



Sumter to Appomattox

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

No. 78, September - October 2016

Please visit our website www.americancivilwar.asn.au

A Message from Our Chairman

I heard from several people that the last meeting was one of the best ever meetings they had attended. Thanks to **John Morrison** for the interesting and stimulating presentation.

At our last meeting our new **membership badges** were available to use. The idea is the badges are returned to our Secretary at the end of each meeting, so that they will be there next time when you return.

We have stressed previously the importance of all of us making visitors and new members **welcome**. Another aspect is to help former members to return. Should you notice someone at the meeting who has not attended recently, please mention it to one of our Committee.

Our **next meeting** promises to be to be something a little different. It will help the evening go well if each of us does 10 or 20 minutes preparation around the topic prior to the meeting.

Our **Facebook** page is particularly well maintained by Peter Zacharatos and attracting new members. If you have not yet "liked" the page, now is the time! Think of it as the meeting place when we are not at Roseville. Start by clicking "Like" on a new item and then leave a short comment to stimulate discussion on the topic. The Facebook page is most easily accessed from our website www.americacivilwar.asn.au

On our website you will always find the date of our next meeting. The meeting after next on November 28, will be our **End-of-Year/Christmas Function and AGM**. Please consider nominating for a position.

Bruce McLennan

Our Next Meeting ...

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

**The Roseville Memorial RSL Club
Pacific Highway, Roseville,
on Monday, September 12.**

As is our custom, the meeting will commence with a bistro-style meal from 6pm, with the meeting proper to start at 7:15pm. This meeting will be "*something different*", with the topic of the presentation by **Philip Shanahan** being:

Music in the Civil War

This presentation will include, a short talk on brass bands, the part they played in the War and the legacy of the music. A short video will be played demonstrating the size and sounds of the instruments. The presentation will include, also, a special treat of **Mary Jo Rennick**, an accomplished vocalist singing a number of the better-known Civil War songs.

This meeting shapes up as something really special, that should not be missed and we hope that you will make a special effort to share with us this special event.

To whet your appetite for this meeting a short feature relating to Civil war music is presented on the last page of this Newsletter

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, 1864 – 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.

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 lying down in the front right, patting the dog.



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

It Happened in October

HATCHES AND DESPATCHES

October 1, 1864 – Famed Confederate spy, Mrs Rose Greenhow drowns as she tries to avoid capture;

October 2, 1800 – Nat Furner, slave and leader of the slave insurrection at Southampton, Virginia, in 1831, is born in Southampton County;

October 26, 1864 – Confederate guerrilla Bloody Bill Anderson is killed in an ambush near Richmond Missouri.

COMMAND AND POLITICAL APPOINTMENTS

October 8, 1864 – General William T Sherman is named to command the Union Department of the Cumberland with headquarters at Louisville;

October 11, 1861 – Brigadier General William R Rosecrans assumes command of the Federal Department of Western Virginia;

October 28, 1862 – Brigadier General John C Breckinridge assumes command of the Army of Middle Tennessee.

CRIMINAL ACTIVITY

October 16, 1859 – The abolitionist John Brown leads an unsuccessful raid on the Government arsenal at Harpers Ferry, Virginia;

October 19, 1861 – A small Confederate raiding party robs three Vermont banks of over \$200,000.

BATTLES / MILITARY ACTIONS

October 4, 1862 – The Battle of Corinth, Miss, ends with a Confederate withdrawal from this important rail and road centre;

October 5, 1863 – Confederate torpedo boat *David* with a four man crew, attacks the Federal ironclad *New Ironsides* outside Charleston Harbour;

October 6, 1861 – Confederate blockade runner, *Alert*, is captured by the Federal Navy off Charleston S.C.;

October 7, 1864 – *USS Wachusett* captures the raider *CSS Florida* in a controversial action at Bahia, Brazil;

October 9, 1864 – Union cavalry under Custer and Merritt engage and rout Confederates at Tom's Brook (Round Top Mountain, Virginia);

October 14, 1863 – Confederates strike retreating Federals at Bristow Station, VA. in an inconclusive engagement;

BATTLES /MILITARY ACTIONS cont'd

October 18, 1862 – John Hunt Morgan and his Confederate raiders defeat Federal cavalry near Lexington, Kentucky;

October 21, 1861 – Federal forces suffer a dramatic defeat at the Battle of Ball's Bluff (Leesburg), Virginia;

October 22, 1862 – Confederate cavalry capture London, Kentucky;

October 23, 1864 – Last Confederate effort in Missouri ends in defeat at the Battle of Westport;

October 27, 1864 – In a daring raid, Union Lieutenant William B Cushing and a 15-man crew sink the Confederate ironclad *Albemarle* at Plymouth, N.C.;

October 29, 1861 – Largest combined land-sea expedition ever mounted by the United States leaves Hampton Roads, Va., for the Carolina coast and Port Royal.

OTHER SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

October 3, 1863 – Federal War Department orders the enlistment of Negro troops in the slave states of Maryland, Missouri and Tennessee;

October 10, 1862 – President Davis asks Virginia for a draft of 4500 Negroes to work on the completion of the fortification of Richmond;

October 13, 1864 – Maryland voters narrowly adopt a new state constitution abolishing slavery;

October 17, 1863 – President Lincoln issues a proclamation calling for 300,000 more volunteers for Federal armies;

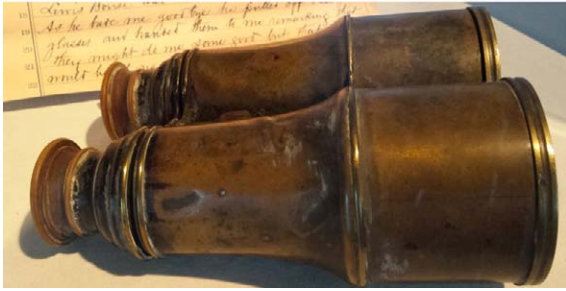
October 20, 1864 – President Lincoln proclaims the last Thursday in November "...a day of Thanksgiving and Praise to Almighty God"

2016/2017 Annual Subscriptions

This year's Annual Subscriptions are now due and are \$40 per person/family for metropolitan members and \$30 for country and interstate members.

If you have not paid your subscription already, you will receive an invoice for your subscription by e-mail or by post in the near future. Your early attention to this would be appreciated.

The Spoils of War – 155 Years Later: From the Collection of the American Civil War Museum:



By
Jodie Frederickson
Collection Manager

The Battle of First Manassas, fought on July 21, 1861, was the first major battle of the Civil War. Many of the experiences of soldiers on that day are lost to history. However, when Major Robert Harris donated these [field glasses](#) to the museum in 1893, he wrote of his experience:

“April 2d 1893

Fort McRee, Pensacola Harbor

The History of the field glasses which I sent is as follows: At the first battle of Manassas in the afternoon, when the fight was over, Gen'l Beauregard ordered me to connect Gen'l Elzey's command across Stone Bridge so as to enable him to go towards Cub Run and intercept the retreating Federals. He instructed me to hurry back so that he could send me with another command across Bull Run to form a V with Gen'l Elzey. On my way back I saw an officer in blue, in the woods and called to him to come out. He did so. I told him to hurry up as I had to go back to the General. At this time I saw some of our men going towards the Lewis House and turned the officer over to them. As he bade me good bye he pulled off these field glasses and handed them to me remarking that they might do me some good but that they would be of no further service to him.”

Harris carried these field glasses throughout the War, serving under generals Beauregard, Jackson, Maury, and Ewell.

The identity of the Union officer and consequences of his surrender remain unknown. Perhaps like many, he believed that the Civil War would come to a quick conclusion, and that his time as a prisoner of war would be short lived.

In both the North and the South, mortality rates in prisoner of war camps were as high as 30%.

Prisoner exchanges between the North and South were in effect until August 1863, when the South refused to exchange black soldiers of the 54th Massachusetts regiment captured at Fort Wagner, and President Lincoln suspended exchanges.

We will likely never know if the Yankee from whom these field glasses were captured survived the war, was exchanged and fought another day, or died in a prisoner of war camp, far from home.

Music in the Civil War ...



Music, especially brass bands, played a vital role not only in the leisure time of both armies, but also in battle. Robert E Lee said, “I don't believe we can have an army without music”. General Sheridan remarked, “Music has done its share, and more than its share, in winning this war”. The role of music in the Civil War will be the topic of the presentation at our forthcoming meeting in September.

An Important Insert ...

Your attention is drawn to the important insert to this edition of our Newsletter. **David Cooper**, an enthusiastic member of your Committee and a successful Civil War Tour organiser has provided some valuable information of proposed Civil War battlefield tours in 2017.

Who is That Officer?

The officer patting the dog is none other than –

George Armstrong Custer

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 of the Chapter by telephone on 0411745704 or by e-mail at:

secretary@americancivilwar.asn.au

American Civil War Battlefield Tours

Western Campaign – 2 to 17 June 2017

Including Vicksburg, Shiloh, Fort Donelson Campaign, Battles of Nashville and Franklyn, Stones River, Chickamauga, Chattanooga and Battle of Atlanta

Eastern Campaign – 24 Sept to 7 October 2017

Including Gettysburg, Antietam, Harpers Ferry, Manassas, Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville, Wilderness, Cold Harbour, Petersburg, and Richmond

For full tour itineraries please refer to www.bespokebattlefieldtours.com.au or contact David Cooper on 0413 010 638 or david@trendsettertravel.com.au



The above are photos taken of the 2016 tour compliments of John Morrison