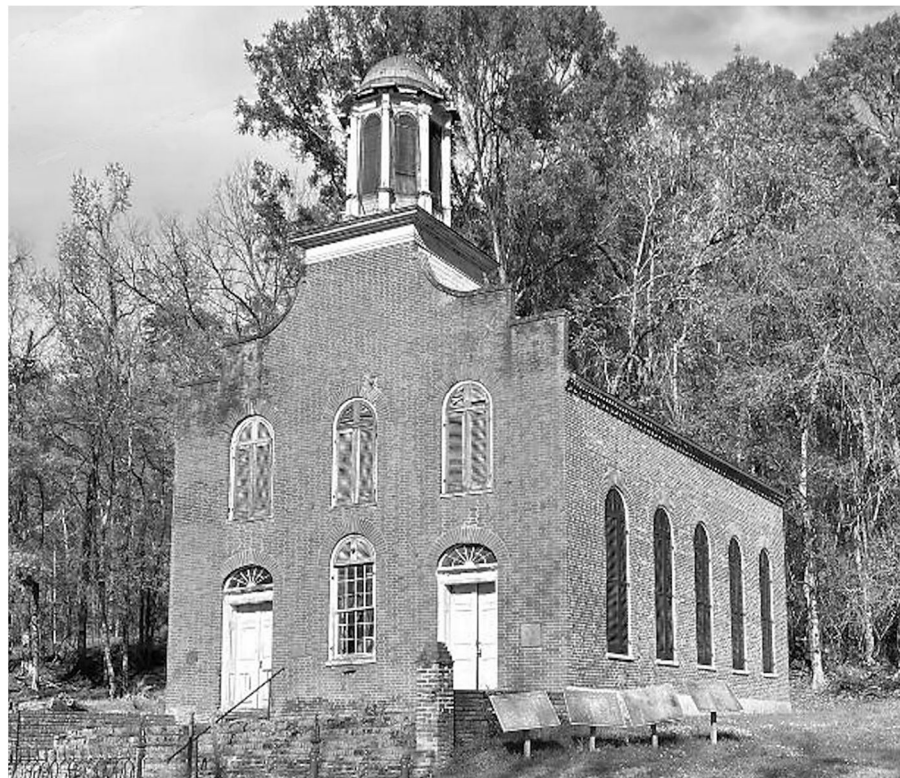


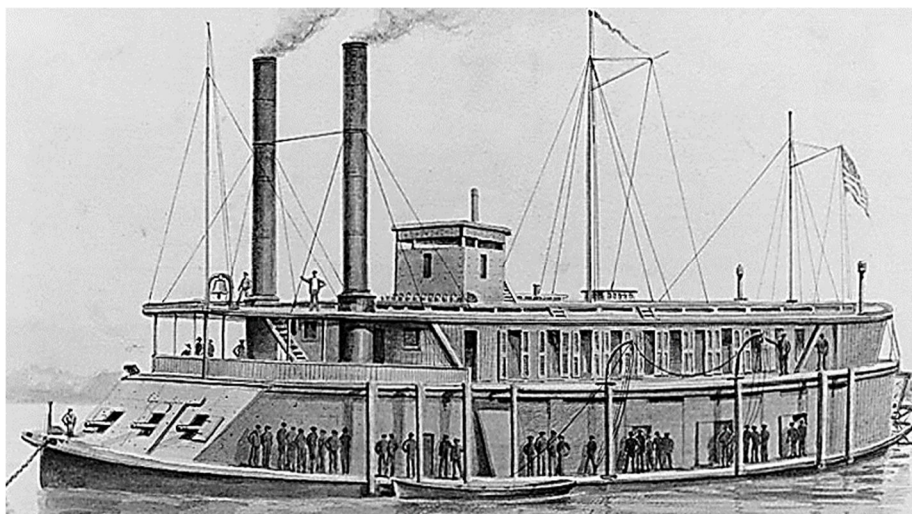
PART VI

Vicksburg's Peacemakers Conclude the Matter

*On the Warrior's Trail with
the Triumvirate Forged at Vicksburg
September 1863-December 1865*



The Rodney, Miss., Presbyterian Church where *U.S.S. Rattler* sailors were captured.
(ALB)



The *U.S.S. Rattler* and crew, many of whom were captured in the church service.
(USNHHC)

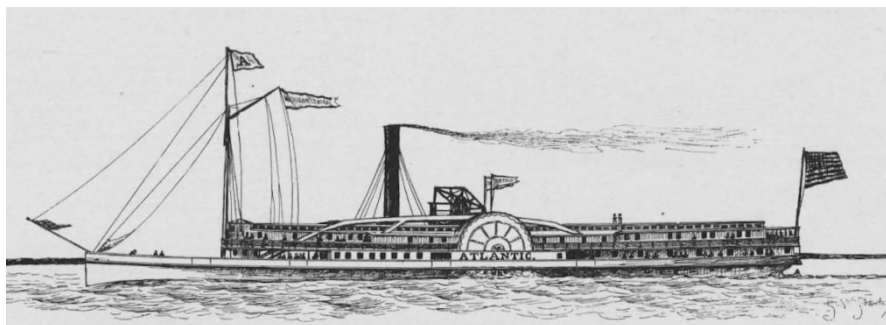
PART VI

Vicksburg's Peacemakers Conclude the Matter

September 1863

- 4** Nathaniel Banks holds a grand review for Grant in New Orleans. Grant is severely injured when his nervous horse falls with him.
- 7** Joe Johnston sends his idle 9,000 troops from Mississippi to Bragg. Lee prepares to send Longstreet with two divisions to Bragg.
- 10** Little Rock, Ark., falls, sending its Confederate government into exile.
- 13** Halleck directs Grant and available troops to Chattanooga, Tenn.
- 15** Confederate scouts briefly capture many of the *U.S.S. Rattler's* crew attending church services at Rodney, Miss.
*Acting Capt. Walter Fentress is the **only U.S. Navy officer ever captured by Confederate cavalry.***
- 18** Longstreet's forces begin to arrive in Tennessee to support Bragg.
Bragg's 62,000 hit disorganized U.S. forces south of Chattanooga.
- 21** C.S. Brig. Gen. Benjamin Hardin Helm, Lincoln's brother-in-law, is killed at Chickamauga, Ga., leading the 1st Kentucky Brigade, the *Orphan Brigade*.
His widow is the former Emilie Todd.
Lincoln seeks Emilie's forgiveness for Helm's death.
- 22** Kirby Smith orders Vicksburg parolees in his area reorganized.
- 23** Col. Leon Marks, 27th La., dies in Shreveport, La., from June wounds.
- 27** Sherman and the 13th U.S. Infantry depart Vicksburg aboard the steamer *Atlantic*.
His family entourage includes son Willie, ill with diarrhea.
Sherman had convinced Ellen to let the boy join him at Camp Sherman on the Big Black River where it was "*free of fever.*"

The War Department gives the Army jurisdiction over the Mississippi Marine Brigade.



The Steamship *Atlantic*, often used by the 13th U.S. Infantry.

By Samuel Ward Stanton, *American Steam Vessels*.

September 1863 (Cont.)

- 30** The Shermans and surgeons are desperately caring for Willie. The *Atlantic* is a slow-moving boat. The surgeon of the 55th Illinois is personally attending Willie.

October 1863

- 1** Johnston's hatred of Davis is at a boiling point.
- 2** 10:30 p.m. – The Sherman family finally arrives in Memphis.
- 3** 5:00 p.m. – Willie Sherman dies in Memphis of typhoid fever.
- 4** A 13th U.S. Infantry funeral procession carries their beloved mascot *Sgt. Willie* to the waterfront. The family boards the *Grey Eagle* for passage to Cairo, Ill. Sherman remains in Memphis.
- Sherman to Grant: *"I cannot but must and will compose myself."*
- 6** Sherman:
"All the ambition I ever had was based on the future of that child."
- 10** Ten generals sign a petition to Davis for Braxton Bragg's removal. Sherman in grief to Ellen: *"Why was I not killed at Vicksburg?"*
- 11** A devastated Sherman departs Memphis by special train for Corinth, Miss. Brig. Gen. James Chalmers attacks Sherman's train and garrison at Collierville, Tenn.
- 13** Davis is personally seeking a Corps position for Pemberton. He drops the idea when a *mutiny of the Army* is threatened.
- 14** Grant passes Memphis by boat enroute to Cairo. Logan breaks camp at Vicksburg to move toward Canton, Miss.
- 16** Grant meets with Secretary of War William Stanton in Indiana. He is given command of the Military Division of the Mississippi.

October 1863 (Cont.)

- 16 Sherman assumes command of the Army of the Tennessee.
Grant assigns the Army of the Cumberland to George Thomas.
- 17 McPherson's diversion to Canton, Miss., helps relieve pressure on
George Thomas at Chattanooga, Tenn.
- 19 Grant to Thomas: "*Hold Chattanooga at all costs.*"
- 20 Still on crutches, Grant is assisted onto the train to Chattanooga.
- 22 Grant is strapped to his horse, riding over the most terrible roads.
- 23 Grant arrives at Thomas' headquarters at Chattanooga in pain.
- 26 Grant makes a brazen move to break the siege on his forces.
Grant's move is every bit *as bold as running the Vicksburg batteries*.
- 27 The *Cracker Line* to Union forces near Chattanooga is finally open.

Grant orders the use of contrabands as noncombatants.
They will be paid, then clothed and cared for out of their pay.

The Battle of Wauhatchie, Tenn., October 28, 1864

- 28 Maj. Gen. Hooker protects the Union supply line at Brown's Ferry.

Grant is fighting Julia's *cousin*, his own *best man*, James Longstreet.

Runaway Union mules sound like a mad Union charge.
Longstreet's soldiers retreat away from the noise of the mules.
The mules are recommended for brevet promotion *to horses*.

November 1863

- 14 Sherman arrives ahead of his army to a *beaming, jovial* Grant.
- 19 Sherman's leading divisions arrive in Chattanooga.
- 20 Vicksburg's parolees in Louisiana are to report to Alexandria, La.
- 23 George Thomas' Corps pushes 634 Confederates off of Orchard
Knob.
The victory proves that Braxton Bragg still has a viable fighting
force.
The hill will serve as Grant's Missionary Ridge observation post.

The Battle of Lookout Mountain, Ga., November 24, 1863

- 24 Maj. Gen. Carter Stevenson is defeated by Maj. Gen. Joe Hooker.
The victory sets Hooker on Stevenson's left flank for the next day.

The Battle of Missionary Ridge, Tenn., November 25, 1863

- 25 The usually calm Grant is nervous.
Arthur McArthur, bearing the 24th Wisconsin banner, calls
"*On Wisconsin!*"
Grant wins the impromptu 50-minute assault.

November 1863 (Cont.)

- 25** Col. Holden Putnam, 93rd Illinois, is killed on Missionary Ridge. Holden replaced Col. George Boomer in the assault at Vicksburg. Confederates lose 40 precious artillery pieces captured.
- Casualties:**
U.S., 753 K, 4,722 W, 349 C/M
C.S., 361 K, 2,160 W, 4,146 C/M
- 27** Davis asks Congress to increase slave personnel to release whites for other duties.
- Sherman must march in haste 85 miles to Knoxville, Tenn., to save Maj. Gen. Ambrose Burnside who is besieged.
- 29** Burnside pushes Longstreet back at Knoxville.

December 1863

- 1** Davis temporarily replaces Braxton Bragg with William Hardee.
- 7** Davis is trying to convince Robert E. Lee to go South. Lee will, if ordered. Lee convinces him to restore Johnston to command over Beauregard.
- 8** Lincoln publishes his *Proclamation of Amnesty and Reconstruction*. Its pardons and land restoration omits the highest Confederate officials. It allows new state governments where 10% of voters sign oaths of allegiance. Readmitted states could develop freedmen plans that respect their freedoms.
- Davis' response to the Proclamation is publicly defiant.
- 16** Davis to Johnston: "*Assume command of the Army of Tennessee.*"
- 22** Brig. Gen. Sul Ross departs the Big Black River to deliver rifles to Kirby Smith and the Trans-Mississippi Dept.
- 25** Sherman, home for Christmas, is amazed at Grant's popularity.
- Congress passes Joint Resolutions for Vicksburg and Chattanooga. A 1-lb. gold medal is authorized for Grant *in the name of the people of the United States*.
- 31** Under orders from Sherman, the Lum House is destroyed. Grant had promised the Lum family when he departed Vicksburg that it would be spared.

January 1864

- 16** C.S. Maj. Gen. Patrick Cleburne supports the idea of slave soldiers. He is condemned by Tennessee Gov. Isham Harris.

January 1864 (Cont.)

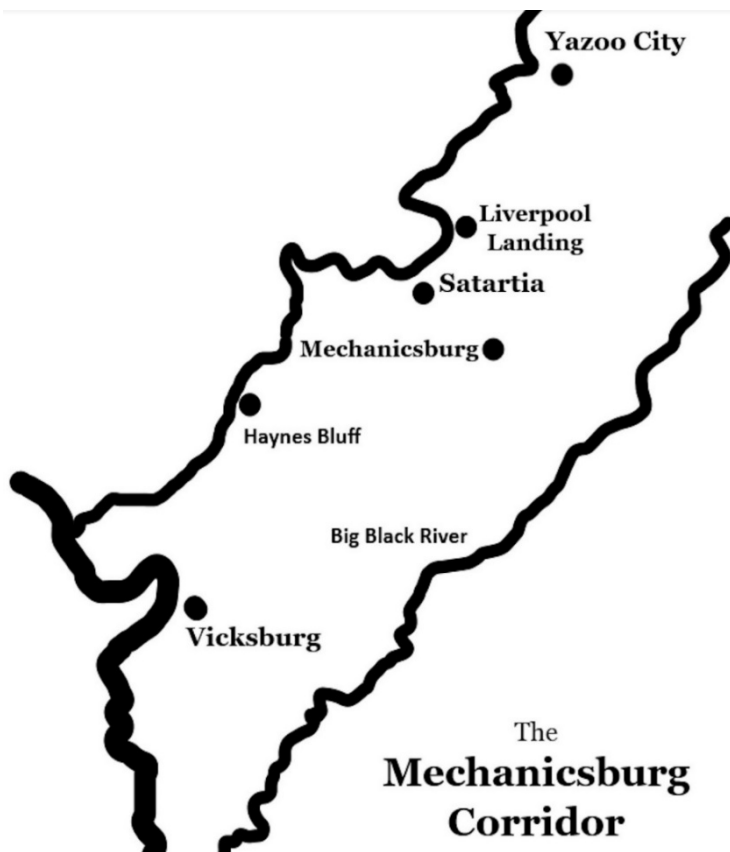
- 17 Sherman to McPherson: “*Control the Mississippi River raiders.*”
Fred Grant is stricken with typhoid fever, Willie Sherman’s killer.
- 19 Sherman shares his idea of destroying railroads with RAdm. Porter.
His focus is Mississippi’s Meridian-to-Jackson RR.
- 21 McPherson orders Yazoo River ferries destroyed to block guerillas.
- 28 Sherman arrives in Vicksburg to meet with McPherson.
- 30 U.S. troops are picked to busy Sul Ross’ Yazoo River cavalry raiders.
They may take cotton as prizes and burn anything not wanted.
- 31 Sherman’s Meridian Campaign prevents him from joining the Red
River Campaign led by Nathaniel Banks.

February 1864

- 1 The Confederate Army has no bayonets.
In winter, only one-third of the shoes needed are available.
Artillery horses are too feeble to move a battery.
There is insufficient food for man or beast.
Johnston believes that starting an offensive is impractical.

Brig. Gen. William Sooy Smith and 7,000 cavalry are ordered by
Sherman to depart Memphis to link up with him at Meridian on
February 10th.
Smith is to destroy Forrest’s cavalry, maintain communications
with Middle Tennessee, and add troops to the Atlanta Campaign.
Nathaniel Banks will stage boats near Mobile, Ala., to occupy area
Confederate forces.
- 2 The U.S. Yazoo Expedition moves up the Yazoo River, with the 3^d
U.S.C.T. Cavalry, 11th Illinois, and 8th Louisiana-African Descent.
Its goal – to distract Forrest from Sherman’s Georgia supply line.
The *U.S.S. Mamora* accompanies the expedition.
- 3 Sherman’s Meridian Expedition and *Mississippi Pacification* begins.
He departs Vicksburg with four divisions (20,000 soldiers).

Sul Ross’ cavalry fires on the Yazoo Expedition at Liverpool Landing.
Two Ross regiments entrench while two go to the Yazoo City road.
- 4 The Yazoo Expedition is again under heavy fire from Sul Ross.
The vessels struggle forward as Ross folds in behind them.
- 5 Realizing the city is heavily armed, the Yazoo Expedition pulls back.
- 6 The Yazoo Expedition backs away and requests the *U.S.S. Louisville*.
- 7 Capt. James Owen’s 1,600 U.S. troops disembark and move on Ross.
Ross, realizing Owen is a feint, departs, taking his units to the east.



February 1864 (Cont.)

- 8 U.S. Brig. Gen. John McArthur is ordered to Yazoo City.
Yazoo City is captured by the Yazoo Expedition.
- 10 *Grant recalls to Julia his broken-down condition three years earlier. Now, he has 700 times the soldiers and will decide the national fate.*
Lt. Gen. Leonidas Polk alerts Richmond of Sherman's movement, possibly against Mobile.
Davis asks Johnston for reinforcements for Polk.
Johnston replies that he cannot weaken his position to help.
- 11 Sooy Smith inexplicably delays **10 days** to begin his march to link up with Sherman.
- 14 Polk believes Sherman's objective is Mobile.
He evacuates Meridian without a fight, moving to Demopolis, Ala.
Sherman's forces reach Meridian.
He gives his soldiers an unmistakably clear order.
"Wipe Meridian off the map."