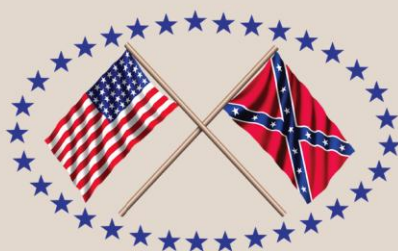


Sumter to Appomattox



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

Number 138
Oct–Nov 2026

President's Message

I mentioned at the last dinner meeting that some of the Committee, including myself, intended to step down at the AGM in December provided that we could still be included in the Committee dinners, and was very pleased that several people indicated to me after the meeting that they were interested in joining the Committee.

I will hold a short meeting after our dinner meeting on 19 October of those people who had indicated their interest and also anyone who has since decided that they are also interested. My intention is to indicate to you what being on the Committee involves, apart from a lot of fun and camaraderie, and the responsibilities that are allocated to various members, so that you are ready to respond when Secretary Dan calls for nominations closer to the AGM.

And remember, our retirement depends on adoption of an Emeritus Committee Membership or Committee Dinner Member category so that we can continue to invite ourselves along to the Committee dinners.

For those of you who have expressed an interest in the Committee, and also those who intend to do so, thank you for getting involved in managing the direction and activities of the American Civil War Round Table. It is a lot of fun, and you will not regret it.

If any of the Committee Executive positions attract NO nominations, I reserve the right, as my last act as President, to turn into a dictator and conscript any committee members to any unfilled roles on the committee, but I am confident that I will not have to this.

Ian McIntyre

Our Next Meeting

Monday, 19th October from 6pm
at

The Chatswood Club

11 Help Street, Chatswood

Cost: **\$35** for an excellent buffet dinner including wine on the table

Please book by Thurs 15th October 10pm

<https://www.trybooking.com/DQMFW>

Program

The Battle of Perryville – a Gamble in the Bluegrass

Peter Zacharatos

"I think to lose Kentucky is nearly the same as to lose the whole game" – President Abraham Lincoln 1861

This presentation will explore the Confederate Heartland Offensive and the Battle of Perryville.

"Desperate to seize control of Kentucky, the Confederate army launched an invasion into the commonwealth in the fall of 1862, viciously culminating at otherwise quiet Bluegrass crossroads and forever altering the landscape of the war. The Battle of Perryville lasted just one day yet produced nearly eight thousand combined casualties and losses, and some say nary a victor. The Rebel army was forced to retreat, and the United States kept its imperative grasp on Kentucky throughout the war" – Christopher L. Kolakowski

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 Round Table.

Next meeting – Book raffle

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

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

Chattanooga - Missionary Ridge and Lookout Mountain

John Morrison

Hamilton County and City of Chattanooga, Tennessee, Nov 23 - 25, 1863



Following Union general William Rosecrans's defeat at Chickamauga on 18 - 20 September 1863, the Army of the Cumberland fell back to the high ground and rail hub at Chattanooga, Tennessee. Hoping to starve them into surrender Confederate general Braxton Bragg chose to besiege the entrenched Union.

In October, Gen. Ulysses Grant was appointed Commander of the Military Division of the Mississippi, which included all Union forces in the west. After securing the vital "CrackerLine" to feed his starving army and defeating the Confederate counterattack at Wauhatchie, Grant turned his focus to a Union breakout. The three-day Battles of Chattanooga in late November resulted in one of the most dramatic turnabouts in American military history, driving Confederate troops away from Tennessee and into Georgia. This cleared the way for Sherman's "March to the Sea" a year later.

Before the Battle

Following the devastating loss at the Battle of Chickamauga in September, William Rosecrans retreated to Chattanooga, Tennessee. Looking to capitalize on his victory, Braxton Bragg pursued the Federals establishing positions on Missionary Ridge and Lookout Mountain, successfully putting the Union troops under siege and cutting off their supply line.

On 17 October, Ulysses Grant took command of the newly created Military Division of the Mississippi, placing all Federal troops in the Western Theatre under his control including the Army of the Cumberland. In the days following,

Grant learnt that Rosecrans planned to withdraw his Army from Chattanooga, surrendering the strategically important city. Grant immediately replaced Rosecrans with George Thomas, ordering him to hold Chattanooga. Thomas responded, "We will hold the town till we starve."

The Cracker Line

To support the men of the Army of the Cumberland, Grant sets up a "Cracker Line" a Union supply line which crossed the Tennessee River twice on pontoon bridges and fed a starving force. With the entrenched Union forces in Chattanooga besieged by Bragg, lack of rations quickly began to take its toll on the besieged Union troops in the city, as well as on their horses and mules. Ample supplies were available in Bridgeport, Alabama, but were 100 km away by land with the roads muddy and impassable.

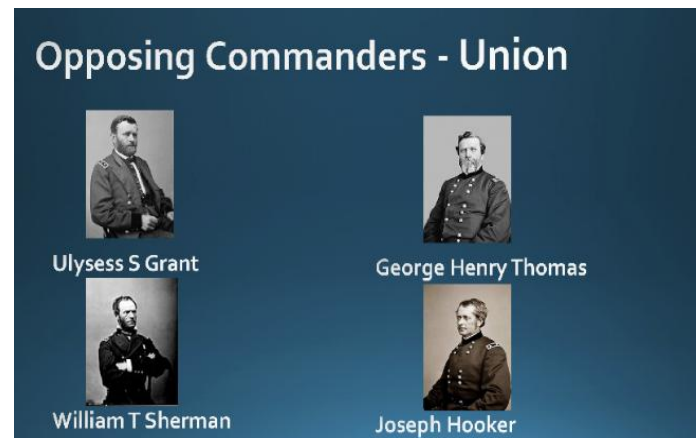
Upon his arrival in Chattanooga, Grant was approached by the Chief Engineer of the Army of the Cumberland, Brig. Gen. William "Baldy" Smith. He proposed a brilliant amphibious-land solution:

1. Build a bridge across the Tennessee River to establish a "Cracker Line" (a reference to the notoriously hard hardtack crackers).
2. Use flat-bottomed boats to transport men down the river, just under the Confederate guns on Lookout Mountain.
3. Once past the guns, land on the left bank of the river and establish a bridgehead, while additional troops paddled across the river from the right bank.
4. With a crossing point firmly established, Thomas's troops would link up with the Eleventh and Twelfth Corps under Gen. Joseph Hooker, who were marching toward Chattanooga from the southwest. Grant considered the plan daring but doable and approved it.

On 27 October, Union forces repulsed the Fifteenth Alabama and seized the beachhead at Brown's Ferry. Smith's engineers then commenced building a bridge across the river, which was completed by sunset. Hooker's column marched through Lookout Valley, arriving at Brown's Ferry at 3:45 p.m. on 28 October. By 29 October, the first supplies along the Cracker Line reached Chattanooga, improving the outlook for the men trapped there.

With supply assured, Grant by the middle of November was ready to begin an offensive against Bragg.

Opposing Forces Chattanooga Union



Military Division of the Mississippi - Maj Gen Ulysses S Grant (72,500 men)

Army of the Tennessee - Maj. Gen. William T. Sherman. XV Corps under Maj. Gen. Frank P. Blair Jr., and 2nd Division of XVII Corps under Brig. Gen. John E. Smith.

Army of the Cumberland - Maj. Gen. George H. Thomas, consisting of the IV Corps under Maj. Gen. Gordon Granger, and the XIV Corps under Maj. Gen. John M. Palmer.

Command of Maj. Gen. Joseph Hooker (part of the Army of the Cumberland during the battle). XI Corps under Maj. Gen. Oliver O. Howard and 2nd Division of XII Corps under Brig. Gen. John W. Geary.

24 - 25 November, Hooker was in direct command of 2nd Division of XII Corps, Charles Cruft's division of IV Corps, and Peter J. Osterhaus's division of XV Corps.)

Confederate



Confederate Army of Tennessee - Gen Braxton Bragg (48,900 men)

Longstreet's Corps - Lt. Gen. James Longstreet. Divisions under Maj. Gen. Lafayette

McLaws and Brig. Gen. Micah Jenkins (replacing John Bell Hood, wounded at

Chickamauga). Longstreet's Corps was dispatched to Knoxville on 5 November.

Hardee's Corps - Lt. Gen. William J. Hardee. Divisions under Brig. Gen. John K. Jackson (Cheatham's Division), Brig. Gen. J. Patton Anderson (Hindman's Division),

Brig. Gen. States Rights Gist (Walker's Division), and Maj. Gen. Simon B. Buckner (Buckner's Division detached 22 November to Knoxville).

Breckinridge's Corps - Maj. Gen. John C. Breckinridge. Divisions of Maj. Gens. Patrick R. Cleburne, Alexander P. Stewart, Carter L. Stevenson, and Brig. Gen. William B. Bate (Breckinridge's Division).

Commanders 23 November

Grant received word that Bragg was withdrawing some of his brigades. On seeing Confederate columns withdrawing from Missionary Ridge, Grant determined that Bragg was sending troops to reinforce the Confederates under Longstreet near Knoxville. To prevent this, Grant sent 14,000 Union troops to engage the Confederate rear-guard at Orchard Knob. The 600 vastly outnumbered Rebels were able to fire only one volley before being overrun by the Federals. Orchard Knob was to serve as Grant's headquarters for the remainder of the battle.

24 November Chattanooga

Hooker had the divisions of Geary, Cruft, and Osterhaus with which he struck the Confederate left at Lookout Mountain. At 10:30 a.m., Geary's men made contact with Confederate general Edward Walthall's men one mile southwest of Point Lookout. The Confederates were quickly driven back. At 1:00 p.m. Confederate general John Moore launched a counterattack but found himself severely outflanked and retreated through the fog. That night, Bragg held a council with his generals and decided to withdraw from Lookout Mountain and reinforce Missionary Ridge - thus handing Grant a second victory.

Although Grant expected Sherman to attack Missionary Ridge in coordination with Hooker's attack at Lookout Mountain, faulty intelligence led Sherman's men to Billy Goat Hill instead.

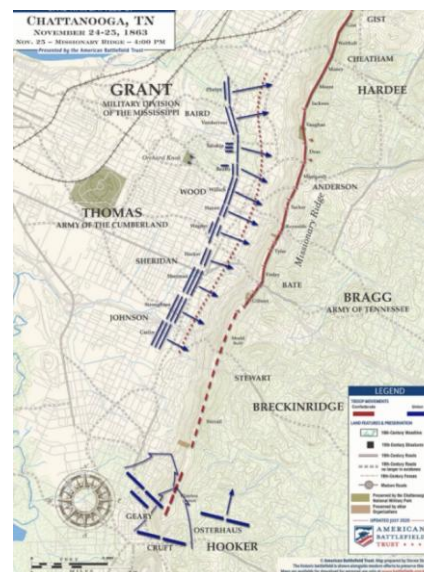
Undaunted, Grant determined to follow up the success of November 24 with a coordinated effort:

Hooker was to advance on Missionary Ridge from the south.

Meanwhile Sherman was to attack Tunnel Hill

on the northern end of the Confederate position.

Thomas's Army of the Cumberland, arrayed against the centre of Bragg's line, was to offer assistance as needed.



25 November

Sherman's men had early successes, but a counterattack from the Confederates routed the exhausted Federals. The attack on Tunnel Hill came to a halt at 4:00 p.m.

On the Confederate left, Hooker had far greater success. Arriving at Rossville Gap, the southernmost point of Missionary Ridge, Hooker launched a three-pronged attack leaving the surprised Confederate troops surrounded. They quickly surrender.

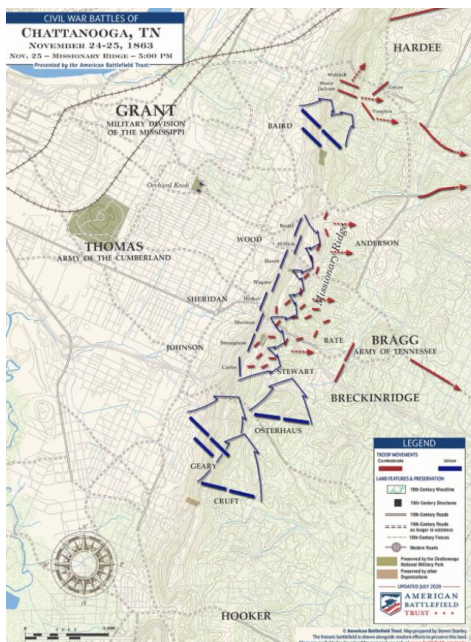
At 2:30 p.m. Grant ordered Thomas to demonstrate against the Confederate center and draw Bragg's attention away from Sherman. Thomas deployed 24,000 men against rifle pits

at the base of the Ridge. The Union soldiers charged and successfully overran the pits and the 9,000 defenders. Despite Grant's orders to the contrary, Thomas's men continued their charge, swarmed over the ridge, and overwhelmed the Confederates.

With no tactical reserve in place, the thinly spread and outnumbered Confederates broke and fled from Missionary Ridge. The siege of Chattanooga was over.

Aftermath

The Confederates retreated from Chattanooga with the Federals in pursuit. The two armies clashed at Ringgold Gap on 27 November. Confederate general Patrick Cleburne surprised and stopped Hooker's larger force. Cleburne's defence allowed the Confederate wagons and artillery to pass through the gap unharmed. Grant decided to abandon the chase.



Chattanooga Casualties



Evaluation and Outcomes

Confederate morale, which had seen a significant rise after Chickamauga, was dashed at Chattanooga. The Union now controlled all of Tennessee. Chattanooga was transformed into a supply and communications base for Sherman's 1864 March to the Sea.

The Union demonstrated several winning qualities, including:

*Leadership and Coordination of Command
Joint Operations
Logistics*

A recognition that victory depended not on what

territory you can conquer, but on what you can hold/defend!

Chattanooga was also Grant's final battle in the West. In March 1864 he was appointed to command of all Union armies and eventually became the man who would win the war.

Chattanooga - Casualties

Union Forces		Confederate forces	
Killed	753	Killed	361
Wounded	4722	Wounded	2160
Captured/MIA	349	Captured/MIA	6142
TOTAL	5824	TOTAL	8663

121,400 soldiers (72,500 Union and 48,900 Confederate) were engaged. 7.5% chance of being killed, wounded, or captured - very low compared to other battles of the time



Any members wishing to contribute should contact John Morrison at

johnharrison@bigpond.com or 0411 197 935

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