

CIVIL WAR TIMELINE 1864

- January Radical Republicans are hostile to Lincoln's policies, fearing that they do not provide sufficient protection for ex-slaves, that the 10% amnesty plan is not strict enough, and that Southern states should demonstrate more significant efforts to eradicate the slave system before being allowed back into the Union. Consequently, Congress refuses to recognize the governments of Southern states, or to seat their elected representatives. Instead, legislators begin to work on their own Reconstruction plan, which will emerge in July as the Wade-Davis Bill. [http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/amex/reconstruction/states/sf_timeline.html] [<http://www.blackhistory.harperweek.com/4Reconstruction/ReconTimeline.htm>] Congress now understands the Confederacy to be the face of a deeply rooted cultural system antagonistic to the principles of a "free labor" society. Many fear that returning home rule to such a system amounts to accepting secession state by state and opening the door for such malicious local legislation as the Black Codes that eventually emerge. [Hunt]
- Jan. 1 **TN** Skirmish at Dandridge.
- Jan. 2 **TN** Skirmish at LaGrange. Nashville is in the grip of a smallpox epidemic, which will carry off a large number of soldiers, contraband workers, and city residents. It will be late March before it runs its course.
- Jan 5 **TN** Skirmish at Lawrence's Mill.
- Jan. 10 **TN** Forrest's troops in west Tennessee are said to have collected 2,000 recruits, 400 loaded Wagons, 800 beef cattle, and 1,000 horses and mules. Most observers consider these numbers to be exaggerated.
- " The Mississippi Squadron publishes a list of the steamboats destroyed on the Mississippi and its tributaries during the war: 104 ships were burned, 71 sunk.
- Jan. 10 & 12 **TN** Skirmishes at Mossy Creek and Strawberry Plains. The bridge over the Holston River is completed, and the one over the Watagana is expected to be completed within a week.
- Jan. 11 Author William Makepeace Thackeray, best known for his novel *Vanity Fair*, dies in England, to the great sorrow of the reading public.
- Jan. 13-14 **TN** Affair at Sevierville; skirmishes near Collierville, at Middleton, Dandridge, and Schultz's Mill on Cosby Creek.
- Jan. 16 **TN** Skirmishes at Kimbrough's Crossroads and bend of Chucky Road near Dandridge; another in White County.
- Jan. 16-17 **TN** Action near Dandridge.
- Jan. 19 **TN** Skirmish at Big Springs near Tazewell. Gen. Vance is captured.
- Jan. 20 **TN** Skirmishes at Tracy City and Island No. 76 in the Mississippi River.
- Jan. 21 **TN** Skirmish at Strawberry Plains. Unionists meet at Nashville and call for a Constitutional Convention to re-establish civil government in Tennessee. A report from Cincinnati states that two trains run daily from Chattanooga to Nashville, making the trip in 19 hours.

CIVIL WAR TIMELINE 1864

- Jan. 22 **TN** Capture of forage train near Wilsonville; skirmish at Armstrong's Ferry.
- “ Because of food shortages in the Confederacy, rations have been cut to both men and mules. A general order issued by Robert E. Lee expresses his hope that the lack of food will be short-lived and includes this rousing message to his men: “Continue to emulate in the future, as you have in the past, [your forefathers'] valor in arms, their patient endurance of hardships, their high resolve to be free.”
- Jan. 23 **TN** Skirmish near Newport.
- Jan. 24 **TN** Skirmish at Tazewell.
- Jan. 25 **TN** Skirmish at LaGrange.
- Jan. 26 **TN** Skirmishes at Muddy Creek and Sevierville.
- “ **TN** Governor Andrew Johnson issues a proclamation declaring a public election in Tennessee on the first Saturday in March to begin to restore civil government across the state. However, only those free white males having taken the oath of allegiance to the Union are permitted to vote or to hold office.
- The text of the oath of allegiance: “I solemnly swear that I will henceforth support the Constitution of the United States, and defend it against the assaults of all its enemies; that I will hereafter be, and conduct myself as a true and faithful citizen of the United States, freely and voluntarily claiming to be subject to all the duties and obligations, and entitles to all the rights and privileges of such citizenship; that I ardently desire the suppression of the present insurrection and rebellion against the Government of the United States, the success of its armies and the defeat of all those who oppose them, and that the Constitution of the United States, and all laws and proclamations made in pursuance thereof, may be speedily and permanently established and enforced over all the people, States, and Territories thereof; and further, that I will hereafter heartily aid and assist all loyal people in the accomplishment of these results, so help me God.”
- Jan. 26 & 27 **TN** Skirmishes near Knoxville between Longstreet's cavalry and Union forces.
- Jan. 27 **TN** Engagement near Fair Garden, French Broad.
- Jan. 27-28 **TN** Cavalry action at Dandridge. Skirmish at Kelly's Ford near Sevierville; affair at Lee's House on Cornersville Pike.
- Jan. 28 **TN** Confederate soldier Joseph Gerald Branch writes to his wife, Mary Jones (Polk) Branch: “I endeavor to bear with fortitude the desolation which is sweeping over our poor country. Is there no statesman, North or South, who rising above the waves of party prejudice ... can calm the raging storm? My own dear sweet wife! My heart is always with you. Not an hour passes but your trials are the subject of my thoughts. How I long to be with you as your time approaches Kiss my dear children for me & do not let them forget they have a father who loves them as few parents love.”
- Feb. 2 **TN** Skirmish at LaGrange. Rosecrans is assigned to the Army of the Missouri.
- Feb. 3 Gen. William T. Sherman sets out from Vicksburg with 25,000 infantry and a

CIVIL WAR TIMELINE 1864

- battalion of cavalry and proceeds to cut a swath through Mississippi, with surprisingly little opposition. This large-scale raid foreshadows Sherman's Atlanta and Carolina Campaigns, providing valuable experience. By May he will be in Chattanooga, prepared to move on Atlanta.
- Feb. 6 **TN** Affair at Bolivar. A fire in a set of sheds and warehouses in Columbia, SC, destroys hundreds of bales of cotton, having a value of \$2,000,000. Newspapers begin to discuss the coming Presidential election. No one expects that Lincoln will be reelected ... even Lincoln.
- “ Reports from the Confederate prison in Richmond state that 900 of the 7,000 prisoners there are currently in the hospital. Plans are being made to ship several thousand of the Virginia prisoners south to the new prison in **Andersonville**, Georgia. It will be the largest of the Confederate military prisons, and the most infamous – by the end of the war (14 months later), nearly 13,000 of the 45,000 Union prisoners will have died of starvation, malnutrition, diarrhea, or disease.
- Feb. 9 **TN** Skirmish in Hardin County. Repairs on the railroad between Chattanooga and Knoxville are nearly completed, but the Chattanooga Depot, containing Quartermasters' stores, is burned, destroying \$100,000 of supplies.
- Feb. 11 **TN** Gen. William Smith leaves Collierville, Tennessee, to join Sherman in Mississippi.
- Feb. 12 **TN** The Nashville *Daily Union* reports: “The distinguished tragedian, **J. Wilkes Booth**, takes his farewell benefit to-night The entertainment will commence with Shakespeare's tragedy, ‘the Merchant of Venice,’ and close with ‘Catherine and Petruchio,’ a Shakespearean comedy Mr. Booth came amongst us a stranger, his reputation as a rising star having preceded him. His first night was a splendid ovation; the theater being densely packed, every foot of standing room occupied, and numbers sent away unable to get in His genius appears equal to anything the tragic muse has produced; and the time is not too distant when he will attain the high niche of professional fame. His engagement here will not soon be forgotten by any who have attended the theatre, and the records of that establishment will transmit it to those who follow after him as the best played here during the most eventful of dramatic seasons. We expect to see the house literally overflowing to-night. Gentlemen with ladies should make it a point to go early to be sure of seats.”
- Feb. 13 **TN** Skirmish in Fentress County. The *Memphis Bulletin* publishes a statement signed by 300 of the city's leading citizens, recommending immediate and unconditional emancipation of all slaves as “the best, truest policy and only alternative,” and urges Tennesseans to reestablish relations with the government.
- Feb. 17 Confederate submarine *Hunley* sinks the U.S.S. *Housatonic* in Charleston Harbor; the *Hunley* also sinks, drowning all eight crewmen aboard.
- Feb. 18 **TN** Skirmishes at Mifflin, Maryville, and Sevierville.
- Feb. 20 **TN** Skirmishes at Strawberry Plains, Flat Creek, and the Sevierville Road near Knoxville.
- Feb. 21 **TN** A report from Missouri states that over 12,000 African American men have enlisted in the Union Army in Tennessee, with an average of 500 a week in

CIVIL WAR TIMELINE 1864

Nashville and Middle Tennessee.

- Feb. 22 **TN** Skirmishes on Calfkiller Creek and at Powell's Bridge. Gen. Buckner is assigned to Hood's former command.
- Feb. 24 Fighting at Dalton and Tunnel Hill, Georgia. Sherman's forces take possession of Selma, Alabama. Facing weak opposition from Gen. Polk, Sherman cuts the Confederate forces in half and continues his slow march toward Chattanooga.
- “ **TN** General Smith, who was supposed to have joined up with Sherman's forces, returns to Memphis after Forrest defeats him at Okalona, MS.
- Feb. 26 **TN** Skirmish at Sulphur Springs; capture of Washington.
- “ The *Richmond Examiner* reports that “the prisoners of war held in Richmond now number 9,116, including 1,021 commissioned officers. The number has been decreased by 2,400 sent to Americus, Georgia.”
- Feb. 27 **TN** Skirmish in Sequatchie Valley.
- Feb. 28 **TN** Skirmish at Dukedom. Longstreet backs away from East Tennessee.
- March **TN** Military Governor Andrew Johnson, speaking at the dedication of the Northwestern Military Railroad at Johnsonville, urges Unionists to “go to the ballot box” and vote slavery out of the state. The railroad, strategic to the success of the Union army's attack on Atlanta, has been built by thousands of black contraband workers and U.S. Colored Troops.
[<http://www.tnstate.edu/library/digital/document.htm>]
- Mar. 2 Grant is promoted to Lieutenant General and is made General-in-Chief of the U.S. Army. Meade offers to resign, but Grant, saying he has no intention to replace him, makes his headquarters with Meade for the remainder of the war.
- Mar. 4 **TN** Skirmish near Murfreesboro. Gen. Bragg is reassigned to duty at Richmond. The *NY Times* gloats, “He has made his last retreat; he has had his last defeat.”
- Mar. 5 **TN** Skirmish at Panther Springs – a total of 40 soldiers on both sides were killed or wounded, and 22 Federal soldiers were taken prisoner. County elections are held, as ordered by Gov. Johnson – 261 of the typical 700 votes are cast in Knoxville, and 100 of 179 in Sevier County. No other counties have reported yet.
- Mar. 6 **TN** Affair near Island No. 10.
- Mar. 7 **TN** The election in Nashville, in which about 1100 votes are cast, results in a substantial victory for the Union candidates, particularly those who advocate the end of slavery in the state.
- Mar. 8 General Meade, criticized by some of his officers for his conduct at Gettysburg, is investigated by a Congressional committee.
- Mar. 10 Newly commissioned Lieutenant General **Ulysses S. Grant** is given official authority to command all of the armies of the United States. He arrives at the Headquarters of the Army of the Potomac to an enthusiastic welcome, including

CIVIL WAR TIMELINE 1864

- “Hail to the Chief” played by the band of a Pennsylvania Regiment and a serenade at his hotel by the 17th Infantry band. A letter from the Army of the Potomac directs that all ladies within the lines must leave as early as practicable, and that no further passes shall be granted to such visitors.
- Mar. 11-28 **TN** Skirmishes on Calfkiller Creek, including operations around Sparta.
- Mar. 12 **TN** Skirmish near Union City.
- Mar. 13 **TN** Skirmishes at Cheek’s Crossroads and Spring Hill.
- Mar. 14 **TN** Skirmish at Bent Creek.
- Mar. 15 **TN** Skirmishes at Bull’s Gap and Flat Creek Valley.
- Mar. 16 **TN** Forrest returns to raid West Tennessee and Western Kentucky in order to round up deserters, recruit new soldiers, and confiscate horses and equipment.
- “ Confederate Vice President Alexander Stephens delivers a speech to the Georgia legislature in which he condemns Jefferson Davis for supporting conscription and suspending *habeas corpus*, and urges certain decisive steps toward peace.
- Mar. 17 William Tecumseh Sherman, just arriving in Nashville, replaces Grant as commander of the western armies.
- ” **TN** Skirmish at Manchester.
- Mar. 19 **TN** Skirmish near Beersheba Springs on Calfkiller Creek.
- Mar. 21 **TN** Skirmish at Reynoldsburg.
- Mar. 22 **TN** Supporters of Gov. Andrew Johnson predict that the Republican Convention will nominate him as Vice-President on the ticket with Lincoln. [NYT]
- Mar. 24 **TN** Gen. Forrest, with 7,000 men, advances to the Obion River. Part of his command captures Union City while Forrest himself leads others to Paducah, Kentucky, a large part of which he will leave in ruins.
- “ The Army of the Potomac is reorganized and consolidated into three Corps.
- Mar. 27 **TN** Affair at Louisville (Tennessee).
- Mar. 28 **TN** Skirmish on Obey’s River.
- Mar. 29 **TN** Confederate cavalry under General Chalmers defeats U.S. forces at Bolivar. Forrest is said to be moving on Columbus, Kentucky.
- Mar. 30 **TN** “Yesterday’s news was that France has certainly recognized the South; Charleston has really been abandoned by the Federals in despair, Grant has been ordered to [supersede] Meade in Va., to try his hand against the greatest man of the times—Gen. Robert E. Lee.” [Lucy Virginia French journal]
- Mar. 31 **TN** Enlistment of USCT soldiers continues to go well in Middle Tennessee – 5,000 men at Shelbyville and Lebanon are said to be ready for the field. Gen. Thomas meets with Generals Sherman, Granger, McPherson, Sheridan, and Barry at Union headquarters at Chattanooga. The excellent communication among the officers in Thomas’s command will give them a huge advantage over

CIVIL WAR TIMELINE 1864

Hood, who will soon take over command of the Army of Tennessee – Hood's generals (Cheatham, Cleburne, and especially Leonidas Polk) often miss meetings and follow their own impulses on the field.

- Apr. 2 **TN** Skirmishes at Cleveland and Summerville.
- Apr. 3 **TN** U.S. advance against the Confederates is turned back near Memphis.
- Apr. 3 & 9 **TN** Skirmishes near Raleigh.
- Apr. 3 & 10 **TN** Skirmishes at Cypress Swamp.
- Apr. 7 **TN** Longstreet's command is ordered to return to Virginia; Buckner's small force near Bristol are now the only Confederates remaining in East Tennessee.
- Apr. 8 The U.S. Congress passes the 13th Amendment, abolishing slavery.
- Apr. 9 **TN** A correspondent for the *Philadelphia Inquirer* writes from Knoxville: "The rebels are committing the most unheard-of depredations, robbing everybody of horses and the necessities of life Men, women and children are ragged and dirty, and half-starved. The people of East Tennessee cannot possibly live through the Summer, as there is nothing to eat ... I cannot select language to describe the distress and ruin which daily presents itself."
- “ **TN** Forrest's men begin to work their way from Kentucky back toward Memphis. Some reports say they are being reinforced by part of Lee's cavalry.
- Apr. 10 **TN** The new powder magazine at Nashville is nearly completed. It will be the largest and most advanced in the country, with many modern safety features.
- Apr. 12 **TN** Forrest's troops attack Fort Pillow, killing 221 of the fort's garrison of 558, many of them black soldiers, and many of them, reportedly, after their surrender. Northern newspapers are aghast and run emotional stories for days, many calling it "the blackest deed of the war."
- Apr. 13 **TN** Skirmish at Mink springs near Cleveland. In the face of East Tennessee's proposal to secede from the state, Andrew Johnson makes a special trip to the Greenville-Knoxville Convention to oppose the plan.
- Apr. 14 **TN** Although widely expected to attack Memphis, Forrest withdraws from Tennessee and heads south into Mississippi.
- Apr. 15 **TN** Skirmish near Greeneville.
- Apr. 16 **TN** Skirmish at Rheatown. The *Charleston Mercury* notes that shelling continues in the city, with 30-40 shells fired at Fort Sumter – it is the 283rd day of the siege of Charleston.
- Apr. 17 **TN** The Knoxville-Greeneville Convention adjourns sine die, "the delegates evidently being well satisfied of their inability to determine for themselves the grave questions affecting the welfare of the people of East Tennessee." [NYT]
- Apr. 18 **TN** Sherman replaces General Stephen A. Hurlbut with General C.C. Washburn as commander of U.S. forces in West Tennessee.

CIVIL WAR TIMELINE 1864

- Apr. 19-20 **TN** Skirmishes at Boiling Springs.
- Apr. 20-22 **TN** Skirmishes at Waterhouse's Mill and on the Duck River.
- “ A movement to provide onions for the Union soldiers brings in thousands of dollars in donations.
- Apr. 27 **TN** Skirmish in Berry County.
- Apr. 29 **TN** Sherman takes command of the army in Chattanooga and prepares for a campaign into Georgia.
- May 1 **TN** Gen. Sherman, in Nashville, issues orders concerning what may and may not be published in newspapers: no notices of the arrival or departure of regiments, including their strength or destination; no letters from the front stating the location, composition, or strength of units; no speculations concerning campaign plans or army movements.
- May 2 **TN** Skirmish at Bolivar between 1000 of Forrest's men and Gen. Sturgis's cavalry. After two hours, Forrest's troops are driven from their entrenchments and retreat across the river. Skirmishes occur almost daily in Kentucky, Arkansas, and other neighboring states as well.
- “ The Army of the Potomac, having seen little action in the ten months since Gettysburg, is on the move. Various units engage in skirmishes, including an encounter with Mosby's guerillas. Another expedition, fighting at Madison Court House, burns most of the town.
- “ Joseph Davis, Jefferson Davis's four-year-old son, is killed in a fall at home.
- May 3 The Children's Aid Society of New York agrees to provide homes for about 50 orphan children from East Tennessee made homeless by the war.
- May 4 A railroad collision at Gallatin between a construction train and a passenger train carrying 300 soldiers from the Tenth Indiana Cavalry kills at least three men, injures many more, and destroys both engines.
- May 5-7 Gen. William T. Sherman moves against the Army of Tennessee under Joe Johnston at **Dalton**, Georgia.
- “ Horrific fighting at the **Battle of the Wilderness** in Virginia begins a month-long series of battles between Grant and Lee. Both armies suffer heavy casualties, and there is no clear winner, but this is the inauguration of what is fast becoming a war of attrition by Grant against Lee's much reduced army. Grant's army has taken as many as 15,000 prisoners, and the Confederate retreats often leave many dead and wounded behind as well, all of whom also fall into Union hands. (Port Royal news-papers state that Florida, Georgia, and South Carolina are nearly depleted of Confederate troops, who have been sent north to join Lee's army.)
- May 6 In one of the most horrifying events of the war, a brush fire breaks out in the woods between the two armies, trapping hundreds of wounded men who are burned alive there, in full view – and earshot – of their helpless comrades.
- May 8 From the *New York Times* correspondent in Nashville: “**Columbia**, a charming town about 40 miles south ..., has been a notoriously disloyal town. The inhabi-

CIVIL WAR TIMELINE 1864

tants ... have taken oaths by the batch, yet still practice the most unheard of crimes, all arising from their ever-existing hatred to the Government. Something transpires in this Bedlam weekly of a distressing nature. On the 15th ult. two soldiers were found dead in the streets, one having a nail drove into his head The citizens of **Murfreesboro** have been for the last three weeks getting up a Union meeting This is rather a suspicious town, and contains precious little element of a loyal smack. It was said that there were but six Union families in the town during the battle of Stone River.”

- May 9-12 Grant begins a concentrated drive toward Richmond, but his progress is slowed by tough Southern resistance at **Spotsylvania Court House** and **Yellow Tavern**. Union General **John Sedgwick** is shot and killed by a Confederate sharpshooter 1000 yards away as he scolds his men for taking cover. His last words are, “They couldn’t hit an elephant at this distance!” Meanwhile, fighting takes place at **Dug Gap**, Georgia, where the Confederates, outnumbered 10-1, successfully hold off Union attacks for the time being.
- May 10 **TN** Affair at Winchester. President Lincoln expresses his pleasure in Grant’s obstinacy, saying that no previous commander of the Army of the Potomac would have held his ground under such resistance from the Confederate army. The boldness, and success of Grant’s campaign will create a heightened confidence in Union leadership that will ultimately deliver Lincoln’s reelection.
- May 11 Confederate cavalry commander **J.E.B. Stuart**, 31, is killed at the Battle of **Yellow Tavern**, six miles north of Richmond, as his cavalry is crushed by 10,000 Union cavalry under Gen. Sheridan.
- May 13 **TN** Skirmish at Pulaski.
- “ **Battle of New Market**, Virginia. Cadets from the Virginia Military Institute join the Confederate Army in the fight (Gen. Imboden, under Breckinridge), forcing Union General Sigel and his army out of the Shenandoah Valley
- May 14 Fighting at **Resaca**, Georgia. Union forces test the Rebel lines as Sherman pursues Gen. Johnston, who is forced to evacuate Dalton and Resaca and retreat toward Atlanta.
- May 15 Lee’s soldiers are said to be on one-quarter rations. [*New York Times*]
- May 19 **TN** Skirmish at Dandridge.
- “ Sherman’s army occupies Kingston and Rome, Georgia, capturing and destroying a number of iron foundries and machine shops.
- May 24 **TN** Skirmish near Nashville.
- May 25 **TN** Skirmish near Cripple Creek on Woodbury Pike.
- May 29 **TN** Guerilla depredations at Winchester.
- May 30 **TN** Skirmish at Greeneville between Union Maj. Dave Fry and a small band of Confederate raiders. Only about 20 of the raiders survive to become prisoners.
- May 31 A small convention of Republican abolitionists, critical of Lincoln’s Emancipation Proclamation, nominate John C. Fremont for president.

CIVIL WAR TIMELINE 1864

- June 1-3 **TN** U.S. forces under Major General Sturgis leave Memphis on a raid into Mississippi in an unsuccessful attempt to defeat Forrest.
- “ The **Battle of Cold Harbor** results in thousands of Union casualties as Grant fails to break Lee’s line once again. Grant prepares for a long siege of Petersburg.
- June 8 The Union Party Convention (the party consists of Republicans and “War” Democrats) -- meeting in Baltimore, nominates Abraham Lincoln for President and Andrew Johnson for Vice President, with Emancipation comprising a major plank of the party’s platform. Party members across the country are concerned that Lincoln will not be able to carry the election in the fall, but Sherman’s capture of Atlanta in September will cement the Union victory.
- June 8 Union General Hunter occupies Staunton, Virginia, taking 6 guns, thousands of dollars of supplies, and several hundred prisoners. John Morgan’s forces raid Kentucky, taking control of Paris, Georgetown, Cynthiana, and Williamstown, and leaving a trail of destruction behind them.
- June 9 **TN** Skirmish at LaFayette.
- June 10 **TN** Andrew Johnson speaks at a Union meeting in Nashville, pressing the point that “Slavery is dead.” He also recounts a conversation with an aristocratic slave-owner who had said, “We people of the South will not submit to be governed by a man who has come up from the ranks of the common people, as Abe Lincoln has.” Johnson responds, to the great amusement of his audience, “I believe that man is capable of self-government, irrespective of his outward circumstances, and whether he be a laborer, a shoe-maker, a tailor, or a grocer Now, it has just occurred to me, if this aristocracy is so violently opposed to being governed by Mr. Lincoln, what in the name of conscience will it do with Lincoln and Johnson!”
- “ Nathan Bedford Forrest, who has combined forces with Stephen D. Lee, Roddy, and Kirby Smith, soundly defeats U.S. General Sturgis at the **Battle of Brice’s Crossroads**, Mississippi. Sturgis is relieved of command.
- June 11 **TN** The McKendree Methodist church, which has been used as a hospital (No. 21) since the Battle of Stones River, is opened for its first services under Union auspices. Many see this is a hopeful sign of a return to normal conditions.
- June 13-15 **TN** Raid from Morristown into North Carolina. Skirmishes at Bean’s Station and in Lincoln County.
- “ While inspecting his lines during artillery fire at Pine Mountain, GA, after the other Confederate officers have fled for cover, **Gen. Leonidas Polk** is killed by an artillery blast. Gen. Sherman’s tersely-worded communiqué to Gen. Halleck says, “We killed Bishop Polk yesterday and have made good progress today.”
- June 15 Union Gen. Smith attacks Beauregard’s lines in Petersburg, but, not realizing how weak they are, fails to follow through. Three of the four railroad lines running into Richmond run through Petersburg, and Grant hopes to draw Lee into a counter-attack. Unfortunately, it will take nine months of trench warfare and much death and destruction before he is able to destroy the railroad connections and make his plan a reality.

CIVIL WAR TIMELINE 1864

- “ Congress passes a bill authorizing equal pay, equipment, arms, and health care for African American troops in the Union Army.
- “ TN Skirmish near Moscow.
- June 19 Mosby’s raiders ford the Potomac River and capture Winchester, Virginia. The USS *Kearsarge* sinks the CSS *Alabama* off the coast of France, where the Confederate raider has been taken for refitting. Gen. Joe Johnston establishes a strong defensive line along Kennesaw Mountain.
- June 20 TN Skirmish at White’s Station.
- June 21 TN Skirmish in Decatur County.
- June 23 TN Skirmish at Collierville; attack on a train at LaFayette.
- June 24 The Constitutional Convention of Maryland passes (53-27) an article of the Bill of Rights abolishing slavery.
- June 27 **Battle of Kennesaw Mountain**, Georgia – Sherman, who could bypass Johnston’s position and move around it to the south, chooses instead to attack the center of the Confederate line. The Confederate defenses prove too strong to overcome, and Sherman withdraws. Union casualties are around 3,000 men, while the Confederates lose about 1,000 – this is one of the single bloodiest days in the Atlanta campaign.
- June 28 Lincoln signs a bill repealing the **Fugitive Slave Law**. Following several explosions which damaged trains carrying sick and wounded soldiers, Maj. Gen. Steedman at Chattanooga tightens the rules protecting railroads from attack – e.g., “all citizens, except Government employees, found within three miles of the railroad ... after the 7th day of July, 1864, will be arrested and forwarded to these headquarters, to be tried before a Military Commission as spies.”
- June 29 TN Sally Wendel Fentress of Hardeman County writes in her diary: “During this long delay in writing we have seen troubles and joys rise and fall successively. General Forrest’s entrance into to our little village flushed with victory. His retreat causing sadness to fall upon every body’s spirit. He was in the yard during the whole skirmish. Bullets were whizzing above and below us, burying themselves in and burrowing the ground.... Houses, twenty three in number, were burnt, the stores were sacked, the merchants chests were blown and hammered to pieces. The Confederates went South and lately have had a large battle. It was victory, but oh so dearly bought.... Charlie Newly’s death was indeed a sad one. Idolized by his family, he was a gallant soldier, noble boy and a constant Christian.”
- July TN Tennessean Lucy Virginia French writes in her journal that she is reading *Adam Bede* and *Mill on the Floss*. She also mentions Adelia Acken, who lived in the house “Belmont” in Nashville, became something of a Confederate heroine when she was able to move her cotton crop to New Orleans, run the Union blockade, and sell it for nearly a million dollars in London.
- July 2 TN Skirmish on road in Byhalia, Mississippi, just south of Collierville.

CIVIL WAR TIMELINE 1864

- “ As Sherman prepares to flank the Confederate lines, Johnston moves his men out of their entrenchments and blocks the Union advance at Smyrna. Sherman’s advantage in terms of manpower and supplies will eventually allow him to prevail, but for now Johnston holds the line.
- July 3 **TN** Skirmish near LaGrange.
- July 4 **TN** Expedition from Memphis to Grand Gulf, Mississippi.
- July 5 **TN** Generals Smith, Mower, and Grierson are ordered to pursue Forrest.
- July 6 General Sherman, writing from five miles south of Marietta, Georgia, comments that the lack of discipline in the Confederate army makes it difficult for its commanders to organize their troops for battle.
- July 8 Congress passes the **Wade-Davis Bill**, which requires a majority vote of state voters to gain readmission to the Union, restricts many former Confederates from political participation in Reconstruction, and demands that blacks receive not only their freedom but also equality before the law; Lincoln’s July 4 pocket veto of the bill kills it.
- “ In one last effort to carry the war to the North, Gen. **Jubal Early** leads 15,000 troops toward Washington. On July 8 they reach the outskirts of Frederick, Maryland. Gen. **Lew Wallace** (blamed, perhaps unfairly, by Grant for Union setbacks at Shiloh) rushes from Baltimore with 6,550 men to attempt to delay Early’s advance on the capital.
- July 9 **Battle of Monocacy River**, Maryland, also known as the battle that saved Washington, D.C. As the Confederates ford the Monocacy River below Frederick, they encounter a spirited Union defense, which delays them for a full day. Although technically a Confederate victory – and their only victory in the North – the day they have lost allows Grant sufficient time to send troops back to reinforce Washington’s defenses, and Early is forced to return to Virginia. His troops will fire on the northern defenses of Washington, D.C., throwing the capital into a state of high alert, but the city is never really in danger. Reports will come in over the next few days that Early’s troops virtually strip Montgomery County, Maryland, of its horses and cattle as they pass through.
- July 13 Reports reach Nashville that Sherman’s forces have reached the Chattahoochee River, captured 3,000 prisoners, and recovered numerous deserters. [NYT]
- July 14 In the **Battle of Tupelo**, Mississippi, a force of 14,000 Federal troops under Gen. Andrew Smith defeats a Confederate force half their size, largely through the heroic efforts of a USCT brigade to turn away an attack by Forrest. Smith is later criticized for not destroying Forrest, but his victory is enormously significant, ensuring the safety of Sherman’s supply lines from Confederate raids.
- July 15 A train loaded with Confederate prisoners on their way to the prison camp at Elmira, New York, collides with a Pennsylvania Coal Company train in Lackawaxen, PA. More than 100 of the prisoners are killed, and many badly injured.
- July 17 **John Bell Hood** replaces General Joseph Johnston as commander of the Army of Tennessee. Hood will be more aggressive in facing Sherman’s invasion, leading A series of damaging frontal assaults on the Union Army. However, his brash

CIVIL WAR TIMELINE 1864

style proves ineffective, as it will cost him not only Atlanta (within six weeks), but also much of his army (in the Franklin-Nashville campaign in December). Much of his ineffectuality seems to stem from his unwillingness to abandon his original plans, even when all the evidence points to their failure.

“ “The reports of the rebel invasion of Maine from New-Brunswick appear to have little foundation in fact.” [Boston correspondent to *New York Times*]

July 19 Sherman's army crosses the Chattahoochee and advances to Peach Tree Creek, Facing only feeble resistance from Johnston's forces.

July 20 **TN** Memphis newspapers report on the return of Smith's troops, who have been quite successful in their pursuit of Forrest, with violent encounters at Tapaluci, Guntown, and Salem that cost the Confederates at least 2,400 men. Smith's expedition has returned, he says, simply to replenish their supplies, and he brings with him around 2,000 prisoners. Skirmish in Blount County.

“ Confederate forces try to stop Sherman's movement toward Atlanta, in the **Battle of Peachtree Creek**. Because Sherman has split his army, sending Schofield and McPherson to the east, the main armies in the conflict are Gen. Thomas's Army of the Cumberland and the much larger Confederate Army of Tennessee under Hood, in his first battle as commander. Because of poor reconnaissance and organization, as well as Hood's decision to continue the attack after he has clearly lost the advantage, the Confederate forces fail to break through the Union line at any point, and they face much higher losses: 4,796 Confederate casualties to 1,710.

July 22 **Battle of Atlanta.** As Union Gen. McPherson closes in from Decatur, Hood sends out Hardee, Wheeler, and Cheatham to attack the Union lines. McPherson sees the threat and strengthens his lines, but is killed early in the battle. Brig. Gen. Sprague creates a delaying action, saving the supply trains, as the Union forces regroup. Although Cheatham's forces break through the Union lines, Sherman bombards them with artillery long enough for Logan's corps to regroup and repulse the Confederate troops. Union losses are 3,641, including Gen. McPherson; the Confederates lose 8,500, but they still hold the city. Sherman will now settle into a siege of Atlanta, shelling the city, cutting off supply lines from Macon, and sending raids into outlying areas.

July 22-23 **TN** Skirmishes at Clifton.

July 24 **TN** Skirmish near Collierville.

July 25 The *Cincinnati Commercial* publishes horrific stories of life in Andersonville Prison, sharing eye-witness accounts of starvation and cruel treatment.

July 26 **TN** Skirmish at White's Station.

July 28 **TN** General Smith starts another raid into Mississippi to occupy Forrest and link up with Sherman. Skirmish at Long's Mills near Mulberry Gap.

July 30 **TN** Skirmish at Clifton.

“ **Battle of the Crater**, Virginia – during the siege of Petersburg, Union forces explode a huge mine under the Confederate lines but send in untrained support,

CIVIL WAR TIMELINE 1864

instead of following their original plans, a decision which costs many lives. Many of the wounded will lie on the battlefield between the two lines until the following two days, when they can finally be carried off under a flag of truce.

- “ Chambersburg, Pennsylvania, previously invaded in October 1862 by J.E.B. Stuart, and in 1863 by Gen. Albert Jenkins, is burned by the troops of Gen. John McCausland. Only a few buildings are left standing, one of them the Masonic Temple, which is saved by order of a Confederate Mason.
- Aug. 1 **TN** Skirmish at Athens.
- Aug. 2 **TN** Skirmish at Morristown. Forrest is rumored to have died of lockjaw.
- Aug. 3 It is the 390th day of the siege of Charleston.
- Aug. 3-4 **TN** Skirmishes at Triune.
- Aug. 3-5 **Battle of Mobile Bay**, Alabama – Union forces under Admiral David G. Farragut unsuccessfully attempt to capture the port of Mobile, although when the Confederate fleet is forced to surrender, the port is effectively closed. The *Nashville* is sunk directly across the channel, blocking entry into the harbor.
- Aug. 4 **TN** Skirmish at Tracy City.
- Aug. 8 **TN** Skirmish at LaFayette.
- “ Gen. Phil Sheridan is named commander of the Middle Military Division. Headquartered in Harper’s Ferry, he is in charge of Pennsylvania, Maryland, and the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia. Gen. Dan Sickles, who lost a leg at Gettysburg, now commands the Veteran Reserve Corps. After the war Sickles will be one of the key figures behind the preservation of the battlefield park at Gettysburg.
- Aug. 14 Confederate General **Joseph Wheeler** leads the first of several attacks on railroads supplying Sherman’s army, but will cause only minimum damage to the lines in Georgia and Tennessee.
- Aug. 14-20 Second Battle of Deep Bottom – in extremely hot weather, a series of Union attacks by Grant’s army brings about little tactical gain and costs 4,400 casualties on both sides, including many deaths from heat stroke.
- Aug. 15 **TN** Raid on Nashville and Northwestern Railroad.
- “ The number of Federal prisoners held in the 26½-acre stockade at **Andersonville** Prison reaches 32,000 during August – this is the largest number held in the military prison at any one time during the war. In the 14 months of its existence, nearly 13,000 will die from disease, malnutrition, poor sanitation, overcrowding, and exposure to the elements.
- Aug. 17 Union forces begin a campaign to change the balance of power in the **Shenandoah Valley**. Sheridan has set up camp in Winchester and is fortifying his position in order to move against Early’s troops.
- Aug. 18 **TN** Forrest, with 2,000 of his men, heads toward Memphis. Skirmish at Charleston. Two women dressed in Federal uniforms are arrested in Memphis, serving as a drummer and a teamster with the 21st Missouri. One served more than a year with the 6th Illinois Cavalry and was wounded in the hand at Shiloh.

CIVIL WAR TIMELINE 1864

- Aug. 20-21 **TN** Gen. Joseph Wheeler raids Sherman's lines of communication. Destruction of bridges and railroad tracks near Knoxville, McMinnville, and Franklin. Skirmishes at Pine Bluff and Rogersville.
- Aug. 21 **TN** Forrest makes a surprise attack on Memphis, riding into the heart of the city, entering the Irving Prison and the Gayoso Hotel, firing on patients in the hospitals, plundering stores, and assailing the headquarters of Gen. Washburn, the department commander. Forrest captures 400 prisoners and 300 horses and defeats the Federal pursuit, but fails to capture Gen. Washburn and other military leaders as planned. General Smith's forces return to Memphis but are too late to confront Forrest.
- Aug. 23 **TN** Skirmish at Blue Springs.
- “ **TN** (Inmate No. 917: Received at the State Penitentiary at Nashville 1864 August 23) John Wood, Tullahoma, Tenn., [Convicted by] Military Commission convened there on the 7th day of March 1864. Crime: “Conspiring against the Government of the United States and aiding in making War against the same. Aiding and assisting Guerilla Bands in their organization and raids upon the Property of the Government of the United States and loyal Citizens of the State of Tennessee. Violation of the Oath of Allegiance. Sentence five (5) years.” “He is 56 yrs. of Age, 5 ft. 9 in. high, & has Dark Hair, fair complexion & Hazel eyes & weighs 181 lbs. He has a mole under the left eye & is lame from White Swelling in lower part of the left leg. He lived in Lincoln Co. Tenn. near Booner (sic) Hill, & his a wife & two children there at this time. He was born in North Carolina & raised in Franklin Co. Tenn. He is a physician.” Additional note: “Pardoned by the President of the United States March 21st 1865.”
- Aug. 29 Heavy skirmishing occurs in the Shenandoah Valley for the next several days as The troops begin to assemble for what will become a major series of battles in this crucial area of Virginia.
- Aug. 31 **TN** Skirmishes at Clifton and south of Gallatin.
- “ Sherman's army captures the railroad from Macon. The sounds of explosions can be heard from Atlanta all night as Hood destroys supply depots in his preparations to pull his troops from the city.
- “ The National Democratic Convention, meeting in Chicago, nominates George B. McClellan as their Presidential candidate. George H. Pendleton of Ohio is nominated as Vice President.
- Sept. 1-2 The Mayor of **Atlanta** surrenders the city, a major Southern munitions center. Sherman will establish his headquarters there and stay for two months, as he evacuates the city and burns all but about 400 buildings. His victory will give an enormous boost to Lincoln's Presidential hopes, which have been damaged by the length of the war and a sense of stalemate by voters.
- Sept. 2 **TN** Wheeler, Roddy, and Forrest are between Nashville and Murfreesboro. Gen. Wheeler's troops burn several miles of the Great Western and the Nashville & Chattanooga Railroad. Gen. John Kelly's C.S. Division of Wheeler's Corps

CIVIL WAR TIMELINE 1864

- skirmishes with a U.S. Cavalry force under Gen. Brownlow near Franklin. Kelly is mortally wounded. Skirmishes at and near Union City.
- Sept. 3 Gen. Sheridan pursues Early's troops north through the Shenandoah Valley. A few skirmishes occur in the area around Berryville.
- “ The *Savannah News* reports that the powder works at Augusta, Georgia, has exploded, killing nine employees and destroying 30,000 pounds of powder – a serious blow to the Confederacy.
- Sept. 4 **TN** Skirmishes at Greeneville and Park's Gap. Gen. **John Hunt Morgan**, whom Gen. Bragg never again trusted after his escape from Ohio, and who is under investigation by Confederate authorities for criminal banditry, is surprised and killed by Federals while attempting to avoid capture in Greeneville. Basil Duke, his brother-in-law, later wrote: “When he died, the glory and chivalry seemed gone from the struggle.” [Basil W. Duke, *A History of Morgan's Cavalry*]
- Sept. 5 The new Louisiana constitution abolishes slavery; Maryland (whose Constitutional Convention has already approved abolition), Missouri, and Tennessee will do the same in the next few months. Note that these are four of the six states that were exempted from the Emancipation Proclamation. [See *January 1, 1863*.]
- Sept. 6 **TN** Skirmish at Readyville: Col. Thomas Jordan, 9th Pennsylvania Cavalry, routs a much larger Confederate force, taking 130 prisoners. Most of the railroad tracks damaged by Wheeler's forces have been repaired.
- Sept. 10 **TN** Skirmish at Woodbury. “A scout just arrived from Savannah, Tenn., says all males between the ages of 15 and 45 have been conscripted in Mississippi. The country was full of stragglers.” [*New York Times*]
- Sept. 12 **TN** Skirmish near Memphis.
- Sept. 18 **TN** “Today is the day appointed by [Gov.] Andy Johnson, as the day of thanksgiving and rejoicing over ... ‘success of the Federal arms;’—and the military are to be made to give thanks and rejoice at the point of a bayonet! How worthy of the famous, (or rather in-famous) Andy!—McClellan accepts the nomination of the Chicago Convention, but in his letter of acceptance clearly ‘shows his teeth’ in favor of war, viz. unless the South consents to return to the Union....” [Lucy Virginia French journal]
- Sept. 19 **Battle of Winchester**, Virginia – the first of three battles that will give the Union forces control of the Shenandoah Valley. Hearing that Gen. Early's forces are weakened, Gen. Sheridan launches an attack that results in the loss of over 6,000 troops (killed, injured, or captured) – fully one-fourth of the Confederate army. Adding to the Southern losses, Generals Gordon, Wharton, Rhodes, and Ramseur are killed. (Breckinridge is the only division commander who survives.)
- Sept. 21 John C. Fremont withdraws his name from the Presidential race.
- Sept. 22 Sheridan pursues Early, pushing him back toward the Blue Ridge in the **Battle of Fisher's Hill**, Virginia. Note also that Early's command includes the elite “Stonewall Brigade,” so the psychological effect of the loss is enormous.
- Sept. 25 **TN** Skirmish near Johnsonville. Forrest, with 4,000 troops, crosses the Tennessee River at Bates Landing in Perry County.

CIVIL WAR TIMELINE 1864

- Sept. 26 **TN** Forrest's Corps raids Nashville-Decatur Railroad. Pursued by 13,000 Federal troops and two gunboats, Forrest heads south. Skirmish at Richland Creek near Pulaski between Forrest and Rousseau.
- Sept. 27 **TN** Skirmishes at Beardstown and Lobelville.
- Sept. 28 **TN** Skirmishes at Leesburg and Well's Hill.
- “ **TN** Sally Wendel Fentress, Hardeman County, writes in her diary: “How long shall we be outraged and humiliated by our heavenly Parent through such wicked instruments as the Federal Army!”
- Sept. 29 **TN** Skirmishes at Centerville, Jonesborough, and the Watauga River, and near Lynchburg.
- Sept. 30 **TN** Skirmish at Duvall's Ford.
- “ **TN** Following Nashville's example, Memphis requires all prostitutes to register and receive a medical examination in order to receive health care at the City Hospital on Exchange and Front Streets. By February 1865, 134 prostitutes will be registered (at \$10 plus \$2.50 for the test), earning the city \$6,428.65 in fees. [Brock, p. 82]
- Sep.30-Oct.1 **TN** Skirmishes at Carter's Station.
- Autumn **TN** Tennessee's black leaders organize a torchlight parade to honor Military Governor Andrew Johnson and to petition for the application of the Emancipation Proclamation to Tennessee.
- Oct. 1 **TN** Skirmish at Laurel Creek Gap; surrender of blockhouse at Carter's Creek Station.
- Oct. 2 **TN** Skirmish near Columbia.
- Oct. 4 The National Colored Men's Convention meets in Syracuse, New York, chaired by Frederick Douglass.
- Oct. 4 **TN** Skirmish near Memphis.
- Oct. 6 **TN** Skirmish at Kingsport.
- Oct. 7 **TN** Skirmish at Kingston.
- Oct. 8 **TN** Skirmish at Rogersville. Forrest concludes his series of raids, having killed and wounded nearly 1,000 men, captured 2,360 more men and officers, and appropriated horses and livestock, artillery, ordnance, and provisions.
- Oct. 10 **TN** Attack near Gallatin on South Tunnel; skirmish at Thorn Hill near Bean's Station.
- Oct. 10-28 **TN** Operations in East Tennessee.
- Oct. 11 **TN** Skirmish near Fort Donelson between 200 Confederate troops under Lieut. Lawry and 90 USCT soldiers under Lieut. Col. Weaver, who carry the day.

CIVIL WAR TIMELINE 1864

- Oct. 12 Chief Justice Roger Brook Taney dies in Washington, D.C., on the same day that Maryland, his home state, abolishes slavery.
- Oct. 18 **TN** Skirmish at Clinch Mountain.
- Oct. 19 A Union victory at the **Battle of Cedar Creek** – the third major encounter between Sheridan and Early – ends the Confederate dominance of the crucial Shenandoah Valley in Virginia, giving the Union control of the Valley, thus blocking the South from threatening Northern areas, and severely reducing the Confederate food supply. Quickly recovering from a surprise attack, Sheridan's troops inflict a defeat that essentially destroys Early's army. Sheridan, who was in Winchester on the 18th, hears that Early's troops are thrashing Gen. Wright, saddles up and rides to Middletown, where he rallies his forces to crush Early.
- “ The *Richmond Sentinel* reports on the scarcity of food in the city and elsewhere in the South. The decision is made to feed the army first and private citizens second. Nashville newspapers remark on the number of poor and malnourished refugees flooding into the city.
- Oct. 20 **TN** Skirmish at Memphis, as the militia are called out when they learn a large Confederate force under Gen. Dick Taylor (son of Zachary Taylor) is near the city and threatening to take it.
- “ **TN** The *Chattanooga Daily Gazette* reprints an article from the New York Herald which comments on the Confederate plan to free and arm slaves: “[The] argument is substantially this: Our reserves of able-bodied men are exhausted, and two-thirds of those now enlisted in the army, are declared by President Davis as absent ‘without leave’ now, when they are more seriously needed in the field than ever before.... This is the alternative to which the chief organ of Davis at Richmond has been reduced. To escape the abolitionists, Jeff Davis is called upon to do their work of abolition; and to save the South from subjugation it is urged to cut its own throat.”
- Oct. 21 **TN** Skirmish in Clinch Valley near Sneedville. Forrest establishes his headquarters in Jackson, along with Chalmer's Division. Buford's Division is at Lexington, in Henderson County.
- Oct. 24 **TN** Forrest begins a movement against the Johnsonville area.
- Oct. 25 **TN** Skirmish near Memphis.
- Oct. 26 Published statements in the *New York Herald* quote Gen. Sherman as saying, “I believe that 99 out of every 100 soldiers in this army would vote for Gen. McClellan, whether with or without my consent; but if my influence can suffice to make the 100th man cast his vote the same way it shall not be wanting.” Sherman himself sends a rebuttal: “There is not one word of truth in the paragraph you sent me cut from the *New York Herald* of September 20. I never thought, said or wrote that McClellan would get '99 out of every 100' votes in the army.... I have not and shall not attempt to influence a vote in the coming struggle. I believe Mr. Lincoln has done the best he could.”
- Oct. 27 **TN** Attack on steamer *Belle of St. Louis* at Fort Randolph.

CIVIL WAR TIMELINE 1864

- Oct. 28 **TN** Skirmish at Russellville.
- Oct. 29 **TN** Skirmish at Nonconnah Creek.
- Oct. 30 **TN** Forrest's troops capture the Federal gunboat *Undine*, a transport, and two steamers. During the next few days, the Confederate cavalymen use the *Undine* and the transport *Venus*, but both are soon recaptured by the Union forces.
- Nov. 1 **TN** Pressure mounts in the South to recruit black soldiers in order to regain depleted troop strength. A large number of slave-owners offer to free some of their slaves to fill the rosters. Reports say the Confederate conscription process is under development. The slave masters will be compensated, and the slaves will have their freedom and fifty acres each of land for their service.
- Nov. 2-3 **TN** Attack on gunboat at Davidson's Ferry on the Tennessee River.
- Nov. 4 Lincoln is reelected president, despite the war's unpopularity, and despite the fact that no president has won re-election since Andrew Jackson 32 years earlier.
- “ **TN** Tennessee's votes in the national election are thrown out on the grounds that the state did not hold a valid election, despite the fact that many of the voters signed a loyalty oath of their own design. Forrest shells the Union depot at Johnsonville. The Federal commander, fearing capture, burns much of what the shelling has not already destroyed. The total loss is four gunboats (*Elfin*, *Key West*, and *Tawah*), eleven steamers, 15 barges, 75,000-120,000 tons of quartermaster supplies, and 150 prisoners. The Confederates lose 2 killed, 9 wounded, and two field pieces that were left on the *Undine*. Skirmish at Bull's Gap.
- Nov. 4-17 **TN** Breckinridge's advance into East Tennessee. His troops will overcome those of Gen. Gillem and take back territory lost earlier. Gillem will gain his revenge in December at the Battle of Saltville (Virginia), when Union troops destroy the Confederate saltworks.
- Nov. 8 President **Abraham Lincoln is re-elected**, defeating Democratic candidate George McClellan. Andrew Johnson becomes Vice President, but he and Lincoln barely know each other and never discuss policy. Lincoln's failure to share his vision of Reconstruction with Johnson will create an insuperable hurdle for the Vice President after Lincoln's assassination.
- Nov. 9 **TN** Nashville gives Lincoln 1,317 votes versus 25 for McClellan.
- “ Under the headline “Extraordinary News,” a report from Cincinnati proclaims Gen. Sherman's plan to march to Savannah. There is much conjecture as to what sort of destruction will accompany the March, as “tens of thousands of the huddled slaves of Georgia will be freed and incorporated into our army.” [*New York Times*] There is some hope that Sherman will be able to march through Andersonville and free the prisoners there, but all the prisoners strong enough to move have been sent to Millen, GA, and Florence, SC. After Sherman passes Andersonville, the prisoners will be returned to slightly improved conditions.
- Nov. 9-13 **TN** Expedition from Memphis to Moscow.
- Nov. 10 Jefferson Davis says he opposes the arming of slaves but will consider those who have already proven their worth in the Quartermaster or Commissary corps.

CIVIL WAR TIMELINE 1864

- Nov. 11 **TN** Gen. John Schofield, U.S. 23rd Corps, joins Thomas in Nashville. He is dispatched to Johnsonville but arrives too late. He then joins Gen. Stanley's 4th Corps in Pulaski.
- Nov. 11-13 **TN** Breckinridge attacks Union forces at Bull's Gap but is repulsed by artillery fire. The Confederate failure to assault the Federal lines allows time for reinforcements to arrive. This is a minor Confederate victory which gains little in the long run.
- Nov. 11 & 14 **TN** Skirmishes at and near Russellville.
- Nov. 12 Sherman leaves Atlanta and begins his "**March to the Sea**," in an effort to demoralize the South and hasten surrender. As one correspondent remarks, "The country is not difficult; no mountain ranges lie in the way to make transportation laborious...; the whole region...is rich in food and...untouched by the war." [NYT]
- Nov. 15 **TN** Skirmish near Collierville. Forrest joins Hood's Army of Tennessee in Florence, Alabama.
- “ **TN** Andrew Johnson, giving a speech in Nashville, speaks of the "aristocracy of labor, the men whose brains and muscles had planned and wrought out the great achievement that made the laboring classes of American the true chivalry of the world." He goes on to say that true democracy means "the elevation of the masses." [New York Times]
- Nov. 16-17 **TN** A series of skirmishes at Strawberry Plains, 18 miles above Knoxville.
- Nov. 17 **TN** Skirmish at Flat Creek.
- Nov. 18 The *Cincinnati Gazette* suggests the value of Sherman's march: in Augusta, his forces can eliminate "the largest manufactories and depot of military munitions in the South. When the railroads to Augusta and from Savannah to Charleston are destroyed, there is no further practicable military communication between the country east of the Savannah and west of it. We shall have severed the Confederacy by another impassable line."
- Nov. 20 **TN** Lucy Virginia French writes in her journal: "I have written nothing since election day.... I suppose [the gloomy weather] is prophetic of the second term of Abraham, assisted by the Tailor of Tennessee."
- Nov. 21 **TN** Gen. John Bell Hood's army moves into Tennessee in three columns under Alexander Stewart, Stephen Lee, and Benjamin Cheatham. Union General John M. Schofield moves his smaller Army of the Ohio north to avoid being outflanked.
- Nov. 22 Asked to comment on the potential success of Sherman's March, Gen. Grant says, "The Southern Confederacy is a ... hollow shell, and Sherman will prove it to you." Asked how much longer the conflict would last, Grant responds, "I am not a 90-day man, but we shall see what will happen in six months."
- “ **TN** Action at Lawrenceburg.
- Nov. 23 **TN** Action at Mt. Pleasant; skirmishes at Fouché Springs and Henryville. Reports from scouts and deserters say that Hood's 35,000 troops are marching

CIVIL WAR TIMELINE 1864

on Pulaski with the intention ultimately of seizing Cumberland Gap. His men hope to fill their needs for food and clothing by raiding towns along the way.

“ Macon arms itself against Sherman’s arrival, but he bypasses it to the east, going through Milledgeville instead. There his troops ransack the statehouse, destroy the state arsenal and powder magazine, and burn the penitentiary, the central depot, and the Oconee bridge. Sherman’s army supplies itself through “liberal foraging” along the way. [NYT] Meanwhile Augusta has dismantled its powder works, arsenal, armories, and machine shops in case Sherman turns northeast.

Nov. 24 **TN** Action at Campbellsville and Lynnville. Hood occupies Waynesboro.

Nov. 24-27 **TN** General Jacob Cox’s U.S. division reaches Columbia ahead of Gen. Chalmers’ C.S. division. Skirmishes in front of Columbia.

Nov. 27 Fighting at Waynesboro, Georgia, as Gen. Joseph Wheeler harasses Gen. Judson Kilpatrick’s 3rd Cavalry division.

“ **TN** Forrest’s cavalry crosses the Duck River east of Columbia, pushing back the Federal Cavalry under Gen. James Wilson. Hood’s army has taken Pulaski, Huntsville, and Decatur, and have disrupted communications to Columbia, where Thomas’s troops are entrenched.

“ **TN** “Peace is a thing no longer to be even dreamed of. It is like a beautiful mirage—a nothingness—a myth of the by-gone time with which we poor war-ridden wretches have nothing else to do, I have laid aside all thought—all hope—all prayer for peace—and shall only strive now to accept our fate as courageously calmly and patiently as I can.” [Lucy Virginia French journal]

Nov. 28 **TN** Skirmishes at Shelbyville and at crossings of the Duck River. Thomas is said to have fallen back to Franklin, where he is preparing to receive significant reinforcements. Hood moves on Columbia but is repulsed.

Nov. 29 Sand Hill Massacre, Colorado Territory: Territorial Militia attack the Cheyenne village at Sand Creek, killing a third of its residents – around 150 Cheyenne and Arapaho men, women, and children – and devastating traditional tribal government with the deaths of a large number of Cherokee leaders.

“ **TN** Action at Columbia Ford as Stephen D. Lee’s corps feints an attack on Columbia while the rest of the army moves on **Spring Hill**, where a general engagement begins. Hood’s army crosses the Duck River. Schofield escapes to Franklin after dark. Skirmishes occur at Mount Carmel and near Rally Hill.

Nov. 30 Fighting at Honey Hill, near Hilton Head, SC – USCT (including the 54th Massachusetts) under Major General John P. Hatch are unable to capture Confederate entrenchments or destroy the railroad there.

“ **TN** Affair at Thompson’s Station. **Battle of Franklin** – pursuing Schofield to Franklin, Hood orders a frontal assault against well-defended Federal entrenchments. The huge Confederate losses (6,252 casualties in about five hours, including five generals) all but destroy the Army of Tennessee and utterly end its effectiveness. One report states that “Hood threw them forward with a recklessness of life equal to anything he has ever displayed.” [NYT] Thomas and Schofield withdraw to Nashville, to meet A.J. Smith’s corps.

CIVIL WAR TIMELINE 1864

- Dec. 1 **TN** Action at Owen's Crossroads.
- Dec. 1-14 **TN** Operations around Nashville.
- Dec. 2 **TN** Hood moves his shattered army to Nashville and begins to entrench. Everyone expects that he will take his army east across Tennessee to connect with Robert E. Lee's army. Forrest's troops, along with Bate's, Buford's and Jackson's divisions, are detached to Murfreesboro.
- Dec.2-4 **TN** Operations against stockades and blockhouses on Nashville and Chattanooga Railroad.
- Dec. 3 Sherman's forces attempt to liberate the prisoners at Camp Lawton, but find it empty – the prisoners have been moved again – and burns the depot.
- “ **TN** D.C. Kelley's Regiment blockades the Cumberland River at Bell's Mill.
- Dec. 4 **Battle of Waynesboro** (GA) – Union cavalry forces under Brig. Gen. Judson Kilpatrick breach a succession of Confederate barricades and defeat the Confederate cavalry under Joseph Wheeler, opening a corridor for Sherman to Savannah.
- “ **TN** Skirmish at White's Station.
- Dec. 6 The Nashville correspondent to the *New York Times* reports, “There has been heavy cannonading since 4 o'clock this afternoon. The guns of Fort Negley are shelling a rebel force in their front to prevent the enemy erecting batteries.”
- Dec. 7 **TN** In **Murfreesboro**, Federal Cavalry under Gen. Milroy skirmish with Bate's Division, nearly routing them. Bate later returns to Hood's army at Nashville. In the small **Battle of the Cedars**, Nathan Bedford Forrest and his men were defeated by a Union force on the Wilkinson Pike.
- Dec. 8 **TN** According to the local correspondent to the *Boston Journal*, Nashville is experiencing very cold weather and several inches of snow. The ground is frozen and slippery, and “the men find it impossible to move about.” The city is quiet.
- Dec. 11 **TN** Forrest destroys a 17-car train and captures 200 prisoners.
- Dec. 12 **TN** Skirmish at Big Creek near Rogersville.
- Dec. 13 Sherman captures Fort McAllister and makes contact with the waiting Union fleet, technically marking the end of his March to the Sea. Gen. Wheeler offers only limited resistance as he attempts to defend Savannah.
- Dec. 14 **TN** Affair at Bristol; Skirmish on Germantown Road near Memphis.
- Dec. 15 **TN Battle of Nashville.** Gen. George Thomas moves to attack Hood's army. The Federals make a feint on the Confederate right flank, while the main attack is concentrated on the left. Hood is forced to fall back with heavy losses.
- Dec. 16 Skirmish at Hinesville, Georgia, between a detachment of cavalry from Confederate General Alfred Iverson's Army of Tennessee and the Seventh Illinois, which is part of Sherman's March. After skirmishing through

CIVIL WAR TIMELINE 1864

town, the Confederate detachment withdraws.

- “ **TN** Delayed until the afternoon, Thomas renews his attack on Hood. The Confederate left disintegrates, and the troops flee. Gen. Stephen D. Lee protects the rear of the retreating army, but pursuing Federal troops take many prisoners. A cavalry skirmish east of Brentwood halts the Federals for the night. Lee forms a rear guard at Holly Tree Gap on Franklin Pike. Nevertheless, Hood’s army is finished, retreating now to Mississippi with only half its original 40,000 men.
- Dec. 17 Sherman demands the surrender of Savannah, Georgia.
- “ **TN** Action Hollow Tree Gap and West Harpeth River. Passing through Franklin, the Confederate rear guard fights off repeated assaults by Wilson’s Cavalry. Gen. Stephen Lee is severely wounded in the foot, and command passes to Major General Carter Stevenson.
- Dec. 18 A *Richmond Enquirer* editorial supports Robert E. Lee’s statement in favor of recruiting and arming black soldiers: “Shall we sacrifice our children to preserve our slaves? Shall we exhaust our country, destroy our noble defenders and endanger every institution rather than test an experiment that may give us the means of recruiting our army, of assuming the offensive, and of conquering a speedy peace? ... If our liberties cannot be gained but by the sacrifice of slavery, we are prepared to make that sacrifice and to urge [it] upon our countrymen.”
- “ Two astonishing orders are discovered in Breckinridge’s headquarters in East Tennessee after his loss to Gen. Stoneman: one directs the brigade ordnance officers to pick up usable bullets from the soil of battlefields; the second involves the supervision of forage to avoid waste. It is evident that the Confederate army is running on empty.
- Dec. 19 **TN** Skirmishes at Curtis’ Creek and Rutherford’s Creek. Forrest rejoins the army at Columbia and takes command of the rear guard.
- Dec. 20 Confederate troops abandon Savannah.
- “ Skirmish at Columbia.
- Dec. 21 Sherman occupies Savannah, completing his march to the sea.
- Dec.21-Jan.5 **TN** Expedition from Memphis to destroy Mobile and Ohio Railroad.
- Dec. 22 **TN** Skirmishes at the Duck River as Hood crosses with the remainder of his army. His losses are said to be around 20,000 men –only 12,000 infantry and 8,000 cavalry remain, and he has also lost many deserters.
- Dec. 23 **TN** Skirmish at Warfield’s near Columbia.
- Dec. 24 **TN** Skirmish at Lynnville.
- Dec. 24-25 **TN** Skirmishes and action at Richland Creek.
- Dec. 25 **TN** Skirmish near White’s Station; action at King’s or Anthony’s Hill or Devil’s Gap. Army of Tennessee reaches the Tennessee River but cannot cross because of flooding.

CIVIL WAR TIMELINE 1864

- “ TN “Christmas Dec. 1864. Tonight I have but one thought—the cause of the South has gone down.... For my part I freely acknowledge that I can see no brightness now for the Confederacy.... Oh! I felt very, very sad this morning—our Christmas times are no longer [a] holiday—as of years [before]. How dark and darker they grow! I am [ready] tonight to cry. Oh! God give us peace, peace on any terms!” [Lucy Virginia French journal]
- Dec. 26 TN Action at Sugar Creek.
- Dec. 28 TN Hood manages to get his troops across the Tennessee River at Florence, Alabama. Forrest’s troops manage to cover Hood’s retreat by “an occasional brush” with Federal cavalry in pursuit of the Confederates. [*New York Times*]
- End of Dec. Grant has launched a series of attacks on the Confederate lines in front of Petersburg throughout the fall and winter. Although he makes no substantial gains, little by little he chips away at Lee’s dwindling army until it becomes clear that, by the time spring comes, Lee’s thin lines will not be able to endure an attack of any great scale. The public, which has been impatient with the lack of movement in this theater of the war, is encouraged – as they were by the twin victories at Gettysburg and Vicksburg in 1863 – by the triumphs of Sherman in Georgia and Thomas in Tennessee.

Note: Most Tennessee battles and skirmishes named here have been taken from a list compiled by the State of Tennessee Civil War Centennial Commission, Stanley F. Horn Chairman. Tennessee State Library and Archives, Nashville, TN, or from “A Survey of Civil War Era Military Sites in Tennessee” by Samuel D. Smith and Benjamin C. Nance, published by the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation, Division of Archaeology, Research Series No. 14, 2003.

Resources:

- Brock, Darla K. *Battles of Their Own: Memphis’s Civil War Women*. Graduate thesis, 1994.
- Durham, Walter. *The State of State History in Tennessee*. Nashville: Tennessee State Library & Archives, 2008.
- Foner, Eric. “*The Tocsin of Freedom*”: *The Black Leadership of Radical Reconstruction*. 31st Annual Fortenbaugh Memorial Lecture, Gettysburg College, 1992.
- Hunt, Robert E., Department of History, Middle Tennessee State University.
- Lauder, Kathy B. “This Honorable Body: African American Legislators in 19th Century Tennessee.” <http://www.state.tn.us/tsla/exhibits/blackhistory/index.htm>

Principal reference sources, Tennessee State Library and Archives:

- Bonds of Public Officials – RG 319
- Branch, Joseph Gerald, letters. Gerald Branch Howard Papers, 1770-1973. XIV-D-1,2,3.
- Cartmell, Robert H. (1828-1915) Papers, 1849-1915 – II-L-2, 6
- Cheairs, N. F., letters. Figuers Family Papers. III-F-4, Box 1-6. Ac. No. 1252.
- Cooper, W. F., Cooper Family Papers. V-L-1. Box 3-3.
- Donnell, James Webb Smith (1820-1877) Papers, 1829-1932 – THS III-E-3
- Drane, James M. Drane Papers, IV-J-3, Box 1-5.
- Election Returns, 1859 County Elections – RG 87

CIVIL WAR TIMELINE 1864

Farmer, William F., letter, 5 February 1862. Farmer Collection. III-F-3. Box 1-9. Ac. No. 866.
French, Lucy Virginia, War Journal. VII-M-2. Box 1, Folder 1. Ac. No. 89-200 & 73-25.
Governor Isham G. Harris Papers, Box 1, f. 5 (1860); Box 3, f. 5 (1861)
Hawkins, Annie Cole, Memoir, ca. 1895, McKenzie, TN. Ms. Files. I-B-7. Ac. No. 94-019(SG)
Henderson, Samuel, Diary, 1834-1876], Manuscript Microfilm #148, one reel, Microfilm Only)
House Journal
Lawrence, William L.B., Diary. Lawrence Family Papers, 1780-1944 – IV-K-1
Lindsley, John Berrien, Diary. Lindsley Family Papers, ca. 1600-1943 – IV-D-3,4
Military Elections – RG 131
Nagy, J. Emerick (1903-1987), Nashville Public Schools Collection 1854-1958 –
V-A-B-4; XII-D-6
Nichol, Bradford. Memoir, 1901. I-B-7. Box 2. Ac. No. 99-020.
Public Acts of Tennessee, 1859-1860
Rose, Kenneth D., Music Collection
Senate Journal
State Prison Records (RG 25), Vol. 44, Convict Records, 1845-1869.

Tennessee newspapers consulted:

Appeal, Memphis
Avalanche, Memphis
Banner, Nashville
Brownlow's Tri-Weekly Whig, Knoxville
Daily Appeal, Memphis
Daily News, Nashville
Citizen, Pulaski
Daily Register, Knoxville
Christian Advocate, Nashville
Home Journal, Winchester
Inquirer, Memphis
Union and American, Nashville
Weekly Chronicle, Clarksville

New York *Times*, online archives

TSLA staff researchers and writers who contributed to this time line:

Darla Brock	Trent Hanner
Allison DeFriese	Kathy Lauder
Susan Gordon	Wayne Moore