Civil War Events and Battles, 1861 – 1865

**United States, 1861**

By February 1 – First seven states secede from the Union
April 13 – The U.S. garrison at Fort Sumter, SC surrenders
April 15 – President Lincoln calls for volunteers
May 24 – Union troops invade Virginia
July 21 – First Battle of Manassas or Bull Run, VA
October 21 – Battle of Ball’s Bluff or Battle of Harrison’s Island/Battle of Leesburg, VA

**Arkansas, 1861**

February 12 – The garrison of the US Arsenal in Little Rock abandons the arsenal and leaves Little Rock
March 4 – First secession convention begins in Little Rock
May 6 – Second secession convention meets in Little Rock and Arkansas secedes from the United States
August 10 – Arkansas troops participate in Confederate victory at Wilson’s Creek or Oak Hills, MO

**1862**

February 22 – Confederate “Permanent” Government organized in Richmond, VA
March 9 – Battle between ironclads Monitor and Virginia (Merrimac), Hampton Roads, VA
April 6-7 – Battle of Shiloh, TN
April 24 – Capture of New Orleans, LA
June 6 – Capture of Memphis, TN
August 30 – Second Battle of Manassas or Bull Run, VA
September 16-17 – Battle of Sharpsburg or Antietam, MD
September 22 – President Lincoln announces the Emancipation Proclamation

**1862**

February 16 – First combat in the state – A skirmish between U.S. and C.S. cavalry at Big Sugar Creek spills into Arkansas
February 17 – Union General Samuel R. Curtis’s Army of the Southwest invades Arkansas
March 7-8 – Union victory at Pea Ridge in Northwest Arkansas
June 17 – Battle of St. Charles; The “deadliest shot of the Civil War” incapacitates the U.S.S. Mound City and kills/wounds 149 of the crew
June 30 – General Thomas Hindman declares martial law
July 12 – Union troops occupy Helena
November 15 – Harris Flanagin is sworn in as Confederate governor
December 7 – Union victory at Prairie Grove in Northwest Arkansas

**1863**

May 1-4 – Battle of Chancellorsville, VA and death of Stonewall Jackson
July 1-3 – Battle of Gettysburg, PA
July 4 – Surrender of Vicksburg, MS
September 19-20 – Battle of Chickamauga, TN
November 23-25 – Battles of Chattanooga, Lookout Mountain, and vicinity in TN

**1863**

January 9-11 – Union victory at Arkansas Post
April 8 – Union Army organizes the First Arkansas Volunteer Infantry (African Descent) comprised of escaped slaves
May 1-2 – Confederate Army retreats into northeast Arkansas at Chalk Bluff after failed raid into Missouri
July 4 – Battle of Helena
August 27 – Battle of Reed’s Bridge or Bayou Meto when the Union is turned back temporarily from Little Rock
September 10 – Union captures Little Rock
Civil War Events and Battles, 1861 -1865

**United States, 1864**
- **April 8-9** – Defeat of Federal expedition up Red River at Mansfield and Pleasant Hill, LA
- **May 5-7** – Battle of the Wilderness, VA
- **May 8-18** – Battle of Spottsylvania Court House, VA
- **June 1-3** – Battle of Cold Harbor, VA
- **June 27** – Battle of Kennesaw Mountain, GA
- **September 2** – Capture of Atlanta, GA
- **November 16** – Beginning of Sherman’s march from Atlanta to the sea
- **November 30** – Battle of Franklin, TN and death of Confederate Major General Patrick R. Cleburne
- **December 15-16** – Battle of Nashville, TN

**Arkansas, 1864**
- **January 8** – Confederate spy David O. Dodd hanged in Little Rock
- **January 19** – Little Rock convention adopts Unionist constitution that outlaws slavery and names Isaac Murphy governor
- **March 23** – Union army leaves Little Rock to participate in invasion of Texas
- **April 18** – Union troops overwhelmed at Poison Spring; the First Kansas Colored Infantry Regiment suffers extreme casualties
- **April 18** – Isaac Murphy inaugurated as governor
- **April 25** – Union defeat at Mark’s Mill
- **April 30** – Battle of Jenkins’ Ferry; Union army returns to Little Rock
- **June 6** – Battle of Ditch Bayou in Southeast Arkansas; last major Civil War battle fought in Arkansas
- **September 19 – October 28** – Sterling Price leads most of cavalry in Arkansas on an expedition to Missouri

**1865**
- **February 17** – Burning of Columbia, SC
- **March 18** – Adjournment of the last Confederate Congress
- **March 19-21** – Battle of Bentonville, NC
- **April 1** – Battle of Five Forks, VA
- **April 2** – Capture of Petersburg and Richmond, VA
- **April 9** – Surrender of Robert E. Lee at Appomattox Court House, VA
- **April 14** – President Lincoln is assassinated in Washington DC
- **April 26** – General Josph Johnston surrenders at Greensboro, NC
- **May 10** – Capture of President Jeff Davis at Irwinsville, GA
- **May 26** – Confederate Army west of the Mississippi River surrenders

**1865**
- **January 14** – Union withstands an attack on Dardanelle
- **January 16** – Confederate attack on steamers at Ivey’s Ford; last Confederate attempts to challenge Union control of the Arkansas River
- **May 11** – General M. Jeff Thompson surrenders Confederate soldiers in Northeast Arkansas
- **June 2** – All Confederate forces in the Transmississippi surrender