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Joseph H. Parks, "A Confederate Trade Center Under Federal Occupation: Memphis, 1862 to 1865!"

"Memphis has been of more value to the Southern Confederacy since it fell into Federal hands than Nassau," Gen Cad. C. Washburn May 10/64.

At begin of war, govt's on both sides fostered river commerce - N. to hold border states. Great demand for cotton in N. liberal trade pol. of Confed resulted in heavy staple shipments up Miss. May 21 and Aug 2/61, Confed ^{Conf} govt acted to stop this flow of cotton, naval stores, molasses, tobacco, rice except thru S. ports.

Memphis imp. trade center of Confed. When capture imminent, supplies destroyed: molasses into the river, ca. 300,000 bales of cotton burned. Capt June 6/62. By procl June Aug 16/61, aff. sect. occup. by Union troops open to Union traders. Trading vessels tied up at landing before the flag reached the shore. But Memphis was commercial gateway for a vast hinterland contr. by Confed. troops and guerrillas. Down river fr. Cincinnati came stores of flour, coffee, meat, salt.

Goods smuggled out of city to Confeds: in women's skirts, in bellies of dead animals, on one occas the hearse of a funeral procession bore coffin filled w/ medicine for General Van Dorn's army.

Before May/63, est. im \$12,000,000 imports passed thru Memphis to Confed. in 8 mos. Mar 31/63, Chase ordered goods for M. stopped at Cairo. New procl of pres Apr 2/63, revoked trade priv. enumerated open areas: Mem. not among those favored. Also limit on imports, based on 1860 census of 3 Counties = at \$2 per person. 5% import tax. On Sept 11, rest lifted, but 5% tax retained. Smuggled out by river boat stopping along way.

Gerald M. Capers, Jr., "Yellow Fever in Memphis in the 1870's," MVHR, XXIV
(Mar 1938) 483-502.

Memphis came out of Civ War in better econ shape than did most S. cities, was on way to become metropolis of New S. But twice in 1870's yellowjack struck disastrously, made life uncertain, caused many people and businesses to locate elsewhere. This ruined Memphis; it fell behind Atlanta + St. L.

1873, 2000 deaths in 5000 cases, much cholera

1878, 5150 deaths in 17,600 cases.

1879, 600 deaths in 2000 cases.

there are medical estimates, prob under-stated.

No cure known except flee and await arrival of frost.

If Memphis hist be divided into two periods, 1880 rather than 1860 was the critical date. Really two different cities, one before, one after the epidemic. Both possessed similar char: Negro, cotton, river. But otherwise different.

In 1870's, while other S. cities grew 100%, Memphis declined 40 - 33,000. Few cared to remain where future so precarious. Newcomers replace departed. 1918, of 11,871 white residents, only 183, less than 2%, born there.

Also in quality of populat. Industrious Germans moved to St. L.; Negroes came in, 'til by 1900 constit 50% of total.

1880 broke means city has no aristocr, no tradit, little interest in past. Only a few family names appear consistently. As war had disrupted a nobil in process of aging, so fever destr second embryonic aristocr. Fever's toll not in death so much as in type of people it drove elsewhere.

the old Memphis, with all its filth, was unique; new town prosaic; in time became S. Middletown. formerly cosmopolitan, became hopelessly provincial. Gone were minority groups neces to healthy intell atmosphere; in their places came farmers from Miss. Tenn, simple, virtuous, but stubborn and often unlettered. By 1900, was modern in physical aspect, but rural in background, prejudice, habit. Four conventional ideals: unadulterated Protestant fundamentalism; fantastic entity known as Old S.; white supremacy; and paradoxically, Constit of U.S.

Prosperity after 1880 came despite fever; w/o fever it would have been greater, more permanent. Populat: 1860, Memphis 38th in U.S.

1870, 32 . By 1880, was 55; since then below 36.

showed expect popul of 80,000 in 1880, based on prior 30 years' rate of inc; had only 33,000. In that decade lost out to Nashv and Atlanta; and posit. challenged by newcomers, Birmingham and Dallas.

Growth of S. Cities.

	<u>1860</u>	<u>1870</u>	<u>1880</u>	<u>1890</u>	<u>1900</u>	<u>1930</u>
Memphis	22,623	40,226	33,542	64,445	102,320	253,153
Atlanta	9,554	21,789	31,409	65,533	89,872	270,366
Nashville	16,989	25,865	43,350	76,168	80,865	153,866
Birmingham	—	—	3,086	26,178	38,415	259,678
Dallas	—	—	10,358	38,067	42,638	260,475

New S, based upon bountiful nat. resources, N. Capital. Shows effect of fever. 1870, Memphis in lead, better located than NO or Louisv., possessed comm-industry possib. which N well acquainted.

But after decade of fever, N capit sought other locats. Largest inland cotton mill ^{in world} had no cotton mill since 1843; largest hardware ^{wood} lumber mill in U.S. made little turn prior to 1900.

Misfortune of Memphis proved boon to Atl, St. L. Atlanta owes present rank more to a mosquito in Memphis than to any other cause.