MONTHLY CHRONOLOGY FOR 1865

SIGNIFICANT EVENTS AS WAR DRAWS TO CLOSE

June 1 - Lt. James I. Waddell, unaware that the Confederacy has collapsed, navigates the C.S.S. Shenandoah along the frozen shores of Siberia in search of American whalers.

June 1 - In a combined action that continues for four days, Union army and navy forces open a campaign to occupy Apalachicola, Fla.

June 2 - Gen. E. Kirby Smith surrenders the last Confederate force, the Trans-Mississippi Department, at Galveston, Texas, and two weeks later flees to Mexico.

June 2 - The press announces from Washington: "Troops are being rapidly started homeward. A number of Western regiments left yesterday morning. The Sanitary Commission is doing excellent work in distributing fresh vegetables among the men in camp, and a still better work in assisting soldiers in settling their accounts and saving them from the wiles of shippers."

June 4 - The Secretary of the Treasury announces that the national debt is $2,635,205,753.50, on which the annual interest is $1,638,874.02.

June 5 - Capt. B. F. Sands, with the U.S.S. Corenia and Preston, lands at Galveston and raises the U.S. flag over the custom house.

June 6 - The famed hydrographer, Commander Matthew Fontaine Maury, developer of the naval submarine battery service for the Confederacy and active in outfitting armed cruisers for the South, lands at Vera Cruz, preparatory to joining up with Emperor Maximilian.

June 6 - Lt. Wm. E. Fitzhugh, in the U.S.S. Ouachita, leads a naval expedition of seven gunboats up the Red River and, at Alexandria, La., receives the surrender of all naval vessels, equipment, and personnel in that region, including the C.S.S. Missouri, commanded by Lt. Jonathan H. Carter, the last Confederate ironclad in capitate in home waters.

June 8 - The Sixth Army Corps, one of the hardest fighting units of the Army of the Potomac, parades through Washington and is reviewed by President Johnson, General Meade and others.

June 9 - Union Navy Secretary Welles reduces and combines the North and South Atlantic Squadrons and places them under Rear Admiral Wm. Radford, ending for Rear Admiral John A. Dahlgren "a command of two years of one of the largest fleets ever assembled under American colors."

June 13 - Edmund Ruffin, the Virginia patriot who waited in vain to fire the first shot at Fort Sumter in April, 1861, commits suicide with a gun, leaving a diary in which he reveals that he preferred death to life under the U.S. Government.

June 19 - Union Gen. U. S. Grant, in a letter to President Johnson, strongly condemns the presence of Maximilian in Mexico with French support, terming it an act of hostility to the U.S.

June 22 - Secretary Welles announces that the blockade of the Southern coast will soon be lifted and the belligerent right of search halted.

June 22 - Lt. Waddell, proceeding in the Shenandoah and continuing to light the Arctic skies with the flaming bulks of whalers, captures the ship Milo of New Bedford and hears from her crew that the South has surrendered and the war ended, but fails to find documentary evidence to authenticate the report.

June 23 - Rear Admiral S. F. du Pont, leader of the Union's South Atlantic Squadron during the first two years of the war, dies unexpectedly while on a visit to Philadelphia.

June 26 - In a busy day of operations, Lt. Waddell destroys or ransoms six whalers valued at $253,000.

June 27 - The Military Division of the Gulf is created with headquarters at New Orleans, and Gen. Phil Sheridan, commanding, takes steps to make the influence of the U.S. felt in Mexico in behalf of President Juarez and against Maximilian.

June 28 - In the most successful day of a cruise that covered 13 months and 58,000 miles, Lt. Waddell burns or ransoms 11 whalers, bringing to 38 the number of prizes he has taken, all valued at $1,361,983, and sails southward on a voyage that will take him eventually to England, where on Nov. 6 he turns his ship over to the British Foreign Ministry and lowers the last official Confederate flag.
THE FINAL ASSEMBLY

More than 670 registered delegates made the Eighth and final National Assembly in Springfield, Ill., the largest attended in the National Commission's history. Every hotel and motel in the Illinois capital came into use as Centennial officials, historians, Round Tablers, students and buffs gathered to mark the end of the 100th anniversary of the Civil War.

The four-day program (May 1-4) included everything from provocative panel sessions and prepared speeches to a picnic and a special advance showing of the soon-to-be-released Civil War movie, "Shenandoah." Ideal weather, and the never-ending hospitality of Springfield residents, contributed to the unanimity of thought among the delegates that this Assembly was the best in the National Commission’s history.

Pictured above are scenes during the recent convention. The left photograph shows part of the partakers at a Sunday brunch at the Springfield Elks Club. Sen. Ralph Yarborough (D-Tex.) of the National Commission delivered a short but thoroughly enjoyed talk on "Lincoln the Southerner." The center photograph was made during a coffee break on Monday, May 2, between panel sessions at the Leland Hotel. The Illinois CWCC supplied the refreshments. That evening, at the Saint Nicholas Hotel (right), Ralph Newman presided at a banquet which featured Bruce Catton as principal speaker.

The Illinois CWCC is currently investigating possibilities of having papers read at the Springfield meeting published together in a small volume. Should this not materialize, the National Commission will continue its policy of mimeographing and distributing free of charge the comments of the chief participants.

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY has just announced that Allan Nevins, distinguished historian and chairman of the National Commission, has endowed a chair of history at Columbia with a gift of $500,000. Dr. Nevins, who has won two Pulitzer Prizes and written more than fifty books, made the gift anonymously last December. Columbia officials said this to their knowledge was the first time in the school's 211-year history that one of their former professors has established a faculty chair at the university. The newly created post, as yet unfilled, will be known as the "Allan Nevins Professorship of Economic History."

MORE THAN 540 PERSONS attended April 3, 1965 commemorative ceremonies in Reading, Pa., marking the end of the Civil War Centennial. The program, under the sponsorship of the Grand Army of the Republic, included an elaborate parade plus a banquet at which Gen. U. S. Grant, III, and Hon. John A. May were featured speakers.

GASS NAMED ACTING DIRECTOR

Edmund C. Gass, assistant executive director of the National Commission since its establishment in 1958, has been named acting executive director for the Commission's last year of operations. This advancement followed the resignation of Dr. James Robertson, who this month departed the Commission after three and a half years as executive director to become Associate Professor of History at the University of Montana.

Gass is a native of Jefferson City, Tenn. He received his B. A. degree from Carson-Newman College and his M. A. degree from the University of Tennessee. In addition, the new director took post-graduate work at both the University of Pennsylvania and the University of North Carolina. Prior to joining the National Commission, Gass served as secretary of the John Marshall Bicentennial Commission and as staff head for the Woodrow Wilson Centennial Celebration Commission.

The new director's chief duties will be the drafting of the final report to the Congress of the National Commission's eight-year activities and the supervising of those Commission projects still underway.
TRIBUTES TO LINCOLN

The spirit of Abraham Lincoln dominated much of the Eighth National Assembly in Springfield, and the above photographs recapture two moments during that meeting when special tributes were paid to the martyred president.

On Saturday, May 1 – the opening day of the Assembly, official dedication ceremonies were held at the Lincoln home in Springfield. Congressman Paul Findley was principal speaker as the home became a National Historic Landmark. The photograph at left shows part of the crowd at this program.

The Assembly's most solemn moment came on Tuesday morning, May 4, when ceremonies at Lincoln's tomb marked the centennial of the President's interment. Illinois chief executive Otto Kerner is shown as he arose to preside over the observances. Featured at this program was a Norman Luboff arrangement of "Deep River," which was sung by the Faeithans High School A'Cappella Choir, and a recitation of Carl Sandburg's "There Was A Funeral" by actor Sidney Blackmer. The speaker's stand was situated immediately in front of Lincoln's tomb.

THE VIRGINIA CWCC has issued another volume in its successful series of Centennial publications. This latest work is a 48-page booklet entitled "Monuments to Memories." Treatment of Civil War statuary in the Old Dominion, the study contains 51 illustrations, a directory of monuments in Virginia, and a revealing text by historian Benjamin J. Hillman. Copies are available at $1.50 each from the Virginia Commission, 641 North 8th Street, Richmond.

JAMES J. GEARY, director of the Virginia CWCC, has announced that his Commission's Centennial Center will remain open to the public through November, 1965. After that date the museum building will become part of the facilities of the Medical College of Virginia.

A SPRINGFIELD HIGHLIGHT

One of the climactic moments of the Eighth National Assembly came at an evening banquet May 3 at Springfield's Saint Nicholas Hotel. In the photograph at left, noted historian and National Commission member Bruce Catton (at speaker's stand) acknowledges a standing ovation which he received prior to addressing the delegates and guests. Catton spoke on "The End of the Centennial" before the largest audience at any of the Assembly functions. To Catton's immediate left is Ralph G. Newman, vice-chairman of the Illinois CWCC, who presided at the banquet. Also adding his applause is Governor Otto Kerner of Illinois. In the left background, Dr. Frank E. Vandiver of Rice University engages in a brief conference with National Commission chairman Allan Nevins.

Some of the dignitaries who graced the head table at this banquet are pictured at right. They are (from left to right): Mr. Newman; Gov. Kerner; Robert Lincoln Beckwith, one of three surviving great-grandchildren of the sixteenth president; Mrs. Margaret Fristoe, Mr. Beckwith's secretary; and Mr. Sidney Blackmer, the well-known actor of stage and screen.
AMONG THE DIGNITARIES

A veritable galaxy of notables took part in the Springfield Assembly, as the above photographs attest.

Not the least of these was Governor Otto Kerner of Illinois, who attended a majority of the sessions during the four-day convention, hosted a reception for the delegates at the governor's mansion, and was ever-ready to do everything possible to make the assembly more successful. His participation was a chief factor in the high acclaim which the Springfield meeting received.

This photograph was taken at the Assembly's first banquet and shows Gov. Kerner about to welcome officially the delegates to Illinois. Flanking the Governor are others who highlighted this final Centennial assembly. From left to right they are: Dr. Bell I. Wiley of Emory University and the National Commission (who will be Harmsworth Professor of American History at Oxford University in the coming academic year); Miss Gwendolyn Brooks (winner of the Pulitzer Prize for poetry in 1950), who read at that banquet a poem written especially for the occasion: "In the Time of Detachment, In the Time of Cold;" National Commission chairman Allan Nevins (who, on April 30, lectured to his class at Oxford University in England and—seven hours later—was happily greeting delegates in Springfield); Gov. Kerner; and Dr. Mark Van Doren (recipient of the Pulitzer Prize in 1940 and author of scores of books on poetry and history), who spoke at the Springfield assembly on "The Poetry of the Civil War."

NEW EXHIBIT IN OHIO

Daniel R. Porter, director of the Ohio Historical Society, examines a few of the Civil War recruiting posters and political broadsides belonging to Norman Flayderman of New Milford, Conn., whose collection is now on display in the Society's museum in Columbus, Ohio. Mr. Flayderman is widely known as a dealer in antique firearms and related curios.

This collection of posters and broadsides, numbering about 200 items, was assembled over a period of years by Mr. Flayderman as a hobby. The exhibit was officially opened during the Society's annual meeting, April 23-24, 1965, and will remain on display until the end of this year.

"BLUE AND GRAY DAYS," the final ceremony of the Georgia CWCC, will be held July 3-5, 1965, in Fitzgerald, Ga. This will be the fourth consecutive year that the "Blue and Gray Days" program has been staged in the south Georgia city. In announcing the forthcoming observances, Georgia CWCC chairman Beverly M. DuBose, Jr., stated: "We feel the town of Fitzgerald offers an ideal location for our commission to come to a close. The town was founded in 1895 by an equal number of Confederate and Union veterans. Their story of peace, exemplified by their many progressive accomplishments, stands as a living symbol of unity to every American."

THIS ISSUE OF "100 YEARS AFTER" ends the monthly series of National Commission newsletters. Since May, 1958, a total of 86 bulletins has been compiled and published by the National Commission staff. V. C. "Pat" Jones was first editor of the series, and he alone compiled the monthly chronology of events that graced page 1 of each issue. James Robertson served as editor from July, 1963, to this terminating date. Readers will be pleased to know that National Commission members recently approved a recommendation whereby all of the monthly chronologies will be collected together, edited and printed in booklet form. Persons now on the Commission's newsletter mailing list will automatically receive copies upon publication, which is tentatively scheduled for early next year.