

U.S. Revenue Cutters and Lighthouse Service in the Civil War

- 6 November 1860 Election of 1860- Republican Abraham Lincoln is elected President of the United States
- 20 December 1860 South Carolina passes an Ordinance of Secession.
- 27 December 1860 *William Aiken* seized by the state of South Carolina. Deemed not sufficiently seaworthy to serve in the Confederate Navy, she was transferred to a group of Charleston business men as a privateer.
- 1861 *Frying Pan Shoals* (NC) Lightship seized/sunk by the state of North Carolina.
- 1861 USLHT *Jasper* (or *Firefly*) seized on the ways during repairs by the state of North Carolina at Wilmington, NC.
- 1861 *Bowler's Rock* (VA) Lightship removed, sunk, or destroyed by Confederate forces.
- 1861 *Roanoke River* (NC) Lightship removed, sunk, or destroyed by Confederate forces.
- 1861 *Rattlesnake Shoal* (SC) Lightship removed, sunk or destroyed by Confederate forces.
- 1861 *Harbor Island* (NC) Lightship removed, sunk, or destroyed by Confederate forces.
- January 1861 USLHT *Helen* seized by the state of South Carolina. As CSS *Helen* the tender served as a supply ship on the coast of Florida
- January 1861 USLHT *Howell Cobb* seized by the state of South Carolina at Charleston, SC.
- 5 January 1861 US steamer *Star of the West*, under Captain John McGowan, former Revenue Marine officer, departed New York with an Army detachment for the relief of Fort Sumter, Charleston Harbor, South Carolina.
- 9 January 1861 Mississippi passes an Ordinance of Secession.
- 10 January 1861 Florida passes an Ordinance of Secession.
- 11 January 1861 Alabama passes an Ordinance of Secession.
- 18 January 1861 USLHT *Alert* seized by the state of Alabama. The cutter was later renamed CSS *Alert*.

- 19 January 1861 Georgia passes an Ordinance of Secession.
- 26 January 1861 Louisiana passes an Ordinance of Secession.
- 29 January 1861 Secretary of the Treasury, John A. Dix issued a dispatch regarding USRC *Robert L. McLelland* whose commander Captain John G. Breshwood was a Southern sympathizer who refused to sail the ship north as ordered. Dix's directive was:
- “Tell [Second] Lieutenant [Samuel B.] Caldwell to arrest Captain Breshwood, assume command of the cutter, and obey the order I gave through you. If Captain Breshwood, after arrest, undertakes to interfere with command of the cutter, tell Lieutenant Caldwell to consider him as a mutineer and treat him accordingly. If anyone attempts to haul down the American flag, shoot him on the spot.”
- Both Breshwood and Caldwell subsequently resigned from the service and pledged loyalty to the Confederacy.
- 30 January 1861 USRC *Lewis Cass* seized at Mobile by the state of Alabama and subsequently renamed CSS *Lewis Cass*.
- 31 January 1861 USRC *Washington* seized by the state of Louisiana
- 1 February 1861 Texas passes an Ordinance of Secession.
- 8 February 1861 The seceded states create the Confederate States of America with Jefferson Davis as temporary President until elections could be held in 1862.
- 14 February 1861 The Provisional Confederate States Congress resolved to allow those officers engaged in the collection of customs duties be confirmed and continue in that capacity
- 16 February 1861 The Provisional Confederate States Congress resolved to allow the continued enforcement of the existing revenue laws against all foreign countries.
- 18 February 1861 USRC *Robert L. McClelland* is seized by the state of Louisiana at New Orleans. The ship is renamed CSS *Pickens*.
- 21 February 1861 Confederate States Navy is established by the Provisional Confederate States Congress.
- 25 February 1861 The Provisional Confederate States Congress established the procedures for the boarding of vessels for the collection of customs duties.
- March 1861 USLHT *William R. King* (or *Knight*) seized by the state of Louisiana at New Orleans. Later the tender was recaptured by CAPT J.E. Jouett, USN and returned to Federal service as a lighthouse tender.

- 2 March 1861 USRC *Henry Dodge* seized by the state of Texas at Galveston. The cutter became a part of the Confederate Quartermaster Department.
- 5 March 1861 Confederate States Lighthouse Bureau is established by the Provisional Confederate Congress. The Chief of the Bureau was to report to the Secretary of the Treasury.
- 20 March 1861 Secretary of the Navy Gideon Welles said that he would put 12 navy vessels under control of the Revenue Service but “the amount in the future would depend on the number of men allowed the Navy.”
- 21 March 1861 Gustavus V. Fox, ex-naval officer now a civilian, reconnoitered Fort Sumter, Charleston Harbor, as directed by President Lincoln, to determine the best means of relieving the Fort. Based on his observations, Fox recommended relieving Sumter by sea: "I propose to put the troops on board of a large, comfortable sea steamer and hire two powerful light draft New York tug boats, having the necessary stores on board. These to be convoyed by the USS *Pawnee* . . . and the revenue cutter *Harriet Lane* . . . Arriving off the bar, I propose to examine by day the naval preparations and obstructions. If their vessels determine to oppose our entrance, and a feint or flag of truce would ascertain this, the armed ships must approach the bar and destroy or drive them on shore. Major Anderson would do the same upon any vessels within the range of his guns and would also prevent any naval succor being sent down from the city."
- April 1861 USLHT *North Wind* seized by the state of Virginia.
- April 1861 *Smith Point* (VA) Lightship sunk by Confederate forces.
- April 1861 *Wolf Trap* (VA) Lightship removed, sunk, or destroyed by Confederate forces.
- April 1861 *York Spit* (VA) Lightship; removed, sunk, or destroyed by Confederate forces.
- April 1861 *Windmill Point* (VA) Lightship removed, sunk, or destroyed by Confederate forces.
- April 1861 *Lower Cedar Point* (MD) Lightship removed, sunk, or destroyed by Confederate forces.
- April 1861 *Upper Cedar Point* (MD) Lightship removed, sunk, or destroyed by Confederate forces.
- 4 April 1861 Raphael Semmes appointed Chef of the Confederate Lighthouse Bureau. He will only serve in this capacity until 18 April 1861. Semmes would later gain great renown as captain of the Confederate raiders CSS *Sumter* and CSS *Alabama*.

- 5 April 1861 USS *Powhatan*, *Pawnee*, *Pocahontas*, and USRC *Harriet Lane* were ordered by Secretary of the Navy Welles to provision Fort Sumter; squadron commander was Captain Samuel Mercer in *Powhatan*. USRC *Harriet Lane* is temporarily transferred to the Navy but commanded and manned by Revenue Marine personnel.
- 8 April 1861 USRC *Harriet Lane*, Captain John Faunce, USRM, departed New York for relief of Fort Sumter.
- 11 April 1861 USRC *John Appleton* turned over to the US Navy at Key West.
- 12 April 1861 USRC *Harriet Lane* fired the first shot from a naval vessel in the Civil War. The cutter fired across the bow of the merchant vessel *Nashville* when the latter attempted to enter Charleston Harbor without displaying the national flag.
- 13 April 1861 With the surrender of Fort Sumter *Harriet Lane* withdrew with her sister ships.
- 17 April 1861 Virginia passes an Ordinance of Secession. It would be ratified by the voters on 23 May 1861.
- 18 April 1861 USLHT *Buchanan* seized by the state of Virginia. USRC *Duane* seized by the citizens of Norfolk, VA. The cutter later becomes CSS *Duane*.
- 19 April 1861 President Lincoln issued proclamation declaring blockade of Southern ports from South Carolina to Texas.
- 20 April 1861 Captain William A. Howard was called back to the US Revenue Marine “to take general charge of arming and equipping and assigning to stations the revenue vessels.” After over-stepping his authority on numerous occasions, Howard subsequently resigned from the Revenue Marine and later joined the Army.
- 24 April 1861 USS *Constitution*, Lieutenant George W. Rodgers, departed with midshipmen on board for New York and Newport, Rhode Island, under tow of USS *R. R. Cyler* with USRC *Harriet Lane* in company to transfer the U.S. Naval Academy.
- 6 May 1861 Arkansas passes an Ordinance of Secession.
- 7 May 1861 Tennessee passes an Ordinance of Secession which is ratified by the voters on 8 June 1861.
- 20 May 1861 North Carolina passes an Ordinance of Secession.
- 31 May 1861 Coast Survey vessels *Bibb*, *Crawford*, and *Agassiz* are transferred to the Revenue Cutter Service.
- 5 June 1861 USRC *Harriet Lane*, Captain Faunce, USRM, engaged Confederate battery at Pig Point, Hampton Roads, VA.

- 19 June 1861 *Henrietta*, a 170-ton schooner which belonged to the New York Yacht Club, is ordered to be equipped as all other revenue cutters. The ship will be commanded by her owner, 3rd LT James Gordon Bennett.
- 28 July 1861 Confederate privateer *Petrel* (formerly-USRC *Aiken*) sunk off Charleston, SC by one 8-inch projectile from the 52-gun USS *St. Lawrence*.
- 20 August 1861 USRC *Crawford* ordered to Hampton Roads, VA to serve under Rear Admiral Silas H. Stringham, USN.
- 23 August 1861 USLHT *Shubrick* is transferred to the Revenue Cutter Service.
- 26 August 1861 Squadron under Flag Officer Stringham, USS *Minnesota*, *Monticello*, *Pawnee*, USRC *Harriet Lane*, US tug *Fanny*, and two transports carrying about 900 troops under Major General Butler, departed Hampton Roads (later joined by USS *Susquehanna* and *Cumberland*) for Hatteras Inlet, NC, for first combined amphibious operation of the war. Hatteras Inlet was the main channel into Pamlico Sound and the most convenient entrance for blockade runners bringing supplies to the Confederate Army in Virginia. The Navy early recognized the strategic importance of the inlet and invited the Army to cooperate in its capture. The operation was designed to check Confederate privateering and to begin the relentless assault from the sea that would divert a large portion of Confederate manpower from the main armies.
- 27 August 1861 Former USLHT *Minot*, now known as CSS *Manassas*, is placed under the command of Lieutenant William H. Murdaugh, CSN by Flag-Officer Samuel Barron, CSN. Though her final disposition is unknown, she is known to have seen service off North Carolina for the Confederates as *Manassas* into early 1862.
- 29 August 1861 USRC *Harriet Lane* ran aground while attempting to enter Pamlico Sound through Hatteras Inlet and suffered severe damage while fast on the shoal. She was refloated at the cost of her armament, rigging, stores, provisions, and everything else on board which could be heaved over the side to lighten the ship.
- 11 September 1861 USRC *Harriet Lane* sold to the US Navy for \$150,000. USRC *Hercules* and *Tiger* are commissioned.
- 17 September 1861 USRC *Corwin* is turned over to the USN. The ship would serve on the Atlantic blockade.
- 12 October 1861 As part of Commodore George N. Hollins' squadron, CSS *Pickens* (formerly USRC *Robert L. McClelland*) under CAPT John G. Breshwood, CSN engages Federal gunboats off Head of Passes on the Mississippi River.
- 14 November 1861 USRC *William L. Marcy* under Captain William C. Pease, USRM seized the Confederate privateer *Neva* at San Francisco, CA.

- 23 November 1861 USRC *Bibb* is decommissioned and returned to the Coast Survey.
- 9 December 1861 USS *Harriet Lane*, Lieutenant Robert H. Wyman, and other vessels of the Potomac Flotilla engaged Confederate forces at Freestone Point, VA.
- 1862 *Horseshoe Shoals* (NC) Lightship removed, sunk, or destroyed by Confederate forces.
- 28 January 1862 British steamer *Lady Le Marchant* bought at New York for \$25,000; vessel is re-named and commissioned as USRC *Miami*.
- 19 February 1862 USRC *Henrietta* arrives at Port Royal, SC.
- 24 February 1862 USRC *Flora* completed.
- 4 March 1862 USRC *Henrietta* participates in the US Navy's capture of Fernandina, FL.
- 5 March 1862 USRC *Marcy* transferred to Coast Survey.
- 11 April 1862 USRC *E.A Stevens (Naugatuck)* exchanged fire with the Confederate ironclad CSS *Virginia* in Hampton Roads.
- 19 April 1862 President Abraham Lincoln along with Secretary of the Treasury Salmon P. Chase, Secretary of War Edwin M. Stanton, Rear Admiral John A. Dahlgren, USN, and other officers steam down the Potomac River to the Army headquarters at Aquia Creek on board USRC *Miami*.
- 20 April 1862 Major General Irvin McDowell comes on board USRC *Miami* to confer with Lincoln after the former's capture of Fredericksburg, VA.
- 25 April 1862 CSS *Pickens* (formerly-USRC *McClelland*) is set afire as Federal forces advance on New Orleans. David Ritchie, a Scottish-born crewman, went on board the ship and removed both the Union flag that elicited the directive from Secretary John A. Dix and the secession flag that replaced it.
- 29 April 1862 USRC *Henrietta* is withdrawn from the Revenue Cutter Service.
- 5 May 1862 USRC *Miami* with Lincoln, Chase, and Stanton on board depart for Hampton Roads, VA. They arrived around 9:00 PM the next day.
- 8 May 1862 USS *Monitor*, *Dacotah*, *Susquehanna*, *Seminole*, and USRC *E.A. Stevens (Naugatuck)* by direction of the President"-shelled Confederate batteries at Sewell's Point, VA as Flag Officer L. M. Goldsborough reported, "mainly with the view of ascertaining the practicability of landing a body of troops thereabouts" to move on Norfolk. Whatever rumors President Lincoln had received

about Confederates abandoning Norfolk were now confirmed; a tug deserted from Norfolk and brought news that the evacuation was well underway and that CSS *Virginia*, with her accompanying small gunboats, planned to proceed up the James or York River. It was planned that when *Virginia* came out, as she had on the 7th, the Union fleet would retire with USS *Monitor* in the rear hoping to draw the powerful but under-engined warship into deep water where she might be rammed by high speed steamers. The bombardment uncovered reduced but considerable strength at Sewell's Point, came out but not far enough to be rammed. Two days later President Lincoln wrote Flag Officer Goldsborough: "I send you this copy of your report of yesterday for the purpose of saying to you in writing that you are quite right in supposing the movement made by you and therein reported was made in accordance with my wishes verbally expressed to you in advance. I avail myself of the occasion to thank you for your courtesy and all your conduct, so far as known to me, during my brief visit here." President Lincoln, acting as Commander-in-Chief in the field at Hampton Roads, also directed Flag Officer Goldsborough: "If you have tolerable confidence that you can successfully contend with the *Merrimack* (sic) without the help of the *Galena* and two accompanying gunboats, send the *Galena* and two gunboats up the James River at once" to support General McClellan. This wise use of power afloat by the President silenced two shore batteries and forced gunboats CSS *Jamestown* and *Patrick Henry* to return up the James River.

- 11 May 1862 USRC *Miami* supports the landing of Federal troops at Ocean View, VA. Shortly thereafter, Federal forces captured Norfolk, VA.
- 13 May 1862 Schooner *Anna Deane* was captured by Rear Admiral Samuel F. Du Pont, USN while attempting to run the blockade. The prize was given to the Lighthouse Service and named for her captor, USLHT *Du Pont*. The tender served in the 6th Lighthouse District.
- 15 May 1862 USRC *E.A. Stevens (Naugatuck)* participated in the bombardment of Drewry's Bluff (James River) after accompanying USS *Monitor* in its engagement with CSS *Virginia* and engaging in an attack on Sewell's Point.
- 27 June 1862 USRC *Forward* reports to station at Beaufort, NC.
- 3 October 1862 Naval forces under Commander William B. Renshaw in USS *Westfield*, including USS *Harriet Lane*, *Owasco*, *Clifton*, and mortar schooner *Henry James*, bombarded and captured the defenses of the harbor and city of Galveston. Six days later, Galveston formally surrendered to Commander Renshaw. Rear Admiral Farragut reported to Secretary of the Navy Welles: I am happy to in-form you that Galveston, Corpus Christi, and Sabine City and the adjacent waters are now in our possession. ...All we want, as I have told the Department in my last dispatches, is a few soldiers to hold the places, and we will soon have the whole coast."

The failure to have a sizeable effective Marine Corps to send ashore in conjunction with fleet operations reduced considerably the effectiveness of the Navy and may have lengthened the war.

- 18 November 1862 USRC *Reliance* under CAPT Thomas M. Dungan fires at a reported battery in the vicinity of Urbana, VA. Dungan is later reprimanded for firing without proper authorization.
- 23 December 1862 USRC *Agassiz* leaves New London, CT for New Bern, NC to serve as part of a revenue cutter "task force" on blockading duty. The cutters *Forward*, *Brown*, and *Antietam* also served as part of this force during the war.
- 1 January 1863 Confederate warships under Major Leon Smith, CSA, defeated Union blockading forces at Galveston in a fierce surprise attack combined with an assault ashore by Confederate troops that resulted in the capture of the Union Army company stationed there. Smith's flotilla included the improvised cotton-clad gunboats CSS *Bayou City* and *Neptune*, with army sharpshooting boarding parties embarked, and tenders *John F. Carr* and *Lucy Gwin*. The Union squadron under Commander William B. Renshaw, USS *Harriet Lane*, *Owasco*, *Corypheus*, *Sachem*, *Clifton*, and *Westfield*, were aware of the Confederate forces for several hours. In the ensuing fight, *Harriet Lane*, Commander Jonathan M. Wainwright, put up a gallant fight. She rammed *Bayou City*, but without much damage. In turn she was rammed by *Neptune*, which was so damaged by the resulting impact and a shot from *Harriet Lane* taken at the waterline that she sank in 8 feet of water. *Bayou City*, meanwhile, turned and rammed *Harriet Lane* so heavily that the two ships could not be separated. The troops from the cotton-clad clambered over the bulwarks to board *Harriet Lane*. Commander Wainwright was killed in the wild hand-to-hand combat and his ship was captured. After serving the Confederate Army's Marine Department of Texas, she was sold to T. W. House, who converted her into a blockade runner named *Lavinia*.
- 10 January 1863 Under orders from Farragut to "reestablish the blockade as soon as you can" at Galveston, Commodore Henry H. Bell in USS *Brooklyn*, with other ships in company, bombarded the port. Because of the danger of grounding, Bell decided not to attempt to force an entrance. "It is with a bitter and lasting sense of grief I give it up," he wrote, "as the blockade of the port with *Harriet Lane* is a difficult task for so small a fleet as is in the Gulf. There will be censure, inconsiderate censure, but I can't help it. I can't overcome the difficulty of shoal water and a crooked, narrow channel without pilots, or small draft vessels to assist such [ships] as ground."
- 4 February 1863 Commissioned officers of the Revenue Cutter Service were to be appointed by the President by and with advice and consent of the Senate. This act contained the first statutory use of term "Revenue Cutter Service." Previous laws referred only to "revenue cutters".

- 28 February 1863 USRC *Aaron A. Brown* arrived at Beaufort, NC.
- 6 March 1862 USRC *Aaron A. Brown* sailed for Albemarle Sound.
- 11 January 1863 USRC *Agassiz* arrives at New Bern, NC.
- 13-14 March 1863 Confederate troops launched a surprise night attack against Fort Anderson on the Neuse River, North Carolina. Union gunboats USS *Hunchback*, *Hetzel*, *Ceres*, and *Shawsheen*, supported by USRC *Agassiz* and an armed schooner, forced the Confederates to break off their heavy assault and withdraw. Colonel Jonathan S. Belknap, USA, wrote Commander Henry K. Davenport: "Your well-directed fire drove the enemy from the field; covered the landing of the 85th New York, sent to the relief of the garrison, and the repulse of the rebel army was complete. Allow me, commodore, in the name of the officers and men of my command, to express my admiration of the promptitude and skill displayed by your command on that occasion. The Army is proud of the Navy."
- 17 March 1863 USRC *Agassiz* assists in repelling a Confederate attack on New Bern, NC.
- 31 March 1863 USRC *Commodore Hull* engages Confederate batteries in the vicinity of Washington, NC.
- 14 June 1863 President Lincoln authorized the Secretary of the Treasury to "cooperate by the revenue cutters under your direction with the Navy in arresting rebel depredations on American commerce and transportation and in capturing rebels engaged therein." The directive was largely the result of Lieutenant Read's continued raid on Union commerce near Northern shores.
- 21 June 1863 USRC *Cuyahoga*, in cooperation with the US Navy, is ordered in pursuit of a Confederate privateer.
- 26-27 June 1863 CSS *Archer* under Lieutenant Read made the light at Portland, Maine. Read picked up two fishermen, "who," he reported, "taking us for a pleasure party, willingly consented to pilot us into Portland." From the fishermen Read learned that USRC *Caleb Cushing* and a passenger steamer, *Chesapeake* were at Portland and would remain there over night. Steamer *Forest City* was also in Portland and two gunboats were building there. Read made a daring plan: he would enter the harbor and at night quietly seize the cutter and steamer. At sunset he boldly sailed in, anchoring in full view of the shipping. Read discussed the plan with his crew and admitted there were difficulties in the scheme. Engineer Eugene H. Brown was doubtful that he could get the engines of the steamer started without the assistance of another engineer, and Read pointed Out that as the nights were very short it was evident that if we failed to get the steamer underway, after waiting to get up steam, we could not get clear of the forts before we were discovered." Read decided to concentrate on capturing the

revenue cutter. At 1:30 in the morning, 27 June, Read's crew boarded and took *Caleb Cushing* without noise or resistance. Luck and time were running out on Read's men, however, for, with a light breeze and the tide running in, the cutter was still under the fort's guns at daybreak. By midmorning, when *Caleb Cushing* was but 20 miles off the harbor, Read saw "two large steamers and three tugs...coming out of Portland." He cleared for action and fired on the leading steamer, *Forest City*, as soon as she was in range. After firing five shells from the pivot gun, Read "was mortified to find that all the projectiles for that gun were expended." About to be caught in a crossfire from the steamers and in a defenseless position, Read ordered the cutter destroyed and the men into the lifeboats. "At 11:30 I surrendered myself and crew to the steamer *Forest City* [First Lieutenant James H. Merryman, USRM]." *Caleb Cushing* blew up at noon. From the date of their first capture to the destruction of the revenue cutter off Portland, the Confederate seamen had taken 22 prizes.

- 6 January 1864 USRC *Cuyahoga* is ordered to cruise in search of blockade runners from Cape Hatteras, NC to Fernandina, FL. Sailed on 17 January.
- 13 January 1864 USRC *Flora* is renamed USRC *Nemaha*.
- 23 January 1864 USRC *Cuyahoga* arrives at Port Royal, SC.
- 4 February 1864 USRC *Hercules* seized the schooner *Ann Hamilton* in conjunction with USS *Bacon*.
- 8 February 1864 USRC *Cuyahoga* seized *Pride of the Sea* and brought her into Port Royal, SC.
- 1 March 1864 USRC *Antietam* is purchased for \$8,000 and sent to Beaufort, NC.
- 4 April 1864 USS *Sciota*, Lieutenant Commander Perkins, captured schooner *Mary Sorley* attempting to run the blockade at Galveston with cargo of cotton. She had previously been USRC *Dodge*, seized by the Confederates at Galveston at the war's outbreak.
- 18 April 1864 USRC *Northerner* purchased for \$60,000.
- 30 April 1864 Confederate blockade runner *Lavinia* (formerly USS *Harriet Lane*) escaped Galveston and sailed to Havana, Cuba where she was interned.
- 18 May 1864 USRC *Hercules* sold.
- 2 July 1864 With Major General John G. Foster, Commander of the Department of the South, on board, USRC *Nemaha* operates in conjunction with other vessels to support Union Army landings around White Point, GA.
- 7 July 1864 USRC *Pawtuxet* launched at New York.

- 16 July 1864 USLHT *Martha* was captured and burned by Confederate forces in Chandeleur Sound while en route to Pensacola, FL.
- 12 August 1864 USRC *Reliance* under the command of CAPT Thomas M. Dungan exchanges fire with “guerrillas” ashore at the confluence of Tibbots Creek and the Great Wicomico River. Dungan is struck and mortally wounded. He is the only combat casualty for the Revenue Cutter Service in the Civil War.
- 23 August 1864 USRC *Aaron A. Brown* sold at New York for \$3,700.
- 28 November 1864 Having chosen USRC *Nemaha* as his flagship, Major General John G. Foster and his staff come on board the cutter. The mission is to disrupt Savannah’s rail link with Charleston in support of Major General William T. Sherman’s advance against the city with the Army of the Tennessee.
- 1 December 1864 USRC *Nemaha* steamed up the Coosawhakey River and shelled a Confederate battery for several hours.
- 2-5 December 1864 USRC *Nemaha* provided logistical support for elements of the 25th Ohio Regiment in its operations in the vicinity of Savannah.
- 14 December 1864 USRC *Nemaha*, located in Wassaw Sound, hosts a meeting between Major General Foster, Major General Sherman, and Rear Admiral John A. Dahlgren, USN, Commander of the South Atlantic Blockading Squadron, to coordinate operations against Savannah.
- 21 December 1864 Federal forces capture Savannah.
- 16 January 1865 USRC *Kewanee* arrives at Savannah with the New York Collector of Customs.
- 31 January 1865 USRC *Kankakee* sails from New York for Savannah to convoy the Cotton Fleet from Savannah to New York.
- 9 April 1865 General Robert E. Lee, CSA surrenders to General Ulysses S. Grant, USA at Appomattox Court House, VA.
- 14 April 1865 President Abraham Lincoln shot by John Wilkes Booth at Ford’s Theatre in Washington, DC. Lincoln died of his wounds on 15 April 1865.
- 26 April 1865 General Joseph E. Johnston, CSA surrenders to Major General William T. Sherman, USA at Bennett Place in Durham, NC. This is the largest Confederate surrender in the Civil War.
- 5 May 1865 Confederate States of America is dissolved