

Sumter to Appomattox

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

No. 73, June - July 2015

Please visit our website www.americancivilwar.asn.au

A Message to Members –

Our first two meetings for 2015 have been very well attended with around 30 members and guests at each of the meetings. It is heartening to see these increased attendances and your Committee will be continuing to ensure the interest in our meetings continues.

Although our next meeting is not until next month, this newsletter is being sent out with some exciting news of an initiative that your Committee has been considering for 2016.

This initiative involves a proposal for a 14–day tour of key Civil War battlefields from June 4-17, 2016. David Cooper, one of our new members of the Committee, has put together a comprehensive program starting in Washington D.C. and ending in Richmond. Enclosed with this Newsletter is the detailed program of the tour, which includes Gettysburg, Antietam, Harpers Ferry, Manassas, Fredericksburg, Cold Harbor (*sic*), Petersburg, and Richmond.

The cost of the tour (US\$5,200p.p. with a US\$1,250 single supplement) is based on a minimum of 10 participants and covers the services of tour guides for all battlefields and a professional tour manager. This cost does not include the return airfare.

I commend this tour proposal to Chapter members and would wish to thank David Cooper for the effort he has made in putting together such a great tour proposal. Well done, David!

The initiative of having a “lucky door” prize” at the last meeting was won by Frank Featherstone, one of our original Chapter members, who we hadn’t seen for some time. It was great to see you again Frank and we hope you will continue to be at our regular meetings.

I urge you to make every effort to make the time to attend the forthcoming meeting next month – you will certainly not be disappointed.

John Cook

Our Next Meeting

Our Chapter’s next regular meeting will be held on **Monday, July 20**, at the **Roseville Memorial Club, Pacific Highway Roseville**. The meeting will commence, as usual, with a bistro-style meal from 6pm with the meeting proper to start at 7:30pm.

The speaker at this meeting will be **Philip Shanahan**, whose presentation will focus on:

Appomattox – In Their Own Words

In this presentation, Philip will use a number the Civil War’s luminaries, including Generals Longstreet and Gordon to give their views on the final stages of the War and its ultimate outcome. This is will be something our Chapter has yet to experience and is something that should not be missed.

In addition to Philip’s presentation we will be having our usual “show-and-tell” session and members are encouraged to come with a “snippets” they think might be of interest for other members.

Also at the meeting, it is proposed for David Cooper to provide an update on the 2016 Civil War Battlefields Tour and address any questions members might have regarding the tour.

Lincoln Paper from Last Meeting ...

There are still a small number of copies available of the paper *Abraham Lincoln – The Consummate Politician* that was provided following our last meeting. These may be collected at our forthcoming meeting from John Cook.

It Happened in June

HATCHES AND DESPACHES

June 1, 1831 – John Bell Hood (CSA) is born in Owingsville, Bath County, Kentucky;

June 3, 1808 – Confederate President Jefferson Davis is born in Christian County, Kentucky;

June 5, 1864 – On Matagorda Island, Texas, 13 black members of the Union's Corps de Afrique are hanged by Federal military authorities after convictions for mutiny;

June 5, 1864 – Brigadier General William E (Grumble) Jones (CSA) is killed in action in the Shenandoah Valley;

June 14, 1811 – Harriet Beecher Stowe, author of *Uncle Tom's Cabin* is born Litchfield, Conn;

June 14, 1864 – General Leonidas Polk, (CSA) is killed at Pine Mountain, Georgia during the Atlanta Campaign.

COMMAND AND POLITICAL APPOINTMENTS

June 17, 1862 – Braxton Bragg succeeds General Beauregard as Commander of the Western Department of the Confederate Army

June 22, 1861 – Robert E Lee is named the commander of the forces of Virginia;

BATTLES / MILITARY ACTIONS

June 1 – 3, 1864 – Battle of Cold Harbor, Virginia;

June 1, 1862 – Second day of fighting in the Battle of Seven Forks;

June 6, 1862 – The Battle of Memphis, Tennessee;

June 8, 1862 - Confederate forces under "Stonewall Jackson, successfully fight off Federal attacks and achieve victory at the Battle of Cross Keys, Virginia;

June 9, 1863 – Battle of Brandy Station, Virginia, which is the largest cavalry battle ever fought on American soil. In this battle JEB Stuart was surprised by the Union forces commanded by Alfred Pleasanton and narrowly escapes defeat;

June 10, 1861 – Battle of Big Bethel, Virginia, is the first major battle of the Civil War. Although outnumbering the Confederates by more than four to one, the Union attack failed disastrously;

June 12 – 15, 1862 – JEB Stuart's spectacular four-day reconnaissance that develops into a ride around McClellan's army on the Virginia Peninsula;

June 27, 1864 – Battle of Kennesaw Mountain, Ga, results in a Confederate victory thus temporarily checking Sherman's march on Atlanta.

OTHER SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

June 4, 1862 – Southern planters burn huge stocks of cotton on the Yazoo and the Mississippi to prevent their capture;

June 19, 1862 – President Lincoln signs into law a measure prohibiting slavery in the territories of the United States;

June 20, 1863 – By presidential proclamation West Virginia is admitted to the Union as the 35th State;

June 23, 1861 – Federal balloonist Thaddeus Lowe observes and maps the Confederate lines over northern Virginia;

June 25, 1864 – At Petersburg, Federal engineers begin digging a tunnel towards Confederate lines which they hope will enable them to blow apart the Southern earthworks;

June 28, 1863 – Lee diverts Confederate forces from an intended drive to Harrisburg to march them towards Gettysburg;

June 30, 1865 – All eight alleged conspirators in the Lincoln assassination are found guilty.

It Happened in July

HATCHES AND DESPACHES

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;

It Happened in July (cont'd)

COMMAND CHANGES (cont'd)

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;

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.

Some Interesting Sets of Photographs...

A long-time friend of mine, knowing of my Civil War interest, has sent me a link to a set of most interesting coloured photographs from the 19th and early 20th Century. The sequence of these photographs, which runs for nine minutes, includes a significant component of Civil War images, including a number of the key figures in the War.

These photographs, most of which I have not seen before, may be seen by accessing the following link:

http://www.liveleak.com/ll_embed?f=d6d9d5385aee
<http://www.liveleak.com/ll_embed?f=d6d9d5385aee>

Another link that some members might have seen previously is the powerpoint presentation –

[RETRATOS de la GUERRA CIVIL NORTEAMERICANA.pps](#)

When it is appreciated that these photographs were taken 25 years before Eastman founded Kodak, their quality is even more impressive.

Enjoy both of these sets of images!

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:

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Distribution of Our Newsletter ...

In our last Newsletter the issue of the rising cost of postage was raised with a view to our considering a review of the method of its distribution. At present, it costs around \$100 to print and distribute each Newsletter to members. Accordingly, four options are presented for your consideration:

1. Distribute the Newsletter electronically, with provision for those members without an e-mail facility to have a hardcopy version mailed to them;
2. Give members the choice of which format they would wish to receive their Newsletters, possibly with an additional charge for the hardcopy version;
3. As for option 1, but with hardcopies of each Newsletter available at the following regular meeting of the Chapter for collection by members; and
4. Maintain the *status quo* for distribution of the Newsletter.

It was proposed that these options would be discussed at our last meeting with a decision being made by your Committee based on these discussions. Time precluded these discussions at the meeting and it is now proposed that we will discuss the issues of distribution at our July meeting.

Lessons of the Wilderness Campaign, 1864 – An Essay by Sir John Monash...

Julian Reeves, one of our members from Melbourne, has provided some interesting information about a Civil War paper prepared by the then Lieutenant Colonel John Monash. Julian referred us to the Retrospective Section of the *Australian Army Journal: For the Profession of Arms*, which is designed to reproduce the Australian Army's earlier journals, particularly from the 1940s to the mid-1970s.

The particular reference to which Julian drew our attention was the winning entry in the Australian Army's inaugural Gold Medal Military History Competition in 1912. At the time of writing this paper, Monash was serving in the Victorian branch of the Australian Intelligence Corps.

Originally published in the April 1912 edition of the *Commonwealth Military Journal*, the essay has been described as "...an illuminating original article, expounded with utter clarity in a moderate scholarly manner but drawing on firm conclusions".

Any one of our members wanting access to this Monash paper, two copies have been printed, courtesy of Julian, and will be available at our next meeting. Alternatively, you might wish to access the essay directly through the Internet.

As a way of raising interest in this Monash paper, a short explanation of its background will be presented during the "show-and-tell" part at our forthcoming meeting.

"Sexy" Abe?

For the past 30 years Doris Kearns Goodwin has been married to Richard Goodwin, a former aide to Presidents Kennedy and Johnson. For the last decade, however, she has been living with another man, or, at least, that's how she puts it. "I've been living with Abraham Lincoln" and to her it's an emotional love affair.

"Sexy" is not an adjective very often attributed to Abraham Lincoln and it certainly does not appear in Goodwin's published biography *Team of Rivals: the Political Genius of Abraham Lincoln*. It is, however, a word that Goodwin uses to describe the 16th President. She uses it when talking about her favourite photograph taken in 1857, before Lincoln grew his beard and became an "austere marble monument". At this time he was 48, a rising political star in Illinois and about to run (and lose) again for the US Senate.



He appears to be in need of a haircut but looks vital, alive, even sexy. Goodwin says:

"I don't want to sound embarrassing, but he looks sensual. It is the Lincoln I came to know and to love"

Asked the hypothetical question of what she would ask if she could have interviewed Lincoln himself, Goodwin says:

"... rather than ask the heavier questions, I would simply ask him to tell me some of his humorous stories so that I can remember him laughing and smiling instead of the long, sad face that peers out from the latter war-time photographs"

Goodwin notes in her book that history provided Lincoln with the opportunity to manifest his greatness. As a practising historian for over thirty years and living with Lincoln for the past decade, reading what he himself wrote and the myriad of writings by others of him, she finds that:

"... after two centuries, the uniquely American story of Abraham Lincoln has unequalled power to captivate the imagination and inspire emotion."

Maybe in this sense Abraham Lincoln is "sexy"!