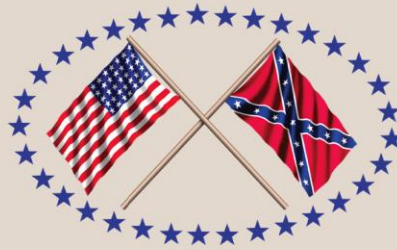


Sumter to Appomattox



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

Number 136
Apr. – May 2026

President's Message

A couple of meetings ago, we started to record who won the book raffle prizes. So, if any of you have read an interesting civil war book you won in a raffle, please let me know and, if you like, I will ensure that it gets included in next meeting's program. It does not need to be long - five minutes at most is enough for you to give us the gist of what the book's about. And please don't be put off by the eloquence of some of our members. We are interested in what YOU discovered when you read or browsed your raffle prize. Some people might then ask to borrow your book.

Also, if anyone has discovered something of a person who was mixed up in the Civil War, as a combatant or a civilian or victim, please let me know about that too. I will then ensure that it is on the program for the next meeting. It does not have to be long. Five minutes!

Speaking of the eloquence of some of our members, the next meeting is a case in point. Both speakers are experienced and entertaining speakers. Rod also sometimes speaks at the events put on in the Lane Cove Library in a co-operative effort by the Lane Cove subbranch of the RSL and the Lane Cove Library. These lectures are free, but you need to book on the Eventbrite system, the same one we use for our dinner meetings.

Don't forget a \$5 and a \$10 note for the door raffles. Bruce's garage is still overflowing with books.

See you on 22 June.

Ian McIntyre

Our Next Meeting

Monday, 22nd June from 6pm
The Chatswood Club
11 Help Street, Chatswood
Only \$35 for an excellent buffet dinner including wine on the table

Please book your tickets before 10pm 18th June at this link:
<https://www.trybooking.com/DMZTH>

Program

The Lightning Brigade
Rod Cooke

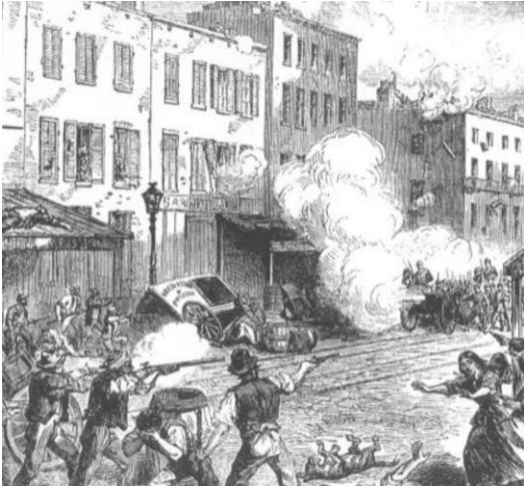


The Lightning Brigade was an elite mounted infantry unit in the Union Army of the Cumberland during the American Civil War, commanded by Colonel John T. Wilder. Formed in 1863, the unit earned its nickname for its incredible speed and was renowned for wielding rapid-firing Spencer repeating /cont'd

rifles. The brigade is most famous for its tenacious defence at the Battle of Chickamauga and its lightning-fast assault at Hoover's Gap.

The New York Draft Riots

Dan Howard



In a pressing need for new troops, the Federal Government in 1863 passed the first ever national draft with legislation known as the *Enrollment Act*.

It was highly unpopular and its controversial provisions led to widespread protests, nowhere more so than in New York City, where the worst riots in American history took place over four days from July 12 1863.

This talk will consider the draft procedures and the underlying causes of the riots in the context of the social and political currents in New York City.

Future Meetings

Should anyone be interested in presenting any of the other topics, or parts thereof, please contact John Morrison on 0411197935 or email at johnjmorrison@bigpond.com

Looking forward to some great nights, best wishes,

John Morrison

Program Coordinator, Civil War Roundtable.

Club Parking

The club offers free parking, with ample space for up to 50 vehicles. The parking lot provides direct access to the club.

How to Access the Parking:

The entrance to the parking lot is located at the back of the club, accessible via McIntosh Street.

For GPS directions, enter '12 McIntosh Street, Chatswood'. This will guide you to the general area. Upon arrival, look for the parking complex

with signage that reads 'Club Parking' in black lettering. The following image should assist you:



12 McIntosh St

IMPORTANT: You may need to phone the number on the post outside to get the gate opened. There are internal stairs up to the Club (there's a door on the landing on the right on the top level, just down from the gate) or you can catch the lift to G, then exit the glass doors and enter through the adjoining glass doors.

Our Last Meeting

At our well-attended meeting, there were two speakers, President Ian MacIntyre and Program Manager John Morrison, both continuing with the theme of Battles.



Ian MacIntyre discusses Tullahoma



John speaks about Chickamauga

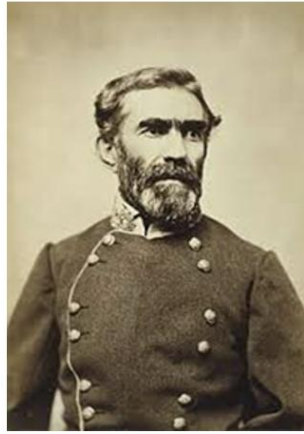


The meeting was well-attended

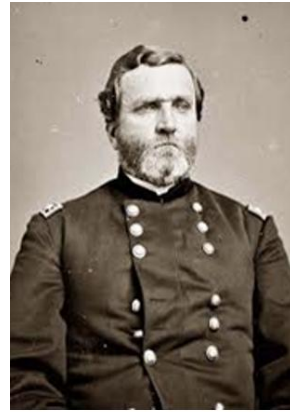
Tullahoma and Chickamauga (June-Sept. 1863)



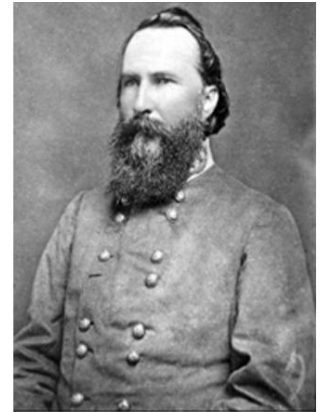
William Rosecrans



Braxton Bragg



Henry Thomas



James Longstreet

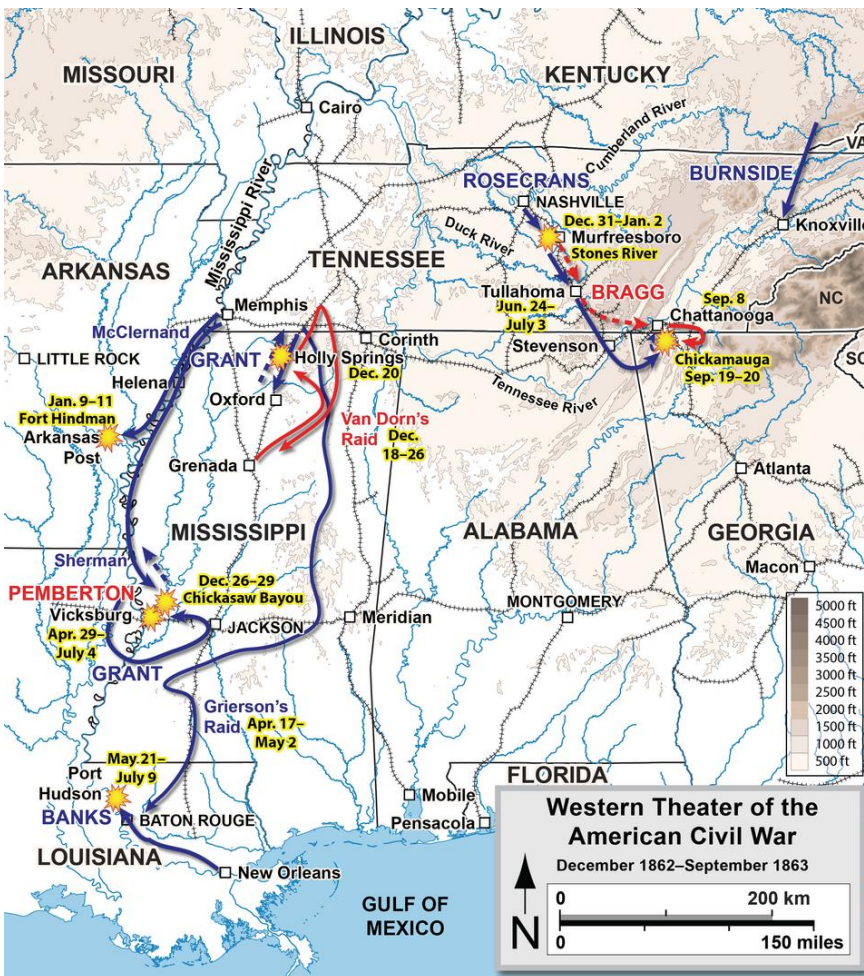
Tullahoma

The successful Union campaign in Middle Tennessee in the summer of 1863 was a turning point in the Civil War. In just eleven days, with very little fighting, the Army of the Cumberland manoeuvred the Confederate Army of Tennessee completely out of Middle Tennessee. The campaign secured an agriculturally productive region for the Union, set the stage for the major battles around

Chattanooga that fall, and led to the crucial struggle for Atlanta the following year.

The campaign was part of two years of conflict along the railroad, extending from Nashville through Chattanooga to Atlanta. The first clash occurred on Stones River near Murfreesboro at the end of 1862 and from a military standpoint, ended in a draw. But on 3 January 1863, Confederate General Braxton Bragg retreated, moving his army south to a twenty-mile-long front in the area of Shelbyville-Tullahoma.

The next move belonged to Union Major General William S. Rosecrans who, despite proddings from President Lincoln, refused to budge from his Murfreesboro base until he was satisfied his army was ready. Rosecrans moved on June 23, 1863, following a brilliant plan: go around Bragg's army, sever its line of supply, reinforcement, and retreat along the Nashville and Chattanooga Railroad, and force the Confederates to turn and fight -



or at the very least, to retreat and protect their lifeline south.

The range of hills separating the two armies figured prominently in Rosecrans's plan. Avoiding an easy advance around the hills on the western edge of the front, Rosecrans chose a more difficult route directly through the hills on the east. As a diversion, he sent large parts of his army in several directions.

The Confederates held at Shelbyville and Liberty Gap near Bell Buckle, while the main Federal thrust went through Hoover's Gap on the Murfreesboro-Manchester Turnpike. By 27 June, Union troops were at Manchester in the Confederate rear. Thus, Bragg had no choice but to retreat to Tullahoma. Over the next several days, his army made successive retreats to Decherd and Cowan, before finally retreating over the mountain to Chattanooga on 3 July.

Incessant rain slowed the Union advance. Rosecrans was thus unable to strike Bragg's army before it got away, But Rosecrans did achieve his secondary goal of forcing the Confederates out of Middle Tennessee, shifting the battleground to the Chattanooga area.

The Federals deployed about 77,000 men in the Tullahoma campaign and the Confederates 44,000. Union losses totalled 550 captured, wounded, and killed. The Federal forces captured 1,634 Confederates - the number of Confederate wounded and killed is unknown.

Chickamauga

Catoosa County and Walker County, GA
Sep 18 - 20, 1863

At the end of a summer that had seen the dual disasters of Confederate losses at Gettysburg and Vicksburg, the triumph of the Army of Tennessee at Chickamauga was well-timed for the Confederates but came at great cost. Chickamauga was the second bloodiest battle of the Civil War, ranking only behind Gettysburg, It was by far the deadliest battle in the Western Theatre.

In context

The small city of Chattanooga, population 2,500 inhabitants, lay on the banks of the Tennessee River where it cut through the Appalachian Mountains. The crossroads for four major railroads, President Lincoln knew that if his army could capture Chattanooga, vital Confederate supply lines would be severed, bringing the war closer to an end.

In the summer of 1863, the Confederate army was reeling from a series of losses in the

Western Theatre. The success of the Tullahoma Campaign bolstered the confidence of Union General William Rosecrans. Targeting Chattanooga, Rosecrans outmanoeuvred the Confederate Army of Tennessee under General Braxton Bragg, forcing him to relinquish control of the critical transportation hub virtually without a fight.

Assuming that Bragg's demoralized army would retreat further south into Rome, Georgia, Rosecrans divided his army into three corps and scattered them throughout Tennessee and Georgia. This was a tactical mistake - Bragg had in fact concentrated his men at LaFayette, Georgia, and was expecting reinforcements. He was also close to a vulnerable corps of Rosecrans's army. When Bragg's troops crossed Chickamauga Creek, the Federals faced a fight.

Bragg's original plan was the destruction of the Army of the Cumberland and the recapture of Chattanooga. Two days of bitter fighting at Chickamauga stalled him. Instead, he decided to occupy the heights surrounding Chattanooga and lay siege to the city instead. Two months later, reinforced Federals drove the Army of Tennessee from their positions around Chattanooga, permanently securing Northern control of the city, turning the Southern tactical victory at Chickamauga into a strategic defeat.

Before the Battle

From his position in LaFayette, Georgia, Bragg followed the Union army north, skirmishing with them at Davis's Cross Roads. By *17 September* he had been reinforced with Virginia divisions under Gen. John Bell Hood and a Mississippi division under Brig. Gen. Bushrod Johnson. Surprisingly, given that they had the interior lines of communication, this was the first transport of Confederate troops from one theatre to another to achieve numerical superiority.

On the morning of the *18 September*, with renewed confidence that Chattanooga could once again pass into Confederate hands, Bragg marched his army to the west bank of Chickamauga Creek, hoping to wedge his troops between Chattanooga and the Federal army.

During the Battle

Forces Engaged	125,000
Union	60,000
Confed.	65,000

18 September. Bragg hoped to achieve surprise. Rosecrans, observing the Confederates marching in the morning had anticipated Bragg's plan. By the time Bragg's army crossed the creek, Union reinforcements were in place. Bragg's infantry skirmished with Federal infantry and mounted infantry armed with Spencer repeating rifles.

19 September. The Battle of Chickamauga began in earnest shortly after dawn. Although Bragg's men gained ground throughout the day, they could not break the extended Union line, despite a series of aggressive attacks. However, at 11:00 p.m., Gen. James Longstreet's divisions arrive at Chickamauga. Confederates now outnumbered the Federals. Bragg divided his forces into two wings - the Left commanded by Longstreet and the Right commanded by Lt Gen. Leonidas K. Polk. Confederate luck began to change.

20 September. The battle resumed at 9:30 a.m., with coordinated Confederate attacks on the Union left flank. An hour later, Rosecrans, believing a gap existed in his line, ordered Gen. Thomas Wood's division to fill it.

Wood knew that the order was a mistake; no such gap existed in the Federal line. Moving his division would open a large swath in the Union position. However, Wood had already been berated twice in the campaign for not promptly following orders, and so moved immediately, creating a division-wide hole in the Union line. Recognising that this was the chance the Confederates needed, Longstreet massed a striking force led by Gen. Hood, of eight brigades divided into three lines. Longstreet's men hammered through the gap that Wood had created. Union resistance at the southern end of the battlefield evaporated as Federal troops, including Rosecrans himself, were pushed off the field.

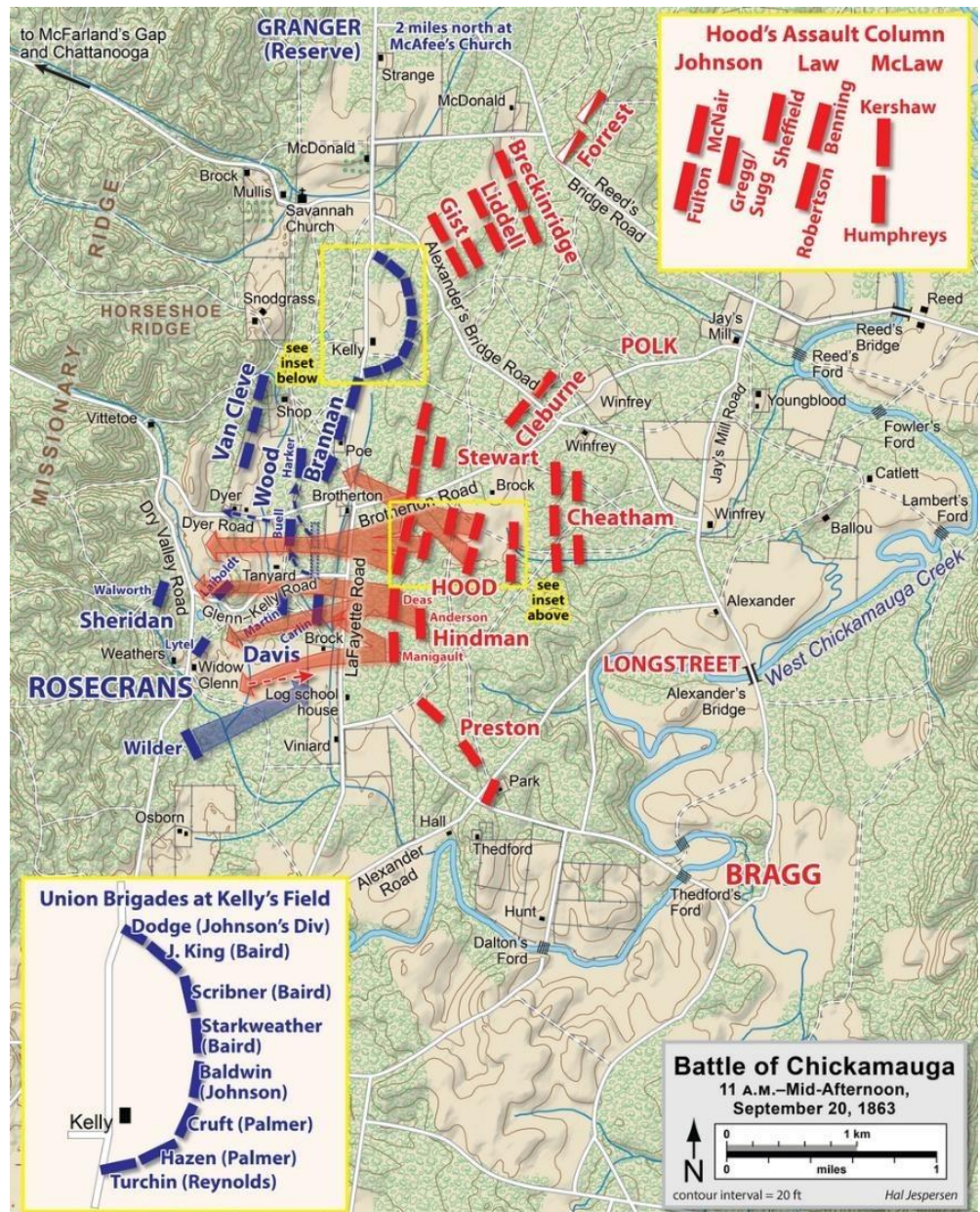
In a move that would earn him the nickname "The Rock of Chickamauga," General George Thomas took command and consolidated

the scattered Union forces on Horseshoe Ridge and Snodgrass Hill. He and his men formed a defensive position, and although Confederates continued to assault and press to within feet of the Union line, Thomas troops held firm. Thomas withdrew as darkness fell.

Aftermath

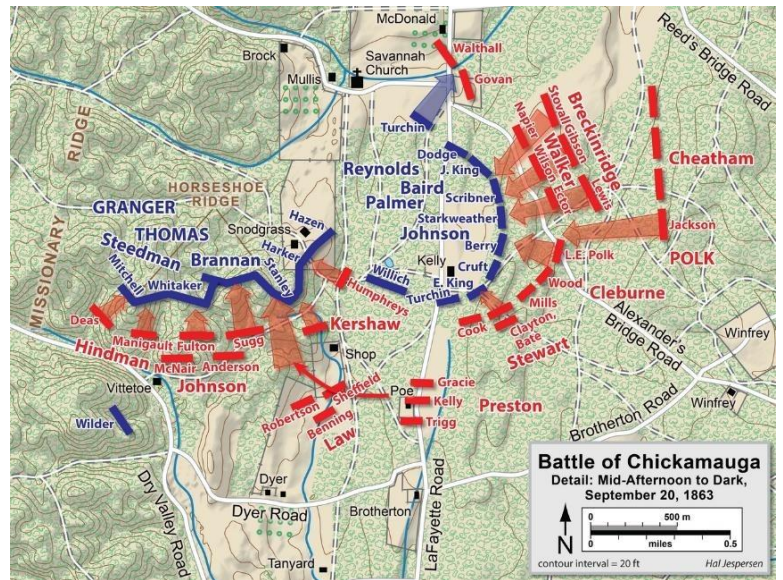
Union Forces		Confederate forces	
Killed	1,657	Killed	2,312
Wounded	9,756	Wounded	14,674
Captured/MIA	4,757	Captured/MIA	1,468
TOTAL	16,170	TOTAL	18,454

Estimated Casualties.	34,624
Union	16,170
Confederate	18,454



Thomas urged Rosecrans to lead the army in an attack the next day, but Rosecrans rejected the idea and remained in Chattanooga. Bragg's victorious army occupied the heights surrounding Chattanooga, blocking Federal supply lines. However, Bragg did not pursue Rosecrans.

Ten Confederate generals were killed or wounded in the battle, and the fatalities among Bragg's junior officers was also high. With more than 16,000 Union and 18,000 Confederate casualties, Chickamauga reached the highest losses of any battle in the Western Theatre. While Bragg's troops did succeed in driving Rosecrans from the field, they did not succeed in Bragg's goal of destroying Rosecrans's army or reoccupying Chattanooga.



US Memorial Day 2026

Life member Len Traynor was invited to speak at the American Memorial Day Service at Rookwood Cemetery on Sunday, 24th May. Other members who attended were Maureen Morris and Jannette Greenwood (shown below with Len), Tony Kovacevic and Dennis Smith.



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



www.americancivilwar.asn.au

Do you know a club like Rotary, Probus etc that would like to hear a talk about why it's worth studying the American Civil War? Please advise our Secretary.

Visit our Website for –

- Dates of upcoming meetings
- Previous meetings
- Read newsletter archive

<https://www.americancivilwar.asn.au>