

NOVEMBER, 1861--150 YEARS AGO

The armies were settling into their first winter quarters. The future commanders at the Battle of Kennesaw Mountain had both just started new jobs as Department Commanders. These were administrative area commands where they acted essentially as military governors.



General J.E. Johnston, CSA, was one of the highest ranking officers in the Confederate Army. After serving at the Battle of Bull Run he was appointed to command the Departments of Northern Virginia and the Potomac. He was also appointed Commander of the Army of the Potomac.



Newly promoted BG W.T. Sherman, USA, was appointed to command the Department of the Cumberland in Kentucky. At the time General Sherman outranked U.S. Grant. He had also served at the Battle of Bull Run where he was grazed by bullets in the knee and shoulder.

Key events by day in November 1861

- 1 George McClellan replaces LTG Winfield Scott as General-in-Chief of the U.S. Army
- 2 General John C. Fremont fired by Lincoln as commander of the Western Department
- 7 Engagement at Belmont, Missouri
- 8 Confederate emissary to England removed from a British vessel, initiating the Trent Affair
- 9 Engagement at Ivy Mountain, Kentucky
- 12 Blockade runner Fingal, bought by Confederates in England, arrives in Savannah, GA
- 16 Captured Confederate ambassadors to England delivered to MA, threatening U.S. foreign relations
- 21 Judah P. Benjamin named Confederate Secretary of War
- 22 Union begins bombardment of Confederate Fort McRee in Pensacola, FL
- 28 Missouri admitted to the Confederacy despite never officially seceding from the Union

Opportunities to learn more in November 2011

- 5 Saturday November 5: Artillery Talk @ Top of Kennesaw Mountain 11am, 12pm, 2pm, 3pm.
- 6 Sunday November 6: Artillery Demonstration @ KEMO Visitor Center 11am, 12pm, 2pm, 3pm.
- 14 Monday November 14: Monday Night Program - Lee White "*Manigault's Brigade at Kolb Farm*" 7pm @ KEMO Visitor Center.