

Sumter to Appomattox

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

No. 71, March 2015

Please visit our website www.americancivilwar.asn.au

A Message from the Chairman –

I had hoped that my message in the last issue of our Newsletter would be my last with a new Chairman taking on the role of providing the message to members. Unfortunately, Bruce McLennan's "slick" handling of the elections at our Christmas function precluded a "handing over of the baton".

Your 2015 Committee has met in recent weeks and has both reviewed last year's program of meetings and undertaken the initial planning for this year's program. It was most refreshing to see the enthusiasm of our new Committee members and the ideas that are emerging for an exciting program of meetings for 2015.

Looking back to last year and, in particular, the Christmas function, I think most of us would like to thank Jennifer Kirkby for her great performance in conducting the auction of Civil War books. Besides raising \$413 for our finances, it was certainly great theatre! So good was it that we are hoping to have Jennifer repeat her performance with some "mini- auctions" at our regular meeting throughout the year. I'm sure you will be interested to see what she can do when she really tries to perform!

The Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum has provided multiple copies of two of its publications for our use. These will be available at our forthcoming meeting.

As you can see from a perusal of the adjoining column, we have been able to get Bruce Dennett for our first meeting for 2015. This will set the scene for a great initial meeting. The theme of the meeting will focus on Abraham Lincoln and, to this end, I would draw your attention to the significant number of papers that have been presented on Lincoln at our regular meetings and are now included as a resource as part of our website, the link to which is presented at the top of this page.

John Cook

Our Next Meeting

Our first meeting for will be held at the **Roseville Memorial RSL Club, Pacific Highway Roseville** will be held on **Monday, March 16**. As is our custom, the meeting will commence with a bistro-style meal from 6pm with the meeting proper to start around 7:30 pm.

Having regard to the fact that February 12 was Abraham Lincoln's birthday, your Committee considered it appropriate that the theme for this meeting should be:

What Was Lincoln's Contribution to America?

We are looking to a number of our members to provide contributions to our discussion of this topic and, hopefully, these will be less than congruent!

Part of the meeting's proceedings will involve, also, a slide presentation on the Abraham Lincoln Memorial Library and Museum, courtesy of **Colin Allerdice**.

We have been most fortunate to obtain the services of the eminent historian **Bruce Dennett**, who will act as our **facilitator/moderator/referee** for the meeting. Those of you who have heard Bruce speak at our meetings in earlier times will appreciate that we will be in for a most interesting and challenging meeting.

2015 Meeting Dates

The following dates have been confirmed with the Roseville Memorial RSL Club for our meetings during 2015 and members are asked to note these dates for their diary:

March 16
May 11
July 20
September 14
November 30

All these meeting dates are on a Monday, with the bistro style meal being available from 6pm and the formal meeting to commence around 7:30 pm.

It Happened in March

Hatches and Dispatches

March 6, 1831 - Philip H Sheridan is born in Albany, New York;

March 22, 1817 – Braxton Bragg (CSA) is born in Warrenton, North Carolina;

March 28, 1818 – Wade Hampton (CSA) is born in Charleston South Carolina.

Command Changes

March 5, 1862 – Pierre G T Beauregard assumes command of the Confederate Army of Mississippi;

March 9, 1864 – Ulysses S Grant is named General-in-Chief of the Army of the United States;

March 11, 1862, - Lincoln removes McClellan from his command as General-in-Chief of the Union armies;

March 17, 1864 – Lieutenant General U S Grant formally assumes command of the armies of the United States.

Battles / Military Actions

March 2, 1865 - Battle of Waynesborough – the last campaign in the Shenandoah Valley;

March 7, 1862 – Battle of Pea Ridge (Elkhorn Tavern), the biggest battle west of the Mississippi;

March 9, 1862 – Ironclads CSS *Virginia* and USS *Monitor* engage at Hampton Roads, Virginia;

March 12, 1864 – Red River campaign begins under command of Nathaniel Banks (USA)

March 16, 1865 – Battle of Averasborough, N.C.

March 19, 1865 – Battle of Bentonville, North Carolina;

March 21, 1865 – Last major effort by the Confederates to Stop Sherman's march south of Bentonville, N.C.

March 23, 1862 – Jackson and Shields Clash at the Battle of Kernstown, VA;

March 25, 1865 – Grant defeats Lee at Fort Stedman, Virginia.

March 25, 1865 – Union troops begin the siege of Mobile, Alabama;

March 29, 1865 – The beginning of the final Appomattox campaign;

March 30, 1864 – Confederates attack Snyder's Bluff, Mississippi.

Other Significant Events

March 4, 1861 – Lincoln is inaugurated as the 16th President of the United States;

March 4, 1861 – The “Stars and Bars” is designated as the official Confederate flag;

March 4, 1865 – Lincoln is inaugurated for a second term as President;

March 13, 1863 – Explosion at the Confederate Ordnance Laboratory in Richmond kills or injures 69 people;

March 14, 1863 – Farragut leads his Union flotilla up the Mississippi past Port Hudson, La;

March 21, 1861 – Louisiana ratifies the Confederate Constitution;

March 26, 1863 – West Virginia voters approve the gradual emancipation of slaves;

March 27, 1865 – President Lincoln meets with Grant, Sherman and Porter aboard the *River Queen* at City point, Virginia;

March 28, 1865 – Lincoln offers terms of surrender.

Books on Lincoln Keep Coming ...

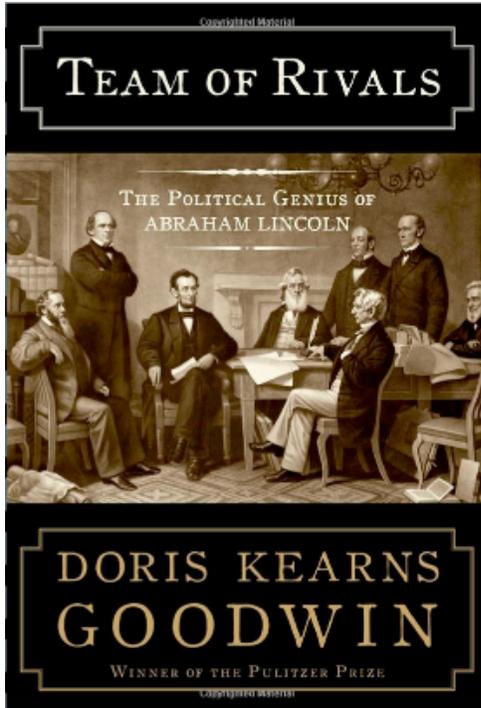
Just when you thought that nothing new could be said about Abraham Lincoln, this book has been published - *Our Lincoln, New Perspectives on Lincoln and His World*, has demonstrated that, even now, it is possible to shed new light on the most studied figure in American history.

Edited by Columbia University's distinguished academic, Eric Foner, the book presents a collection of original essays that spans many aspects of Lincoln's life and work. James M McPherson examines Lincoln's deft navigation of politics and wartime strategy whilst Foner himself explores Lincoln's controversial proposal to move the emancipated slaves “off-shore” to a colony outside the United States. Mark E Neely brings fresh evidence to bear on the issue of Lincoln and civil liberties in wartime whilst Richard Carwardine examines Lincoln's religious beliefs and Catherine Clinton his family life.

The fresh, authoritative scholarship that characterises *Our Lincoln* is a “must read” for anyone interested in this great American! The hardcover edition of the book is available on-line through Amazon.com for \$US 21:63 and the paperback edition costs \$US 13:79, both plus shipping and handling

Yet Another Great Book on Lincoln...

Although first published some ten years ago, this remarkable book provides some interesting and useful insights into the political genius of America's 16th President.



Whilst the life and times of Abraham Lincoln have been analysed and dissected in countless books, the question still remains - Do we need another Lincoln biography? In *Team of Rivals*, esteemed historian Doris Kearns Goodwin proves that we do.

Though she can't help but cover some familiar territory, her perspective is focused enough to offer fresh insights into Lincoln's leadership style and his deep understanding of human behavior and motivation. Goodwin makes the case for Lincoln's political genius by examining his relationships with three men he selected for his cabinet, all of whom were opponents for the Republican nomination in 1860: William H. Seward, Salmon P. Chase, and Edward Bates.

These men, all accomplished, nationally known, and presidential, originally disdained Lincoln for his backwoods upbringing and lack of experience, and were shocked and humiliated at losing to this relatively obscure Illinois lawyer.

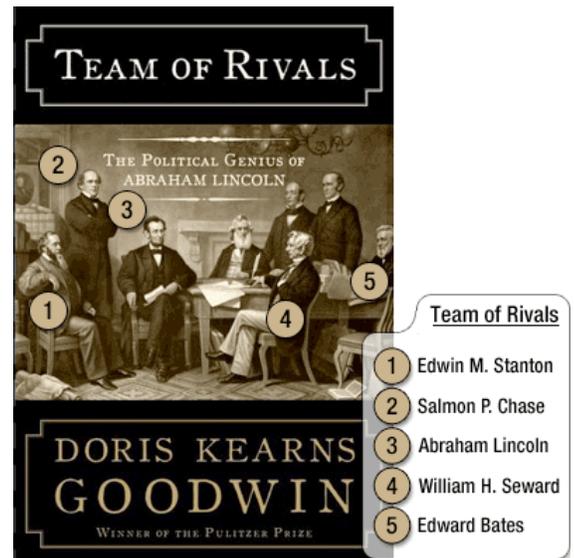
Yet Lincoln not only convinced them to join his administration--Seward as secretary of state, Chase as secretary of the treasury, and Bates as attorney general - he ultimately gained their admiration and respect as well. How he soothed egos, turned rivals into allies, and dealt with many challenges to his leadership, all for the sake of the greater good, is largely what Goodwin's fine book is about.

Had he not possessed the wisdom and confidence to select and work with the best people, she argues, he could not have led the nation through one of its darkest periods.

Ten years in the making, this engaging work reveals why "Lincoln's road to success was longer, more tortuous, and far less likely" than the other men, and why, when opportunity beckoned, Lincoln was "the best prepared to answer the call."

This multiple biography further provides valuable background and insights into the contributions and talents of Seward, Chase, and Bates. Lincoln may have been "the indispensable ingredient of the Civil War," but these three men were invaluable to Lincoln and they played key roles in keeping the nation intact.

Team of Rivals doesn't just tell the story of Abraham Lincoln. It is a multiple biography of the entire team of personal and political competitors that he put together to lead the country through its greatest crisis. Here, Doris Kearns Goodwin profiles five of the key players in her book, four of whom contended for the 1860 Republican presidential nomination and all of whom later worked together in Lincoln's cabinet.



Team of Rivals is presently available online from Amazon at the cost of \$US27:15 (hardcover) and \$US14:28 (Paperback), plus approximately \$10 for shipping and handling. It is also available as a Kindle edition for \$US 11:17.

This is a book that falls into the "must read" category for anyone interested in the political contribution made by Lincoln leading up to and during his presidency during the Civil War.

A copy of this book will be available at our forthcoming meeting (March 16) for inspection of any interested member. This copy will be available, also, for loan on a "first come first served" basis.

Lincoln, Citizen of the World - A Request for Help ...

A request has been received from Dr Daniel Stowell, Director/Editor of the Papers of Lincoln Project for reflections of interested parties on the legacy and impact of Abraham Lincoln. Members will remember that Dr Stowell spoke at one of our meetings in 2012 and now is seeking input for one of the Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum's projects. Dr Stowell's correspondence to our Secretary is presented below:

Dear Brendan:

I trust you remember our visit to Australia in 2012 as fondly as we do. I am working on a related project that seeks reflections on the legacy and impact of Abraham Lincoln around the world. I have been seeking opinions from political leaders, and now I am reaching out to the broad public. You can see the results thus far at www.citizenlincoln.org. You would aid me greatly if you would send a letter for inclusion and forward the message below to any others who may be willing to participate. We are seeking as broad an array of responses as possible, so we welcome geographic diversity, as well as different ages, occupations, etc. Send to as many people as you think might participate. I prefer original signed letters mailed to our institution, but e-mailed submissions or form submissions are also welcome, ideally in their first language, with an English translation (if applicable).

*Many thanks,
Daniel*

The Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum seeks your assistance as we assess the global legacy of Abraham Lincoln. Please visit

<http://www.Illinois.gov/alplm/library/rememberinglincoln>

to participate. We want your reflections, preferably in your first language, with an English translation. You would honor (sic) us by sending your thoughts on what Abraham Lincoln has meant to you and your nation. Thank you in advance for your participation.

*Daniel W Stowell
Director, Center for Digital Initiatives Abraham
Lincoln Presidential Library & Museum*

*dstowell@papersofabrahamlincoln.org
www.papersofabrahamlincoln.org*

Are you in a position to assist Dr Stowell with this project? If so, it is suggested that, initially, you contact our Secretary, Brendan O'Connell. (telephone 9449 3720) to express your interest. Brendan will be coordinating our responses to Dr Stowell and will put you in direct contact with him should you require further information regarding this project.

Your Executive and Committee ...

Following the elections at our last meeting (the Christmas function) in 2014, the following members are your Executive and Committee for 2015:

Chairman: John Cook

Secretary/Treasurer: Brendan O'Connell

Program Directors: Bruce McLennan
Philip Shanahan

Committee: David Cooper
Ian McIntyre
Margaret Neil-Smith
David Hain
Jennifer Kirkby
Colin Allerdice

This year's Executive and Committee is a balanced combination of experience (code for old and bold) and newly appointed members with fresh and innovative ideas. This provides the basis for a most exciting program of meetings and some longer-term initiatives that will be of interest to many of our members.

Famous Last Words ...

Governor Harris: *"General, are you wounded?"*

General Johnston: *"Yes, and I fear seriously."*

The last words of Albert Sidney Johnston who bled to death after being hit in the leg by a stray Minie ball during the Battle of Shiloh. A simple tourniquet would have saved his life.

"Well, if we are to die, let us die like men."

The last reported words of Patrick Cleburne, Franklin, 1864

"I will come out of this fight a live major general or a dead brigadier general"

Brigadier General Albert Perrin, killed in action at the Battle of Spotsylvania, 1864.

Get Well Soon Paul ...

News has just come in that our inaugural Chairman, Paul Kensey, is not in the best of health and is likely to undergo heart surgery in the near future. Paul, our thoughts are with you at this time and we all trust that you will come through this in the same way that has characterised your whole life. Stay strong mate!

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