



Sumter to Appomattox

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

Patron: Professor the Hon Bob Carr

No. 83, August - September 2017

Please visit our website www.americancivilwar.asn.au

A Message from Our Chairman

Our last meeting saw the return of our friend Mick Bedard, who shared with us his research on the **USS Kearsarge** and, in particular, its visit to Sydney in 1869. He had discovered lots of interesting snippets from combing both US and Australian records. Thank you Mick, you are welcome back any time! Jannette Greenwood has written up a report of the meeting in the following pages.

Several special visitors attended the meeting. We were pleased to welcome Barry Crompton from the Melbourne CWRT to our meeting. Barry issued a welcome for any of our members to attend their meetings as a visitor.



Western Theatre Tour Group at Kennesaw National Battlefield Park, Georgia (Courtesy Michael K Shaffe)

For our **next meeting** we have presentations from our members who have just returned from a tour of the Western Theatre battlefields arranged by David Cooper. Those of us who remember the interesting report last year on the Eastern Theater tour, will know we are in for a treat.

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, August 14.**

This meeting will involve a presentation from some of our members who have returned from the tour of the Western Theatre in June.

What We Learnt About the War from Our Tour of the Western Theatre

In addition to this presentation, the regular *Show and Tell* component of our meetings will be in place and we invite you to bring any contributions you might have to enable you to participate in this part of our meeting.

It is hoped that you will make a special effort to be at this function, thus enabling us to continue the significant increase in our meeting numbers and membership of the Chapter. In this regard, we probably will not be able to eclipse the 80+ members and guests that attended our special meeting in May, but it is something that we can work towards!

Please make a special effort to be at this meeting to support your fellow members and, if possible, try to bring a guest with you.

Bruce McLennan

It Happened in August

HATCHES AND DESPATCHES

August 6, 1811 – Judah Philip Benjamin, Attorney General and Secretary of State of the Confederacy is born in St Thomas, British West Indies;

August 27, 1811 – Hannibal Hamlin, US Vice-President under Lincoln is born in Paris Hill Maine;

August 31, 1822 – Fitz-John Porter (USA) is born in Portsmouth, New Hampshire;

COMMAND AND POLITICAL APPOINTMENTS

August 1, 1864 – Philip Sheridan is named Commander of the Army of the Shenandoah and charged with ridding the valley of Confederates especially Jubal Early

August 17, 1862 – JEB Stuart is assigned command of all cavalry of the Confederate Army of Northern Virginia;

August 20, 1861 – Major General George B McClellan assumes command of the newly organised Department and Army of the Potomac.

WANTON KILLING AND DESTRUCTION

August 7, 1861 – Confederate forces burn the village of Hampton, Va, near Fort Monroe;

August 13, 1831 – Nat Turner slave insurrection begins in Southampton County, Va, with 55 whites and about 100 blacks killed;

August 21, 1863 – Confederate guerrillas under command of Quantrill sack Lawrence, Kansas, killing about 150 men and boys and destroying over \$1.5 million in property;

August 25, 1863 – Following Quantrill's raid on Lawrence, Federals force some 20,000 people in Missouri from their homes, which are then burned;

BATTLES / MILITARY ACTIONS

August 5, 1864 – Union forces under Admiral David Farragut defeat Confederates at the Battle of Mobile Bay;

August 9, 1862 – The Federal Army of Virginia under John Pope clashes with Stonewall Jackson's corps at the Battle of Cedar Mountain;

August 10, 1861 – Confederate troops are victorious at the Battle of Wilson's Creek, the major battle of the Civil War in Missouri;

August 11, 1862 – In a daring raid, Confederate guerrillas capture Independence, Mo.

BATTLES /MILITARY ACTIONS cont'd

August 15, 1864 – Federals capture the English-built Confederate cruiser *Georgia* off Lisbon, Portugal;

August 18, 1864 – The Battle of the Weldon Railroad in Virginia begins;

August 22, 1862 - In a raid on Catlett's Station, Virginia, JEB Stuart captures Union General Pope's baggage train, including Pope's papers;

August 26 – 30, 1862 – The Second Bull Run (or Manassas) Campaign ending in a Confederate victory;

OTHER SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

August 2, 1861 – Federal Congress passes the first national income tax measure calling for 3% of income over \$800:

August 4, 1861 – a meeting is held in New York to combat intemperance in the Federal army;

August 8, 1863 – In the wake of the Confederate defeat at Gettysburg, Lee offers to resign as Commander of the Army of Northern Virginia. Davis rejects the offer;

August 14, 1861 – Major General John C Fremont declares martial law in St Louis city and county;

August 19, 1861 - Confederate Congress agrees to an alliance with Missouri resulting in Missouri having two state governments, Federal and Confederate;

August 29, 1863 - The Confederate *H L Hunley* sinks in Charleston Harbour. The five-man crew of the submarine is lost.

Trivia Question ...

In what year and to whom was the last Civil War pension paid?

Be the first to submit the correct answer and amaze your friends, win fame, fortune, and/or a book prize. Please Email your answer to us at: jcook@bigpond.net.au

The answer to this question and the winner will be announced in the next issue of our Newsletter.

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 September...

Hatches and Dispatches

September 4, 1864 – The Confederate raider and cavalry commander, John Hunt Morgan is shot and killed in a Federal raid on Greenville, Tennessee:

September 6, 1819 – William S Rosecrans (USA) is born in Delaware County, Ohio;

September 10, 1836 – Joseph (Fighting Joe) Wheeler (CSA) is born in Augusta, Georgia;

September 12, 1818 – Richard J Gatling, inventor of the first machine gun (Gatling Gun) used in the Civil War, is born in Hertford County, NC;

September 27, 1809 – Raphael Semmes, the Confederate naval commander responsible for the destruction or capture of 64 Union ships, is born in Charles County, Maryland;

September 29, 1862 – Federal Brigadier General Jefferson Davis shoots and mortally wounds Brig. Gen. William (Bull) Nelson during a quarrel in a hotel in Louisville.

Command Changes

September 28, 1863 – Federal Generals, Alexander McCook and T L Crittenden are relieved of their commands and ordered to a court of inquiry following the Battle of Chickamauga.

Battles

September 11, 1861 – Lee begins the 5-day Cheat Mountain Campaign (Va), which ends in a Confederate withdrawal;

September 14, 1862 – Union forces push the Confederates back at the Battles of South Mountain and Crampton's Gap, Va;

September 15, 1862 – Confederates capture Harpers Ferry, Va, taking about 12000 prisoners:

September 17, 1862 – The Union strategic victory at the Battle of Antietam halts the Confederate advance into the North;

September 19, 1864 – Federal troops commanded by Sheridan defeat Early's Confederates in the Third Battle of Winchester, Va;

September 19-20, 1863 – Battle of Chickamauga resulting in a Federal retreat to a defensive position in and around Chattanooga, Tennessee;

Other Significant Events

September 1, 1864 – Confederates begin to evacuate Atlanta;

September 2, 1864 – Union forces under General Sherman occupy Atlanta;

September 3 1864 – In Charleston Harbour Confederate and Union forces exchange captive surgeons and chaplains;

September 5, 1863 – Under pressure from the US Government, the British do not deliver two ironclads they had built for the Confederacy;

September 7, 1864 – General Sherman orders civilians to leave Atlanta so that he might more easily feed and supply his army;

September 22, 1862 – President Lincoln issues the Preliminary Emancipation Proclamation declaring that all slaves in the rebel states to be free as of January 1, 1863;

September 24, 1862 – Fourteen Governors from Northern States meet at Altoona, Pa, and endorse Emancipation Proclamation.

Some Quotable Civil War Quotes

"See what a lot of land these fellows hold, of which Vicksburg is the key... Let us get Vicksburg and all the country is ours. The War can never be brought to a close until that key is in our pocket"

- Abraham Lincoln

"Never in any battle I had witnessed was there such a discharge of musketry ... the first thing I saw was General Rosecrans crossing himself – he was a very devout Catholic. "Hello!" I said to myself, "if the general is crossing himself, we are in a desperate situation."

- Charles H Dana, U.S. Assistant Secretary of War, Chickamauga, 1862

"I need not tell the brave survivors of so many hard-fought battles who have remained steadfast to the last that I have consented to this result from no distrust from them; but feeling that valor (sic) and devotion could accomplish nothing that would compensate for the loss that attended the continuance of the contest, I determined to avoid the useless sacrifice of those whose past services have endeared them to their countrymen."

- From Lee's final letter to his men (1865)

"I yield to no man in sympathy for the gallant men under my command; but I am obliged to sweat them tonight, that I might save their blood tomorrow."

- Stonewall Jackson, (1862)

Lincoln Abroad

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

Abraham Lincoln is said to have never traveled overseas. Nevertheless, long ago on a damp, windswept platform in Edinburgh, Scotland, Private Henry Heath stared into the face of the president who had secured his freedom from a Confederate prison, saving him from almost certain death. Heath had sailed thousands of miles to see his commander in chief that afternoon. As they both stood in the rain, Heath doubtlessly thought back to how they first came to meet.

Henry Roswell Heath was only sixteen in August 1861 when he lied about his age to enlist in the 20th Massachusetts Infantry. Less than two months later he was at the centre of the battle of Ball's Bluff, near Leesburg, Virginia. Heath's regiment was trapped on the bluff between rapidly advancing Confederate troops to its front, and a high, steep cliff overhanging the rain-swollen Potomac River at its rear. Managing to avoid being shot or drowned, young Heath was one of several hundred Union soldiers taken prisoner that day. Before surrendering, however, a federal cannon wheel struck him in the chest, severely injuring him.

After a two-day forced march through mud and rain, the Union POWs were crowded onto railcars and brought to Richmond for imprisonment. There, Heath spent the war's first winter, almost dying of his wounds. In late February 1862, one of the first formal prisoner exchanges of the Civil War was arranged by Lincoln's administration. According to published accounts, Heath was at the head of the line of returning men to be personally greeted by Lincoln in Washington, with Heath gratefully shaking the president's hand. Two weeks after his seventeenth birthday, Heath was given a medical discharge. He was not expected to survive the year.

Nevertheless, Heath slowly regained his health and attended Claverack College in the scenic Hudson Valley. The wounded veteran prospered. He married well and acquired numerous business interests, as well as his own idyllic retreat in upstate New York's Thousand Islands, the summer playground of millionaires during America's Gilded Age. He also formed and ran the Cranford Realty Company, one of the largest landholders and developers in the expanding New Jersey town.



Henry R Heath

Through the years, Heath never forgot his former army comrades, nor the man to whom he owed his life and prosperity. So he was especially receptive when told a touching story by his old college friend, Wallace Bruce, then U.S. consul at Edinburgh, who vacationed in September 1892 on Heath's Nobby Island in New York.



Wallace Bruce

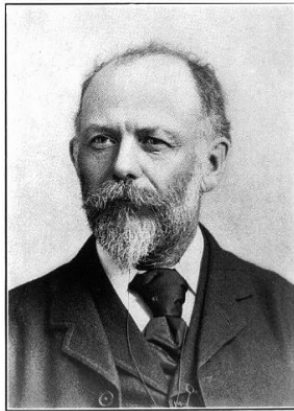
Bruce had told Heath of how in Scotland he and his wife were visited by the destitute widow of Sergeant John McEwan, Co. H, 65th Illinois ("Second Scotch Regiment"). Margaret McEwan was seeking the consul's assistance in obtaining a Civil War widow's pension from the federal government. But when Mrs. Bruce asked to pay her respects by laying flowers at the grave of the deceased man, Mrs. McEwan replied that she was unable to locate her husband's site because they were too poor to have had it marked and it had since been leveled. So that such an affront to the memory of a Union soldier should never again occur, Bruce and his wife resolved to obtain a specially marked place in Edinburgh for the burial of Scottish-American veterans of the Civil War.



John and Margaret McEwan

Upon hearing his friend's story, Heath was quick to offer assistance in formulating a fitting plan to honor both his fellow soldiers and their wartime leader. Heath volunteered to chair the committee of arrangements and to raise funds to pay for a grand monument of Abraham Lincoln freeing a slave, appropriately marked as a veterans memorial.

Heath had little difficulty in quickly securing the funds from prominent Scottish Americans, such as Andrew Carnegie. And to execute the bronze statue of Lincoln, prominent sculptor George E. Bissell was retained, which was entirely appropriate as Bissell had served in both the Union army (as a private in the 23rd Connecticut Infantry) and later in the Union navy (as acting assistant paymaster in the South Atlantic Squadron).



George E Bissell

Thus it came to pass that on the afternoon of August 21, 1893, Heath and Bruce looked upon Lincoln in Edinburgh's Old Calton Hill Cemetery. Carved in red Aberdeen granite at the monument's base were Lincoln's words, "To preserve the jewel of liberty in the framework of freedom." The memorial's plinth also bore the names of fallen Scotsmen who had served in the Union army. At the very top of the list was inscribed the name of John McEwan.



Scottish-American Civil War Monument,
Old Calton Cemetery, Edinburgh, Scotland

Given the dreary weather that day, abbreviated versions of dedication speeches were delivered in the pelting rain. Nevertheless, it was a solemn and momentous occasion marking the very first overseas memorial erected to honor Abraham Lincoln, and to this day, the only monument outside the United States dedicated to the men who fought to preserve the Union during the Civil War.

Sydney's Missing Lincoln Statue ...

Although not as elaborate as the magnificent memorial in Edinburgh, Sydney's Centennial Park has or, rather, had a statue of Abraham Lincoln.

This statue of white marble was one of some 30 statues commissioned by NSW Premier, Sir Henry Parkes for the Park opening in 1888. These statues included, also, the British Prime Minister Benjamin Disraeli, US President James Garfield and figures representing the four seasons, commerce, science, the arts and architecture.



The *Australian* newspaper reported in April 2015 that the Park's Trust had been able to account for only 10 of the original statues. Among the missing statues is the one of Lincoln (pictured above).

So what has happened to these missing statues? According to Centennial Park records, the statues were removed for restoration in the 1970s after years of vandalism, neglect and even some close calls with cars. It had been reported that Lincoln was missing a nose, thumb and part of his coat.

The Centennial Park Trust had conducted a campaign to find the missing statues but to date, the whereabouts the Lincoln statue remains somewhat of a mystery.

A Profile of One of Our Contributors - LTCOL Steve Glazer, USA (Retd)

Colonel Glazer is a retired officer from the United States Army, who has provided two most interesting articles for the last issues of our Newsletter.

In such circumstances, it is thought that our readers might be interested in some biographical details of Colonel Glazer's service career and how he developed his interest in his country's Civil War. Colonel Glazer was contacted and has provided the following information for our members.

Steve Glazer was a member of New Jersey's Civil War Sesquicentennial Committee (2009-2015). He has written *Discover Your Community's Civil War Heritage*, as well as contributed chapters to the award-winning *New Jersey Goes To War* and *New Jersey's Civil War Odyssey*. He also has published numerous articles about the Civil War.

Steve is a member of the Abner Doubleday Civil War Roundtable in New York and the Robert E. Lee Civil War Round Table in New Jersey.



LTCOL STEVE GLAZER, USA (RETD)

Steve was an intelligence and electronic-warfare officer in the U.S. Army before retiring after service in the Pentagon on the staff of the Secretary of the Army.

He is a longtime student of the Civil War and began undertaking original research and writing about the conflict several years before its 150th anniversary. He holds degrees in Russian studies, electrical engineering, computer science and law.

Our Round Table members have been most fortunate to have a scholar of Steve's standing contributing to our Newsletter. Thanks Steve!

Donald Trump Questions Why the Civil War Had to Happen ...

Donald Trump has shown a fascination with populist 19th-century U.S. president Andrew Jackson since he has occupied the Oval Office, hanging "Old Hickory's" portrait in the Oval Office, visiting his plantation in Tennessee and placing a wreath at his tomb.



In an interview that aired on Sirius XM satellite radio on Monday, Trump suggested that if Jackson had governed a little later than his 1829-1837 presidency, the American Civil War might have been averted. Trump also questioned why the bloody conflict had to happen.

"Had Andrew Jackson been a little later, you wouldn't have had the Civil War. He was a very tough person, but he had a big heart," Trump told Sirius XM. He said that although Jackson was a "swashbuckler," after his wife died, Jackson visited her grave every day.

Jackson, a slave owner who was instrumental in the forced removal of Native American tribes from the U.S. Southeast in the so-called Trail of Tears, died nearly 16 years before the start of the Civil War.

But Trump told Sirius XM that Jackson "was really angry that he saw what was happening with regard to the Civil War."

"He said, 'There's no reason for this,'" Trump said. "People don't realise, you know, the Civil War, if you think about it, why? People don't ask that question, but why was there a Civil War? Why could that one not have been worked out?"

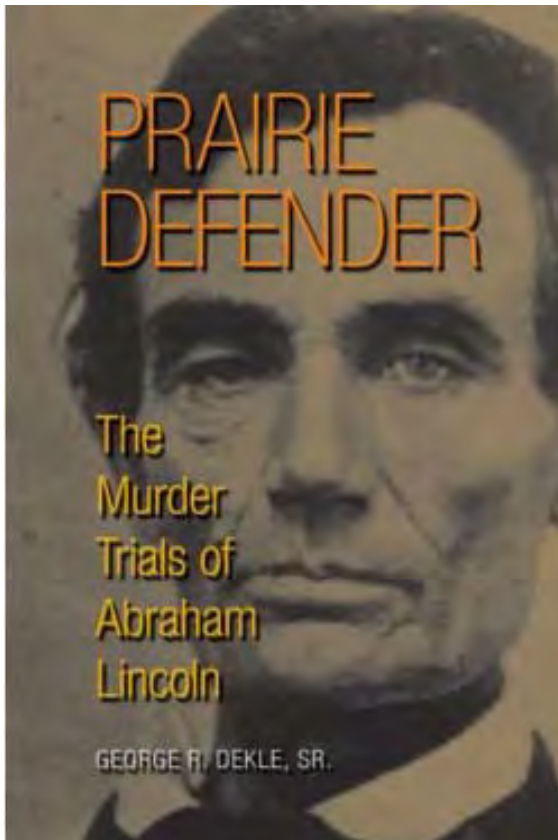
It was not clear what Trump believed Jackson would have done to avert the 1861-65 conflict, which cost 620,000 lives. In a tweet later on Monday, Trump acknowledged that Jackson had died 16 years before the start of the war but said he "saw it coming and was angry. Would never have let it happen!"

The events leading to the Civil War have been extensively researched, with slavery being one of the root causes. Slavery and its legacy have been a source of division in the United States since.

- From Reuters News

Book Review – Interested in Lincoln?

With over 16,000 books written about Abraham Lincoln, a newly published book about him might not reveal much that is not widely known. Here is a new book on the market, however, that does much to dispel the conventional wisdom of Lincoln's legal career:



In this unprecedented study of Lincoln's criminal cases, George Dekle disproves the popular notions that Lincoln's legal career consisted of collecting debts and working for the railroads. Dekle shows that Lincoln was first and foremost a trial lawyer through a careful examination of Lincoln's homicide cases and evaluation of his legal skills. His analysis demonstrates that criminal law was an important part of Lincoln's practice, and that he was quite capable of defending people accused of murder, trying approximately one such case per year.

Dekle begins by presenting the viewpoints of not only those who see Lincoln as a perfect lawyer whose only flaw was his inability to represent the wrong side of a case but also those who believe Lincoln was a less-than-honest legal hack. The author invites readers to compare these wildly different stereotypes with the flesh-and-blood Lincoln revealed in each case described in the book, including an axe murder suit in which Lincoln assisted the prosecution, a poisoning case he refused to prosecute for \$200 but defended for \$75, and a case he won by proving that a supposed murder victim was actually still alive.

For each case Dekle covers, he first tells the stories of the feuds, arguments, and insults that led to murder and other criminal activity, giving a gripping view of the seamy side of life in nineteenth-century Illinois. Then he traces the course of the pre-trial litigation, describes the trials and the various tactics employed in the prosecution and defence, and critiques the performance of both Lincoln and his adversaries.

Dekle concludes that Lincoln was a competent, diligent criminal trial lawyer who knew the law, could argue it effectively to both judge and jury, and would use all lawful means to defend clients whether he believed them to be innocent or guilty. His trial record shows Lincoln to have been a formidable defence lawyer who won many seemingly hopeless cases through his skill as a courtroom tactician, cross-examiner, and orator. Criminal defendants who could retain Lincoln as a defence attorney were well represented, and criminal defence attorneys who sought him as co-counsel were well served. Providing insight into both Lincoln's legal career and the culture in which he practiced law, *Prairie Defender* resolves a major misconception concerning one of our most important historical figures.

This book is published by the Southern Illinois University Press and the hardcopy edition of the book sells for \$US 34.50. There is also an E-book format of this book, which is available through Amazon (amazon.com.au).

Inescapable Logic...

"I have just heard that one of my brothers was killed in the war. Since he chose to be our deadly enemy, I see no reason why I should bitterly mourn his death. Why should I sympathise with the Rebels? They would hang my husband tomorrow if it was (sic) in their power!"

- Mary Todd Lincoln, 1862.

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"A battery of field artillery is worth a thousand muskets"

- William Tecumseh Sherman

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"The shot that struck me down is the very best that has been fired for the Southern cause. While (I do not have) the confidence of the government, now they have in my place one who does possess it"

- Joseph E Johnston commenting on Lee's promotion to command the Confederate Army, June 1862

Our Last Meeting ...

*At our meeting on June 13, Dr "Mick" Bedard from Connecticut, USA, gave an extremely interesting and well-researched presentation on the visit of the **USS Kearsarge** to Sydney in 1869. It was considered appropriate for a report of this presentation be available to our members and, to this end, **Jannette Greenwood** was asked again to prepare a written report for inclusion in this Newsletter. Her report is presented below...*

ACWRTA-NSW was privileged at a special monthly meeting on Tuesday, June 13, to welcome a return guest speaker, Robert "Mick" Bedard M.D. of Tolland, Connecticut. Mick is an expert on Civil War Medicine and is a widely sought-after speaker, acknowledged for his meticulous research on Civil War-related issues. He brought with him distinguished guests John Smith, Senior Researcher at the RAN Heritage Centre on Garden Island, Nick Carson of Chatswood and Dan Johnstone of Madison, Wisconsin. Also present was Barry Crompton of the Melbourne chapter of the ACWRTA, who issued a warm welcome to any visitors to its meetings in Melbourne.



Mick's presentation to our meeting

Based on his own original research, Mick's topic was the 21-day visit to Sydney in 1869 of the USS Kearsarge, an American barque-rigged sloop-of-war, carrying a crew of 160. Before he recounted the events of this trip, Mick outlined the history of this already-famous vessel. Named after a mountain in New Hampshire, she was built in 1861 and saw service during the Civil War as part of the blockade of Confederate raiders in waters off Europe. Her most famous encounter was with the CSS Alabama (which had been responsible for the sinking of 65 Union merchant ships) in international waters off Cherbourg, France. In a fierce one-hour battle on June 19th 1864, and watched by a large crowd from shore, the Alabama sustained below-water damage from the Kearsarge's Dahlgren guns and quickly sank. This event was commemorated in a number of paintings.

In 1868, having been decommissioned and then recommissioned, the Kearsarge, under the command of Captain James Thornton, embarked on a public relations tour of the Pacific as "the ship that beat a Confederate Raider". At that time, the Pacific region had increasingly become of interest to the United States as a result of its acquisition of Alaska from Russia in 1867, the completion of the transnational railway, and expanding commercial and missionary interests throughout the Pacific. Other reasons included whaling and increasing migration and trade between the US and Australia.

On her cruise to Sydney, the Kearsarge sailed through the Straits of Magellan to the Pacific and onto Sydney via the Marquesas, Tahiti, Samoa and the "Feejee" islands. Relevant to Australians was the onboard visit in Tahiti of the Queen of Tahiti and Prince Alfred, Duke of Edinburgh and Captain of HMS Galatea, who, on a goodwill tour of the colonies, had only recently survived an assassination attempt at Clontarf Reserve in Sydney (as a result of which, RPA Hospital was built, funded by public subscriptions).



USS Kearsarge officers pose for the camera. Sydney 1869

Using the form of "The Kearsarge's postcard from Sydney", Mick outlined such details as the weather, her neighbours at anchor, social interaction with Sydneysiders by both officers and crew, and her provisioning.



Captain John A Winslow

The Kearsarge arrived in fine weather at Farm Cove on the morning August 12th, 1869 and after that date began a full round of entertainment that enlivened the social life of the colony. For the officers, there was interaction with officers of other navies, a formal ball at the Colonial Governor's residence, a public dinner at the Hotel de France, a picnic at Balmoral and many other activities. During her stay 6000 people, including the governor and other dignitaries, visited her.

Trendsetter



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(Tour Full & Completed)

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

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

(Tour Full)

For full tour itineraries please refer to www.bespokebattlefieldtours.com.au
or contact David Cooper on 0413 010 638 or david@trendsettertravel.com.au
if you have an interest in joining any future Civil War Tours



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