

# 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](http://www.americancivilwar.asn.au)

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## A Message from the Chairman –

Our third meeting for this year looks like being a very special one. First, I have prevailed on our “elder statesman”, Paul Kensey, to share with us some of his extensive knowledge and understanding of matters Civil War with a presentation relating to the aftermath of the Battle of Gettysburg leading up to Lincoln’s Gettysburg Address later in 1863. I’m hoping Paul might give his rendition of the Gettysburg Address, (from memory, of course), during his presentation. I well remember his doing this at one of our conferences some years ago and bringing at least one of our members to tears with it! If you tend to be emotional, make sure you have plenty of tissues available.

The second part of the meeting will be given to one of the videos featuring Dr Gary Gallagher in his highly regarded DVD *Civil War* series. Lectures from this series been presented at some of our meetings and have proved to be very popular.

Finally, it is considered appropriate to provide an update on the happenings at Father Dave’s church at Dulwich Hill following the destruction of the church hall by fire some months ago. This fire, deliberately lit, created a huge gap in the services that Holy Trinity Church plays in the support of the youth of the area. Here is the latest report directly from Father Dave:

*“...No, we haven’t rebuilt our Youth and Community Centre yet after the arson attack in March that completely destroyed it, though we have now levelled the site...While we wait for our new centre to be constructed, we are teaming up with our new best-friends, the Salvation Army Corps of Dulwich Hill to open a new Youth Centre in our area, based on their premises! It’s a true joint venture. The Salvos are providing their wonderful space and are also contributing a youth worker. We are contributing more team members and lots of equipment, including a new boxing ring! I guess the Salvos are also counting on us to supply a truck-load of kids and I trust that we won’t disappoint.”*

*John Cook*

## Our Next Meeting

Our next meeting will be held on **Monday, July 15**, at the **Roseville Memorial RSL Club**, Pacific Highway, Roseville. As is our custom, meeting will commence with a bistro style meal from 6pm with the meeting proper to start somewhere around 7:15 – 7:30pm.

As indicated in the adjoining column, the meeting is to be a “double-header” with two very special presentations. First, our former Chapter Chairman and sometime Civil War tour guide, **Paul Kensey**, will speak on:

### **Gettysburg – The Aftermath What Happened after Day 3 of the Battle**

This will be followed by a video presentation of the eminent Civil war historian and academic, **Gary Gallagher** from the University of Virginia, presenting the lecture:

### **Remembering the War**

In addition, we will continue with our very popular “Show and Tell” segment, so please bring along something or come prepared to speak briefly on a topic for about 3 minutes. Please make an effort to come to this meeting, bring a friend and make this meeting a success that builds on what we achieved in our earlier meetings this year.

## Important Notice – Sale of Civil War Books...

The book sale notified in earlier Newsletters this year is on:

**When: Saturday, July 20 from 2pm**  
**Where: 17 Range St Chatswood**  
(John Cook’s home)

There are many classic Civil War books available, donated by Paul Kensey and Terry Cartwright, at really low bargain prices. Food and drink will be provided free of charge, so bring your money with you to help our Chapter’s coffers.

## 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 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 Unites 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 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;

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

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

### OTHER SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

**July 11, 1864** – Fellow prisoners hang eleven "Raiders" at Andersonville Prison;

**July 11, 1864** – Jubal Early's Confederates fire on Lincoln whilst he is standing on the fortifications of Fort Stephens;

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

### Some Quotable Civil War Quotes

*"See what a lot of land these fellows hold, of which Vicksburg is the key... Let us get Vicksburg and all the country is ours. The War can never be brought to a close until that key is in our pocket"*

- Abraham Lincoln

*"Never in any battle I had witnessed was there such a discharge of musketry ... the first thing I saw was General Rosecrans crossing himself – he was a very devout Catholic. "Hello!" I said to myself, "if the general is crossing himself, we are in a desperate situation."*

- Charles H Dana, U.S. Assistant Secretary of War, Chickamauga, 1862

*"I need not tell the brave survivors of so many hard-fought battles who have remained steadfast to the last that I have consented to this result from no distrust from them; but feeling that valor (sic) and devotion could accomplish nothing that would compensate for the loss that attended the continuance of the contest, I determined to avoid the useless sacrifice of those whose past services have endeared them to their countrymen."*

- From Lee's final letter to his men (1865)

*"I yield to no man in sympathy for the gallant men under my command; but I am obliged to sweat them tonight, that I might save their blood tomorrow."*

- Stonewall Jackson, (1862)

*"There is no sacrifice I am not ready to make for the preservation of the Union save that of honor (sic)"*

- Lee to his wife, (January 1861)

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, 2075 or e-mail [secretary@americancivilwar.asn.au](mailto:secretary@americancivilwar.asn.au)

## Who is the Famous Civil War General in the Photograph?

In the informal photograph, below, there is a famous Civil War General. Who is he?

If you need a hint, he is the officer patting the dog.



The answer to the question is provided on the last page of this Newsletter.

## 25 Things You Need to Know About Gettysburg...

Jenny Holder, one of our members from South Australia, has provided the following link with the comment "...not new information, nevertheless, it is still good to see the photos":

[http://www.kcra.com/news//11797728/20740242/-/8n15as/-/index.html?treets=sac&tid=2655210510813&tmi=sac\\_12pm&tmi=sac\\_12pm\\_1\\_02000107012013&ts=H](http://www.kcra.com/news//11797728/20740242/-/8n15as/-/index.html?treets=sac&tid=2655210510813&tmi=sac_12pm&tmi=sac_12pm_1_02000107012013&ts=H)

This is worth a look.

## More About our Book Sale...

As noted on the first page of this Newsletter, the book sale of Civil War books and related materials is to be held on Saturday, July 20 from 2pm.

Paul Kensey and Terry Cartwright have kindly the books and other materials from their libraries and the collections include many valuable works by famous historians and authors. All books will be available at rock-bottom bargain prices; the maximum price of any book in the sale is to be less than \$20.

To ensure your time is well spent there will be tasty finger food (hot and cold) and drink beer, wine and soft drink) available to ensure the events engenders a convivial atmosphere. We look forward to seeing you there on Saturday

## Let the Boys in Gray parade in Baltimore

Commemoration of Civil War's first blood should include all...

*The debate over the inclusion of Confederate re-enactors in a 2010 Baltimore Civil War memorial parade caused controversy. Read Gregg Clemmer's take on the situation in an op-ed piece in the Baltimore Sun on April 14, 2011.*

This Saturday, the upcoming 150th Anniversary of the Pratt Street Riot will be remembered with what the city of Baltimore is calling "a grand procession." Union re-enactors, fife and drum corps, contemporary military units and representative color guards will "step off" from President Street Station at 11 a.m. and march up Pratt Street to Camden Yards.

On that bloody Friday a century and a half ago, members of the Sixth Massachusetts, on their way to defend Washington, detrained at President Street Station and started up Pratt Street to continue their journey south, only to confront an agitated, pro-secessionist crowd of civilians. Hurling first epithets, then stones, both sides soon resorted to guns. In the aftermath, at least four soldiers and nine civilians lay dead, in what is generally regarded as the first real bloodshed of the Civil War (the deaths at Fort Sumter a week earlier were the result of an accident, not hostilities). This tragedy demands commemoration. Yet, sectional divisiveness haunts us still — **uniformed Confederate re-enactors have been banned by Baltimore City officials from Saturday's grand procession.** (*emphasis added*)

To be sure, the case can be made that this exclusion is historically accurate; there were no uniformed Confederate soldiers along Pratt Street on April 19, 1861. But might including the rebels this time around serve a higher purpose?

On Sunday's op-ed page, Leonard Pitts rightly weighed in on slavery as a primary cause of the war, but he then lost his focus when he equated secession with treason and wrongly vilified the state of South Carolina for hosting a secession ball in December when it was really a small group in the Sons of Confederate Veterans and League of the South.

Yet what Mr. Pitts really does is to reinforce the unfortunate stereotype of African-Americans being more interested in their origins than their destinations. His typical references to Confederate flags flapping "from truck grills," "pigeon-stained statues of dead rebels," and the obligatory mention of Dixie and the Ku Klux Klan are backward-looking at best — the very practice he condemns in neo-Confederates. Mr. Pitts concludes by warning all to avoid "telling lies of omission about yesterday."

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Fair enough. But Mr. Pitts makes no mention of the 99 percent of ex-Confederate veterans who never joined the KKK. Could it be they returned to the Union with higher allegiances — to their God and to America? Were they not primarily concerned with returning to their families after the war to rebuild their farms, businesses, churches and communities? Such citizens looked to the future, and to their sons and daughters who would answer when their country called.

As Baltimore solemnly prepares to commemorate the first blood shed in "the late unpleasantness," most of us do not realize that the city that gave America its national anthem is now uniquely situated to bequeath the nation another gift.

It is not too late to invite the Boys in Gray to join the Boys in Blue for the Grand Procession up Pratt Street on Saturday. Make your own bit of history, Baltimore. Show the world in this moving, poignant example that America is indeed one, commemorating our tragic past but at the same time demonstrating that despite our differences and diversities, we have indeed "bound up the nation's wounds."

## The Most Hated Woman in Virginia

Just a few blocks from the heart of downtown Richmond, at the corner of Fourth and Bates, behind an ancient brick wall and nestled among crumbling headstones and timeworn tombs, you'll stumble across a bulky 2,000 pound chunk of Boston. An unusual monument that marks the final resting place of one of the most significant, but least known figures in American history. "She has disappeared from the landscape," Richmond tour-guide Sandi Bergman.

Elizabeth Van Lew is a woman who singlehandedly changes the course of the country. Her actions though make her arguably the most despised woman in Virginia. Dr. Laurant Lee with the Virginia Historical Society says, "She defied class, gender conventions and race. For a white person to do what she did was incredible. She really put her life on the line."

In the years prior to the Civil War the slave trade flourishes in Richmond. The city was a slave-trading hub. A place where massive fortunes are gained while entire families are broken up and sold at auction. Elizabeth Van Lew is born in 1818 into a wealthy slave owning household. She was a woman of means living in the finest mansion on Church Hill, but the Quaker educated Van Lew comes to abhor the institution of humans owning humans.

She secretly started freeing her slaves following her father's death 20 years 'before' the Emancipation Proclamation. The decision set the unmarried Van Lew on a crash course with her fellow Virginians.

At the outset of the Civil War many Richmonders who opposed seceding from the Union fled north, but not Van Lew. Elizabeth Varon author of "*Southern Lady. Yankee Spy*" says "She believed the slaveholders who argue on behalf of secession are hysterical."

Van Lew did not sit idly by watching the Blue and Gray create a river of red. She played an active role while war raged around her.

Van Lew started spending her entire fortune buying, freeing and educating countless slaves. Varon says, "She felt in her heart that Virginians had a special duty to save the Union." The 43 year-old also frequented the notorious Libby Prison, aiding Union officers starving and suffering in squalor. She was not just ferrying food and medicine, but helped countless prisoners escape hiding them in her own home which would have been considered treason."

But Van Lew's greatest contribution to the Union's war effort remained top secret. With the South in open rebellion Van Lew waged her own covert war. Her friends working as servants in the homes of Confederate leaders stealthily gathered military intelligence. "There were people who were being executed for treason against the Confederacy in Richmond," says The Virginia Historical Society's Caroline Legros. Van Lew and her clandestine network of a dozen black and white operatives risked life and limb. They lived daily with the threat of death.

Varon says, "This is a great story of a forgotten woman. When she was Elizabeth Van Lew in public she pretended to be a loyal Confederate citizen. The Confederates knew there were Unionists who had orchestrated this but they couldn't find them. Van Lew smuggled coded messages written in invisible ink to Union generals bearing down on Richmond. "She knew more about battle strategy than anyone ever gave her credit for. She hollowed out eggshells and put messages to them. She hollowed out spines of books and had them delivered to the Union camp. The information had devastating effects on the front lines protecting the Capital of the Confederacy. While neighbours scoffed at her anti-slavery position no one thought the diminutive Van Lew was capable of orchestrating such an effective spy ring that would help the North win the war. The sexism of Confederacy blinded them to her agency. She was a middle-aged spinster as far as they were concerned.

After the guns fell silent and while the nation binds its wounds the veil of secrecy was ripped from Van Lew's espionage machine. "She was universally hated in the city," says Bergman. On becoming President, Grant commended Van Lew and named her post-mistress of Richmond – a plum position wielding a lot of power. In this position she hired newly emancipated African-Americans and women to fill top positions. "When we think about civil rights leaders we've not really thought about Elizabeth Van Lew."

**The final part of this article will appear in the next issue of the Newsletter**

## Who is That Officer?

The officer patting the dog is none other than –

**George Armstrong Custer**