

Sumter to Appomattox

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

No. 19, January 2005

A Message from the Chairman –

2005 promises to be a big year for the NSW Chapter of ACWRTA with our third full-day conference planned for July 2 and the February meeting having the distinguished American historian, John Quarstein, speak to us. John Quarstein is the Director of the Virginia War Museum and author of a number of Civil War books. The theme of our 2005 Conference is to be *Appomattox and Beyond* and a number of highly regarded speakers have already accepted our invitation to address the conference. The keynote address for the conference is to be given by Dr Frances Clarke, Lecturer in History from the University of Sydney, whose areas of expertise are the Civil War and Reconstruction periods. Dr Clarke's acceptance of our invitation is a real boost for the conference.

As you will see from the next column on this page of the Newsletter, our first meeting for 2005 is a special meeting where we will be able to meet up again with Roger and Elaine Dixon, who are back in Australia for Xmas. This meeting will be less formal than our regular meetings and will provide an opportunity in a social setting to talk to the Dixons about their adventures in the US in 2004. The schedule of our regular meetings for 2005 is still being finalised but will certainly be available to members in the next Newsletter.

The result of the election of our Executive and Committee for 2005–06 brought no changes in personnel for the Executive and one only addition to our Committee, that being Paul Davis. I guess members must be satisfied with the work of your Executive and Committee over the past two years. I would want to stress, however, that we can always use the new ideas that "new blood" will bring to our deliberations

Lastly, I would want to say thank you to all members for the financial and other support they gave for our Giant Xmas Raffle. The winners of the various prizes are detailed in this Newsletter. To these winners I say "congratulations!" and to the rest of the membership a sincere "thank you!"

Paul Kensey

Our Next Meeting

The first meeting for 2005 is a **Special Meeting** where we will meet up again with Roger and Elaine Dixon, who have returned to Australia for Christmas from the vineyards in New Jersey. The meeting is to be held at our normal venue, the **Roseville Memorial RSL Club, Pacific Highway, Roseville**, on the evening of **Wednesday, January 19, 2005**. As usual, members will be able to meet at the Club **from 6pm for a bistro style meal**.

It is proposed that this meeting will be less formal than our normal meetings, although it is hoped that we will be able to convince Roger and Elaine to share their 2004 American experiences with us.

The February Meeting

Our normal meeting scheduled for February 2005 will have the distinguished US Civil War historian and author, John Quarstein, to speak to us. John Quarstein is Director of the Virginia War Museum and the subject of his address to us is to be:

The Peninsula Campaign 1862

The meeting is to be held on Wednesday, February 9 at the **changed venue** of the **Gordon Club, 4th Floor Mandarin Centre, Albert Street, Chatswood**. This change of venue was necessary because our normal venue was not available on this night. Members should note that 5 hours free parking is available at the Gordon Club, with the entrance to the carpark off Victor Street.

A "cook-it-yourself" barbeque or bistro style meal is available at the Club from 6 pm with our meeting scheduled to commence at 7:30 pm.

This meeting is going to be a very special one where our overseas guest, fresh from the Melbourne Conference, is to provide us with some rare insights into America's seminal conflict. Please try to make this important meeting.

It Happened in January

HATCHES AND DESPATCHES

January 8, 1821 – James Longstreet, CSA, is born near Edgefield, South Carolina;

January 19, 1807 – Robert E Lee is born in Stratford, Virginia;

January 21, 1824 – Thomas J (Stonewall) Jackson is born in Clarksburg, Virginia;

January 25, 1825 – George Pickett, CSA, is born in Richmond, Virginia;

January 30, 1816 - Nathaniel Banks, USA, is born in Waltham, Massachusetts;

COMMAND AND POLITICAL APPOINTMENTS

January 6, 1865 – Grant asks Lincoln to remove Butler from command of the Army of the James;

January 8, 1861 – Secretary of the Interior, Jacob Thompson of Mississippi, the last Southerner in Cabinet, resigns;

January 15, 1862 – The US Senate confirms Edwin M Stanton's appointment as Secretary of War;

January 22, 1864 – Major General William Rosecrans is named Commander of the Federal Department of Missouri;

January 23, 1865 – General Richard Taylor assumes command of the Army of Tennessee which now has fewer than 18 000 troops;

January 25, 1863 – The removal of General Burnside as Commander of the Army of the Potomac;

January 26, 1863 – Joseph Hooker is appointed Commander of the Army of the Potomac;

January 31, 1865 – General Robert E Lee is appointed General-in-Chief of the Confederate Armies;

BATTLES / MILITARY ACTIONS

January 2, 1861 – South Carolina troops seize Fort Johnson in Charleston Harbour;

January 2, 1863 – Confederates defeated at the Battle of Murfreesboro (Stones River), Tennessee;

January 3, 1861 – Georgia state troops seize Fort Pulaski before Federal troops can occupy it;

BATTLES / MILITARY ACTIONS cont'd

January 4, 1861 – Alabama takes over the US arsenal at Mount Vernon;

January 14, 1861 – Louisiana state troops seize Fort Pike near New Orleans;

January 19, 1865 – Sherman begins his march and destruction of the Carolinas;

January 19, 1862 – Federals push back Confederates in the Battle of Mill Springs (Logan's Cross Roads), Kentucky;

January 23, 1863 – Burnside's Federal army pulls back to Fredericksburg ending its famed "mud march";

OTHER SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

January 1, 1863 – Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation takes effect;

January 9, 1861 – Mississippi secedes from the Union;

January 10, 1861 – Florida secedes from the Union;

January 11, 1861 – Alabama secedes from the Union;

January 13, 1863 – Federal officials formally authorise the raising of black units for the South Carolina volunteer Infantry;

January 16, 1861 – Arkansas completes a bill calling for a referendum on secession;

January 17, 1861 – The Crittenden Compromise, proposing several amendments to the Constitution in order to save the Union, is "killed" in the US Senate;

January 18, 1862 – The Confederate Territory of Arizona is formed;

January 26, 1861 – Louisiana secedes from the Union;

January 28, 1863 – A mass rally in St Louis ratifies the Emancipation Proclamation;

January 29, 1861 - Kansas is admitted as the 34th state of the Union.

Famous Last Words

*"Men, we have fought through the War together;
I have done my best for you;
my heart is too full to say more,,, goodbye."*

- General Robert E Lee,
April 9, 1865

And the Winners are...

At our Christmas picnic on Sunday, December 12, we drew the prize winners for our Giant Christmas raffle. These winners were:

FIRST PRIZE: The giant Xmas Hamper

Mrs Josie Kirkby – Jennifer’s mother

SECOND PRIZE: \$50 Dymocks Gift Voucher

Mrs Jane Little – Paul Kensey’s daughter

THIRD, FOURTH & FIFTH PRIZES: Three bottles of fine wine – one red, one white and one “sticky” -

Paul and Pauline Davis

Terry Cartwright

Leslie and Doug McCawley

Thanks to the generosity of our members the raffle raised \$979:00 and was right on target to provide the necessary support for bringing the US historian John Quarstein to Australia to address us at the Melbourne Conference and, subsequently, at our regular February meeting.

Special thanks needs to be given, also, to the members who donated items for inclusion in the prizes. Without these most generous donations there is little doubt the raffle would have been a real “flop”.

Our Election Results

As a result of the elections held during our December meeting, the following members comprise your Executive and Committee for 2005 – 2006:

Chairman: Paul Kensey
Secretary/Treasurer: Brendan O’Connell
Program Director: John Cook
Public Officer: Terry Cartwright
Webmaster: Bruce McLennan

Committee: Paul Davis
Robin Haines
Angus Hordern
Jennifer Kirkby
Maureen Morris
Margaret Neil-Smith
David Wilson

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 bpoconn@bigpond.com

The 2005 Melbourne Conference

The Melbourne group of ACWTRA are to hold a full-day National Seminar on Saturday, February 5, 2005 to celebrate “... the 140th Anniversary of the Confederate States Ship Shenandoah visit to Melbourne and Civil War on the Water”. The Conference is to be held at the Williamstown Historical Society and Museum, 5 Electra Street, Williamstown and costs \$50:00. This cost includes morning/afternoon teas and lunch together with Entrance to the Museum and a chance to win a Don Troiani Limited Edition framed print.

The following presentations are scheduled for this conference/seminar:

1. *The Newspaper Reports and the Reaction of the Citizens to the Melbourne Visit of the CSS Shenandoah*

- Barry Crompton, Past President and Life Member of ACWRTA.

2. *David G Farragut – First Admiral of the Navy*

- Len Traynor, President. American Civil War Research Group of Australia

3. *The Police Investigation into the Shenandoah’s Activities in Melbourne*

- Dr Angus Curry, Honorary Research Associate, La Trobe University

4. *Aboard the CSS Nashville and Shenandoah: The Confederate Naval Career of William Conway Whittle*

- John V Quarstein, Special Guest Speaker, Director, Virginia War Museum

5. *David vs Goliath – The Cushing Raid*

- Stuart Duff, Vice President ACWRTA

6. *CSS Virginia: The Power of Iron over Wood*

- John V Quartsein, Special Guest Speaker

Jeff Yuille is coordinating the Melbourne end of the Conference and may be contacted by mail, telephone or e-mail at:

41 Hampstead Drive
Hoppers Crossing 3029
(03) 9734 8614 or 0412 523 199
darleith@optusnet.com.au

Jeff has asked that an indication of your commitment to attend the conference be made before January 15, 2005.

Have You visited our Website Yet?

For those who have not yet seen our new website that is being developed by Bruce McLennan, it is well worth a visit. The website can be accessed at:

www.americancivilwar.asn.au

We would greatly appreciate your reactions to this initiative and ask that you let any of your friends with an interest in history know that the website is operational and that interesting articles and papers are being added on a regular basis.

A Great New Lecture Series!

The Teaching Company from Virginia, US, has just released a new series of 24 lectures in DVD, Video, CD and Audio-tape format by the distinguished historian Professor Gary M Gallagher titled:

“Robert E Lee and His High Command”

These DVDs/Videos/Tapes are supported by a Course Guidebook and Lecture Transcripts and are presently available at substantial discount prices – the DVD set (4 DVDs) is marked down from \$254:95 to \$69:95! (both prices in US currency).

In these lectures, Dr Gallagher ponders the question of what was Lee really like. Was he an “old fashioned general who was too much a traditionalist and gentleman to fight the kind of modern, ruthless war demanded by the times? Or was he a brilliant and aggressive strategist and tactician who knew exactly the kind of war he would need to wage, the size of his “window of opportunity” and, most importantly, the kind of senior officers he would need for his strategy to succeed?

These lectures provide the opportunity for Civil War enthusiasts and scholars alike to deepen their understanding and appreciation of the decisions made by Lee and his generals, the implications, both on and off the battlefield, of those decisions and how Lee’s choices of elevating 15 particular officers to high command influenced, for better or worse, the course of the War.

Further information and access to this series of lectures may be found on the Teaching Company’s website:

www.TEACH12.com

This lecture series together with Dr Gallagher’s earlier lecture series – *The American Civil War* (48 lectures) – are highly recommended.

Audio-tape versions of both series are available on short-term loan to members interested in gaining access to the lectures. Anyone interested should contact John Cook on telephone 9412 3214.

Some Quotable Quotes

The following quotes relating to the beginnings of America’s Civil War have been gleaned from a number of sources:

“As a nation we began by declaring that all men were created equal. We now practically read it, all men are created equal, except negroes”

- Abraham Lincoln, 1855

“A house divided against itself cannot stand. I believe this government cannot endure permanently, half-slave and half-free. I do not expect the Union to be dissolved – I do not expect the house to fall – but I expect it to cease to be divided”

- Abraham Lincoln, opening statement of the Lincoln-Douglas debates 1858

“The time for compromise has now passed. The South is determined to maintain her position and make all who oppose her smell Southern powder and feel Southern steel”

- Confederate President Jefferson Davis
February 16, 1861

“South Carolina is too small for a republic and too large for an insane asylum”

- James L Petigru, on hearing of its secession from the Union

“I am with him”

- Stephen A Douglas, following Lincoln’s inaugural address

“If the Union is dissolved and the government disrupted, I shall return to my native state and share the miseries of my people and, save in defense (sic), draw my sword on none”

- Robert E Lee, 1861

“War means fighting, and fighting means killing”

- Nathan Bedford Forrest

“We will fight you to the death. Better to die a thousand deaths than to submit to live under you”

- John Bell Hood, CSA

“The time for was has not yet come, but it will come, and that soon; and when it does come, my advice is to draw the sword and throw away the scabbard”

- Thomas J Jackson to VMI cadets, April 13, 1861