Join us for a presentation by Scott Bowden on
“Robert E. Lee at War“

The Briar Club (Westheimer at Timmons Lane)
5:30 pm Executive Board meeting
(all camp members in good standing are invited to attend)
6:30 pm Happy Hour — Cash Bar
7:00 pm Dinner and Camp Meeting

Commander Everette Gardner
First Lt. Commander Bill Holmes
Second Lt. Commander John Beard
Third Lt. Commander Peter Gryska
Adjutant/Treasurer Dodd Eastham

Please RSVP to
Ev Gardner 281-980-9054
or Dodd Eastham dodd@bayoudog.org

“To the South is assigned the high position of defending before all nations the cause of all religion and of all truth”

~ Rev. Dr. Benjamin Morgan Palmer

“Providence ordained that the modern rationalism should select as its concrete object of attack our form of society and our rights“

~ Robert Lewis Dabney

www.scvcamp67.org
H.K. Edgerton, an African American Confederate activist, works tirelessly to bring the real truth of our heritage to people of all races. H.K. Edgerton has walked thousands of miles carrying his large Confederate Battle Flag through cities and towns and down country roads. He speaks at venues all over the South exposing the many myths of Yankee history and setting the record straight regarding the role of black in the history of the South. He is the President of Southern Heritage 411 Inc., a corporation founded to inform the public about Southern Heritage from the perspective of the hundreds of thousands of black people who love and support the South, its people, its customs, and its history. He is a former President of the NAACP Asheville, North Carolina branch.

Edgerton argues against the popular myth of slavery being the root cause of the War to prevent Southern independence. He looks at cases of racism in the North pointing out that Abraham Lincoln supported an amendment that would create permanent slavery, and five Northern states kept slavery until they were forced to abandon the institution due to the 13th amendment. Even then, Delaware, a Northern loyalist state, refused to ratify the amendment. Edgerton also discusses the constitutional right of secession arguing that not only was southern secession legal, it was justified. Outrageous tariffs, that drove the south into extreme poverty, and many unconstitutional actions of Abraham Lincoln led to the secession of the Confederate States of America.

H.K. Edgerton blames the North for the onslaught of racism in the twentieth century, pointing out that post-civil war poverty in the South, that lasted until post World War II, led to feelings of resentment and resulted in the violent racism of the civil rights era. He points out that if the South had been allowed to go peacefully both the United States and the Confederate States would have abandoned racism long before the 1900s, while keeping a booming trade alive between the industrial North and Agricultural South.
Menu for November Meeting:
Marinated tomatoes and cucumbers
Chicken fried steak with cream gravy
Mashed potatoes
Black-eyed peas
Pecan pie with scoop of ice cream
Commander’s Corridor

Re: Missionary Ridge

Last month, I reviewed Lookout Mountain, where Bragg posted a pitifully small detachment that was easily driven away by Hooker on November 24, 1863. By then, it was clear that Grant’s army of 60,000 was advancing from Chattanooga, with Sherman threatening Bragg’s right flank. Bragg’s response was to concentrate his army of at most 44,000 on Missionary Ridge, a 20-mile long mountain barrier that slices through Chattanooga just east of downtown. The Confederates occupied the northern half of the ridge, which averages about 500 feet in height. I cannot find any data on the width of the ridge, which is hard to judge because of dense brush and woods, but most of it looks to be about 300-400 feet wide.

Like Lookout Mountain, Missionary Ridge should have been impregnable, but Bragg’s troop dispositions made no sense. He placed much of the army in rifle pits at the base of the ridge, and these men had conflicting orders. Some were ordered to fire one volley and then retreat to the crest, while others were ordered to hold their ground. Some sources say that more than 20,000 of Bragg’s men were in the rifle pits, while others put the number at about 9,000. Whatever the number, mass confusion reigned when the assault came, and it was difficult for Confederate troops on the crest to shoot downhill while their compatriots ran uphill in their field of fire. Another problem was that Bragg’s engineers placed his artillery along the topographic crest of the ridge rather than the military crest, the highest point from which cannon can fire effectively on the enemy. Thus most of the Federal army was able to advance without fear of artillery.

On the morning of November 25th, Sherman tried to roll up the Confederate right and began a day-long series of attacks against Cleburne, who anchored the right at Tunnel Hill (see map below). Although outnumbered four to one, Cleburne turned Sherman back every time. In the meantime, Hooker drove in the Confederate left, while Thomas captured the rifle pits and advanced up the slope of the ridge to break the line on top.
By evening, the Confederate line was in shambles except for Cleburne’s position. Bragg ordered a retreat to Dalton, Georgia, and gave Cleburne got the grim job of guarding the rear. Safely back in Dalton, Bragg wired his resignation to Jefferson Davis.

Missionary Ridge is about a 3-mile drive from the Chickamauga Battlefield. I expected to see a battlefield park at Missionary Ridge, but instead I found an affluent housing development. The only route along the ridge is Crest Road, which runs the length of the Confederate line. The Park Service owns four small “reservations” along the road, and the Service placed numerous official tablets, markers, monuments, and gun positions in the front yards of private homes facing Crest Road. The amazing sight on Missionary Ridge is a home with a cannon pointing at the front door at a range of about 15 feet. The tablet in the photo identifies the position of Mebane’s Tennessee Battery, which fired 543 rounds and barely escaped getting overrun.

Crest Road, is narrow and congested, with no shoulders or parking space anywhere; we simply parked in private driveways to read the tablets and study the gun positions. I suppose the residents are used to this because no one bothered us. The only parking on the entire ridge is a few spaces at the Bragg Reservation, the site of Confederate headquarters, and on my next visit I will park there and walk the ridge. The Confederate line extended for about 8 miles, so this will be a good hike. The next photo shows Cobb's Kentucky Battery, positioned near Bragg's headquarters. The guns were named for the wives of Confederate officers; Lady Buckner, Lady Breckinridge, Lady Lyon, and Lady Gracey. All these ladies were lost in the battle.

Finally, I am outraged by the name of the Sherman Reservation, located at Tunnel Hill, where Cleburne whipped Sherman. However, Cleburne predicted that “… the history of this heroic struggle will be written by the enemy.” And so it was.

Next month: Beauvoir

Ev Gardner
1 Nov 1864 – Forrest’s Fleet Sails
In his long career as a fighter for the cause of Southern independence, Gen. Nathan Bedford Forrest practiced his motto of “get there firstest, with the mostest” by any means necessary. Today was, however, the first occasion on which he could legitimately have taken the title “Admiral.” Having captured a Union gunboat and two transports ships two days ago, he had intended to use them just to get his men, horses, artillery and supplies across the Tennessee River. Having acquired the vessels, he reasoned, they may as well be put to further use. Ordering his no-doubt puzzled cavalrymen to learn the intricacies of gunboat operations as best they could, he loaded men and supplies on the ships and headed upriver to Johnsonville, Tenn. There was a Union supply depot there.

2 Nov 1862 – Semmes Strikes Southward
Captain Raphael Semmes and his ship CSS Alabama had created a reign of terror recently in the North Atlantic. Whaling ship after whaling ship had come under his guns, and one after the other had gone up in flames and headed for the bottom of the sea. This was causing connoction fits in the industries dependent on whale oil and bone, not to mention the insurance companies of New York. Captains began to avoid the seas off Nova Scotia, and Semmes was running out of targets. Like any other hunter Semmes knew the solution: go to where the game is. He shifted today to the seas around Bermuda, and the whaling ship Levi Starbuck was his next conquest.

3 Nov 1862 – Forrest’s Fleet Threatens
The Confederate Cavalry-Naval Flotilla Force was a unique and short-lived institution created Oct. 27 when Gen. Nathan Bedford Forrest succeeded in capturing a Union gunboat and two transport ships on the Tennessee River. In the ensuing days Forrest had put the vessels to good use hauling his men across the river and into position to threaten a Union supply depot at Johnstonville, Tenn. As the cavalrymen-turned-sailors gained greater experience at managing their new steeds, their confidence increased. Today, which was cold, rainy and foggy on that part of the river, the men challenged three Union gunboats guarding the depot to come out and fight. The more experienced Union sailors declined the offer and stayed under the protection of their shore guns.

4 Nov 1862 – Forrest’s Fleet Attacks
“That devil Forrest” reached the climax of his ingenious naval-cavalry campaign today, using the captured USS Undine as well as his own artillery to virtually demolish the US supply depot at Johnsonville Tenn. Shells rained down on Federal gunboats, transports, barges, overstuffed warehouses, loaded wagon trains, and supplies stored in the open. One disastrous round struck several barrels of whiskey, and the burning liquor ran in all directions and started still more fires. Gen. William T. Sherman, whose troops were supposed to be among the recipients of the destroyed supplies, was furious. Several officers at Johnstonville were censured for negligence for failing to fend off Forrest’s foray.

5 Nov 1864 – CSA on Lake Erie
The Confederate Naval assault on the Great Lakes entered its second phase today. The primary agent of this attack force was one John Y. Beall, who held the rating of Master in the Confederate States Navy. Beall had participated in a plot back in September to take over the USS Michigan, the gunboat in charge of guarding the prisoner-of-war camp on Lake Erie. That plot had fallen apart when some of the conspirators were arrested, but Beall was back for another round. This time he and a Southern sympathizer, Dr. James Bates, bought a steamer in Canada and tried to devise ways to use it to take over the “Michigan” again, with the intention of using the ship’s guns to shell lakeside cities. Once again the Union sentries were alert, and they never got close enough to the “Michigan” to set the plan in motion. Eventually, out of money, they had to take their proposed attack ship back to Canada and sell it to pay off their creditors.
6 Nov 1861 – Davis Elected President
The first general national election for the government of the Confederate States of America took place on this day. The Constitution specified that a president and vice president should be elected, both to hold office for a term of six years and not to be eligible for the same office again. Terms and conditions and qualifications for most other offices, such as the House and Senate, were determined by the individual states. By and large they were the same as those of the US.

7 Nov 1864 – Second Confederate Congress
Under the Constitution of the Confederate States of America, the Legislative branch was to meet twice during their terms of office, which worked out to once a year. The Congress elected in 1862 therefore began work on their second session today. Jefferson Davis delivered a speech. He, downplayed the recent loss of Atlanta to the forces of Gen. William Tecumseh Sherman, saying “There are no vital points on the preservation of which the continued existence of the Confederacy depends.” Then he raised the slightly controversial point of his speech: a suggestion that the Army be allowed to purchase slaves for work on the War, who when no longer needed would be freed. He stopped short of proposing that they be armed as soldiers, although hinting that he might if things got desperate enough.

8 Nov 1861 – The Trent Incident
James M. Mason of Virginia and John Slidell of Louisiana were Confederate agents. They were by no means spies, but openly appointed by Jefferson Davis to lobby the cause of the Confederate States of America in the halls of London and Paris respectively. They had boarded the British mail ship Trent in Havana with their wives, children and secretaries. The US authorities knew of their mission but not their point of departure, so when Captain Charles Wilkes of the USS San Jacinto happened to dock in Havana at the same time, he was on his own. He waited for the Trent to leave harbor, followed, and on the high seas pulled alongside and forced them to stop. Mason, Slidell and their secretaries were removed, prompting outrage from the British captain.

9 Nov 1862 – Burnside Takes Command
After five days of paper-shuffling and delays caused by both bureaucracy and the limitations of travel time, it took until today for Gen. Ambrose Burnside to arrive at headquarters and take command of the Army of the Potomac. The handover had to have been somewhat awkward for both the incoming and outgoing commanders: before the War, Burnside had been an employee of the man he now replaced, George McClellan, when they both worked for the Illinois Central Railroad. Further complicating matters was the fact that Burnside did not want an army command and had told Lincoln so when the President offered him the job. He felt it was beyond his capabilities, and many would die in Fredericksburg proving him right.

10 Nov 1862 – Canadian Confederates
There were certainly many ports along the east coast of North America where the captain of a storm-tossed ship could expect to confront Confederate flags if he came into port--but Halifax, Nova Scotia? Commander Maury of the Confederate States Navy had sailed out of sunny Bermuda almost a week earlier. As is not uncommon in the Atlantic in November, the passage north was not an easy one. But when they steamed into the magnificent Canadian harbor they were heartened to see, as Maury wrote to his wife: “This is a place of 25 or 30,000 inhabitants. They are strongly ‘secesh’, here. The Confederate flag has been flying from the top of the hotel all day, in honor, I am told, of our arrival.”

11 Nov 1862 – Yankee Observation Balloon
Professor Thaddeus Lowe was possibly the best-known aerialist in America in these days, and tireless in his efforts to prove to Union officials that his aircraft could serve valuable military functions. Today, near Fort Monroe, the newly invented “balloon-boat” G. W. Parke Custis set to sea, towed by the Navy steamer Coeur de Lion. As Lowe wrote, he had “…on board competent assistant aeronauts, together with my new gas generating apparatus which, although used for the first time, worked admirably. Proceeded to make observations accompanied in my ascensions by Gen. Sickles and others. We had a fine view of the enemy’s camp-fires...and saw the rebels constructing new batteries at Freestone Point.”

12 Nov 1861 – Confederate Supply Ship “Fingal”
The early days of the war were notable for a shortage of ships on both sides. The American navy before the war was not big anyway. A large number of ships were destroyed at their moorings, sometimes by Northerners to keep them from being sailed South, in other cases by Southerners to keep them from the use of the Union. This had led to great business in the shipyards of Europe, and both sides scurried to replace the losses. The Confederate-owned steamer Fingal was one such. Recently bought in England, she was loaded with military supplies. The Northern blockade effort was still a bit feeble, and she sailed today without much difficulty into the harbor of Savannah. Fingal would later be converted into the CSS Atlanta.
13 Nov 1863 – Fodder for Horses
Gen. Robert E. Lee and his men had had a rough summer. Heavy action in the spring, constant movement, finally the desperate move into Maryland and Pennsylvania culminating in the three days of Gettysburg. Even after that, movement if not active battle had been constant. This had been hard on the men of the Army of Northern Virginia, harder on their supplies and equipment. It had, however, been hardest of all on the members of the army least able to protest: the horses and other beasts of burden. Gen. Lee sent a telegram from Orange Court House, Va., to Jefferson Davis in Richmond today, imploring him to find a supply of food for the animals, saying that they had had only three pounds of corn per day per horse for the last five days. Davis ordered other supplies delayed until corn could be shipped in.

14 Nov 1863 – Beauregard Critiques Gunboats
Still on duty in the Charleston, S. C. area, Gen. P. T. G. Beauregard had a different assignment today than last year, but not a more pleasant one. His job was to inspect the gunboats protecting the harbor and river, and report on them His report was not happy. “Our gunboats are defective in six respects”, he wrote. “First, they have no speed...second, they are of too great a draft to navigate our inland waters. Third, they are unseaworthy...even in the harbor they are at times...unsafe in a storm. Fourth, they are incapable of resisting the enemy’s...shots. Fifth, they can not fight at long range. Sixth, they are very costly, warm, uncomfortable and badly ventilated; consequently sickly.” Beauregard’s bluntness gained him no friends. Everybody knew the ships were awful, but they were the only ships the South had.

15 Nov 1864 – Sherman’s Crimes
Most of Gen. William Tecumseh Sherman’s army was headed out of Atlanta today on the first steps of the famous “March to the Sea.” Stripped of their wagons, except for what was needed to carry ammunition and other military equipment, their orders were to live off the land, foraging their food from the citizenry and leaving scorched earth behind them. Those who were not marching yet completed their final duty in Georgia’s largest city: they burned it. Orders were to exempt private homes and houses of worship, but most of the populace had been evacuated at gunpoint after the city was taken and the houses, even if unburned, were often looted of all possible valuables. The bitterness was incalculable.

16 Nov 1861 – The Trent Incident, cont
The USS San Jacinto pulled into port at Ft. Monroe, Va., with four more passengers than she had had when she left: Confederate Commissioners Mason and Slidell and their two male secretaries. Captain Charles Wilkes had taken them off the British mail packet Trent a few days earlier, after compelling the unarmed vessel to heave to under threat of arms. As news of the seizure spread through the North, Wilkes was being hailed as a hero for the capture. The Confederates were taken to Fort Warren in Boston Harbor for imprisonment. Newspaper headlines applauded the event as helping prevent foreign intervention in the War, little realizing that the headlines in Europe were announcing just the opposite.

17 Nov 1863 – Attack on Mustang Island
There had been several attempts to tackle the Western jewel of the Confederate States of America, Texas, but none had succeeded very well or lasted very long. Another such strike was made today, and this time considerably greater force was being employed. The USS Monongahela was the escort gunboat for a fleet of troop transporters. They, in turn, were carrying more than a thousand soldiers as they traveled toward Aransas Pass, Tex. The immediate target was the Confederate garrison guarding this pass from Mustang Island. After a preliminary softening-up barrage from the ships’ guns, an amphibious landing was made. The defenders, trapped, had no solution but surrender, and the first day went well for the Union.

18 Nov 1864 – Sherman’s March
The normal procedure for the movement of armies in the Civil War period was to march in lines, usually four men wide. The army would be strung back for miles, with supply wagons trailing towards the end. The army William T. Sherman led out of Atlanta these days completely reversed this procedure. The two wings were strung out at times to a distance of sixty miles from the far left of the Left Wing to the far right of the Right Wing. As to the supply wagons--there weren’t any, except for those carrying ammunition and a modicum of medical supplies. The supplies were being furnished, at gunpoint if necessary, by the residents of the area being swept. The only opponent available was Gen. Howell Cobb in Macon, Ga. He received a telegram from Jefferson Davis today imploring him to use any means necessary to resist Sherman, including employing slaves to build roadblocks.

19 Nov 1862 – CSS Alabama in Martinique
Captain Raphael Semmes had made quite a name for himself as a commerce raider for the Confederacy in the waters of the Atlantic. From whaling ships in the icy North to cargo of all sorts farther south, if it flew a Federal flag and fell under his guns, he usually sent it to the bottom of the sea, after thoughtfully removing the crew. Every Union vessel knew to watch for the CSS Alabama, and great was the glee of Commander William Ronkendorff when his USS San Jacinto had caught up with her in Martinique. Unwilling to annoy the French by attacking in their waters, Ronkendorff stood offshore in blockade, waiting for
Alabama to sail. But even in Martinique sometimes the gales of November came early. Under cover of the foul weather, Semmes and the Alabama got out today and escaped under Ronkendorff’s nose.

20 Nov 1864 – Confederate Torpedo Boat “St Patrick”
The Confederacy was blessed with quite a number of creative boat designers. While in better times these gentlemen would probably have been turned away as deranged lunatics, desperate times led to consideration of desperate ideas. One such, the torpedo boat called St. Patrick by her designer and commander John P. Halligan, was completed in Selma, Ala., today and launched to take on the Union vessels infesting Mobile Bay. A writer who saw her described St. Patrick: “Length, about 30 feet; has water-tight compartments; can be sunk or raised as desired; is propelled by a very small engine; and will stow in 5 men. It has some arrangement of machinery that times the explosions of torpedoes, to enable the operators to retire to a safe distance.”

21 Nov 1861 – Judah P Benjamin
Confederate President Jefferson Davis names Judah Benjamin the secretary of war. A Sephardic Jew from South Carolina, Judah Benjamin was an exception to the rule in the Protestant South. As a young man, he moved to New Orleans and lived in a largely Jewish community. He married the daughter of a wealthy Catholic couple, but the marriage was distant—Natalie Benjamin moved to Paris soon after the birth of their daughter and the couple spent little of their fifty-plus-year marriage together.

Benjamin practiced law and bought a sugar plantation near New Orleans. He became a representative in the Louisiana state legislature in 1842, and he was elected to the U.S. Senate in 1852. While there, he became a close friend of Jefferson Davis, who was then a Mississippi senator. Benjamin resigned during the secession crisis of 1860 and 1861, even before Louisiana officially left the Union. Davis selected Benjamin as the Confederacy’s first attorney general, and he quickly became the president’s most trusted advisor. After the Battle of First Bull Run, Secretary of War Leroy Walker resigned amid criticism that the Confederate army did not pursue the defeated Yankees. Davis appointed Benjamin to the position.

Although Benjamin had no military experience, his appointment allowed Davis to dominate Confederate military affairs. Placing his trusted friend in the position of secretary of war ensured that Davis would not be challenged on important military decisions. Benjamin efficiently managed the day-to-day work of the war department, but he began to quarrel with some of the top generals who resented taking orders from a non-military bureaucrat. Benjamin also drew unfair criticism because of his religion—many openly questioned his loyalty because of his Jewish faith.

When Roanoke Island fell to the Yankees in March 1862, criticism of Benjamin peaked. Many censured him for not sending men and supplies to the island’s garrison. Furthermore, the war was going badly for the Confederates in the West. Davis recognized that the storm of complaints was crippling Benjamin’s ability to perform his duty, so he appointed Benjamin secretary of state when Robert M. T. Hunter resigned that position. As the outlook for the Confederacy grew bleaker in 1863 and 1864, Benjamin floated the idea that the South could obtain foreign recognition only by promising emancipation. This radical concept fell on deaf ears until the last weeks of the war.

When the Confederacy finally collapsed, Benjamin fled with the rest of the Confederate government to Danville, Virginia. When President Lincoln was assassinated, it was discovered that Benjamin had ties to the Surratt family, which was implicated in the conspiracy. Fearing capture and prosecution, Benjamin fled the country. He settled in England and practiced law there, often visiting his wife and daughter in Paris. During the rest of his life, Benjamin rarely spoke of his service to the Confederacy. He died in Paris in 1884.

22 Nov 1864 – Hood Enters Tennessee
Confederate General John Bell Hood invades Tennessee in a desperate attempt to draw General William T. Sherman out of Georgia.

This movement was part of the sad saga of Hood’s Army of Tennessee in 1864. In the spring, the army, commanded then by Joseph Johnston, blocked Sherman’s path to Atlanta from Chattanooga. During the summer, Sherman and Johnston fought a series of relatively small engagements as Sherman tried to flank. Johnston slowly retreated toward Atlanta, but kept his army intact. By July, Confederate President Jefferson Davis had seen enough territory lost to the Yankees, so he replaced the defensive Johnston with the aggressive Hood. Hood made a series of attacks on Sherman outside of Atlanta that did nothing but diminish his own army’s capabilities. After a one-month siege, Hood was forced to withdraw from Atlanta. He took his army south, then swung around west of Atlanta in an attempt to cut Sherman’s supply line. This line ran down the corridor from Chattanooga covering the same ground over which the two armies had fought in the summer. Although Sherman had to commit a substantial part of his force to protect the lines, Hood could do little more than pick at them.
In October, Hood headed into Alabama to rest his beleaguered army. Hood then embarked on a bold expedition to save the western theater for the Confederates. He planned to move toward Nashville, into Kentucky and maybe even into the Northern states before turning east and joining up with General Robert E. Lee's army, which was under siege at Petersburg, Virginia. It was an enormous task, but Hood was determined to carry it out.

23 Nov 1862 – Fredericksburg
Despite the difficulty of conducting military operations in northern Virginia in the wintertime, US Gen. Ambrose Burnside was under orders to do something of a hostile nature towards the forces of Robert E. Lee. For this reason the Army of the Potomac, instead of going into winter quarters, were going on a trip to the Rappahannock River. They had been arriving over the course of the last few days on the heights of Falmouth. Facing them on the high bluff called Marye’s Heights was James Longstreet’s corps of the Army of Northern Virginia, more of whom were also arriving daily. Huddled between the two, down towards the river, were the apprehensive residents of Fredericksburg. Burnside now called on the city to surrender, threatening to cannonade the town. The city’s mayor, neither able nor inclined to comply, requested time to remove the young, old, sick, and female residents. Burnside subordinate Gen. E.V. Sumner agreed today, as long as no “hostile demonstrations” were made.

24 Nov 1861 – Forrest’s First Foray
He was the nearly-illiterate son of a backwoods Tennessee blacksmith. He took over the support of his large family at the age of 16 when his father died, and by now, age 40, was a wealthy Memphis merchant. The regiment he raised and commanded set forth today on their first mission, into Kentucky. Debate still rages today whether he should be officially considered a “cavalryman” in the classic sense, or as mere “mounted infantry”. Having no training in either, Nathan Bedford Forrest didn’t care either way. His philosophy of “get there first, with the most men” made him one of the most feared Confederate commanders of the Western theater.

25 Nov 1861 – CSS Virginia Conceived
It was a race against time and the USS Monitor, and time was running out for Lt. Catesby apRoger Jones of the Confederate navy. It was well known (at least in the higher reaches of the Confederate Navy Secretary’s office) that the Federal Navy was working on a revolutionary armor-plated warship. The South needed a counterpart, and the solution had been to refloat the partially-burned hulk of a ship called Merrimack which had been sunk in Norfolk Navy Yard when the Federal forces abandoned the area. The parts of the vessel damaged by fire were mostly areas that would have had to be removed to accommodate the new design anyway. The first load of armor plate was today received by Navy Secretary Stephen Mallory, and sent on to Jones to become the skin of the reborn CSS Virginia.

26 Nov 1861 – The Trent Incident, cont
Eleven days ago Captain Charles Wilkes committed the most famous act of his career: his USS San Jacinto waited until Her Majesty's mail packet Trent left Havana, Cuba. Once they were in international waters Wilkes had ordered the ship to heave to, under threat of arms, and had removed four passengers, the Confederate commissioners to London and Paris, Mason and Slide, and their secretaries. Tonight, having dropped the prisoners into confinement on an island in Boston Harbor, Wilkes was guest of honor at a huge banquet in Boston. Tomorrow the Trent would dock in London and the story of her voyage made known. The reaction would be quite different there.

27 Nov 1861 – The Trent Incident, cont
The mail packet Trent docked in London today after a voyage from Havana. It had not been a usual trip. She had picked up six passengers in Havana, who had made their way from Richmond through the Union blockade: commissioners Slide, Mason, their wives and their secretaries. They had then been stopped in the Bahama Passage by the USS San Jacinto and compelled under threat of arms to give up the four males in the party. Such an offense against Her Majesty's ship outraged all of London. Eight thousand troops were immediately dispatched for Canada to fortify the border, and orders went to the shipyards for construction of new warships.

28 Nov 1863 – Bragg Resigns
It was only three days since the Battle of Missionary Ridge had made the Union hold on Tennessee complete. The magnificent fighting force known as the Army of Tennessee, which had smashed the Union armies at Chickamauga and bottled them up in Chattanooga, had been left sitting ever since. Atop Missionary Ridge east of the city they had been given no orders to fortify properly, and when the attack came the cannon could not be properly aimed, and were swept away. Today the man responsible for this sorry situation, Gen. Braxton Bragg, finally seemed to see where the problem lay—in his own hands. With this he wrote to Jefferson Davis asking to be relieved of command, and requesting “an investigation” into the causes of the defeat. This was tantamount to requesting his own court-martial.
29 Nov 1863 – Longstreet attacks Knoxville
Gen. James Longstreet was one of the greatest corps commanders the South ever produced, but as today’s action demonstrates, he frequently did not do so well when in independent command. It was his final chance to capture the city of Knoxville, Tenn., and to complicate matters, he had to do it during a sleet storm. The objective was called Ft. Sanders in some accounts, Ft. Loudon in others, but it was the key to the Union defenses of the city. Attacks started at dawn, in horrid conditions so slick that it was difficult to merely walk, much less charge, fire and reload a gun. Despite these handicaps Longstreet’s men got as far as planting their flag on the parapet of the fort—but they could get no farther, and were finally driven back. Longstreet, knowing that Bragg had been defeated at Chattanooga and could provide no assistance, decided he had done all he could, and began making arrangements to move his men back to Virginia.

30 Nov 1864 – Battle of Franklin
Confederate General John Bell Hood had been searching for Union General John Schofield for quite some time. He had the misfortune to catch him today, at Franklin, Tenn., and after Schofield’s men had had time to dig in and prepare positions. Starting in late afternoon the charges began, over two miles of open ground. Hood hit the first Union line, and after a time it fell back. Hood took this as a sign of success, not realizing that the withdrawal was planned, and led to a second, even better dug-in, Union line. This one did not break, and the battle was brutal. Five Confederate generals died this day: States Rights Gist, H.B. Granbury, John Adams, O.F. Strahl, and, possibly the worst loss the South could have sustained, the brilliant Patrick Cleburne. Another, John C. Carter, sustained wounds that would prove mortal. In the army the losses were just as horrendous: 6300 casualties out of an attacking force of 27,000, including 54 irreplaceable regimental commanders lost.

The Dying Words of Stonewall Jackson

THE stars of Night contain the glittering Day
And rain his glory down with sweeter grace
Upon the dark World's grand, enchanted face --
All loth to turn away.

And so the Day, about to yield his breath,
Utters the stars unto the listening Night,
To stand for burning fare-thee-wells of light
Said on the verge of death.

O hero-life that lit us like the sun!
O hero-words that glittered like the stars
And stood and shone above the gloomy wars
When the hero-life was done!

The phantoms of a battle came to dwell
I' the fitful vision of his dying eyes --
Y'et even in battle-dreams, he sends supplies
To those he loved so well.

His army stands in battle-line arrayed:
His couriers fly: all's done: now God decide!
-- And not till then saw he the Other Side
Or would accept the shade.

Thou Land whose sun is gone,
thy stars remain!
Still shine the words that miniature his deeds.
O thrice-beloved, where'er thy great heart bleeds,
Solace hast thou for pain!

Sidney Lanier
(1842-1881)