

# Sumter to Appomattox



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

**[www.americancivilwar.asn.au](http://www.americancivilwar.asn.au)**

**Patron: Prof the Hon Bob Carr**

## ***President's Message***

Dear Round Table members,

The feedback I received after our face-to-face meeting at the Roseville Club on 29 November 2021 for our end of year get together and Annual General Meeting was very positive and pleasing to hear. The buzz of conversation between friends were wonderful to behold and hear.

Contrary to my last newsletter note, our Patron, Bob Carr, was able to attend and spoke (very well, as always) when we presented the inaugural Annual Len Traynor Award for contribution to the newsletter named in honour of Life Member Len Traynor. This annual award is in recognition of his enormous contribution, as a scholar of the American Civil War, to the activities of this group since its earliest days and, in particular, to the newsletter. We managed to maintain the surprise for Len and Bob enjoyed participating in the tribute to Len, his cousin.

We also managed to surprise Dan Howard, the first recipient of the award. His contribution to the newsletter has been remarkable.

We now have members in regional NSW, Canberra and Tasmania. We were able to set up a link that enabled these members to participate.

My report to the AGM recorded our appreciation to all the presenters who have maintained a very high standard of meeting programs throughout the year and I also here record our appreciation to Brian Skinner for his interesting presentation on Minnesota in the conflict at our November meeting. Why Minnesota? Brian has ended up with a family connection there.

Please stay safe and well,

*Ian McIntyre*

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## ***Our Next Meeting***

Our new meeting will be

**Monday, 21<sup>st</sup> February from 7.30pm**

By Zoom

**Mexico Before and After the Civil War**

The evening will comprise two parts:

- 1. The Mexican War: The Expansion of Sectionalism** presented by John Morrison
- 2. Mexican Dixie - Confederate Colonies in Mexico** presented by Peter Zacharatos

See next page for background to these topics

An invitation (link) to join the Zoom meeting will be issued before the date.

On our **Website** you will always find the date of our next meeting. Our Facebook page is also [www.americancivilwar.asn.au](http://www.americancivilwar.asn.au)

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 phone on 0411 745 704 or e-mail: [secretary@americancivilwar.asn.au](mailto:secretary@americancivilwar.asn.au)

## Background to the topics for our next meeting:

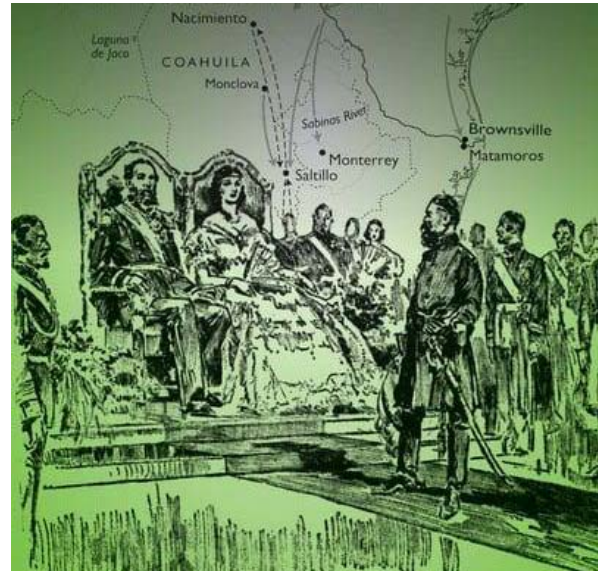
**The Mexican-American War** (Apr. 1846-Feb. 1848) resulted in the U.S. gaining more than 1.3 million square km of Mexican territory. It stemmed from the annexation of the Republic of Texas by the U.S. in 1845 and a dispute over where Texas ended (either at the Nueces River as Mexico claimed, or at the Rio Grande as the U.S. claimed).

Manifest Destiny held that the United States had an almost God-given right to expand to the Pacific Ocean. After the U.S. annexed Texas, which had won independence from Mexico in 1835–36, U.S. diplomatic efforts to establish agreement on the Texas-Mexico border and to purchase the Mexican territories of California and New Mexico failed. U.S. President James K. Polk found the rationale to justify an attempt to take that land by force when U.S. and Mexican troops skirmished north of the Rio Grande on April 25, 1846.

Under the settlement Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, U.S. territory expanded by one-third. Ceded territory included the U.S. states of New Mexico, Utah, Nevada, Arizona, California, Texas, and western Colorado in exchange for \$15 million and U.S. assumption of citizens' claims against Mexico.

The Mexican-American War reopened the issue of the extension of slavery, which had been largely dormant since the Missouri Compromise. To abolitionists, the war was an attempt by the slave states to extend slavery and enhance their power by creating additional slave states. The Wilmot Proviso, proposed by Rep. David Wilmot of Pennsylvania on 8<sup>th</sup> August 1846, attempted to ban slavery from any territory acquired from Mexico. It was never passed but led to acrimonious debate and contributed to the rising sectional divide between North and South.

This presentation will look at the broad strategy of the War, its causes and aftermath.



The Southern Exodus to Mexico, 2020, book by Todd W Wahlstrom

## Confederate Colonies in Mexico

*"In early 1865, with the war for the American South almost lost, many of the Confederate top brass were considering where they could take their tattered way of life. While a large number of them decided to capitulate and hold on to their plantations or head West, where there was land without the law, for some the answer lay further South.*

*A number of Confederate colonies were established in Mexico. They were supported by Emperor Maximilian I, a liberal, who had been offered the throne by Mexican monarchists, with the support of Louis Napoleon III's French army.*

*Half a dozen colonies were founded, but homesickness, high land prices and the ordeal of agriculture without slaves disheartened many. The Confederate settlers were eventually undone by Mexico's shifting political circumstances, the downfall of Maximilian and the ruthlessness of the Juarists."*

## Ghost Colonies – Ed Wright

This presentation will look at the failed attempt of former Confederates to establish an outpost in Mexico following their defeat in the American Civil War.



## Our Last Meeting

Our Christmas meeting was very well-attended, and it was good to catch up at the Roseville Club with old friends in person after the last two years.



## The Inaugural Len Traynor Award

Our President, Ian McIntyre, surprised the association by announcing a new Award to honour our Life Member, Len Traynor, who has contributed so much to the Association over the years with his encyclopedic knowledge of the war and for his generosity. The award is for the best "contribution to the newsletter" over the year. The first recipient is Dan Howard, whose "Honest Abe" column and "Profiles" have added so much to the calibre of the newsletter by informing and amusing readers. Both Len and Dan were suitably surprised by the Award and spoke briefly in response.



Life Member Len Traynor presents his Award to Dan Howard.



Dan Howard accepts the Len Traynor Award

Ian also welcomed our Patron, Bob Carr, to the meeting. We were privileged to have him pay tribute to Len Traynor who, in fact, is his cousin, a fact discovered some years ago. Bob was able to call on knowledge he'd learnt about Len's early life and also refer to his encyclopedic knowledge of the Civil War. Bob referred to Len's phenomenal memory and to the opportunities provided in his early life which allowed him to pursue his interest in the American Civil War in the United States.



Patron Bob Carr

Related to information given by Bob Carr in his tribute to Len, Len was very appreciative but wishes to clarify a few points. The prize he won on the Coles Quiz in 1966 was not money but a two-week all-expenses paid stay at the Sahara Hotel in Las Vegas, the prize he wanted because Las Vegas offered easy access to Civil War Battlefield sites – Len was not a gambler. Another point was that he was a painter-decorator for only a short part of his working career (which, however, did involve working with Paul Hogan on the Sydney Harbour Bridge) and later moved into sales. For the last 15 years of his working life, he was a Workplace Inspector for the NSW Department of Industrial Relations.

## ***Presentation***

### **Minnesota in the Civil War**

*Presented by Brian Skinner*



Member Brian Skinner began his presentation with the question “Why Minnesota?” He spoke about a family connection which has led to many opportunities to visit and explore there, including Fort Snelling. He emphasized that his interest is based on his own experiences rather than on academic research. He also referred to other members of the Association having connections to Minnesota and the importance of its troops at the Battle of Gettysburg.

The population of Minnesota, today estimated to be 5.7 million, was only 170,000 in the early 1860s. A state bordering Canada and Lake Superior, with this small population it played a significant role in particular battles in the Civil War.

At the outbreak of the War, Minnesota governor, Alexander Ramsey, was in Washington, D.C. He immediately promised President Lincoln 1000 volunteers from Minnesota and these, in fact, were the first troops to volunteer for the War.

Over the course of the War, some 26,717 state volunteers were recorded as having served, with more than 2,500 Minnesotans dying from battle or illness. In total, Minnesota provided 11 infantry regiments, two companies of sharpshooters, units of artillery and cavalry as well as a number of sailors. As well, over one hundred African American men volunteered in segregated units.

A contemporary reminder of the local men who fought in the Civil War is the 1903 Soldiers and Sailors Memorial at the bottom of Summit Avenue. This statue pays tribute to an ordinary soldier, Josias King, standing at attention. Josias King is recorded as the first to volunteer with the First Minnesota Volunteer Infantry Regiment.



A base was needed for training these recruits. Unfortunately, the military had decommissioned and sold Fort Snelling in 1858, so it was necessary to return this neglected fort to military operations again. After repairs, it was reopened as a training centre for volunteer soldiers.



Within weeks, 1,009 men had mustered for service there, having arrived by many different means. In 1863, when the draft was instituted, further structures were built to accommodate new soldiers and to muster-out Minnesotan units completing their terms of service. Between 1861 and 1864, nearly 25,000 soldiers passed through the fort.





A typical uniform

The regiment was officially dismissed from service on April 28, 1864, at a grand final review. The men of the regiment were mustered out in early May, receiving a huge reception from St. Paul citizens and those from other towns. Some of the men re-enlisted in the Union Army.



Officers of the 1st Minnesota at Fort Snelling, MN in 1861

It is for its actions at Gettysburg that the 1<sup>st</sup> Minnesota Infantry is most known. It performed one of the most critical actions of the battle during Longstreet's Assault of July 2<sup>nd</sup>. Sickles' Corps was falling back in disarray and Longstreet's men were advancing to penetrate the centre of the Union line, which had been dangerously thinned to prop up other sectors. The sacrificial charge against overwhelming odds halted the Confederate advance and bought desperately needed time for the centre of the Union line to reform. It meant that, on the following day, Lee was forced into one last desperate gamble at Pickett's Charge, which effectively ended the battle.

During the battle, St. Paul's Marshall Sherman had captured a Confederate battle flag – that of the 28<sup>th</sup> Virginia Volunteer Infantry Regiment – and, as a result, was awarded the Medal of Honor. The flag is part of Minnesota Historical Society's collection.



The First Minnesota could have had up to 324 men in eight companies at Gettysburg. Regarding casualty rates, it has been concluded that the generally acknowledged figure of 82% casualties is incorrect according to author Brian Leehan in 2002. He concluded that there were 223 casualties with 5 officers and 45 men confirmed killed, a percentage of 77%.



Main monument of the 1<sup>st</sup> Minnesota Infantry Regiment at Gettysburg



Smaller monument showing the Regiment's position during Pickett's Charge on July 3<sup>rd</sup>

The central character in the second day of events at Gettysburg was Colonel William J. Colville (1830-1905). A New York-born attorney who arrived in Minnesota in 1854, he was chosen as secretary of the Territorial Council. He led the men into action at Gettysburg and was wounded on July 2<sup>nd</sup>. Others then took over. There is a bronze statue of him in the rotunda of the Minnesota State Capital, which is a reproduction of one in the cemetery where he is buried. This statue was placed there in 1909 and the monument was expanded in 1928, with President Coolidge attending. At that event, a speech was given describing the events at Gettysburg and the role that Colonel Colville played which began

*"The gallant First Minnesota, led by Colonel Colvill, at once responded with an impetuosity that broke the first and second line of the enemy and stopped the advance. When the action was over but 47 men of the 262 who began the charge were still in line. The remaining 215 lay dead or wounded on the field. In all the history of warfare this charge has few, if any, equals and no superiors."*

Mythology around to the First Minnesota related to the fact that it was one of the few Western state regiments, in fact the furthest west. Its members were considered to be hard fighters and excellent fighters of adventurous pioneer stock. Their reputation resulted from their actions at Bull Run, Antietam and Fredericksburg. They were identified as prisoners by their white trefoil insignia on their hats and uniforms.



Daniel Bond of Company F displaying the white trefoil or clover

After returning home, the Third Minnesota Volunteer Infantry Regiment was involved in the U.S. Dakota War of 1862. This occurred because of an uprising by the Santee Sioux where over 400 soldiers and settlers were killed, which was the largest massacre of whites by Indians in the nation's history.

In a very quick trial, commencing two days after the surrender at Camp Release on September 28, 1862, 392 prisoners were tried and 303 sentenced to death. After President Lincoln's intervention, 38 men were finally hanged at Mankato. The mass hanging was the largest in US history, but Lincoln's clemency was criticised by the populace and this affected the number of votes he received in the 1864 election.

A later famous Minnesota event was the robbing of the First National Bank of Northfield, the "biggest bank west of the Mississippi" by Jesse and Frank James as well as Cole, Jim and Robert Younger and three others on 7 September, 1876.

The involvement of Minnesota's soldiers can be summarized as follows: They played pivotal roles in many battles across the south. Famous units include the First Minnesota Volunteer Infantry Regiment, which was not only the first regiment to offer to fight for the Union army but also halted a Confederate assault at Gettysburg. The Second Minnesota Volunteer Infantry Regiment fought in the Western Theatre and distinguished themselves at Shiloh, Vicksburg, Chickamauga as well as General William T. Sherman's "March to the Sea".

Brian's presentation was informative and interesting and was well-received by the members.

#### Call for short talks

Our short ten-minute presentations on a particular battle or person have been a great success in revealing the depth of talent within our group.

Remember that we are a group of friends and a friendly audience. I know there are several amongst us who have not yet broken cover but who would be interesting and insightful presenters.

Please do not hesitate to volunteer to myself or John Morrison on a topic of your choice, be it short or long.

Ian McIntyre

## Civil War Profile

James Dunwoody Bulloch (1823 – 1901)



James Bulloch was born into an influential family that was an established member of the Georgian plantation aristocracy that grew cotton in Savannah. His father also maintained a residence for the family in Hartford, Connecticut and it was there that young James attended school until he entered the 'Old Navy' at the age of 16 in 1839, the same year that his father moved with his second wife (James' mother had died) to their newly constructed antebellum mansion 'Bulloch Hall' in Roswell, Georgia. That home still stands and is now a museum. James' half-sister, the famously beautiful Martha 'Mittie' Bulloch, in time would marry the extremely wealthy merchant and philanthropist Theodore Roosevelt senior of New York City, where they raised their children including their sons Theodore junior ('Teedie' - who was born in 1858 and would become the 26<sup>th</sup> President of the United States) and Elliott (who was the father of Eleanor Roosevelt, the wife of FDR).

James Bulloch and his brother-in-law Theodore Roosevelt senior became close friends and as young Theodore grew to manhood, James became something of a hero and mentor to the future President. His mother Mittie, who retained her close family ties with her Southern connections despite now being a leading member of New York society, delighted in telling her four children about the Naval exploits of her brothers James Bulloch and Irvine Bulloch.



Bulloch Hall in Roswell Georgia



Martha 'Mittie' Bulloch Roosevelt

James served with courage and distinction in the United States Navy for 15 years, including aboard several sloops of war, and later on armed steamships and mail ships, as well as taking part in diplomatic naval probes in the coastal waters of the Oregon Territory during border disputes with Great Britain. He also carried out extensive coastal survey work. He then resigned his commission as lieutenant and master to join a merchant shipping company where, as master of a series of merchant vessels, he acquired great experience, both as a seaman ploughing the world's oceans, and in the skills and diplomacy required for successful international mercantile trade.





Mittie's half-brother James and brother Irvine Bulloch

By 1860, Bulloch was regularly engaged in trade between New York, New Orleans and Havana and was appointed master of a new side-wheeler steamer, the *Bienville*. By this time, he was one of the most famous commercial shipping captains in America. As noted in Walter Wilson's and Gary McKay's biography of Bulloch:

*"He had successfully leveraged his maritime skills and family connections to become a respected and influential player at the heart of New York's shipping industry."*

When Fort Sumter was fired upon, James Bulloch and his ship the *Bienville* were in New Orleans. Despite considerable pressure placed upon him by Southern authorities in Louisiana to transfer the ship to the new Confederacy, and despite having decided that his loyalties lay with the South, as a matter of honour Bulloch insisted on returning his ship to its rightful owners in New York, which he did.

In the meantime, Bulloch had corresponded with Judah P Benjamin – then Attorney General of the Confederate States - offering his services to the Confederacy, which were promptly taken up by the Confederacy's Secretary of the Navy Stephen Mallory who, upon Bulloch's arrival at his office in Montgomery, Alabama (the first capital of the Confederacy) said: "I am glad to see you: I want you to go to Europe. When can you start?" It was during this conversation that Mallory expounded his brilliant strategy, born of necessity given that the South had virtually no navy at all, to have fast raiding ships built in Great Britain that could perform the role of commerce raiders upon Union merchant shipping and act, if necessary, as blockade runners against the Union blockade of Southern ports.

Less than two months after the attack on Fort Sumter, Bulloch arrived in Liverpool, England, effectively acting as a covert agent to procure ships and materiel for the Confederacy and establishing his base of operations there. He met with the Confederacy's Commissioners in London, Dudley Mann and William Yancey, but this led Bulloch into the same web of surveillance, being undertaken by Union agents, who were monitoring the Confederate Commissioners. Thereafter, Bulloch's endeavours were also closely watched. To make matters worse, one of his relations, James A Roosevelt of Hyde Park (who was Theodore Roosevelt Senior's brother), had alerted Union authorities to Bulloch's proposed activities. Nevertheless, Bulloch handled matters deftly and with the assistance of Mallory, he established a relationship with the Charleston shipping firm of Fraser, Trenholm & Company – which also had offices in Liverpool - not only to buy and sell Confederate cotton into Great Britain but also to act in effect as the Confederacy's international bankers and treasury, in which capacity it provided the financial means for Bulloch to carry out his assignment.

According to the website of the Official Historian in the US State Department (see <https://history.state.gov/milestones/1861-1865/confederacy>):

*"When the Union did declare a blockade upon the rebel states in April 1861... it undermined Lincoln's insistence that the war was merely an internal insurrection. A blockade was a weapon of war between sovereign states. In May, Britain responded to the blockade with a proclamation of neutrality, which the other European powers followed. This tacitly granted the Confederacy belligerent status, the right to contract loans and purchase supplies in neutral nations and to exercise belligerent rights on the high seas. The Union was greatly angered by European recognition of Southern belligerency, fearing that it was a first step toward diplomatic recognition..."*

President Lincoln was also piqued by the fact that the United States had never become a party to the Treaty of Paris (1856) that prohibited privateering, which gave the legal latitude the Confederacy needed to engage in raiding against the Union's merchant fleet.

Nevertheless, with Union agents in Great Britain watching his movements, and with ongoing efforts being made by America's ambassador Charles Francis Adams to ensure Britain did not extend recognition or assistance to the Confederacy, Bulloch needed to act with



tact and finesse in his dealings with British shipbuilders in order to bring to fruition his purchase of vessels for the Confederate Navy. In this he was uncommonly successful, and in the early stages of the war, before the Emancipation Proclamation and Northern victories gradually turned the tide of British public opinion against the South, there was considerable support and sympathy for the Confederate cause.

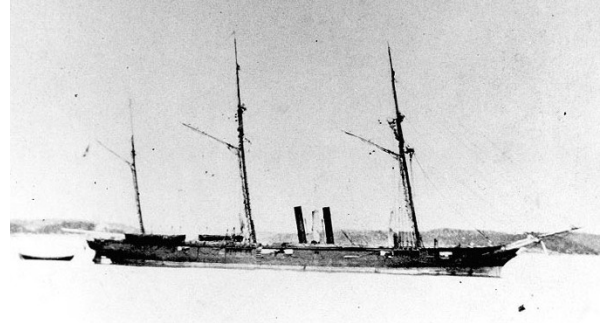
Bulloch arranged the purchase of the recently built iron-hulled screw steamer *Fingal* from its Scottish owners and purchased a vast cargo for it of war supplies for the Confederacy including thousands of rifles, ball cartridges, percussion caps, sabres, bayonets, pistols and muzzle loading rifled guns with carriages – it was to become the largest single shipment of military supplies to the Confederacy during the war. Bulloch engaged a British captain and crew who were given few details of the nature of the *Fingal's* voyage other than the destination of Bermuda and Nassau with instructions to sail first from its berth at Greenock to Holyhead in Wales, where Bulloch would join the ship.

In a voyage filled with drama, Bulloch sailed the *Fingal* to Savannah, evading the Union blockade by maneuvering skillfully through a thick fog at sunrise. He received a hero's welcome. Unfortunately, the Union blockade across the Savannah river and surrounding seas was strengthened to such an extent that *Fingal* could not put to sea again – it was bottled up for the duration of the war.

Appointed a Commander by Mallory, Bulloch soon returned to Britain aboard the merchant vessel *Annie Childs* which managed to slip through the Union blockade of Wilmington, North Carolina.

Before he had made his dramatic voyage on the *Fingal*, Bulloch had also commissioned William C Miller & Sons of Liverpool to build the Confederacy's first raiding cruiser that would become the *CSS Florida*, which was in time completed and christened under the disguised name of 'Oreto'. *Florida* departed England on 22 March 1862, bound for Nassau in the Bahamas. To avoid suspicions that she was destined for Confederate service, the ship was only loaded with enough coal to reach Nassau. In due course she was fitted out with armaments, although it was not until August 1862 that she made it past the Union blockade into Mobile Bay, Alabama, where she was resupplied and armed, and took on new crew members. She then escaped to sea on January 16, 1863. In her ensuing remarkable raiding career, *Florida* captured 37 prizes and two of

her prizes became Confederate navy ships, the *CSS Tacony* and *CSS Clarence* which in turn between them took 23 more prizes.



*The CSS Florida*

The building of the raider *CSS Alabama* by the Liverpool firm John Lairds & Sons was Bulloch's next project, and one in which he took special pride. Its design incorporated Bulloch's specifications, including powerful engines and sleek lines for speed. The ship was to be wooden with a copper-sheathed hull because there were few repair yards for ironclads that would be available to a Confederate raider with no available home port, marauding the world's oceans. Bulloch even included in the design a mechanism to produce fresh water. Union intelligence agents in Britain incorrectly informed the Secretary of the Navy, Gideon Welles, that this ship was the same design as *Florida*; how wrong they were - *Alabama's* total cost was £47,500 but it gave a fabulous return on this investment!

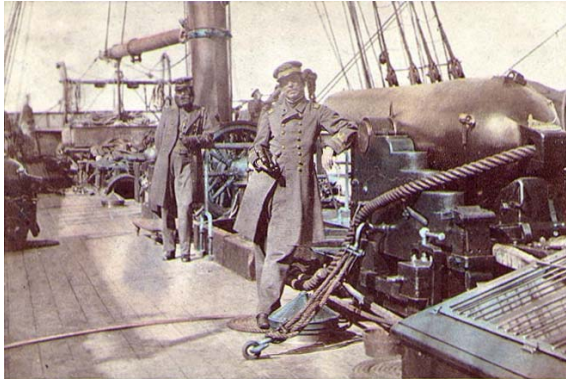
Wikipedia provides this brief summary of the spectacular service of the *Alabama* (see [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/CSS\\_Alabama](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/CSS_Alabama)) :

*Under prevailing British neutrality law, it was possible to build a ship designed as an armed vessel, provided that it was not actually armed until after it was in international waters. In light of this loophole, Alabama was built with reinforced decks for cannon emplacements, ammunition magazines below water-level, etc., but the builder stopped short of fitting her out with armaments or any "warlike equipment".*

*Initially known only by her shipyard number "ship number 0290", she was launched as Enrica on 15 May 1862 and secretly slipped out of Birkenhead on 29 July 1862. She sailed to the Azores under a civilian crew arranged by Bulloch, where she was subsequently fitted out, and armed with British ordnance (including two powerful pivot guns) under the supervision of the legendary Captain, Raphael Semmes, who had sailed to the Azores with Bulloch aboard another ship. Thus began the famously successful raiding career of the CSS Alabama. In her two-year career, Alabama was at sea for*

534 days out of 657, never visiting a single Confederate port. She boarded nearly 450 vessels, captured or burned 65 Union merchant ships, and took more than 2,000 prisoners without a single loss of life from either prisoners or her own crew.

*Alabama* was eventually sunk off Cherbourg following an engagement with the USS *Kearsarge* on 19<sup>th</sup> June, 1864, in which Captain Semmes struck his colours and surrendered after losing 9 Killed, 10 drowned and 21 wounded of her total crew of 170. James Bulloch's half-brother Irvine Bulloch, who was the youngest officer aboard the *Alabama*, fired its last shot.



Captain Raphael Semmes on the deck of the cruiser CSS *Alabama*



The French Impressionist painter Edouard Manet witnessed the Naval battle off Cherbourg and painted this scene of the *Alabama*'s end courtesy of the powerful guns of the USS *Kearsarge*

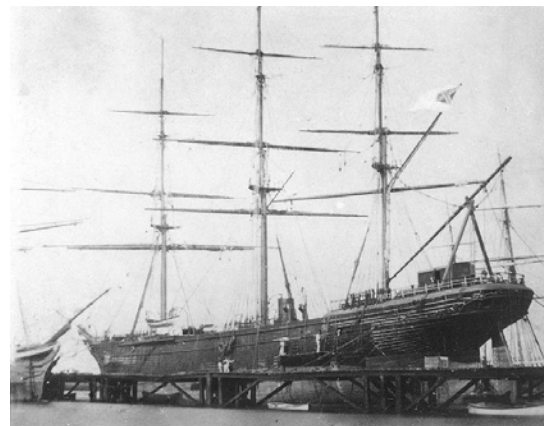


This Confederate Navy Flag attributed to the CSS *Alabama* sold at auction in November 2018 for \$25,200.00.

Bulloch's continued efforts in Liverpool bore further fruit with the purchase and refitting of the ship that became the fabled CSS *Shenandoah* whose career is neatly summarised in this extract (from [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/CSS\\_Shenandoah](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/CSS_Shenandoah))

*Shenandoah* was originally a British merchant ship launched as 'Sea King' on August 17, 1863, but was later repurposed as one of the most feared commerce raiders in the Confederate Navy. For twelve-and-a-half months from 1864 to 1865, the ship undertook commerce raiding around the world in an effort to disrupt the Union's economy, which resulted in the capture and the sinking or bonding of 38 merchant vessels, mostly whaling ships from New Bedford, Massachusetts. She finally surrendered on the River Mersey, Liverpool, United Kingdom, on November 6, 1865, six months after the war had ended. Her flag was the last sovereign Confederate flag to be officially furled.

*Shenandoah* is also known for having fired the last shot of the Civil War, across the bow of a whaler in waters off the Aleutian Islands.



CSS *Shenandoah* in a Melbourne dry dock during its astonishingly successful cruise around the world to make a surprise attack upon the American merchant whaling fleet in the Bering Sea and Arctic Ocean.



After the Civil War, in 1869, the United States brought successful international arbitration claims against Great Britain for the immense losses suffered at the hands of the British-built Confederate raiders. The United States claimed that Britain had violated neutrality by allowing five warships to be constructed, especially the *Alabama*, knowing that it would eventually enter into naval service with the Confederacy. Ultimately, \$15.5 Million was paid to the United States in compensation – a measure of how successful Bulloch had been in his endeavours.

Bulloch and his brother Irvine (who had served aboard the *Alabama*) remained in Liverpool after the Confederacy collapsed – unsurprisingly given their activities during the war - pursuing a successful career as importers and brokers of cotton. James Bulloch's wife and family had left America to join him and in due course he became a British subject. He did return to New York for a visit in 1881 where his nephew Theodore, having recently graduated from Harvard, was in the course of writing his first book *'The Naval War of 1812'* which became a classic of naval literature on that war and the days of fighting sail. When the future president travelled to Europe later that year with his new wife, Alice Lee, for their honeymoon, he visited his favourite uncle. On both of these visits, Theodore drew extensively upon Bulloch's naval knowledge and assistance as an important source of expertise for his book. He also encouraged his uncle to write his own memoirs, which in due course were published in 1883 as *The Secret Service of the Confederate States in Europe*.

A potential stain on Bulloch's posterity was that in late 1864, Navy Secretary Mallory ordered Bulloch to write a check drawn on 'secret funds' to one Patrick Martin, a Confederate blockade runner operating from Canada. At the time these funds were intended to support a plot to kidnap Abraham Lincoln, but as history records, this plot later morphed into the successful assassination of the President. Perhaps fortunately for Bulloch, Martin went down with his ship in December 1864 en route to Maryland with supplies for John Wilkes Booth. Although not otherwise directly implicated in any of these plots, these uncomfortable facts no doubt contributed to Bulloch's decision to remain in England, despite the general amnesty issued by President Johnson. Nor did this prevent then President Theodore Roosevelt in October 1905, from visiting his Bulloch ancestors' home in Roswell, Georgia, where he made a moving speech in which he told the rapt audience:

*It has been my great fortune to have the right to claim that my blood is half-Southern and half-Northern, and I would deny the right of any man here to feel a greater pride in deeds of every Southern man than I feel. Of the children, the brothers and sisters of my mother who were brought up in that house on the hill there, my two uncles afterwards entered the Confederate service and served in the Confederate Navy. One, the youngest man...[was] my uncle Irvine Bulloch [and the other was] James Dunwoody Bulloch. Men and women, don't you think I have the ancestral right to claim a proud kinship with those who showed their devotion to duty as they saw their duty, whether they wore the grey or the blue? All Americans who are worthy of the name feel an equal pride in the valour of those who fought on one side or the other, provided only that each did with all his might and soul and strength and mind his duty as it was given to him to see his duty.*



President Theodore Roosevelt during his 1905 visit to Bulloch Hall in Roswell, Georgia

Perhaps these words of one of America's greatest Presidents may yet give today's Americans pause to reflect upon the meaning of reconciliation and of their relationship with their own history, including memorials, statues and other monuments of the Civil War.

James Bulloch died in 1901 in Liverpool at the age of 77. His gravestone in Toxteth Park Cemetery bears the epitaph: *'An American by birth, and Englishman by choice'*.

Sources and further reading: W Wilson & G McKay, *James D Bulloch – secret agent and mastermind of the Confederate Navy* (McFarland & Co, 2012); David McCullough, *Mornings on Horseback* (Simon & Schuster, 1981) (being a biography of Theodore Roosevelt's early life); Theodore Roosevelt *The Naval War of 1812* (Naval Institute Press reprint, 1987); J Baldwin, *Last Flag Down* (Three Rivers Press, 2008) – a great tale about the cruise of the CSS *Shenandoah*; Wikipedia references as above.





Dear Honest Abe,  
This may seem a rather silly question, but do  
you have a favourite Civil War poem?  
Your friend,  
Walt

Dear Walt,  
Well I am touched you should ask me this.  
Like many other Northerners I actually loved  
both the words and music to Daniel Emmett's  
'Dixie' but since it acquired such a strong  
identity with the Confederacy, I much prefer  
this grand old ballad by John Greenleaf Whittier  
about that truly courageous woman, Barbara  
Frietschie (the spelling of her name varies!) who  
lived in Frederick, Maryland when Lee's army  
passed through that town. In case you haven't  
heard the poem, it goes like this:

### **Barbara Frietchie**

BY JOHN GREENLEAF WHITTIER

Up from the meadows rich with corn,  
Clear in the cool September morn,

The clustered spires of Frederick stand  
Green-walled by the hills of Maryland.

Round about them orchards sweep,  
Apple- and peach-tree fruited deep,

Fair as a garden of the Lord  
To the eyes of the famished rebel horde,

On that pleasant morn of the early fall  
When Lee marched over the mountain wall,

Over the mountains winding down,  
Horse and foot, into Frederick town.

Forty flags with their silver stars,  
Forty flags with their crimson bars,

Flapped in the morning wind: the sun  
Of noon looked down, and saw not one.

Up rose old Barbara Frietchie then,  
Bowed with her fourscore years and ten;

Bravest of all in Frederick town,  
She took up the flag the men hauled down;

In her attic window the staff she set,  
To show that one heart was loyal yet.

Up the street came the rebel tread,  
Stonewall Jackson riding ahead.

Under his slouched hat left and right  
He glanced: the old flag met his sight.

"Halt!"— the dust-brown ranks stood fast.  
"Fire!"— out blazed the rifle-blast.  
It shivered the window, pane and sash;  
It rent the banner with seam and gash.

Quick, as it fell, from the broken staff  
Dame Barbara snatched the silken scarf;

She leaned far out on the window-sill,  
And shook it forth with a royal will.

"Shoot, if you must, this old grey head,  
But spare your country's flag," she said.

A shade of sadness, a blush of shame,  
Over the face of the leader came;

The nobler nature within him stirred  
To life at that woman's deed and word:

"Who touches a hair of yon grey head  
Dies like a dog! March on!" he said.

All day long through Frederick street  
Sounded the tread of marching feet:

All day long that free flag tost  
Over the heads of the rebel host.

Ever its torn folds rose and fell  
On the loyal winds that loved it well;

And through the hill-gaps sunset light  
Shone over it with a warm good-night.

Barbara Frietchie's work is o'er,  
And the Rebel rides on his raids no more.

Honor to her! and let a tear  
Fall, for her sake, on Stonewall's bier.

Over Barbara Frietchie's grave  
Flag of Freedom and Union, wave!

Peace and order and beauty draw  
Round thy symbol of light and law;

And ever the stars above look down  
On thy stars below in Frederick town!

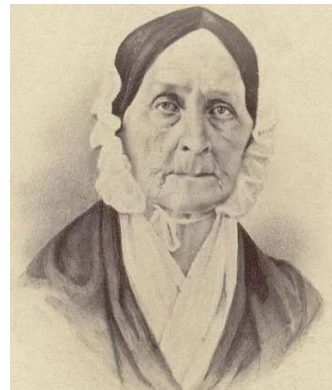
What a stirring poem! Still, I must confess that there is some disputation about how true this story is. According to that modern, fandangled online resource (wish I had it when I was alive...) the Encyclopedia Britannica:

*Barbara Hauer was the daughter of German immigrants. In 1806 she married John C. Frietschie. Little else is known of her life until early September 1862, when the Army of Northern Virginia paused in Frederick during the Confederate invasion of Maryland. On marching out of town on September 10 the troops passed Frietschie's house, and she may have waved a small Union flag from the porch or a second-floor window. There may also have been some small incident as a result. Whatever the actual case, the story soon grew up in Frederick that Frietschie, who was known to be intensely patriotic, had somehow defied the Confederate army. The story's connection with fact was broken by Frietschie's death in 1862. The tale was heard by the novelist Emma D.E.N. Southworth, who passed it on to John Greenleaf Whittier. In October 1863 Whittier published in the Atlantic Monthly his verse version, "Barbara Frietchie", in which the story of Frietschie's encounter with General Thomas J. ("Stonewall") Jackson was much elaborated. Whittier's version quickly became canonical, and the enduring popularity of the poem kept Frietschie's name alive. Despite its meagre factual basis—the one thing known certainly of the events of that day is that Jackson did not pass Frietschie's house—the endurance of the tale led to the erection of a memorial in 1913 and the building in 1926 of a replica of her house (the original having been razed a few years after her death).*

Although this all makes the legend of this grand old patriot about as reliable as the legend of the Loch Ness Monster, it is a fine poem and I like the sentiment it extolls. It also captures something of the undoubted character of the rebel general, Stonewall Jackson who, if I may say across the mists of time and conflict, was a great and courageous soldier.

I think the essence of the story is likely true, because it ought to be!

And here is a photo of the lady herself and a nice engraving of the story:



Best wishes as always,

Abe