

# Sumter to Appomattox



American Civil War Round Table of Australia (New South Wales Chapter)  
www.americancivilwar.asn.au Patron: Prof the Hon Bob Carr

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## President's Message

Dear Round Table members,

We are continuing our approximate chronological progression through the war. We are still in 1862. Things are still happening in both the East and the West. Fort Pulaski, New Orleans and The Peninsular Campaign (near Richmond) are attracting our attention the month.

Three pleas:

- One of the reasons that recent meetings have worked so well is the variety of speakers from within our own ranks doing ten-minute presentations or, preferably, five minute presentations. (No-one has managed yet to limit themselves to five minutes!) Please put your hand up and volunteer. There is no need to be an experienced speaker. We are a group of friends after all!
- The Treasurer is getting a bit bent out of shape so please pay your subscription so he can return to his normal self.
- Bring a friend. Groups like ours have to keep recruiting because we are all getting older. We always are on the lookout for new members.

Jannette Greenwood has done a wonderful job of the newsletter again. Thank you Jannette. But, you are overdoing it! The committee has decided that speakers who are unable to do notes for Jannette will be mentioned for the record but she will not put any time or effort into researching and writing up their topic. This is to keep the load off her so that she enjoys the other aspects of life.

See you there on 17 October.

*Ian McIntyre*  
5<sup>th</sup> October 2023

## Our Next Meeting

**Tuesday, 17<sup>th</sup> October from 6.15pm**  
**Talks at 7.00**

### The Roseville Club

You are welcome to have dinner at the Roseville Club before the meeting.

### Topics:

**Three talks related to 1862 given by our members:**

- Fort Pulaski,
- New Orleans and
- The Peninsular Campaign (near Richmond)

As usual, we are keen to hear from our membership so if you have a particular subject, please get in touch with Program Director John Morrison.

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)

## ***Our Last Meeting***

The theme of our last meeting was the Battle of Shiloh and three excellent talks were given. Each of our speakers spoke about aspects of this battle.

### **Angus Hordern**



### ***Discussion of a painting***

To introduce his presentation on the Battle of Shiloh, Angus brought along a framed print of Rick Reeves' painting "Shiloh – 6<sup>th</sup> Mississippi's Charge" (1991), which features, held aloft, the flag of General Hardee's Corps – the Blue Moon flag – later used as the standard, with variations, of the whole Army of the Mississippi. This flag brought fear into the hearts of the Yankees. Angus brought along a copy of this battle flag, which he'd had made.



Rick Reeves "Shiloh. The Bloody Sixth Mississippi at Rhea Field, Pittsburg Landing" (1991)

Rick Reeves, Mort Künstler, Don Troiani and Keith Rocco, along with several others, are Civil War artists who, in the period from the 1960s, have painted accurate and realistic scenes of various Civil War battles and events based on meticulous research and with impressive attention to detail.

Rick Reeves' very realistic painting depicts one situation in the early stages of the War at Shiloh involving the 6<sup>th</sup> Mississippi Infantry. On the first day, General Johnston was determined to take the offensive against Grant's army, camped near Shiloh Church twenty miles away. On April 6<sup>th</sup>, 1862, Johnston surprised Grant and pushed the Federals back towards the Tennessee River.

On that morning, the 6<sup>th</sup> Mississippi Infantry passed through the nearly deserted camp of the 53<sup>rd</sup> Ohio Infantry and moved up a small hill towards the waiting Ohioans. Maj. General Patrick R. Cleburne wrote that, "Again and again the Sixth Mississippi, unaided, charged the enemy's line, and it was only when the regiment had lost 300 officers and men killed and wounded, out of an aggregate of 425, that it yielded and retreated in disorder over its own dead and dying".

The 6<sup>th</sup> Mississippi Infantry had the distinction at Shiloh of being the unit that would suffer the worst casualties relative to the number of men engaged in battle – over 70% of its force. During the rest of the Civil War, only three Confederate regiments suffered more casualties in a single battle.



General Hardee's Corps Blue Moon flag

Angus went on to discuss the whole Battle of Shiloh, which was later discussed in detail by John Morrison in his presentation. He referred to the fact that advances used the old-fashioned shoulder-to-shoulder Napoleonic Line, which provided little protection from the more accurate muskets and minie balls.

Angus described the stages of what he termed a 'very confusing' battle from the points of view of both the Union and the Confederacy and included details such as the death of Johnston and other significant events that made this battle such a bloody and costly engagement.

Angus's talk was very informative and succinct. The presence of both Rick Reeves' painting and Hardee's Corps flag was of great interest to the audience.

## Mike Bosch

### *Growing up in Yankee country in the Centennial Years ... and the War in New Mexico*



Mike, an American, grew up in Lewistown, Pennsylvania, only 60 miles from Gettysburg. He was fortunate to visit Gettysburg with his family in 1959 and 1964 and again in 1994 with his Australian family. His proximity to Gettysburg was of great interest to Mike, especially during the centennial years of the 1960s.

There are several reminders of the Civil War in his town, the centrepiece being the Soldier's and Sailor's Monument, built in 1906 to honour Civil War veterans. Set in the foundation of the south side of the 64-foot monument is an engraved stone – the only stone to have been removed from Lincoln's tomb. The request for the stone (made when Lincoln's tomb was being remodelled) was honoured because volunteer soldiers, the Logan Guard of Lewistown, were the first to answer President Lincoln's call for troops at the start of the Civil War.



**Monument Square and the Lincoln Stone**



The Lincoln Stone

A plaque with the story commemorates the town's first responders:



This plaque, located on a wall adjacent to the US Senate chamber is Washington, reads:

**This tablet records the fact that the following troops were quartered in the United States Capitol in response to President Lincoln's call for volunteers.**

**\*\*\* April 15, 1861\*\*\***

**MASSACHUSETTS**

**SIXTH REGIMENT OF MASSACHUSETTS  
EIGHTH REGIMENT OF MASSACHUSETTS  
FIFTH REGIMENT OF MASSACHUSETTS**

**NEW YORK**

**SEVENTH REGIMENT (NEW YORK STATE MILITIA)  
ELLSWORTH'S FIRE ZOUAVES  
(ELEVENTH NEW YORK REGIMENT)  
SEVENTY-FIRST REGIMENT  
FIFTH NEW YORK REGIMENT**

**PENNSYLVANIA**

**LOGAN GUARDS OF LEWISTOWN  
THE WASHINGTON ARTILLERISTS OF POTTSVILLE  
THE NATIONAL LIGHT INFANTRY OF POTTSVILLE  
THE ALLEN INFANTRY RIFLES OF ALLENTOWN  
THE RINGGOLD LIGHT ARTILLERY OF READING  
THE SEVENTEENTH REGIMENT OF  
PENNSYLVANIA VOLUNTARY INFANTRY**

**DISTRICT OF COLOMBIA**

**COMPANIES E.A.C. AND F (NATIONAL GUARD)  
MECHANICS' UNION RIFLES**

A Lewistown native who began his service with Logan Guards was Robert Burns, a telegraphic specialist who, in later life, was 12<sup>th</sup> Commander-in-Chief of the Grand Army of the Republic (GAR), 1883-1884.

Mike also referred to Chambersburg, Pennsylvania, near Gettysburg, which was raided by Confederate Cavalry in October 1862 and again in 1863 (just prior to Gettysburg) and in 1864 and was burned in 1862.



A bronze statue of a Union soldier, in front of a fountain in Memorial Square, faces south to symbolically ward off the Confederate soldiers who had ambushed Chambersburg and held it to ransom.

Mike then went on to talk about events that had occurred earlier in the South-west when President James K. Polk, President of the United States from 1845 to 1849, sent troops down to the Rio Grande to annex Texas. As a result of the Mexican-American War, the United States became an extra quarter larger.

In later events, the Confederacy wanted to gain control of the Southwest. General Henry Hopkins Sibley, who had fought in the Mexican-American War, resigned his commission from the United States Army in May 1861, and accepted an appointment as Colonel in the Confederate Army. In June 1861, he was promoted to Brigadier General but his only major participation during the Civil War came when he attempted to invade New Mexico in order to secure it for the Confederacy. He had initial success against Union forces led by Colonel Edward Canby but was defeated at the Battle of Glorietta Pass.

The Battle of Glorietta Pass resulted in both sides retreating – the Union into Colorado and the Confederates back to Texas – although it could likely be called a Confederate victory.

There were several other skirmishes in New Mexico, including attacks by Apache Indians, who were hostile to both sides.

A monument was erected in the Santa Fe Plaza commemorating the Union war dead and condemning the Confederacy.

Mike finished an informative and interesting talk by mentioning that the Spanish were in New Mexico 100 years before the French and British were on the east coast. In fact, they were in North America in the early 1500s, including in the areas now known as New Mexico and Arizona. The Spanish built a fort at St Augustine, Florida, in the 1560s in response to the raids of British pirates, some of whom are well known to history.

# John Morrison

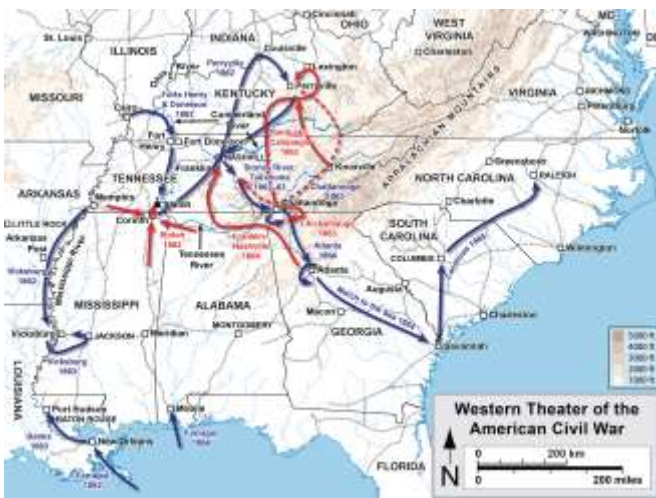
## The Battle of Shiloh

John began with a PowerPoint photo of himself with Dr Curt Fields, dressed as General Grant, at the Battle of Shiloh site. He presented an overview, and then detailed the progress of the Battle on 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> April 1862.



Shiloh was significant because the carnage was unprecedented – the human toll was the greatest of all American wars to that date. The Union was victorious, and the battle marked the end of the Confederacy’s hopes of blocking the Union advance into Mississippi. Ultimately, the Confederate military initiative in the West was doomed. Also, the loss of their commander, Gen. Albert Sidney Johnston in battle was a serious blow, which affected Confederate morale.

The Battle took place in the Western Theatre, that is, Mississippi, Kentucky, Tennessee and Georgia.



In mid-March 1862, a large number of Union troops were camped on the Tennessee River around Savannah, Tennessee. At that point, previous Union victories had caused

Confederate General Johnston to withdraw from Kentucky. Maj. General Ulysses S. Grant was in a position to push his Army towards Corinth, Mississippi, where two railroads which provided the South with supplies came together.

Before the Battle, to consolidate his forces against Grant, General Johnston had marshalled his forces at Corinth, a move that Grant welcomed as his Army of the Tennessee needed time to prepare for its own offensive up the Tennessee River. His army camped at Pittsburg Landing while it waited for Maj. Gen. Buell’s Army of Ohio. Once these two armies had consolidated, they were to march south to Corinth.

Confederate Commander Johnston anticipated a Federal move against Corinth. His plan for his Army of Mississippi was to smash Grant’s army at Pittsburg Landing before Buell could arrive. Johnston moved on 3<sup>rd</sup> April, but heavy rain delayed his attack. By nightfall on 5<sup>th</sup> April, his army was deployed for battle only four miles south-west of Pittsburg Landing. Pickets from both sides nervously exchanged gunfire in the dense woods that evening.

Forces engaged during the Battle were:

Opposing Forces	
Union Forces	Confederate forces
<b>Commanders</b>	<b>Commanders</b>
• Ulysses S. Grant	• Albert Sidney Johnston
• Don Carlos Buell	• P. G. T. Beauregard
<b>Forces</b>	<b>Forces</b>
66,812	44,699
• Army of TN: 48,894	
• Army of OH: 17,918	

On 6<sup>th</sup> April, at daybreak, three corps of Confederate infantry stormed out the woods and swept into the southernmost Federal camps, catching Grant’s men unprepared. Around Shiloh, they swept the Union line from the area, but Union troops counterattacked but then started to fall back in a north-east direction towards Pittsburg’s Landing. Grant’s troops were forced into defensive positions at Shiloh Church, the Peach Orchard, Water Oakes Pond, and a thicket of oaks called the Hornets’ Nest.



Grant was criticised by many for not being better prepared, but he was defended by Lincoln. Corinth fell to the Union by the end of May, allowing Grant to focus on gaining control of the Mississippi River.

John then discussed the consequences of the battle and evaluated the actions of Grant.

During this attack, General Johnston was shot in the right knee. Without a tourniquet to staunch the blood from a severed artery, Johnston bled to death. As a result, General Beauregard assumed control and, in approaching darkness, and believing he was victorious, Beauregard called a halt. However, overnight, Buell had arrived with reinforcements, and Union forces now outnumbered Confederate forces.

At 6am on 7<sup>th</sup> April, Grant's army launched an attack. Although Beauregard immediately ordered a counterattack, the Confederates were forced to fall back and regroup. Beauregard then ordered a second attack, which altered the Union's advance but ultimately ended in a stalemate.

The timberclads USS *Tyler* and USS *Lexington* provided naval support to Grant's left flank from the Tennessee River.

Also on the 7<sup>th</sup>, all the ground lost by the Union the day before was recaptured. At around 3.00pm, Beauregard realised he was outnumbered and retreated towards Corinth, having suffered great casualties.

On 8<sup>th</sup> April, Grant dispatched Gen. Sherman and Brig. Gen. Thomas J. Wood to determine the Confederates' position. Six miles south of the battlefield, at Fallen Timbers, they encountered Rebel cavalry under Col. Nathan Bedford Forrest, who charged them head-on. Forrest, although shot, subsequently returned to duty. His reckless action allowed the Confederates to escape.

The loss of life on both sides at Shiloh was staggering. There were also other consequences, a major one being the blow to the Confederate morale caused by Johnston's death.

#### Total Casualties - Battle of Shiloh

	UNION	CONFED.	TOTAL
Killed	1,754	1,728	<b>3,482</b>
Wounded	8,408	8,012	<b>16,420</b>
Missing & Captured	2,885	959	<b>3,844</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>13,047</b>	<b>10,669</b>	<b>23,716</b>

**Consequences**

- The scale of the battle and the casualties "sobered" the entire nation (on both sides) - the war would be long and bloody
- Revised tactics
- Revised training
- Changed "tone" of speeches and writings (inc. Lincoln)
- Emphasis on broad strategy - esp. in the Western Theatre
- Confirmed that Union forces could hold their own against Confederates
- Shiloh "made" U.S. Grant


Grant's victories at Forts Henry and Donelson boosted his confidence. He believed his army was superior and that the Confederate army would soon collapse. Sherman shared this overconfidence and was dismissive of intelligence about the Southern forces in the area. This meant that, when taken unawares by Rebel forces on April 6<sup>th</sup>, Union troops had no defensive position in place. Fighting was concentrated in a small funnel-shaped area – with the Snake River on one side and the Tennessee River on the other – and this became a cauldron of death. The battle became a free-for-all.

Grant was at his headquarters in Cherry Mansion near Savannah, Tennessee, nine miles downriver. Sherman had failed to heed warning and wrote to Grant that nothing would occur that day other than pickets firing. Sherman's men had just finished breakfast on the 6<sup>th</sup> April that he received news that the Confederates were on the march. Sherman rode out to investigate and was shot in the hand and his orderly was shot dead.

In later evaluation, initial praise of Grant changed when Union deserters and stragglers stated that he had been totally surprised. Buell was reported to have 'saved' Grant and was treated as a hero.

Among the more justified criticisms was the lack of fortifications at the camps around Pittsburg Landing. The more 'savagely denunciations' of Grant came from politicians representing Ohio and Iowa, home states of the regiments that took heavy casualties.

### Grant - Lincoln's "Killer Arithmetician"



- After Henry and Donelson he believed he had the superior army, Confederacy would soon collapse
- Intelligence suggested most Rebs were in Corinth
- Risky encampment - narrow funnel-shaped zone, Snake River on one side, Tennessee River on the other
- Expected to be attacked - size, degree, and ferocity of attack came as a surprise
- Responded well -
  - Imaginative and effective, improvised response
  - Calm effective leadership
  - Learned from his mistakes
  - Did not complain or "sulk"

On 8<sup>th</sup> April, Confederate president Jefferson Davis reported to the Confederate Congress that, according to the latest accounts, Johnston had gained a complete victory. Over the next few days, more information became available, including news of his death and, also, that 'untoward events' had saved the Union Army from destruction. Eventually, Beauregard was blamed for the defeat, citing the lack of a twilight attack on the first day of the battle. Confederate President Davis believed that the loss of Johnston was the 'turning point of our fate' in the Western Theatre.

The loss at Shiloh severely diminished the Confederacy's ability to regain control of the Upper Mississippi Valley. The large number of casualties represented the start of an unwinnable war of attrition.

Victory at Shiloh also placed the Union army in a strategic position to infiltrate and capture key points in the South. Union General Henry W. Halleck, after waiting to be reinforced and resupplied, moved towards Corinth on 29<sup>th</sup> April, and found it abandoned. Over the next three months, New Orleans, Baton Rouge and Memphis were overrun by Union navy forces over the next three months.

The Battle of Shiloh changed the people's view of the Civil War. They no longer believed it would be a short-lived war. Newspaper accounts, many erroneous but all shocking, described the chaos and bloodshed of the battlefield. This ended the romantic view of the war that some had held.

### Myths

1. The opening Confederate attack caught the Union totally by surprise
2. Benjamin Prentiss was the hero of Shiloh
3. Major General Don Carlos Buell's arrival saved Grant from defeat on 6<sup>th</sup> April.
4. The South would have won had Beauregard not called off the assaults
5. The South would have won the battle had Johnston lived
6. The Sunken Road was, in fact, sunken
7. Lew Wallace was responsible for almost losing the battle

John's own views of Shiloh from a memorable tour of the Battlefield:



John's presentation was informative and engaging and rounded up an excellent evening which was appreciated by all present.

### *New members*

We are delighted to welcome new members to our Roundtable.

### 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

This publication is the official newsletter of the American Civil War Round Table of Australia (NSW Chapter). All enquiries regarding the newsletter should be addressed to the Secretary of the Chapter by phone on 0411 745 707 or email: [secretary@americancivilwar.asn.au](mailto:secretary@americancivilwar.asn.au)