MONTHLY CHRONOLOGY FOR 1864

July 2 — Navy Secretary Welles is informed by Union forces at Memphis that the C.S.S. Tennessee will be ready for sea in 20 days and that she is a "dangerous craft."

July 2 — Hearing reports Confederate forces are about to move against the blockaders off Charleston, Union gunboats start a diversionary expedition up Stono River, causing some destruction.

July 4 — Independence Day is observed on Union fronts by firing salutes from double-shotted guns morning, noon and night. There is no reply from the Confederates.

July 4 — The Confederate guerrilla Mosby, with 150 men and a 12-pounder Napoleon, strikes at Point of Rocks, Md., routing the Federal battalion there and burning store houses and a canal boat.

July 5 — By proclamation, President Lincoln suspends writ of habeas corpus and establishes martial law in Kentucky.

July 6 — Near Aldie, Va., at the site of his first rendezvous, Mosby with 90 Rangers routes 150 Massachusetts and New York cavalrymen, capturing more than 100 horses.

July 9 — Confederate forces under Gen. Jubal Early, having marched down the Shenandoah Valley after repulsing Hunter at Lynchburg, encounter federal troops commanded by Gen. Lew Wallace at Monocacy, Md., and rout them, with nearly half casualties or missing, causing panic in Washington and Baltimore.

July 11 — Union Gen. Wm. B. Franklin, on leave after grilling service in the Red River campaign, is taken from one of two passenger trains burned by Harry Gilmor’s guerrillas near Baltimore, but manages to escape when his guards fall asleep.

July 11 — Early arrives on edge of Washington, but decides against attack because of the arrival in the city of Federal reinforcements. He withdraws the following day after heavy skirmishing around Fort Stevens.

July 18 — Admiral Farragut announces plans of attack on Mobile Bay, proposing that his vessels go in past Fort Morgan two by two, with the ironclads nearest the fort.

July 20 — Gen. John B. Hood, new commander of the Confederate forces in the Atlanta campaign, launches an attack on Thomas’ unsupported army astride Peachtree Creek that fails after a loss of an estimated 2,500 men.

July 21 — A letter written from Canada on July 12 is published by the Northern press. It announces that a commission is waiting near Niagara Falls as official bearers of propositions from Richmond looking toward the establishment of peace.

July 22 — After a night march, Confederate forces attack the exposed south flank of Union Gen. J. B. McPherson near Atlanta, killing the commander, but failing in the assault.

July 22 — Gen. George Wright protests to Gen. Irwin McDowell, commanding the Department of the Pacific, that Mexican Imperial Gen. Emelio Lanberg is agitating in San Francisco in favor of Maximilian.

July 24 — Union VIII Corps under Gen. George Crook, encamped around Winchester, is attacked by Early and driven across the Potomac.

July 25 — Union naval forces, moving by water and later on foot, steal in to spy on the powerful ram C.S.S. Albemarle, the ship the Confederates had built in a cornfield and which had prevented the Federals from making an offensive in the Plymouth, N.C., area.

July 28 — Hood withdraws his forces to Atlanta after heavy fighting around Ezra Church, an engagement that developed in an attempt to block Sherman from cutting the line of communications to the south.

July 30 — After tunnelling 511 feet to a point under the Confederate line, the Federals besieging Petersburg set off a mine that kills nearly 300 Confederates, but confused leadership in the assault that follows causes the incident to be stamped a “stupendous failure.”

July 30 — In reprisal for Hunter’s destruction of private property in the Shenandoah Valley, Early sends cavalry to burn Chambersburg, Pa., destroying two-thirds of the town.

A TOTAL OF 186 DELEGATES at the Seventh National Assembly in Atlanta, Ga., made that annual meeting one of the largest attended in the National Commission’s history. Swelling the number of registrants were members of various Civil War Round Tables, whose 1964 conclave was held in conjunction with the Assembly. (more)
OPENING PLENARY SESSION

A luncheon on Wednesday, June 10, at the poolside of the Atlanta Americana Motor Hotel officially opened the Seventh National Assembly. Delegates partook generously from a buffet and gathered at small tables to exchange Centennial news. The top photograph shows a portion of registrants. Seated at the table on the left are Mr. and Mrs. Everett Landers and Mrs. Madeline Williams of the New Jersey Commission, along with Robert W. Waitt (partially hidden behind Mrs. Williams) of the Richmond Centennial Committee. At the table in the right foreground is National Commission member W. Norman Fitzgerald, Jr. (hand on chin) and two seats to his left—noted Civil War author Glenn Tucker.

In the bottom photograph, National Commission director James Robertson makes opening announcements to the delegates. Visible in this picture are Dr. Richard Wood (holding a program) of the Vermont CWCC, Prof. Mary Elizabeth Massey (seated behind Dr. Wood with hand on temple) of Winthrop College, and National Commission member Consuelo Bailey (in immediate foreground with hand on jaw).

All of the five panel sessions were conducted before large and attentive audiences. Much praise greeted the discussions by the seventeen panelists. (Mimeographed copies of many of the papers presented at the Assembly are available upon request from National Commission headquarters.)

As planned, the climax of the three-day meeting came on Friday, June 12, when delegates were treated to an inspection of the Atlanta Cyclorama, a bus ride to Stone Mountain, and a tour of all facilities at that new and very popular state park. Atlanta Mayor Ivan Allen, Jr., who addressed the convention at its final luncheon, accompanied the group on the first part of the excursion and placed wreaths at the monuments in Atlanta to Generals W. H. T. Walker and James B. McPherson.

One highlight of the Assembly was the receipt of a telegram of greeting from President of the United States Lyndon B. Johnson.

SEVENTH NATIONAL ASSEMBLY LEADERS

Shown at the head table during the opening day luncheon-plenary session are the four men most responsible for planning and carrying out this year's meeting in Atlanta. From left to right they are: Beverly M. DuBose, Jr., chairman of the Georgia CWCC; Allan Nevins, chairman of the National Commission; Bell I. Wiley, chairman of the Executive Committee of the National Commission; and National Commission director James Robertson.

An attentive listener at one of the panel sessions was Dr. Nevins (bottom photograph). To his left is Frank Wells, a feature writer for the Atlanta Journal.
HONORING THE HEROES

Following the closing plenary session of the Seventh National Assembly on Friday, June 12, delegates embarked by bus for an afternoon and evening of sightseeing and informal festivities. En route to Stone Mountain, the buses stopped at the two monuments in residential Atlanta honoring the two army commanders killed in the 1864 fighting for the city: Confederate Gen. W. H. T. Walker and Federal Gen. James B. McPherson. In the photograph at right, Atlanta Mayor Ivan Allen, Jr., is shown placing a wreath at the monument to Gen. Walker. A similar ceremony took place at the McPherson marker. In the left foreground are Carl A. Zenor (back to camera) of the Indiana CWCC and James J. Geary (wearing sunglasses) of the Virginia Commission. Also visible is Alabama’s Centennial head, Dr. A. B. Moore (hands clasped behind back).

Owing to key legislation before both houses of Congress, all congressional members of the National Commission were unable to attend the Atlanta meeting. This was particularly unfortunate, since Sen. Ralph Yarborough was scheduled to speak at the dinner banquet on June 11. Ralph McGill, editor of the Atlanta Constitution, kindly substituted for him. Dr. Bell Wiley presided over the opening plenary session in place of Congressman and National Commission vice chairman Fred Schwengel.

Massachusetts CWCC secretary Mary V. Darcy was hospitalized because of an automobile accident a week before the Assembly and thus could not preside over the second panel session. A severe thunderstorm on Friday evening prevented Georgia Governor Carl Sanders from addressing the delegates at Stone Mountain. However, Georgia CWCC chairman Beverly M. DuBose, Jr., assembled a varied program that informed and entertained the large audience. Although rain drove the 26th North Carolina Band into the pavilion atop the mountain, that organization far surpassed expectations and, at the end of its concert, gained a standing ovation from the assembly.

"In many respects," National Commission director James Robertson stated after the meeting, "this was the most successful of all national assemblies. The contributions of the panelists provoked much thought and discussion, and the other events of the program were very well received. Isolated problems, a part of any convention of this kind, kept our staff busy throughout the three days; but we are gratified at the large attendance and enthusiastic reception accorded the program as a whole."

The eighth and final national assembly will be held in Springfield, Ill. Tentative dates for this meeting are May 1-4, 1965.

MIXING BUSINESS AND PLEASURE

Upon their arrival at Stone Mountain, delegates to the Seventh National Assembly were treated to a number of diverse recreational facilities. In the top photograph, part of the crowd is shown boarding cars of the scenic railroad that circles the base of the mountain. A reconstructed engine of Civil War vintage, cars resembling those in use at the time of the conflict, and an “Indian raid” as the train proceeded along its five-mile course were but part of the short railroad trip.

Next came a cooling cruise on the huge man-made lake that is part of the Stone Mountain state park. The diesel-powered boat, christened the “Robert E. Lee,” was built to resemble a side-wheeler of antebellum days. Even though the approach of a thunderstorm cut short the boattride, delegates enjoyed themselves.
THE BATTLE OF MOBILE BAY will be centennially observed August 5 with elaborate, all-day ceremonies in the Alabama city-on-the-Gulf. Martin J. Johnson, Past National Commander of the Sons of Confederate Veterans, heads a special commission appointed by the mayor to carry out the commemoration. A pleasure-craft flotilla will land at Mobile at high noon, after which there will be a large parade and then the dedication in Bienville Square of the Monument to the Centennial. The monument itself will contain likenesses of opposing commanders Franklin Buchanan and David Farragut, as well as a scale-model replica of the Confederate ironclad, "Tennessee."

THE BATTLE OF MONOCACY CENTENNIAL will be marked July 5 and 9 by special ceremonies in and around Frederick, Md. Officials from Maryland, Pennsylvania and New Jersey will participate. On July 5 a national rededication ceremony will be held at the site of the Pennsylvania monument, with Mayor T. R. McKeldin of Baltimore as principal speaker. Four days later a Maryland-sponsored ceremony will honor battle participants on both sides at that state's new Monocacy memorial. Governor J. Millard Tawes will give the principal address. A commemorative booklet and coin will both be sold during and after the programs. Additional details may be obtained from C. Lease Bussard, President of the Frederick County CWCC, Frederick, Md.

THE UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS PRESS has announced that "Lincoln and the Gettysburg Address" will be published October 15, 1964, at a cost to purchasers of $2.95 per copy. This volume will contain the papers presented at a National Commission-sponsored symposium in Washington last winter.

FORT STEVENS CENTENNIAL

The centenary of the battle of Fort Stevens will be solemnly marked July 11 at the site of the fort in Washington, D.C. Sponsoring agencies are the District of Columbia CWCC, the Columbia Historical Society, the Lincoln Group, and the Ladies of the Grand Army of the Republic. Program features will include the presentation of a wreath from President Johnson, music by the U. S. Army Band, portrayal of Lincoln's presence at this battle, maneuvers by "reactivated" Civil War units, and an honor volley by a rifle squad from the Army's 3rd Regiment. Maj. Gen. Philip C. Weble, commanding the Military District of Washington, will be principal speaker.

ONE OF THE MOST UNUSUAL DISCOVERIES of the Centennial has just gone on public exhibition at the Union Mills Homestead, six miles north of Westminster, Md. It is a 12 x 15 foot mural on the battle of Antietam, which had remained in the obscurity of a Pennsylvania barn since 1904. The artist, Joseph C. Love, was wounded at the Maryland engagement. He is more known for his famous painting of the battle between the Kearsage and the Alabama. The giant mural recently discovered has been made available for showing through the courtesy of John J. Cobaugh of the Harrisburg CWRT and Prof. Frederic S. Klein, owner and curator of the Westminster museum. The painting contains hundreds of figures, including life-sized representations of Gen. Burnside and the artist himself.

SERIOUS STUDENTS OF THE CIVIL WAR will be pleased to know that Volume II of "Military Bibliography of the Civil War," the excellent regimental bibliography compiled by Charles E. Dornbusch, will roll from the presses of the New York Public Library this fall. This second volume will cover Southern, Border and additional Federal regimental histories and personal narratives.