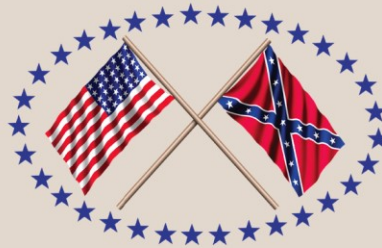


Sumter to Appomattox



American Civil War Round Table of Australia (New South Wales Chapter)

www.americancivilwar.asn.au

Patron: Prof the Hon Bob Carr

Number 103 Nov.- Dec. 2020

Chairman's message

Dear Friends,

The last three meetings have been by way of Zoom. All included more than twenty people and were judged to be successful in the circumstances with positive feedback. However, it is good for our group that we are able to attend the Annual General Meeting and end of year dinner meeting on 23 November 2020 in person at the Roseville Club.

Our appreciation and thanks go to Peter Headley for a well researched presentation on Women in the Civil War at our last meeting. Another excellent contribution to our regular meeting program.

Thank you also to John Morrison for his talk on the Bixby letter, a thoughtful letter from Lincoln to a woman who had lost several sons in the war.

When attending the Roseville Club for our meeting, please fulfill the check in requirements of the club, take advantage of the hand sanitiser at the door and respect the need for maintaining an appropriate distance from others. Venues such as the club are required to have people seated and to avoid mingling. Whilst this will cramp our normal friendly style, it is a small inconvenience necessary to enable in person gatherings of up to 30 people to occur.

As I have said previously, we are before anything else a group of friends with a quirky common interest. It will be great to see everyone again in person.

Please stay connected and stay safe.

Best wishes,

Ian McIntyre

Our Next Meeting

**Christmas function (includes AGM)
Monday, 23rd November 2020**

Our meeting will be live! ... in person

Please join us for dinner at
The Roseville Club
64 Pacific Highway, Roseville

Meet: 6.15; AGM: 6.45; Dinner: 7.15

DISCUSSION TOPIC:

Reflections on the meaning of the Civil War to today's America

For our safety, limited to **30 members**
... unfortunately, we will not be able to accommodate spouses or guests this year.

Three course meal for only **\$45**

Please book your place early by bank transfer to
BSB: 082 445 Ac: 413569756.

Email details to:

treasurer@americancivilwar.asn.au

by Sunday, 15 November

Please be Covid safe. Do not come if you are feeling unwell.

On our **Website** you will always find the date of our next meeting. Our Facebook page is also easily accessed from our website

www.americancivilwar.asn.au

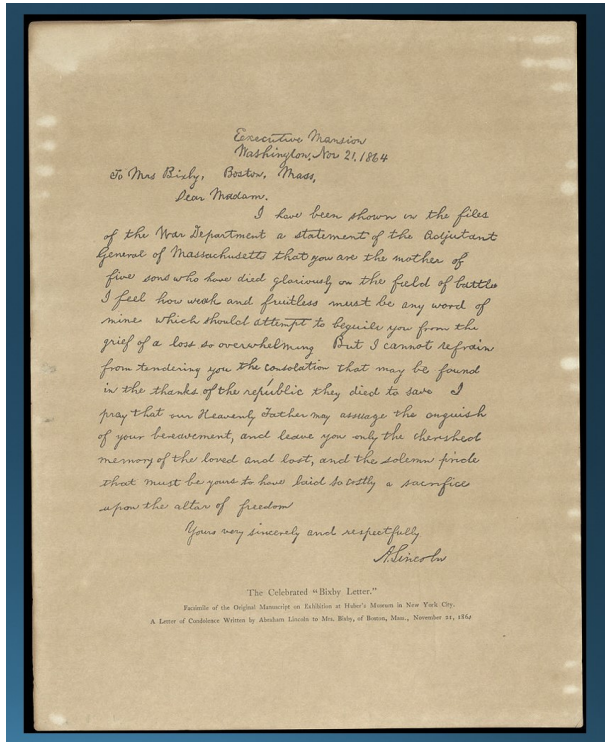
Anyone interested in participating should contact John Morrison on 0411 197 935 or at

johnjmorrison@bigpond.com

Our Last Meeting

Our last meeting, again held online, was well-attended and we were privileged to have two presenters, John Morrison, and Peter Headley. John began the meeting with discussion about the famous Bixby letter.

The Bixby Letter



John Morrison introduced the celebrated “Bixby Letter”, referred to in the movie “Saving Private Ryan”, written by President Lincoln to a woman who had lost five sons in the Civil War. At the heart of this letter, written 21st November, 1864, is a mystery.

The recipient of the famous letter was a widow, Mrs. Lydia Parker of Hopkinton, Massachusetts., who had informed the Massachusetts Adjutant General Schouler in September 1864 that five of her sons had died fighting for the Union. He had passed on this information to Governor Andrew, who had requested that the President honour Mrs Bixby with a letter. The War Department had requested the names of Mrs. Bixby’s sons and, after these were received, a report was prepared for President Lincoln by Secretary of War Stanton.

However, there are inconsistencies in the background of the letter, which suggest all was not as it seemed. First, based on records, not all the five sons appeared to have died in war. Second, Mrs. Bixby was perhaps not who she was thought to be, with allegations that she was in fact “a Confederate sympathizer who ran a whorehouse”, whose sons were “tough” and with

“some too fond of drink”. Indeed, one may have served a jail sentence for “some misdemeanor”. Third, was the letter actually composed by Lincoln or by his secretary, John Hay? John thinks it was probably written by Lincoln, but was he busy campaigning at that time? In fact, there was not much happening in that period.

All in all, this letter was deemed “a beautiful blunder” by Historian William E. Barton in 1926.

Dear Madam,
I have been shown in the files of the War Department a statement of the Adjutant General of Massachusetts that you are the mother of five sons who have died gloriously on the field of battle.
I feel how weak and fruitless must be any words of mine which should attempt to beguile you from the grief of a loss so overwhelming. But I cannot refrain from tendering to you the consolation that may be found in the thanks of the Republic they died to save.
I pray that our Heavenly Father may assuage the anguish of your bereavement, and leave you only the cherished memory of the loved and lost, and the solemn pride that must be yours to have laid so costly a sacrifice upon the altar of Freedom.
Yours, very sincerely and respectfully,
A. Lincoln.

A typed copy of the letter

Women in the U.S. Civil War



Guest speaker, Peter Headley, gave a wide-ranging, comprehensive and well-received presentation on the role of women in the Civil War. As well, he provided some interesting background information about the period, supported with informative visuals.

He began his talk with a short discussion of his own interest in the war, which relates back to an ancestor, Captain Horatio D. Eaton, who died fighting for the Union in 1864 aged 24.

Peter then referred to the period before the War, when women, in fact, had a strong influence, with Harriet Beecher Stowe identified as galvanising feelings about slavery, both in the North and the South.

As background to the conflict, the Southern states supplied 57% of all exports from the U.S. in the form of cotton. These states wanted open trade whereas the North wanted to protect their infant industries. There was also the issue of

slavery. The population of the U.S. in 1861 was 31.1 million, of which 18.5 million were in the North and 9 million in the South. Of these 9 million, 3.5 million (39% of the total) were slaves. They were owned by only 50,000 whites, who wanted to keep their slaves because of the profitability of cotton.

In a short summary of the lead up to the Civil War and the early years, Peter introduced a number of significant women from this period. Among these was Harriet Tubman (1823-1913), who initiated the Underground Railway for escaped slaves; Julia Howe (1819-1910), who wrote the "Battle Hymn of the Republic" anthem; and Louisa May Alcott, nurse for the U.S. Sanitary Commission and then author.



Harriet Tubman during the Civil War period



Harriet with slaves she helped to escape

Peter provided a detailed picture of the conditions for soldiers in camps and in hospitals in the time, leading to a discussion on the changing role of nurses. He showed photos of the appalling conditions of wounded soldiers and the field hospitals set up after battles.



Union wounded, Savages Station, 1862



Camp Letterman Gettysburg

The prospects for wounded soldiers were very poor, with the likelihood of dying of gangrene or other illnesses such as dysentery very high. Conditions were better for Union soldiers than for those in POW hospitals. This was because of the involvement of the U.S. Sanitary Commission, established in 1861, and the contribution of (initially-volunteer) nurses in caring for patients in military hospitals. They were very successful in their roles, for example, Clara Barton.

In 1861, Dorothea Dix was named to superintend the women nurses assigned to the U.S. Army and, after the First Battle of Bull Run, her nurses were paid 40 cents per day with rations, housing and transportation.



San Comm nurses

These nurses were often of middle and upper-class backgrounds or from religious backgrounds, for example, the Sisters of Charity. Within six months of the start of the War, 600 nurses were serving in 12 hospitals.



San Comm nurse Ann Bell tending a patient

Peter provided details on the many women involved in the War in different capacities. These are listed in brief, giving those who are interested the opportunity to research further:

- Abby House or Aunt Abbey: illiterate; cared for 8 nephews; she brought supplies to Confederate soldiers on battlefield
- Mrs Mary Bickerdyke: hospital administrator for Union soldiers; lifelong advocate for veterans
- Felicia Porter, who raised funds for Confederate veterans
- Phoebe Yeates Levy Pember: appointed matron of Richmond's Chimborazo Hospital
- Margaret Breckenridge: served on hospital boats bringing Union soldiers north; died of overwork
- Mary Safford (1834-91): present at a number of battles and known as "the Cairo Angel"
- Alice Risley (1847-1939): nurse in the Confederacy; was the last survivor the Army Nurses Association
- Julia Wheelock (1833-1900): "The Florence Nightingale of Michigan"
- Cornelia Hancock (1840-1927): worked at a number of hospitals, post-war started a school for negro children and organized charitable organisations; President of the National Association of Army Nurses



Cornelia at Gettysburg 50th Anniversary 1913

- Eliza Crim (1837-1931): took wounded cadets to her home during a battle; known as the "Mother of the New Market Cadets"
- Helen Gilson (1836-68): worked on Hospital Transport ships; worked at the colored hospital at Petersburg; known as the "Angel of Mercy"
- Ella Newsom (1833-1919): served as Matron of the Chattanooga Academy Hospital; known as "the Florence Nightingale of the South"
- Arabella Barlow (1824-64): wife of General Barlow; was given a pass to cross lines to

treat him when he was wounded; died of typhoid in 1864

- Mary Telford (1839-1906): worked initially as nurse in Nashville and then for the US Sanitary Commission; was sought out post-war by veterans wishing to thank her
- Jane Swisshelm (1815-84): publisher, journalist, abolitionist and suffragette
- Mary Chestnut (1823-86): justly famous for her civil war diary; was witness to many key events in the Confederacy
- Martha Coston (1826-1904): used the notes of her late husband, a promising inventor and chemist, to develop a range of colours able to be coded for pyrotechnic flares, which she patented in 1859; they were used by the U.S. Government in the War. The patent was subsequently bought by the government in 1861.



- Anna Ethridge (1839-1913): with her husband, joined the 2nd Michigan Volunteer Infantry Regiment; after he deserted, she remained and spent the war with the 5th Regiment; known as "Gentle Annie" she was awarded the Kearny Cross in 1863
- Sarah Young (1830-1908): regimental nurse with the 109th New York volunteer Infantry Regiment; called "Aunt Becky", she was remembered with appreciation by many veterans
- Teresa Kretzer (1844-1932): from Maryland, which was a divided state; made a US flag which was flown from the town square; hid the flag on arrival of Confederate troops; later hung it out for Union troops, who doffed their hats

As well as these remarkable women, mostly nurses, there were others who served in other capacities including:

- Dr. Mary Walker (1832-1919): surgeon; captured as a spy by the Confederates; only woman to ever receive the Congressional Medal of Honor
- Albert Cashier (1843-1915): born Jennie Hodgers in Ireland; served a full three-year enlistment as a male

- Sarah Wakeman (1843-64): enlisted as Lyons Wakeman in the Union army; her true sex was never discovered; died of illness in New Orleans
- Sarah (Edmonds) Seelye (1841-98): Canadian-born; served for two years with the 2nd Michigan Infantry; received a military pension
- Belle Boyd (1844-1900): a Confederate courier; imprisoned in 1862, then released and then re-arrested and banished to the South; sailed for England as a Confederate courier but was intercepted; seduced a naval officer on board and later married him; later wrote a memoir and started a stage career; her story is questionable



Belle Boyd

- Rose Greenhow (1815-1864): known as "Wild Rose"; became the ringleader of a Confederate spying ring in Washington; sent to England by Jefferson Davis, she became engaged to an English nobleman; escaping a Union blockade after she returned to the US, she was drowned while attempting to escape – weighed by gold currency.
- Pauline Cushman (1833-93): a union spy; was captured and wounded twice; sentenced to death but execution was put off; rescued by Union troops
- Nancy Hart Douglas (1846-1913): joined the Moccasin Rangers in West Virginia; acted as guide and spy for the Confederacy
- Antonia Ford (1838-71): daughter of a prosperous slave owner, well-educated; helped with capture of Union General Stoughton; later arrested; married the Union officer responsible for her
- Elizabeth van Lew (1818-1900): raised in a wealthy slave-holding family but, educated by Quakers, developed Abolitionist views; recruited as a spy in 1863, she quickly became head of the spy network in Richmond; used invisible ink and hid

dispatches inside vegetables; recruited more spies including negro Mary Bowser; treated as a pariah after the war and spent her final years in poverty; hers was most probably the most successful spy ring on either side



Spy Elizabeth van Lew

- Jenny Wade: the only civilian to be killed in the battle of Gettysburg; a minie ball passed through the door and killed her
- Mention must also be made of Mary Surratt, whose involvement in the death of President Abraham Lincoln is well-known

African-American women also contributed in many capacities; they were nurses in the Civil War but were not included as nurses by Dorothea Dix or recognized for their services for decades after the war; however, they did work as nurses in convalescent homes and U.S. government hospitals.



Five African-American nurses served on the hospital ship *USS Red Rover*; Ann Bradford Stokes is the best known of these.

- African-American Isabella Baumfree, better known as Sojourner Truth, was born into slavery in New York; during the War she walked the roads of Michigan collecting food and clothing for Black regiments; later worked in Union hospitals in Washington D.C. and taught domestic skills to freed slaves; after the passing of the 1867 Fourteenth Amendment giving black men the vote, she was the only voice for black women



Sojourner Truth

- Susie King Taylor (1848-1912): born a slave but raised by her freed grandmother; received a good education; moved to Boston in the 1870s; in 1902 wrote her experiences of the war, the only African-American to do so



Susie King Taylor

- Mary Bowser, Union Spy, also known as Mary Richards and Mark Denman; born a slave; was recruited by the daughter of her previous owner, Elizabeth van Lew
- Selina Gray, housekeeper to General Robert E. Lee; through her efforts much of the house property was preserved for posterity

Everyday women were also caught up in the War; their homes were caught up in battles; they became refugees; they were attacked and raped by soldiers; they also survived as widows:

- the last Union widow, died in 2003
- one of last Confederate widows, Maudie Hopkins, died in 2008
- possibly and debatably the last Confederate widow was Helen Jackson, aged 101 in October 2020, who kept her marriage at 17 to her 93-year old husband secret until 2017

These women had married old men at a very young age during the Depression possibly for their army pensions.

This very comprehensive presentation was well-received by the zoom audience.

Tribute

Edwin Bearss 1923 – 2020



It was with great sadness that we heard of the passing of Ed Bearss, an extraordinary and singular individual whose knowledge of Civil War history was unmatched – “a national historic treasure who probably knew more about the Civil War than any man alive” according to the Washington Post in its Obituary of 30th September.

We were privileged to host him twice on very memorable occasions. On the most recent, in February 2013, he gave a memorable talk to 49 members and their guests. Over his stay, he was hosted by our members, taken on sightseeing trips and driven to Canberra for a VIP tour of the War Memorial.

We are very appreciative that our esteemed long-term member, Len Traynor, who has had a long association with Ed, has written a personal tribute to him. Thank you, Len.

MEMORIES OF MY FRIEND ED BEARSS

by Leonard Traynor

I first met Ed Bearss in Washington DC in 1967. The introduction was arranged by Harold L. Peterson, the Chief Curator and Historian of the National Park Service (a position that Ed later occupied). At our first meeting Ed said he was thrilled to meet an Australian as he had very fond memories of the country and its people, being stationed outside Melbourne during World War II, and later recovering in a U.S. army hospital in Brisbane from a very severe wound he received while fighting the Japanese in the South Pacific.

He very kindly invited me to his home in Arlington where I met his wife Marge, herself a

leading authority on the American Civil War. During the time I spent there, they related in great detail their involvement in the discovery of the U.S.S. *Cairo* and its subsequent salvage. Sadly, the recovery was not as successful as they hoped because the vessel broke apart as it was being lifted from the water, which was devastating in itself, but also because of the huge number of artefacts that poured out of the vessel and into the river, never to be recovered. As a memento of my visit, Marge presented me with a U.S. naval button and a small section of plug tobacco which they recovered from the warship.

Years later when Marge moved back to Mississippi to be cared for by her daughter, Marge and I had very interesting conversations about the Civil War. She and her family were from that area and she was a fountain of knowledge on what activities had occurred in that region during the turbulent years between 1861 and 1865. Apart from her CW interest, Marge was a very keen stamp collector and greatly appreciated all the Aussie stamps I sent to her for collection. It was very sad day for me when she passed away as I did enjoy our conversations so much.

Over the years I kept in touch with Ed with letters and occasional telephone calls, but he was often away conducting tours of CW battlefields or related sites. Every now and then, Ed would send me copies of the magazine 'Gettysburg' in which he has a great involvement. Sometimes he would scrawl a little note to me inside the cover in his very distinctive hand writing that made "written with a thumbnail dipped in tar" look more like copperplate. No criticism of his penmanship, it was just part of Ed's unique character.

Ed returned to Australia some years ago and I arranged to have dinner with him in the city and we were joined by Paul Kensey, former President of the Round Table. John Cook, who had a previous invitation, was much to his chagrin not able to come.

We were very fortunate to have another visit from Ed in 2013, due to the generosity of both the Sydney and Brisbane Round Tables, where he spoke. His presentation to us at Roseville was very well-attended, and it was a marvellous experience to sit in the presence of this great man and marvel at his tremendous depth and knowledge of the Civil War. An occasion for all of us who were there never to be forgotten.

During our telephone conversations right up to a few weeks before he died, Ed often mentioned how much he enjoyed his visit to "down under" and the hospitality and courtesy he received. He

said it was one of the highlights of his life. As I always did I 'phoned him on his birthday, but this year all I received was his recorded message. Little did I know Ed was at his daughter's house in Mississippi recovering from a bad fall downstairs which may have expedited his demise.

With Ed's passing a curtain has come down on the life of a most extraordinary man whose Civil War knowledge was unsurpassed. We will never see his like again and the world of fellow enthusiasts is much poorer for his death. He has left a void never to be filled. I am so very proud to have been his friend.

Postscript: About thirty years ago, I had a visit from Bob Younger of Morningside Books, a leading publisher of Civil War titles and a great friend of Ed Bearss. Knowing Bob was coming to Australia, Ed suggested Bob contact me, which he did, and we spent several delightful hours sitting in my library talking Civil War. On his return home Bob very graciously sent me one of his recent publications, the three-volume classic work on the campaign against Vicksburg, by our mutual friend Ed Bearss, a gift that thrilled me no end.



Ed doing what he loved, with an Australian fan David Hawes in 2010

This publication is the official newsletter of the American Civil War Round Table of Australia (NSW Chapter). All inquiries regarding the newsletter should be addressed to the Secretary of the Chapter by telephone on 0411 745 704 or by e-mail to: secretary@americancivilwar.asn.au

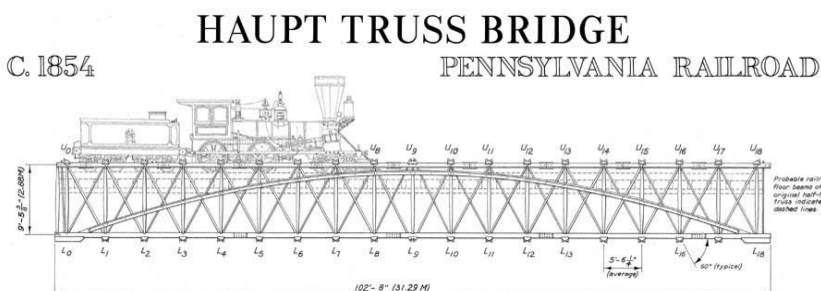
Civil War Profile

BRIGADIER GENERAL HERMAN HAUPT 1817 - 1905

The name Herman Haupt is little known to armchair history now, but he should be. He was one of the most significant and effective contributors to the successful military efforts of the Union, through his brilliant management of the Union's railways during the Civil War – one of the very first conflicts in which the potential of railways was realised to ensure the rapid mass movement of men and supplies.

An engineering genius, Haupt was a railroad engineer of vast experience in the early days of railroads. He was selected to attend West Point at the young age of 14 by President Andrew Jackson. He graduated well and was appointed a second lieutenant but resigned after only a few months to pursue a career in the burgeoning new railway industry, mostly in the North. At the precocious age of 19 he was appointed an assistant state engineer for Pennsylvania and surveyed the soon-to-be strategically vital line from Gettysburg to the Potomac over South Mountain that later became part of the Western Maryland railroad.

At age 20 he invented and patented a new railway bridge construction called the Haupt Truss, shown here:



During the 1840's, Haupt was a professor of mathematics at what is now Gettysburg College. In 1847 he was appointed construction engineer of the Pennsylvania Railroad. When, in 1862, the Federal Government established a new bureau responsible for constructing and operating military railroads, Secretary of War Edwin Stanton appointed Haupt as its head.

Haupt had a healthy desire to avoid military bureaucracy and would bridle at any unnecessary interference with his management of his own bureau's operations.



Haupt repaired and fortified war-damaged railroad lines in the vicinity of Washington DC, armed and trained railroad staff, and improved telegraph communications along the railroad lines. After the Battle of Fredericksburg, he restored the strategic Richmond, Fredericksburg and Potomac Railroad line, including the Potomac Creek Bridge (photo below) after its partial destruction by Confederate forces, and Haupt miraculously managed to fix the line in under two weeks. Lincoln was so impressed that he said:

"That man Haupt has built a bridge four hundred feet long and one hundred feet high, across Potomac Creek, on which loaded trains are passing every hour, and upon my word, gentlemen, there is nothing in it but cornstalks and beanpoles."

Haupt was one of the few people who understood not only the strategic importance of railways to the military but also how best to use and maintain them. He ensured railroads were built and maintained to supply the Union Army of Virginia and the Army of the Potomac in the Northern Virginia and Maryland Campaigns. Haupt's Construction Corps also supported Sherman's march through Georgia.



Haupt very effectively supported the Gettysburg Campaign - conducted in an area he knew well from his youth – and his hastily organized trains kept the Union Army well supplied; he also organized the returning trains to carry thousands of Union wounded to hospitals.

According to historian Fletcher Pratt, On July 6 1863, immediately after the battle, Haupt came in person to the White House, direct from the front by train, and reported at a meeting with Lincoln and Stanton that he had seen

“General [Meade] the day before to tell him that the new railhead and telegraph had been carried through Hanover Junction to Gettysburg (which surprised Meade very much), and to plead with him to follow the enemy hard. Meade replied that his men needed rest; Haupt told him they could not be as tired as the Confederates: ‘You must pursue Lee and crush him. His ammunition and stores must be exhausted, and his supply trains can be easily cut off. He is in desperate straits, like a rat in a trap, and you can whip and capture him’.”

According to Pratt: *“Upon hearing this report, Lincoln asked of Stanton, ‘What shall we do with your man, Meade, Mr. Secretary?’ ‘Tell him,’ said Stanton to Haupt, ‘Lee is trapped and must be taken.’ Then Stanton turned to Lincoln and added, ‘He can be removed as easily as he was appointed if he makes no proper effort to end this war now, while he has Lee in a trap.’ Haupt then hastened back to Gettysburg by train, expecting the orders from Washington would be obeyed. He offered his help, but Meade did nothing, thereby allowing Lee to escape. This greatly disappointed Lincoln, Stanton, and Halleck, and frustrated Haupt. If Meade had acted, or if anyone had thought to place Haupt in command on Sunday, July 5, 1863, Lee would doubtless have been captured, and the war ended.”**

Lincoln's son Robert recorded that Lincoln wept openly in his presence on learning of Meade's failure to pursue Lee after Gettysburg, thereby ensuring the war would drag on for nearly two more years.

After the war, Haupt returned to the private railroad business, including for some years as the general manager of the transcontinental Northern Pacific Railroad during its completion to connect the West Coast. He also continued to invent things, including a revolutionary design for a pneumatic drill, and he played a major role in introducing the use of compressed air machinery into the mining and tunnelling industries.

In 1838, Haupt married Cecilia Keller in Gettysburg and they had seven sons and four daughters! He died at the age of 88 in 1905, the last surviving member of his West Point graduating class.

*See See Knorr, Lawrence; Farrell, Joe; Farley, Joe. Keystone Tombstones Civil War: Biographies of Famous People Buried in Pennsylvania (pp. 214-215). Sunbury Press, Inc.. Kindle Edition.



Dear Honest Abe,

If you hadn't been assassinated, do you think you would have done a better job than your successor, Andrew Johnson, to advance the lot of the newly freed former slaves?

Your friend,

Joe

Dear Joe,

What a question! I was killed near the start of my second term – I would have had a whole new four-year term of office – and only 42 days of it had passed when I passed! But I reckon if I had lived, the whole reconstruction thing would have turned out a lot better than it did.

The Freedmen's Bureau, which I initiated in 1865 with the help of Congress, was great while it lasted – it may have lasted longer than the seven years that it did last if I had still been around to sponsor its extension. Whilst not perfect, it did much to advance the opportunities of the freed former slaves, particularly in education - more than 1,000 freedmen's schools were opened in the South; the Bureau also

helped to reunite separated former slave family members, and it assisted them to formalise their marriages which had previously not been recognised. It assisted them (only somewhat) in gaining employment and improving their working conditions. In the early years of reconstruction (in part due to the 1866 Civil Right Act) many former slaves even started to participate in civil life as legislators and public servants and could vote. So, although it was still far from perfect, things were starting to look up for the black man.

But then things started to go haywire. In part I blame my former Vice President and, upon my death, President Andrew Johnson - a Southern Democrat from Tennessee who, as President, had tried to veto the Civil Rights Act, opposed the fourteenth amendment (ratified in 1868) that gave rights of citizenship to former slaves and criticised the work of the Freedmen's Bureau as offering the former slaves too much help!

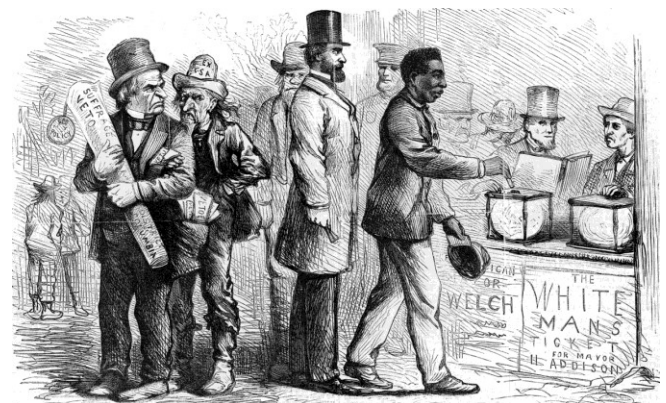
Johnson's presidency was a period of intense conflict over many things, including the extent to which the former states of the Confederacy should be constrained from returning to their oppressive antebellum ways towards former slaves. Eventually the fifteenth amendment of 1870 guaranteed that voting rights could not be

denied by the states on account of race, colour or previous condition of servitude. Unfortunately, this wording did not prevent southern states from creative work-arounds to limit the black vote during the Jim Crow years.

By 1872, many northerners were getting a bit weary of the whole business of overseeing the reconstruction of the South including maintaining Federal troops there, and it was basically decided by President Grant's administration to withdraw troops, terminate the Freedmen's Bureau and to leave the South to look after itself. So when the Federal troops that had been enforcing Federal reconstruction efforts withdrew from the South, and Congress became distracted by other matters, things started to regress with the horrors of Black Codes and Jim Crow laws (not to mention the violent racism of the KKK) as Southern states voted in governments that stifled and opposed the good things that were being achieved for the former slaves in the immediate post war years.

I think somehow if I had lived, I would have done a better job of reconstruction than Johnson did, and things may not have gotten and remained so bad for so long. It saddens me to see the mischief it all caused still playing out to this day. But I can only shed my tears in Heaven now!

I thought you might enjoy this excellent cartoon from an old *Harpers Weekly* (one of my favorite periodicals!) that depicts President Andrew Johnson holding his failed presidential veto, frowning with disapproval as a black man exercises his vote. A confederate veteran, arm in arm with Johnson, also scowls with disapproval. It evokes how the stage that was set for the expansion of Jim Crow.



See also <https://www.history.com/news/african-american-voting-right-15th-amendment>

And the interesting piece in the *New York Times* at

<https://www.nytimes.com/2017/11/04/opinion/sunday/voting-rights-never-safe.html>

Yours respectfully and reflectively,

Abe

Books, Books, Books – for sale

Bring your money to the Christmas Function!

