

Sumter to Appomattox

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

No. 35, July/August 2007

Please visit our website at www.americancivilwar.asn.au

A Message from the Chairman –

The members who were present at our “boutique” June meeting had a marvellous opportunity to hear John Diamond’s well-constructed and informative presentation on Lincoln’s emancipation initiatives during the Civil War. It was truly a privilege to hear a professional historian provide both a description of the events leading up to the release of the Emancipation Proclamation and the wider context to the political situation that led to the Proclamation’s release. For me, the opportunity at the end of John’s presentation to interact with him and those present in further discussion of the issues surrounding these critical events that essentially represented a significant change to the War aims of the Union, was a highlight of the meeting. I hope that such interaction might become an integral part of subsequent meetings as we seek to unravel the events of Lincoln’s leadership of his country.

Your Committee is presently discussing the future for our regular meetings in the light of our move this year to monthly meetings and the relatively poor attendances we have had so far at our scheduled meetings. I would welcome any ideas/suggestions you might have for our future remembering no idea will be considered too radical! Please let us know what you want for our future meetings.

In our last Newsletter (No. 34, May/June 2007), I advised that one of our new Committee members, Geoff Kay, had acquired a most interesting Civil War resource, two detailed maps of A2 size produced by the *National Geographic* magazine for the Civil War Centenary in 1961. Fifty copies of these maps have been offered to us from *National Geographic’s* excess stock and are in pristine condition. If you are interested in obtaining a copy of these maps, please speak to Brendan O’Connell who will be happy to accommodate you for a small donation.

Lastly, I commend to you our meeting on July 9, to hear Bruce Dennett speak. Those members who were at our last conference will remember Bruce as both an entertaining and inspirational speaker. I look forward to seeing you at the meeting.

Paul Kensey

Our Forthcoming Meetings

Our regular meetings of the NSW Chapter of ACWRTA continue at the **Roseville Memorial RSL Club, Pacific Highway, Roseville**. The meetings commence with a bistro-style dinner at the Club from 6pm with the proceedings of the meeting proper commencing at 7:15pm. The next meeting to be held on **Monday, July 9** continues the theme of our previous two meetings on the life and times of Lincoln with a presentation by a visiting lecturer, **Bruce Dennett**, who is to speak on the topic:

“Lincoln – The Man and the Myth”

Bruce is an award-winning History teacher from Baulkham Hills High School and distinguished scholar of American History, who is much sought after as a guest speaker at professional conferences. We are extremely fortunate to have been able to have him speak to us at one of our regular meetings. Members are asked that, despite the cold winter nights we are experiencing at this time, to make every effort to be at our July meeting to hear this outstanding speaker – it will be well worth the effort!

We are hoping to record Bruce’s presentation and provide members with a written paper of the presentation with our despatch of the next Newsletter in September.

The August meeting of our Chapter will be held on **Monday, August 13** and will be a “double-barrelled” presentation on the topics by two of our members:

1. **“Lincoln – The Devil Incarnate - A Southern Perspective (David Smith);**
2. **Lincoln – Lessons on Leadership (Bruce McLennan).**

Notes associated with each of these presentations will be available at the conclusion of the meeting and will be mailed automatically to members living outside the Sydney Metropolitan Area with the September newsletter. Other members who miss the meeting may obtain copies of these papers on request.

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;

BATTLES / MILITARY ACTIONS (continued)

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.

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

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 #% 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.

Famous Last Words...

"My grand old division, which was so full of faith and courage then, is now almost extinguished. But one field officer in the whole command escaped in that terrible third of July slaughter, and alas! alas! for the men who fearlessly followed their lead on to certain death"

- General George E Pickett, CSA,
after the Battle of Gettysburg

"Forward! For God's sake forward"

General John Reynolds before
being mortally wounded,
Gettysburg, July 1, 1863

"I'm as dead a man as Julius Caesar"

General Stephen H Weed,
Union brigade commander
mortally wounded at
Little Round Top

It's Not the Civil War, But...

Brendan O'Connell, our Secretary/Treasurer is to participate in this year's "City to Surf" run in support of Father Chris Riley's charity:

YOUTH OFF THE STREETS

In his inimitable way as an accountant, Brendan advises that any donation made gives you the opportunity to reduce your income tax bill as all donations are tax-deductible.

Those members wishing to donate to this, should visit Brendan's very own website at:

<http://city2surf.everydayhero.com.au/BrendanOConnell>

Brendan asks that you do not send any money to him directly.

This Year's Papers Still Available

As a direct consequence of the small attendances at this year's meetings, we still have a number of copies of the papers that supported the presentations for our regular meetings. These papers are:

1. Terry Cartwright's paper on General George Thomas, USA, which is a great paper in the "must read" category;
2. The first paper in the Lincoln series of presentations by John Cook outlining Lincoln's surprise nomination and the early days of this Presidency; and
3. John Diamond's excellent paper, "*Lincoln – The Great Emancipator?*" which provides not only a scholarly coverage of the topic but one that is an easy read.

Members requiring any of these papers should contact John Cook, telephone 94123214 or mobile 043 777 000 6. Alternatively, be at the next meeting on July 9, where these papers will be on display and may be collected.

Tit-for-Tat

The Confederate gunners who bombarded the Union defenders at Fort Sumter, SC, on April 12, 1861 are reported to have cheered each time the defenders got off a shot in reply.

Source: North and South, Volume9, No. 7

Answer to the Quiz Question

In the last Newsletter, members were invited to answer the following question:

On June 30, 1862, near Glendale, Virginia, I saw General Robert E Lee and President Jefferson Davis observing the start of the Battle of Glendale. As Federal artillery fire began to fall on the area, I rode up to them and said: "As Commander of this part of the field, I order you both to the rear! A single Yankee shell could deprive the Confederacy of its President and the Army of Northern Virginia of its Commander"

General Lee and President Davis then rode beyond the range of the Federal guns and away from the front line.

Who am I?

Answers were received from five members, the first correct one from Terry Cartwright. Congratulations Terry! The answer to the question was:

A P Hill

This Month's Quiz Question

In which battle did Union General Oliver O Howard lose his right arm?

Answers to this question should be forwarded to John Cook by telephone to 9412 3214 or by e-mail to jcook@bigpond.net.au

Stanton vs Big Business

In early 1864, John W Garrett, President of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad spoke with Secretary of War Edwin Stanton complaining that the draft was leaving the B&O with a severe staff shortage. Stanton's initial response to Garrett was to suggest the commutation be paid, referring to the \$300 payment that exempted men from the draft. Garrett's response was to claim the men could not afford such a tax to which Stanton replied:

"They have a rich company at their back and that's more than other people have"

At this point Garrett made his big mistake when he threatened to stop the running of the railroad. Without missing a beat, Stanton replied:

"If you do, I will take it up and carry it"

Faced with the railroad being seized by the Government, Garrett decided to pay the commutation for his workers thus exempting them from the draft.

Government 1 – Big Business Nil!