

The Many Faces of Sewanee

HIST 323
Advent 2024

A Brief Civil War Chronology

1860

10 October: Cornerstone for central building dedicated at University Place

6 November: Election of Abraham Lincoln (R-IL) to presidency

<https://www.smithsonianmag.com/history/election-day-1860-84266675/>

18 December: Sen. John J. Crittenden offers compromise legislation to avert national division

<http://www.tulane.edu/~sumter/CrittendenComp.html>

20 December: South Carolina proclaims secession from the Union

1861

9 January – 1 February: Secession of other Deep South states

Mississippi (9 January)

Florida (10 January)

Alabama (11 January)

Georgia (19 January)

Louisiana (26 January)

Texas (1 February)

4 February: Delegates convene in Montgomery, Ala., to form the Confederate States of America

9 February: Tennessee voters reject holding a secession convention, 55:45 percent

<https://votearchive.com/tn-sec-conv-vote-1861/>

24 February: Winchester meeting resolves that Franklin County should leave Tennessee and join seceded Alabama; neither Tennessee nor Alabama governments act on the request

https://68ca184c-497a-4a3f-be2b-c58b9d3caee6.filesusr.com/ugd/f50c73_4847038b837f40cc8aa47e8afcf5a160.pdf

3 March: Final vote on Crittenden Compromise proposal fails by 20-19 vote in U.S. Senate

4 March: Abraham Lincoln inaugurated as 16th U.S. president

21 March: Confederate Vice-President Alexander Stephens (W-GA) proclaims in a Savannah speech that the new nation's "cornerstone rests upon the great truth that the negro is not equal to the white man...."

<https://www.battlefields.org/learn/primary-sources/cornerstone-speech>

(1861)

12-13 April: University Place cabins of bishops Polk and Elliott destroyed by arson

12-13 April: Bombardment of Ft. Sumter (U.S.A.) in Charleston harbor leads to its surrender

15 April: President Lincoln calls on states to furnish 75,000 troops to put down the rebellion

21 April: Peter Turney organizes a secessionist regiment from Franklin and nearby counties

1 May: Turney's regiment leaves by rail for Virginia

8 May: Turney's troops mustered into Confederate service at Lynchburg, Virginia

<https://civilwarintheeast.com/confederate-regiments/tennessee/1st-tennessee-infantry-regiment-provisional-army/>

8 June: Tennessee voters support secession, 70:30 percent

<https://votearchive.com/tn-sec-ref-1861/>

8 June: Secession of 4 Upper South states following Lincoln's call for troops:

Virginia (17 April)

Arkansas (6 May)

North Carolina (20 May)

Tennessee (8 June)

21 July: First Battle of Bull Run/Manassas in northern Virginia

1862

June: Union troops under Gen. Buell in the area during their advance toward Chattanooga

1863

2-3 July: Confederate army retreats toward Chattanooga after failed Tullahoma campaign: Gen. Hardee's troops follow Breakfield Road before descending Plateau near Monteagle and Gen. Polk's men travel up road from Cowan to reach Jump-Off Road and Sweeton's Hollow

4 July: Skirmish fought from near St. Mary's to intersection of 41-A and Sherwood Road

July-August: roughly 35,000 Union troops posted on or passing through this part of the Plateau

19-20 September: Confederate victory at Battle of Chickamauga

24-25 November: Union victories at battles of Lookout Mountain and Missionary Ridge

1864-1865

Franklin County & Cumberland Plateau fall within Union territory, but pro-Confederate guerillas menace civilian population (especially African Americans) – garrisons of U.S. troops in Decherd and Cowan prove unable to prevent bushwhacker robberies, assaults, murders, and arsons.