



VICKSBURG

Southern RR of Mississippi

JACKSON

Edwards Station

Raymond

FIVE MILE CREEK

14 Mile Creek

May 9

Dillon's

May 12, 1863

Big Black River

BIG SAND CREEK

CAYUSA

HANKINSON'S FERRY

May 11  
Utica

Hard Times

Grand Gulf

Rocky Springs

GRESS

W 30

Bruinsburg

May 1, 1863

Port Gibson

May 1

Port Hudson, Louisiana

Vicksburg Presentation  
Battles of Grand Gulf, Port Gibson, Raymond  
April/May, 1863

April 17

- Col. Benjamin Grierson leaves LaGrange, TN with 3 regiments of 1700 cavalry troopers on a 600 mile raid from southern Tennessee, through Mississippi, and arriving in Union-held Baton Rouge, LA on May 2, having caused significant damage and diverting much Confederate attention away from Grant.

April 29

- Rear Adm. David D. Porter led seven ironclads in an attack on the fortifications and batteries at Grand Gulf, which occupies a high bluff directly above the Mississippi River, with the intention of silencing the Confederate guns under Confederate Brigadier General John S. Bowen and then securing the area with 10,000 troops of McClernand's XIII Army Corps who were on the accompanying transports and barges.
- Attack begins at 8 am and the Union ironclads fired heavily until around 1:30 pm, silencing the guns of Ft. Wade, the lower of the two forts guarding Grand Gulf, but unable to silence Ft. Coburn, the upper fort as it was mostly out of range of Porter's guns.
- Porter's fleet suffers considerable damage and the ironclads and troop transports are withdrawn. It is a Confederate victory.
- At dusk, Grant orders McClernand to land troops on the west bank of the Mississippi and marches them south through the night
- Porter's fleet of ironclads, transports, and barges successfully runs past Grand Gulf that night
- Sherman feints against Snyder's Bluff, several miles northeast of Vicksburg. Lt. Cdr. K. Randolph Breese, with eight gunboats and ten transports carried Maj. Gen. Francis Blair's division up the Yazoo River to the mouth of Chickasaw Bayou where they spent the night.

April 30

- At Snyder's Bluff at 9 am Breese's fleet continued upriver to Drumgould's Bluff and engaged the enemy batteries. At 6 pm, Blair's troops are landed and advance against Confederate Brigadier General Louis Hebert's Brigade. There is brief heavy fighting and Union troops withdraw and reload onto transports.
- That morning Grant, McClernand, and Porter meet on the western bank of the Mississippi and reload the troops onto the transports and barges.

- Grant had intended to land the troops at Rodney on the east bank of the Mississippi about 7 miles below Grand Gulf but a local black man advised Grant that a landing about 2 miles closer to Grand Gulf was available at Bruinsburg and that there were roads inland from there.
- Grant lands at Bruinsburg Landing unopposed and troops move up 200 ft. bluff
- 24<sup>th</sup> and 4th Indiana Regiments arrive first, 20,000+ total cross over that day
- McClellan's XIII Army Corps moves out late afternoon with 3 days rations on Rodney and Bruinsburg Roads towards Port Gibson

#### May 1

- Just after midnight units of 21<sup>st</sup> Iowa meet elements of BG Green's Brigade 5 miles west of Port Gibson at Thompson's Hill and brisk firefight with artillery lasts about 3 hours, then skirmishing while Confederate and Union reinforcements arrive
- At sunrise heavy fighting begins as nearly two Confederate brigades of 1200 each hold off a Union army of almost 23,000 men.
- More Confederate and Union reinforcements arrive but almost 4 to 1 odds see Federals slowly advancing
- Hot, humid weather affects both sides and steep ravines, dense brambled undergrowth, and high ridges give advantage to defending Confederates, allowing inferior numbers to hold up larger foe.
- Late afternoon an unexpected Confederate counterattack on Federal flank drives Federals back, but is unsupported and Confederates retire
- As day ends the Federals control the field and are just two miles from Port Gibson. Grant glosses over the battle but it is remembered and highly regarded by others as a classic example of a small force delaying a much larger force. Despite the delay so brilliantly created, Pemberton was unable to reinforce Bowen and Bowen retreated across Bayou Pierre to north of the Big Black, burning two bridges behind them.
- At Snyder's Bluff other Union troops are landed and repulsed, and reload onto transports. Sherman is ordered to Milliken's Bend.

#### May 2

- Grant moves forces forward to renew advance on Confederates but finds Bowen has left the field and Grant occupies Port Gibson unmolested. He immediately orders construction of a bridge across Bayou Pierre so he can move northward, an extraordinary engineering feat through rapid waters and quicksand.
- Grant's troops had started with only 3 days of rations and were without supply wagons so Grant sent out foraging parties in locally obtained wagons, carts, carriages, and buckboards and who were very successful in obtaining large quantities of supplies from unhappy local merchants, farms, and residences.

### May 3

- As a result of the Battle of Port Gibson, Grant's foothold on the eastern side of the Mississippi was considered secure. His control of Port Gibson also caused Pemberton to order Bowen to abandon Grand Gulf, which Bowden had fought so hard to keep. Grant himself rode to Grand Gulf to assess the situation and found the fort abandoned, as had Admiral Porter after hearing explosions which destroyed equipment the retreating Confederates could not carry with them. Subsequently the fort was occupied by Federals and it became a supply base for Grant's army.
- Bridge across Bayou Pierre repaired and Grant moves forces north. According to Grant's Memoirs "Every commanding position from this crossing to Hankinson's ferry over the Big Black was occupied by the retreating foe to delay our progress."
- Grant learns that Banks cannot him to invest Port Hudson. This changes Grant's plan as he had intended to send McClernand to join with Banks and take Port Hudson.

### May 4

- Grant went to Hankinson's Ferry on the Big Black River. Since Banks could not meet McClernand, Grant altered his plan and decided to move east with the intent of cutting Pemberton's supply route, by destroying the Southern Mississippi Railroad, possibly at Edward's Station, and then going at Vicksburg from their rear. To do this he needed to cut his unreliable supply line to Grand Gulf and "live off the land" except for salt, coffee, sugar, and bread, which he ordered the complete stock at Grand Gulf to be sent up.

### May 6

- Sherman crossed the Mississippi to Grand Gulf and marches inland towards Hankinson's Ferry.
- McPherson drew in his troops north of the Big Black and was off at an early hour on the road to Jackson, via Rocky Springs, Utica and Raymond. That night he and McClernand were both at Rocky Springs ten miles from Hankinson's ferry.

### May 8

- McPherson stays at Rocky Springs, while McClernand moved to Big Sandy.

### May 9

- McPherson moved to a point within a few miles west of Utica; McClernand and Sherman remained where they were.

May 10

- Grant gives orders to his 3 corps commanders to move forward in a 3-pronged advance; McPherson moved to Utica, Sherman to Big Sandy; and McClernand staying at Big Sandy.

May 11

- Grant's army snakes its way east along the Big Black River, consuming as it went. Entire farms were devoured as if descended upon by locusts. Most of Grant's army was at rest; McClernand at Five Mile Creek, Sherman at Auburn, and McPherson five miles advanced from Utica.
- Confederate Brigadier General John Gregg's Brigade of 3,000 men, recently ordered up from Port Hudson, is ordered to Raymond, but finds virtually no one there. He none-the-less positions his brigade to meet a Federal advance, which he believes is simply a brigade about his own size "on a marauding excursion."
- Later Grant established his HQ with McClernand at Cayuga, sends message to McPherson to move his 12,000 man corps as quickly as possible to Raymond, which Grant intended to be the right of his line.

May 12

- McClernand advances on Fourteen Mile Creek on the left; Sherman at Fourteen Mile Creek in the center; and McPherson on the right to Raymond.
- At 10 am lead skirmishers of the 20<sup>th</sup> Ohio of Logan's Division of McPherson's Corps ran into the 7<sup>th</sup> Texas Regiment of Gregg's Brigade set up near the bridge at Fourteen Mile Creek about 2 miles before Raymond.
- At first the 20<sup>th</sup> Ohio was forced back but then regrouped and advanced, but was stopped again. As regiment after regiment of Union troops arrived though, Gregg realized he was up against more than a brigade and pulled back before being crushed.
- Gregg retreats through Raymond and establishes a defensive line about 5 miles east, then later that day retreats to Jackson.
- Grant establishes his HQ with Sherman 7 miles west of Raymond on the Port Gibson Road. When he hears of McPherson's victory at Raymond and Gregg's retreat to Jackson, and the possibility of Joe Johnston's arrival in Jackson, Grant immediately changes his plan to hit the railroad at Edward's Station and plans to attack Jackson without delay, so as to cut off all supplies, men, and communications to Pemberton in Vicksburg. Grant hopes to take Jackson before Pemberton can move on his rear.