



Sumter to Appomattox

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

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Please visit our website www.americancivilwar.asn.au

A Message from Our Chairman

Our Patron, **Professor the Hon Bob Carr**, will speak at our next meeting on the topic *"How My Interest in the Civil War Began"*. We are very grateful to him for his support in becoming our Patron and for offering to give this presentation. Bob Carr is a widely recognised enthusiast for American history and he is especially keen on the Lincoln years. It promises to be a great evening.



Both the high profile of our speaker and the topic itself should be attractive to new members for our Round Table. We are asking all members to make a **special effort to get the word out** about this next meeting. This is an opportunity to bring along any of your friends and associates who have shown an interest in the War!

The usual "Show and Tell" segment will be curtailed just for this evening and the promised Special General meeting to deal with our constitution is being postponed.

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 ...

The next meeting of our NSW Chapter of the ACWRTA will be held at:

**The Roseville Memorial RSL Club
Pacific Highway, Roseville,
on Monday, May 1.**

This meeting is to be a very special one which should not be missed, with the speaker to be our Chapter's newly appointed Patron, **The Hon. Bob Carr**, who is to speak on:

How My Interest in the Civil War Began

This is certain to be of interest widely and you might wish to invite a number of your friends to what is likely to be an enthralling evening. We are expecting to publicise the meeting more widely than normally thus attracting a larger audience for the night. As the numbers attending this meeting are likely to be greater than we have at our meetings usually, it would be appreciated if you would inform our Secretary, Colin Allerdice, of additional guests you will be bringing to the meeting.

Furthermore, this meeting will dispense with a number of our regular components of our meetings, in particular, the *Show and Tell* part of our meeting, to enable sufficient time for Mr Carr's presentation and a subsequent comprehensive Q & A session.

The meeting will commence at 7:30pm, following our usual bistro meal available from 6pm.

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 the potential to be.

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:

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The Union's Last Ironclad Sailor

Submitted by Lt Col Steve Glazer, US Army (Retd)

On April 19, 1945, less than three weeks before the end of World War II in Europe, *The New York Times* carried an article headlined, "Veteran of Monitor, 101, Dies." The U.P. news report, datelined the previous day from Vineland, New Jersey, began, "Andrew Fenton, who served on the iron-clad Monitor during the Civil War, died today in the Soldiers Home here." Thus was born a tortuous tale that continues to this day.

The Times' report drew the attention of numerous historians over the years. **Professor Jay Hoar** of the University of Maine wove an elaborate tale describing how Fenton suffered the partial loss of sight and hearing in action against Fort Sumter when one of the *Monitor's* guns unexpectedly discharged, and how he later dramatically survived the iconic ironclad's sinking. (*The North's Last Boys in Blue*, Higginson Book Co., 2006, pp. 352-57.) Hoar largely relied on an interview of the old sailor published in 1938.



On the other hand, **John Quarstein**, Director of the USS *Monitor* Center in Newport News, Virginia, concluded that there is no proof for Fenton's purported service on the *Monitor*. Indeed, Quarstein goes much further. He categorically and repeatedly asserted in his book on the ship's crew that "there is no indication of *any* naval service" by Fenton. (*The Monitor Boys*, The History Press, 2011, pp. 299-301.) The *Monitor* Center's website similarly now asserts that "no records of naval service have been found" for Fenton.

Both Hoar and Quarstein, as well as *The Times*, were mistaken. Moreover, there are abundant official records documenting Andrew Fenton's distinguished military service, making him New Jersey's last known survivor of the Union Navy, and the nation's last known veteran of the Civil War's ironclad monitors, albeit not the USS *Monitor*.

Andrew Fenton was born in St. Augustine, Florida, on Christmas 1843, but his family moved to Philadelphia when he was still an infant. According to unearthed naval records, Fenton enlisted for three years as a 1st Class Boy at the U.S. Naval Rendezvous in Philadelphia on September 2, 1862, on the receiving ship *Princeton*. Soon thereafter, he was sent to the USS *Patapsco*, a *Passaic*-class ironclad monitor first launched later that month from Wilmington, Delaware, by shipbuilder Harlan & Hollingsworth. *Patapsco* was commissioned on January 2, 1863, when Fenton was formally assigned to her according to his service records. Fenton and his ship would be engaged in combat operations for the next two years.

Veteran of Monitor, 101, Dies

VINELAND, N. J., April 18 (U.P.) —Andrew Fenton, who served on the iron-clad Monitor during the Civil War, died today in the Soldiers Home here at the age of 101. Mr. Fenton was flag-bearer when the United States took possession of Alaska. He leaves a widow, a son, five grandchildren, ten great-grandchildren and two great-great-grandchildren.

The New York Times

Published: April 19, 1945

According to naval records, on the afternoon of November 2, 1863, while firing at Fort Sumter in Charleston Harbor, a premature explosion of one of *Patapsco's* guns instantly killed a crewmember and injured several others, including then-landsman Andrew Fenton. (*Official Records*, Ser. I, Vol. XV, p. 88.) And on the night of January 15, 1865, the *Patapsco*, on station for picket duty some 700 yards from Fort Sumter, struck a large torpedo and sank in the harbor's channel within 15 seconds, taking the ship's complement with her. Most perished, but Ordinary Seaman Andrew Fenton survived. (*Official Records*, Ser. I, Vol. XVI, pp. 178-79.) Two weeks later, Fenton reported for duty on the USS *Pawnee*, which saw action the following month in South Carolina against numerous Confederate artillery batteries.

On July 26, 1865, *Pawnee* was decommissioned at Portsmouth, New Hampshire, where Fenton was honorably discharged the same day, according to the ship's final muster roll. However, Fenton was not done serving his country. One year later he re-enlisted in the U.S. Navy, and after that term expired, he enlisted yet again.

After his years at sea, Fenton made his home in Fairfield and Mount Holly, New Jersey, as well as in Philadelphia, where he was a member of Anna M. Ross G.A.R. Post No. 94. In 1881, he married Susan Cecelia Bamford of Bridgeton, New Jersey, one year later having a son, Andrew Percy Fenton. On April 18, 1945, the ancient mariner passed away in Vineland, being buried in Overlook Cemetery in Bridgeton, marking the end of a direct link to the Civil War and its transformation of naval warfare.

It Happened in April

HATCHES AND DESPATCHES

April 2, 1865 – Confederate general A P Hill is killed outside Petersburg, Virginia;

April 5, 1839 – Robert Smalls (USN), the only African American naval captain during the Civil War is born in Beaufort, S.C.;

April 15, 1865 – President Lincoln dies at 7:22am after being shot the previous night at Ford's Theatre by John Wilkes Booth;

April 26, 1865 – John Wilkes Booth is shot and killed;

April 27, 1822 – Ulysses S Grant is born at Point Pleasant, Ohio.

COMMAND AND POLITICAL APPOINTMENTS

April 15, 1865 – Andrew Johnson sworn in as President after Lincoln's death;

April 22, 1861 – Robert E Lee is named commander of the forces of Virginia;

BATTLES / MILITARY ACTIONS

April 1, 1865 – At the Battle of Five Forks Lee's forces are defeated by the Union army, which now threatens his route of retreat;

April 3, 1865 – Federal troops occupy Richmond and Petersburg;

April 6, 1865 – The last major engagement between the Army of Northern Virginia (Lee) and Army of the Potomac (Grant) occurs at Saylor's Creek, Virginia;

April 8, 1864 – Nathaniel Banks' Federals "skedaddle" from Richard Taylor's Confederates at the Battle of Sabine Crossroads, La;

April 11, 1861 – Confederate representatives visit Fort Sumter and demand its surrender

April 12, 1861 – Fort Sumter in Charleston Harbor is fired on thus beginning the War;

April 13, 1861 – After 24 hours of bombardment, the Union Force within Fort Sumter is forced to surrender.

OTHER SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

April 2, 1865 – The Confederate government evacuates Richmond;

April 9, 1865 – Confederate General Robert E Lee surrenders to Union General Ulysses S Grant at Appomattox Court House;

OTHER SIGNIFICANT EVENTS cont'd

April 17, 1861 – Virginia adopts an ordinance of secession;

April 17, 1865 – Joseph E Johnston surrenders to Sherman near Durham Station N.C.;

April 18, 1865 – Johnston and Sherman sign "a memorandum or basis of agreement" calling for an armistice by all armies in the field;

April 19, 1865 – Funeral services held for Lincoln;

April 21, 1865 – The train bearing Lincoln's body leaves Washington for Springfield, Illinois;

April 24, 1865 – President Johnson rejects the terms of agreement of Sherman and Johnston and directs that hostilities must resume if there is no surrender;

April 26, 1865 – General Johnston formally surrenders troops under his command to General Sherman.

Boys Will Be Boys!

Once, whilst reviewing a march-past of troops, Abraham Lincoln noticed the soldiers were eying the reviewing stand somewhat strangely. He turned to discover his son, Tad, was mischievously waving a Confederate flag!

- Source: *North and South*, October 2006 issue.

An Army Marches on its Stomach!

♦ James S Wadsworth, one of the richest men in America at the time of the Civil War, was a capable brigadier general of volunteers. He was known to have "roughed it" whilst in the field by having his meals cooked by the famous chef of the day, James Sanderson, who was the head chef of some of the most notable hotels in both New York and Philadelphia.

♦ As a cadet at West Point, William Tecumseh Sherman was considered the best chef in his class. He cooked an excellent "hash" (a bread and potato mixture) over the fireplace in his room, an activity strictly forbidden by the rules of the Academy!

- Source: *North and South*, Vol 9, No. 5.

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For full tour itineraries please 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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