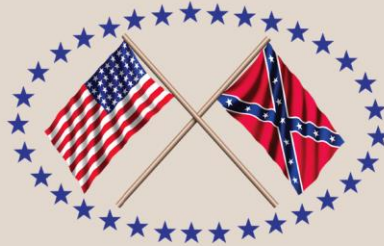


Sumter to Appomattox



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

Number 122 Dec 2023. – Jan. 2024

President's Message

Dear Round Table members,

Horses and mules interrupted our approximate chronological progression through the war for the December meeting. The program focusing on the supply, artillery and cavalry parts of both armies was remarkably successful and I received lots of good feedback afterwards.

Now back to our program strategy of an approximate chronological progress through the war. We are still in 1862.

Your committee has met to plot and scheme about how we can make the Round Table even better than it already is. We are working on several ideas to get more new members because we are all getting older year by year. We need to take every opportunity to recruit new people, especially younger new people. It and the more recent Committee meeting were both good and productive meetings.

If you have not done so yet, please pay your subscription. Our Treasurer is getting a bit hard to handle!

I have made contact with Dr Gordon Jones at the Atlanta History Center and I will be visiting him on 23 April 2024. I missed out in 2019 (because of a cancelled flight) when several of our members visited the Center. He was with us in February 2022. I will pass on the group's best wishes and ask him when we will see him again.

See you there on 20 February.

Ian McIntyre

Our Next Meeting

Tuesday, 20th Feb. from 6.15pm

Talks at 7.00

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

The Roseville Club

Topics:

Two talks related to 1862 given by our members:

The Peninsula Campaign (March - June 1862)

Jackson's Valley Campaign (March -June 1862)

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.

Club re-development

You would all be aware we have to move while they build a new club and apartments. Bruce and Dan are checking out possible venues. Several are being investigated. Watch this space!

On our **Website** you will always find the date of our next meeting. Our Facebook page is also www.americancivilwar.asn.au

Our Last Meeting

The Four-Legged Heroes of the Civil War

We were fortunate to have three of our members speak about three different roles of horses in the Civil War: for moving artillery; as pack animals; and in the cavalry.



Horses and Mules as Pack Animals **John Morrison**

John started his talk by stating that it's not possible to talk about the Civil War without talking about horses.

John loves the following story: In a famous incident in the early days of the Civil War, Lincoln loved to go to the telegraph office and read telegraph dispatches. He read that a Confederate raid near Fairfax Station had captured 100 horses as well as the Brigadier General. Lincoln sighed and said, "I'd hate to lose 100 horses" and the telegraph operator asked why he wasn't more concerned about the Brig. Gen. President Lincoln replied, "I can make a Brig. Gen. in five minutes but it's hard to replace 100 horses!"

This story is quoted in a number of sources. Indeed, in his autobiography, Colin Powell recounts being presented with a framed copy of this story when being promoted from Colonel to Brig. General, as is still the case with those being promoted to Brig. Gen. in the US Armed Forces.

John's stats:

- 3m. horses and mules saw service in the Civil War – half lost their lives. This meant it was two and a half times as deadly for horses.
- They were essential to both armies, the most integral piece of kit they had. They moved artillery and supplies and the wounded, and they were part of the cavalry of course.

- In the Union Army, the Quarter-Master Department oversaw the acquisition of horses and mules, and food and equipment and saddles and harnesses.
- By late 1864 in the Confederacy, a prize cavalry mount was valued at \$3000 – more than twice the price of a prime slave. That's how valued a horse was at that time.

It's worth noting that feeding horses and mules was a bigger logistical challenge than feeding the men because the horses needed 10lbs of hay and 14lbs of grain, but soldier's ration was only about 4lbs. If you wanted to put them out to pasture – and this is something that many people don't recognise – pasture is nowhere near as efficient in terms of caloric intake, so you had to give them five or six times as much, about 80lbs of grass. And water, of course, was a huge problem. No army could carry enough water to supply its horses. You could never go far from a stream or water source, so this was a huge logistical constraint on the army.

Horses and mules became targets on the battlefield as well. The common refrain was, "Capture the horse if you can, but shoot the thing if you can't". Most of them, however, died from overwork or disease. They often didn't have enough proper food and, towards the end of the war, particularly in the South, there was no way to provide enough feed for the horses.

As I said, two to three times as many horses died as humans.

The Relationship between Horse and Rider including some famous ones **Mike Bosch**

Mike began by referring to his trip to the US with his wife. They stopped in Leesburg, Virginia, before moving onto Balls Bluff and *Monticello*, Thomas Jefferson's home. Clearly, Jefferson's approach to life and the country significantly influenced the South and that was reflected in the 1850s and 1860s. Mike and his wife then went on to South Carolina to visit some cousins – Yankees who live in the South. Mike referred to hearing that, in Richmond, students are taught that the Civil War was 'The War of Northern Aggression' and, in Georgia, 'The War of Southern Independence'.

Mike's first visit to Gettysburg would have been on a Sunday in Spring 1959 from his home in Central Pennsylvania. Since then, he's spent 60+ years visiting battlefields, reading, studying, writing papers and watching movies, but had never, until last week when John asked him to give this presentation, realised the impact that horses had and the issues around them like not getting too far from water. The logistics of

moving the horses and providing feed would have been very difficult.

Mike referred to two quotes: 'A dog may be man's best friend, but the horse wrote history' and 'The history of mankind is carried on the back of a horse'. These illustrate the substantial impact horses have had on the United States up till today.

Most Civil War soldiers were literate and left diaries and journals of the experiences in the war. Horses obviously could not, but many soldiers wrote specifically about their own horse's bravery and experiences in the war, giving them a voice. History has been enriched by the accounts of slaves and poor, illiterate soldiers as compared to only the voices of the social elite. The accounts of horses can only contribute to this knowledge.

There was a huge death rate of horses, one reason being that they made a larger target. Countless others died of diseases such as hoof rot, a bacterial infection caused by moist ground conditions; grease heel, a disease affecting the horse's coronet band causing sores; distemper; equine influenza; and glanders, a disease which reached epidemic proportions in 1864 and is characterised by swelling of the jaw and a persistent discharge from the nostrils. Horses that died on the battlefield were considered lucky because they hadn't had to suffer from starvation or disease.

Many of the Northern soldiers were not used to being around horses and were not aware of the many tasks required to keep a horse healthy such as grooming, hoof care and feeding and watering of a horse. Many were disciplined for not taking enough care of their horses.

An interesting story relates to a Mrs. Lister, whose home was the scene of a deadly battle, sold horses' bones for 50 cents per 100 lbs. of bones. She stated that 17 dead horses were on her land, which ruined her only fresh water supply. The only reimbursement she received was the \$375 she received from the sale of the bones. Calculations from this show that she sold 75,000 lbs. of horse bones.

Because they had to be left to rot in order to sell the bones, the smell of rotting horse flesh was nauseating but locals became accustomed to it although some visitors not used to it became ill and went home and died, according to accounts.

There are two well-known horse-rider relationships. One involves General Robert E. Lee. and his horse Traveller, who had not met before the war. Traveller was born in West Virginia in 1857 and was known as 'Jeff Davis'

until he was purchased at age 4 by Major Thomas L. Brown. Lee took command of Brown's unit and showed an instant fondness for his horse. In 1862, he paid \$200 for the 5-year-old, iron-grey, 16-hand gelding. Traveller had a remarkable conformation and a rapid step. Lee would often describe him by saying, "Such a picture would inspire a poet, whose genius could then depict his worth and describe his endurance of toil, hunger, thirst, heat, cold and the dangers and suffering he passed".

After the war, Traveller remained with Lee and when Lee died in 1870, Lee followed the hearse to his master's final resting place. A year later, Traveller died. Whether he died from old age or sorrow at losing his best friend, companion and master, remains unsure, but one thing remains – the bond between horse and rider was unbreakable.

On the Yankee side, there's another, not quite as close relationship. General George Meade had four remarkable mounts during the Civil War – Old Baldy, Old Billy, Blackie and Gertie. However, General Meade and Old Baldy exhibited the greatest bond. Old Baldy served Meade faithfully through the war until he was struck by a bullet that lodged in his ribs at Weldon Railroad in 1864. Old Baldy lived but Meade decided that, because he had been wounded five times (although it was speculated that he had been wounded 14 times!), he was retired after he participated in 11 major battles. After the war, General Meade continued to ride him until Meade died. Like Traveller, he was part of Meade's funeral procession and went on to outlive Meade by 10 years.

This information was taken from research by an academic at Eastern Kentucky University. The full article can be accessed by searching for **Horsepower in the Civil War: Uses, Suffering, and Personal Relationships** Autumn K. Baisden Eastern Kentucky University

Artillery **Mike Bosch**

Mike moved on to speak about artillery.

There are three basic types of artillery; field artillery – light artillery, which was used by the infantry in the front lines; horse artillery, which was usually allocated to the cavalry; and heavy artillery, which was in fixed positions.

Regarding organisation, on the Union side, each infantry corps included an artillery brigade; cavalry corps had two artillery brigades. In addition, there were five artillery brigades held in reserve. Each brigade had six batteries, and

each battery had six guns, which amounted to 100 men and 120-130 horses. The total for each artillery brigade had 800 horses. This means the horses numbered into the tens of thousands in battles such as Gettysburg.

Artillery Organisation

• Union Artillery

- Chief - Brig Gen Henry Hunt
- Each Infantry Corps - one Artillery Brigade; Cavalry Corps - two Artillery Brigades; Reserve - five Artillery Brigades (Brig Gen Robert Tyler)
- Artillery Brigade - six Batteries
- Battery - six guns (three two-gun sections); 100 men and 120-30 horses
- **TOTAL per Artillery Brigade - 800 horses approx.**

• Confederate Artillery

- Chief - Brig Gen William Pendleton
- Similar distribution to Infantry, Cavalry and Reserve
- Artillery Brigade - five or six Batteries
- Battery - four guns; 68 men and 100 horses
- **TOTAL per Artillery Brigade - 500-600 horses approx.**

This connects to the logistics of feeding and moving these animals as well as men.

The Confederate artillery was similar although the rationing of horse numbers to men was lower. There was a similarity in the fact that they all came out of West Point and had similar ideas.

Civil War artillery had advanced little since the early days. Artillery horses cost more than cavalry horses. When horses and caissons were moved to the rear, attacking infantries made batteries their prime target. Attacking troops would shoot the horses so that they could not move the guns, and if they were in danger of capture, troops would shoot their own horses so that the enemy could not move the guns.

In terms of artillery organisation, a six-gun Union battery, which consisted of 12 pounder Napoleons, contained three 2-gun sections. **Each gun was hitched to a limber drawn by six horses, accompanied by a limber and caisson drawn by six horses.** There was one ammunition box on each limber and two ammunition boxes on each caisson. Each battery also had six reserve limber and caissons, one travelling forge wagon and one battery wagon hauling equipment.

In terms of horses, this meant that two caissons per gun required:

- 20 six-horse teams and 10 extra horses (130 total)
- Three drivers for each six-horse team. Each gun crew was made up of nine cannoneers (in the Horse Artillery all were mounted)

A caisson is a two-wheeled cart used for carrying two chests of ammunition and for pulling a cannon (a limber usually had one).



Pack Horses and Wagons Denis Smith

Like everyone else, Denis is amazed by the sheer number of horse casualties: one-three million.

He spoke about the various roles that horses had during the War, including carrying ammunition and transporting the wounded. In relation to wagons, the Union's standard was that a 6-mule wagon could haul 4,000 lbs. on good roads, but seldom exceeded 2,000. A four-mule wagon usually hauled 1,800 lbs. at a rate of 12-24 miles per day.

The Confederates mainly used a four-mule wagon with a smaller capacity, so it was obviously more difficult for them to get arms to the Front. The equipment they had included sturdy but simple Studebaker wagons, which were requisitioned.

Also to be considered, when thinking of a million horses, were the need for 4 million horse shoes, also bridles and saddles and other equipment.

How the Union and Confederates were organised is shown in the following slides:

Pack Horses and Wagons - Union

The Union Army used mostly 6-mule wagons as follows:

Unit	Number of Wagons
Corps HQ	4
Division and Brigade HQ	3
Regiment of Infantry	6
Artillery Battery and Cavalry Squadron	3 (additional to gun and cavalry horses)
Hospital stores	1 per Regiment
Grain for officers' horses.	1 per Regiment

Pack Horses and Wagons - Confederate

The Army of Northern Virginia used 4-mule wagons as follows:

Unit	Number of Wagons
Division HQ	3
Brigade HQ	2
Regimental HQ	1
Regimental medical stores	1
Regimental ammunition	1
Baggage, camp equipment, rations, etc.	1/100 men per Regiment

These table show the 'behind the scenes' organisation. Denis also mentioned the other necessities required – food, cannon balls and ammunition. (He also referred to the famous '40,000 Horsemen' battle in Palestine and the logistical requirements required for this battle.)

Civil War Cavalry John Morrison

John began his part by briefly referring to the following table:

An Exercise in Logistics

- A **soldier requires 3 pounds of food per day** (not incl. water). The daily individual ration for a Union soldier consisted of:
 - 20 ounces of fresh or salt beef or 12 ounces of pork or bacon
 - 1 pound of hard bread or 18 ounces of flour or 20 of cornmeal (plus company-allocated rations)
 - containers of the period weigh as much as the food. (usually boxes)
 - average soldier needs 6 pounds moved to him everyday - for 40,000 men = 240,000 pounds daily
- All this was transported in wagons pulled by horses or mules. Horses also pulled cannon and served as mounts for cavalry and officers.
- Each horse required 20 pounds of grain and fodder every day.
 - Example - A standard **Union horse artillery battery** of 6 guns had up to 180 horses requiring **3,600 pounds per day** (horses were referred to as "hay-burners").

The sheer problem of logistics cannot be underestimated – indeed it has been suggested that, in military studies, "amateurs study tactics, professionals study logistics!"

He moved on to discuss the Cavalry – horse-mounted soldiers – who were vital to both sides of the conflict. There were many famous commanders and units.

In total, there were 272 full regiments of cavalry raised by the Union and 137 by the South. This is less than half the total because it did not include separate battalions and independent companies raised.

Each regiment of 1000 men needed 1200 horses. This meant there was a total of 650,000 in the Union cavalry, plus an additional 75,000 confiscated in Southern territory. This, plus the equipment needed, represented a substantial investment in men, material and horses.

There is a distinction between the different types of 'mounted troops':

- Cavalry units were forces who fought principally on horseback, usually with pistols and sabres.

- Dragoons were hybrid forces, armed with carbines, pistols and sabres, who could fight on horseback but also on foot. An example of this was Brig. General Buford's brigades at Gettysburg, who dismounted and fought on foot.
- Mounted infantry were forces that moved on horseback but dismounted in order to fight on foot and who were armed with rifles, pistols and bayonets. They were shock troops who could move between locations quickly.
- Irregular cavalry were mounted partisans and guerrillas, particularly employed by the Confederates e.g. Mosely's Raiders to bring irregulars into service with the Confederate Army. These troops were very effective in disrupting Union campaigns e.g. Sherman's Campaign at Atlanta.

The cavalry had a number of roles: reconnaissance; screening; flank security; attack; Headquarters duties; raiding/interdiction. The roles of reconnaissance and screening were probably the most important.

The organisation of the cavalry is shown on the following slide:

Civil War Cavalry

Organisation

- **Regiment** : Union - 1,040 to 1,156; Confederate - 1150
 - 10 - 12 troops or companies of 80 - 100 soldiers, commanded by a captain
 - Two troops could be formed into a squadron; two squadrons could be formed into a battalion (this structure was abolished, but was still used informally)
 - Above regiment - **brigade** which consisted of several regiments
 - Several brigades - formed a **division**.
 - Two or more divisions - formed into **corps**.
- Veteran regiments "bled down"** through battle and natural attrition, Union regiments averaged 400 - 600 total; Confederate regiments averaged 160 - 360 total.
- Whenever possible, **horse artillery** was attached to the cavalry, followed by its own supply train

One difference between the two forces was that the Union dispersed its cavalry units whereas the Confederacy grouped their cavalry into large units right from the beginning. This was a basic difference in philosophy.

The Cavalry's establishment had been quite recent. In March 1833, Congress created the U.S. Regiment of Dragoons under Commander Col. Henry Dodge. Other noteworthy officers were Lt. Col. Stephen Keany; Capt. Edwin Sumner; 1st Lt. Philip St. George Cooke (Jeb Stuart's father-in-law), and 2nd Lt. Jefferson Davis.

During the Mexican War, cavalry units were mostly volunteers, and it became obvious that more units were needed. As a result, in March 1855, Congress authorised the raising of two regiments of horse – the 1st and 2nd U.S.

Cavalry, which was the first regular American military organisation to bear the title of 'cavalry'. These units, termed 'Davis's Own' because he was Secretary of War at the time, and was stacked, as he said, with 'friends and colleagues from the South'. They were seen (and saw themselves) as an elite force.

The makeup of the two Units is shown as follows:

- **1st Cavalry** - assembled at Fort Leavenworth
 - Commander - Colonel Edwin V. Sumner.
 - Officers included : Lt. Col. Joseph E. Johnston, Maj. John Sedgwick, Maj. William H. Emory, Capt. George B. McClellan, and Lt. J. E. B. Stuart.
- **2nd Cavalry** - trained at Jefferson Barracks.
 - Commander - Colonel Albert Sidney Johnston
 - Officers included : Lt. Col. Robert E. Lee, Maj. William J. Hardee, Maj. George H. Thomas, Captains Earl Van Dorn, George Stoneman, Edmund Kirby Smith, Lieutenants John Bell Hood, and Fitzhugh Lee.
- At the Civil Wars onset, there were five regiments of U. S. cavalry

Of the 176 officers in these five original regiments, 104 (60%) cast their lot with their native Southern States when the Civil War began (overall around 20% of officers in the US Regular Army resigned and joined the Confederate Army). As a result, the Union cavalry consisted of many untested troops and inexperienced officers whereas the Confederate cavalry, in the first two years, had more experienced leadership, which contributed to the South's battlefield superiority in the early years.

The principal item of cavalry equipment was horses. The setting up of a cavalry regiment was \$300,000; annual upkeep was in excess of \$100,000 (4-5 times the cost of an infantry regiment). Initially, on both sides, recruits or local communities provided horses, but this policy did not last long in the North. In contrast, the South continued this policy throughout the war with the Southern Cavalry providing their own horses. This was a great advantage because Southern recruits were genuine horsemen with genuine affection for their mounts and took good care of them. In contrast, in the Union, the quartermaster issued the horses as if they were a piece of kit and the recruits did not know how to care for them correctly, nor were they shown how to do this. As a result, there was an enormous death toll of horses due to neglect and ill-treatment.

The U.S. government's price for a horse in 1861 was initially \$119 but increased to \$190 by the end of the war. Due to greater scarcity and inflation in the Confederacy, a horse was worth over \$3,000. Confederate cavalymen who lost their horses often went home and searched for weeks to find a new one.

The daily feed ration for Union cavalry horses was 10 lbs. of hay and 14 lbs. of grain, which was not always provided. It is interesting that there was no Veterinary Corps considering the number of issues horses faced – strangles, grease heel and glanders, which all spread rapidly and killed large numbers of horses. Interestingly, John pointed out that, in the First World War, the Army employed more Vets than Doctors. He also stressed the fact that horses get very sick and die from a number of illnesses.

It wasn't until 1863 that the Union created the position of Veterinary Sergeant to look after horses, the most important piece of kit that the army had.

The actual acquisition of horses in the North worked extremely well, with 650,000 acquired. The specifications of a cavalry horse were as follows:

Civil War Cavalry

Cavalry Horse Specifications

- At least 15 hands (150 cm) high,
- Weigh around 950 pounds (430 kg),
- Aged between 4 and 10 years old,
- Be "well-broken to bridle and saddle"
- Dark colors
- Free from defects e.g. shallow breathing
- Geldings preferred.

In the Confederacy, limited numbers did not permit such selectivity



The main horse breed used was the Morgan – very similar to the Australian Waler, being short and stocky, resilient, wiry and tough. The compact Morgan was compact and generally bay, black or chestnut. This horse was also the favoured one for haulage.

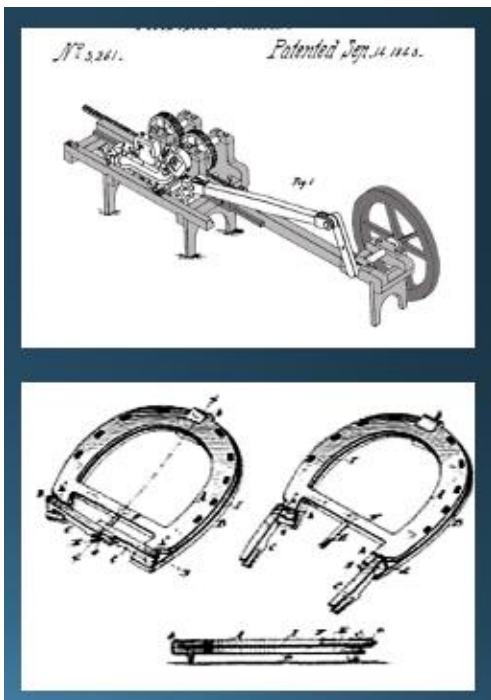
In the Union, equipment that a horse needed to carry was a 70kg Cavalryman, his weapons, ammunition, rations and shelter (70kg). All this needed to be carried for several days. The standard saddle was the MacLellan, named after Gen. MacLellan, who improved the standard saddle after seeing superior ones in Europe. It is still used today by ceremonial mounted units. Equipment was more ad hoc in the Confederacy because it was very short of metals and many other materials used to make bridles, bits, stirrups, spurs etc.

In terms of organisation, the following slide explains the main features:

Civil War Cavalry

- Cavalry usually moved in Column of Fours; charged in Twos or Line Extended
- Could cover **55 km in 8 hours** under good conditions
 - Jeb Stuart's raid on Chambersburg, Pennsylvania, in 1862, march of 130 km in 27 hours;
 - 1864 - Wilson's & Kautz's divisions marched 500 km in ten days
 - Morgan's Raid - averaged twenty-one hours in the saddle some days; once covered 140 km in 35 hours! Troopers slept in their saddles on long marches
- Damaging to readiness and required **extensive recovery period**.
- Large bodies of cavalry took up a **great distance of road**. A horse occupies 3m approx., 1m between ranks. A troop of 96 men in columns of fours would be 100m long. Sheridan's column of **10,000 troopers stretched for 20km**.
- At a walk, cavalry could cover **6.5km/hr**; at a slow trot, **10km/hr**; at a maneuvering trot, **13km/hr**; at an alternate trot and walk, **8km/hr**; at a maneuvering gallop, **20km/hr**; and at a full extended gallop, **26km/hr**.

The production of horseshoes benefitted from a horseshoe-making machine developed by Scotsman Henry Burden which provided 25 million shoes. Efficient shoes helped keep animals healthy and mobile. However, because of heavy use, horses and mules needed to be reshod frequently, usually every 5 weeks. One Union remount depot in Maryland held up to 20,000 horses and employed 100 blacksmiths. There were also mobile farriers who travelled with the army. In contrast, because of the lack of metal in the South, Confederate horses often went unshod.



John finished his very informative talk by calling for questions. A number of points came up from John and members of the audience:

- If possible, horses were scavenged if their riders died, and they could be rounded up.
- Most fighting by mounted troops was carried out from a dismounted position, similar to the Australian Light Horse.

- The Confederate cavalry was considered to be superior to the Union cavalry, partly because they had better leadership as a result of so many senior officers from the U.S. Army cavalry going south at the outset of the war. Another reason was that they were better organised. A third reason was that the system of individual troopers providing their own horses contributed to them being better soldiers. Only one Union regiment supplied their own horses – the 3rd Indiana.
- Cavalry horses could not be converted into harness horses as they had to be trained specifically in a process taking 6 weeks. It could take weeks to introduce a new horse to a team.
- The loss of 3 million horses affected the horse stock in North America and also led to long-term shortages including for transport and other areas. This meant that, in fact, North America embraced the Industrial Revolution earlier than other nations.
- Battery divisions, which included horses, cannons, limbers and caissons, needed a great deal of room when travelling to get into position – to swing around and face in the correct direction.
- The hygiene factor had to be considered, with waste from so many horses polluting water sources, leading to major illness in troops.

Ian called on the audience to show appreciation for the very informative talks given by the John, Mike and Denis. These wide-ranging, detailed and fascinating presentations contained information that was possibly new to many of the members.

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.

Quiz

John invited the audience to participate in a Quiz based on the presentations:

1. Name any two of Robert E Lee's horses.
2. Phil Sheridan's most famous horse had two names. What were they and how did this come about?
3. Which General had a horse named Kangaroo?
4. What was Grant's favourite, and most famous horse, acquired in 1864, and depicted in most paintings of and memorials to Grant?
5. Which General had a horse named Daniel Webster?
6. What was Nathan Bedford Forrest's favourite horse?
7. How many horses did Bedford Forrest reportedly have shot from under him?
8. What became of Little Sorrel following the death of Stonewall Jackson at the Battle of Chancellorsville?
9. What was the name of the horse Sherman rode in Atlanta – said to have been his favourite?
10. Who had a horse named after the Holy Roman Emperor Charlemagne?

Answers

1. Traveller; Ajax; Lucy Long; Brown Roan; Richmond
2. Rienzi was later renamed Winchester after Sheridan's famous ride at the Battle of Winchester
3. Ulysses S. Grant
4. Cincinnati
5. George B. McClellan
6. Roderick
7. 30
8. He first returned to North Carolina with Mrs. Jackson, and subsequently was sent to VMI. He died in March 1886, at 36. His mounted hide is now on display in the VMI Museum in Lexington, Virginia.
9. Duke
10. Joshua Chamberlain

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

War in the Shenandoah Valley on the Sabbath

- A Correspondence between General Jackson and his wife Mary



Being staunch Presbyterians, Mary Anna Jackson informed her husband General T. J. 'Stonewall' Jackson by letter that she was displeased that he had attacked the Union forces at Winchester on the

Lord's Day, Sunday 25th May, 1862. The battle had resulted in a rout of Nathaniel Banks' forces. Union casualties at this first Battle of Winchester included roughly two thousand soldiers (sixty-two killed, 243 wounded, and 1,714 missing or captured). The Confederacy lost only four hundred men (sixty-eight killed, 329 wounded, and three missing).

Jackson wrote a reply to Mary on 11th April, 1862 in which he justified his breaking of the sabbath:

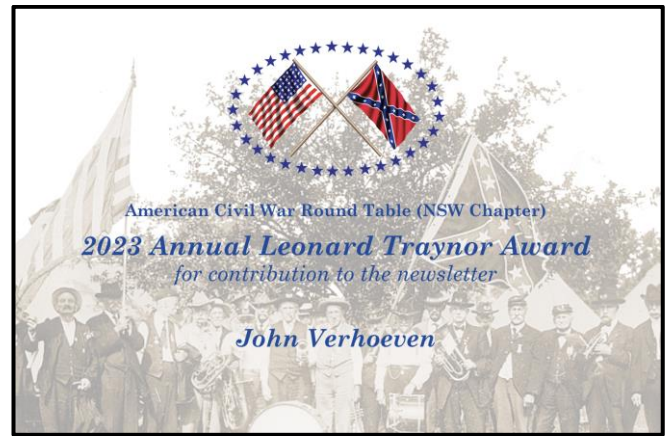
You appear much concerned at my attacking on Sunday. I was greatly concerned, too; but I felt it my duty to do it, in consideration of the ruinous effects that might result from postponing the battle until the morning. So far as I can see, my course was a wise one; the best that I could do under the circumstances, though very distasteful to my feelings; and I hope and pray to our Heavenly Father that I may never again be circumstanced as on that day. I believed that so far as our troops were concerned, necessity and mercy both called for the battle. I do hope the war will soon be over, and that I shall never again have to take the field. Arms is a profession that, if its principles are adhered to for success, requires an officer to do what he fears may be wrong, and yet, according to military experience, must be done, if success is to be attained. And this fact of its being necessary to success, and being accompanied with success, and that a departure from it is accompanied with disaster, suggests that it must be right. Had I fought the battle on Monday instead of Sunday, I fear our cause would have suffered; whereas, as things turned out, I consider our cause gained much from the engagement.

(Extract of letter from Bob Blaisdell, Civil War Letters: From Home, Camp and Battlefield, Dover Publications. Kindle Edition, p. 43)
Photo credit: VMI.edu

Our Christmas Function

The Leonard Traynor Award for Contribution to the Newsletter

John Verhoeven



This year's winner of the Leonard Traynor Award was presented to John Verhoeven for the articles he has contributed to the newsletter during the year. The most recent was his excellent analysis of The Battle of Hampton Roads, which was featured in Newsletter No. 119.

John was presented with the Award by Len Traynor, Life Member, after whom the Award is named.

President Ian McIntyre MC'd the event and helped contribute to an enjoyable and informative evening for members and guests

