

Sumter to Appomattox

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

No. 77, July - August 2016

Please visit our website www.americancivilwar.asn.au

A Message from our Chairman –

Your committee has been considering how we can grow our numbers. I seek your assistance with all aspects of the process – spreading the word, inviting interested people to attend a meeting, making newcomers welcome when they attend.

Committee member, Jennifer Kirkby, has taken on the role to co-ordinate our efforts in each of these aspects. Please talk with Jennifer if you have a friend or acquaintance that might like to join a meeting. Each of us has a role to play in giving a warm welcome to any visitor or possible new member.

In a further initiative, we have decided to progressively write to other Round Tables in the US and elsewhere, inviting any member of those groups to come along to our meetings, if they happen to be in Sydney. The idea is to hear more about how others find interest in the War.

At our next meeting we will hear from our members who have just returned from the Eastern Theatre tour arranged by our own David Cooper. It promises to be a stimulating session. You are most welcome to take part in the “Show & Tell” part of our next meeting – just a few minutes about something that has come your way in recent months.

Bruce McLennan

Annual Subscriptions

With the new financial year, your annual subscription of \$40 is now due for the year ending June 30, 2017. If you live outside of the Sydney Metropolitan Area it is \$30. You have three choices to make a payment:

- you may pay at the next meeting;
- Mail your cheque, payable to ACWRTA at
PO Box200, St Ives NSW 2075; or
- Transmit direct to MY Credit Union account - **BSB 802 058 Account No.1000 14696** and show your name in the reference.

Our Next Meeting

As advertised previously, the next regular meeting for the NSW Chapter of the ACWRTA in 2016 will be held at:

The Roseville Memorial RSL Club, Pacific Highway Roseville on Monday, July 4.

As is our custom, the meeting will commence with a bistro-style meal from 6pm with the meeting proper to start at 7:15pm.

The speaker at this meeting will be **John Morrison**, one of our intrepid tourists, all of whom are pictured below, having just returned from their Battlefield Tour of the Eastern Theatre.



In his presentation, John will be able to show how fortunate we were to secure the services of a number of outstanding battlefield guides, who managed in their different ways to bring the battlefields alive for all of us. For most of us the battles are well known, as were the various commanders and the tactical approaches/manoeuvres undertaken. It was the human stories, however, not always known, that moved all of us and helped to better explain this terrible conflict of the 19th Century ... giving all of us memories for a lifetime.

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;

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;

BATTLES / MILITARY ACTIONS cont'd

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 – fellow prisoners hang eleven "Raiders" at Andersonville;

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.

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 3% 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.

Ed Bearss Likely To Receive Highest Honour ...



Acclaimed historian and World War II veteran Edwin Cole Bearss is being considered for the Congressional Gold Medal, one of the highest honours Congress can bestow on an American.

Short of Lee, Grant, Jackson and Sherman, few names in the study of the Civil War echo as loudly as Bearss. With his booming voice and encyclopedic knowledge of military history, Ed Bearss, the Smithsonian has called Chief Historian Emeritus of the National Park Service, a living national treasure. He has received virtually every award in the field of historical study.

Thanks to legislation introduced in Congress by U.S. Representative Gerald Connolly, and co-sponsored by more than 110 other lawmakers, Bearss could receive the Congressional Gold Medal in the near future. The Bill, H.R. 2059, has been referred to the House Financial Services Committee for consideration.

CONCLUDINGA MATTER OF HISTORY...

In our last Newsletter, it was noted that one of the questions posed in the Trivia Quiz at our end-of-year meeting in 2015 caused some controversy. This question was:

Who commanded the Union forces that received the official surrender of the Army of Northern Virginia at Appomattox on April 12, 1865?

Despite the advice that it was **not** Joshua Lawrence Chamberlain, a number of members insisted Chamberlain was the correct answer to the question. The answer to this question was, in fact:

Major General Joseph J Bartlett

It was recognised that this answer is likely to be akin to blasphemy by the many diehard Chamberlain fans. Furthermore, the fact that Chamberlain's claim of commanding the Union forces at the surrender ceremony has widespread currency (even James M McPherson repeats the claim in his authoritative book *Battle Cry of Freedom*), suggested further research was required.

"...The "Bartlett answer" was first heard in a series of lectures presented by the leading Civil War scholar Gary W Gallagher from the University of Virginia. Dr Gallagher was contacted his generous response was presented in full in our last Newsletter.

At the end of the item in the last Newsletter, it was suggested that to settle the matter properly we should write to James McPherson and ask his views on the matter. Accordingly, this was undertaken and very soon we had a response from him in Princeton N.J., which read:

"I think Gallagher and Marvel are right. Bartlett had overall command of the troops at the official ceremony and Chamberlain only his brigade. Chamberlain's later claim that he was in official command of the surrender ceremonies seems to be a product of a faulty or inflated memory. But it does seem true that it was Chamberlain's decision to order his men to Carry Arms.

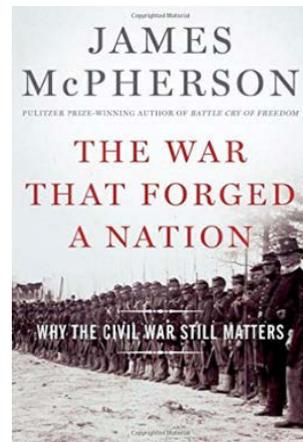
James McPherson"

It is hoped now that this question is now resolved and that even great men of the Civil War can be truly human and be tempted to tell "porkys!"

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 9449 3720 or at PO Box 200, St Ives, NSW, 2075 or by e-mail to:
secretary@americancivilwar.asn.au

McPHERSON'S NEW BOOK...

This book, which is currently available online from Amazon at a very reasonable price (\$US12: 68 plus postage) and reproduced below is a short review of the book by the publisher.



More than 140 years ago, Mark Twain observed that the Civil War had "uprooted institutions that were centuries old, changed the politics of a people, transformed the social life of half the country, and wrought so profoundly upon the entire national character that the influence cannot be measured short of two or three generations." In fact, five generations have passed and Americans are still trying to measure the influence of the immense fratricidal conflict that nearly tore the nation apart.

In *The War that Forged a Nation*, Pulitzer Prize-winning historian James M. McPherson considers why the Civil War remains so deeply embedded in our national psyche and identity. The drama and tragedy of the war, from its scope and size - an estimated death toll of 750,000, far more than the rest of the country's wars combined - to the nearly mythical individuals involved - Abraham Lincoln, Robert E. Lee, Stonewall Jackson - help explain why the Civil War remains a topic of interest. But the legacy of the war extends far beyond historical interest or scholarly attention. Here, McPherson draws upon his work over the past fifty years to illuminate the war's continuing resonance across many dimensions of American life.

Touching upon themes that include the war's causes and consequences; the naval war; slavery and its abolition; and Lincoln as commander in chief, McPherson ultimately proves the impossibility of understanding the issues of our own time unless we first understand their roots in the era of the Civil War. From racial inequality and conflict between the North and South to questions of state sovereignty or the role of government in social change - these issues, McPherson shows, are as salient and controversial today as they were in the 1860s. Thoughtful, provocative, and authoritative, *The War that Forged a Nation* looks anew at the reasons America's civil war has remained a subject of intense interest for the past century and a half, and affirms the enduring relevance of the conflict for America today.