MONTHLY CHRONOLOGY FOR 1865

May 1 – Senor Ortega, a Mexican Republic supporter, opens a juarist recruiting office on 32nd Street in New York City, enlisting Americans to fight Maximilian, and U. S. authorities offer no objection.

May 1 – States a special news dispatch from Washington: "The city is now full of soldiers, and the streets present an appearance similar to what was observable about a year ago, when Lt. Gen. Grant was preparing to move on Lee."

May 2 – President Andrew Johnson issues a proclamation stating that the assassination of Lincoln and the attempted assassination of Secretary of State Seward were contrived by Jefferson Davis, Jacob Thompson, Clement C. Clay, Beverly Tucker, George N. Sanders, W. C. Cleary and other "rebels and traitors" harbored in Canada. One hundred thousand dollars is offered for the arrest of Davis and $25,000 for the arrest of each of the others.

May 2 – Newspapers report that "Mosby's men have entirely forsaken him, and the noted guerrilla is a fugitive. His present whereabouts is unknown." Meanwhile, the commander of the Confederacy's Forty-third Battalion of Partisan Rangers rests at the well-secluded home of an uncle far back in Nelson County, Virginia.

May 4 – Lt. Gen. Dick Taylor surrenders the forces under his command to Maj. Gen. E. R. S. Canby at Citronelle, Ala., on terms essentially the same as those given Lee's army.

May 4 – The body of Lincoln, conveyed by rail from Washington via Chicago on a journey marked at various points along the way by massive demonstrations of mourning, is placed in a vault in Oak Ridge Cemetery at Springfield, Ill.

May 10 – Jefferson Davis and staff are captured by the Fourth Michigan Cavalry at Irwinville, Ga.

May 13 – The C.S.S. Shenandoah heads north from a point south of the Kuriles, while merchants in Connecticut and other northern states hasten to increase their maritime insurance.

May 19 – Jefferson Davis and staff arrive by ship off Fortress Monroe.

May 19 – The Confederate ram Stonewall, after only five months of operations, is surrendered to Spanish authorities at Havana.

May 20 – Confederate Navy Secretary Stephen R. Mallory, having left the fleeing Jefferson Davis at Washington, Ga., on May 3, is arrested at a home at La Grange, Ga., and charged with treason.

May 22 – Upon arrival at Havana from England, Commander Matthew F. Maury, carrying torpedo equipment and plans for a controlled mine system for harbor defense that he has invented during two and a half years in Europe, learns of the collapse of the Confederacy and makes arrangements to store the equipment there.

May 23 – The triumphant Army of the Potomac begins two days of parading along Pennsylvania Avenue in Washington, marching in ranks of 20 men each and reviewed by President Johnson and other dignitaries.

May 24 – The elusive blockade runner Denbigh, one of the most successful and particularly worrisome to Admiral Farragut, runs aground attempting to steal into Galveston and is destroyed by gunfire from Union ships.

May 28 – Secretary of War Stanton announces that arrangements are under way for the surrender of the Confederate forces in the Trans-Mississippi Department commanded by Gen. E. Kirby Smith.

May 29 – Marshal Bazaine induces Maximilian to place all of Mexico in effect under martial law in view of possible incursions of former Confederate troops or of Union forces along the border.

May 29 – Charles Francis Adams, American Minister to Great Britain, charges that English policy toward Confederate cruisers has caused the U.S. to lose during the war its position as the world's leading maritime carrier.

May 29 – By proclamation, President Johnson grants amnesty and pardon, with restoration of property rights except as to slaves, to those who took part on the side of the South in the late war, "with certain exceptions."

May 31 – Jefferson Davis arrives at Washington from Fortress Monroe and is confined on board a monitor in the Potomac River.
A RECORD ATTENDANCE was all but assured for the National Commission's eighth and final national assembly early this month in Springfield, Ill. Thanks largely to tremendous promotional work on the part of the co-host, the Illinois CWCC, the Hotel Leland--headquarters for this year's meeting--reported several weeks ago that it was completely sold out for the May 1-4 period. Many late registrants secured accommodations in Springfield motels. A full report of the Assembly will appear in next month's newsletter.

REP. SANFORD J. PRINCE, JR., a member of Maine's legislature and of that state's CWCC, has introduced a bill to change the name of a prominent Maine elevation to Robinson Mountain. The re-naming would be a tribute to Sgt. George F. Robinson of the 8th Maine Infantry. Assigned as a nurse to the injured Secretary of State William H. Seward, Robinson on the night of April 14, 1865, was instrumental in saving Seward's life during an assassination attempt by Lewis Payne. The State of Alaska also is considering the feasibility of naming a mountain for Sgt. Robinson.

APPOMATTOX A CENTURY LATER

More than 12,000 persons braved chilly winds and an overcast sky to attend the April 9 centennial program at Appomattox Court House, Va. Sponsored jointly by the Virginia CWCC, National Park Service and Appomattox Centennial Committee, the commemoration of one of America's most noted events elicited universal praise for its simplicity and solemnity.

Historian Bruce Catton delivered the principal address and observed: 'The scene at Appomattox Court is one of the great dramatic moments in the American story. Quite properly, it was underplayed; nobody tried to strike an attitude or intone notable words for the record, and the two principals, Grant and Lee, behaved with quiet dignity and a deep sense of responsibility. Their meeting was proof that these leaders of rival armies would thereafter have one common country, and on April 9 they served that country well."

The above photographs were taken during the commemoration. At left, the U.S. Marine Corps Band of Quantico takes a breather just before the start of the program. The speaker's stand was immediately to its left. Distinguished guests Robert E. Lee, IV, and U. S. Grant, 3rd (center), are shown signing autographs--a duty that kept these two gentlemen busy throughout most of that afternoon. The man in the center background is Virginia's lieutenant governor, Mills E. Godwin, Jr. A portion of the crowd that jammed the national park can be seen in the third photograph. At right is the newly restored court house, which Messrs. Lee and Grant officially opened at the conclusion of the April 9 program.

NEW HEADQUARTERS for the National Commission are in the making. Early this summer the Commission staff and records will move to a government building now being completed at 1800 G Street, N. W. From there the Commission will carry on its final year's work. This move will be the third in the national agency's seven-year history, and the new quarters promise to be even nicer than the present offices in the Federal Bar Building.

THE OKLAHOMA CWCC will sponsor two programs on consecutive days as a windup of its centennial activities. On June 22 will occur a dedication of restored Fort Washita, a military post established in 1842 in southern Oklahoma. The fort has been in disuse for a century; but thousands of dollars in private subscriptions were raised for its rehabilitation. Dr. LeRoy Fischer, of Oklahoma State University, will be principal speaker at the dedicatory ceremonies. On the following day (June 23) at Fort Towson, Okla., a commemorative program will mark the centennial of the surrender of Confederate Gen. Stand Watie's command. The actual surrender occurred at Doaksville, a short distance from Fort Towson. The full particulars of these two programs may be obtained from Chairman Henry B. Bass of the Oklahoma Commission, Bass Building, Enid, Okla.
PEA RIDGE, ARK., was the site April 11 of an elaborate commemorative program sponsored jointly by the Arkansas CWCC, National Park Service, Sons of Confederate Veterans, Pea Ridge Memorial Association, and the Benton County Historical Society. Highlights of this afternoon affair were the dedication on the battlefield of a Texas monument and an address by Lt. Col. J. Wesley Sampier. Mrs. W. W. Vaught of Fayetteville, a member of the Arkansas Commission, played a leading role in the planning of this Centennial program.

AS A RESULT of a notice published several months ago in this newsletter, many persons were able to trade, sell or purchase odd volumes of the mammoth War of the Rebellion: A Compilation of the Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies. Col. John R. Hood, Jr., who graciously served as intermediary in the exchanges, has volunteered to be of assistance again to persons desiring volumes of the Official Records. Those readers desiring such volumes should contact Col. Hood at 436 E Street, Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio. He in turn will put seller and purchaser in touch with one another.

BENNETT PLACE A CENTURY LATER

Vice President Hubert H. Humphrey not only appealed to the nation for a new era of unity but also lashed out at radicalism in a speech delivered at the Bennett Place, near Durham, N. C. The April 25 address by Mr. Humphrey was part of ceremonies commemorating the last major surrender of Confederate troops during the Civil War.

Speaking before national television and some 5,000 spectators who turned out in spite of cold weather and threatening skies, the Vice President stated in part: "We are here to pay tribute to the valiant men of the North and the South who met 100 years ago here at Bennett Place to seek peace . . . We must never permit vengeful radicals to poison the American scene. We must never permit the spirit of radicalism to poison the minds and the hearts of the American people." Mr. Humphrey also termed Reconstruction "a distressing chapter in American history." He observed that "the radicalism that dominated the Reconstruction era is a vivid example of the mindless, vengeful kind of extremism that even today, if left unchecked, could bring our great democracy to its knees."

Three photographs of the Bennett Place Ceremony are shown above. At left, is a small portion of the enthusiastic crowd. This scene depicts a momentary pause in program while shivering platform dignitaries (but not Vice President Humphrey) call for topcoats and stadium blankets. Center picture, of platform, shows (l. to r., front row) Hon. Dan K. Moore, Governor of North Carolina; Mrs. R. O. Everett, of Durham; the Vice President; Hon. R. O. Everett, chairman of Bennett Place Memorial Commission and of Bennett Place Centennial Committee; and Mrs. Hubert H. Humphrey. At rear are Mr. Norman Larson, executive secretary, North Carolina Confederate Centennial Commission (l.), and Mr. Stanley Rowland Smith (r.), representing the Governor of Georgia. In the close-up at right are the Vice President and his weekend host, Governor Moore.

RECORDING THE LOCATIONS of all Civil War soldiers buried in Michigan is a new project now underway by that state's CWCC. Mrs. Donald Owens heads a special Graves Registration Committee in Michigan and has succeeded in obtaining sub-chairmen for 72 of the 83 Wolverine counties. Already the Registration Committee has located and noted more than 5,000 graves of Civil War participants. A duplicate record of the final tabulations will be deposited in the Library of Congress for the benefit of researchers.

THE CITY OF GUILFORD, Conn., will mark the end of the Civil War June 25-27, 1965, with varied local programs. Included in this three-day commemoration will be concerts, exhibits, a parade, church services and bazaars. More information is available from Mrs. Esther B. Lindquist, RFD 2, Guilford, Conn.
NEW MUSEUM IN MARYLAND

John C. Heidemann, reliquarian for the Maryland Union Room Committee, poses with some of the relics accumulated by that group for display in the new Civil War Room of the Maryland Historical Society Building in Baltimore. Among the items shown are the field desk of Gen. Neville Bowerman, a bust of Lincoln, documents, weapons, photographs, and the fragment of a blood-stained battle flag. Additional mementoes of soldiers, sailors and statesmen on the Union side are being sought. Anyone who can render such assistance to the Committee is requested to contact Mr. Heidemann at 4605 Marx Avenue, Baltimore 6, Md.

DR. RAIFORD E. SUMNER, the affable chairman of the Fredericksburg (Va.) Civil War Centennial Committee, has announced two forthcoming programs to be sponsored by his commemorative agency. On May 31 a rededication of the Confederate Memorial in Fredericksburg will take place. The program will follow the general outline of the agenda when the monument was first unveiled. Then, on September 29, will occur the long-awaited dedication of the Sgt. Richard Kirkland memorial. High-ranking officials from Virginia and South Carolina are expected to attend the ceremony. The $40,000 monument will honor a Palmetto soldier who risked his life during battle to minister to wounded Federal soldiers. Kirkland is known in history as "The Angel of Marye's Heights."

ON AUGUST 22, 1965, Galena, Ill., will re-enact the return exactly a century ago of Gen. U. S. Grant to his hometown. Other commemorative exercises are to be held in conjunction with the historical drama. Grant was but one of nine generals which the little Illinois city contributed to the Civil War.

THE LAST LAND ENGAGEMENT of the Civil War--the Battle of Palmito Hill, Texas, will be the subject of a centennial observance May 13-16, 1965, near Brownsville, Tex. In this two-day struggle waged 100 years ago, Federal troops attempting to storm Fort Brown at Brownsville were repulsed by Confederate soldiers under Gen. James E. Slaughter. A private in the 34th Indiana reportedly was the last soldier killed in the battle--and hence in the war. At this year's centennial observance, John A. May, chairman of the South Carolina CWCC, will deliver the principal address.

FIVE FORKS CENTENNIAL

On April 4, 1965, the Dinwiddie County (Va.) CWCC sponsored a commemorative program marking the 100th anniversary of the battle of Five Forks. It was this April 1, 1865, engagement that led directly to the fall of Petersburg, the capture of Richmond, and the Confederate retreat to Appomattox. T. J. Harrison of the National Park Service was main speaker at the recent exercises. The photograph at right shows two monuments on the Five Forks battlefield. The larger stone was presented and dedicated by the Dinwiddie County CWCC on April 1 of this year; the smaller stone with bronze plaque was erected by the National Park Service, which now administers the battle site.