

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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Please visit our website www.americancivilwar.asn.au

A Message from the Chairman –

I trust that members have now come to terms with the shock changes your Committee has endorsed in an attempt to get our meetings “back on the rails” and ensure that the attendance of is at a level that makes it worthwhile to invite speakers to prepare presentations for our benefit.

Speaking with Brendan O’Connell, our dedicated Secretary/Treasurer, he tells me the response to our call for annual subscriptions is proceeding well but there are still a number of members who have yet to pay. Brendan will be at “the receipt of custom” at our meeting in September and will be most happy to receive your money together with the yellow sheet with your current personal details including, if possible, an e-mail address.

You will see in the adjoining column that one of our members and a great friend of mine, Alan Winkworth, died in hospital after a short illness some weeks ago. Having toured the Civil War battle-sites in recent years, I got to know Alan as a person whose interest in the Civil War was both broad and deep. His interest in Civil War medicine, presumably stemming from this professional medical background set the scene always for great discussion of Civil War matters. Alan will be greatly missed by all members of the Chapter and we will all be poorer from his going.

Finally, let me exhort you to join us at the Roseville Memorial RSL Club on Monday, September 10 to make this meeting one which we will all enjoy and be informed together. In making this plea, you will note that I have brought forward my presentation on the Gettysburg Address and I am told I perform much better with a large audience.

I hope to see you there!

Paul Kensey

Our Next Meeting

Our regular meetings of the NSW Chapter of ACWRTA continue at the **Roseville Memorial RSL Club, Pacific Highway, Roseville**. The meetings commence with a bistro-style dinner at the Club from 6pm with the proceedings of the meeting proper commencing at 7:15pm. The next meeting to be held on **Monday, September 10** and will be the first of our “double-barrelled” presentations on topics by two of our members but with a change to that previously advertised:

- 1. The Gettysburg Address – Paul Kensey;**
- 2. Lincoln – Lessons on Leadership (Bruce McLennan).**

For those who were looking forward to hearing David Smith’s presentation - **“Lincoln – The Devil Incarnate - A Southern Perspective”**, this will be scheduled for a subsequent meeting. As has been our practice in the past, papers based on each of these presentations will be available to members at the conclusion of the meeting. Members from outside the Sydney Metropolitan Area will have these papers mailed to them with the next edition of our Newsletter.

Vale: Alan Winkworth

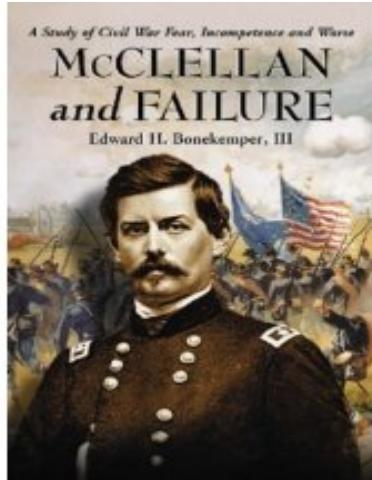
It is with great sadness that we report the death of Dr Alan Winkworth, one of the Chapter’s stalwart members, who died in hospital in early August. Members will remember the great presentations Alan gave on medical aspects of the Civil War and the realism he was able to demonstrate in these lectures. Although living in Orange, Alan attended many of our regular evening meetings in Sydney and his friendly manner made us all feel welcome to be around him.

We will miss Alan greatly!

To Alan’s family and, Justin, his nephew and sometime member of our Chapter, in particular, we would wish to extend our most sincere sympathy for their loss.

A Most Interesting New Book

For those who have an interest in that demi-god of the Civil War, George Brinton McClellan, you may be interested in this new book by military historian, Edward Bonekemper -



Bonekemper's scathing account depicting the contemptuous Civil War record of George B. McClellan is a wonderfully "flawed" piece of historical narration. In this context what is meant by "flawed" is that Bonekemper did not set out to write a fair or balanced account of McClellan's performance, but instead had an agenda to demonstrate his belief that McClellan was the worst Union Civil War general and he sets out from page 1 of the book to provide readers with information to justify this position

Bonekemper systematically exposes event after event in a ruthless and divisive tone that is a pleasure to read. Whilst one might share Bonekemper's views on McClellan, this is probably why an historian such as Bonekemper, should not be evaluating McClellan. There is certainly no attempt at a balanced presentation that seeks to understand the flawed mind of George B. McClellan, a man, who clearly was not just acting only from arrogance and selfishness, but had, also, some severe psychological problems.

In McClellan's own world, the enemy was always more superior to a point where it was debilitating for him to even act or be in a position to act once the fighting started. To completely understand McClellan and his motivations, you need to recognise and appreciate that for McClellan to act at all, was extremely difficult. When he did act, though painfully slowly, such as at Antietam when he knew he had the upper-hand, it was remarkable that he did with any vigour at all. Although he had Lee's battle plan in his hands, he still was confounded with an inferiority complex that to attempt a decisive blow was unfathomable. McClellan created a fictional world within his own mind that justified and supported his pathological behaviour. It oozes from all of his letters written to his wife. She even at one point calls him on it. All this, Bonekemper does not give much credence or attempt to investigate with any open mindedness.

Notwithstanding this, this book is a great read and if there was a shred of doubt as to whom the most incompetent human being on the face of earth in 1861-62, this book will convince you to it being George B. McClellan! Given the many apparent facets of his behaviour, however, was McClellan just incompetent or was he subconsciously trying to sabotage the North's war effort because of his sympathy for the South? If you look at all the people he undermined and destroyed... it's not hard to imagine.

Bonekemper includes an excellent Appendix covering what historians have written about McClellan. In this he does a fine job reinforcing his overall argument, albeit not something that is hard to do, and proves his thesis that McClellan was incompetent, self-indulgent, self-centred, and afraid to fail.

The book is expensive at \$US45.00 plus postage from Amazon.com but for those who consider McClellan should have been court-martialled for treason after his actions at Second Manassas, it is certainly worth the read, if only to reinforce one's prejudices!

Quiz Question Answer – Who Am I?

In the last issue of our Newsletter the following question was posed:

During World War 2, I worked in the field of military intelligence initially with the Signal Intelligence Agency and the Army Security Agency before they became the National Security Agency (NSA). I was later to become the NSA's Chief Intelligence Officer.

In 1958, I made a remarkable discovery in the National Archives in Washington D.C., where I found amongst miscellaneous records of the Army of the Potomac, the operational files of the Army's Bureau of Military Information. These files had remained undisturbed since the end of the Civil War, 94 years before.

It was from these papers that I was able to formulate the first authentic history of the Civil War including crafting an "intelligence history" of eight of the major Civil War campaigns. I was able to provide, for the first time, answers to some most tantalizing "whys" of the War.

My work provided, also, analyses of the successes and failures of both Federal and Confederate intelligence up to and including the Gettysburg Campaign.

Who Am I?

The answer to the question is **Edwin C Fishel** and two of our members came up with the correct answer at the same time:

Terry Cartright
Rhonda O'Dwyer (Qld)

Congratulations to you both – the prizes will be presented at our forthcoming meeting.

It Happened in September...

Hatches and Dispatches

September 4, 1864 – The Confederate raider and cavalry commander, John Hunt Morgan is shot and killed in a Federal raid on Greenville, Tennessee;

September 6, 1819 – William S Rosecrans (USA) is born in Delaware County, Ohio;

September 10, 1836 – Joseph (Fighting Joe) Wheeler (CSA) is born in Augusta, Georgia;

September 12, 1818 – Richard J Gatling, inventor of the first machine gun (Gatling Gun) used in the Civil War, is born in Hertford County, NC;

September 27, 1809 – Raphael Semmes, the Confederate naval commander responsible for the destruction or capture of 64 Union ships, is born in Charles County, Maryland;

September 29, 1862 – Federal Brigadier General Jefferson Davis shoots and mortally wounds Brig. Gen. William (Bull) Nelson during a quarrel in a hotel in Louisville.

Command Changes

September 28, 1863 – Federal Generals, Alexander McCook and T L Crittenden are relieved of their commands and ordered to a court of inquiry following the Battle of Chickamauga.

Battles

September 11, 1861 – Lee begins the 5-day Cheat Mountain Campaign (Va) which ends in a Confederate withdrawal;

September 14, 1862 – Union forces push the Confederates back at the Battles of South Mountain and Crampton's Gap, Va;

September 15, 1862 – Confederates capture Harpers Ferry, Va, taking about 12000 prisoners;

September 17, 1862 – The Union strategic victory at the Battle of Antietam halts the Confederate advance into the North;

September 19, 1864 – Federal troops commanded by Sheridan defeat Early's Confederates in the Third Battle of Winchester, Va;

September 19-20, 1863 – Battle of Chickamauga resulting in a Federal retreat to a defensive position in and around Chattanooga, Tennessee;

Other Significant Events

September 1, 1864 – Confederates begin to evacuate Atlanta;

September 2, 1864 – Union forces under General Sherman occupy Atlanta;

September 3 1864 – In Charleston Harbour Confederate and Union forces exchange captive surgeons and chaplains;

September 5, 1863 – Under pressure from the US Government, the British do not deliver two ironclads they had built for the Confederacy;

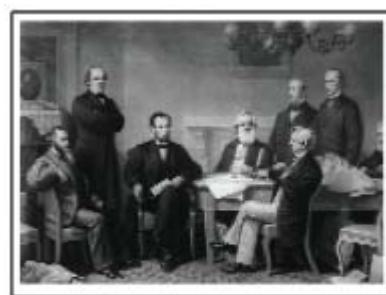
September 7, 1964 – General Sherman orders civilians to leave Atlanta so that he might more easily feed and supply his army;

September 22, 1862 – President Lincoln issues the Preliminary Emancipation Proclamation declaring that all slaves in the rebel states to be free as of January 1, 1863;

September 24, 1862 – Fourteen Governors from Northern States meet at Altoona, Pa, and endorse Emancipation Proclamation.

This Month's Quiz Question

This month's quiz question focuses on the first reading of the Emancipation Proclamation and invites you to name each of the people in the photograph below in correct order from left to right:



First Reading of the Emancipation Proclamation, by Francis Bicknell Carpenter

As is our normal practice, the person who first submits the correct answer will receive a prize of a bottle of fine wine. Answers should be e-mailed to John Cook at:

jcook@bigpond.net.au

The prize-winner will be announced at our regular meeting on Monday, September 10.

The Einstein Factor

The popular *Einstein Factor* quiz show screens on the ABC's Channel 2 at 6:30pm on Sunday nights and is hosted by the quirky Peter Berner and regularly features, as part of its brains-trust, the former quiz champion, politician and author, Barry Jones. In the first round of questions each contestant is asked a series of questions in their area of special interest followed by a bonus question which if answered correctly by the brains-trust gains the contestant double points. Recently, one of the contestants chose the Battle of Gettysburg as his area for questioning. Here are his questions – how would you have gone?

Question 1: In charge of the Confederate forces at the Battle of Gettysburg was General Robert E who?

Question 2: At Gettysburg, what basic colour were the coats of the Confederate uniforms?

Question 3: The Battle of Gettysburg was fought over how many days?

Question 4: Just three days before Gettysburg, President Lincoln appointed Meade to replace General Hooker in command of the Army of the what?

Question 5: Suffering crippling losses at Gettysburg was the celebrated what Brigade of the First Corps' First Division?

Question 6: Which Union commander of the First Corps was killed on the first day of the battle?

Question 7: What specific military rank did Henry Heth hold at the Battle of Gettysburg?

Question 8: Which Confederate general's Virginia division was ordered to attack the centre of the entrenched Union army on the third day?

Question 9: The majority of the second and third days of the Battle were fought north or south of the railway line?

Question 10: How were the estimated 5000 horses killed at Gettysburg disposed of?

Question 11: What was Confederate general Richard Heron Anderson's colourful nickname?

Question 12: Three famous battle sites at Gettysburg are Cemetery Hill, the Wheatfield and the Devil's what?

Question 13: Which Union officer moved his 3rd Corps forward from his ordered defensive position at the southern end of Cemetery Ridge?

Question 14: According to legend, which general waved his hat on his sword and yelled: 'give them the cold steel, boys!?

Bonus Question. Gettysburg is a relatively small town around 60 kilometres southwest of Harrisburg, Pennsylvania.

Answers to these Questions...

The answers to these questions asked on the Einstein Factor program are as follows:

1. Lee
2. Grey
3. Three (3)
4. Potomac
5. Iron or First Brigade
6. General John Reynolds
7. Major General
8. George E Pickett
9. South
10. Burned (In a pile)
11. Fighting Dick
12. Den
13. Major General Daniel Sickles
14. Brigadier General Lewis Armistead

Bonus Question: True.

How many did you get correct straight off the bat?

Words of Wisdom...

"Nearly all men can stand adversity, but if you want to test a man's character, give him power."

- Abraham Lincoln

Famous Last Words

"In my latest writing and utterance, I repeat my unmitigated hatred to ... the vile Yankee race"

- Edmund Ruffin, June 1865,
prior to committing suicide

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