

Timetable

Vicksburg

1814 -- The Rev. Newet Vick and his family move to the northern part of what would become Warren County of Mississippi.

1825 -- Vicksburg is chartered, 8 years after Mississippi becomes the nation's 20th state.

January 9, 1861 -- Mississippi elects to leave the Federal government.

March 1862 -- Union forces capture New Madrid .

April 6, 1862 -- U.S. Grant is in command of the Union army during the battle of Shiloh. Shortly thereafter Henry Halleck reduces Grant's command responsibilities. Discouraged, Grant contemplates resignation but Sherman encourages Grant to remain.

April 1862 -- Union forces capture Island No. 10 on the Mississippi River.

April 24, 1862 -- Commodore David Farragut's Union flotilla steams past Forts Jackson and St. Phillip, two massive bastions protecting the mouths of The Mississippi River below New Orleans, the South's largest city and most important seaport which falls into Union hands the next day.

May 1862 -- Another important river port, Baton Rouge, Louisiana, falls without a fight.

May 26, 1862 -- Commodore David Farragut commences two days of shelling of Vicksburg. Confederate gunners ignore the bombardment, saving their ammunition and keeping their artillerymen fresh in case of an enemy landing.

June 1862 -- Halleck considers advancing toward Vicksburg but instead divides his forces against other objectives.

July 1862 -- Grant is restored to command when Halleck is called to Washington.

October 9, 1862 -- John C. Pemberton arrives at Jackson, Mississippi, to take command of the Confederate military district that includes Vicksburg.

November 1862 -- Grant makes Vicksburg the chief target of Union efforts in the Mississippi Valley.

Early December, 1862 -- Grant takes the university town of Oxford, Mississippi, before discovering a strong line of fortifications along the river.

Late December, 1862 -- Nathan Bedford Forrest strikes against Grant's thin line of supplies in western Tennessee while destroying the rail line carrying supplies from Paducah, Kentucky.

December 20, 1862 -- Earl Van Dorn leads a cavalry force of 2,500 to destroy Grant's advance supply base at Holly Springs, thus making Grant's first attempt against Vicksburg become impractical.

Already embarking on a second attempt, Grant sends Sherman from Memphis in conjunction with Adm. David Porter's gunboats.

December 26, 1862 -- The transports enter the Yazoo River a few miles above Vicksburg with Sherman's troops intent upon bluffs that border upon Vicksburg.

December 27, 1862 -- At Chickasaw Bayou Sherman launches an assault against Confederate infantry that is entrenched at the base of the ridges with supporting artillery deployed at the top.

December 29, 1862 -- Realizing any further assaults were useless, Sherman orders his troops to withdraw.

January 2, 1863 -- Sherman's force leaves the Yazoo.

March 31, 1863 -- After four other attempts to reach Vicksburg have failed, Grant begins sliding his army south on the west side of the Mississippi River.

April 2, 1863 -- To create a distraction, Sherman sends a division inland from Greenville, Mississippi, toward the heart of the Confederates' commissary supply area.

April 10, 1863 -- As another feint, Grant sends 2,000 infantrymen on mules on a so-called "Mule March" to threaten Southern railroads. Although several problems arose this raid diverts Forrest away from Vicksburg.

April 16, 1863 -- Late during the night Porter's large flotilla steams downstream past Vicksburg amid a ferocious exchange of gunfire.

April 17, 1863 -- Grant sends 1,700 marauding cavalrymen, under Benjamin Grierson, on a marauding expedition through Confederate territory east of Vicksburg.

Grant also orders Sherman to make a diversionary feint toward Haines' Bluff, approximately 30 miles north of Vicksburg.

April 22, 1863 -- Another Union flotilla loaded with provisions and ammunitions is able to get past Vicksburg, giving Grant the means to ferry his army across the Mississippi River.

April 24, 1863 -- Greirson's raiders reach Newton, Mississippi, after severing the Southern Railroad that connected Jackson and Vicksburg with points elsewhere. These raids east of the Mississippi River divert Confederate attention away from Grant's activities west of the Mississippi.

April 29, 1863 -- Sherman revisits Snyder's Bluff on the Yazoo River "to make all the show possible."

At Grand Gulf, 25 miles downstream from Vicksburg, to create another distraction six Federal gunboats bombard Grand Gulf.

April 30, 1863 -- After ferrying his army across at Bruinsburg, Mississippi, 35 miles south of Vicksburg, Grant completes his crossing of the Mississippi River and begins to move toward Port Gibson, 10 miles inland.

May 1, 1863 -- The opposing forces engage in the Battle of Port Gibson before Federal forces wrest control from the overwhelmed Confederates.

Pemberton moves his headquarters from Jackson to Vicksburg.

May 2, 1863 -- Arriving at Baton Rouge, Greirson completes his 600 mile raid and reports among other things that the South has lost 50 miles of rail line plus 3,000 guns.

May 4, 1863 -- After the Confederates evacuate Grand Gulf, Grant's Federals claim this strategic river location.

May 6, 1863 -- Northern and Southern forces clash at Tupelo.

May 7, 1863 -- Having giving up his feint at Snyder's Bluff, Sherman begins transporting his corps across the Mississippi at Grand Gulf.

May 10, 1863 -- McPherson's corps, on Grant's right wing, reaches Utica.

May 12, 1863 -- As McPherson advances northward along Utica Road, the opposing forces engage in the Battle of Raymond, 12 miles west by southwest of Jackson, before the Confederates are forced to withdraw after a fierce battle.

May 13, 1863 -- Grant organizes his army to move east toward Jackson.

After being ordered by CSA Secretary of War Seddon to take personal charge, Joe Johnston arrives in Jackson, Mississippi. Later after being briefed on the military situation, Johnston wires Richmond that Grant is on the move between Jackson and Vicksburg and the he (Johnston) is "too late."

May 14, 1863 -- Grant captures Jackson, Grant lodging in the same hotel room where Johnston had stayed the previous evening.

Grant burns Jackson to the ground, destroying the railroad depot, freight yards, standing trains, along with foundries, machine shops, and factories.

Federal forces under Nathaniel Banks head for Port Hudson, considered to be the second most important Confederate position of the Mississippi.

May 16, 1863 -- After leaving Sherman to finish the destruction at Jackson, Grant and the Confederates, under the command of John C. Pemberton, meet at Champion Hill, 15 miles from Vicksburg. The Confederates end up retreating in disorder to the safety of Vicksburg.

May 17, 1863 -- To try to slow Grant's advance, the Rebels attempt to burn the bridge across the Big Black River.

By evening order has been restored in Vicksburg where the defeated Confederate army has hastily retreated.

May 18, 1863 -- Sherman captures Haines' Bluff, the only remaining escape from Vicksburg, before beginning to cross the Big Black River, ten miles east of Vicksburg.

May 19, 1863 -- Grant's entire army begins advancing toward Vicksburg, destroying everything in its path. In 17 days Grant's army had marched 180 miles through enemy territory while fighting and winning five battles. However, Grant's assault against Vicksburg's fortifications was repulsed.

May 21, 1863 -- The Union siege of Port Hudson begins.

May 22, 1863 -- Grant orders an all-out attack preceded by a heavy bombardment from 200 artillery pieces. Again the Rebel defenders repulsed this attack.

May 25, 1863 -- A short truce is arranged so that the dead and wounded could be removed from the battlefield.

Johnston sends a telegram to Pemberton asking for information on the disposition of Grant's army.

June 15, 1863 -- Johnston and Seddon exchange telegrams about the possibility of relieving Vicksburg.

June 25, 1863 -- After a powerful explosion from a tunnel dug by Union soldiers tears a hole through the Confederate fortifications the ensuing attack by Federal soldiers fails.

July 1, 1863 -- Another underground mine is detonated under a Confederate fort, which was destroyed, but no attempt is made to assault the gap.

July 3, 1863 -- Johnston has marched to Big Black River in a futile attempt to save Vicksburg.

July 4, 1863-- Pemberton surrenders Vicksburg allowing the Federal army to enter the city by midmorning. Grant captures 31,000 prisoners plus 172 cannon and 60,000 rifles. The prisoners taken at Vicksburg are in addition to the 6,000 taken in the campaign prior to the siege for a total loss of 43,000 Confederate casualties vs Federal losses of less than 10,000 for the entire campaign.

Sherman heads east in pursuit of Johnston.

July 5, 1863 -- Upon learning of the surrender of Vicksburg Johnston returns to Jackson to dig in.

July 8, 1863 -- Port Hudson surrenders thus giving the Union complete control of the Mississippi River.

July 11, 1863 -- Upon being paroled the Confederate soldiers are marched out of Vicksburg. By the time they reach Confederate lines two days later most have deserted.