GRANT'S MARCH
THROUGH LOUISIANA
A TOUR

published by:
Louisiana Civil War Centennial Commission
Vicksburg, the last Confederate stronghold on the Mississippi River, successfully fought off Union Gen. U. S. Grant's attempt to blast the city's defenses from gunboats in the river.

During the summer of 1862, high water failed Gen. Grant's attempt to bypass Vicksburg through a canal which he had dug. After this failure Gen. Grant marched his soldiers through Madison and Tensas Parishes during the spring of 1863, crossed the river south of Vicksburg and successfully attacked the city. These markers follow the route taken by these Union soldiers as they marched south. Vicksburg fell and the Confederacy sustained a loss from which never recovered.
1. Grant's Canal -- The Union Army led by Gen. U. S. Grant tried to dig a canal here in 1862 to get gunboats safely past Vicksburg. Work on the 60-ft. wide by 1/2-mile long canal was stopped after a dam broke, flooding the area.

2. Young's Point -- Camping ground for Union Gen. Wm. T. Sherman's XV Corps who were moving south to join Gen. U. S. Grant for the invasion of Mississippi in early 1863. The campsite is 2 miles north of here.

3. Duckport Canal -- Gen. U. S. Grant attempted to use Duckport Canal as a water route from the Mississippi River to New Carthage, but an unusual drop in the river stage forced abandonment of the canal.

4. Dalkeith -- One of only two ante-bellum homes left in Madison Parish, it was used to hold Confederate prisoners during Gen. U. S. Grant's occupation of the parish in 1863. The house is directly across the bayou.

5. Miliken's Bend -- A union task force under Col. T. W. Bennett left here March 31, 1863, for Richmond and then New Carthage where Gen. U. S. Grant planned to mass his army, cross the Mississippi and attack Vicksburg.


7. Crescent -- Built in 1832, it was the home of Dr. David M. Dancy. Crescent is located 3 miles S. E. of here. It was ordered to be burned by Union forces in the Civil War but illness in the family saved the house.

8. Tallulah -- Founded in 1857, the town was an important supply depot for the Confederate Army. On August 18, 1862, a small detachment of Union soldiers under Col. William D. Bowen destroyed the depot.

9. Richmond Clash -- A Union task force under Col. Thomas M. Bennett moving south as part of the operation against Vicksburg, here met and routed Maj. Isaac F. Harrison's 15th Louisiana Cavalry, March 31, 1863.

10. Richmond Burned -- The union soldiers of Gen. Joseph A. Mower forced Confederate Gen. John J. Walker to evacuate Richmond after a skirmish 3 miles north of here. The Union Army then burned the town which was never rebuilt.

11. Joan Plantation -- Was used as a Union Base until Gen. U. S. Grant abandoned his supply line on the west side of the Mississippi. It was used as a campsite for Union troops moving on New Carthage.

12. Trinidad Plantation -- Union forces occupied Trinidad plantation April 4, 1863, and used it as the campsite for thousands of soldiers moving south for the campaign against Vicksburg. Trinidad was owned by Truman D. Holmes.

13. Pointe Clear Plantation -- During April, 1963, Pointe Clear Plantation was used as a transfer point for Union soldiers on their way south to attack Vicksburg. The original house site is across the levee.

14. New Carthage -- Two miles south was New Carthage, a thriving Mississippi River town, which was selected as the site for the Union crossing of the river. High water and broken levees forced abandonment of the area.

15. Clash at lone Plantation -- Civil War forces clashed here April 6, 1863. Union forces moved across the flooded fields in boats backed by the howitzer-armed barge, "Opossum." The 15th La. Cavalry was forced to retreat.

16. Hovey Cuts a Road -- Union Gen. A. P. Hovey, seeking a road along Bayou Vidal, built three bridges totaling 962 feet and cut a road which was later used by thousands of Union troops moving south to Somerset.

17. Somerset Plantation -- John Perkins, Confederate Representative, burned his mansion and cotton in 1862 in the face of a Union move up the Mississippi. The 17,500-acre Somerset Plantation, 3/2 miles E. of here, had 250 slaves.

18. Elk Ridge -- Home of Sarah Ellis Dorsey, Confederate patriot, author and Civil War nurse, is located four miles east of here. Her Gulf Coast home, Beauvoir, was bequeathed to Confederate President Jefferson Davis.

19. Davis Island -- Briarfield Plantation, owned by Jefferson Davis, president of the Confederacy, was 4 miles E. of here on Davis Island. Hurricane Plantation owned by Davis' brother was also on the island.

20. Bridges at Holt's and Bayou Halt -- Confederate Major Isaac Harrison burned the bridges at Bayou Halt and Durossert to slow the Union advance on Hard Times. Union Col. James Keigwin, using lumber from nearby Douglas and Balmoral plantations, rebuilt the bridges.

21. Franklin Plantation -- Owned by Dr. Allen T. Bowie, it was reputed to have the "grandest" mansion house in the area. It was burned by Gen. William T. Sherman's Union troops in 1865. The marker is on the site of the mansion.

22. Henry Watkins Allen -- Confederate general, patriot and Louisiana governor in 1864 commanded the 4th Louisiana and was seriously wounded in the Battle of Baton Rouge. He leased land across the lake and grew cotton prior to the war.

23. Engagement at Clark Bayou -- Union Col. James Keigwin's force and Confederate Maj. Isaac Harrison's 15th La. Cavalry fought here. The Confederate's flank was turned and they broke off the engagement after delaying the Union advance.

24. Engagement at Choctaw Bayou -- A duel was fought here between the superior rifled Union artillery and the Confederate smooth-bore artillery causing the Confederates to fall back to St. Joseph. The Union forces marched on to Hard Times.

25. Winter Quarters -- The plantation was used by thousands of Union Soldiers in 1863 as an overnight campsite. The home was the only one left standing in the area after the Union march.

26. Hard Times Landing -- On the morning of April 29, 1863, Gen. U. S. Grant had concentrated the XIII Corps here. Two divisions and part of another were on transports and barges to spearhead the invasion of Mississippi.

At 7:50 a.m. Adm. David D. Porter's ironclads started down the Mississippi River to knock out the guns of the Grand Gulf forts. Adm. Porter failed and the crossing was called off. The Union troops were marched to Disharoon's Plantation where they met Adm. Porter's gunboats and transports which had passed Grand Gulf that night. The next day (April 30), Grant's Army made an unopposed landing at Bruinsburg, Mississippi.