

CAPTAIN FLASHBACK

A fanzine for the 393rd distribution of the Turbo-Charged Party-Animal Amateur Press Association, from the joint membership of Andy Hooper and Carrie Root, residing at 11032 30th Ave. NE Seattle, WA 98125. E-mail Andy at fanmailaph@aol.com, and Carrie at carrieroot49@yahoo.com. This is a Drag Bunt Press Production, completed on 3/22/2019.

CAPTAIN FLASHBACK is devoted to old fanzines, monster movies, garage bands and other fascinating phenomena of the 20th Century. Issue #4 is a piece of pure self-indulgence, as the primary content is a term paper co-written by my Grandfather Phil H. Oakey (1907-1986) as an R. O. T. C. cadet at the University in 1930, with some supplemental biographical notes added in 2019. And after the usual comments on the previous mailing, the **I REMEMBER ENTROPY** Department presents "Scuttlebutt," an editorial by Patrick Nielsen Hayden, published in issue #1 of **ZED**, May, 1981.

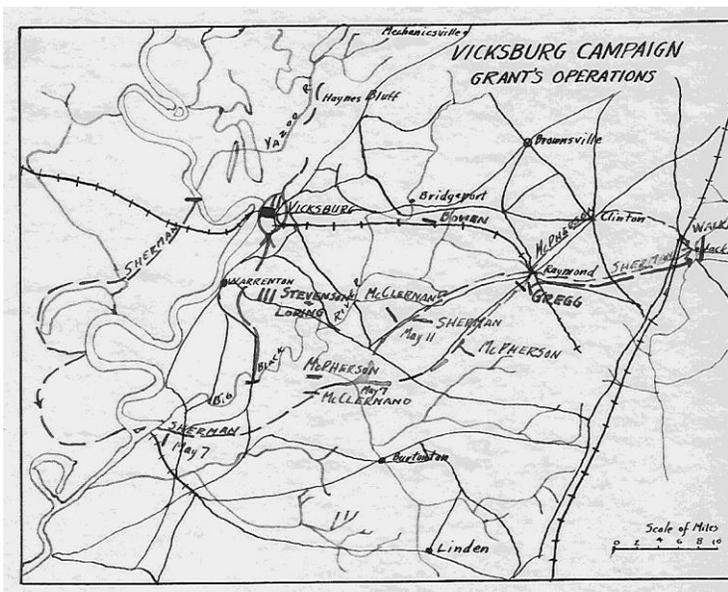
R.O.T.C.

The University of Wisconsin

The Vicksburg Campaign

Submitted by
Cadets Franklin Matthias
and Philip Oakey

April 17, 1930



Hand-drawn campaign map from the original paper, 1930.

The Vicksburg Campaign:

- I Desirability of Controlling the Mississippi
- II Events Preceding the Campaign and Geography of the Country of this Region
- III Movements around Vicksburg

[Continued on Page 8]

Issue #4, March, 2019

But being OE is dangerous. They'll cancel my insurance.

Comments on Turbo-Apa #392:

Cover (Steven Vincent Johnsen & Darlene Coltrain): Another set of lovely images. I've been thinking a lot about trying to recruit new members for the apa, and what kind of argument I could advance in its favor. I'm going to scan several recent covers and put tiny facsimiles' in my Facebook feed to see if I might be able to lure so more artists to join.

AFTER WORDS #30, Lisa Freitag: Orphans can be the ideal literary protagonist, particularly if they are foundlings or of similar mysterious parentage. All the background that most characters know reflexively can be revealed to them while the reader looks on. The array of dead, absent and eccentric parents in manga and anime might seem particularly colorful, but American cartoons are just as inventive. Hank and Dean Venture, the titular *Venture Brothers*, are clones of unknown provenance; Dr. Venture acts as their father, but was also called on to "replace" them on several occasions. Whatever Mother may have provided the eggs used to create them is another enduring mystery. So while not orphans, they are of unknown parentage – perhaps the best of both worlds, given that Dr. Venture's attention to them waxes and wanes dramatically, allowing for many unaccompanied adventures.

Have you noticed how many orphans and *de facto* orphans show up on *Dr. Who*? In the most recent season, the Companion was actually 3 people, all of whom had some sort of abandonment issues and people missing from their lives. This despite the fact that two of the characters were related by marriage and the third had a large, boisterous, intrusive family – from which she was delighted to escape, of course. And the Dr. is an Orphan writ large – the last survivor of a brilliant but tragically flawed civilization, running from millennia of unendurable sorrow and strife. There is no mother capable of enduring the worry inspired by such lives.

LETTER FROM THE FARM, Marilyn Holt: One way or another, Elinor Busby is leaving us soon; she was at the Pub Meet on top of the hill last weekend, and her daughter was along. She is trying to get Elinor to come live at a facility closer to her in Oregon. Elinor and Buz and Wally have written a number of memoirs of the early days of Seattle fandom; some of them appeared in the anniversary edition of CRY that Buz published in 1989. I wonder if I actually could get her to talk with me, as she seems to recognize me (and Carrie and others) only intermittently. I would love to get Kristi Austin to come over from Idaho to help, because I think Elinor would still know her immediately. That's one of the things which gave Seattle fandom its character – the kids which most of its more prominent members were raising at the same time as they pubbed their ish and mounted conventions and hosted visitors from across the sea. Hardly a unique achievement in fandom, but it is part of the story that often gets left out.

The snow brought down boughs from some of our softer trees, but there was much less damage than I expected. It still feels like this was an unusually dry winter – the area between our beds in the back, usually a quagmire in March, was firm enough today that I went out and mowed the lawn. I fear this may ultimately mean more wildfires and smoke in the summer, but there's lots of time for me to be wrong.

AN WISCONZINE, Greg Rihn: Per your review, I have a strong interest in seeing *Stan and Ollie*, despite the presence of the always questionable Steve Carrell. Not the actor I would have chosen to play the ineluctably Scottish Stan Laurel. Because my Dad was the son of a Scottish Mother and an English Father, Laurel and Hardy were his favorite comedians of the silent age, and I feel like half of his affection was transmitted directly by my Grand Father, who surely had even more chance to see them in their prime. I suspect my Dad saw them in the TV revival which was preceded by the events portrayed in the film. One of the funniest things

which struck me on moving to the West Coast was the proliferation of little brick and stucco houses, some with tiled roofs, which looked just like the California houses where Stan and Ollie labored to erect radio aerials and long staircases to which they delivered pianos,

I think the evidence for some kind of human presence in the Americas prior to the end of the last glaciers is slowly wearing down resistance, but Clovis First loyalists still feel like that represents the first really widespread culture to reach the continent. It's the sheer number of artifacts found in soil actually underlying one of the largest Clovis culture sites in Texas that will probably win the argument. Anyway, I find this question almost infinitely more compelling than the search for Masonic Templar treasure in Newfoundland or evidence that the Vikings made it to Bemidji, both of which get more airtime.

THINGS THAT BEGIN WITH H, Jim Hudson and Diane Martin: Glad to read about more normal things in your home than last year. I think Jim's 50th MIT Reunion sounds like a real hoot – I hope you will get to cover it for us in some detail.

You also responded to my writing about the origins of human cultures in the Americas, and happily introduced the device of boats, rather than spacecraft. There is an early American complex known as the "Maritime Archaic," which has tantalizing similarities to a bunch of other cultures that were living at the ragged northern edge of the habitable zone in the first few millennia after the end of the Wisconsin glacier. Archeologists who argue that this was the first widespread culture in the Americas note that the seaside environment and rising and falling sea levels could destroy most evidence of their presence. But evidence like shell middens and house foundations are actually quite durable, and some very old sites have been found on fossil shorelines in Alaska and British Columbia – many of them including Clovis points, in addition to barbed harpoon heads and other

maritime tools. It's certainly possible that the people who lived at the very early sites in South America reached the continent by boat – but they were camping well inland and had no fishing weights, boat anchors, hooks or other implements used in fishing and sailing. There's just no evidence that the people who lived there arrived through any means other than walking.

A TURBULENT APA-RITION, F. J. Bergman: Sturgeon's Law is still reliably sovereign, but none of the three poems you shared with us were driven by agenda or nepotism or even execrable; no wonder they failed to receive recognition from SFFWA. Of the three, I thought "Avocation" pleased me most; although the most compact, the character it presented was immediately attractive to me, and I was quite prepared to talk about that succubus (Incubus? Tour bus?) at any length, and thought the narrator wanted me to ask for more. The other two were also highly stfnal, but after all, Gas Giant just don't care. It do what it want. This is a fine way to meet the deadline; comments are great, but content is king, baby!

SONOVA QUARK, Steven Vincent Johnson: Your memories of Clovis seem to differ delightfully from mine. The entire Ridley Scott *Alien* cycle now seems to be a very elaborate retelling of *Quatermass and the Pit*, but rather than Martian insect overlords, we were created as a biological weapon by giant blue humanoids, who soon decided we were worse than any enemy and tried to eradicate us. It is interesting that you raised the classic UFOlogical trope of the genetic manipulations of humans or proto-humans by ETs, because I think that our understanding of the human genome and its evolution is pretty close to refuting that as a realistic possibility. Our genetic profile has evolved in a mathematically predictable manner, and there is no evidence of any sort of artificial manipulation that would alter that predictable progression. If the aliens did change us, they did it long before we were human.

[Keep going, this comment continues on page 4.]

Hardening of the categories leads to art disease.

We've searched every inch of this base and all we've found is porno, porno, porno!

Comments on Turbo-Apa #392, concluded:

SONOVA QUARK, Steven Vincent Johnson, continued:

However, the longing for the Lemurian past does seem to be a universal human attribute. The eye, the pyramid, the whirling sky chariot of fiery wheels within wheels – they seem to inspire comfort as much as they do awe. This is a fascinating area for research. I recommend a little time at Youtube, and a video titled “Justified and Ancient” by a band known as The KLF. (If you can, play the version with vocal by Tammy Wynette.) Haven't I recommended this to you before? The Fall of the Empire and the Death of Little Mu are ever more imminent.

CONJUNCTIVE DISORDERS, Cathy Gilligan: We were talking about your Christmas puzzle for 2018, which crossed the divide between cryptography and trivia. Remembering the names of different actors to play the same roles in succeeding version of Christmas movies would seem to be the very essence of “trivia,” as it is now practiced. These things etch themselves with terrible 24-point bold clarity in my brain, while the numbers you consort with so happily bleat and tumble chaotically in the sheep pen of my mind. Yet I'm sure that neither of us has the power to explain these incoherent metaphors.

You were the only person who commented on the curious phenomenon of having an emotional reaction to a scientific theory, and an archaic one at that, I suppose it's a bit like longing for the good old Brontosaurus, that was revealed to be a portmanteau of mismatched bones before either of us were born. Yet analogs of the Brontosaurus will be digging rocks out of a quarry in the town of Bedrock, chasing Ringo Starr and plodding the plateau of Rora Penta land, long after we are dead and gone. What kind of hokum is that?

KN, Kathi and Kim Nash: You speak of Trivia, the infernal fixation of the fallen. How disappointing to read about the “improvements” to the Jefferson trivia contest, which I played in

once some 30 long years past. I still recall a question asking who was the maid of honor at the wedding of John Agar and Loretta Coombs in 1951 – I stabbed wildly in the dark and named Agar's frequent co-star Evelyn Ankers – and that was the answer. You don't forget a hole-in-one like that. It sounds like the organizers are very likely to learn to separate fund-raising from the actual competitive balance of the game – otherwise there will surely be a significant drop in participation. But maybe that's what they actually want; look at Minicon.

Now, in my ongoing effort to pad out your mailing comments with great Irish writing, here's a passage from Walt Willis' column “The Harp That Once or Twice” from issue #16 of Lee Hoffman's fanzine QUANDRY, December, 1951:

“ARCHAEOLOGICAL REPORT A few days ago I retired from fandom. No celebrations, please, it was only for a few days while I read through a pile of old fmz Ackerman sent me. Now I feel I'm beginning to know something about fandom. Twelve months ago I was as ignorant of fandom as a child -- hardly even knew Ed Noble was getting married --- but I am learning fast. And one of the things I'm learning is that everything I ever thought of has already been thought of by some fan in the dawn era. Latest example is an article I wrote for Vernon McCain's **WASTEBASKET** proving that the ideal title for a fmz is a certain word I didn't think anyone else would have even heard of. And now I find that Joe Kennedy had a zine of that name. Death, where IS thy sting ... Well, where did you see it last?”

AWRITING ASSIGNMENT FOR TURBO-APA, Julie Zachman: I enjoyed the accidental juxtaposition of Kim and Kathi's kitty pictures with your paper snowflake photograph. The snowblower/cord/cleats equation has many variables in common with the electric lawnmower/extension cord/enormous idiot feet

conundrum. I'm proud to say that I've only managed to run over the mower's own power cord once in 15 years. Our snow removal tasks were fleeting compared to yours, but we had to do all our work with a pair of flat garden shovels. Made me long for a nice flangy aluminum thing like I had when we lived on Ingersoll Street – what kind of idiot was I to leave it there when we moved away in 1992? It took a mere 27 years for a snowfall to make me miss it....

FANDOMAIN TC#28, Patrick Ijima-Washburn: There was something anachronistic about *Episode 28: The Parasomniacheron*. It was meant for an earlier version of me, who would have been even more impressed by your meetings with Brian May and Roger Taylor and Sonny

Chiba, maybe a version of me from an early script by Quentin Tarantino. I was a nobody working in a Minneapolis used moose lot, and one unexpected evening at a sushi bar sent me on a world-wide odyssey to dodge the Russians, the Yakuza, and dozens of Mexican wrestlers. Always striving to protect an elfin gamin from Shikoku, for she is destined to be the One Foretold, who will bring balance to the universe. Wait, whose dream is this?

What I like is that you turn a very short fanzine, a minac special, into a piece of art. That's what makes the Turbo-Apa special, After nearly 35 years of operation, we have become an apa full of artists. Cool, huh?



I'm not so young nor so narrow to assume the dead are dead and there's no spectrum of spectral in between.

I REMEMBER ENTROPY DEPARTMENT

“Scuttlebutt” by Patrick Nielsen Hayden
Published in ZED #1, May, 1981

(This editorial first appeared in issue #1 of **ZED**, a general-interest fanzine published by **Patrick & Teresa Nielsen Hayden** out of Seattle, Washington. At the opening of the 1980s, there was an intense fashion for what were dubbed “ensmalled” fanzines – relatively short and personal efforts, with a design limited to what could be created on a typewriter, ideally typed directly to mimeograph stencil. The Nielsen Haydens undertook several such titles, but their popularity tended to attract numerous submissions of material, and the fanzines evolved into larger general-interest titles, like the well-regarded **IZZARD** and **TELOS**. The pair would later become two of the most important professional editors in the science fiction field. There were at least four issues of **ZED** published, with #1 appearing in February, 1981, and #4 dated November, 1982. – APH)

I got a letter for Richard Bergeron the other day. For Richard Bergeron – that's right. It was from

Steve Larue on the Denvention committee, and it said on the outside of the envelope, “Dear Patrick; I'm enclosing a copy of the letter I sent to Richard, but I only have his New York address, and I know he's moved from there. Sources suggest you might have a better one. If so, could you send it to me, or forward this to him? You may open this up if need be (Warhoon is up for a Hugo).”

I was curious, but I didn't open it right away. Mostly, I just stared, Not that I thought Larue's sending this official notification c/o me was a fuggheaded thing to do, or anything; under the circumstances it was probably perfectly smart. It's just that the implications of the note – that, in a city whose local fandom is putting on a Worldcon, the concom officer in charge of administering the Hugos couldn't find Richard Bergeron's new address, which I recall has been published in fanzines ranging from *File 770* to *WoFan* to *Boonfark* – well, those implications tickled my cosmic mind, they did. I mean, we, you, most of the active fans Teresa and I hang

Hey, that tuna didn't salad itself.

“Okay, I’ll do it,” he said, “You want a pink-and-white bunny rabbit story, right?”

around with and correspond with and talk to on the phone, we go our various ways, interconnecting and overlapping and branching out and generally fanning our acs, fairly content with ourselves and basically thinking of ourselves as Fandom, or at least an Important Part of same. And along comes the Denvention committee, organizing agency of the 39th World Science Fiction Convention, Hugos rubber chicken site selection business meeting wsfs uninc. and all, and they no doubt by now (now being May 1981, less than four months to the Big Event) think of themselves of the Focal Point of Fandom, or at least an important part of the same – and briefly, as between two alternate dimensions, the gap parts, the world-gate opens, the air is blue with ozone and we stare uncomprehendingly at one another, inhabitants of wildly dissimilar reality-tunnels. “Richard Bergeron!” I scream. “Richard fucking Bergeron? Dick Bergeron, SAPS member (1951-54, 1960-62), FAPA member (1962-68), prolific artist for *Oopsla!*, *Mote*, and various other early ‘50s fanzines; editor *Warhoon*, 1951 - 1954, 1959 – 64, 1968 – 71, 1980 --, the fanzine referred to variously as ‘the bible of trufandom’ (Redd Boggs) and ‘the finest genzine ever published’ (Mike Glicksohn)? Richard bloody Bergeron, publisher of *Warhoon* 28, or the ‘Willish’ or ‘Wash’ as it is variously called, the 600-page anthology of the writing of Walter Alexander Willis, the finest fanwriter ever to touch down in this benighted microcosm? Richard God-damned Bergeron, you mean, the Richard Bergeron who through frenetic correspondence, column writing, and sheer energy has practically been a one-man focal point for fannish fandom for the past year and a half, reawakening sodden and limp senses of wonder from coast to coast? Richard Bergeron, you mean, the single most speculated-about, gossiped-about and mysterious figure in early 80s fandom, whose every bleeding utterance is processed through the Fourth-dimensional mental crifanac analyzers of the mighty, let alone his CoAs – ! That Richard Bergeron? That Richard Bergeron is the one whose movements are so opaque to the massed

intelligence of the Denvention committee that you must write to a minor fan in Seattle, Washington for his never-to-be-sufficiently-damned new address?!” The blood rushed to my head and I crumpled to the ground. “The 13 chapters of *Cosmos*,” says my counterpart in the interdimensional door, “were ruled to be a complete, self-contained entity and not a continuing series, and the show is thus eligible in the Dramatic Presentation category.” The air crackles, my nose stings at the ozone discharge, a high-pitched whine vibrates me eardrums to the breaking point, and with a *boom* worthy of the late J.A. Rank himself the door is shut, the rent between realities is closed forever. I get up, dust myself off, and stagger away, hollow-eyed, wiser and infinitely sadder; there are things, Eustace, that Fan Was Not Meant...

Maybe not, though, As I recall, what I did was, eventually, open the envelope, and read the various sheets it contained. A xeroxed form letter (“Congratulations!” &c.; explaining how the concom hopes nominees will attend the award ceremony; good luck Denvention), a list of all the nominees (which I copied and posted on our refrigerator, thus allowing that appliance the dubious honor of scooping *Locus* and better newszines everywhere), and a list of explanations for various eligibility decisions. #4 caught my eye; “*Warhoon* 28 received nominations in both the Fanzine and Non Fiction Category, and it has been placed in the latter.”

Hm, I thought; nominators in the Fanzine category generally nominate just a fanzine without specifying a specific issue, whereas people nominating the Wash in the Book category would have to be doing so by specifying it to be \$28. Are they sure about the legality of combining those two types of nominations? Additionally, the announced low end of the nomination spread for Non Fiction Book is a mere 13 votes, and given that those are probably the Wrhn nominations, , are those 13 just the people who nominated it for Fanzine numbered among that 13 as well? Hmm.

...Rather than sitting and going hmm all afternoon, however, I elected to write them a polite note and ask. And, about a week later, got a polite note in return.

“To begin,” begins Larue, “don’t assume the Warhoon 28 was the nominee that got 13 votes, because it wasn’t – it did much better than that, (...) I did combine the votes that W-28 received from both the Fanzine and Non Fiction Book categories to arrive at the total (excluding the people who voted for it twice – yourself, for example -- for those I only allowed one vote), but it’s not really an issue of ‘dubious legality.’” If for no other reason, the vast majority (without going back to count, I’d say easily 90&) specifically nominated Warhoon 28, even if they did so in the fanzine category.” Well, that answers my questions, and quite promptly & politely, too. Except there’s just that little bit at the end, where this active fan, this well-informed Fellow, this Worldcon Committeeperson says, “Still haven’t seen a copy myself, but I understand there is one in Denver and I’m trying to track it down. If not, perhaps there is some way I can obtain one from you...?” The odor of ozone crisps the air, and I feel faint...

What to think? Nothing new, really. I’m not so much protesting as amused; there are probably enough central, only, and true fandoms out there to choke a horse, or at least the Denvention

committee. I actually thought that even Willis was a little overhard on Earl Korshak, the Chicago convention fan who failed to introduce Hoffman, Keasler, and Vick at the ’52 Chicon opening ceremonies. Did you know that The Ringworld Engineers, although published in a limited press edition in 1979, was ruled by the Noreascon committee in conjunction with Denvention to be eligible for the 1980 awards? Well, now you do, and you know, that’s probably someone’s thrilling fannish news story, out there. I guess that what I’m driving at is that we – whatever “we” are, fanzine fandom, fanhistorically-conscious fandom, fannish fandom – we don’t really need to do the old outrage dance over the Injustice of It All and how the Hugos are Slanted Against Us and how Underepresented We Are in the Worldcon Power Structure and so forth. We’re strong, self-sufficient, and – in case you hadn’t noticed – self-replicating, in that there seems to be no shortage of new people. Do we really need to expend another drop of energy squabbling, over the heaving dinosaur body of the Worldcon, over petty points of semantic space, honor, and similar mammalian concerns? Well, probably, yes. It just wouldn’t be as much fun without it. Here, however, I sit back. Fandom never ends. Players, you may proceed.



A Key to Linos published in February in *Captain Flashback #3*:

Page 2: “I look at the clock, I look at the blade, and I suddenly realize: I haven’t peened my tang!”

Bladesmith Chris, *Forged in Fire* S4, Ep. 20.

& Page 3: “It is annoying, but hey, live and let learn.”

Bladesmith Holden *Forged in Fire* S4, Ep. 20

Page 4: “Socially, a journalist fits in somewhere between a whore and a bartender...”

& Page 5: “...but spiritually, he stands next to Galileo. He knows the world is round.”

Sherman Reilly Duffy as quoted by fictional editor Peter Sullivan (Leland Orser), *I Am the Night* (2019)

Page 7: “I think we should send all boys to Canada, rename it Manada and never go there.”

Tina Belcher (Dan Mintz) states her border policy, “Every Which Way but Goose,” S. 9, Ep. 14 of *Bob’s Burgers*.

Page 8: “You must never underestimate the power of the eyebrow.”

Attributed to the comic actor and musician Jack Black (b. Aug. 28th, 1969).

Page 9: “Stay humble. Always answer your phone – no matter who else is in the car.”

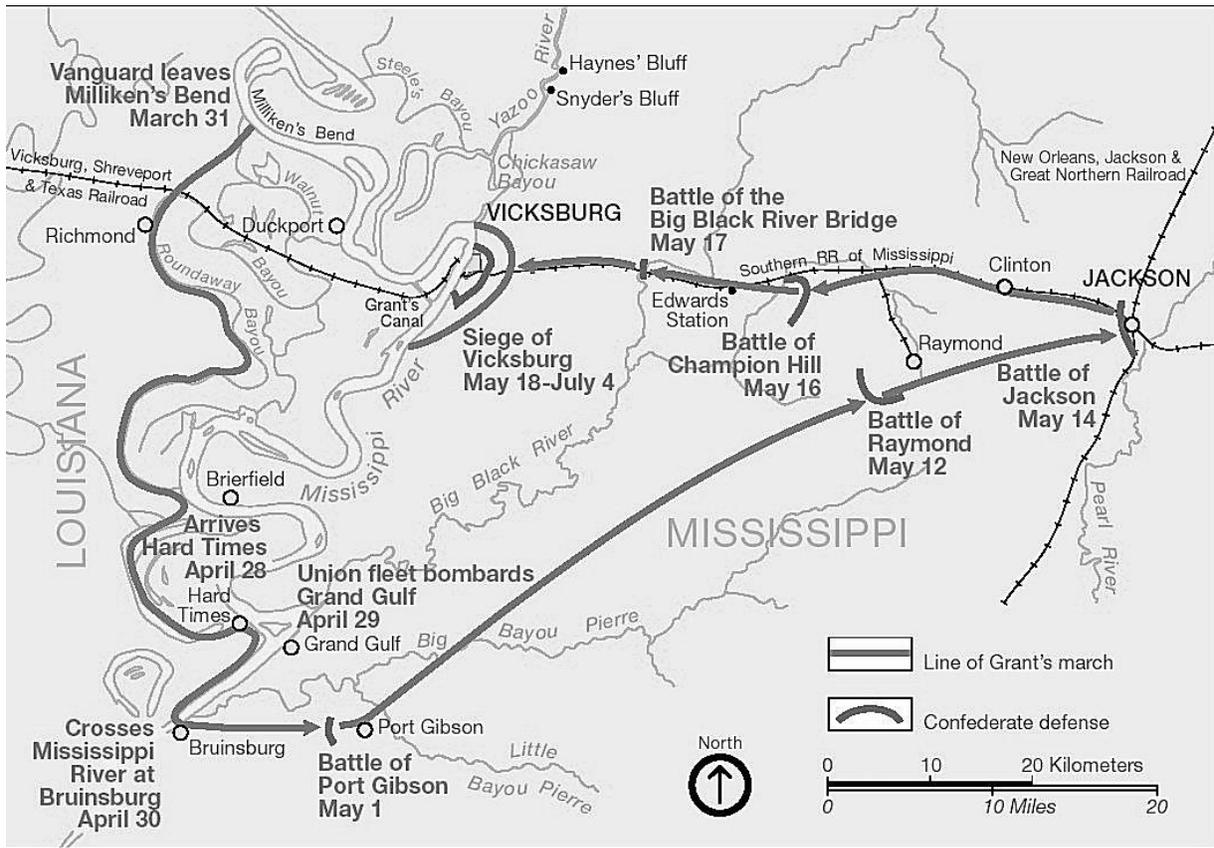
Attributed to the actor and director Jack Lemmon (1925-2001).

Page 10: “The only two things you can truly depend on are gravity and greed.”

Attributed to the actor Jack Palance (1919-2006)

Page 11: “Only in the unnatural and unknown direction can we come to wisdom again.”

Attributed to author, engineer and futurist Richard Buckminster Fuller (1895-1983)



Map of the Vicksburg Campaign by the National Park Service and Wikimedia Commons

The Vicksburg Campaign

[Continued from page 1]

At the outbreak of the Civil War, Federal military leaders realized the necessity of gaining control of the Mississippi River from its source to the Gulf of Mexico. The river was the main highway of trade for the vast Northwest and by means of it only could the products of these states be carried to other parts of the country and of the world. As long as the Confederacy commanded the river at so much as a single point, those states drained by the Mississippi, Ohio and Missouri would have to depend on the slow and inefficient railroads of that time for transportation and would be more or less blockaded from foreign commerce. Another reason, perhaps more important from a military standpoint, was that the Confederacy would be divided when the federals had control of the Mississippi. During the Revolutionary War the British had tried to gain control of the Hudson River so that the New England and southern colonies could be defeated in detail. With the

same intentions (i.e., of splitting the Confederacy in two and then overcoming the western states and afterward the eastern states) Federal forces had early during the war started moving down the river. The importance of the Confederacy can be seen by the fact that during the year and a half that the Confederates controlled the river, Texas, Arkansas and Louisiana sent 100,000 recruits to the Southern Army and supplied most of the beef, sugar, and grain used by the Confederate states. These states also acted as a doorway for goods entering from Mexico. Due to the blockade, foreign supplies were often landed in Mexico and then sent to the Confederate states through Texas, Arkansas and Louisiana.

During January and February of 1862 Grant had captured Forts Henry and Donelson, the former being on the Tennessee River and the latter on

the Cumberland. These two rivers are tributaries of the Ohio, and enter it only about 50 miles east of the junction of the Ohio and Mississippi. The capture of these two forts won the state of Kentucky over to the Union. On April the 6th, the Confederate forces were defeated at Shiloh, and on the seventh General Pope and Commodore Foote captured Island #10 with its garrison of 7,000 men. The power of the Confederacy in Arkansas and Missouri was broken by the defeat of Van Dorn and Price at Pea Ridge on March 8, 1862. Thus the end of April, 1862, found the Union forces in command of the Mississippi Valley as far south as the northern boundary of Mississippi and Arkansas. On May 1st Admiral Farragut, assisted by some 15,000 troops under General Butler, sailed up the river from the Gulf of Mexico and captured New Orleans practically without resistance. Butler then sent 2,000 men under Williams up the river with the fleet and captured Baton Rouge. This force then pushed further north and captured Natchez, but failed to seize Vicksburg. The city was bombarded, without any apparent damage, and Williams' force was too small to carry the place by assault; so the first effort to get Vicksburg had failed. Vicksburg was garrisoned at that time by some 2,600 men under M. Smith. The fleet could have run past the fortifications but Farragut did not want to risk being cut off from his coal and supplies at New Orleans; so he returned to Baton Rouge.

At the end of April, Halleck had assumed overall command of all Union forces in the vicinity, but by his inaction had permitted Beauregard with a much smaller force to remain at Corinth. Troops from both of the armies were now sent to participate in the Chattanooga campaign, the remaining troops made no effort to engage in battle, On May 7 the Confederate fleet at Ft. Pillow attacked the Federal fleet but was completely destroyed. Having too few men to adequately garrison all the small forts along the river, the Confederates evacuated Ft. Pillow on June 4th. The Union fleet sailed further down the river and bombed Memphis so that on the 7th the Mayor of Memphis surrendered the town to

Davis who had succeeded Foote in command of the fleet. The federals now controlled the river as far south as Vicksburg. Perceiving the danger of losing Vicksburg, the Confederates then collected there all the small forces scattered around that part of the country and strongly fortified the place with batteries overlooking the river and intrenchments on the land side to prevent land attacks. A similar fortification, but much more menacing to the movements of the fleet because it completely commanded the river, was erected at Port Hudson 20 miles south of Vicksburg and garrisoned by a strong force under General Breckinridge. At this time the Union commanded all the river except for that part between Vicksburg on the north and Port Hudson on the south. Between Vicksburg and Port Hudson were several smaller forts all on the high bluffs overlooking the east bank of the river. All the Confederate forces in Mississippi were placed under the command of General Pemberton: this was done to bring about coordinated use of their forces but a better man than Pemberton might have been picked for the task.

In order to understand the movements in the campaign around Vicksburg, some knowledge must be had of the terrain in that part of the country. The Mississippi flows south through a large basin from 12 to 80 miles wide. This basin is bounded by high cliffs rising some 150 to 250 feet above the river. Between the river and the cliffs the land is flat and is often covered by water during the rainy season causing the occurrence of many marshes and stagnant bodies of water. The river is very irregular in its course and frequently changes its channel. The river leaves the eastern bluffs at Memphis and bends southwest, south, and then southeast, to strike them again at Vicksburg forming a lenticular-shaped flat, 200 miles long and 60 miles wide at its greatest width, called the Yazoo Basin. At Vicksburg the river turns northeast and then runs southwest nearly parallel to this portion forming a narrow peninsula just across the river from Vicksburg. At this point the river receives the

Fairy tales are more than true; not because they tell us dragons exist...

...but because they tell us that dragons can be beaten.

Yazoo which runs south through the Yazoo Basin. For 12 or 13 miles to the north, the Yazoo is overlooked by a long line of bluffs known as the Walnut Hills. Running directly west from the Yazoo about five miles north of its junction with the Mississippi, a wide stream, the Chickasaw River, runs for 8 or 9 miles to join the Mississippi at Milliken's Bend. About 50 miles east of the river and in general parallel to it, the Central Mississippi Railroad ran north from New Orleans to Jackson and then on to Memphis and Holley Springs. The Vicksburg-Jackson Railroad ran due east from Vicksburg, to Jackson, and then across the Pearl River into the eastern part of the state.

Having arrived at Corinth in September to find that Beauregard had slipped away, Halleck sent Buell into Tennessee and went to Washington to assume the position of General-in-Chief of all the Union armies. This left Grant in Northern Mississippi with some 42,000 troops with which he had to keep in contact with Buell and guard 200 miles of railroad from Memphis to Decatur. The lack of men necessitated his assuming a passive defensive for a time while the Confederates strengthened Port Hudson, Vicksburg and the intervening points. Grant appealed to Halleck for more men and was promised "a large body of new levies". Meanwhile the Union General McClelland was at Washington conferring with Stanton and Lincoln to raise an army and capture Vicksburg by some secret plan. Fortunately, troops could not be raised for the purpose; since the move would probably have failed as McClelland was a man of no military ability.

When Grant heard of this conference he asked Halleck for permission to try to capture Vicksburg. In the meantime a part of Grant's forces under Rosecrans had attacked Price and defeated him at Iuka, just north of Corinth. Price retreated south and was joined by Van Dorn. The combined force then returned to Corinth and attacked Rosecrans, but after a bloody battle lasting two days, they were compelled to retreat again. After considerable correspondence with

Washington, Grant was assigned the mission of capturing Vicksburg with the aid of Sherman's troops at Memphis. Accordingly he moved to Holley Springs through Oxford and established a secondary base of supplies there as his original base, 200 miles north at Columbus, Kentucky was connected to him by only a single railroad track. At this time the Confederate forces consisted of 24,000 men under Van Dorn opposing Grant, 6,000 at Vicksburg, and 5,500 at Port Hudson, all commanded by Pemberton who made his headquarters at Jackson. Grant's plan was that Sherman should meet him at Holley Springs and that the troops could be combined on the Tallahatchie River. By the 4th of December this junction had been affected and Van Dorn had fallen back to Grenada.

After some delay waiting the sanction of the authorities in Washington, it was decided that Sherman should return to Memphis with one division. Here he should await new levies, collect the Union forces at Helena and then move south with Porter's fleet to Vicksburg while Grant moved against the city from the left bank of the Yazoo. Sherman reached Memphis the 12th of December and started down the river on the 20th, but Grant failed to carry out his part of the campaign. Forrest's cavalry had broken up 60 miles of railroad north of Jackson, cutting off Grant from his main base of supplies at Columbus for 12 days (Dec. 19-30). About the same time, Van Dorn moved out of Grenada with 3,500 mounted troops, surprised the garrison at Holley Springs where he captured 1,500 men and destroyed \$1,500,000 worth of military property. The result was that Grant's army on short rations fell back to Memphis. Sherman and his force of 32,000 men attacked the Confederate positions along the Yazoo on the 29th of December, but Pemberton had reinforced the garrison there so that Sherman's men were unable to carry the position. This combined movement by land and water was to have received the assistance of Banks from the south, but he moved north only as far as Baton Rouge believing himself unable to pass Port

Hudson. McClelland now took command of Sherman's forces, and after capturing Arkansas Post (called by the Confederates Fort Hinman) he started to plan what Grant characterized as "a wild goose-chase" into Arkansas, but Grant ordered him to stay on the river.

Grant now assumed complete command of all the forces on the Mississippi operating against Vicksburg. He organized his forces into 4 corps, the 13th, 15th, 16th and 17th commanded respectively by Generals McClelland, Sherman, Hurlbut and McPherson. Hurlbut was to establish his headquarters at Memphis and to have charge of all troops left back to guard the lines of communication and bases of supply; McPherson was sent down the river to threaten the Confederates. Sherman and McClelland were ordered to start their men digging a canal across the peninsula across from Vicksburg. It was hoped that the troops could be transferred south of the city by this canal where they could cross the river and reach the high ground to the rear of the city. The digging progressed very slowly and Grant began to look for other avenues of approach. He explored other routes of approach from the north of the city but found them all impenetrable by an army and held by Confederate forces, and Sherman had failed in a direct attack upon the defenses to the north of the city. The troops dug for several months but accomplished but little, the fire of the enemy at Warrenton finally forcing them to stop. In the north, people began to clamor for Grant's discharge because he had accomplished so little during the time that he had commanded the army. Grant realized he must do something and do it quickly. Three courses were open for him. One was to march south and aid Banks to capture Port Hudson and then turn north and capture Vicksburg with the combined forces. One was to return to Memphis and again to take Vicksburg from the east bank; the second course would have looked like an admission of defeat and would have resulted in his immediate relief. A third course was to cross the Yazoo pass by land and gain the eastern bank south of the city. Meanwhile McPherson had been working with his corps on the Lake Providence route, but this job was also given up during the latter part of March. Grant then planned to move south from

Biographical Key to the Vicksburg Campaign By Andy Hooper, 2019:

Maj. Gen. Nathaniel Prentice Banks (1813-1894): Only a supporting character in the Vicksburg campaign, Nathaniel Banks was a U.S. Representative and Governor of Massachusetts, whose first major military experience was the Shenandoah Valley campaign of 1862, in which he lost several engagements to Stonewall Jackson. He was abruptly relieved of his command several days before the Battle of Antietam, and transferred to the Department of the Gulf. He was able to contain the Confederates at Port Hudson, and with whatever credit was brought by that victory, he obtained approval for an expedition up the Red River, which eventually degenerated into an open effort to plunder all the cotton stores west of the Mississippi. After the war, he returned to Congress, and was a major architect of Federal reconstruction policy.

Maj. Gen. John Stevens Bowen (1830-1863): A native of Georgia, John Bowen was part of the West Point Class of 1853. At the war's outset, he was in St. Louis, Missouri, and was briefly taken prisoner by Union General Nathaniel Lyon. He was paroled, and immediately raised the 1st Missouri infantry regiment. He was one of those who criticized Earl Van Dorn for his failure to conduct proper reconnaissance before the battle of Corinth. He died of dysentery on July 13th, 1863, 9 days after siege of Vicksburg ended.

Maj. Gen. Don Carlos Buell (1818-1898): Commander of the Army of the Ohio, Buell came to Grant's aid at the Battle of Shiloh, and was thereafter given the task of restoring Kentucky to the Union. After his defeat at the battle of Perryville, his army lost confidence in him, and he was relieved of command in favor of William Rosecrans.

Admiral David Glasgow Farragut (1801-1870): David Farragut was a veteran of the War of 1812m having served at the age of 9 aboard his foster Father Captain David Porter's ship, the USS *Essex*. One of the ironclad river gunboats that Farragut commanded during the Vicksburg campaign was also called USS *Essex*. His aggressive, sometimes daring conduct during the campaign was a major reason for its success.

Commodore Andrew Hull Foote (1801- 1863): Andrew Foote entered naval service in 1822; During an assignment to observe the Second Opium War in 1856, Foote's ship was fired on by Chinese shore batteries; in reprisal, he landed shore parties and briefly took possession of an area along China's Pearl River for the U.S. He was the commander of the Western River Flotilla during the operations against Ft. Henry and Ft. Donelson, and developed tactics that later commanders would use against Vicksburg. Appointed to the command of the Southern naval blockade, he died unexpectedly in New York on June 26th, 1863.

Milliken's Bend by land by the Yazoo Pass. He had the levees to the pass cut but found that he lacked the light transport to conduct the troops so he abandoned that project. He then decided to cut loose from his base of supplies and move south along the west bank to a point below the city where he could cross the river. Accordingly some of the troops passed by means of rafts and barges south to New Carthage; others built corduroy roads through the swamps to get there. The fleet and transports succeeded in running past the fort; although a few of the vessels were destroyed, The entire army was now assembled at New Carthage but Grant saw that was an unsatisfactory place to try to cross the river, because of the water surrounding the town; so he moved south to a place called Hard Times. All of this was done at the expense of a great deal of suffering to the men; since many of them became sick in the marshes and supplies were lacking. By April 29, 1863 Grant had McPherson and McClernand at Hard Times ready to cross the river.

All of this time the Confederates had been doing their utmost to retain control of the Mississippi. The garrison at Vicksburg had been increased to 25,000, and from Grenada a force of 20,000 men had gone to the junction of the Tallahatchie and the Yalabusha rivers where they had constructed a series of fortifications commanding the narrow channel of the Tallahatchie where it was only 500 yards wide. This they named for Pemberton. They held and fortified the high ground around the river from Hayne's Bluff in the north to Grand Gulf in the south. This line was held by 22,000 men. Port Hudson was garrisoned by 15,000 men; 7,000 men were left in garrison at Fort Pemberton and about 4,000 were kept in the northern part of the state to watch for any movement from the Mississippi Central Railroad from Memphis. This was one of the routes that Grant had contemplated on using before he decided to move to New Carthage. There was no Confederate cavalry in the state, Van Dorn and his cavalry having been ordered into the campaign in Tennessee. This was indeed fortunate for Grant or his army might have starved to death at Hard Times. Due to this lack of cavalry the Confederates did not know just what Grant was doing. Grant decided to take

advantage of this fact and to harass the enemy as much as possible while he was preparing to cross the river. The Confederates feared that Grant intended to move south along the Mississippi Central Railroad. Grant sent Grierson with 1,000 horsemen to move down this road from Lagrange to alarm the countryside. Grierson rode 600 miles through the center of the state reaching Baton Rouge on the 2nd of May after a march of 16 days. His troopers averaged 38 miles per day, and during their march they destroyed many miles of railroad, telegraph lines and much property. In all, it was the most successful cavalry raid of the war, not because of the property destroyed, but because it attracted the enemy's attention causing him to send many detachments of troops after Grierson. Some of these detachments never made it back to Vicksburg in time to participate in the defense of the town.

On the morning of April 29th Porter's fleet steamed down the river with three divisions of troops and started to shell Grand Gulf, but the place was so strongly fortified that Grant decided to cross the river further south. At daybreak the next day, he started crossing the river and by noon all of McClernand's corps was across. Here they were issued rations and after a short rest marched East along the road toward Port Gibson. Four miles east of Port Gibson the lead Division ran into enemy skirmishers; so they halted and bivouacked for the night. Hearing of the Federal attack on Port Gibson, Pemberton sent reserves to that place immediately. By morning 2 brigades were across the road west of the town to resist the advance of the Federals; the road split into two branches just west of the town and rejoined in the town. The positions taken by the Confederates were in ravines filled with deep underbrush so that it was difficult to dislodge them. The fight started at daybreak and although they greatly outnumbered the Confederates, the Union troops had a hard time in driving them out. The Confederate brigade on the southern road gave way after two hours of fighting, but the right brigade held fast. By noon, another Confederate brigade as well as 3 more regiments reached Port Gibson to aid in the defense. About 5 o'clock that afternoon, McPherson came up with

his corps and succeeded in enveloping the Confederate right whereupon the whole line broke. The brigade on the right fell back to Grand Gulf and burned the bridge over Bayou Pierre. The left brigade retreated by way of Grindstone Ferry, burning the bridges over the bayou. They finally passed up Willow Springs and joined the right brigade. At Grand Gulf, the troops blew up the magazines, dismounted the guns and started to retreat to Vicksburg, by way of Hankinson's Ferry. McClernand pursued as far as Hankinson's Ferry, while McPherson moved to Willow Springs. Here the Union troops obtained three days of much-needed rest, and ammunition and rations. While troops were crossing the river to the south, Sherman made demonstrations against the Confederate right at Hayne's Bluff and along the Walnut Creek. On May 7th he moved south, crossed the river and joined McClernand and McPherson.

Grant had at last succeeded in getting his army across the river. His troops numbered 41,000 and Pemberton had 50,000, but Pemberton's men were scattered as far south as Port Hudson where a force was needed to hold back Banks and Farragut. Hearing that Bank was leading an expedition against the Confederates on the Red River, Grant realized that no help would come from Banks; so he decided to move against Vicksburg, having a numerical superiority over the troops garrisoning that place. Away from the swamps and the mosquitos and with plenty of food the morale of the Union army was quite high while that of the Confederates was low after the defeat at Grand Gulf.

At this time Grant heard that a new Confederate army was being raised at Jackson; so he decided to cut the railroad between Jackson and Vicksburg to prevent the junction of the men at Vicksburg with the new army. Joseph E. Johnston was in command in Jackson at that time. McClernand's corps took the road from Rocky Springs to Edward's Station. McPherson marched by way of Raymond toward Jackson; Sherman marched between the two but to the rear as a reserve. No line of communication was maintained with the river, and the army lived off the country, which was still rich with food. Only

Biographical Key to the Vicksburg Campaign:

Lt. Gen. Nathan Bedford Forrest (1821-1877): Nathan Bedford Forrest was a wealthy young planter and horse breeder who enlisted in the Confederate army as a private soldier. His abilities were soon recognized, and he would become one of the most famous – and infamous – cavalry commanders of the war, His execution of African-American prisoners at Fort Pillow in April, 1864 is one of the most clearly identified crimes of the war. His raid on Grant's supplies during the efforts to march around Vicksburg, were one of more than a dozen such destructive operations to his credit. After the war, his role in the foundation of the Ku Klux Klan conferred even greater infamy upon him.

General of the Army Ulysses S. Grant (1822-1885): Born Hiram Ulysses Grant, he was always known as "Sam" to close friends and family. When the civil war began, he was a decade removed from military service, struggling to support his family with a job at a failing railroad company. A steady procession of victories would gradually identify him as the right General to apply all the advantages which the Union enjoyed over the Confederacy. He had none of the aura of moral superiority that attended the defeated Lee, and his administration as President of the US was memorably corrupt. But if any one individual other than Lincoln actually saved the Union, it was Sam Grant.

Brigadier General John Gregg (1828-1864): An Alabamian who resettled in Freestone County, Texas in 1852, John Gregg was a prominent secessionist who was in command of Texas troops at Ft. Donelson when they were forced to surrender to U.S. Grant. After he was exchanged in late 1862, he was given command of a brigade that ended up facing an entire Union corps during the Battle of Raymond. Escaping to the east after the siege of Vicksburg, he and his troops would participate in the Battles of Chickamauga, the Wilderness, Spotsylvania Court House, and the Siege of Petersburg. He was killed outside Richmond on October 7th, 1864, leading a counter-attack during the Battle of Darbytown Road.

Brig. Gen. Benjamin Henry Grierson (1826-1911): At the age of 8, Benjamin Grierson was kicked by a horse and almost died. This gave him a lifelong distrust of horses, which did not prevent him from becoming one of the most celebrated Union cavalry commanders. In the 1850s, he worked as a music teacher and bandleader in Jacksonville, Illinois. At the outset of the war, he volunteered as an aide-de-camp to Maj. Gen Benjamin Prentiss, which lead to command of an Illinois Cavalry regiment. His immensely successful raid through the middle of Mississippi had the ironic effect of taking him out of the Vicksburg campaign, as he joined his veterans to his new command in the 19th Corps cavalry under Nathaniel Banks. After the war, he remained in the army, and helped to raise and commanded the 10th United States Cavalry, one of the famous "Buffalo Soldier" regiments.

five days rations were carried in the field trains. On the evening of May 11th, 1863, Grant's army bivouacked as follows: McClernand's corps on Five Mile creek along Telegraph Road; Sherman's at Auburn; McPherson's five miles northwest of Utica. Pemberton's army was distributed as follows: Walker's brigade at Jackson; two divisions at Vicksburg; Gregg's brigade at Raymond; Bowen's division at Edward's Station, and Loring and Stevenson were marching with their divisions from Warrentown to Edward's Station. The day that Grant crossed the river, Johnston had ordered Pemberton to use all his forces to drive him back, but Pemberton believed that Grant would be forced to drop back in a few days to get in contact with his base of supplies. Pemberton further believed that Grant was merely making a raid on Jackson, and that he was awaiting an opportunity to move the main part of his army up through Warrentown to attack Vicksburg from the south. To prevent such a move, Pemberton moved his divisions to cover the ferries across the Big Black River to stop Grant from crossing. Troops were withdrawn from Port Hudson and some even came from the East to help Johnston defend Jackson. In moving toward Jackson the Union army met strong resistance from Gregg's Confederate brigade which had taken a position across the road on high ground behind a stream, two miles outside of Raymond. This led Grant to believe that a large force was assembling behind Edward's Station; he therefore sent out his cavalry to verify this belief. On their return the cavalry reported that Pemberton was moving his army to Edward's Station, but Grant decided to push on to Jackson and defeat Johnston before his army had become so strong as to necessitate the removal of the Union army nearer to its base of supplies. Johnston's idea had been to assemble an army to come up in the rear of Grant should the Federals invest Vicksburg. By the 9th of May he had 12,000 men at Jackson, but seeing that Grant had gotten between him and Pemberton and was moving toward Jackson, he wired the War Department at Richmond: "I am too late." Already he perceived that Pemberton was trapped.

Sherman and McPherson reached Jackson on the morning of the 14th: here Gregg and Walker were drawn up to oppose them. Taking advantage of their numerical superiority, the Federals enveloped the flanks of the Confederate position so that they were forced to flee across the Pearl River. That afternoon the Union troops entered Jackson. Having gained control of the river, seized the Central Mississippi Railroad, captured the Confederate base of supplies at Jackson, and placed a large army between Pemberton and the East, Grant now had Pemberton in a position from which he could escape only by fighting his way out.

Pemberton then marched east from Edward's Station and took up a strong defensive position on a hill known as Champion's Hill because it was situated on the plantation of a man by that name. After capturing Jackson, the Federal forces had immediately turned west to march on Pemberton at Edward's Station. On the night of the 15th the Federal army bivouacked within 4 miles of the Confederate position without either army knowing the position of the other. The following morning the battle of Champion's Hill began. The fighting began about ten o'clock in the morning: all day long the fight for the hill lasted. First the Federals held part of the hill and then the Confederates would seize it again by repeated counter attacks. McPherson and McClernand commanded the two Federal corps used in the battle; they were opposed by a force of 23,000 men. After repeated assaults from the north and east, the Confederates were no longer to resist the larger Federal army. And the Confederates fled all the way to Vicksburg with Grant following right after them. The only effort made by the Confederates to resist the Federal advance was at Bridgeport where 5,000 Confederates tried to hold the bridge across the Big Black River. They were unable to do so and they soon were completely routed and fled to Vicksburg. On the 19th of May, Grant's army reached Vicksburg, knowing; knowing that the morale in his army was high and that of the enemy was low, Grant ordered an assault on the city that afternoon. The Confederates seemed to have recovered some of their courage behind the parapets of the city and they drove off the frontal attacks of the Federals with great loss. Grant

then saw that he would have to lay siege to the city. Reinforcements were brought in from all over the country and within two weeks, Grant had the city completely invested with 71,000 men and 250 guns. By sapping and undermining, the Union troops moved their trenches to within 5 yards of the Confederates in some places. All this time the Union batteries were hammering the city, and the Confederates were slowly starving to death. The troops in the trenches threw grenades and made raids on each other much as was done during the World War. The city was surrounded by twelve miles of trenches and the guns were placed in 89 batteries. After the siege had lasted for 47 days, Pemberton surrendered on the 4th of July.

While the siege had been going on, Johnston had been organizing an army back at Jackson to march to Pemberton's relief. To prevent such an effort, Grant had placed Sherman's corps of 30,000 men in position from Hayne's Bluff to the Black River Bridge to cover the siege. Jackson moved out from Jackson the 28th of June and reached Edward's Station on the 1st of July, where he spent 3 days reconnoitering. On the 5th he started west toward Vicksburg, but hearing of Pemberton's surrender, he turned about and started east again. He was none too soon, for the moment that Vicksburg had surrendered Sherman had assembled his corps and started racing after Johnston. Johnston moved into Jackson and took up defensive positions, hoping that Sherman would attack him. Not wishing to risk a frontal attack, Sherman prepared to besiege the city. Reinforcements from Grant at Vicksburg had raised his strength to 50,000. Johnston did not allow himself to become trapped as had Pemberton; and on the 16th he withdrew across the Pearl River burning the bridge after him. His army was scattered throughout the South, and the Union had gained control of the Mississippi. After the fall of Vicksburg, Grant had sent aid to Banks at Port Hudson; that place surrendered on the 9th of July. In recognition of his brilliant work in capturing Vicksburg, Grant was brought east and put in command of the entire Federal army. He took with him his capable lieutenant Sherman. More was to be heard of this pair in the following years.

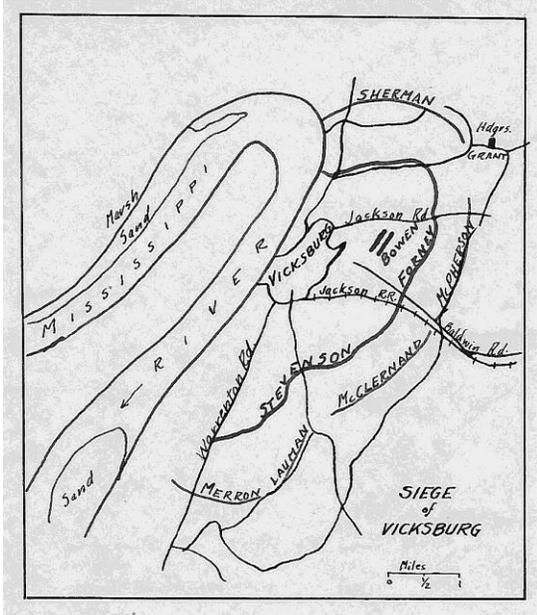
Biographical Key to the Vicksburg Campaign:

Maj. Gen. Henry Wager Halleck (1815-1872): Henry Halleck was a noted military scholar prior to the outbreak of hostilities, and given command of the Western theater early in the war. He was forced to deal with the political ambitions of McClelland, Rosecrans and other subordinates, and was suspicious of eccentrics like Sherman and Grant. Happily, the eclipse of General George Brinton McClellan after the failed peninsula campaign in Virginia led to Halleck's appointment as Commander of all Union forces. Removed safely to Washington, he plunged into the intrigues of Secretary of War Edwin Stanton and other powers in the cabinet, and left Grant to take Vicksburg without intrusion. Eventually, Grant would follow him east to become General of the Armies, and Halleck was reduced to the position of his Chief of Staff. His habitual nickname, "Old Brains," was not generally applied as a compliment.

Maj. Gen. Joseph Eggleston Johnston (1807-1891): Virginia's Joe Johnston was the most senior General in the Confederate army at the war's beginning, a veteran of numerous actions in Mexico. He was the overall commander at major Confederate victories like First Bull Run, and the Seven Days Battles which saved Richmond from McClellan's army. But he never had the confidence of Confederate President Jefferson Davis, and his victories were generally credited to subordinates including P. G. T. Beauregard and Stonewall Jackson. He was thus relieved of command in favor of Robert E. Lee in the summer of 1862. Sent west to Mississippi, his conduct there was prudent, rational, and wholly inadequate to the task of freeing Pemberton from the trap of Vicksburg. But without his defense and subsequent withdrawal from Jackson, the loss of Vicksburg might have meant the immediate invasion of Alabama as well. If there is a hidden Confederate hero of the campaign, it might well be Johnston.

Maj. Gen. William Wing Loring (1818-1886): Loring was a career officer, appointed the military governor of the entire Oregon Territory during the California gold rush. He left his post in New Mexico Territory to join the Confederacy in 1861, counseling his subordinates to follow their own conscience. He had some success during operations in western Virginia, but also bitter disagreements with Stonewall Jackson and other superiors, which led to his removal to the Mississippi theater. Cut off from the rest of Pemberton's command at the end of the Battle of Champion's Hill, he marched east to Jackson, and would participate in the campaigns for Tennessee and Atlanta. After the war, he spent nine years in service to Isma'il Pasha, the Khedive of Egypt, where he was joined by 50 other American officers.

(The Biographical Key concludes on Page 17)



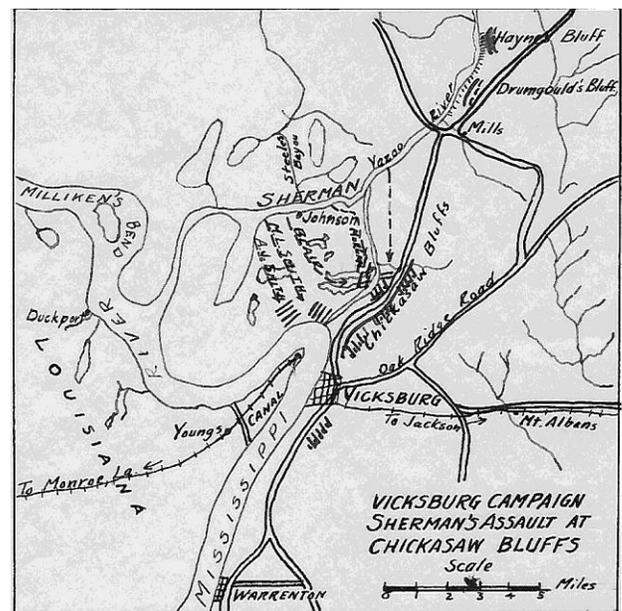
Hand-drawn siege map from the original paper, 1930.

Few comments need to be made upon the campaign. The mistakes made are quite obvious. The Union generals in the west overshadowed the Confederate generals as Lee and Jackson did the Union generals of the east. The conduct of the Union troops throughout this entire campaign was very commendable; they realized that unless the river were opened, their homes would be isolated from the rest of the world. They therefore conducted themselves very well, fighting with courage and suffering the ravages of lack of food, rainy weather, and months spent in the swamps where the mosquitos tormented the men beyond belief. Grant's tactics were at all times sound and well carried out; on the other hand, Pemberton was guilty of many mistakes. He should never have allowed himself to be surrounded and forced into Vicksburg. He should have joined forces with Johnston at Jackson and stayed in the central part of the state where he would have been a constant to Grant's line of supplies and ammunition. When Grant crossed the river and cut loose from his base of supplies, he was taking a big chance of being starved. His tactics during the 18 days that he spent moving on Jackson, and then fighting the battles at Raymond, Champion's Hill, Jackson and Big Black River were above reproach. It was about the

most brilliant set of maneuvers since the days of Napoleon and would have been a credit to any General that ever lived. At all times Grant kept his forces concentrated, while Pemberton scattered his all over the state of Mississippi. Had Pemberton stayed away from Vicksburg leaving it guarded by only a small force of men, the war in the West would have continued for many years. Much of Grant's success was due to the able assistance rendered by Sherman and McPherson. The same cannot be said of McClernand.

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The Biographical Key to the Vicksburg Campaign continues on the next page.

A man in the 4th Dimension is indestructible!

Biographical Key to the Vicksburg Campaign:

Maj. Gen. John Alexander McClelland (1812-1900): Like Abraham Lincoln, John McClelland was a native of Kentucky, whose family had settled in Illinois when he was very young. He had served alongside Lincoln in the Illinois militia during the Black Hawk War, and was elected to the House of Representatives from Illinois' 6th District in 1859. Like many other politicians, McClelland raised his "own" brigade of volunteers, and was made a General as a gesture to the powerful Democratic party of southern Illinois. But unlike other "Political" Generals, McClelland had continual difficulties with subordination, and was perpetually forming his own strategic and operational plans. His star rose after he survived the storm of Shiloh alongside Sherman, and Grant gave him command of the 16th Corps, despite his conviction that McClelland had little military aptitude. Grant considered him dilatory in the execution of orders, particularly at Champion's Hill, and he relieved him of the 16th Corps' command two weeks before the fall of Vicksburg, replacing him with General Edwin C. Ord. Lincoln restored him to command in 1864, but poor health prevented him from participating in the Red River campaign. After the war, he served as a district judge, and was the President of the 1876 Democratic National Convention.

Maj. Gen. James Birdseye McPherson (1828-1864): James McPherson was a military prodigy. He graduated first in his class at West Point in 1853, and was considered an equally gifted engineer. Returning from duty in San Francisco in August of 1861, he attached himself to the staff of General Halleck, and was soon appointed to command the Corps of Engineers in the Western Theater. His service was critical to General Grant's victories at Fort Henry and Fort Donelson, and he was promoted to Major General and appointed commander of the 17th Corps before his 34th birthday. He died commanding his troops in the Battle of Atlanta, and was eulogized by his opposing General, his West Point classmate John Bell Hood.

Lt. Gen. John Clifford Pemberton (1814-1881): The overall commander of Confederate forces at Vicksburg was born in Philadelphia, and served continuously in the U. S. Army between 1837 and 1861. Although he had two brothers who served in the Union army, Pemberton resigned his commission and joined the Confederates, almost entirely due to the influence of his wife and her family, natives of Norfolk, Virginia. He was captured when Vicksburg fell, but paroled to Richmond, then lived in limbo for eight months, as no Confederate leader was willing to assign him a command. Eventually, he resigned his commission as a General and was appointed a Lieutenant Colonel of Artillery by President Jefferson Davis. After the war, he lived as a farmer in Warrenton, Virginia, and returned to Philadelphia in the last years of his life.

Admiral David Dixon Porter (1813-1891): A third-generation US Navy officer, David Porter's brothers Hambleton and Theoderic were also officers, and his adopted brother David Farragut would also attain the rank of Admiral. His command of the "Mortar Fleet" had been one of the major reasons the Confederate forces at New Orleans chose to surrender rather than endure a siege like Port Hudson and Vicksburg. He also commanded naval forces during the Red River campaign and the capture of Fort Fisher at Wilmington, North Carolina. He and his adoptive brother were the first two Admirals in US Naval history.

Maj. Gen. Sterling Price (1809-1867): Sterling Price was a planter and politician, serving as the 11th Governor of Missouri from 1853 to 1857, and in the U. S. House of Representatives from 1845 to 1846. He was defeated alongside Earl Van Dorn at the Battle of Pea Ridge in March of 1862, which cost the Confederacy the resources of his home state. Withdrawing to northern Mississippi, he was ordered to move in support of General Braxton Bragg's effort to reestablish Confederate control of Kentucky; rather, he marched toward the Union depot at Iuka, where he was defeated; another attempted attack at Corinth also failed, and Price was sent back to Missouri – without his command. He organized

several successful raids by irregular forces, which led to a more substantial effort in 1864, but this was defeated on a site inside modern Kansas City, Missouri. After the end of the war, Price led followers over the border to Cordoba, in the Mexican state of Veracruz. There they attempted to establish a colony, which was also an abject failure.

Maj. Gen. William Starke Rosecrans (1819-1898): A native of Ohio, Rosecrans graduated 5th in the West Point Class of 1842. Because of his abilities as an engineer, he was not assigned to active service in the Mexican War, and remained on the staff of the College instead. Prior to the opening of hostilities, he was employed as an executive in a coal-oil firm, but immediately volunteered his services to Ohio Governor William Dennison. As Grant's subordinate, he won hard victories at Iuka and Corinth, which led to appointment to a Corps command, and then the Department of the Cumberland. He would also command troops at the Battles of Chickamauga and Stones River. After the war, he relocated to California, and was elected to the U. S. House of Representatives in 1880.

General of the Army William Tecumseh Sherman (1820-1891): Sherman was a West Point graduate; he served with an artillery battery in the Second Seminole War, but did not see action in the Mexican War, being assigned to administration in the captured territory of California. He had resigned from service long before the civil war in an effort to support himself and his family, and was notably the Superintendent of a seminary and military school in Louisiana. When the war began, he returned to active duty and was appointed the Colonel of a new regiment of regulars, the 13th US Infantry. After the defeat at the first battle of Bull Run, he took command of most of the State of Kentucky, a border state with a strong sentiment toward secession. He suffered some kind of an emotional breakdown, and was nearly removed from duty; but Grant rescued him. Sherman returned the favor by stabilizing the Union line with his troops at the Battle of Shiloh. After that, the two were inseparable.

Sherman's command of the Fifteenth Corps was a major element of the triumph at Vicksburg; he would go on to other major victories in Tennessee, Georgia and the Carolinas. After the war, President Grant would give him overall command of the US Army, which he would retain until 1881.

Maj. Gen. Carter Littlepage Stevenson Jr. (1817-1889): A native of Fredericksburg, Virginia, Carter Stevenson served in the U. S. Army in the Mexican War and the second Seminole War. After Grant's army routed his Division at the Battle of Champion's Hill, he and his command were ordered east. He ended the war fighting in North Carolina against Sherman's expedition, and was captured in April, 1865.

Maj. Gen. Earl Van Dorn (1820-1863) : The great-nephew of President Andrew Jackson, Earl Van Dorn was a career army officer, who served with distinction during the Mexican War. He was in command of Confederate armies at two notable defeats, at Pea Ridge and Corinth. Demoted to a cavalry command, he made an important raid on Grant's depot at Holly Springs. He did not live to see the end of the Vicksburg campaign, as he was shot dead at his headquarters in Spring Hill Tennessee, on May 7th, 1863, by a Doctor who claimed Van Dorn had carried on an affair with his wife.

[*Some Closing Thoughts.* This project has proven to be a kind of "double-dip" of historical content: Not only did it illustrate a number of events from the 19th Century, it also presents academic and military attitudes toward the Civil War in the West in the first half of the 20th Century. Were they writing today, Cadets Matthias and Oakey would probably be asked to cite more sources for their narrative of the campaign. And they would surely feel an obligation to comment on the moral implications of Grant's appropriation of the supplies he needed in Mississippi, beyond observing that the state was "still rich with food," It did not remain that way for long. But apart from the lack of citations, *The Vicksburg Campaign* reads a lot like a contemporary history textbook from the 1920s or 1930s , but happily absent the usual apologies for slavery. Thanks for the interesting read, Grampa Oakey – and if you've read all the way to the end, thank you too.]

Next time – The Riddle of Aunt Hattie – Solved!
