

Missouri Secedes (Sort of) and Changes in Command **<http://civilwar150.longwood.edu>**

Like the other Border States of Maryland and Kentucky, sentiment in Missouri was divided between secessionists and Unionists, and as a result the state sank into turmoil in 1861. While a convention in early 1861 did not approve secession, Governor Claiborne Fox Jackson and the State Guard were strongly secessionist. Several early military engagements went in favor of the south, but by early 1862 the Union victory at Pea Ridge solidified northern control over much of the state. Guerrilla warfare, however, would haunt the state until the war's close. In October 1861, the pro-secession element in the state legislature met in Neosho and voted to join the Confederacy. Though this action was of questionable legality since secession was not approved by the entire legislative body, it did give Missouri representation in the Confederate Congress. In addition Confederate flags often bore thirteen stars, including those for Missouri and Kentucky, as well as for the eleven states that had officially seceded. As Union control over Missouri tightened, the state's Confederate "capitol" was moved to Texas and future attempts to regain the state for the south would fail.

In addition to the actions of Missouri secessionists, the week's other major news related to a number of prominent generals being appointed or removed from command. On the northern side, George B. McClellan replaced the elderly Winfield Scott as general-in-chief of the Union armies. Scott had served in the military since before the beginning of the War of 1812, earning his greatest fame during the campaign to capture Mexico City in 1847. Well into his seventies by the Civil War's outbreak and unable to actively campaign, he nevertheless developed the Union strategy known as the Anaconda Plan. The much younger McClellan, meanwhile, who

had served under Scott in Mexico, had won several small but important victories in western Virginia, securing that region for the Union. Following the defeat at Bull Run, he assumed command of Federal forces defending Washington and helped rebuild the army's morale and efficiency. McClellan was further rewarded with overall command of the Union armies upon Scott's retirement on November 1.

In the troubled state of Missouri, John C. Fremont was removed from command following a controversial tenure. Fremont had been appointed to the position for political reasons, though he did have military experience. The Georgia native had served in the topographical engineers before the war, earning fame as the "Pathfinder" for his exploits in exploring the American West. Fremont helped occupy California during the Mexican War, though he eventually resigned his commission after a dispute with the Polk Administration. Fremont then became involved in politics, serving in the U.S. Senate and in 1856 becoming the first presidential candidate of the new Republican Party. After offering his services to the Union army, Fremont was selected for command of the Western Department with its headquarters at St. Louis. Organization of Union forces in the state proved difficult, and Fremont soon provoked the wrath of the administration by unilaterally proclaiming the emancipation of Missouri's slaves and the confiscation of Confederate property. Lincoln subsequently removed him from that position, though he would briefly lead a Union army in Virginia before ending his active military career.

On the Confederate side, General Robert E. Lee was appointed commander of the new Department of South Carolina, Georgia, and Florida, with the task of guarding the lower Atlantic seaboard from Union attack. To this point in the war, Lee had been something of a disappointment, being unsuccessful in his efforts to defend western Virginia. Lee, who had had

a stellar pre-war career in the U.S. Army and been offered a high level command at the outbreak of the war, instead resigned his commission when Virginia seceded. In addition to his service in western Virginia, Lee had been military advisor to President Jefferson Davis before his new appointment. It would not be until the late spring of 1862 that he would take command of what became the Army of Northern Virginia and win his greatest fame. Finally, Confederate General Thomas Jonathan "Stonewall" Jackson, the hero of the battle of Manassas, during this week was tasked with defending the lower Shenandoah Valley as head of its military district. In the spring of 1862 he would defeat several Union forces there in his dazzling Shenandoah Valley Campaign.