CIVIL WAR CENTENNIAL COMMISSION
700 JACKSON PLACE, N. W.
WASHINGTON 6, D C.
TELEPHONE EXECUTIVE 3-3300
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100 Years After

MONTHLY CHRONOLOGY FOR 1862

SIGNIFICANT EVENTS AS WAR DEVELOPS

April 4 – C.S.S. Merrimack is released from dry-dock after undergoing repairs at Norfolk Navy Yard following fight with U.S.S. Monitor.

April 4 – The Northern press reports rumors of revolt by some of Stonewall Jackson's men fighting Union General Banks' army in the Shenandoah Valley. This is denied by Confederates.

April 6 – The publisher of the Boone County Standard in Missouri is convicted by a Federal military commission of "publishing information for the benefit of the enemy" and is banned from the state for the remainder of the war. His printing equipment is ordered confiscated.

April 6 – Confederate Congress votes conscription of men between ages of 18 and 35.

April 7 – Hearing of Gen. A. S. Johnston's death in the bloody fighting at Shiloh on the 6th, Confederate House passes a resolution of regret, but the Senate, thinking the report false, refuses to act.

April 7 – Island No. 10, after a severe bombardment, surrenders to Federal forces, extending the Union advance down the Mississippi.

April 10 – President Lincoln issues a proclamation calling for a national day of prayer, and War Secretary Stanton orders every chaplain to offer public thanks at the head of his regiment at noon of the same day.

April 11 – President Lincoln issues a proclamation calling for a national day of prayer, and War Secretary Stanton orders every chaplain to offer public thanks at the head of his regiment at noon of the same day.

April 11 – Merrimack reappears in Hampton Roads, but fails to get fight from Monitor, which Lincoln has ordered to be "not too much exposed." Comments the New York Times in a critical editorial: "The Navy's policy of 'not too much exposed' is shortsighted. The Navy Department has doubtless good reasons to give for permitting the disabled Merrimack to be refitted at leisure, and to select her own time and place for another essay of her destructive powers."

April 11 – Fort Pulaski on coast of Georgia surrenders after intensive two-day bombardment.

April 12 – "The Great Locomotive Chase" occurs between Big Shanty, Ga., and Chattanooga.

April 14 – Banks sends War Department report attributed to Rebel sources near Mt. Jackson, Va., that Beauregard was killed at Shiloh. The press observes in passing it on to the public: "If the report of Beauregard's death is correct, he at least lived long enough after the second day's battle of Pittsburg Landing to write a dispatch regarding it."


April 16 – Lincoln signs bill providing for emancipation of slaves in the District of Columbia.

April 18 – Admiral Farragut's mortar fleet opens bombardment of Forts Jackson and St. Philip on Mississippi below New Orleans.

April 24 – Farragut's fleet passes Forts Jackson and St. Philip after fierce night battle.

April 25 – New Orleans surrenders unconditionally.

April 29 – Siege of Corinth, Miss., by Union forces begins.

WORKING SESSIONS, WITH STRONG ACCENT ON THE PRESERVATION OF HISTORY, will be the keynote of the assembly at which Centennial delegates from all over the nation are expected to gather at Columbus, Ohio, May 4-5.

A plenary session will be held at 9 o'clock each morning. On the 4th, this will be followed by sessions on schools, music, mass media, and books and sources. Panel discussions will be a major feature. "We really hope to get down to business at this assembly," announced James I. Robertson, Jr., executive director of the National Centennial Commission. "At our January meeting we were able to have a pooling of ideas, a communion of thought as to how the Centennial should be observed. Now we want to put those ideas into action, to get our program underway in such a fashion that we can actually point to results."

The panel discussions will be the actual working phase of the assembly, the director explained, and for that reason active delegate participation is urged.

One of the highlights of the two-day session will be a luncheon to be held in the ballroom of the Deshler Hilton Hotel, assembly headquarters, at noon of the opening day. At that time, Dr. Allan Nevin, chairman of the National Commission, will deliver a keynote address.

The registration fee will be $1.50 and the luncheon fee $3.50 per person, collectible at the time of registering. A press conference to acquaint all media with the program and the delegates expected will be held at the hotel at 4 p.m., May 3. Exhibits, arranged as a major attraction of the assembly, will be located on the mezzanine floor and will be open to the public without charge.
ASSEMBLY HEADQUARTERS

This hotel, the Deshler Hilton of Columbus, Ohio, will be the scene of the fifth national assembly of the National Civil War Centennial Commission May 4-5.

Registration will start in the lobby of the hotel the afternoon of May 3, preliminary to the opening plenary session at 9 o'clock next morning. The following evening, from 5 to 7 o'clock, registered delegates will be guests of the Ohio Centennial Commission at a reception in the Victorian Room.

Delegates may stay in the hotel of their choice, but those wishing to be accommodated at the Deshler Hilton should make their reservations not later than April 20. They should be addressed to: Reservation Department, Deshler Hilton Hotel, Columbus 15, Ohio. Room rates will range from $7.50 to $14.00 for singles and from $12.00 to $17.00 for doubles.

THE FIERCE SKIRMISH IN PICACHO PASS, ARIZ., April 15, 1862, will be given full attention in that state on its anniversary date this month. A full reenactment is planned, with the support of the U. S. Army, Arizona National Guard, and various civic and professional groups.

On the night of the 14th, a Centennial Ball will be held in Tucson. A barbecue, memorial services, and a special postage cover issue are other highlights. The Governor has proclaimed April 9-15 Arizona Centennial Week.

Arizona's part in the war is told in detail in a new booklet prepared by the Centennial Commission of that state and entitled "The Desert Dream of the South." It is available at Tucson at $1 per copy.

THE CAPTURE OF NEW ORLEANS AND OTHER CIVIL WAR EPISODES in that city's past will be recalled with a program that will begin April 12 and continue through June 2.

The program will open with an exhibit of New Orleans and Louisiana photographs, letters, artifacts and other items in Gallier Hall, the building that served as a city hall at the time of Farragut's conquest in April, 1862. Other highlights include five panel discussions on subjects concerning the war, a concert program of Civil War music, library and art exhibits, television programs, and store displays.

TWO HISTORICAL MONOGRAPHS telling the story of the Civil War in Massachusetts, prepared by the Centennial Commission of that state, have been distributed to 150,000 high school students, Miss Mary V. Darcy, executive secretary, reports. Twenty-five thousand copies of Volume 1 and 30,000 of Volume 2 were issued.

A CENTENNIAL PROGRAM recalling the law of July 17, 1862, that first provided for Jewish chaplains will be held at the national convention of the Jewish Welfare Board at Miami Beach, Fla., April 4. Principal addresses will be by Gen. Frank A. Tobey, Army chief of chaplains, and Dr. Bertram Korn. The nationwide ceremony has been hailed by President Kennedy in a message to the board.

A SYMBOLIC REENACTMENT OF THE BATTLE OF FORT PULASKI will feature a commemorative program planned by the Savannah-Chatham County Civil War Centennial Commission from April 7 through April 15.

The reenactment is scheduled for April 10-11, and will be followed the opening day by a reception and music program and the second day by a retreat ceremony and ballet program.

The commemoration will open on the 7th with the arrival of North-South Skirmish Association units that, during that day and the next, will stage target matches and an inspection. Concerts by the Savannah Symphony Orchestra and the Air Force Drum and Bugle Corps, as well as a play, "John Brown's Body," also will be included.

HATTIESBURG, MISS., has arranged a commemorative program for April 5-7 that is expected to attract thousands of visitors to that city. A mammoth parade, with the Forrest Raiders and their cannons in the line of march, will be one of the features. A period play, "Cry of the Jay," will be presented each evening. A mock battle featuring authentic weapons will open the program on the 5th.

THE BIRTH OF MILITARY AVIATION IN AMERICA will be featured in a program to be staged by the Richmond (Va.) Centennial Committee May 30. A luncheon will be followed by the dedication of a memorial to Civil War balloonists at the municipal airport. At 8 P.M., Dr. Paul Garber of the National Air Museum will give an illustrated talk on Civil War aviation.