

## Timeline of The Civil War

Compiled by U. S. Department of the Interior - National Park Service

**November 6, 1860** - Abraham Lincoln is elected 16th President of the United States; the first Republican president in the nation who represents a party that opposes the spread of slavery in the territories of the United States.

**December 17, 1860** - The first Secession Convention meets in Columbia, South Carolina.

**December 20, 1860** - South Carolina secedes from the Union.

**January 1861** - Six additional southern states, Mississippi, Florida, Alabama, Georgia, Louisiana, and Texas secede from the Union.

**February 8-9, 1861** - The southern states that seceded create a government at Montgomery, Alabama, and the Confederate States of America are formed.

**February 18, 1861** - Jefferson Davis is appointed the 1st President of the Confederate States of America at Montgomery, Alabama; a position he will hold until elections can be arranged.

**March 4, 1861** - Abraham Lincoln is inaugurated as the 16th President of the United States in Washington, DC.

**April 12, 1861** - Southern forces fire upon Fort Sumter, South Carolina. The Civil War has formally begun.

**April 15, 1861** - President Lincoln issues a public declaration that an insurrection exists and calls for 75,000 militia for 3 months service to stop the rebellion. As a result of this call for volunteers, four additional southern states, Virginia, Arkansas, Tennessee, and North Carolina secede from the Union in the following weeks. The Confederacy later accepted the slave states of Missouri and Kentucky as members, although neither officially declared secession nor were they ever largely controlled by Confederate forces, despite the efforts of Confederate shadow governments which were eventually expelled.

**May 3, 1861** - Lincoln responded on May 3 with an additional call for 42,000+ volunteers to serve as infantry and cavalry for three years to expand the size of the regular Army along with another 18,000 men to enlist in the Navy for 1-3 years.

**May 24, 1861** - Union forces cross the Potomac River and occupy Arlington Heights, the home of future Confederate General Robert E. Lee. It is during the occupation of nearby Alexandria that Colonel Elmer Ellsworth, commander of the 11th New York Infantry and a close friend of the Lincolns, is shot dead by the owner of the Marshall House just after removing a Confederate flag from its roof.

**June 3, 1861** - A skirmish near Philippi in western Virginia is the first clash of Union and Confederate forces in the east.

**June 10, 1861** - Battle of Big Bethel, the first land battle of the war in Virginia.

**June 20, 1861** - At the culmination of the Wheeling Convention, the region that composed the northwestern counties of Virginia broke away from that state to form West Virginia, officially designated and accepted as the thirty fifth state of the Union on June 20, 1863.

**July 21, 1861** - The 1st Battle of Bull Run (or 1st Battle of Manassas) is fought near Manassas, Virginia. The Union Army under General Irwin McDowell initially succeeds in driving back Confederate forces under General Pierre Gustav Toutant Beauregard, but the arrival of troops under General Joseph E. Johnston initiates a series of reverses that sends McDowell's army in a panicked retreat to the defenses of Washington. It is here that Thomas Jonathan Jackson, a professor at VMI, will receive everlasting fame as "Stonewall" Jackson.

**July 1861** - To thwart the Confederate threat in northern Virginia, a series of earthworks and forts are engineered to surround Washington, D. C. adding to protection already offered by active posts such as Fort Washington on the Potomac River.

**August 10, 1861** - Battle of Wilson's Creek, Missouri. The Union Army under General Nathaniel Lyon attack Confederate troops and state militia southwest of Springfield, Missouri and after a disastrous day that included the death of Lyon, are thrown back. The Confederate victory emphasizes the strong southern presence west of the Mississippi River.

**August 28-29, 1861** - Fort Hatteras at Cape Hatteras, North Carolina falls to Union naval forces. This begins the first Union efforts to close southern ports along the Carolina coast.

**September 20, 1861** - Lexington, Missouri falls to Confederate forces under Sterling Price.

**October 21, 1861** - Battle of Ball's Bluff, Virginia. Colonel Edward D. Baker, senator from Oregon and a friend of President Lincoln, led troops across the Potomac River only to be forced back to the river's edge where he was killed. The ensuing Union withdrawal turned into a rout with many soldiers drowning while trying to recross the icy waters of the Potomac River.

**January 19, 1862** - Battle of Mill Springs, Kentucky. The Union victory weakened the Confederate hold on the state.

**February 6, 1862** - Surrender of Fort Henry, Tennessee. The loss of this southern fort on the Tennessee River opened the door to Union control of the river.

**February 8, 1862** - Battle of Roanoke Island, North Carolina. A Confederate defeat, the battle resulted in Union occupation of eastern North Carolina and control of Pamlico Sound to be used as Northern base for further operations against the southern coast.

**February 16, 1862** - Surrender of Fort Donelson, Tennessee. This primary southern fort on the Cumberland River left the river in Union hands. It was here that Union General Ulysses S. Grant gained his nickname "Unconditional Surrender Grant".

**February 22, 1862** - Jefferson Davis is inaugurated as President of the Confederate States of America.

**March 7-8, 1862** - Battle of Pea Ridge (aka Elkhorn Tavern), Arkansas. The Union victory loosened the Confederate hold on Missouri and disrupted southern control of a portion of the Mississippi River.

**March 9, 1862** - The naval battle between the first "ironclads", the USS Monitor and the CSS Virginia (the old USS "Merrimack"), is fought in Hampton Roads, Virginia.

**April 6-7, 1862** - The Battle of Shiloh (aka Pittsburg Landing), the first major battle in Tennessee. Confederate General Albert Sidney Johnston, a Veteran of the Texas War of Independence and the War with Mexico considered

to be one of the finest officers the South has, is killed on the first day of fighting. The Union victory further secures the career of Union General Ulysses S. Grant.

**April 24-25, 1862** - A Union fleet of gunships under Admiral David Farragut passes Confederate forts guarding the mouth of the Mississippi River. On April 25, the fleet arrived at New Orleans where they demanded the surrender of the city. Within two days the forts fall into Union hands and the mouth of the great river is under Union control.

**May 25, 1862** - 1st Battle of Winchester, Virginia. After two weeks of maneuvering and battles at Cross Keys and Front Royal, General "Stonewall" Jackson attacks Union forces at Winchester and successfully drives them from the city. The victory is the culmination of his 1862 Valley Campaign.

**May 31-June 1, 1862** - The Battle of Seven Pines near Richmond, Virginia. General Joseph Johnston, commander of the Confederate army in Virginia is wounded and replaced by Robert E. Lee who renames his command the "Army of Northern Virginia".

**June 6, 1862** - Battle of Memphis, Tennessee. A Union flotilla under Commodore Charles Davis successfully defeats a Confederate river force on the Mississippi River near the city and Memphis surrenders. The Mississippi River is now in Union control except for its course west of Mississippi where the city of Vicksburg stands as the last southern stronghold on the great river.

**June 25-July 1, 1862** - The Seven Days' Battles before Richmond. General Lee's army attacks the "Army of the Potomac" under General George McClellan in a succession of battles beginning at Mechanicsville on June 26 and ending at Malvern Hill on July 1.

**August 30-31, 1862** - The 2nd Battle of Bull Run (aka 2nd Battle of Manassas) is fought on the same ground where one year before, the Union army was defeated and sent reeling in retreat to Washington. Likewise, the result of this battle is a Union defeat.

**September 17, 1862** - The Battle of Antietam (aka Sharpsburg), Maryland; the bloodiest single day of the Civil War. The result of the battle ends General Lee's first invasion of the North. Following Union victory, President Lincoln will introduce the Emancipation Proclamation, an executive order that freed every slave in the Confederate States.

**December 13, 1862** - The Battle of Fredericksburg, Virginia. The Army of the Potomac, under General Ambrose Burnside, is soundly defeated by General Lee's forces after a risky river crossing and sacking of the city.

**December 31-January 3, 1863** - Battle of Stones River, Tennessee. Fought between the Union Army of the Cumberland under General William Rosecrans and the Confederate Army of Tennessee under General Braxton Bragg. The costly Union victory frees middle Tennessee from Confederate control and boosts northern morale.

**January 1, 1863** - The Emancipation Proclamation goes into effect. Applauded by many abolitionists including Frederick Douglass, there are others who feel it does not go far enough to totally abolish slavery.

**March 3, 1863** - Conscription, or the drafting of soldiers into military service, begins in the North. It had begun in the South the year before.

**April 1863** - Union forces in the east begin a new campaign in Virginia to flank Lee's Army of Northern Virginia at Fredericksburg. In the west, a Union army has begun a campaign to surround and take Vicksburg, Mississippi, the last Confederate stronghold on the Mississippi River.

**May 1-4, 1863** - The Battle of Chancellorsville, Virginia. General Lee's greatest victory is marred by the mortal wounding of "Stonewall" Jackson, who dies on May 10. Soon after, Lee asks Jefferson Davis for permission to invade the North and take the war out of Virginia.

**May 18, 1863** - Siege of Vicksburg, Mississippi begins. Union forces under General Ulysses S. Grant attack Confederate defenses outside the city on May 19-22. If Vicksburg falls, the Mississippi River will be completely controlled by the Union.

**June 9, 1863** - The Battle of Brandy Station, Virginia. Union cavalry forces cross the Rapidan River to attack General J.E.B. Stuart's cavalry and discover that Lee's men are moving west toward the Shenandoah Valley. The largest cavalry battle of the Civil War, it also marks the beginning of the Gettysburg Campaign. Meanwhile, the Union assault on Vicksburg, Mississippi has become a siege of the city where soldiers and civilians alike suffer from constant bombardment.

**June 14-15, 1863** – 2nd Battle of Winchester, Virginia. Confederate troops under General Richard Ewell defeat Union troops under General Robert Milroy, clearing the Shenandoah Valley of Union forces.

**June 28, 1863** - The Gettysburg Campaign continues. Confederates pass through York and reach the bridge over the Susquehanna River at Columbia, but Union militia set fire to the bridge, denying access to the east shore. Southern cavalry skirmishes with Union militia near Harrisburg, Pennsylvania.

**July 1-3** - The Battle of Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. The bloodiest battle of the Civil War dashes Robert E. Lee's hopes for a successful invasion of the North.

**July 4** - Vicksburg, Mississippi surrenders to the Union Army under Grant. The capture of Vicksburg gives the Union complete control of the Mississippi River, a vital supply line for the Confederate states in the west. At Gettysburg, Lee begins his retreat to Virginia.

**July 10-11, 1863** - Union naval and land forces attack Confederate defenses near Charleston, South Carolina. Among the Union troops is the 54th Massachusetts Colored Infantry, the first African American regiment of volunteers to see combat.

**July 13, 1863** - Draft Riots begin in New York City and elsewhere as disgruntled workers and laborers, seething over the draft system that seemingly favors the rich, attack the draft office and African American churches. The riots continue through July 16.

**July 13-14, 1863** - Near Falling Waters, Maryland, Union troops skirmish with Lee's rearguard. That night the Army of Northern Virginia crosses the Potomac River and the Gettysburg Campaign ends.

**July 18, 1863** - 2nd Assault on Battery Wagner, South Carolina. Leading the Union infantry charge is the 54th Massachusetts Colored Infantry commanded by Colonel Robert Gould Shaw who is killed and buried with the dead of his regiment.

**August 21, 1863** - Sacking of Lawrence, Kansas. In a murderous daylight raid, Confederate and Missouri guerillas under William Clarke Quantrill storm into Lawrence and destroy most of the town. Approximately 150 men and boys are murdered by Quantrill's men.

**September 9, 1863** - Chattanooga, Tennessee is occupied by Union forces under General William Rosecrans whose Army of the Cumberland will soon invade northern Georgia.

**September 19-20, 1863** - The Battle of Chickamauga, Georgia. The Union Army of the Cumberland under General William Rosecrans is defeated and nearly routed by the Confederate Army of Tennessee commanded by General Braxton Bragg. Rosecrans' army retreats to the supply base at Chattanooga, Tennessee.

**September-November 1863** - The Siege of Chattanooga, Tennessee. Confederate forces under Braxton Bragg surround the occupied city. General Ulysses S. Grant is assigned to command the troops there and begins immediate plans to relieve the besieged Union army.

**October 5, 1863** - Outside of Charleston Harbor, the Confederate ship David, a partially submerged, steam powered vessel, attacked the New Ironsides, part of the Union fleet blockading the harbor with a torpedo. Both ships survived the attack, though the commander of the David and one of his crew were captured.

**October 9-22, 1863** - Bristoe Station Campaign. In a feint toward Washington, Lee's Army of the Northern Virginia marches into Northern Virginia in an attempt to flank the Army of the Potomac under General Meade. Lee successfully outmaneuvers Meade though fails to bring him to battle or catch him in the open. An engagement at Bristoe Station, Virginia on October 14 gives the campaign its name.

**November 19, 1863** - Dedication of the Soldiers' National Cemetery at Gettysburg. President Abraham Lincoln delivers the Gettysburg Address.

**November 23-25, 1863** - The Battle for Chattanooga. Union forces break the Confederate siege of the city in successive attacks. The most notable event is the storming of Lookout Mountain on November 24 and Battle of Missionary Ridge the following day. The decisive Union victory sends the Confederate Army south into Georgia where General Bragg reorganizes his forces before resigning from command on November 30.

**November 26-December 1, 1863** - The Mine Run Campaign. Meade's Army of the Potomac marches against Lee's Army of Northern Virginia south of the Rapidan River, east of Orange Court House. Lee reacts and throws up a line of defenses along the banks of Mine Run Creek. After several days of probing the defenses, Meade withdraws north of the Rapidan and goes into winter quarters.

**November 27 to December 3, 1863** - Siege of Knoxville, Tennessee. Confederate troops under General James Longstreet lay siege to the city of Knoxville held by Union forces under General Ambrose Burnside. Longstreet finally attacks on November 30 but is repulsed with heavy losses. The arrival of Union reinforcements forces him to withdraw to Greeneville, Tennessee, where his corps will spend the winter.

**December 8, 1863** - Lincoln Issues his Proclamation of Amnesty and Reconstruction which would pardon those who participated in the "existing rebellion" if they take an oath to the Union.

**February 9, 1864** - Escape from Libby Prison, Richmond. After weeks of digging, 109 Union officers made their escape from the notorious Libby Prison, the largest and most sensational escape of the war. Though 48 of the escapees were later captured and two drowned, 59 were able to make their way into Union lines.

**February 27, 1864** - Confederate Prison Camp at Camp Sumter opens in Georgia. Referred to as Andersonville Prison Camp, it will become notorious for overcrowded conditions and a high death rate among its inmates.

**February 14-20, 1864** - Union Capture and Occupation of Meridian, Mississippi. Union forces under William T. Sherman enter the city of Meridian, Mississippi after a successful month of campaigning through the central part of the state. The capture of this important southern town, well known for its industry and storage capabilities,

severely hampers the efforts of Confederate commanders to sustain their armies in the deep south, Georgia and west of the Mississippi River.

**February 17, 1864** - First successful Submarine Attack of the Civil War. The CSS H.L. Hunley, a seven-man submersible craft, attacked the USS Housatonic outside of Charleston, South Carolina. Struck by the submarine's torpedo, the Housatonic broke apart and sank, taking all but five of her crew with her. Likewise, the Hunley was also lost and never heard from again until discovered in 1995 at the spot where it sank after the attack.

**March 2, 1864** - Ulysses S. Grant is appointed lieutenant general, a rank revived at the request of President Lincoln. Grant assumes command of all Union Armies in the field the following day.

**March 10, 1864** - The Red River Campaign begins. As part of an overall Union strategy to strike deep into various parts of the Confederacy, a combined force of army and navy commands under General Nathaniel Banks begins a campaign on the Red River in Louisiana.

**April 8, 1864** - Battle of Sabine Crossroads or Mansfield, Louisiana; the first major battle of the Red River Campaign in Louisiana.

**April 9, 1864** - Battle of Pleasant Hill, Louisiana. The Union Army under Banks defeats the attempt by Confederate forces under General Richard Taylor to drive them out of Louisiana. Unfortunately, the result of the campaign would be less than desired as it drew to a close in the first week of May with Confederates still in firm control of most of the state.

**April 12, 1864** - Capture of Fort Pillow, Tennessee. After a rapid raid through central and western Tennessee, Confederate cavalry under Nathan Bedford Forrest attacked and overwhelmed the Union garrison at Fort Pillow, located on the Mississippi River. Among those garrisoning the fort were African American troops, many of whom were murdered by Forrest's angered troopers after they had surrendered. The affair was investigated and though charges of an atrocity were denied by Confederate authorities, the events at Fort Pillow cast a pall over Forrest's reputation and remained an emotional issue throughout the remainder of the war and after.

**May 4-5, 1864** - Battle of the Wilderness, Virginia, the opening battle of the "Overland Campaign" or "Wilderness Campaign". General Ulysses S. Grant, accompanying the Army of the Potomac under General Meade, issued orders for the campaign to begin on May 3. Lee responded by attacking the Union column in the dense woods and underbrush of an area known as the Wilderness, west of Fredericksburg, Virginia.

**May 7, 1864** - Beginning of the Atlanta Campaign. With three Union armies under his command, General William T. Sherman marched south from Tennessee into Georgia against the Confederate Army of Tennessee under General Joseph Johnston, the objective being the city of Atlanta.

**May 8-21, 1864** - Battle of Spotsylvania Court House, Virginia. Lee successfully stalls Grant's drive toward Richmond.

**May 11, 1864** - Battle of Yellow Tavern. Six miles north of Richmond, Confederate cavalry under General J.E.B. Stuart blocked a force of Union cavalry under General Philip Sheridan. General Stuart was mortally wounded during the encounter.

**May 14-15, 1864** - Battle of Resaca, Georgia. General Sherman's armies are blocked at Resaca by General Johnston's Army of Tennessee. After two days of maneuvering and intense fighting, Johnston withdraws. Sherman will advance but take precautions against ordering any further massed assaults where high casualties may occur.

**June 1-3, 1864** - Battle of Cold Harbor, Virginia. Relentless and bloody Union attacks fail to dislodge Lee's army from its strong line of defensive works northeast of Richmond.

**June 8, 1864** - Abraham Lincoln is nominated by his party for a second term as president.

**June 10, 1864** - Battle of Brice's Crossroads, Mississippi. In spite of being outnumbered almost two to one, Confederate General Nathan Bedford Forrest attacks and routs the Union command under General Samuel Sturgis.

**June 15-18, 1864** - Assault on Petersburg, Virginia. After withdrawing from the lines at Cold Harbor, the Army of the Potomac crossed the James River and with troops from the Army of the James attacked the outer defenses of Petersburg, the primary junction for several southern railroads. After four days of bloody attacks, Grant accepts that only a siege can systematically isolate the city and cut off Confederate supplies to the capital of Richmond.

**June 19, 1864** - The USS Kearsarge sinks the Confederate raider ship CSS Alabama near Cherbourg, France.

**June 27, 1864** - Battle of Kennesaw Mountain, Georgia. After weeks of maneuvering and battles, Sherman's Army of the Cumberland and Army of the Tennessee smash headlong into Johnston's carefully planned defenses at Big and Little Kennesaw. Johnston remains on this line until July 2, when he retreats at the threat being flanked by Sherman's mobile force.

**July 9, 1864** - Battle of Monocacy, Maryland. In an attempt to draw Union troops away from the ongoing siege of Petersburg and Richmond, a Confederate force under Jubal Early quietly moved north into Maryland. Early had made excellent progress until he reached Frederick, Maryland, where a force of 6,000 Federal troops under General Lew Wallace, was arrayed to delay his advance. Though the battle was a Union defeat, it was also touted as "The battle that saved Washington" for it succeeded in holding back Early's march until troops could be sent to the capital's defense.

**July 11-12, 1864** - Attack on the Defenses of Washington. Jubal Early's troops arrive on the outskirts of Washington, DC, and trade cannon fire with a token Union force remaining in the forts around the city. President Lincoln observes the skirmishing from Fort Stevens as reinforcements from the Army of the Potomac arrive and quickly fill in the works. Early withdraws that evening.

**July 14-15, 1864** - Battles near Tupelo, Mississippi. The Union defeat of Nathan Bedford Forrest secured the supply lines to Sherman's armies operating against Atlanta, Georgia.

**July 17, 1864** - General John Bell Hood replaces General Joseph Johnston as commander of the Confederate Army of Tennessee. This change in command signals a new Confederate strategy to thwart Sherman's campaign, though the end result will be disastrous for the southern cause.

**July 20, 1864** - Battle of Peachtree Creek, Georgia, the first major battle around the city of Atlanta. General Hood sends his army out of the city's defenses to attack the approaching Federal troops under George Thomas. After several hours of fierce fighting, Hood withdrew back to his own defensive works.

**July 21, 1864** - The Battle of Atlanta. Hood's second effort to throw back Union forces under Sherman brings him heavy casualties with no positive results. General James McPherson, commander of the Union Army of the Tennessee, is killed during the fighting.

**July 30, 1864** - The Battle of the Crater at Petersburg, Virginia. After a month of tunneling by soldiers of the 48th Pennsylvania Infantry, a massive mine was exploded under a Confederate fort in the Petersburg siege lines. The

infantry charge that followed was poorly coordinated and by days end, Confederate counterattacks had driven out the Union troops and the siege lines remained unchanged.

**August 5, 1864** - Battle of Mobile Bay. A Union fleet under Admiral David Farragut steamed into Mobile Bay outside the city of Mobile, Alabama defended by two strong forts and a small southern flotilla, including the formidable ironclad CSS Tennessee. Farragut's ships defeated the Confederate ships and bypassed the forts, capturing the important southern port.

**August 18-19, 1864** - Battles on the Weldon Railroad near Petersburg, Virginia. Union attempts to capture this important railroad into Petersburg were stopped by Confederate counterattacks. Despite southern efforts, the Union remained in firm possession of their gains and the railroad.

**August 25, 1864** - Battle of Ream's Station, near Petersburg, Virginia. A surprise Confederate counterattack briefly stopped Union destruction of the Weldon Railroad near Ream's Station, though failed to release the Union grip on this important supply line into Petersburg.

**August 31- September 1, 1864** - Battle of Jonesborough, Georgia. The final southern counterattack against Union troops outside the city of Atlanta fails.

**September 1, 1864** - Fall of Atlanta, Georgia. Confederate troops under General Hood evacuate the city of Atlanta. General Sherman's army occupies the city and its defenses the following day.

**September 19, 1864** – 3rd Battle of Winchester, Virginia. Union forces under General Philip Sheridan attacked the Confederate army under Jubal Early near the city of Winchester and drove them southward, up the Shenandoah Valley.

**September 22, 1864** - Battle of Fisher's Hill, Virginia. The Union Army of the Shenandoah under General Philip Sheridan attacked Jubal Early's Confederates near Fisher's Hill, overpowering the southerners and again forcing them to flee the battlefield. Union officers and officials in Washington believe this to be the final battle in the Shenandoah Valley.

**September 29-30, 1864** - Battle of Fort Harrison near Richmond, Virginia. In a sweeping assault, the Confederate stronghold known as Fort Harrison falls to the Army of the James. Confederate efforts to retake the fort fail.

**October 19, 1864** - The Battle of Cedar Creek, Virginia. In an early morning surprise attack, Jubal Early's Confederates successfully attack and drive troops of the Army of the Shenandoah from their camps on the banks of Cedar Creek south of Middletown, Virginia. Hearing the fight from his headquarters at Winchester, General Philip Sheridan rides southward, rallying dispirited troops who return to the battlefield. By day's end, Early's forces are put to flight. Despite several attempts to disrupt the Union advance in the coming weeks, the battle for control of the Shenandoah Valley is over.

**November 8, 1864** - Abraham Lincoln is re-elected president of the United States.

**November 16, 1864** - General Sherman's Army of Georgia begins the "March to the Sea"

**November 30, 1864** - Battle of Franklin, Tennessee. After a month of raiding Sherman's supply lines and attacking Union outposts, John Bell Hood's army confronts Union troops from General John Schofield's command, who they had encountered the day before near Spring Hill, Tennessee. A massive frontal assault on the well-entrenched



Federal line meets with disaster. Despite some taking of outside works and defenses, the toll for Hood's forces is too heavy including the loss of six of his generals. Union troops retreat in the direction of Nashville.

**December 10, 1864** - Harassed only by scattered Georgia militia, Sherman's Army of Georgia arrives at Savannah, Georgia, completing the famous "March to the Sea". At Savannah, his troops will take Fort McAllister and force Confederate defenders to evacuate the city.

**December 15-16, 1864** - The Battle of Nashville, Tennessee. The Confederate Army under John Bell Hood is thoroughly defeated and the threat to Tennessee ends.

**January 15, 1865** - Assault and capture of Fort Fisher, North Carolina. Union occupation of this fort at the mouth of the Cape Fear River closes access to Wilmington, the last southern seaport on the east coast that was open to blockade runners and commercial shipping.

**February 1, 1865** - Sherman's Army leaves Savannah to march through the Carolinas.

**February 17, 1865** - Sherman's Army captures Columbia, South Carolina while Confederate defenders evacuate Charleston, South Carolina.

**February 22, 1865** - Wilmington, NC, falls to Union troops, closing the last important southern port on the east coast. On this same day, Joseph E. Johnston is restored to command the nearly shattered Army of the Tennessee, vice John B. Hood who resigned a month earlier.

**March 4, 1865** - President Abraham Lincoln is inaugurated for his second term as president in Washington, DC.

**March 11, 1865** - Sherman's Army occupies Fayetteville, North Carolina.

**March 16 and 19-21, 1865** - The Battles of Averasborough and Bentonville, North Carolina. Sherman's army is stalled in its drive northward from Fayetteville but succeeds in passing around the Confederate forces toward its object of Raleigh.

**March 25, 1865** - Attack on Fort Stedman, Petersburg, Virginia. Touted as "Lee's Last Offensive", Confederate troops under General John B. Gordon attack and briefly capture the Union fort in the Petersburg siege lines in an attempt to thwart Union plans for a late March assault. By day's end, the southerners have been thrown out and the lines remain unchanged.

**April 1, 1865** - The Battle of Five Forks, Virginia. The Confederate defeat at Five Forks, often referred to as, "The Waterloo of the Confederacy", initiates General Lee's decision to abandon the Petersburg-Richmond siege lines.

**April 2, 1865** - The Fall of Petersburg and Richmond. General Lee abandons both cities and moves his army west in hopes of joining Confederate forces under General Johnston in North Carolina.

**April 3, 1865** - Union troops occupy Richmond and Petersburg, Virginia.

**April 6, 1865** - The Battle of Sailor's Creek, Virginia. Almost a third of Lee's Army cornered along the banks of Sailor's Creek and annihilated.

**April 9, 1865** - Battle of Appomattox Court House, Virginia. Confederate forces attempt an early morning attack to break through Union forces who have surrounded them but fail. General Robert E. Lee surrenders.

**April 9, 1865** - Confederate Surrender at Appomattox Court House, Virginia. That afternoon in the parlor of Wilmer McLean's home, General Robert E. Lee signs the terms of surrender presented by General Ulysses S. Grant.

**April 12, 1865** - The Army of Northern Virginia formally surrenders and is disbanded.

**April 14, 1865** - President Abraham Lincoln is shot by John Wilkes Booth at Ford's Theater in Washington, D.C. On the same day, Fort Sumter, South Carolina is re-occupied by Union troops.

**April 15, 1865** - President Lincoln succumbs to his fatal wound and dies at 7:22am in the Petersen House opposite the theater becoming the first U.S. president to be assassinated. His funeral and burial mark a 3 week period of national mourning. Vice-President Andrew Jackson is sworn in as the 17th President of the United States.

**April 26, 1865** - General Joseph Johnston signs the surrender document for the Confederate Army of the Tennessee and other southern troops attached to his command at Bennett's Place near Durham, North Carolina.

**May 4, 1865** - General Richard Taylor surrenders Confederate forces in the Department of Alabama, Mississippi and East Louisiana.

**May 9, 1865** - President Andrew Johnson officially declares an end to the Confederate Rebellion.

**May 10, 1865** - Confederate President Jefferson Davis is captured near Irwinville, Georgia.

**May 12, 1865** - The final battle of the Civil War takes place at Palmito Ranch, Texas. It is a Confederate victory.

**May 23, 1865** – Day 1 of The Grand Review of the Armies in Washington, D.C. features General Mead and the Army of the Potomac

**May 24, 1865** – Day 2 of The Grand Review of the Armies in Washington, D.C. features General Sherman's Army of Tennessee and Army of Georgia.

**May 26, 1865** - Confederate Lt-General Simon Bolivar Buckner enters into terms for surrender of the Army of the Trans-Mississippi.

**June 2, 1865** - Confederate Major-General Kirby Smith officially surrenders the Army of the Trans-Mississippi.

**June 23, 1865** - Brigadier-General Stand Watie surrenders his forces of the First Indian Brigade of the Army of the Trans-Mississippi. The Cherokee leader is the last Confederate general to surrender.