



Sumter to Appomattox

**The Official Newsletter of the New South Wales Chapter of the
American Civil War Round Table of Australia**

No. 79, November - December 2016

Please visit our website www.americancivilwar.asn.au

A Message from Our Chairman

I am pleased to announce that **Hon Bob Carr** has kindly accepted our invitation to become **Patron** of our Round Table. We look forward to a long and happy relationship with the former Premier of NSW, Federal Senator, and Foreign Affairs Minister.

Our next meeting is our always-popular **Annual Christmas Function**. As usual, this is a function for both members and spouses. The evening will begin with our Annual General Meeting – the notice of meeting is presented in a latter part of this Newsletter and has been sent separately. Please nominate for a position, if you are so inclined.

Again this year the main activity at the function will be a fun quiz. Some of the most wonderful Civil War books ever printed will be the prizes for members of the winning team including some well known Civil War coffee-table books. These prizes are the very kind donation of one of our Honorary Life Members, Len Traynor. Thank you, Len.

In the coming months we will be planning the program for 2017. If you have any particular topics you would like to hear about, or better still, would like to present, please contact talk to us about your ideas at the next meeting or by phone/email.

New members and guests are most welcome at our Christmas function. Please feel you can "bring a friend"

Jennifer Kirkby has stepped down from the committee. Our thanks and support go to Jennifer at this time. On our Website you will always find the date of our next meeting. Our Facebook page is also easily accessed from our website www.americancivilwar.asn.au

Our Next Meeting ...

As advertised previously, the next meeting of the NSW Chapter of the ACWRTA in 2016 will be the Christmas / End-of-Year function, which will be held at:

**The Roseville Memorial RSL Club
Pacific Highway, Roseville,
on Monday, November 28.**

As has become our custom, the dessert for this function will be Christmas Cake, provided by the wife of one of our Committee. Participants are advised to factor in a significant part of their alcoholic intake for the night if they intend to partake of this rich dessert.

The meeting will commence with the Chapter's Annual General Meeting at 6:30pm, which Chairman Bruce assures us will be short! During this time pre-dinner drinks and hors d'oeuvres will be served. A special bistro-style meal will then be served, followed by the Christmas cake dessert with coffee.

The all-inclusive cost for the function is **\$42 p.p.**, which should be paid to Treasurer Brendan on the night. To assist with our catering, however, it would be appreciated if you would indicate your acceptance to Brendan ('phone 9449 3720) by cob the previous Wednesday (November 23).

It is hoped that you will make a special effort to be at this function. thus enabling it to be the special event that it has been over the years.

Bruce McLennan

What Happened in November?

HATCHES AND DESPATCHES

November 3, 1816 – Jubal Early, (CSA), is born in Franklin County, Virginia;

November 5, 1818 – Soldier-politician, Benjamin Franklin Butler, (USA), is born in Deerfield, NH;

November 9, 1825 – A P (Ambrose Powell) Hill, (CSA), is born in Culpepper, Virginia;

November 13, 1814 – Joseph (Fighting Joe) Hooker is born in Hadley, Mass;

COMMAND APPOINTMENTS

November 1, 1861 – Major General George B McClellan succeeds retiring Lieutenant General Winfield Scott as general-in-chief of the Union armies;

November 2, 1861 – Major General John C Frémont is relieved of command of the Union's Western Department;

November 5, 1862 – President Lincoln relieves General McClellan of command of the Army of the Potomac replacing him with Ambrose Burnside;

November 10, 1862 – McClellan takes an emotional, spectacular farewell of the Army of the Potomac;

November 24, 1862 – Confederate General Joseph E Johnston is assigned to the major command in the West comprising six states;

November 30, 1863 – Gathering his defeated army in north-west Georgia, Braxton Bragg learns that his resignation has been accepted by President Davis.

BATTLES / MILITARY ACTIONS

November 11, 1864 – Federals in Rome, Georgia, destroy bridges, foundries, ware-houses of use to the enemy and proceed towards Atlanta;

November 16, 1864 – General Sherman and 60,000 Union troops leave a burned out Atlanta and begin their march to the Sea;

November 17, 1863 – The Confederate siege of Knoxville, Tennessee, gets underway and the partial siege of Chattanooga continues;

November 29, 1864 – The Federal army under command of John Schofield withdraws under Hood's nose without suffering attack in the "Spring Hill Affair" (in Tennessee).

OTHER SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

November 6, 1860 – Lincoln is elected President of the United States;

November 8, 1864 – Lincoln is re-elected as US President with Andrew Johnson of Tennessee as his Vice President;

November 12, 1861 – The Confederate blockade-runner *Fingal*, purchased in England, arrives in Savannah with military supplies;

November 15, 1861 – The YMCA organises the US Christian Commission for support to Federal soldiers;

November 19, 1863 – President Lincoln delivers the *Gettysburg Address* at the dedication ceremony for the new national cemetery at Gettysburg;

November 25, 1864 – Confederate agents set fire to a number of New York hotels and Barnum's Museum without causing significant damage;

November 26, 1861 – A convention at Wheeling adopts a constitution for a new state to be called West Virginia, created by secession from Virginia;

November 27, 1863 – General John Hunt Morgan and a number of his officers escape from the Ohio State Penitentiary and manage to reach Confederate territory;

November 28, 1861 – Southern Congress officially admits Missouri to the Confederate States of America.

Did You Know? ...

The Civil War provided the first two presidents who were West Point graduates – **Jefferson Davis** of the Confederate States of America and of the Eighteenth President of the United States, **Ulysses S Grant**.

In later times three other presidents emerged from the West Point Academy – Dwight D Eisenhower (United States), Anastasio Somoza (Nicaragua) and Fidel Ramos (Philippines).

This publication is the official newsletter of the New South Wales Chapter of the American Civil War Round Table of Australia. All inquiries regarding the Newsletter should be addressed to the Secretary of the Chapter by telephone on 0411745704 or by e-mail at:

secretary@americancivilwar.asn.au

It Happened in December

HATCHES AND DESPATCHES

December 3, 1826 – George Brinton McClellan is born in Philadelphia;

December 5, 1839 – George Armstrong Custer is born in New Rumley, Ohio;

December 6, 1833 – John Singleton Mosby, (CSA), is born in Edgemont, Virginia;

December 13, 1818 – Mary Todd Lincoln, wife of Abraham Lincoln, is born in Lexington, Kentucky;

December 19, 1814 – Edwin Stanton, US Secretary of War 1862 - 1868 is born Steubenville, Ohio;

December 29, 1808 – Andrew Johnson, 17th US President, 1865 – 1868, who succeeded Lincoln, is born in Raleigh, S.C.;

December 31, 1815 – George Gordon Meade is born in Cadiz, Spain.

COMMAND AND POLITICAL APPOINTMENTS

December 2, 1863 – General Braxton Bragg turns over command of the Army of Tennessee to Lieutenant General William Hardee at Dalton, Georgia;

December 4, 1862 – Confederate General Joseph E Johnston assumes command in the West;

December 14, 1861 – Brigadier General H H Sibley is assigned command of all Confederate forces on the upper Rio Grande and in the New Mexico and Arizona Territories;

December 15, 1863 – Major General Jubal Early, CSA is assigned to the Shenandoah District.

NAVAL ACTIONS

December 1, 1861 – US gunboat Penguin captures the Blockade Runner *Albion* off Nassau and confiscates its cargo;

December 12, 1862 – On the Yazoo River, Miss., the Federal ironclad Cairo strikes a mine and sinks;

December 17, 1861 – Federals sink a number of hulks loaded with stones in Savannah Harbour in an effort to halt shipping;

December 24, 1864 – Federal fleet bombards Fort Fisher, guarding Wilmington, NC, the last Confederate open port;

December 30, 1862 – The USS Monitor, hero of the battle with the Merrimack, flounders off Cape Hatteras in heavy seas, 16 officers and men are lost.

BATTLES / MILITARY ACTIONS

December 7, 1862 – Confederate raider, John Hunt Morgan, with 1,400 men surprises a Federal garrison at Hartsville, Tenn., taking 1,800 prisoners;

December 16, 1864 – Battle of Nashville ends as Confederate army commanded by General John B Hood, is almost destroyed by Union troops under General George Thomas;

December 25, 1864 – Federals land troops to take Fort Fisher, N.C., but the assault fails and they are withdrawn;

December 26, 1862 – Federals attack a guerrilla camp in Powell County, Kentucky;

December 28, 1862 – Federal Army of the Frontier pushes back Confederates at Dripping Springs, Arkansas, capturing Van Buren.

OTHER SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

December 8, 1862 – Lincoln issues Proclamation of Amnesty and Reconstruction, pardoning participants in “the existing rebellion” if they take the oath to the Union;

December 9, 1863 – Black Federal troops at Fort Jackson, La., mutiny over alleged mistreatment of one white officer of his troops;

December 10, 1861 – An Act of the Confederate Congress in Richmond admits Kentucky to the Confederacy, thus completing the 13 states;

December 11, 1861 – Already suffering under the Federal blockade, Charleston, S.C., is struck by as disastrous fire sweeping through its business district;

December 18, 1865 – The 13th Amendment to the US Constitution abolishing slavery is declared in effect by Secretary of State Seward after approval by 27 states;

December 20, 1860 – The South Carolina Convention in Charleston passes a formal declaration of secession. The first state to secede;

December 22, 1864 – General Sherman sends President Lincoln: “I beg to present you, as a Christmas gift, the city of Savannah;

December 27, 1860 – The US flag is raised over Fort Sumter as South Carolina troops occupy Charleston forts.

This Book Looks Interesting ...



Colin Alderdice, our Chapter's Secretary, has identified a new book that might be worth a read. It has been said that truth is not only stranger than fiction; often, it's even more fun. This book reconstructs a fascinating life - not of the female Civil War veteran **Loreta Velasquez** who was believed to be a pathological liar, and whose main accomplishment in life was hoodwinking the press and the public. Her true story is entertaining on every page

Well known and distinguished Civil War historian Gary W Gallagher, has written of this book that it ...

"... offers the drama of a detective story built on a foundation of superior scholarship. At one stroke, it sweeps away a century and a half of confusion, misrepresentation, and inaccuracy. Academic and lay readers alike should welcome this exceptional study of a truly compelling character."

This book is a masterpiece of historical investigation. Relentlessly dismantling the myths surrounding her controversial life, Davis provides indisputable evidence that Loreta's gender-bending claim to be a noble and patriotic Confederate soldier and spy was little more than a tissue of lies, deceptions, and misdirection.

From the pages of this compelling book, Velasquez emerges as a decidedly less salubrious heroine but still a fascinating figure. The book would be a great addition to your Civil War bookshelf and might make a useful Christmas present at this time.

Available as a hardcover edition from Amazon, the book is fairly expensive at \$US39:95 plus postage. It is only a little less expensive if you choose to purchase the Kindle edition at \$US31:96 or \$AU42:06 from Amazon's Australian outlet.

Editor's Note: The prices asked for the Kindle edition of this book by Amazon, both in America and Australia, are simply outrageous!

Notice of Annual General Meeting ...

Notice is hereby given that the annual general meeting of American Civil War Round Table of Australia NSW Chapter, Inc will be held on Monday 28 November 2016 at 6.30pm at Roseville Returned Servicemen's Memorial Club, 64 Pacific Highway, Roseville NSW.

Business

- To receive the report of the Chairman
- To receive and if thought fit adopt the financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2016
- To elect office-bearers of the Association and ordinary members of the committee
- To transact any other business in accordance with the rules of the Round Table

Colin Alderdice
Secretary

Military History Society's Lecture

The Military History Society of New South Wales is holding a free lecture on Saturday, November 19 titled:

The Battle of Antietam 1862

This lecture will be delivered by one of our members, **David Cooper**, and the venue and timings for this lecture are as follows:

Venue: Conference Centre, 99 York Street Sydney
Timings: from 2 pm

Although this is a free event, it is essential that, if you wish to attend the lecture, you register by Wednesday, November 19, as numbers are limited. Registrations may be made at:

(02) 9660 7225 / 0418 400 825
or
rsvp@militaryhistorynsw.com.au

Words of Wisdom...

"Nearly all men can stand adversity, but if you want to test a man's character, give him power."

- Abraham Lincoln

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American Civil War Battlefield Tours

Western Campaign – 2 to 17 June 2017 (15 nights)

<http://www.trendsettertravel.com.au/american-civil-war-tour-2017/>

Including Vicksburg, Shiloh, Fort Donelson Campaign, Battles of Nashville and Franklyn, Stones River, Chickamauga, Chattanooga and Battle of Atlanta

(Tour will proceed – 4 places available)

Eastern Campaign – 24 Sept to 7 Oct 2017 (13 nights)

<http://www.trendsettertravel.com.au/american-civil-war/>

Including Gettysburg, Antietam, Harpers Ferry, Manassas, Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville, Wilderness, Cold Harbour, Petersburg, and Richmond

(Tour will proceed – 3 places available)

For all battlefield tour itineraries refer to

www.bespokebattlefieldtours.com.au or contact

David Cooper on 0413 010 638 or david@trendsettertravel.com.au



The above are photos taken of the 2016 tour compliments of John Morrison

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