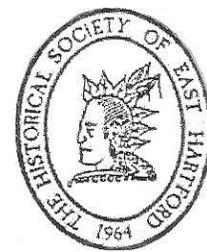


# Historical Society of East Hartford

Newsletter, Sept 2015, Part 2



## CIVIL WAR SNAPSHOT, AUG 19, 1864 – MAY 29, 1865<sup>1</sup>

- Aug 19, 1864 DC: Pres Lincoln & Fred Douglass meet: Douglass critical of Lincoln now says Lincoln is doing all he can; Lincoln considering Douglass' history, says he is one of America's most meritorious men<sup>2</sup>
- Aug 23, 1864 DC: Lincoln believes he will not be reelected: no clear victories, negative reactions to peace talks; feels he must save Union before next inauguration; cabinet blindly signs his memo to this effect
- Aug 29-31, 1864 IL, Chicago: Democratic National Convention meets, nominates Gen G McClellan for president on platform of immediate peace negotiations (could leave country divided), against emancipation
- Aug 31-Sep1, 1864 AC, GA: Jonesborough outside Atlanta: Union Gen Sherman cuts Gen Hood's supply lines, forces him to leave Atlanta; Hood burns everything of military use in city<sup>3</sup>; end of Atlanta Campaign
- Sept 2, 1864 GA: Atlanta: "Atlanta is ours, and fairly won"<sup>4</sup> Sherman wires DC; North is ecstatic after victories at Mobile Bay, Atlanta; Lincoln's re-election now seems possible
- Sept 2, 1864 In her diary SC's Mary Chesnut echoes the gloom of the South "Since Atlanta I have felt as if all were dead within me, forever. We are going to be wiped off the earth."<sup>5</sup>
- May 7 – Sept 2, 1864 AC: Atlanta Campaign has cost 67,000 casualties: 32,000 Federals from a force of 98,000 – 112,000, 35,000 Confeds from a force of 50,000 - 65,000<sup>6</sup>
- Sept 4, 1864 VA: Richmond: During state funeral for Confed Gen John Hunt Morgan, leader of 1863 cavalry raids deep into the north, participating units must leave to reinforce Lee against Grant
- Sept 5, 1864 GA: Atlanta: Sherman orders evacuation of Atlanta; civilians leave homes, possessions, tells mayor "War is cruelty... you cannot refine it", when peace comes ask, I will share my last cracker with you<sup>7</sup>
- Sept 7, 1864 GA: Andersonville Prison: fearing Sherman, Confeds start moving prisoners out; most in poor condition - overcrowding, sickness, min food; commandant only one to be executed for war crimes
- Sept 8, 1864 Union morale surges after Mobile Bay, Atlanta; Gen McClellan officially accepts Democratic presidential nomination; platform: Union is sole condition of peace; Dems not content but accept it
- Sept 14, 1864 VA: City Point: Confed Gen Hampton's cavalry rustle 2,500 head of cattle from Union forces for Lee; "Lincoln reportedly said it was "the slickest piece of cattle stealing" he had ever heard of"<sup>8</sup>
- Sept 18, 1864 MD: voters approve constitution abolishing slavery; goes into effect on Nov 1, 1864

<sup>1</sup> The Library of Congress Illustrated Timeline of the Civil War, Wagner, Margaret E., Little and Brown & Co., NY, NY; 2011; The Civil War Wall Chart, Contributing Writers Martha Graham, George Skoch; Consultant William C. Davis, Publications International Limited, Lincolnwood, IL., 60646.

<sup>2</sup> The Library of Congress Illustrated Timeline of the Civil War, Wagner, Margaret E., Little and Brown & Co., NY, NY, 2011, pg 202

<sup>3</sup> Atlanta burning is depicted in the 1939 movie classic "Gone with the Wind"

<sup>4</sup> The Library of Congress Illustrated Timeline of the Civil War, Wagner, Margaret E., Little and Brown & Co., NY, NY, 2011, pg 203

<sup>5</sup> *Ibid*, pg 203

<sup>6</sup> [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Atlanta\\_Campaign](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Atlanta_Campaign) "Atlanta Campaign"

<sup>7</sup> <http://www.civilwarhome.com/hoodshermancorrespondence.html> "The Evacuation of Atlanta's Civilians" Letters between Union Gen Sherman, Confed Gen Hood, Atlanta's mayor, re the evacuation of Atlanta's civilians; also includes Gen Sherman's letter to Union Gen Halleck explaining his motives for forcing the evacuation. They are from The War of the Rebellion: Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies

<sup>8</sup> [http://opinionator.blogs.nytimes.com/2014/09/21/the-great-beefsteak-raid/?\\_r=0](http://opinionator.blogs.nytimes.com/2014/09/21/the-great-beefsteak-raid/?_r=0) "The Great Beefsteak Raid"; see 1966 movie "Alvarez Kelly", starring William Holden and Richard Widmark, based on this raid

- Sept 18, 1864 VA: Petersburg: MI infantryman answers wife on northerners & peace at any cost, says soldiers have fought too long, suffered too much & will only have peace in obedience to the law
- Sept 19, 1864 Lake Erie: Confeds plunder 2 ships on Lake Erie; minor event but fuels northern fears of attacks
- Sept 19, 1864 Indian Territory; Cabin Creek: Confed Native Americans, under Gens Gano and Stand Waite, seize wagon train with \$1.5million in Federal supplies
- Sept 19, 1864 AR: Princeton: Confed Gen Sterling Price leads 12,000 on raid into MO destroying parts of rrs, skirmishing; MO will call up 1,000s of militia
- Sept 19, 1864 VA: Battle of 3<sup>rd</sup> Winchester: Union Gen Sheridan's Army of the Shenandoah smashes Confed Gen Early; campaign starts to drive Confeds from Shehandoah, implement Grant's hard war policy(7/30)
- Sept 22, 1864 VA: Fisher's Hill: Union victory; Sheridan defeats Early's thin lines, leaves northern Shenandoah in Union hands, with victory at Winchester boosts Lincoln's re-election success
- Sept 24, 1864 DC: Lincoln accepts Postmstr Gen Blair's open resignation; elections are near, Lincoln may be reacting to hostility of Radical Reps to Blair; Blair will campaign for Lincoln, they remain friendly
- Sept 25, 1864 GA: Palmetto: somber (non cheering) troops greet Confed Pres Davis at Gen Hood's camp; Pres & Hood agree to move forces north, draw Sherman from Atlanta; to guard his rr Sherman pursues him
- Sept 27, 1864 MO: Pilot Knob: Confed Gen Price invades MO, hopes to bring it into the Confed'rcy; defeated here, Westport on Oct 23; driven from MO; MO will not join Confed'rcy; MO guerillas stay active
- Oct 2, 1864 TN: Nashville: Union Gen Thomas arrives, sent by Sherman, to defend state against Gen Hood
- Oct 2, 1864 VA: Saltville: Federals repulsed in attempts to take salt works critical in preserving food for Confeds; eye witnesses report wounded black Union soldiers killed during the battle and after
- Oct 4-7, 1864 NY: Syracuse: 144 black Americans from 18 states, including 7 slave states, convene to form National Equal Rights League; one of its principles is there should be 1 law for blacks & whites
- Oct 7, 1864 Brazil: Bahia harbor: Union Cmndr Collins of the sloop *Wachusett* rams notorious Confed raider *Florida*, captures it, brings it to US waters, sinks it; US gov'n't apologizes to Brazil for his actions
- Oct 12, 1864 MD: Supreme Court chief Justice Taney, 88, dies; delivered majority opinion in *Dred Scott* case: blacks are not citizens; Lincoln is cautious, will not name successor until after the coming election
- Oct 18-19, 1864 VA: Cedar Creek<sup>9</sup>: Gen Sheridan gallops mi to the battle, turns am loss into pm win over Gen Early; Union controls Shenandoah; with Mobile Bay, Atlanta greatly boosts northern morale
- Oct 20, 1864 AL: Gaylesville: Union Gen Sherman has pursued Confed Gen Hood this far; he stops; in a week, with Gen Grant's ok, he will return to Atlanta to prepare his army to march to Savannah & the sea
- Oct 27, 1864 NC: Plymouth: 22 year old US Naval Lieut. Wm Cushing leads 7 up Roanoke River; they destroy ironclad *CSS Albemarle*, guarding Plymouth; only Cushing & 1 escape; Union will take Plymouth
- Oct 29, 1864 DC: abolitionist, human rights activist Sojourner Truth meets Pres Lincoln, observes that he "showed as much kindness and consideration to the colored person as to the white"<sup>10</sup>
- Oct 31, 1864 Nevada becomes 36<sup>th</sup> state; its Constitution was telegraphed to Congress - costliest, longest transmission ever - to rush statehood before Nov elections; brings 3 electoral votes to Lincoln
- Nov 1, 1864 MD: Maryland abolishes slavery
- Nov 7, 1864 VA: Richmond: Confed Pres Davis proposes to convening Congress that slaves purchased for war work as teamsters, laborers be freed for faithful service; idea not accepted
- Nov 8, 1864 Election Day: Lincoln wins: victories in Mobile Bay, GA, Shenandoah renew confidence in Lincoln's policies; soldiers voting in the field vote 3 to 1 for Lincoln – they fight for peace, do not beg for it
- Nov 8, 1864 About this time actor, Confed sympathizer John Wilkes Booth writes "...I have waited for a ...restoration of our former sunshine...All hope for peace is dead...I go to...share the bitter end"<sup>11</sup>

<sup>9</sup> [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle\\_of\\_Cedar\\_Creek](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Cedar_Creek) "Battle of Cedar Creek";

<http://www.civilwar.org/battlefields/cedarcreek/cedar-creek-history-articles/10-facts-about-cedar-creek.html> "Ten Facts about Cedar Creek"; see also <http://www.bartleby.com/102/150.html> "Sheridan's Ride" the poem which recounts Sheridan's 20 mile gallop to Cedar Creek on his black warhorse Rienzi and his turning of a crushing Union defeat into a stupendous victory; the North was thrilled by this event and celebrated it in art and poetry; this poem was such a popular recounting of the event that for years after the war it was memorized by schoolchildren

<sup>10</sup> *The Library of Congress Illustrated Timeline of the Civil War*, Wagner, Margaret E., Little and Brown & Co., NY, NY, 2011, pg 209. Sojourner is a black lady of courage who in 1865 will sue a white conductor in DC for pushing her in a streetcar and will win; he will lose his job

- Nov 14, 1864 GA: Atlanta: Union Gen Sherman prepares to leave city barren of supplies; he burns military buildings, etc, will lead his 62,000 men south to Savannah & the sea, will show South's vulnerability
- Nov-Dec, 1864 GA: Sherman's army divides in two, travels 10-15 mi/day across a 35-50 mi swath; army seizes food, destroys anything of use to Confed, leaves area in ruins; hopes to crush southern war support
- Nov 17, 1864 DC: NY Times: Pres Lincoln has accepted Gen George McClellan's resignation from the army
- Nov 22, 1864 GA: Griswoldville: GA militia, mostly old men and young boys, 3 times attack Sherman's veterans, are mowed down; "I hope we shall never have to shoot at such men again"<sup>12</sup> Union officer writes
- Nov 30, 1864 TN: Franklin: Confed Gen Hood is moving north to Union supply center at Nashville; Gen Schofield, sent north by Sherman to help defend Nashville, meets Hood, soundly defeats him
- Dec 1, 1864 TN: Knoxville: Union Gen Stoneman starts month long raid into sw VA destroying factories, trains, mills, etc; in mid Dec will destroy Saltville, VA's crucial salt works & 50,000-100,000 bags of salt
- Dec 4, 1864 GA: Waynesborough: so far little resistance to Sherman; Confed Gen Wheeler's cavalry has been harassing Sherman, today engages Sherman's cavalry, is forced to retreat
- Dec 6, 1864 DC: Lincoln nominates Chase Sec'try Treasury; tells Congress war will stop when those who started it stop fighting, says he will uphold Emancipation Proclamation & return no one to slavery it frees
- Dec 10, 1864 VA: Petersburg: AOP goes into winter quarters; troops destroy 15 mi of rr supply line to Lee, ANV
- Dec 10, 1864 GA: Savannah: Sherman's army, 1000's of following freedmen reach Savannah; army has destroyed \$100,000,000 property; to any who complain, he writes DC, he will say 'to have peace stop the war'
- Dec 15-16, 1864 TN: Nashville: after delaying, irritating Grant & Stanton, Union Gen Thomas fights 2 day battle; he shatters Gen Hood's Army of TN, sends it retreating to Tupelo, MS; war in TN virtually ends
- Dec 16, 1864 TN: Nashville: VA born Gen Thomas had asked if his black men would fight without protective fortifications; seeing his black, white men lying together on the enemy's works, he tells his staff 'yes'
- Dec 18, 1864 NC: Wilmington: Federal army, navy arrive to take Ft Fisher, guarding largest remaining Confed port open to world; British refuse to recognize the blockade further if US can't blockade the coast
- Dec 20, 1864 GA: Savannah: Confed Gen Hardee orders his 10,000 men, defending Savannah, to leave the city
- Dec 21, 1864 GA: Savannah: Union Gen Sherman peacefully enters Savannah: the next day he writes Lincoln "I beg to present you, as a Christmas gift, the City of Savannah..."<sup>13</sup>
- Dec 24-25, 1864 NC: Wilmington: Federal infantry under Gen Butler attack Fort Fisher, are pinned down, quickly withdrawn; navy believes fort was almost taken, feels abandoned; Grant will replace Gen Butler
- Jan 10, 1865 NC: "A Poor Woman" writes Gov Vance the Yankees can't be whipped, there has been too much suffering, and that you and those big bugs will have to answer for our dear ones' spilt blood<sup>14</sup>
- Jan 11, 1865 VA: Richmond: Frank Blair secures letter from Davis offering to send peace commissioners to DC to speak of peace for our 2 countries; Lincoln's reply is of our 1 country; even so Davis sends men
- Jan 11, 1864 MO: slavery is abolished in the state constitutional convention
- Jan 12, 1864 GA: Savannah: Sec'try War Stanton, Sherman meet 20 black officials, most former slaves; how can slaves best support themselves? answer: put them on land until they can buy it and make it their own
- Jan 15, 1865 NC: Wilmington: Union army, navy take Ft Fisher, guarding entrance to Cape Fear River & Wilmington; Wilmington, South's last major port & supply route to Gen Lee, is effectively closed
- Jan 16, 1865 Gen Sherman sets aside land, from Charleston, SC to Jacksonville, FL for black settlers who will manage their own affairs under US law; Pres Johnson will evict them in Aug, return land to owners
- Jan 17, 1865 Fred Knapp of the Sanitary Commission fails to have the Commission set up 'sanitaria' for returning disabled veterans; Commission believes families, communities will care for them
- Jan 18, 1865 Pres Davis, cabinet secretly send Congressman & wealthy LA slave-owner, Duncan F Kenner, to envoys in Europe with offer: Confed'cy seeks European recognition, will guarantee end to slavery

<sup>11</sup> The Library of Congress Illustrated Timeline of the Civil War, Wagner, Margaret E., Little and Brown & Co., NY, NY,2011, pg 210

<sup>12</sup> The Civil War a Narrative Red River to Appomattox, Foote, Shelby, Random House, NY, 1974, pgs 646-647.

<sup>13</sup> The Library of Congress Illustrated Timeline of the Civil War, Wagner, Margaret E., Little and Brown & Co., NY, NY,2011, pg 213

<sup>14</sup> *Ibid* pg 214

- Jan 23, 1865 VA: Richmond: Pres Davis signs act creating general in chief of all Confed armies, will appoint Gen Lee on Jan 31; Pres Davis accepts Gen Hood's resignation, replaces him with Gen Taylor
- Jan 29, 1865 VA: Petersburg: Confed peace commissioners arrive; Federals, Confeds celebrate hoping for peace; commissioners escorted to Gen Grant at City Point
- Jan 30, 1864 GA: Gen Sherman's 60,000 men cross into SC: will live off land, destroy war resources, wreck vengeance on state starting the war, march to rear of Lee's ANV, catch it between this army & AOP
- Jan 31, 1865 DC: House approves 13<sup>th</sup> amendment to Constitution ending slavery (Senate passed it April 1864); celebrations erupt in streets in DC; in Boston celebrators cheer Lincoln for its passage
- Feb 1, 1864 IL: 1<sup>st</sup> state to ratify the 13<sup>th</sup> Amendment is Lincoln's home state of IL; Dec 18 it will become law
- Feb 1, 1864 DC: Chief Justice Chase grants motion of Senator Charles Sumner of MA to allow John Rock of the MA Supreme Court to practice before the US Supreme Court; he is 1<sup>st</sup> black man admitted
- Feb 3, 1865 VA: Hampton Roads: Lincoln, Confed peace commissioners fail to agree on peace: Lincoln insists on unconditional surrender while Davis speaks of two countries; South is angered at outcome
- Feb 5-7, 1865 VA: Hatcher's Run: Union troops try to seize Confed supply route into Petersburg, fail but manage to extend their lines 3 mi forcing Lee to extend his already thin lines for a total of 37 mi
- Feb 6, 1865 VA: Gen Lee becomes General in Chief of all Confederate Armies, the only one to hold this rank
- Feb 9, 1865 VA: Richmond: Pres Davis thrills crowd angered over peace failure with speech attacking Lincoln, condemning 13<sup>th</sup> Amendment, foreseeing triumph of Confed'cy (this VP Stevens feels is ridiculous)
- Feb 12, 1865 DC: Lincoln is named president with the Electoral College vote of 212 to 21
- Feb 16, 1865 SC: Columbia: Sherman's forces have lived off the land, destroyed war resources, burned homes and towns on their way to city where secession was 1<sup>st</sup> voted on in 1860 & unanimously accepted
- Feb 17, 1865 SC: Columbia: Sherman enters surrendered city; at night fires break out, burn much of city; a question still: who started fires? accident? soldiers' revenge on city starting war? retreating Confeds?
- Feb 18, 1865 SC: Columbia: Union troops spend days destroying anything of military use
- Feb 18, 1865 SC: Charleston: belligerent city in 1861 had waited to hear the 1<sup>st</sup> shots of the war at Ft Sumter; on 17<sup>th</sup> Confed troops left leaving burning supplies; on 18<sup>th</sup> mayor surrenders city to Union forces
- Feb 18, 1865 SC: Charleston: Union troops, black & white, enter city, fight fires set by retreating Confeds; black troops fighting fires & helping whites are scorned by them; city is in despair, resentful
- Feb 22, 1865 TN: voters approve amendment to state constitution abolishing slavery
- Feb 22, 1865 VA: Pres Davis and Gen Lee recall Confed Gen Johnston to service in the Carolinas
- Mar 3, 1865 DC: Congress gives black soldiers equal pay; declares wives, children of black soldiers free; sets up bureau for abandoned Confed lands, to help freedmen; sets up shelters for totally disabled vets; etc
- Mar 4, 1865 DC: Lincoln is inaugurated President 2<sup>nd</sup> time; before 1,000s gives eloquent, conciliatory speech "...malice toward none...charity for all...do all which may achieve... a lasting peace..."<sup>15</sup>
- Mar 4, 1865 DC: Frederick Douglass is invited to White House reception, 1<sup>st</sup> African-American so invited; answers Lincoln's query about his inaugural speech "Mr Lincon, that was a sacred effort."<sup>16</sup>
- Mar 7, 1865 NC: Sherman crosses into NC, attitude of troops changes: revenge, hatred weakens; no houses burned as in SC, army gives people more than it takes, focuses on coming battles with Confed forces
- Mar 13, 1865 VA: Confed Pres Davis signs bill approving enlisting of blacks in army, no guarantee of freedom for service, freedom will depend on slaves' owners, the slaves' states of residence; bill is too late
- Mar 14, 1865 Great Britain: realizing the South may be defeated in a few weeks in its attempt to become independent, Lord Palmerston tells Confed envoy James Mason it cannot recognize Confed States
- Mar 16, 1865 NC: Averagesborough: 5,400 Confeds under Gen Hardee delay 25,000 men of Sherman's left wing for 2 days as it heads north to Goldsboro for supplies, to join Schofield's 30,000 men from Wilmington
- Mar 19-21, 1865 NC: Bentonville: Confed Gen Johnston's 20,000 men fail to stop Sherman's 60,000 man army on its way to Goldsborough, NC, Grant in VA; only major attempt to halt Sherman in NC
- Mar 23, 1865 DC: Lincoln in rare good humor, Mrs Lincoln, their son Tad embark on trip to visit Gen Grant in City Point, VA; awaiting them is a newer member of Grant's staff, their son Capt Robert Lincoln

<sup>15</sup> <http://www.bartleby.com/124/pres32.html>, Abraham Lincoln Second Inaugural Address Saturday, March 4, 1865

<sup>16</sup> *The Library of Congress Illustrated Timeline of the Civil War*, Wagner, Margaret E., Little and Brown & Co., NY, NY, 2011, pg 221

- Mar 24-25, 1865 VA: Petersburg: to avoid being caught between Sherman's 90,000 and Grant's 120,000, hoping to save his army & join Johnston's 25,000 in NC, Lee tries to break his 55,000 out of Petersburg; fails
- Mar 25, 1865 AL: Mobile: 32,000 Federals lay siege to 2,800 Confeds defending Mobile; Confeds will soon abandon city's defenses at Spanish Fort, Fort Blakely; Mobile will surrender April 12
- Mar 27, 1865 VA: Union Gen Phil Sheridan has defeated Confed Gen Early in Shenandoah; returns to AOP with his 2 cavalry divisions
- Mar 27, 1865 VA: City Point: Lincoln, Grant, Sherman, Adm Porter meet; what to do with Confed forces? Lincoln: on surrender send them home with their horses for plowing, guns for food, punish no one
- Apr 1, 1865 VA: Five Forks<sup>17</sup>: Union Gens Sheridan, Warren take crossroads at Five Forks, key to South Side RR, Lee's last supply line to Petersburg, and close Lee's retreat route to NC, Johnston
- Apr 2, 1865 VA: Grant launches all out attack on Lee's Petersburg lines, breaks through; Lee tells Pres Davis he must abandon Petersburg, Richmond; 11pm that night Davis, cabinet leave Richmond; the city falls
- Apr 2, 1865 VA: Richmond: chaos reigns - citizens try in any way possible to flee; gov't burns papers even in streets, explosions destroy arsenals, warehouses, ironclads burn, fires spread, center of city burns
- Apr 2, 1865 AL: Selma: Union Gen Wilson's 13,000 cavalry defeat 5,000 Confeds, take Selma & its vast supplies; in next 5 weeks will ride throughout central GA, capture cities, arms, etc; Confed'ry is defenseless
- Apr 3, 1865 VA: Richmond: in am Union forces enter city, put out fires, restore order
- Apr 3, 1865 VA: City Point: Lincoln receives news Richmond has fallen, US Colored Troops are among the occupying force<sup>18</sup>; he tells Adm Porter the nightmare he has been dreaming for 4 years is over
- Apr 4, 1865 VA: Richmond: Lincoln visits city guarded by a nervous Porter; blacks surround him, kneel before him, he tells them to kneel only to God and thank Him for the liberty they will enjoy going forward
- Apr 4, 1865 Across the north there is widespread celebration, Richmond, Confed capital, has fallen
- Apr 4, 1865 VA: Danville: Fleeing south Pres Davis issues proclamation: we will prevail...our army no longer has to guard cities, it can move...success will require only our unstoppable determination<sup>19</sup>
- Apr 6, 1865 VA: Sayler's Creek: heading west, hoping to find supplies & eventually to join Johnston, Lee is hit 3 times by Union forces who outnumber him 3 to 1, loses about 1/4 of his force
- Apr 7, 1865 VA: believing Lee's condition to be hopeless, Grant asks him to surrender; Grant's only condition is that the Confeds not fight against US until paroled; Lee rejects offer
- Apr 9, 1865 VA: Appomattox Court House<sup>20</sup>: his supply trains burned, facing overwhelming Union forces, Lee surrenders his ANV; he and Grant discuss terms of surrender<sup>21</sup> (Mar 27), sign surrender papers

<sup>17</sup> [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle\\_of\\_Five\\_Forks#Lee\\_learns\\_of\\_defeat.2C\\_sends\\_troops\\_west\\_to\\_railroad](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Five_Forks#Lee_learns_of_defeat.2C_sends_troops_west_to_railroad) , <http://www.civilwar.org/battlefields/five-forks.html> , "Battle of Five Forks"

Record of Service of Connecticut Men in the Army and Navy of the United States During the War of the Rebellion, "History of the first Regiment C. V. Cavalry", Compiled by Authority of the General Assembly, Press of the Case, Lockwood & Brainerd Company, Hartford, Connecticut, 1889, pgs 56-97.

Gen Lee had ordered Gen Pickett to hold the crossroads at Five Forks at all costs – to protect the South side RR, Lee's last supply line to Petersburg, & to keep open a route for his forces to break out from Petersburg and join Gen Johnston in NC. Gen Grant sent cavalry under Gen Sheridan and infantry under Gen Warren to take those crossroads. After squeezing Pickett's right and left and breaking his resistance the crossroads were taken. The 1<sup>st</sup> CT Cavalry fought under Gen Custer in Sheridan's Cavalry Corps. At this battle it "...achieved the honor of being the first to leap the enemy's breastworks, seize his cannon (of the many cannon captured in this fight Custer's division took these 2), and turn them on the retreating foe" writes Custer (pg 59 of the regimental history). There were perhaps 11 men from East Hartford in this unit at this time.

<sup>18</sup> Record of Service of Connecticut Men in the Army and Navy of the United States During the War of the Rebellion, ... "History of the Twenty-Ninth (Colored) Regt. C. V. Infantry", pgs 859-881.

On pg 869 the regimental history reads "Two companies of the Twenty-ninth, C and G, were ordered forward as skirmishers, and were the first infantry to reach the city [Richmond]." George Francis and Charles Spruce of East Hartford, both in Co G, may well have been among this first infantry. Along with its brigade the Twenty-ninth would be stationed in the interior defenses of Richmond at batteries 5,6,7,8.

<sup>19</sup> The Library of Congress Illustrated Timeline of the Civil War, Wagner, Margaret E., Little and Brown & Co., NY, NY, 2011, pg 225

<sup>20</sup> In commemoration of the American Civil War the post office has been issuing special pairs of stamps for the past 5 years. Each year's stamps depict events from 150 years ago in the war. This year's stamps depict Sheridan and his cavalry charging at Five Forks on April 1 and Lee and Grant at Lee's surrender at Appomattox on April 9, 1865. The 1st CT Cavalry

- Apr 9, 1865 VA: Appomattox: Grant orders rations given starving Confed forces; he silences his celebrating troops telling them the Confeds are once again our countrymen, we do not celebrate their downfall
- Apr 9, 1865 Across the north there is even more wild celebrating than after Richmond; Sec'try of Nave Welles: "Guns are firing, bells ringing, flags flying, men laughing, children cheering – all, all jubilant"<sup>22</sup>
- Apr 9, 1865 In VA many Confed soldiers bitter; some accept surrender; still love Lee, cheer him when they see him; young FL girl writes in her diary she wishes she were dead, the earth has caved in under them<sup>23</sup>
- Apr 11, 1865 DC: Lincoln speaks to crowd on White House lawn on restoring the Union, giving right to vote to intelligent black men & soldiers; words anger John W Booth who swears this is Lincoln's last talk
- Apr 12, 1865 VA: Appomattox Court House: 4 years to the day after the start of the Confed bombardment of Ft Sumter Lee's Confed ANV is disbanded<sup>24</sup>, its men paroled; the fighting is effectively over<sup>25</sup>
- Apr 14, 1865 SC: Ft Sumter: Gen Robert Anderson raises flag he was forced to lower exactly 4 years earlier
- Apr 14, 1865 DC: Pres & Mrs Lincoln, party attend Ford's Theatre; as they watch play John W Booth shoots, mortally wounds Lincoln; Booth escapes to VA; (Sec'try State Seward attacked at home by Paine)
- Apr 15, 1865 DC: Pres Lincoln dies at 7:22am; Sec'try War Stanton quietly says "Now he belongs to the ages".
- Apr 15, 1865 DC: oath of office is administered to Vice President Andrew Johnson who becomes President
- Apr 15, 1865 DC: deep grief shrouds the North; manhunt starts for John W Booth, Paine, and other conspirators
- Apr 15, 1865 VA: Richmond: little rejoicing in the South; it knows Lincoln's policies were moderate; *Richmond Whig* on Lincoln's death "the heaviest blow which has ever fallen on the people of the South"<sup>26</sup>
- Apr 19, 1865 DC: Pres Lincoln's body is moved to Capitol for 2 day public viewing in rotunda
- Apr 21, 1865 DC: special train with Lincoln's body leaves for Springfield, IL & his burial, May 4; will cross 7 states; millions attend public viewings, wait on route in groups or alone to see train pass day, night
- Apr 26, 1865 VA: Port Royal: John W Booth is found, killed by Federal troops after refusing to surrender
- Apr 27, 1865 TN: near Memphis: steamboat *Sultana* going north with 2,400 passengers (limit 376) explodes on Mississippi killing 1,700, mostly recently paroled Union prisoners of war; worst US maritime disaster
- May 10, 1865 GA: Irwinville: Federal cavalry captures Confed Pres Davis; will be imprisoned at Fort Monroe, VA
- May 10, 1865 DC: Pres Johnson declares armed resistance at an end (1 engagement May 12 at Palmito Ranch, TX)
- May 10, 1865 DC: military tribunal convenes to try 8 involved in Lincoln's killing; 4 will be hanged on July 7
- May 23-24, 1865 DC: crowds celebrating the Union watch 2 day parade of Grand Armies of the Republic: on the 23<sup>rd</sup> the AOP, on the 24<sup>th</sup> Sherman's western army; not one of 160 black regiments parades
- May 29, 1865 DC: Pres Johnson by proclamation grants amnesty, pardon to all, with some exceptions, involved in "existing rebellion", who are willing to take oath of allegiance to US Constitution and laws
- Epilog fighting has ended; the Union is preserved; slavery is ending in the states, will officially end in Dec 1865 with passage of the 13<sup>th</sup> Amendment; hard liners will replace Lincoln's moderateness
- Epilog from a US population of about 30,000,000 perhaps 1,000,000 have been made casualties of war; of these perhaps 620,000 have been killed with more dying from disease than from battle wounds

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was involved in both events. At Five Forks the 1st CT achieved fame in being the first to "leap the enemy's breastworks" (see footnote 17) and at Appomattox it was chosen to escort Gen Grant to receive Gen Lee's surrender on April 9.

It was a hard fought regiment with perhaps 88 engagements in its 3 years of fighting, many of them in 1864 and 1865. "On its muster-out it was allowed to return to its State mounted, a privilege granted to no other regiment in the service." (see [Record of Service of Connecticut Men...](#), pg 60)

<sup>21</sup> [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle\\_of\\_Appomattox\\_Court\\_House#Battle](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Appomattox_Court_House#Battle) "Battle of Appomattox Court House"

<sup>22</sup> [The Library of Congress Illustrated Timeline of the Civil War](#), Wagner, Margaret E., Little and Brown & Co., NY, NY, 2011, pg 226

<sup>23</sup> Ibid pg 226

<sup>24</sup> [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle\\_of\\_Appomattox\\_Court\\_House#Battle](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Appomattox_Court_House#Battle) "Battle of Appomattox Court House", Union Gen Joshua Chamberlain had been selected to lead the surrender ceremony at Appomattox. Writing years later he eloquently describes the moving salute by the Union army to the surrendering Confederates of the ANV and the equally moving response of this Confederate army – "honor answering honor". These actions would help the country's healing down the years.

<sup>25</sup> Apr 26 Gen Johnston surrenders to Gen Sherman; May 4 Gen Richard Taylor surrenders; May 26 Gen Kirby Smith surrenders; Jun 23 Cherokee Gen Stand Waite surrenders his Indian battalion; when the raider *Shenandoah* surrenders to British at Liverpool on Nov 6 all Confederate forces have surrendered

<sup>26</sup> [The Library of Congress Illustrated Timeline of the Civil War](#), Wagner, Margaret E., Little and Brown & Co., NY, NY, 2011, pg 228