

Chapter 6: The Journal of William MacKay

July 25, 1861

U.S. Major General Nathaniel P. Banks replaces Patterson in the Shenandoah Valley.

U.S. Brigadier General Jacob Cox captures Charleston, Virginia. Western Virginia is now in Union hands.

U.S. Major General John C. Frémont, a famous explorer nicknamed "The Pathfinder," assumes command of the Department of the Missouri.

July 27, 1861

George McClellan assumes command of McDowell's army, which is renamed the Army of the Potomac.

July 28, 1861

The 7th U.S. Infantry regiment surrenders to Confederate forces at St. Augustine, New Mexico without firing a shot.

August 10, 1861

The Battle of Wilson's Creek, Missouri. Brigadier General Nathaniel Lyon's Army of the West intercepts a combined force of Arkansans and Louisianians under Brigadier General James McIntosh and the Missouri State Guard under Sterling Price. Lyons is outnumbered 5,400 to 12,000. Regardless, he splits his force and attacks from two sides. Lyon's wing does well, but the wing under Franz Sigel is repulsed. Lyons is killed, and the Federals fall back. Lyons is the first Union general to die in the war. There are a total of 2,500 casualties in the first major battle west of the Mississippi.

August 28-29, 1861

An amphibious force of 2,000 Union troops captures the Confederate shore batteries around Hatteras Inlet, North Carolina.

August 30, 1861

U.S. Major General John C. Frémont declares martial law throughout Missouri. He confiscates the property of people he deems have taken up arms against the United States. This includes slaves, which he immediately frees. This amounts to a proclamation of emancipation, which Frémont enacted without consulting Lincoln.

September 2, 1861

Six hundred Jayhawker cavalry under Colonel Jim Lane surprises Sterling Price's 6,000 Confederates at Dry

July 22, 1861

Washington City

Sergeant Steven Campbell of Company D, 79th New York Highlanders predicted the fate of every man in his company during the battle of Bull Run. At roll call Campbell's predictions turned out to be true. Campbell was found on the battlefield clutching a letter to his wife telling her goodbye. He wrote the letter the night before.

August 14, 1861

Lexington, Missouri

Six-year-old Paul Drum claims his father walked into his room late at night and said goodbye to him. Lawrence Drum was killed at Wilson's Creek four days earlier.

Wood Creek, Missouri. The outnumbered Jahawkers are forced to retreat back to Fort Scott, Kansas.

September 12-15, 1861

Robert E. Lee launches an assault against Federal forces on Cheat Mountain, western Virginia. Lee's plan is complicated and his subordinates are incompetent. The outnumbered Yankees repulse the Rebels.

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September 13-20, 1861

The Battle of the Hemp Bales. 12,000 Missouri State Guard under Sterling Price attack 3,500 Federals at Lexington, Missouri, advancing with the help of bales of hemp rolled before them. The Yankees surrender.

September 22, 1861

Kansas Jayhawkers loot and burn Osceola, Missouri.

September 25, 1861

Union Secretary of the Navy Gideon Welles announces that the navy would enlist male “contrabands” (escaped slaves) as sailors. Free Negroes had been allowed to serve in the navy for decades.

October 7, 1861

Frémont sets out from St. Louis, Missouri to confront C.S. Major General Sterling Price.

October 21, 1861

The Battle of Ball’s Bluff, Virginia. Union troops under Major General Edward Baker unwisely cross the Potomac River and climb Ball’s Bluff, where they are badly mangled by Confederates in nearby woods. The incompetent Baker, a friend of Lincoln’s, dies.

Union troops under Brigadier General M. Jeff Thompson repel attacking Confederates at Fredericktown, Missouri. The Union seizes control of south-eastern Missouri.

October 24, 1861

U.S. Major General R.S. Curtis is ordered to take over command from Frémont, unless Frémont has secured a victory over Price’s army.

October 28, 1861

C.S. General Albert Sidney Johnston takes over command of the Army of Central Kentucky. A. S. Johnston is widely considered the best general in the South.

October 31, 1861

The pro-Confederate government of Missouri secedes from the Union.

