

Sumter to Appomattox

The Official Newsletter of the New South Wales Chapter of
The American Civil War Round Table of Australia

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A Message from the Chairman –

As you read this, I have just arrived back in Australia from a very successful tour of the Civil War's Eastern Theatre Battlefields. The summer weather in "God's own country" was hot but the 20 of us on tour, including 5 Poms and a Belgian had a most exciting and pleasurable time. A report of the tour is being prepared for the next Newsletter.

It was pleasing to see the turnout of nine of our members, including the whole Brazil family, for the Memorial Day Ceremony on Sunday May 27, and the social function afterwards at Bronte RSL Club. Our participation in this activity is documented in the Supplement to this Newsletter.

David Wilson's presentation at our June meeting provided members with a detailed and most interesting description and analysis of a Civil War battle that has is not particularly well known. The well-researched paper, on which the presentation was based, is most comprehensive and reflects David's extensive military and academic background. Well done David and thank you, particularly for the added theatre to your most stimulating presentation. Also, the musical interlude with Esther and Megan provided something really special that all present really enjoyed and I hope that this will become a regular feature of our meetings.

Next month's presentation represents a change to the program notified earlier in the year but is guaranteed to be one of the highlights of our meetings this year. Virginia Crocker is to recount her experiences with her father, Roy Parker, as he conducted his work in researching and locating the graves of Civil War veterans who had settled in Australia after their War. Just to hear what he was able to get the US Government to do in recognising these veterans is a great story in itself, but what Virginia has to say is a lot, lot more. It is truly an enthralling story that you won't want to miss.

Finally, a reminder that your annual subscription is for the Chapter is now due. Brendan will be pleased to receive your \$25:00 at an early date.

Paul Kensey

Next Month's Meeting

Our next scheduled meeting is to be held at the **Roseville Memorial RSL Club, Pacific Highway, Roseville**, on the evening of **Monday, August 5** with the meeting's proceedings to commence at **7pm**.

As has become our custom, members will meet at the Club from 6pm for sandwiches and liquid refreshments.

The presentation planned for this meeting and notified to members previously has been changed. The presentation is now to be given by **Mrs Virginia Crocker** who will speak to the topic:

"Civil War Veterans in Australia"

Virginia Crocker is the daughter of Roy W Parker, an American World War II pilot who settled in Australia with his Australian wife and daughter in 1947 and, who in retirement, pursued his interest in the Civil War. Roy, the great grandson of a Civil War veteran himself, spent two decades researching and locating the graves of Civil War veterans whom had settled in Australia.

This pioneering research of has been assembled into a book '*Civil War Veterans in Australia*' as a tribute to Roy Parker and Virginia's presentation will provide a personal background to locating over a hundred veterans' graves. The story she has to tell is a personal history filled with stories of family holidays searching for elusive leads that ultimately provided gravesites. There is the hard work tempered on occasion by instances of pure luck that have the makings of a thrilling detective story.

You may be assured of an interesting, informative and thought provoking presentation that will be followed by a question and answer/comment session.

Copies of the book, '*Civil War Veterans in Australia*' will be available for purchase at the meeting for a discounted price of \$25:00 per copy and Virginia will be happy to autograph copies purchased.