MONTHLY CHRONOLOGY FOR 1864

SIGNIFICANT EVENTS AS WAR CONTINUES

Sept. 1 - At 5 o'clock in the afternoon, Confederates under Gen. J. B. Hood evacuate Atlanta, opening the way for Union troops under Sherman to take possession the following morning.

Sept. 2 - A news dispatch out of Baltimore announces: "Reconnaissances have established the fact that Early has not left and has no intention of leaving the Valley. His headquarters are at Bunker Hill, between Martinsburg and Winchester."

Sept. 3 - In recognition of the victories at Mobile and Atlanta, President Lincoln proclaims Sunday, Sept. 11, as a day of thanksgiving.

Sept. 4 - Gen. John Hunt Morgan, distinguished Confederate raider, is surprised and killed by Federal troops at Greenville, Tenn.

Sept. 5 - Union Navy Secretary Welles, preparing for an attack on Wilmington, N.C., the capture of which he considers more important than that of Richmond, orders command of the North Atlantic Blockading Squadron to Admiral Farragut, but the hero of Mobile Bay declines on account of failing health. The assignment eventually is given to Admiral David D. Porter.

Sept. 5 - A 100-gun salute is fired at the Washington Navy Yard, on orders of President Lincoln, in recognition of the "recent brilliant achievements" of Union forces in Mobile Bay.

Sept. 9 - The New York Times publishes a letter from Gen. U. S. Grant to Hon. E. B. Washburne in which the Union leader says: "The Rebels have now in their ranks their last man. . . A man lost by them cannot be replaced. They have robbed the cradle and the grave equally to get their present force. Besides what they lose in frequent skirmishes and battles, they are now losing from desertions and other causes at least one regiment per day. With this drain upon them the end is not far distant. . . Their only hope now is in a divided North."

Sept. 9 - Relying increasingly upon blockade runners for supplies, the Confederacy detaches Comdr. John N. Maffit, one of its most experienced captains, from command of the ironclad C.S.S. Albemarle and assigns him to the Owl, preparing to run out of Wilmington.

Sept. 9 - The Richmond Enquirer announces that the "next grand movement" of Grant will be an effort to reach the Southside Railroad at some point near Petersburg.

Sept. 13 - The Richmond Enquirer scoffs at rumor that Petersburg is to be evacuated and Danville made the next base of supplies, but the Northern press asserts that "there may be more truth in this than the Enquirer would like to admit."

Sept. 16 - At Dolores, Maximilian greets General Urzaga, a former Juarist leader who, with his followers, has come over to the Imperialist cause in Mexico.

Sept. 18 - Hood starts moving his army on the Franklin and Nashville Campaign, designed as a strike against the Union line of communications and to draw Sherman as far north as possible.

Sept. 19 - With Grant's permission, Sheridan attacks with 40,000 men and forces Early’s 12,000 to retreat in the battle of Winchester, or Opequon, a bloody affair that results in the loss of experienced leaders on both sides.

Sept. 19 - Confederates led by the daring Acting Master John Yates Beall, gentleman farmer of Charles Town, W. Va., captures and burns steamers on Lake Erie preparatory to an attack designed to release prisoners held at Johnson's Island, but the plan is discovered in time for it to be frustrated, and the Southerners disperse.

Sept. 19 - Confederate Navy Secretary Mallory issues instructions for blockade runners operated by the government to be destroyed, along with their cargoes, whenever their capture is imminent.

Sept. 22 - Early brings his shattered forces together in a natural position at Fisher's Hill, but is again attacked by Sheridan and driven up the Shenandoah Valley.

Sept. 24 - Sensing a tightening of the blockade at Wilmington, Gen. R. E. Lee urges that two or three years' supplies for the Southern army be brought in through the port before it is closed to blockade runners.

Sept. 26 - Despite warnings from Lee and others that raids out of Wilmington will bring a tightening of the blockade at that point, the runners Tallahassee and Chickahominy are sent to sea from there, beginning highly destructive careers.

Sept. 29 - Grant, in a surprise attack designed to prevent further reinforcement of Early in the Valley, sends troops under Gen. E. O. C. Ord against Fort Harrison near Richmond and captures it in an engagement known as the battle of Chaffin's Farm, but ships of the Confederate James River Squadron cooperate with land forces to prevent capture of Chaffin's Bluff.
THE NATIONAL COMMISSION'S SUB-COMMITTEE ON AWARDS approved a number of awards at its June meeting, which was held commensurate with the Seventh National Assembly. All but one of the awards have been presented to recipients. The National Commission is pleased to announce at this time the awards that were made, and the agencies and individuals singled out for their contributions to the Centennial.

GOLD MEDALLION -- to Hon. Lyndon B. Johnson, President of the United States. Other recipients of the Gold Medallion were Presidents Dwight D. Eisenhower and John F. Kennedy. A delegation from the National Commission will present the Medallion to Mr. Johnson in a future White House ceremony.

AWARD OF DISTINCTION -- to the Butternut Ridge Memorial Association, Easton, Ohio, for its public ceremonies held annually since 1959, and for commemorating the Centennial of the Civil War with outstanding dignity and solemnity.

AWARD OF DISTINCTION -- to the Blue and Gray Association, Fitzgerald, Ga., for producing the excellent historical drama, "Our Friends, the Enemy," for skillfully utilizing local talent in depicting the unique origins of that city, and thereby stressing the bonds of fraternal concord and affection among all Americans.

AWARD OF DISTINCTION -- to Mrs. R. F. S. Starr, Alexandria, Va., for her leadership in bringing about the reconstruction and preservation of Fort Ward, one of the Civil War fortifications erected for the defense of Washington.

AWARD OF DISTINCTION -- to the Independence County Historical Society, Batesville, Ark., for the splendid quality, usefulness, and variety of its Centennial activities, including informative articles in its quarterly journal, the discovery and publication of Gen. Marcus J. Wright's summary of Arkansas in the Civil War, the marking of soldiers' graves, and the sponsoring of talks before community groups.

AWARD OF DISTINCTION -- to the Confederate Salvage Association, Columbus, Ga., for its tireless and expert efforts, often in the face of grave danger, in recovering the sunken Confederate gunboat Muscogee from the waters of the Chattahoochee River.

AWARD OF ACHIEVEMENT -- to the city of North Platte, Nebraska, for its excellent pageant (July 18-20, 1963) marking in colorful and dramatic fashion the Centennial of Fort McPherson.

AWARD OF ACHIEVEMENT -- to the Washington County Historical Society, Fayetteville, Ark., for its excellent and varied Centennial activities, notably those in the fields of scholarly research and publication, as exemplified by the reprinting of Joe Scott's Four Years of Service in the Confederate Army.

AWARD OF ACHIEVEMENT -- to the Blount County Historical Society, Oneonta, Ala., for its study of local leaders and events of the Civil War period, the sponsoring in 1961 of "Centennial Days" in communities throughout the nation, the preparation of exhibits, and the publication of The Forrest-Streight Raid.

AWARD OF APPRECIATION -- to the Lambertsville, N. J., Beacon for providing its readers throughout the Centennial with photographically reproduced copies of Civil War issues of that newspaper.

The Sub-committee on Awards of the National Commission will hold its last meeting early in 1965. At that time it will review all Centennial achievements and recommend awards to be made at the Eighth National Assembly (Springfield, Ill., May 1-4, 1965). Centennial commissions and committees, as well as individuals, are urged to submit nominees and recommendations to National Commission headquarters.
COPIES OF MANY PAPERS read at the Seventh National Assembly in Atlanta are still available upon request from National Commission headquarters. As those in attendance will attest, the speeches collectively were outstanding. State commissions and historical groups may obtain bulk shipments as long as the Commission’s supply is adequate.

TWO NEW PUBLICATIONS have just been issued by the Virginia Civil War Commission, Centennial Center, Richmond 19. One is the long-awaited "Guide to Military Organizations in Virginia, 1861-1865," compiled by Lee A. Wallace, Jr. The Virginia Commission is selling the 348-page guide at cost ($3 per copy). Included in this valuable work is a listing of all Old Dominion units, short histories, commanding officers, etc. The second publication, entitled "Virginia’s Decision," is a 24-page summary of the state’s 1861 secession convention. Written by Benjamin J. Hillman, the booklet is available at twenty-five cents per copy.

WESTPORT, MO., the Waterloo of Confederate Gen. Sterling Price’s 1864 expedition into Missouri, will be centennially marked October 2-4 by a dignified and varied program under the direction of Dr. Howard N. Monnett and others. In what is now a suburb of Kansas City, Price’s raiders made a "precipitous retreat" after colliding with Federal forces under Gen. Samuel R. Curtis. The forthcoming commemoration will begin with a banquet in Kansas City and a speech by E. B. Long. Subsequent ceremonies include a program on the battlefield, rededications of various Civil War monuments, special exhibits, and the issuance of Dr. Monnett’s new book, "Action before Westport, 1864." Full details of the Westport centennial may be obtained from the Battle of Westport Centennial Commission, P. O. Box 10064, Westport Station, Kansas City, Missouri.

"TENNESSEANS IN THE CIVIL WAR" is the latest publication of the Tennessee CWCC. The eagerly awaited anthology of the Volunteer State in the 1860’s contains within its 550 pages unit histories of all regiments, battalions and separate companies that served on either side as a Tennessee unit. Copies are priced at ten dollars each and may be ordered from the Tennessee CWCC, Library and Archives Building, Nashville, Tenn. 37219.

CIVIL WAR IN KANSAS

During its Civil War history, Kansas witnessed one battle of note between uniformed troops. The engagement occurred October 25, 1864, along the banks of inconspicuous Mine Creek (left), some 3 1/2 miles south of Pleasanton, Kan. Confederate troops under Sterling Price fought back and forth across the stream and adjoining prairies in an unsuccessful attempt to repulse pursuing Federal forces. Confederate Gen. John Marmaduke was among those taken prisoner during the fighting.

The military magnet that drew Price into Kansas from Missouri was Fort Scott, whose main street during the period is shown in the rare center photograph. (At right are two of the original officers’ quarters at the Federal outpost.) Price hoped to obtain needed rations, horses and clothing at Fort Scott; but the repulse at Mine Creek brought his campaign to a disastrous end.

Next month, on the centennial date of Mine Creek, the Kansas CWCC will conduct elaborate commemorative ceremonies at the battle site. At least three state governors are to participate. National Commission director James Robertson will be principal speaker.

Further details of the program may be obtained from Fred W. Brinkerhoff, chairman of the Kansas CWCC, The Pittsburg Publishing Company, Pittsburg, Kan.
THE OKLAHOMA CWCC this month will commemorate the centennial of one of the major Confederate victories in the trans-Mississippi theater. On September 19, 1864, a Confederate force of 800 Indians and 1200 Texans under Gen. Stand Watie intercepted a 130-wagon Union supply train en route to Fort Gibson in the Indian Territory (now Oklahoma). In the ensuing, bitter engagement, known as the Second Battle of Cabin Creek, the Confederates captured supplies valued at $1,000,000. Watie's victory has long been recognized as a last major Confederate achievement in the West.

On September 19 of this year, the Oklahoma Commission will sponsor appropriate ceremonies marking the battle. In addition, the Commission will apply a special cachet on all mail deposited on the battlefield during the commemorative period. Those wishing covers mailed at the site may forward the same to the Oklahoma CWCC, 1108 Colcord Building, Oklahoma City.

ANOTHER SOUTHERN STATE CWCC has contributed $500 to the Jefferson Davis Association to assist in the compilation and publication of the papers of the Confederate President. James J. Geary, executive director of the Virginia Commission, announced last month this contribution by his agency. This continual support gives additional optimism and impetus to all involved in the auspicious undertaking.

MEDAL RECIPIENTS SOUGHT

In 1866 the legislature of infant West Virginia authorized a medal for each man from the state who served in the Federal armies. A total of 26,099 medals was struck, and in subsequent years most of the medals were duly distributed to Union veterans from the Mountain State.

Recently, however, state officials discovered some 6,500 unclaimed medals stored in a warehouse. Engraved on the edge of each is a soldier's name. The state is naturally anxious to put as many of the medals as possible into the hands of descendants of the men so honored.

The nearest living descendants of veterans from West Virginia who never received their medals are urged to apply for the tributes. Such heirs should contact the West Virginia Department of Archives and History, Charleston, W. Va., giving the name of the soldier and the applicant's relationship to him.

THE THIRD BATTLE OF WINCHESTER, or battle of Opequon, will be centennially highlighted September 19 by a three-stage program in the Shenandoah Valley city. A re-enactment will follow a noon parade; a Blue and Gray ball will be held in the evening. These events are designed to call attention to a fierce all-day struggle fought northeast of Winchester between the forces of Jubal A. Early and Philip H. Sheridan.

THE LOUISIANA CWCC has concluded its centennial activities, and the Baton Rouge headquarters are now closed. Mrs. Elaine V. Johnson, secretary-treasurer of the Louisiana group, spoke at the Atlanta Assembly on her commission's extensive publications program. State Sen. Sylvan Friedman and LSU Prof. T. Harry Williams headed the Louisiana CWCC, which leaves behind a commendable record of achievements.

FOR THE SERIOUS RESEARCHER of Civil War history, the Illinois State Historical Library in Springfield has published a 115-page catalogue of newspapers in its archives. The listing contains references to 7,000,000 issues of newspapers, of which 95% are Illinois publications. Copies are available free of charge to individuals and institutions. Orders should be addressed to Mr. Bernard Wax, Field Services Supervisor at the Library.