



For the week of March 14, the 11th week of the year:

He loves his country best who strives to make it best.

Robert Green Ingersoll
(Politician, Union veteran, Orator)

On March 14, 1862, the Confederate city of New Bern, North Carolina, defended by an undermanned and largely untrained confederate militia, fell to a combined assault of infantry and gunboats under Brig. General Ambrose Burnside. The city remained in Union control for the duration of the War. One year later, the Confederates under Maj. General Daniel H. Hill, tried to retake the heavily entrenched Union forces and but were repulsed.

One year later, on March 14, 1863, the steam frigate USS Mississippi, under the command of Captain Melancton Smith and First Officer George Dewey, ran aground near Port Hudson, Louisiana and under its guns. With the ship severely damaged, the ship's crew spiked its battery and scuttled the vessel to keep it from falling into Confederate hands.

On the 17th in 1863 the opposing armies engaged again at Kelly's Ford in Culpepper and Fauquier Counties, Virginia, in a battle fought by Brig. General William Averell and Confederate Brig. General Fitzhugh Lee. The Union hoped to curtail the raids being conducted by the confederates across the Rappahannock River. The results of the battle were inconclusive with both sides claiming victory. It's not the last time Kelly's Ford will see action in the War.

In 1865 on the 16th, the Battle of Averasborough commenced when Maj. General William Sherman's army met with General Joseph Johnston's troops in south central North Carolina. It was only a prelude to the Battle of Bentonville undertaken 3 days later where Sherman's 60,000 Union troops met 22,000 confederates. This was one of the last great battles of the War.

with Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty,
Brother Tim Ahlgrim
Col. James D. Brady Camp #63