

# Sumter to Appomattox

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

No. 29, July 2006

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Please visit our website at [www.americancivilwar.asn.au](http://www.americancivilwar.asn.au)

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## A Message from the Chairman –

For only the second time since taking up the role as your Chairman, I was absent from one of our regular gatherings. The previous time I was in the United States visiting the Civil War battlefield sites whilst on the occasion of our last meeting I was in Melbourne for their ACWRTA monthly meeting and delivering an address on a subject I titled *Failures and Fornicators*. At this meeting, also, I accepted the *Walter Horton Memorial Lecture Award* for the presentation voted by their members as the best for 2005. I would like to place on record my thanks to the Melbourne members for their kind hospitality, in particular Barry Crompton and Jeff Yuille, who looked after me with their usual style and grace, making my visit to their city most enjoyable.

I understand our last meeting was a “boutique event” with only thirteen members braving the cold to attend the first meeting which tried a new format that might have prospects for the future. At this meeting we had the eminent Civil War historian and author, Professor Gary W Gallagher, University of Virginia, speak to us via DVD about two of the more interesting senior officers in Lee’s command, A P Hill (One Promotion Too Many) and Edward Porter Alexander (One of the Best Younger Officers). As you will see, opposite, our next meeting has one of our Committee members, Angus Hordern, giving the presentation on one of the more successful Civil War commanders, Colonel John Mosby, CSA. I know that Angus has put a lot of effort in to preparing this presentation for us and I ask that members make a special effort to be at the meeting.

Lastly, in the light of the falling attendances at our meetings this year, I would like to hear what members would want for our meetings to make them more attractive to members and a “must attend” activity. One comment that has been floating around in recent times is that a meeting every two months is too long between meetings and that a monthly meeting, as occurs in Melbourne, would be preferable. Such a change might necessitate some variations to our usual format. I would appreciate your considered views on this matter so that your Committee can make the “right” decision for the future.

*Paul Kensey*

## Our Next Meeting

The next meeting for 2006 is to be held at our normal venue, the **Roseville Memorial RSL Club, Pacific Highway, Roseville**, on the evening of **Wednesday, August 23, 2006**, with members, as usual, members being able to meet at the Club **from 6pm for a bistro style meal**.

Except for the thirteen hardy souls who ventured out into the cold for our last meeting in June, members will be pleasantly surprised with the refurbishment of the meeting room and, in particular, the table layout where we are able now to eat our meals in the same place as where we conduct the formal proceedings for the night.

The speaker at this meeting will be Angus Hordern, who together will speak on the topic:

### **John Singleton Mosby – “The Grey Ghost”**

In his presentation, Angus will address a number of intriguing questions, including:

- Why did Grant give orders to hang on sight the Grey Ghost and any of his men?
- Was Mosby responsible for luring Stuart away from Lee at Gettysburg?
- Did Mosby have a role in the Lincoln assassination?

The answers to these provocative questions and many more will be revealed as part of this address by Angus. In a break from our usual practice, the paper relating to Angus’s presentation will be available to members with this paper being sent to all members with the next Newsletter.

We hope you will make the effort to be at this meeting and we are looking forward to catching up with you then.

## It Happened in July

### HATCHES AND DESPATCHES

July 5, 1801 – David Glasgow Farragut, the first person in US history to hold the rank of Admiral is born in Knoxville, Tennessee;

July 13, 1821 – Nathan Bedford Forrest is born in Chapel Hill, Tennessee;

July 22, 1864 – Major General James B McPherson (USA), is killed during the Battle of Atlanta;

July 29, 1820 – Clement Laird Vallandigham, leader of the Peace Democrats (Copperheads) during the Civil War, is born in New Lisbon, Ohio;

July 31, 1839 – William Clarke Quantrill, the Confederate guerrilla and outlaw is born in Canal Dover, Tennessee;

### COMMAND CHANGES

July 17, 1864 – Jefferson Davis relieves Joseph E Johnston of the Confederate Army and Department of Tennessee and replaces him with John Bell Hood;

July 18, 1863 – Major General John G Foster assumes command of the Department of Virginia and North Carolina;

July 23, 1862 – Major General Henry Halleck assumes command of the armies of the United States;

July 27, 1861 – Major General George B McClellan assumes command of the Federal Division of the Potomac;

### BATTLES / MILITARY ACTIONS

July 1 – 3, 1863 – The Battle of Gettysburg ending in a significant Confederate defeat;

July 4, 1863 – Vicksburg surrenders to Union forces under Grant, thus giving the Union control of the Mississippi River;

July 6, 1863 – Fighting occurs at Boonsborough, Hagerstown and Williamsport, Maryland, as Lee withdraws from Gettysburg;

July 8, 1863 – Confederate forces unconditionally surrender Port Hudson, La., the last Confederate garrison on the Mississippi River;

July 9, 1864 – The Battle of Monocacy, Maryland., where 7000 Federals under General Lew Wallace delay Jubal Early's 15000 Confederates approaching Washington;

### BATTLES / MILITARY ACTIONS (continued)

July 10, 1863 – Federal Forces land on Morris Island near Charleston, S. C., and begin the siege of Fort Wagner that will last until September;

July 11, 1864 – Confederates under Jubal Early reach the suburbs of Washington;

July 12, 1864 – Federal reinforcements arrive in Washington and Early begins to withdraw;

July 16, 1864 – Confederates under Johnston abandon Jackson, Miss., to Sherman's Federal forces;

July 20, 1864 – Hood fails his first big test of command of an army as his forces are defeated at the Battle of Peachtree Creek, Georgia;

July 21, 1861 – Union General Irvin McDowell is defeated at the First Battle of Bull Run, Manassas, Va;

July 24, 1864 – Confederate forces under Jubal Early inflict heavy casualties at the Second Battle of Kernstown, Virginia;

July 26, 1863 – Confederate raider John Hunt Morgan surrenders his exhausted force of 364 men at Salineville, Ohio. Morgan and his officers are sent to Ohio State Penitentiary;

July 30, 1864 – Despite a huge mine explosion, Confederates fend off the second major frontal assault on Petersburg, Virginia.

### OTHER SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

July 11, 1864 – Eleven "Raiders" are hanged at Andersonville by fellow prisoners;

July 11, 1864 – Standing on the fortifications at Fort Stephens, Lincoln is fired on by Jubal Early's Confederates;

July 13, 1863 – Three days of draft riots begin in New York;

July 16, 1864 – Union Navy in action off Shimonoskie, Japan;

July 17, 1861 – Thaddeus Low ascends in a balloon.

This publication is the official newsletter of the New South Wales Chapter of the American Civil War Round Table of Australia. All inquiries regarding the Newsletter should be addressed to the Secretary/Treasurer of the Chapter by telephone on 9449 3720 or at PO Box 200, St Ives, NSW, 2075 or by e-mail to [secretary@americancivilwar.asn.au](mailto:secretary@americancivilwar.asn.au)

## It Happened in August

### HATCHES AND DESPATCHES

**August 6, 1811** – Judah Philip Benjamin, Attorney General and Secretary of State of the Confederacy is born in St Thomas, British West Indies;

**August 27, 1811** – Hannibal Hamlin, US Vice-President under Lincoln is born in Paris Hill Maine;

**August 31, 1822** – Fitz-John Porter (USA) is born in Portsmouth, New Hampshire;

### COMMAND AND POLITICAL APPOINTMENTS

**August 1, 1864** – Philip Sheridan is named Commander of the Army of the Shenandoah and charged with ridding the valley of Confederates especially Jubal Early

**August 17, 1862** – JEB Stuart is assigned command of all cavalry of the Confederate Army of Northern Virginia;

**August 20, 1861** – Major General George B McClellan assumes command of the newly organised Department and Army of the Potomac.

### WANTON KILLING AND DESTRUCTION

**August 7, 1861** – The village of Hampton, Va, near Fort Monroe, is burned by Confederate forces;

**August 13, 1831** – Nat Turner slave insurrection begins in Southampton County, Va, with 55 whites and about 100 blacks killed;

**August 21, 1863** – Confederate guerrillas under command of Quantrill sack Lawrence, Kansas, killing about 150 men and boys and destroying over \$1.5 million in property;

**August 25, 1863** – Following Quantrill's raid on Lawrence, Federals force some 20,000 people in Missouri from their homes which are then burned;

### BATTLES / MILITARY ACTIONS

**August 5, 1864** – Union forces under Admiral David Farragut defeat Confederates at the Battle of Mobile Bay;

**August 9, 1862** – The Federal Army of Virginia under John Pope clashes with Stonewall Jackson's corps at the Battle of Cedar Mountain;

**August 10, 1861** – Confederate troops are victorious at the Battle of Wilson's Creek, the major battle of the Civil War in Missouri;

**August 11, 1862** – In a daring raid, Confederate guerrillas capture Independence, Mo.

### BATTLES /MILITARY ACTIONS cont'd

**August 15, 1864** – Federals capture the English-built Confederate cruiser *Georgia* off Lisbon, Portugal;

**August 18, 1864** – The Battle of the Weldon Railroad in Virginia, begins;

**August 22, 1862** - In a raid on Catlett's Station, Virginia, JEB Stuart captures Union General Pope's baggage train, including Pope's papers;

**August 26 – 30, 1862** – The Second Bull Run (or Manassas) Campaign ending in a Confederate victory;

### OTHER SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

**August 2, 1861** – Federal Congress passes the first national income tax measure calling for % of income over \$800:

**August 4, 1861** – a meeting is held in New York to combat intemperance in the Federal army;

**August 8, 1863** – In the wake of the Confederate defeat at Gettysburg, Lee offers to resign as Commander of the Army of Northern Virginia. Davis rejects the offer;

**August 14, 1861** – Major General John C Fremont declares martial law in St Louis city and county;

**August 19, 1861** - Confederate Congress agrees to an alliance with Missouri resulting in Missouri having two state governments, Federal and Confederate;

**August 29, 1863** - The Confederate *H L Hunley* sinks in Charleston Harbour, the five-man crew of the submarine are lost.

### Famous Last Words...

Here are some quotes relating to Colonel John Mosby, CSA that might be considered relevant to the subject of the presentation at our next meeting in August:

*"Mosby has annoyed me considerably"*

- General Philip Sheridan  
Army of the Shenandoah

*"Hurrah for Mosby"*

- Robert E Lee

*"Since the close of the war, I have come to know Colonel Mosby personally and somewhat intimately...There were but few men in the South who could have commanded a separate detachment, in the rear of an opposing army and so near the border of hostilities as long as he did without losing his whole command."*

- Ulysses S Grant

## 2006 Conference Papers

Over the past months, John Cook has been distributing the Conference papers from the April Conference. Any participant who has not received their copy yet is asked to contact John to enable him to get your copy to you. John may be contacted by phone on 9412 3214.

Other members who were not able to attend the Conference, are able to purchase a copy of these papers from John for \$25:00.

## Annual Fees

Enclosed with this Newsletter is an invoice for your annual fees for the 2006 – 2007 Financial Year. This fee remains unchanged at \$25:00 for the year and with the raffles conducted at our regular meetings is the major source of income for the Chapter.

Members are asked to give attention to prompt payment of these fees by completing the detail at the bottom of the invoice and returning it to Brendan O'Connell with your payment as soon as possible. In this regard, you may wish save on a postage stamp and hand over the completed documentation and payment to Brendan at our next meeting on August 23,

## Professor “Stonewall” Jackson

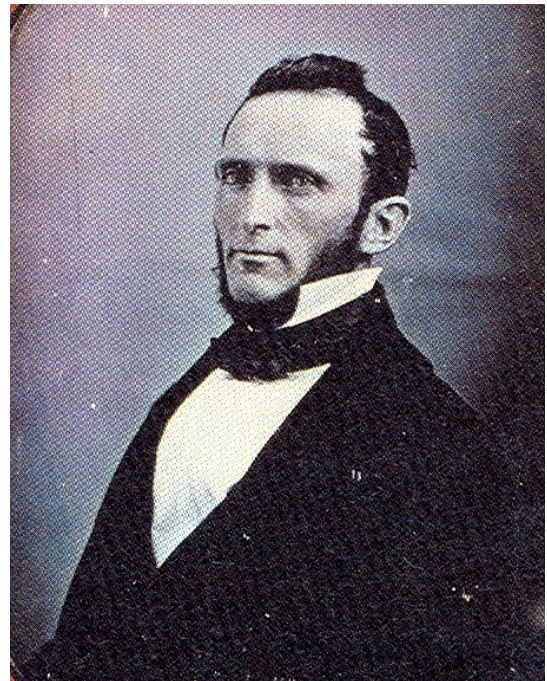
In the first two years of the Civil War Thomas J Jackson was to become one of the most successful Confederate commanders, Lee's trusted lieutenant as Commander of the Confederate I Corps and generally accepted as a military genius.

In the years immediately prior to the War, however, Jackson was the Professor of Natural and Experimental Philosophy at the Virginia Military Institute (VMI) in Lexington, Va, an occupation that many considered did not suit him in the least. Indeed, Jackson's tenure at VMI teaching a classroom of cadets was to become a frustrating and ineffectual ordeal for both Jackson and the cadets!

The offer of a VMI teaching post to Jackson in early 1851, was seen by him as a glorious opportunity to return to the beautiful Shenandoah Valley at a well-known military academy of his home State and was immediately accepted. Jackson was to be paid a salary of \$1200 and quarters and on August 13, 1851 commenced his posting to VMI, an appointment that would occupy his daily routine for the next ten years.

As professor of artillery, Jackson was responsible for the drill of cadets as well as teaching them the basic theory of gunnery. In the classroom he was responsible for the teaching of physics including mechanics and optics and astronomy, all subjects of which he knew little before coming to VMI.

Jackson's classroom pedagogy involved the verbatim recitation of the lesson he had learnt by heart the previous night. Questions from students were addressed by a “mental rewind” of the lesson and a regurgitation of the information requested. More often than not, requests for further information or clarification were perceived by Jackson as the cadet being insubordinate and warranting punishment.



Photograph of Jackson at VMI in the early 1850s  
This photograph is in stark contrast to those “grey-like” photographs of him taken during the War.

One such instance, however, brought a very different reaction. Jackson had reprimanded a cadet for strongly arguing a theory of physics that was different to that in the textbook and which Jackson was seeking to reinforce in his lecture. That night the cadet received a note directing him to parade in front of the barracks. Fearing a more thorough reprimand, the cadet was stunned to find an apologetic Jackson waiting for him. Jackson stated:

*“I have studied the theory we discussed in class today and determined that you are quite right in your assertion. I apologise for being hasty in my judgment”*

The cadet stood dumbfounded as Jackson tipped his cap and disappeared into the night towards his Lexington home. Some would see this action as that of a great man!