

CHRONOLOGY OF CIVIL WAR EVENTS IN AND NEAR WASHINGTON

1861

- Feb. 23 - President-elect Lincoln arrives about 6:00 A.M. at the Baltimore & Ohio Depot.
- Mar. 4 - President Lincoln's First Inauguration. Capitol and Pennsylvania Avenue under heavy guard.
- Apr. 13 - Fort Sumter falls.
- Apr. 18 - Francis P. Blair offers the command of the Army to Colonel Robert E. Lee.
- Apr. 19 - President Lincoln announces the blockade of the southern states.
- Apr. 25 - The Sixth Massachusetts Regiment arrives at Washington's rail depot after fighting a mob in the streets of Baltimore.
- Apr. 27 - President Lincoln suspends writ of habeas corpus along the military line between Washington and Philadelphia.
- Apr.-May - U.S. Capitol, Treasury and other public buildings used as forts, army barracks and supply centers.
- May 16 - Mrs. R. E. Lee leaves Arlington House for the last time.
- May 23 - Virginia secedes from the Union.
- May 24 - Union troops seize Arlington Heights and Alexandria.
- May-June - Southern Congressmen and officials depart city to join Confederacy.
- June 18 - Professor T.S.C. Lowe makes first aerial flight above Washington in balloon *Enterprise*.
- July 2 - Army opens "Soldier's Rest" next to the Baltimore & Ohio Depot.
- July 16 - Union forces begin twenty-five-mile march from Washington to Bull Run.
- July 21 - Confederate Army defeats Union Army at Bull Run.
- July 22 - Defeated Union Army flees into city, a mob.
- July 27 - General George B. McClellan takes command of Union forces at Washington.
- Aug. 3 - Famous Rebel spy, Mrs. Greenhow, arrested.
- Aug. 9 - Mr. Frederick Knapp, Sanitary Commission, begins his help to needy soldiers in the city.
- Aug. 24 - Washington's Mayor Berret arrested for disloyalty, imprisoned at Fort Lafayette, New York.
- Oct. 21 - Union forces defeated at Ball's Bluff near Leesburg, Va.
- Nov. 1 - General Winfield Scott retires as Army general-in-chief, replaced by General McClellan.
- Nov. 8 - Confederate envoys to Britain and France seized on British ship *Trent*.
- Nov. 19 - Julia Ward Howe writes the *Battle Hymn of the Republic* in the early morning at Willard's Hotel.
- Dec. 26 - Serious fire at horse and mule corrals, Camp Fuller (site of present State Department).
- Winter of 1861-62 - Large Union Army, building to 200,000 men, camps near Washington, prepares for battle and builds a circle of forts around the city.

1862

- Mar. 9 - Ironclad warships *Monitor* and *Merrimac* fight to a draw at Hampton Roads, Virginia.
- Confederates abandon Bull Run defense position, also batteries along west shore of Potomac below city, and move south.
- Mar. 17 - Army of Potomac begins embarking from Washington and Alexandria ports, bound for Virginia Peninsula and advance on Richmond.
- Apr. 5 - Peninsular campaign opens.
- Apr. 16 - Act of Congress ends slavery in the District of Columbia.
- May 23 - Stonewall Jackson begins whirlwind campaign in Valley of Virginia, threatens Washington gravely.
- June 9 - McClellan's army near Richmond fights Battle of Fair Oaks. Numbers of wounded and sick arrive Washington daily by boat.
- June 1 - Hard-fought local election held in D.C. Mayor Wallach, incumbent Republican, wins.
- June 2 - After seven days of battle, General McClellan's army is driven into a bridgehead at Harrison's Landing. Surge of wounded and sick coming into Washington.
- July 2 - General Halleck appointed general-in-chief of Army. Stays at Washington headquarters (Winder Building).
- July 11 - Washington's first horsecars begin running from the Capitol to the Treasury.
- Aug. 2 - General McClellan's army begins withdrawal by water back to Alexandria to cover capital as General Lee swings north.
- Aug. 16 - Second Battle of Bull Run, a heavy defeat for the Union.
- Aug. 28-30 - Union forces barely block Stonewall Jackson's flank attack on retreating Union forces near Chantilly.
- Sep. 1 - President Lincoln gives command of the retreating army to General McClellan.
- Sep. 2 - Federal gunboats brought upriver to protect the Potomac bridges and Virginia shoreline against a Confederate breakthrough.
- Sep. 5 - Gen. Lee's army turns away from Washington and invades Maryland, seizing Frederick.
- Sep. 6 - Under General McClellan the Army of the Potomac marches north through Washington and Rockville, Maryland in pursuit of Lee's Army.
- Sep. 14 - Union forces drive part of Lee's army from South Mountain west of Frederick.
- Clara Barton leaves Washington in an army wagon bound for the fighting.
- Sep. 17 - General McClellan wins battle against Lee at Antietam Creek near Sharpsburg, Maryland, the first important victory for the Union in the east.

- Sep. 22 - President Lincoln issues the preliminary Emancipation Proclamation.
- Sep. 24 - President Lincoln suspends *writ of habeas corpus* for all persons arrested by military authority.
- Nov. 5 - Lincoln removes General McClellan from command. General Burnside takes his place.
- Dec. 13 - Army of the Potomac under General Burnside heavily defeated at Battle of Fredericksburg, Virginia.
- Dec. 31 - West Virginia admitted as 35th State of Union.

1863

- Jan. 1 - Emancipation Proclamation takes effect.
- Jan. 25 - General Hooker supercedes General Burnside as commander of the Army of the Potomac.
- May 4 - General Lee's Army again defeats the Army of the Potomac with great losses at Chancellorsville, Virginia.
- June 3 - Lee's army begins invasion of the North.
- July 3 - Army of the Potomac under a new commander, General Meade, defeats Lee's Army at Gettysburg after three days of battle.
- July 4 - Citizens of Washington celebrate news of the victory at Gettysburg.
- July 5 - City learns of General Grant's victory at Vicksburg.
- July 13 - Lee's Army escapes back across the Potomac into Virginia.
- Sep. 15 - President Lincoln suspends *writ of habeas corpus* throughout the Union.
- Nov. 26 - First national observance of Thanksgiving throughout the Union.
- Dec. 4 - Potomac River water, flowing through pipes in aqueduct from Great Falls, arrives in city for first time.

1864

- Mar. 12 - Lt. General Grant named general-in-chief of Union Army.
- May 5-8 - Great battle occurs between the armies of Lee and Grant in the Virginia Wilderness. Grant moves south.
- May 8-19 - Armies collide again in another large battle near Spotsylvania Court House.
- May 7-30 - Washington and other eastern cities filling with sick and wounded.
- May 13 - General Meigs and President Lincoln decide to use the Arlington Estate as a Federal cemetery.
- May 16 - Union Army of the James suspends attacks on Richmond and bottles itself up at Bermuda Hundred.
- June 3 - Lee's and Grant's armies again fight at Cold Harbor, Grant fails to break through with large losses.

- June 7 - Republican Convention nominates Lincoln for a second term.
- June 12-18 - Grant's Army sideslips to the east of Richmond, moves south of the James River and fails to capture Petersburg, a major rail center of Richmond.
- June 28 - Congress repeals the Fugitive Slave Law.
- May-June - Washington area hospitals are crowded with wounded and sick men. From May 5 to June 15, General Grant's Army has lost over 38,000 wounded. This does not count heavy losses in killed and missing.
- July 2 - General Early, leading Confederate II Corps, has defeated one Union force after another, now controls Valley of Virginia.
- July 4 - Lincoln pockets radical reconstruction bill passed by Congress.
- July 9 - General Early defeats Union force at Monocacy River, just southeast of Frederick, Maryland. -Refugee wagons fleeing from Early's troops begin entering city on Rockville Pike (Wisconsin Avenue) and Seventh Street Road (Georgia Avenue). Some panic in the city.
- July 11 - General Early's troops enter D.C. from north on the Seventh Street Road about mid-day, are halted at Fort Stevens. -Parts of Union VI and XIX corps, sent by Grant, start landing at the Sixth Street Wharves about the same time.
- July 12 - Skirmishing continues all day. Union VI Corps troops launch evening attack. -General Early's army retreats after darkness falls, escapes a day later across the Potomac near Leesburg.
- Sep. 2 - Atlanta falls to General Sherman's Army.
- Sep. 22 - General Sheridan defeats Early's Army near Winchester, Virginia.
- Oct. 19 - General Early's Army mostly destroyed by much larger Union Army under Sheridan near Cedar Creek, Virginia.
- Nov. 8 - Election Day—Lincoln reelected President.
- Nov. 15 - General Sherman's Army leaves Atlanta—starts march through Georgia.
- Dec. 21 - General Sherman captures Savannah, Georgia.

1865

- Jan. 15 - Fort Fisher, Confederate's last open port falls.
- Jan. 24 - Smithsonian castle suffers damage from severe fire.
- Jan. 31 - The Thirteenth Amendment abolishing slavery passes Congress.
- Feb. 1 - Sherman's Army starts north into the Carolinas.
- Feb. 3 - Peace Conference between Lincoln and Confederate Commissioners held on *River Queen* in Hampton Roads.
- Mar. 3 - Freedmen's Bureau enacted by Congress to provide care for blacks.

- Mar. 4 - President Lincoln's Second Inauguration.
 Mar. 5 - Lincoln's inaugural ball held at Patent Office.
 Apr. 2 - General Grant breaks through Confederate line at Petersburg.
 Apr. 3 - Richmond falls. President Davis flees.
 Apr. 9 - General Lee surrenders his Army at Appomattox Court House. In Washington impromptu celebration starts.
 Apr. 11 - Grand victory celebration and illumination held in Washington.
 Apr. 14 - President Lincoln shot at Ford's Theater. Assassin John Wilkes Booth escapes into southern Maryland.
 - Lewis Payne stabs Secretary Seward in his home same evening.
 Apr. 15 - President Lincoln dies in early morning at the Petersen House across the street from the Theater.
 - Vice President Andrew Johnson sworn in as President.
 Apr. 17 - Mrs. Mary Surratt arrested as conspirator at her boardinghouse on H Street.
- Apr. 19 - Funeral of President Lincoln held in East Room of White House.
 - Lincoln's remains taken to Capitol in great parade along crowded Pennsylvania Avenue.
 Apr. 21 - Lincoln's funeral train leaves Washington.
 Apr. 26 - John Wilkes Booth, the assassin of Lincoln, is shot to death in a barn near Port Royal, Virginia.
 - General Joseph E. Johnson negotiates surrender terms with General Sherman near Raleigh, North Carolina.
 May 10 - Trial of Lincoln conspirators begins in Federal Prison at U.S. Arsenal, Washington. Ends June 30.
 May 22 - The Lincoln family leaves Washington.
 May 23-24 - Grand Review of Meade's and Sherman's Armies on Pennsylvania Avenue before President Johnson.
 July 7 - Four of the Lincoln conspirators, including Mrs. Surratt, hanged.
 Nov. 10 - Captain Henry Wirz, Confederate commandant of Andersonville Prison hanged at the Old Capitol Prison.