy Secretary Welles, notified of plan of Confederate vessels in French ports to attack the U.S.S. Kearsarge, cruising in European waters, orders her commander, Captain John A. Winslow, to accept the challenge and "to defend herself and cripple or capture her assailants."

Mar. 5 — Lt. John Taylor Wood, President Zachary Taylor's grandson, leads an early-morning raid on Union-held Cherrystone Point, Va., destroying the telegraph station and two army steamers.

Mar. 5 — Confederate First Assistant Engineer James H. Tomb, advancing in darkness in a David, or torpedo boat, fails to damage the U.S.S. Memphis, anchored in the North Edisto River near Charleston, because of a faulty torpedo.

Mar. 8 — Washington press dispatches announce: "Without staff or flourish of trumpets, Gen. Grant made his entry into the city this evening, accompanied by his son, a lad 13 years old." The officer soon is in a four-hour conference with General-in-Chief of the Army Halleck.

Mar. 8 — Union Navy Lt. Thomas O. Selfridge, on board the U.S.S. Cumberland at the time of her sinking by the C.S.S. Virginia (Merrimack) on Mar. 8, 1862, and in command of the U.S.S. Cairo, sunk by a torpedo the following December, has the third vessel go down under him when his ship, the U.S.S. Conestoga, is accidentally rammed by the U.S.S. General Price.

Mar. 9 — The Richmond Whig announces the railroad communicating with Lee's army, damaged during the Kilpatrick-Dahlgren raid, will not be completely rebuilt for another week.

Mar. 11 — Grant visits General Meade at the headquarters of the Army of the Potomac near Brandy Station, Va., arriving in the midst of a heavy rainstorm. Notice is soon given that women and other visitors without military connections must leave the Union camps.

Mar. 12 — Porter's gunboats move up Red River to open the campaign along that waterway.

Mar. 12 — President Lincoln issues orders placing Grant in command of all Union armies and assigning Halleck as Chief of Staff. At the same time, it is announced that Maj. Gen. W. T. Sherman is to command the Military Division of the Mississippi and Maj. Gen. J. B. McPherson the Department of the Army of the Tennessee.

Mar. 13 — Union forces open successful attack on Fort DeRussey, one of the strongholds along the Red River.

Mar. 14 — Lincoln announces draft, effective April 15, of 200,000 additional men to be divided among the various branches of the service.

Mar. 15 — Orders are issued reorganizing the Army of the Potomac into three strong corps, commanded respectively by Generals Hancock, Warren and Sedgwick.

Mar. 17 — Confederate papers report Confederate currency is being funded at the rate of $1,000,000 per day.

Mar. 19 — Washington is upset by rumors that the Confederates have crossed the Rapidan River and are making an offensive movement toward the Union capital.

Mar. 25 — Union troops under Maj. Gen. N. P. Banks arrive at Alexandria, La., a week later than originally planned, and prepare to begin operations as the major army force in the Red River campaign.

Mar. 26 — Lincoln issues proclamation authorizing every commissioned officer in the Union service to administer the oath of allegiance.

Mar. 28 — Announcement is made that Gen. Phil Sheridan, formerly engaged in the fighting in Tennessee, is to replace Gen. Alfred Pleasonton as chief of cavalry for the Army of the Potomac.

Mar. 29 — Low level of the Red River, an unusual development during the spring season of the year, slows progress of Porter's gunboats up the Red River.
DAVIS PAPERS GET FINANCIAL BOOST

A kickoff contribution of $20,000 to assist in collecting and publishing the papers of Confederate President Jefferson Davis has been made by the Alabama, Georgia, Gulf, and Mississippi power companies. These four firms are affiliates of The Southern Company, which announced the grant last month. The funds will go to the Jefferson Davis Association, sponsored by the National Commission, for the many editorial expenses involved in the task of collecting, annotating and editing for publication the letters and speeches of the Southern leader. Several of the Southern state centennial commissions have already made contributions to this Rice University-based association. Strong efforts are underway in other Southern states to obtain financial assistance for the project. This sizable grant by The Southern Company insures the undertaking a healthy start.

A MEETING OF SEVERAL OF THE COMPILERS for the National Commission's "Bibliography of the Civil War" will be held March 11 at the Commission's Washington headquarters. As announced earlier, this project is designed to be an annotated and cross-referenced bibliography of 10,000 or more Civil War books. The purpose of the forthcoming all-day conference is to discuss common plans, problems, and progress of the undertaking as a whole. Four of the fifteen compilers will meet with Drs. Bell I. Wiley and James Robertson, who, along with National Commission chairman Allan Nevins, are co-editors of the bibliography. The representative compilers attending this meeting are Profs. May S. Ringgold of Clemson College, Daniel W. Hollis of the University of South Carolina, Martin Abbott of Oglethorpe University, and Archer Jones of the Virginia Polytechnic Institute.

"THE GENERAL" RETURNS TO ATLANTA

An added feature of the Seventh National Assembly (to be held in Atlanta, June 10-12) will be a return visit to that city by the locomotive "The General." This railroad engine was one of two principals involved in the 1862 escapade known as "The Great Locomotive Chase." It was removed from its Chattanooga resting place, rebuilt, and sent on national tour by its owner, the Louisville & Nashville Railroad. For this contribution, the L & N received the National Commission's highest award, The Centennial Medallion. "The General" will be on exhibit in Atlanta throughout the period of the National Assembly. This will be the locomotive's last visit to that city. Final arrangements for the engine's display are being made by the National Commission, the Georgia CWCC, and the L & N Railroad.

"STONEWALL JACKSON'S WAY," the latest film produced by the Virginia Civil War Commission, is enjoying high popularity. Since its release eight months ago, this dramatized life of Jackson has been shown to over 100 groups and televised by 18 stations in five states and the District of Columbia. In addition, states James J. Geary, Executive Director of the Virginia Commission, copies of Virginia, 1861-1865: Iron Gate to the Confederacy have been sent to each member of the two prison Civil War Round Tables.
THE MULTI-VOLUME ROSTER OF NORTH CAROLINA SOLDIERS continues to make progress, with the first volume slated for publication next year. This project, one of several sponsored by the North Carolina CWCC, promises to be one of the most voluminous of the Centennial. Messrs. Louis Manarin and Fleming Fraker are laboring full time in the National Archives in compiling and assimilating the service records of the thousands of Tarheels who served with both the gray and the blue.

A FOLIO OF SIXTEEN MAPS, relative to troops movements at the 1864 battle of Cold Harbor, Va., is now in preparation by the Richmond Civil War Centennial Committee. Assisting the Richmond agency are the National Park Service and Richmond Department of Public Works. Robert W. Waitt, Jr., Executive Secretary of the Richmond CWCC, states that these maps "will show troop movements almost by the hour." Target date for publication of the folio is the June 3 centennial of the battle.

A WASHINGTON TRIBUTE TO GRANT

On March 7, the District of Columbia CWCC will mark the centennial of Gen. U. S. Grant's assumption of supreme command of the Federal armies with a special Washington ceremony. The program will begin in the National Gallery of Art and conclude at the impressive Grant Monument on the west side of the Capitol. Participating in this event will be the U.S. Marine Band, the U.S. Army Chorus, and the Combined Color Guard. Gen. U. S. Grant, III, and the great-grandson of President Abraham Lincoln will be special guests. District of Columbia CWCC Chairman Paul J. Sedgwick is in charge of the overall program.

UNDER THE TITLE, "LONG REMEMBERED," the Library of Congress has published a folio-size brochure containing exact facsimiles of the five surviving manuscripts of the Gettysburg Address in the handwriting of Abraham Lincoln. Two prominent Lincoln scholars, National Commission member David C. Mearns and the LC's Lloyd A. Dunlap, have added a history of the speech's preparation, as well as notes and comments on the various editions which Lincoln penned. This volume is available at $1.50 per copy from the Card Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D. C. 20540.

THE BLOUNT COUNTY (ALA.) HISTORICAL SOCIETY, working in cooperation with the Alabama CWCC, recently published a pamphlet entitled The Forrest-Streight Raid. Not only does the brochure give a clear and authentic picture of this Spring, 1863, campaign in northern Alabama; it also clarifies the mystery of the "two barefooted country girls" who gave such able assistance to Bedford Forrest in his successful raid. An elaborate commemorative program honoring these two girls -- the Murphree sisters -- will be held May 3, 1964, under the auspices of the Blount County Historical Society. Funds are currently being collected in the area for a marker in honor of the young but ardent Confederates.

GOVERNOR CARL SANDERS OF GEORGIA has tentatively accepted an invitation to address the Seventh National Assembly. The Governor's remarks will come on Friday evening, June 12, when the final program of the Assembly will be held atop world-famous Stone Mountain, a few miles east of Atlanta. The highly acclaimed 26th North Carolina Regimental Band of Winston-Salem, its members using authentic Civil War instruments, will present a concert of music from the mountain top as part of that evening's program. Additional aspects of the Seventh National Assembly will be announced in future newsletters.
COPIES OF "THE CIVIL WAR," the National Commission's student handbook, are now being distributed to park visitors at Gettysburg, Antietam, Harpers Ferry, and Chickamauga. The National Park Service, which made the request for copies, is now investigating means of making available to battlefield visitors the edition of the handbook recently published by the Government Printing Office.

THE NATIONAL COMMISSION'S NEW ADDRESS AND PHONE NUMBERS are printed at the end of this newsletter. Persons either writing or calling Commission headquarters are urged henceforth to use the new data in order to avoid delay.

THE SALVAGING OF THE "CAIRO" from its Yazoo River grave has received a severe emotional blow. Dr. Walter Johnson, a Vicksburg physician who had raised funds for the project and was one of its most active supporters, drowned January 12 while assisting in the salvaging operations. In spite of this setback, plans continue for the raising of the Union gunboat from the muddy waters of the Yazoo. The "Cairo" was attempting to ascend the Yazoo in December, 1862, when it sank after striking a submerged torpedo.

THE SEMI-ANNUAL MEETING of the Confederate States Centennial Conference will be held in Jacksonville, Fla., March 13-14, at the Robert Meyer Hotel. Speakers will be Judge Ben. C. Willis and Profs. Rembert W. Patrick and John E. Johns. A climax of the conference will be a bus tour to St. Augustine and nearby historic sites.

INTERNATIONAL SERVICES HONOR IRISH PATRIOT

At January services held simultaneously in Bronx, N.Y., and Newry, County Down, Ireland, tributes were paid to John Mitchel and his descendants. Mitchel devoted his life to the causes of Irish and Confederate freedom. Two of his sons died fighting in Southern armies. A third, though wounded several times, survived the war and fathered a future mayor of New York City. The accompanying photograph shows a scene at the Bronx ceremony, which was attended by representatives of Georgia, South Carolina, New Jersey, and New York. Miss Desi- ree L. Franklin (extreme left) was one of the featured participants, as were members of New York's Irish Brigade Memorial Committee.

THE SECOND BATTLE OF NEW MARKET, VA., will take place May 16, when some 600 men of "reactivated" Civil War units will re-create the stunning defeat of Federal forces under General Franz Sigel. This re-enactment will climax a three-day observance to be held at New Market in the heart of the famed Shenandoah Valley.

LEWIS D. W. HALL, Co-chairman of the Arizona CWCC, announces that copies are still available of the special issue of the periodical, "Smoke Signals," which treated entirely of the Civil War in the Southwest. For copies or further information, interested persons should contact Mr. Hall at 1765 West Los Altos Road, Tucson, Arizona.

THOSE PERSONS PLANNING TO ATTEND THE ATLANTA ASSEMBLY and who are not members or staff members of state commissions are requested to write National Commission Headquarters and obtain special prepaid room reservation cards. These reservation cards will apply to the block of rooms being held for delegates to the Seventh National Assembly.