April 1 — Announcement is made that Pvt. Thomas Abraham, Co. 6, 139th New York Volunteers, accused of permitting the accused murderer, Union Pvt. Wm. J. Boyle, to escape from prison at Williamsburg, Va., and warn the Confederates in time for them to block the attack on Richmond in early February, has been sentenced to death.

April 5 — Gen. U. S. Grant returns to Washington from Fort Monroe, Va., where he had gone on Mar. 31, and has long conference with President Lincoln and Secretary of War Stanton.

April 6 — The New York Times’ Washington reporter telegraphs: "Reports of extreme quiet come from the Army of the Potomac... Mosby and his choice spirits have ceased to trouble the lines or harass the sutlers. Everything indicates the zeal and energy with which both armies are preparing for the great, deadly final campaign of the rebellion.”

April 9 — Union Gen. N. P. Banks, defeated at Sabine Cross Roads on the 8th, is pursued by Confederates under Gen. Richard Taylor and overtaken at Pleasant Hill, La., where a battle rages late in the day in another phase of the Red River Campaign. The Federals are able to withdraw during the night to Grand Ecore and to entrench.

April 9—Confederate Lt. Hunter Davidson, aided by a crew of six, drives the little torpedo boat Squib against the side of the 35-foot Minnesota of Newport News, Va., and then escapes up James River, having caused more confusion than damage.

April 10 — Admiral David Porter’s gunboats and transports reach Springfield Landing, La., the high-water mark of the Red River Campaign, there to be blocked by the sunken steamer New Falls City, scuttled crosswise in the stream and bearing in large letters a Confederate invitation to the Union invaders to attend a ball in Shreveport.

April 12 — Union vessels descending the Red River and hurried along by the alarming drop in the water level undergo heavy fire from Confederates concealed along the banks. At Blair’s Landing, dismounted cavalry, supported by artillery, attacks in an engagement that results in the death of the Southern commander, General Thomas Green.

April 12 — Confederates under Gen. Nathan B. Forrest attack and capture Fort Pillow, Tenn., killing more than 200 Federals in an affair that leads to charges of atrocities against the Southerners and becomes known as the "Fort Pillow Massacre.”

April 14 — Porter’s position in the Red River becomes increasingly critical as the Southerners divert into other channels sources of water feeding the stream.

April 15 — Mosby's guerrillas attack at Bristow Station, Va., killing and wounding a number of Federals and barely missing a train from Washington on which Gen. Grant and Custer are returning, without special guards, to the headquarters of the Army of the Potomac at Brandy Station.

April 16 — Confederate torpedoes, playing an increasing role in the defense of rivers and harbors in the South, sink the army transport General Hunter in the St. John’s River in Florida.

April 17 — Confederates launch attack on Union-held Plymouth, N. C., sinking the army steamer Bombshell during the assault.

April 19 — The Confederate ironclad Albemarle, built in a North Carolina cornfield, makes its way down Roanoke River and attacks Federals at Plymouth at 3:30 a.m., sinking the U.S.S. Southerland and causing the U.S.S. Miami to flee after her commander, Charles W. Flusser, is slain.

April 20 — With the Albemarle controlling the water approaches to Plymouth, the town again falls into Confederate hands.

April 21 — The Governors of Pennsylvania, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Iowa and Wisconsin visit Washington and encourage Lincoln to draft men for short-time service as guards to relieve veteran soldiers for duty in the field during the '64 campaign.

April 24 — The Washington Star informs the public that a housewife from nearby Virginia has visited the city to deliver a lock of sandy hair to Lincoln, reporting that it came from the head of the guerrilla Mosby, who sent word he would be in the city soon to make the President’s personal acquaintance.

April 27 — After fighting a running engagement with the Confederates and losing one of his smaller vessels, Porter succeeds in getting his fleet back to Alexandria, La., where he finds himself stranded by low water.

April 27 — "The Rebels Beginning to Quake," a Northern newspaper announces in headlines above the following item from the Petersburg, Va., Express of April 22: "Instructions have been given to the First Auditor to remove his bureau from Richmond to Montgomery, Ala., next week.”

April 28 — Under direction of Lt. Col. Joseph Bailey, a Northern lumberman, the Federals at Alexandria, La., begin constructing a dam to raise the water level of the Red River and take the stranded vessels over the falls at that point.
Pictured (left to right) are: Senator Ralph Yarborough of Texas, Dr. Allan Nevins of The Huntington Library, Mayor Ivan Allen, Jr., of Atlanta, and Dr. Spencer B. King, Jr., of Mercer University. These gentlemen will play leading roles in the forthcoming Seventh National Assembly in Atlanta, Ga.

INFORMATION IS BEING SOUGHT on Zouave-type uniforms worn initially by several Civil War units. Persons who can be of assistance on this subject are asked to contact Carl A. Zenor, Executive Director of the Indiana CWCC, State Library, Indianapolis 4.

A DISTINGUISHED ARRAY OF SCHOLARS AND STATESMEN will make the Seventh National Assembly, to be held in Atlanta, Ga., June 10-12, one of the most interesting and informative annual meetings in the National Commission's history.

Featured speakers will be Senator Ralph Yarborough of Texas, Governor Carl Sanders of Georgia, Mayor Ivan Allen, Jr., of Atlanta, and Chairman Allan Nevins of the National Commission. Panelists will include Beverly M. DuBose, Jr., Allen P. Julian, Franklin Garrett, Alexander A. Lawrence, Rembert W. Patrick, Mary Givens Bryan, Spencer B. King, Jr., Mary Elizabeth Massey, David C. Mears, A. B. Moore, Roy K. Davenport, Norman FitzGerald, Jr., Daniel W. Hollis, Elaine V. Johnson, Ralph G. Newman, and others. Five panel discussions, a bus tour of Atlanta historic spots, and a climatic banquet atop Stone Mountain, are but part of the three-day meeting. Headquarters for the Assembly will be the Atlanta Americana Motor Hotel.

"Atlanta, 1864" is the subject of the opening panel on Wednesday morning, June 10. Three recognized authorities will examine aspects of that critical campaign. Dr. Allan Nevins will deliver the major address at a combined noon luncheon and opening plenary session. That afternoon three films will comprise a second panel session: "Stonewall Jackson's Way" (Virginia CWCC), "Indiana in the Civil War" (Indiana CWCC), and "Gettysburg" (courtesy Dore Schary and the National Park Service.

The second day's activities begin with a morning panel, "The Confederate Home Front." Participants will discuss the social, economic, political, and archival aspects of life behind the Southern lines. At 2 p.m. on Thursday, "Problems of the Civil War" will be aired. Three panelists will analyze Confederate military leadership, personnel problems in army administration, and internal problems of the respective governments. That night Senator Ralph Yarborough will be featured speaker at an informal dinner.

The third and final day of the Assembly will be busy, crowded, and marked by diversified events. The annual conclave of Civil War Round Tables will join the National Assembly for the day's program. A panel discussion on Friday morning will revolve around the provocative theme, "After the Centennial--What?" Participants will deal with such subjects as scholarly works remaining to be done, what the layman still wishes to read, contributions of a lasting nature that state commissions can make, and comments on how valuable the Centennial has been to the study of the Civil War.
Atlanta Mayor Ivan Allen, Jr., will make a short address at Friday's noon luncheon and closing plenary session. Immediately thereafter, delegates will board buses for a trip to the Atlanta Cyclorama and other noted sites. Later in the afternoon delegates will arrive at Stone Mountain, where cable cars, scenic railroad, museum, and the natural wonder of the mountain itself await them. That evening, atop the gigantic granite deposit, the 26th North Carolina Band will present a concert prior to a barbecue dinner. Georgia Governor Carl Sanders will then address the gathering.

The National Commission urges all state commissioners, Round Tablers, and interested persons who plan to attend the Atlanta meeting to make their Americana room reservations immediately. Special reservation cards are available on request from National Commission headquarters. A record attendance is expected at this annual meeting. Early registration will insure desired space at the Americana.

**THOSE WHO READ WORKS ON THE CIVIL WAR** should be aware of several excellent publications of the Independence County Historical Society, Batesville, Arkansas. Fifty-two articles devoted in whole or in part to the war have appeared in the Society's quarterly journal, the Chronicle, during the Centennial years. In addition, the organization discovered and published in book form General Marcus J. Wright's *Arkansas in the War, 1861-1865*. Inquiries regarding these publications should be made to Society in Batesville.

**A NUMBER OF LOCAL GROUPS** are engaged in various Centennial functions. The Roanoke (Va.) City-County Civil War Commission will sponsor an impressive program June 21 commemorating the battle of Hanging Rock. A special marker will be placed at that time at the battle site. A new Centennial agency, the Metropolitan Civil War Centennial Commission, has been formed. It encompasses the area of eastern Iowa and western Illinois and is already laying plans for numerous programs. Congressman from Iowa Fred Schwengel, Vice-Chairman of the National Commission, is serving as one of the officers of this group. This committee's first project will be to pay tribute to those who began the custom of Memorial Day. In Tennessee, the Cumberland County CWCC has just published "Tales of the Civil War Era," a collection of personal experiences in the county during the war. Copies are seventy-five cents each and may be ordered through Col. Campbell H. Brown, Director of the Tennessee CWCC, Library and Archives Building, Nashville. The General John H. Forney Historical Society in Anniston, Alabama, recently held a special program dedicating eight historical markers to as many Civil War leaders. Featured speaker for the occasion was the Rt. Rev. C. C. J. Carpenter, Bishop of the Diocese of Alabama.

**MUSIC FROM THE PAST IN ATLANTA**

One of the featured attractions at the Seventh National Assembly in Atlanta will be a concert by the reactivated 26th North Carolina Band from Winston-Salem. Highly acclaimed wherever they appear, the present-day aggregation employs band arrangements of the Civil War period. Many of the members play the instruments actually used by the original band (top photograph).

The band concert in Atlanta will take place atop Stone Mountain on Friday evening, June 12, during the last scheduled event of the Assembly. In addition to the concert, the evening's agenda will include tours of the mountain, rides on the scenic railroad, dinner, and a speech by Governor of Georgia Carl Sanders.
BIBLIOGRAPHICAL ORDER
OUT OF LITERARY CHAOS

In an effort to fill partially the most glaring and awe-some void in the field of Civil War history, the National Commission has undertaken sponsorship of the first comprehensive and annotated bibliography of books treating of the war. Fifteen compilers are currently at work on as many headings. On March 11, a four-hour organizational conference was held at the Commission's new Washington offices to discuss plans and problems relative to the massive listing. In attendance were (left to right): Dr. Daniel W. Hollis of the University of South Carolina, compiler for the section "General Works;" Dr. Bell I. Wiley of Emory University, one of the three General Editors; Dr. May S. Ringold of Clemson College, preparing "The Confederacy—Social and Economic Conditions," Dr. Martin Abbott of Oglethorpe University, compiler for "The Confederacy—Government and Politics;" Dr. Archer Jones of the Virginia Polytechnic Institute, compiler for "Military Aspects—Mobilization, Administration and Supply;" and Dr. James Robertson, a General Editor and compiler for "Military Aspects—Soldier Life."

COPIES OF THE COMMISSION'S BOOKLET, "Our Women of the Sixties," are no longer available. The popularity of this tribute to women North and South was such that a second printing, done several months ago, is now exhausted. Lack of funds prevents another press run. The National Commission remains indebted to Sylvia G. L. Dannett and Katharine M. Jones, who jointly prepared the text, and to the hundreds of persons who have publicly praised the work.

"A PAIR OF BOOTS," the widely acclaimed television drama written by Mort R. Lewis (a member of the Commission's Radio and Television Subcommittee), was one of four finalists for the 1962-1963 Writer's Guild of America Award for Television Anthology Drama. The half-hour program, shown on the "Lloyd Bridges Show," was in competition with 150 televised dramas, including hour-long teleplays. That Mr. Lewis' play was the only half-hour drama to make the finals is in itself a noteworthy achievement.

PROGRAMS COMMEMORATING "JEB" STUART highlight the springtime activities in Virginia. Special ceremonies will be held May 9 in Henrico County and May 10 in Stuart. A special exhibit on the famed Confederate cavalryman is now on display at the Virginia Commission's Centennial Center. Included in the exhibit are Stuart's saddle, pistol, diary, prayer book and other personal possessions.

A NEW PLAY, "Lincoln's First Love," premiered in Chicago last month. Author of the drama is Jerry Chmelicek, Publicity Director for the Czechoslovak Society of America. Mr. Chmelicek is currently at work on another stage production, pertaining to the Civil War and scheduled for first showing next March.

1964 COMMEMORATIVE STAMP

Pictured at left is the design selected by the Post Office Department for the 1964 Civil War Centennial commemorative stamp. Winner of this year's art competition was Bernard Harold Christenson of Brielle, New Jersey. A total of 34 designs was submitted. The "Wilderness Stamp," the fourth in a series of five marking the Centennial years, will be issued May 5 with appropriate ceremonies at Fredericksburg, Virginia. The two-day battle of the Wilderness (May 5-6) was a bloody and inconclusive engagement that marked the beginning of Grant's 1864 "On to Richmond" drive.

PREPARED AND DISTRIBUTED AT CIVIL WAR CENTENNIAL COMMISSION HEADQUARTERS
1815 H STREET, N.W., ROOM 1117
WASHINGTON 25, D.C.
TELEPHONE CODE 202-382-1225 or 1226