

- January Letters and editorials are full of thoughts about what is to be done with slaves, should they win their freedom. Most seem to favor the idea of returning them to tropical climates elsewhere – Haiti or Liberia, for example.
- Jan. 1 The Memphis *Appeal* reports on the resignation of Gen. Gideon Pillow and describes his emotional good-bye to his troops. Pillow, who has resigned after a dispute with Gen. Leonidas Polk, will reconsider his resignation a few days later and will be reinstated by Jefferson Davis.
- “ TN “Every preparation is being made to fasten the yoke of bondage upon the beautiful & chivalrous Southern country, but our people are determined to be forever free & independent of the Northern fanatics & tho the war may be long & bloody we will never submit.” [*William L.B. Lawrence Diary*]
- Jan. 3 TN Confederate troops in Greenville, TN, hang two East Tennesseans who were caught burning the Lick Creek bridge .
- Jan. 5 TN Brig. Gen. Zollicoffer sends out a proclamation to the state of Kentucky explaining that his continuing presence in Kentucky is not to invade them but to protect them from incursions by abolitionists and other “Northern hordes.”
- Jan. 6 Arson in several Southern cities leaves enormous devastation behind: Charleston has \$12,000,000 damage; Montgomery is “fired in six different places by slaves”; a million dollars of commissary stores in Nashville are destroyed; a fire in Norfolk flattens the Custom-house, the post office, and a number of other buildings; public buildings in Richmond, a powder-mill in New Orleans, and the entire town of Greenville, Alabama, are burned.
- Jan. 12 TN **Zollicoffer**, entrenched about 40 miles north of the Tennessee border, on the “wrong” (unfordable) side of the Cumberland River, is facing a Federal force about 10,000 strong. Confederate reinforcements are said to be on their way. [*New York Times*, p. 2]
- Jan. 14 TN **Maj. Gen. George Crittenden** moves from Knoxville to join Zollicoffer in Kentucky, and Gen. Thomas moves in to sustain Boyle as he advances toward Zollicoffer. Military encounters continue in Missouri, W. Virginia, & Kentucky.
- “ U.S. Secretary of War Simon Cameron resigns, to be replaced by **Edwin M. Stanton**. He will prove to be a strong and effective cabinet officer.
- Jan. 16 The Bowling Green correspondent of the Nashville *Union* boldly conjectures that there will be no fighting in Kentucky in the near future. He believes that the Federal forces are insubstantial and that Crittenden’s troops are headed for their winter quarters.
- Jan. 17-22 TN Gunboat demonstrations on Fort Henry, the first challenges to the Fort as Union regiments from Illinois and Indiana begin to move into Kentucky. Word comes that General Grant is en route from Illinois. Confederate troops in Kentucky begin killing cattle in the ponds and watering places on the route of the Federal army in order to render the water unfit for drinking. [*NYT*, p. 1]
- Jan. 19 TN In an article about the number of Union loyalists in Tennessee, the *New York Times* says, “If within a month our troops advance upon Knoxville, Nashville

and Memphis, they will speedily find all the elements to organize a loyal State Government, and a very short time will furnish native loyal arms capable of sustaining it. Tennessee occupies a place of great importance from its geographical position – its boundaries touching on no less than eight Southern States. Its speedy possession by the National Government is a matter of the greatest importance.” [p. 4]

- Jan. 19-20 **TN Battle of Fishing Creek** (also called the **Battle of Mill Springs**), KY. The Confederate advance under Felix Zollicoffer and George B. Crittenden is turned back by Geo. Thomas. Zollicoffer, a Maury County newspaper editor, wanders into the Union forces in the dark (wearing a white coat) and is killed. This is the second largest battle that will be fought in Kentucky – only Perryville in October will see more casualties. Thomas’s victory secures Union control of eastern KY.
- Jan. 21 The first sketchy reports of the battle in Kentucky appear: “We only know that the battle was offered by the rebels, and lost by them, after what must have been a fierce conflict, and the sacrifice of two leaders as conspicuous as Zollicoffer and young Bailie Peyton [*Junior, age 28*]. The vanquished fell back to their intrenchments at Mill Spring. Thither they were pursued by the victors, assailed, and finally obliged to capitulate.” [*New York Times*, p. 4]
- “ Flooding in California causes millions of dollars of damage and leaves Sacramento under as much as eleven feet of water. [*NYT*, p. 8]
- Jan. 22 Former President **John Tyler** dies. Although Presidents Van Buren, Fillmore, Pierce, and Buchanan are still living, Tyler is the only one residing in a seceded state. Because of Tyler’s disloyalty to Henry Clay and the Whig party that elected him, “and the embarrassment and confusion which he brought upon the country,” the *New York Times* calls him “the most unpopular public man that had ever held any office in the United States.” [p. 8]
- Jan. 24 Both Union and Confederate soldiers are suffering from illness, particularly measles and typhoid. There is a report that Parson Brownlow, weakened by his latest stay in jail, “is now at home, dangerously ill.” [*NYT*, p. 3]
- Jan. 25 Mortuaries do not generally embalm the dead during this period of history, but several firms are now offering **embalment**, which will grow in popularity as the war goes on: “Even thus far have many of our best soldiers fallen, whose homes were so far away that absent friends have been deprived of even looking upon their faces again, from the horrifying spectacle of decay.” Ads offer “a place [*in Washington, D.C.*] where our heroes may be embalmed on the most approved French principles.” [*New York Times*, p. 8] [*Note: It was front-page news the following day that Zollicoffer’s & Peyton’s bodies had been embalmed.*]
- Jan. 27 The Maryland Senate introduces resolutions to request Senators James A. Pearce and Anthony Kennedy to resign, because “it is right and proper that the State should, at this critical juncture, be represented by Senators whose hearts beat responsive to the throb of devotion to the integrity of the Union, felt by the great popular heart of the State.” [*New York Times*, p. 1]
- Jan. 29 Letter from Union soldier Luther Melancton Meily to his sister: “Dear Sister . . . We are looking for the Back-bone of the Army (the pay-master) soon again to visit us. I believe he is the most welcome visitor that comes to the Army.”

- February Julia Ward Howe's "The Battle Hymn of the Republic" is published on the front page of the *Atlantic Monthly*.
- Feb. 2 Reports of military encounters, now including a naval skirmish near Savannah, come in from Missouri, Kentucky, Maryland, and other places. Union forces fire at Fort Henry; Fort Donelson is considered impregnable, but the Memphis *Avalanche* predicts that Fort Henry will fall.
- Feb. 2 **TN First recorded Civil War skirmish in Tennessee** occurs in Morgan County. A Confederate cavalry unit under Lt. Col. White kills seven Federal soldiers, and the Union forces withdraw. This seems to be the first event of the Union's southward movement from Kentucky into Tennessee.
- Feb. 5 **TN** "Dear Mother, . . . It is reported that the Yankees are landing on the river twelve [?] miles below her[e] whether it be true or not I cannot say but I don't think they will ever attack us her[e.] they came up to Fort Henry the other day and threw some bums [*bombs*] in the fort and then went back down the river the boys are hard at work now throwing up breast works our company are busy mounting cannons & will want to be first [?] if the Yankees should come so we can slash them they is about 4500 souls her[e] now and we are looking for more all the time. . . . I suppose they are fighting at Fort Henry now while I am writing to you I hear the cannons it roars like continual. . . .Bill Green says they have had a fight at fort Henry and have whipped us we dont know how true it is." [*Letter from William F. Farmer at Fort Donelson*]
- Feb. 6 **TN** Gunboats and Army troops under Commodore Andrew H. Foote and General U.S. Grant capture **Fort Henry**, on the Tennessee River, in the first important victory for the Union and for Grant in the Western Theater of the war. Only Fort Donelson now stands between the Union troops and Nashville. Many men from the Fort Henry garrison flee to Fort Donelson, swelling the ranks there.
- Feb. 7 **TN** Confederate forces burn three of their own steamers at the mouth of the Duck River to prevent their capture. Gen. Albert Sidney Johnston orders a Confederate retreat from southwestern Kentucky.
- “ **TN** “Great apprehension for the safety of Nashville.” [*Lindsley*]
- Feb. 7-8 Brig. Gen. Ambrose Burnside leads an amphibious operation in North Carolina, just south of the Virginia border, which ends with the surrender of Confederate Col. Henry M. Shaw. Known as the Battle of Roanoke Island, this is the first engagement in the Burnside Expedition, an operation concerned with closing blockade-running ports inside the Outer Banks.
- Feb. 8 **TN** Three U.S. Navy gunboats, fresh from their victory at Fort Henry, destroy the Memphis, Clarksville, & Louisville Railroad bridge on the Tennessee River.
- “ A huge meteor “preceded by a sound resembling thunder” and “equal to the full moon in apparent size” is seen over a large area of northern Germany.
- Feb. 10 In the Battle of Elizabeth City, second encounter in the Burnside Expedition, Union troops take Elizabeth City and its nearby waters, leaving the Confederate fleet there captured, sunk, or dispersed.
- Feb. 12 **TN** Union troops under General U.S. Grant begin their siege of **Fort Donelson**.

- “ TN “ 9 A.M. notified that the University buildings [*in Nashville*] were needed for hospitals – By dark had all the Libraries removed. 4 P.M. requested by Dr. Pim to act as Surgeon.” [Lindsley]
- Feb. 13 TN Grant continues to besiege Fort Donelson as he waits for the Navy gunboats to arrive. Grant’s army will later be called the Army of the Tennessee.
- “ TN “By 8 P.M. the buildings completely emptied and swept. Coal & provisions on hand – 18 men working – steward & 4 Med. Assistants engaged. Quartermasters arranged with.” [Lindsley]
- Feb. 14 TN U.S. Navy shells **Fort Donelson**; skirmish near the Cumberland Gap.
- “ TN “After breakfast notified Post Surgeon Pim that my hospital was not in readiness; but would be in two days. He ... replied that he must send the convalescents as the Bowlinggreen sick were arriving in large numbers . . . It was intended to establish also a camp for convalescents on the University grounds -- I remonstrated . . . that the Hospital and encampment would greatly interfere with each other. I hastened to Capt. A.J. Lindsay, commander of the post, and after much persistence got an order to remove the encampment, if the tents were not already pitched. Hurried up to the University, & fortunately they were just laying out the camp. Capt. Cottles civilly received me, and agreed at once to carry out the order if I would shelter his men for the night. Snow was still upon the ground. All day crowds of 40, 60, 100, or 120, were pouring in from the different hospitals, or from the Bowlinggreen army. They were tired & hungry, some had not breakfasted, none had dined – By night we had not less than 700 in the Stone College & Barracks. We managed by very hard work to get them something to eat by 8 or 9 P.M. To the 500 in the barracks we distributed a gill each, of brandy from the Hospital stores. Both buildings were comfortably warmed.” [Lindsley]
- Feb. 15 TN Confederates attempt to break through Federal lines surrounding Fort Donelson; the attempt is initially successful, but commanders Floyd and Pillow Hesitate and re-entrench, and the opportunity to escape is lost.
- “ TN “Saturday – Hard work all day to feed the big crowd. Tom Woods & Menifee very useful in dining room. [*Marginal note in a different hand: “color men”*] All of us perfectly worn out with the task of feeding some six hundred convalescents, & taking care of one hundred or more quite ill persons -- Reports & rumors of the battles at Fort Donelson. Night speaking at the Capitol – Triumph over the repulse of the gunboats.” [Lindsley]
- “ Secretary Stanton authorizes a major exchange of prisoners of war.
- Feb. 16 TN General Grant accepts the “unconditional and immediate surrender” of Fort Donelson, with 15,000 prisoners, from its present commander, Gen. Simon Buckner. [Floyd and Pillow, realizing the Fort was lost, have managed to sneak out of the Fort and escape.] Col. Nathan Bedford Forrest leads his command and numerous stragglers from the fort as the other generals flee. This victory opens up the state of Tennessee for Union advancement. Union forces will quickly breach Southern defenses and open a corridor to Nashville.

- Feb. 16 **TN** “Sunday – Johnston’s army passing by the University from 10 A.M. until after dark – camped out near Mill Creek. Light of campfires very bright at night. The army was in rapid retreat – the men disliked bitterly giving up Nashville without a struggle. The Southern army however was too small to make a stand against the overwhelmingly superior numbers of Union troops During all Sunday from about 10 A.M., when the news of the fall of Fort Donelson reached here, the wildest excitement prevailed in the city. Very many persons left the city in vehicles – many on the cars – the Gov. & Legislature decamped – Nashville was a panic stricken city.” [*Lindsley*]
- “ **TN** “We are all amused at Ting [*her young daughter*] yesterday – she was reading us the ‘nuse’ as she calls it in the paper. Seeing the Eagle on the *Banner’s* heading she pointed to it with such rogueishness ... “See here, Cousin Mollie, this is the thing the Yankees are bringing to peck us!” Her readings about “our men” and the Yankees kept us in a roar of laughter. . . . Dear little children! They are so full of fun and frolic as ever – they know nothing of this [*illegible*] Yankee war! And God be praised they do not – they are all the sunshine we have in our darkened homes now!” [*Lucy Virginia French diary*]
- Feb. 19 **TN** Clarksville is occupied by Union forces. Governor Isham Harris moves the Tennessee C.S. capital to Memphis.
- Feb. 20 Confederate forces evacuate Columbus, KY.
- Feb. 21 Nathaniel Gordon, a slave trader from Maine, is hanged in New York City for piracy. *Harpers Weekly* (March 8) comments, “For forty years the slave-trade has been pronounced piracy by law, and to engage in it has been a capital offense. But the sympathy of the Government and its officials has been so often on the side of the criminal . . . that no one has ever been punished under the Act. The Administration of Mr. Lincoln has turned over a new leaf in this respect. Henceforth the slave-trade will be abandoned to the British and their friends.” [<http://blackhistory.harpreweek.com/7Illustrations/Slavery/ExecutionOfSlavetrader.htm>]
- Feb. 22 **TN** U.S. Grant declares martial law in West Tennessee.
- “ **TN** “This is the anniversary of the birth of our Great Washington and set apart for the inauguration of Jefferson Davis who some style the ‘second Washington.’ Will he prove himself such? That remains to be seen. If this day is to be ominous of our political future, it will be gloomy indeed.”
- Feb. 23 **TN** C.S. forces evacuate Nashville.
- Feb. 25 **TN** "Bull" Nelson enters Nashville, Tennessee, first Confederate state capital to fall into Union hands. The Confederate flag is lowered from the Tennessee Capitol as Don Carlos Buell accepts the city's surrender. The occupation of Nashville begins. Nathan Bedford Forrest provides a rear guard for Hardee's Army of Central Kentucky as it withdraws to Alabama.
- Feb. 26 **TN** A few women train for battle. The Memphis *Avalanche* reports: “A bevy of ladies on Union street were practicing in sharp shooting yesterday with the pistol. Several shots were made that would have astonished a few of our young men, who have never learned to handle fire arms.” Another Memphis matron, Mrs. J.B. Gray, undertakes a fund-raising project to build a gunboat. [Brock, p. 27] At

nearly the same moment, a flood of refugees arrives from fallen Nashville, to be followed by 400 fugitives from Island 10, and then many more exiles who will strain the city's resources and add to the mounting poverty and crime.

- March Congress adopts an article of war forbidding members of the army and navy to return fugitive slaves to their owners. [Berlin, *Families and Freedom*, p. 29]
- Mar. 1 TN Military engagement occurs at Pittsburg Landing.
- “ TN The director of the Bank of Tennessee at Rogersville writes to the State Comptroller about war preparations and comments that he personally “intends to arm a company.” [RG 47, B5, F24]
- March 3-4 TN Tennessee Sen. Andrew Johnson is appointed military governor of Tennessee and arrives in Nashville to head the occupation forces. [http://www.tnstate.edu/library/digital/document.htm]
- Mar. 5 TN The president of the Bank of Tennessee writes the General Assembly (now exiled in Memphis) concerning wartime removal of records and cash. Having anticipated the invasion of Tennessee and recognizing the vulnerability of Nashville, he has relocated the bank to Chattanooga. In a year the bank will move its holdings to Georgia, South Carolina, and back to Georgia before they are finally seized by the Federal Army in 1865. The Bank will be closed in 1869. [RG 47, B8, F21]
- Mar. 6 Lincoln sends a message to Congress calling for a congressional resolution to endorse compensated emancipation and guaranteeing federal support to states adopting such legislation. The President believes the resolution will keep Northern slave states from joining the Confederacy.
- Mar. 7-8 Confederates lose the two-day battle of Pea Ridge, Arkansas, ensuring Union Control of Missouri.
- Mar. 8 TN Maj. Gen. Edmund Kirby Smith (C.S.) takes command of the Department of East Tennessee at Knoxville.
- Mar. 8-9 **Battle of Hampton Roads**, Va., also known as the Battle of the *Monitor* and the *Merrimack*, is the first combat between ironclad warships, and arguably the most important naval battle of the Civil War. In an attempt to break the Union blockade, the Confederate ironclad *Virginia* (formerly the sunken USS *Merrimack*, rebuilt as an ironclad) attacks the U.S. blockade squadron. The USS *Monitor* and the CSS *Virginia* battle to a draw after three or four hours. The ships do not fight again, and the blockade remains in place.
- Mar. 9 TN A skirmish occurs near Nashville, on the Granny White Pike.
- Mar. 11 TN A skirmish takes place near Paris.
- Mar. 13 TN Destruction of Beach Creek Bridge on the Mobile & Ohio Railroad.
- Mar. 14 TN Skirmishes at Big Creek Gap and Jacksborough.
- “ In the Battle of New Bern, third encounter of the Burnside Expedition, Federal troops gain control of the New Bern area, which will remain in Union hands for the duration of the war.

- Mar. 14-17 **TN** Union forces carry out operations against the Memphis and Charleston Railroad; during the same period, Pittsburg Landing is occupied.
- Mar. 15-16 **TN** Siege of Island #10; siege of Tiptonville begins; skirmish near Pittsburg Landing.
- Mar. 17-22 McClellan begins to transport the Army of the Potomac to Fort Monroe. His occupation of the York/James Peninsula marks the beginning of the Virginia Peninsula Campaign against Richmond).
- Mar. 21-23 **TN** U.S. Forces begin reconnaissance against Cumberland Gap; skirmish there.
- Mar. 23 In the Battle of Kernstown, Virginia, the first battle of the Shenandoah Valley Campaign, Stonewall Jackson is defeated by Federal Gen. James Shields. The siege of Fort Macon, North Carolina, begins, as the Burnside Expedition moves south through the Outer Banks.
- Mar. 24 **TN** Skirmish at Camp Jackson.
- Mar. 28 **TN** Beginning of Cumberland Gap Campaign.
- Mar. 29 A.S. Johnston reassembles Confederate Western forces at Corinth, MS. Grant takes command of the Union army at Pittsburg Landing, TN, in preparation for an assault on Corinth.
- Mar. 31 **TN** Capture of Union City by U.S. forces; skirmish on Purdy Road near Adamsville.
- Apr. 3 **TN** Skirmish near Monterey.
- Apr. 4 McClellan moves toward Richmond with over 100,000 troops.
- “ **TN** Capture of Island No. 10 by U.S.S. *Carondelet* after a two-week U.S. Naval bombardment; skirmish at Lawrenceburg; another near Pittsburg Landing, or Shiloh.
- Apr. 6-7 **TN** Battle of Pittsburg Landing/Battle of Shiloh. C.S. forces under Gen. Albert Sidney Johnston surprise Federal troops under Grant. After Buell’s Army of the Ohio reinforces the Union Lines during the night, Grant prevails, but with tremendous losses. Confederate Losses: 1,723 dead, 8,012 wounded, 959 missing. Union Losses: 1,754 dead, 8,408 wounded, 2,885 missing. This is the bloodiest battle in U.S. History to this point. The 23,746 casualties (dead, wounded, and/or missing) represent more than the American battle-related casualties of the American Revolution, the War of 1812, and the Mexican-American War combined. The dead included Confederate commander Albert Sidney Johnston and Union General W.H.L. Wallace. Gen. P.G.T. Beauregard, now commanding the C.S. forces, withdraws to Corinth, MS.
- Apr. 8 **TN** Forrest stalls Federal pursuit at Fallen Timbers. The garrison of Island No. 10 is surrendered at Tiptonville.
- Apr. 11 **TN** Skirmish at Wartrace.
- Apr. 12 **TN** Battle of Fort Pillow on the Mississippi River in Henning, TN, leaving a controversy around the question of whether a massacre of surrendered African-

American troops was conducted or condoned by Confederate Major General Nathan Bedford Forrest. Northern troops, assuming Forrest's involvement, use the name as a rallying cry in later battles.

- Apr. 15 **TN** Skirmish at Pea Ridge; battle of Peralta, New Mexico.
- Apr. 16 The Confederacy issues a conscription order, making all healthy white men between the ages of 18 and 35 liable for a three-year term of military service. By September the age limit will be raised to 45; by October 11, a man owning 20 or more slaves becomes exempt; by February 1864, the age range will include men between the ages of 17 and 50. [<http://civilwar.bluegrass.net/SoldiersLife/620416.html>]
- “ Congress abolishes slavery in the District of Columbia, compensating loyal owners [<http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/aap/timeline.html>] and appropriates funds for “colonization” of freed slaves outside the U.S. [Foner, *Forever Free*]
- Apr. 17 **TN** Capture of Union refugees near Woodson's Gap.
- Apr. 17-19 **TN** Series of skirmishes near Monterey.
- Apr. 19 In the Battle of South Mills, also known as the Battle of Camden, Gen. Ambrose Burnside's troops, commanded by Brig. Gen. Jesse L. Reno, are forced to withdraw without destroying the Dismal Swamp Canal, their goal.
- Apr. 24 **TN** Skirmishes at Lick Creek and on Shelbyville Road.
- Apr. 25 Federal fleet commander Farragut captures New Orleans. Col. Moses J. White, Commander of Fort Macon, NC, surrenders to Gen. Ambrose Burnside.
- Apr. 26 **TN** Skirmish at Atkins' Mill.
- Apr. 27 **TN** Skirmish at Pea Ridge.
- Apr. 29 **TN** Raid on Mobile and Ohio Railroad near Bethel Station; skirmish at Cumberland Gap.
- May 1 Gen. Stonewall Jackson begins Shenandoah Valley Campaign. Only one-third the size of the three Union armies they encounter (17,000-28,000 Confederates to more than 60,000 Union forces), Jackson will win several minor battles and, more importantly, prevent Union troops from reinforcing their offensive against Richmond.
- “ **TN** John Hunt Morgan's Cavalry captures U.S. wagon train near Pulaski.
- May 2-9 **TN** Series of skirmishes near Lockridge's Mill.
- May 3 **TN** C. Woolmer's of Memphis advertises for women to make flags for the war. [Brock, p. 114]
- “ **TN** “My Dear Daughter, ... I hope you will give me a detailed account of the family Black & White, and of the farm ... also of the neighbors.... Let me know in your next [*letter*] how many horses & mules [*Gen.*] Nelson took from me.... When I think of the condition of my once happy home & surrounding country ... I can't help but weep & feel low spirited.” [*Cheairs, N.F., letter to daughter*]

- May 4 Confederate forces under Gen. Joseph Johnston retreat from Yorktown after McClellan's month-long siege; the Confederates abandon Norfolk on May 9.
- “ TN Skirmish near Purdy.
- May 4-11 TN Brief skirmishes at Pulaski.
- May 5 Battle of Williamsburg, Virginia.
- “ TN Military action at Lebanon.
- May 8 Stonewall Jackson begins his Shenandoah Valley campaign with a victory in the Battle of McDowell (VA).
- May 9-20 TN Several skirmishes on the Elk River near Bethel.
- May 10 TN Naval engagement at Plum Point near Fort Pillow as C.S. flotilla attacks U.S. naval force.
- May 14 TN Skirmish at Fayetteville.
- May 15 TN Skirmish at Memphis and Charleston Railroad.
- May 19-23 TN Further action at Fort Pillow
- May 22-24 TN Skirmishes at Winchester.
- May 23 Stonewall Jackson defeats Union garrison at Front Royal, Virginia, and threatens Gen. Banks' army.
- May 25 Jackson drives Banks cross the Potomac River. McClellan divides his force in Front of Richmond.
- “ Maj. Gen. Halleck, who has assumed command of Grant's army, reaches Corinth, MS. Beauregard will evacuate the city on May 30.
- “ TN “[Brownlow] is gulling these Yankees no little & is making his trade (which you can guess) a very profitable, paying business. He cares no moon for the condition of the North or South, than a hog, only so far as he can make either the one or the other profitable to No. 1—and is wholly destitute of Patriotism.... So you see you see I have strong hopes of getting home soon, Tell your Ma to save me a little of my Robertson County [*probably distilled liquor*—as I expect to be very dry. Remember me kindly to all the Negroes. Tell Uncle Dick & Nath to take good care of Miss Susan.... Your devoted Pa, N.F.C [*Cheairs, N.F., to daughter*]
- May 26 Lincoln recalls Gen. McDowell from Fredericksburg to help protect Washington.
- May 28 TN [from Bank of Tennessee, Memphis Minute Books, RG 47, Vol. 5, last entry] “At 9 AM, the Prst and Cashier of this Bank received order from Genl Beauregard through the Provost Marshal L.D. McKissack in person to prepare immediately for departure at noon and to take all the effects of the Bank; . . . in accordance therewith at 5 P.M. the money, Books, and papers were transferred to a car standing at the junction of Main and Madison Streets and immediately left, accompanied by guard of Capt. Bigbie and then men for Mobile, Atlanta and Athens. . .”

- May 29 In the face of Gen. Halleck's slow advance, Beauregard evacuates Corinth, MS.
- May 31-Jun.1 Battle of Seven Pines (Fair Oaks), VA. General Joseph E. Johnston is gravely wounded; General Robert E. Lee takes over command of the Confederate Army.
- June **TN** Over the next two years, from now until June 1864, an estimated twenty to thirty million dollars worth of supplies are smuggled into the Confederacy through Memphis. Many women are active in the smuggling trade, using their "bosoms, hoops, and bustles to conceal goods and letters from Federal authorities." [Brock, p. 54]
- June 3-5 **TN** Confederates evacuate Fort Pillow, which is occupied by Union forces.
- June 4 **TN** Skirmish at Sweeden's Cove near Jasper.
- June 5 In the **Battle of Tranter's Creek**, the final battle of the **Burnside Expedition**, the 24th Massachusetts kills the commander of the 44th North Carolina, forcing a retreat. This is the final major campaign in North Carolina until Sherman moves through in 1865. Federal troops are now in control of Roanoke Island, New Bern, Morehead City, Beaufort, and Washington, North Carolina.
- June 6 **TN** Naval engagement near Memphis; bombarded by U.S. ships, the city surrenders and is occupied by Union forces. The Memphis *Avalanche* laments, "Many of the strongest advocates of the Confederacy have left us Hundreds have left Memphis for more Southern localities in advance of the approach of the Federal fleet. Among these were many of the best and most useful citizens of Memphis."
- June 7 **TN** Brigadier General James Negley bombards Chattanooga from Stringer's Ridge, then withdraws a day later; capture of Jackson; skirmish at Readyville.
- June 9 Jackson's Shenandoah Valley campaign closes, having successfully tied up a large Union force for more than a month.
- June 10 **TN** Skirmishes at Rogers Gap and Wilson's Gap.
- June 10-16 **TN** Skirmishes at Winchester.
- June 15 **TN** "A perfect reign of terror is upon us. On Thursday last ... a force of between 4 and 5 thousand Federals, passed us, going into McMinnville—hunting Starns [*probably Col. James W. Starnes*].... Martha came running up the stairs where I was hearing the children's lessons—exclaiming—'The Yankees are coming up the road!' I looked out and saw four or five horsemen at the gate.... I ran downstairs, and saw that they were taking out favorite horse, 'Black Cloud' I said not a word—they were the roughest kind of men ... I was angry and excited and feared I would not say the right thing so I forced myself to silence.... Throughout the day the troops came from the road to get something to eat—they were very respectful to me when they saw me.... While they were eating, however, I generally gave them a 'piece of my mind' ... I said 'If you know anything at all—you know very well that Tennessee never brought [war] upon us—She stood firm for the Union that she loved until Lincoln's war proclamation drove her into exile and rebellion...." [*Lucy Virginia French diary*]
- June 17 **TN** General Braxton Bragg replaces Beauregard in command of the C.S. Army

of Tennessee. On the same day, Stonewall Jackson's army leaves the Shenandoah Valley to join Lee's Army of Northern Virginia defending Richmond.

- June 18 **TN** Skirmish at Wilson's Gap; Cumberland Gap Campaign ends with occupation by Union forces under General G.W. Morgan.
- June 19 Slavery is abolished in the U.S. Territories.
- June 21 **TN** Skirmishes at Battle Creek and at Rankin's Ferry, near Jasper.
- June 25 **TN** Affair near La Fayette Station.
- “ **TN** “I hope the time is not far distant, when I shall have the pleasure of seeing you and then I can and will talk to you (at the risk of my life) upon subjects, I am now prohibited from writing until then I shall try to bear my fate with as much patience and forbearance as possible—I am perhaps unfortunately constituted—I am high tempered, I can be overpowered, but not conquered (so long as I am satisfied I am right) and when trampled upon, I am like a Texas Scorpion, I'll sting if I can, such is as you know my nature, and I can't help it—I wish I could. I think, however, I am willing to be governed by the Command laid down in the Book of Books, “Do unto others as you would have them do unto you. – Your Devoted Brother, N.F. Cheairs.” [*Cheairs, N.F., letter to sister*]
- June 25-July 1 In the Seven Days Campaign, Lee forces McClellan's army to retreat, ending a significant threat to the safety of Richmond.
- June 26 Battle of Mechanicsville. John Pope is appointed commander of the new Army of Virginia.
- June 27 Battle of Gaines' Mill, Virginia (also known as First Battle of Cold Harbor, or Battle of Chickahominy River) – Lee's Confederate forces break Porter's line & push his forces back, convincing McClellan to end his advance on Richmond.
- June 28 **TN** Skirmish near Sparta
- June 29-30 Battles of Peach Orchard, Savage Station, White Oak Swamp, Glendale-Fraser's Farm. Retreating Union forces inflict heavy casualties on the pursuing Confederates.
- June 30 **TN** Affair at Powell River; skirmish at Rising Sun
- July 1 Lee attacks McClellan's retreating army in the Battle of Malvern Hill. Although Lee is repulsed, McClellan retreats to the James River, ending the Peninsula Campaign. D.H. Hill's division of Confederate infantry suffers 5,500 casualties in one of Lee's worst tactical failures.
- July 2 **TN** The Morrill Act allocates federal land or its monetary value to various states for the teaching of “agricultural and mechanical” subjects and military training to students. After the Civil War Tennessee will designate East Tennessee University (renamed the University of Tennessee in 1879) as a land-grant institution. On the same date, Lincoln calls for 300,000 three-year enlistments.
- July 3 **TN** General Braxton Bragg moves the Army of Tennessee by rail from Tupelo, Mississippi, to Chattanooga.

- July 5 **TN** Affair at Walden’s Ridge; Skirmish at Battle Creek
- July 10 **TN** Gen. U.S. Grant orders the removal from Memphis within five days of those holding commissions or voluntarily enlisted in the C.S. Army, holding office or employed by the Confederate government, or holding state or local office while remaining loyal to the Confederacy. [Brock, p. 36]
- July 11 Lincoln appoints Henry Halleck General-in-Chief of all U.S. armies; he will serve until Grant replaces him in 1864.
- July 13 **TN** Col. Nathan Bedford Forrest captures U.S. garrison at Murfreesboro; skirmish near Wolf River.
- “ **TN** “Nearly all whom I have met on this side of the water are rabid abolitionists.... It is surprising that so sagacious a people as the citizens of the Northern States, should not see that such conduct renders a re-establishment of the Union infinitely more difficult—not to say impossible—and ‘thrice arms’ their foes, for it makes their ‘quarrels just,’ whatever it may have been in the outset. Everything that happens tends more and more to convince me of my first conclusion in regard to this unhappy civil war—that it will continue until both sides are completely exhausted and bankrupt—and then—God help us—for human sagacity cannot foresee what will happen!” [*Cooper, W.F., letter to his father*]
- July 14 Maj. Gen. John Pope, who had assumed command of the Union Army of Virginia on June 26, leads an advance upon Gordonsville, VA.
- July 15 **TN** Skirmish at Wallace’s Cross-Roads.
- July 17 **TN** Skirmish near Mt. Pleasant/Columbia.
- “ Congress passes two acts that change the status of slaves and anticipate the Emancipation Proclamation:
- The Second Confiscation Act frees the slaves of owners who are actively engaged in rebellion and authorizes military commanders to appropriate such slaves as military personnel “in any capacity to suppress the rebellion.”
 - The Militia Act authorizes the employment of “persons of African descent” in “any military or naval service for which they may be found competent,” and grants freedom to those slaves and their families. In other words, Lincoln can now use black soldiers in the Union Army. [<http://www.history.umd.edu/Freedmen/chronol.htm>] By 1865 a reported 180,000 African Americans will have served in the U.S. Army.
- July 19 **TN** Guerrilla raid on Brownsville.
- July 21 **TN** Skirmishes around Nashville.
- July 22-26 **TN** Series of skirmishes near Tazewell. On the same date Union and Confederate negotiators reach an agreement for a standard of prisoner exchanges.
- July 25 **TN** Skirmish at Clinton Ferry.
- July 27 **TN** Affair at Lower Post Ferry or Toone’s Station.
- July 28 **TN** Skirmish near Humboldt.

- July 29 **TN** Affair at Denmark, near Hatchie Bottom.
- Aug. 2-6 **TN** Series of skirmishes near Tazewell.
- Aug. 3 Army of the Potomac is ordered back to Washington.
- “ **TN** Telegram from General Morton in Nashville to General Buell: “I lost 48 hours trying to get Negroes, teams, tools, cooking utensils, and provisions. Only 150 Negroes so far, no tools, teams, etc. I wanted to employ 825 Negroes by the 11th.”
- “ **TN** Skirmish on Noconah Creek.
- Aug. 4 Following the weak response to his call for 3-year enlistments, Lincoln issues a new appeal for 300,000 men to enlist for 9 months.
- Aug. 5 **TN** Skirmish at Sparta.
- Aug. 7 **TN** Skirmish at Wood Springs near Dyersburg.
- Aug. 8 **TN** Fighting at Cumberland Gap.
- “ **TN** “Took an accustomed walk this afternoon seeing ... a great many Georgia beauties, which however do not compare favorably with our Tennessee fair ones in my humble opinion. These seem ... not nearly so gracefully symmetrical, being short and stumpy and not winsome and fairylike enough for me.”
[Bradford Nichol, *Memoir*]
- Aug. 9 **Battle of Cedar Mountain**, Virginia, first combat of the Northern Virginia Campaign. After nearly being driven from the field early in the battle, the Confederates regroup and counterattack, breaking the Union lines.
- Aug. 11 **TN** Affair near Kinderhook; skirmishes at Saulsbury and Williamsport, near Columbia.
- Aug. 12-13 **TN** C.S. Gen. **John Hunt Morgan**'s cavalry captures US garrison at Gallatin and destroys South Tunnel on the railroad.
- Aug. 13 **TN** Skirmishes at Huntsville and Medon.
- Aug. 14 General **Braxton Bragg** begins an invasion of Kentucky, hoping to draw Buell's Union forces across the Ohio River. Although Bragg will win a tactical victory against Buell in October, his pattern of retreat/withdrawal and failure (Stones River) will cause other Southern generals to denounce him to General Lee.
- “ **TN** Skirmish near Mount Pleasant.
- Aug. 16 **TN** Skirmish at Meriwether's Ferry on the Obion River.
- Aug. 17 **TN** **Kirby Smith**, reinforced from Bragg's army, contains Federals in Cumberland Gap and moves into Kentucky; skirmish at Pine Mountain.
- Aug 18 **TN** C.S. forces capture Clarksville; skirmish at Dyersburg; capture of steamboats on the Tennessee River.
- “ **TN** “Sir: There are many wives and helpless children in the City of Nashville ...

who have been reduced to poverty and wretchedness in consequence of their husbands and fathers having been forced into the Armies of this unholy and nefarious rebellion. Their necessities have become ... so urgent, that the laws of justice and humanity would be violated unless something was done to relieve their suffering and destitute condition. You are therefore requested to contribute the sum of Three Hundred Dollars ... to be distributed amongst these destitute families....” [Form letter from Military Gov. Andrew Johnson to Anthony W. Johnson – Bransford Papers. II-H-6. Box 1-2.]

- Aug. 19-21 **TN** Raids on the Louisville and Nashville Railroad.
- Aug. 20 **TN** Skirmishes at Drake’s Creek; Manscoe Creek near Edgefield Junction; and Pilot Knob.
- Aug. 21 **TN** Gen. John Hunt Morgan defeats Federal forces between Gallatin and Hartsville.
- Aug. 23-25 **TN** Skirmishes near Fort Donelson.
- Aug. 25 **TN** “I have drawn a long breath for the first time in 3 weeks—a long deep sigh of satisfaction and relief—the Yankees are gone! ... Thank God! Thank God! And may He in His goodness and mercy grant that they never visit us again!” [Lucy Virginia French diary]
- Aug. 26 **TN** Skirmish at Cumberland Iron Works, Cumberland Gap. On the same date Stonewall Jackson destroys Pope’s supply depot at Manassas Junction.
- Aug. 27 Stonewall Jackson destroys U.S. supply depot at Manassas, Virginia.
- Aug. 27 **TN** Confederates attack Fort McCook on the Tennessee River; skirmishes on Richland Creek near Pulaski; near Reynolds Station (Nashville & Decatur Railroad); at Round Mountain near Woodbury; near the Cumberland Gap; and near Murfreesboro.
- Aug. 28 **TN** Generals Braxton Bragg and Kirby Smith lead the Army of Tennessee into Kentucky; Buell moves Federal forces out of Nashville by rail to intercept.
- Aug. 29 **TN** Skirmish at Short Mountain Cross-Roads.
- Aug. 29-30 Pope attacks Jackson at Manassas, but is repulsed by Confederate reinforcements from Gen. Longstreet. The South is again victorious in the Second Battle of Bull Run. Pope withdraws and will be replaced by McClellan on Sept. 2.
- Aug. 30 **TN** Skirmishes: Bolivar, Altamont, Little Pond, McMinnville, & Medon Station.
- Aug. 31 Battle of Chantilly, Virginia – final battle of the Northern Virginia Campaign.
- “ **TN** Skirmishes at Rogers Gap and near Toone’s Station.
- Sept. 2 **TN** Skirmishes near Nashville and Memphis.
- Sept. 3 Confederate forces under Gen. Kirby Smith occupy Frankfurt, Kentucky.
- Sept. 4-9 Opening his first invasion of the North, Lee moves into Maryland pursued by McClellan; splitting his army, Lee sends Jackson to capture Harper’s Ferry.

- Sept. 5 **TN** Skirmish at Burnt Bridge near Humboldt.
- Sept. 6 **TN** Affair on Gallatin Road; skirmish at New Providence.
- Sept. 7 **TN** Skirmishes near Murfreesboro; at Clarksville near Riggins Hill; at Pine Mountain Gap.
- Sept. 9-10 **TN** Skirmishes at Columbia.
- Sept. 12 McClellan learns of Confederate troop movements (found on the road by two Union soldiers) but neglects to capitalize on the information.
- Sept. 14 Gen. McClellan defeats Lee at **South Mountain** and **Crampton's Gap**, Maryland, for possession of three important mountain passes but does not move fast enough to save Harper's Ferry.
- Sept. 14-15 **Battle of Harper's Ferry.** Confederate troops under Stonewall Jackson surround and bombard the Union garrison there, which surrenders 12,419 men, 13,000 small arms, 200 wagons, and 73 artillery pieces – the largest surrender of Federal forces during the Civil War.
- Sept. 16 McClellan moves into position at Antietam Creek near Sharpsburg; Jackson rejoins Lee's forces.
- Sept. 17 **TN** Federals evacuate Cumberland Gap; Confederates take possession.
- “ The **Battle of Antietam** (Sharpsburg), although ranked 5th deadliest Civil War battle, is the bloodiest single-day battle in American history. The Union had 12,401 casualties with 2,108 dead. Confederate casualties were 10,318 with 1,546 dead. This represented 25% of the Federal force and 31% of the Confederate. [Sears, Stephen W., *Landscape Turned Red: The Battle of Antietam*] Twice as many Americans died on September 17, 1862, as those who lost their lives in the War of 1812, the Mexican War, and the Spanish-American War combined. More people died on that day than on D-Day or Sept. 11, 2001.
- Sept. 18 Lee retreats, but McClellan unaccountably fails to pursue, allowing Lee's army to escape to Virginia.
- Sept. 19 **Battle of Iuka**, Mississippi. After violent fighting, Grant and Rosecrans defeat the Confederates under Major General Sterling Price, who had captured the Union supply depot there.
- Sept. 23 Lincoln's preliminary publication of the Emancipation Proclamation. While it does not immediately free all slaves, it provides a forewarning to owners that the rebellion must end by January 1 or the Proclamation will be signed. It takes a surprisingly conciliatory tone, offering aid to states that make provisions for gradual emancipation and referring once again to Congress's April 16 appropriation for the colonization of freed slaves somewhere outside the borders of the United States.
- Sept. 25 **TN** Skirmish at Davis' Bridge on the Hatchie River; burning of Randolph, Tipton County, site of two forts. Forrest is relieved of his current command and ordered to raise six new regiments to operate against Union troops in Tennessee.
- Sept. 26 **TN** Skirmish at Pocahontas.

- Sept. 30 **TN** Skirmish at Goodlettsville.
- Oct. 1 **TN** Skirmishes near Nashville and at Davis' Bridge.
- Oct. 3 **TN** Affair near La Fayette Landing.
- Oct. 3-4 Battle of Corinth, Mississippi. Grant and Rosecrans defeat the combined forces of Price and Van Dorn, but, to Grant's consternation, Rosecrans fails to engage in an effective pursuit of the Confederates after the battle.
- Oct. 4 **TN** Skirmish near Middleton.
- Oct. 5 **TN** Engagement at Big Hatchie, Hatchie Bridge, Metamora; skirmishes near Big Hill; near Chewalla; at Neely's Bend on the Cumberland River; at Fort Riley near Nashville.
- Oct. 7 **TN** Skirmish near LaVergne.
- “ **TN** In her journal of the war years, McMinnville resident Lucy Virginia French comments on Lincoln's home in Illinois: “ Mollie in one of her letters said that Ella Chews' father had once resided in Springfield and knew the Lincolns—Ella said they were ‘as common as pig-tracks and as poor as Job's turkey.’”
- Oct. 8 **Battle of Perryville.** Braxton Bragg [CS] and Don Carlos Buell [US] fight the largest battle on Kentucky soil. The battle is generally regarded as a draw, and both claimed victory. Less than half of Buell's men participate because he does not know a major battle is taking place less than 2 miles from his headquarters. Confederate General Bragg's retreat shortly after the battle will leave Kentucky, a critically important border state, in Union hands for the rest of the Civil War.
- Oct. 9 **TN** Affair near Humboldt.
- Oct. 10 **TN** Skirmish at Medon Station.
- Oct. 13 **TN** Skirmish on Lebanon Road near Nashville.
- Oct. 15 **TN** Skirmish at Neely's Bend on the Cumberland River.
- Oct. 17 **TN** Skirmish at Island No. 10.
- Oct. 19 **TN** “The Secesh women were frantic with joy when [Gen/ Edmund] Kirby Smith's army arrived [in Lexington]—they even went to the absurd length of hugging and kissing the horses of the soldiers.... At Columbia the ladies rushed out to meet the soldiers, and told them to destroy the town if necessary rather than yield it to the Yankees. At Nashville, when the LaVergne prisoners were taken in, beautiful women rushed from their houses and caught the hands of the poor fellows, blessing them and pouring out words of commendation and comfort. Some even embraced them as brothers.” [*Lucy Virginia French journal*]
- Oct. 20 **TN** “We have always heard that this is the freest country on earth. Forever and forever let me contradict it. Imagine a lamb in the jaws of a lion and it will give you as good an idea of our liberty as you can well have. . . . About the time that Gen. [John Hunt] Morgan established his head-quarters at Hartsville, the war on the part of the Yankees assumed the form of a silk-dress war! One party that was

at Gallatin said to a friend of mine, ‘I never ran in my life and I did from Morgan at Gallatin, but I paid them for it.’ ‘How?’ said the lady. ‘I took four silk dresses from one house.’ The war has now come down to ladies’ underclothing. . . . God bless you all in Dixie—A Rebel”

- “ **TN** Skirmishes on Gallatin Pike near Nashville; and at Hermitage Ford.
- Oct. 21 **TN** Skirmishes at Collierville and at Woodville.
- Oct. 22 C.S. cavalry troops capture Loudon, Kentucky.
- Oct. 22-25 **TN** U.S. forces move to capture Waverly; several skirmishes occur.
- Oct. 23 **TN** Skirmishes at Galloway Switch; at Hickory; near Richland Creek; at Shelby Depot.
- Oct. 24 **TN** Skirmish near White Oak Springs.
Don Carlos Buell [US] is relieved of command from the Army of the Ohio for his failure to pursue Bragg [CS] following the Battle of Perryville. William Starke Rosecrans is ordered to replace him.
- Oct. 26 **TN** Lucy Virginia French writes in her journal: “The days are indeed dark and gloomy. Politics seem to be running high at the North—the Democrats are taking up the cudgels against the Republicans, and if one knew how to count on Yankee demonstrations we might infer ... that Lincoln would be shortly deposed, and sent home in disgrace.... McClellan has forbidden the discussion of politics in his army! The whole North is said to be groaning under the reign of terror inaugurated by the Radicals.”
- Oct. 28 **TN** Skirmish near Waverly.
- Nov. 2 **TN** Lucy Virginia French writes in her journal: “I am writing now, sitting by the front room window, and as I look up I see a long train of artillery—baggage wagons and cavalry passing down towards Murfreesboro.... [The] whole army is pressing toward Nashville.... The “Chattanooga Rebel” of yesterday says that there is no provisions there for travelers—and no sleeping place—the last hotel being taken for a military hospital”
- Nov. 3-5 **TN** Forrest moves on Nashville as Morgan attacks Edgefield. Forrest’s troops engage five companies of the 5th Tennessee cavalry on Franklin Pike on Nov. 5.
- Nov. 7 Lincoln relieves Gen. McClellan of command of the Army of the Potomac. General Ambrose Burnside is appointed to replace him.
- “ **TN** Skirmishes at Gallatin, Tyree Springs, and White Range.
- Nov. 8 **TN** Skirmish on the Cumberland River near Gallatin.
- Nov. 9 **TN** Skirmishes at Lebanon and at Silver Springs.
- Nov. 12 **TN** Capture of courier station on the Stones River.
- Nov. 13 **TN** Skirmish near Nashville. Grant starts toward Vicksburg from Tennessee, but Forrest’s raids slow his progress. Gen. William Rosecrans replaces Buell as commander of the Army of the Cumberland. Bragg’s army moves to

Murfreesboro.

- Nov. 17 Burnside reaches the north bank of the Rappahannock River, across from Fredericksburg. Within three or four days, Lee's army will have entrenched in a defensive position.
- Nov. 18 **TN** Skirmishes at Double Bridge and at Rural Hill.
- Nov. 22 **TN** The Memphis Relief Organization makes a valiant effort to provide food and shelter to the poor. During the previous week, the group has supplied 405 approved applicants with 1285 pounds of flour, 555 pounds of bacon, 64 pounds of soap, 8 cords of wood, and more. [Brock, p. 147] Dealing with poverty and crime continues to be a challenge as more and more refugees come into the city, many starving and ill; hundreds will die.
- Nov. 25 **TN** Capture of Henderson's Station on the Mobile and Ohio Railroad; skirmish at Clarksville.
- Nov. 26 **TN** Skirmish near Somerville.
- Nov. 26-27 **TN** Skirmish at LaVergne.
- Nov. 26-30 **TN** Operations about Springfield.
- Nov. 27 **TN** Skirmish at Mill Creek.
- Nov. 28 **TN** Skirmishes on Carthage Road near Hartsville and Rome.
- Nov. 30 **Stonewall Jackson** arrives at Fredericksburg from the Shenandoah Valley.
- Dec. 1-3 **TN** Skirmish near Nolensville and attack on Union forage train, Harding Pike. e.
- Dec. 4 **TN** Skirmish near Holly Tree Gap on Franklin Pike. Capture of outpost, Stewart's Ferry on the Stones River.
- Dec. 7 In the **Battle of Prairie Grove**, the Union secures northern Arkansas.
- “ **TN** Skirmish near Kimbrough's Mill, Mill Creek. Morgan attacks Federals at Hartsville, takes prisoners.
- “ **TN** Work on **Fort Negley**, the largest Union fort west of Washington, D.C., is completed. The Fort is constructed over a three-month period by Union soldiers and hundreds of black workers – free and slave – who have been conscripted into service [<http://www.bonps.org/neg.htm>] in what is probably the first large-scale use of contraband labor in Tennessee during the war. Most are never paid; with little food, shelter, or appropriate clothing, many of these workers will die. The construction of Fort Negley becomes a model for future projects as Union troops, lacking labor, impress black men into service and work them mercilessly. [Hunt]
- “ **TN** “The bareness to which we are reduced [would] have seemed to me two years ago as incredible. We live on wheat, coffee, pork or goat meat, bread (both corn and wheat,) and we have a few potatoes and turnips, and one cow. . . . Butter is 1.00 per lb. and eggs 1.50 per dozen. No sugar, no molasses, a little dried fruit, and some in cans, but nothing to sweeten it with.” [Lucy Virginia French, journal]

- Dec. 9 **TN** Skirmishes at Dobbins' Ferry near LaVergne, and near Brentwood.
- Dec. 10 **TN** Forrest is ordered to raid West Tennessee to relieve pressure on C.S. forces in Mississippi.
- Dec. 11 **TN** C.S. President Jefferson Davis visits Army of Tennessee in Murfreesboro. Skirmishes occur at LaVergne and near Nashville. Meanwhile, Nathan Bedford Forrest leaves Columbia, Tennessee in an attempt to disrupt Ulysses S. Grant's line of communication in the advance on Vicksburg.
- “ Burnside crosses the Rappahannock begins a series of repeated frontal assaults On Lee's lines.
- Dec. 11-12 **TN** Skirmishes at Franklin and on Wilson Creek Pike.
- Dec. 13 Battle of Fredericksburg. When Burnside attacks Lee's fortified position, Lee leads the Confederate troops to a decisive win, inflicting heavy Union losses.
- Dec. 14 **TN** Attack on forage train and skirmish, Franklin Pike near Nashville.
- Dec. 15 The badly beaten Army of the Potomac withdraws across the Rappahannock.
- Dec. 17 **TN** Forrest crosses Tennessee River at Clifton, beginning raids into West Tennessee.
- Dec. 18 **TN** Forrest attacks a detachment of Union cavalry east of Lexington, taking prisoners, supplies, and artillery.
- Dec. 19 **TN** Affair at Spring Creek; Forrest demonstrates in front of Jackson while detachments destroy railroads and bridges.
- Dec. 20 C.S. General Earl Van Dorn captures Federal supply depot at Holly Springs, MS.
- “ **TN** Capture of Humboldt and Trenton by C.S.A. troops under Forrest; C.S. attacks Grand Junction.
- Dec. 21 **TN** Forrest moves to Union City, capturing Union forces at Rutherford Station and Kenton Station and destroying railroads; skirmish on Wilson Creek Pike.
- Dec. 23-24 **TN** Series of skirmishes near Nashville.
- Dec. 24 **TN** Skirmish at Middleburg.
- Dec. 25 **TN** Skirmishes at Prim's Blacksmith Shop, Edmonson Pike; and on Wilson Creek Pike between Brentwood and Petersburg.
- Dec. 25-29 Union Generals Sherman and Porter attack Gen. John Pemberton above Vicksburg, but are forced to withdraw. This is the beginning of the Operations against Vicksburg, which will culminate in Grant's Vicksburg Campaign, March to July 1863, now considered one of the masterpieces of American military history, as well as the turning point of the Civil War.
- Dec. 26 **TN** Forrest captures Dresden; skirmishes at Knob Gap, LaVergne, and Franklin; beginning of Murfreesboro/Stones River Campaign.

- Dec. 26-30 **TN** Series of skirmishes at and near LaVergne.
- Dec. 27 John Hunt Morgan attacks Elizabethton, Kentucky.
- “ **TN** Skirmishes at Stewart’s Creek Bridge on Murfreesboro Pike, and at Triune; Forrest moves on McKenzie, learns of Federal pursuit.
- Dec. 28 **TN** Skirmish at Perkins Mill on Elk Fork.
- “ **TN** “We had to be ‘Santa Claus’ ourselves this season for cakes, apples, a little candy, and some picture books were all that could be procured for the children. We had to tell them Santa Claus could not get thro’ the pickets—Jessie wanted to know why ‘the old fellow couldn’t go to his Quartermaster and get him a pass?’ They seemed to enjoy their Christmas quite as well as usual however, notwithstanding that Santa Claus was blockaded.”
- Dec. 29 **TN** Forrest arrives at Parker’s Crossroads and sets up camp; Military Governor Andrew Johnson shuts down Nashville newspapers; U.S. Brigadier General Samuel Carter raids East Tennessee, destroying railroad bridges at Zollicoffer and Carter’s Depot; skirmishes at Lizzards and Wilkinson’s Cross-Roads.
- Dec. 29-30 **TN** Skirmishes at and near Murfreesboro.
- Dec. 30 John Hunt Morgan fights U.S. forces at New Haven. Kentucky.
- “ **TN** Rosecrans moves toward Murfreesboro; C.S. General Joseph Wheeler makes a raid against Rosecrans, going completely around the Federal Army; skirmishes at Jefferson and Rock Spring; capture of Union, Tennessee; destruction of Watauga Bridge.
- Dec. 31 **TN** Forrest fights at Parker’s Cross-Roads/Red Mound trying to break through a Federal line after successful raids on Grant’s supply lines and communications. As he begins to drive the Union troops back, he is attacked from behind by Gen. Jeremiah Sullivan. Surrounded, Forrest fights his way out and escapes, but loses nearly 300 men.
- “ **TN Battle of Murfreesboro (Stones River)** begins. Bragg’s army pushes Federals back to the Nashville Turnpike. Skirmish at Overall’s Creek.
- “ **TN** “This has been a most eventful day. At daylight this morning very heavy cannonading was heard in the direction of Murfreesboro.... About 1 P.M. it was less frequent and seemed fainter—could it be that our [gallant] fellows were driving the Vandal before them?... Darlin’ [her pet name for her husband John] went into town [McMinnville] and came home about 11 o’clock with glorious news.... [Our troops] had whipped the enemy—loss heavy on both sides.... I could scarcely keep from crying for joy when Darlin’ told me the news.... I could not sleep for thinking of the poor fellows who were lying on the battlefield—some cold in death —others shivering with cold and writhing in pain.... [But] who was there with a warm glance to cheer their last agonizing hours?... The surgeons are busy tonight—the little city of Murfreesboro is full of the wounded. God help them!” [Lucy Virginia French, journal]
- “ The ironclad USS *Monitor* sinks in heavy seas near Cape Hatteras. Although boats manage to remove most of the crew under extremely hazardous conditions,

16 of the crew of 62 are lost with the ship. [Naval Historical Center webpage]

- Dc. 31-Jn. 2 **TN Battle of Stones River** (also known as the Second Battle of Murfreesboro). Of the major battles, Stones River has the highest percentage of casualties on both sides. Although there is no clear victor, the Union Army's defense against two Confederate attacks and the subsequent Confederate withdrawal gives a much-needed boost to Union morale after their loss at Fredericksburg, and dashes Confederate hopes for control of Middle 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.

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