



MINIÉ BALL GAZETTE

The Official Newsletter of the Lowcountry Civil War Round Table, Inc.

February 2014

ABOUT OUR MARCH 2014 PROGRAM & SPEAKER

The Siege of Vicksburg

By

Ed Bearss

It is one of the more remarkable campaigns of the American Civil War. For many a hard fought month, Ulysses S. Grant and his Army of the Tennessee had been trying to wrest away the strategic Confederate river fortress of Vicksburg, Mississippi. Previous, direct attempts to take this important town high above the Mississippi River were blocked by deft rebel counter moves and some of the most pernicious terrain in the entire Western theater.

In late April 1863, Grant undertook a new and bold campaign against Vicksburg and the Confederate defenders under John Pemberton. After conducting a surprise landing below Vicksburg at Bruinsburg, Mississippi, Grant's forces moved rapidly inland, pushing back the threat posed by Joseph E. Johnston's forces near Jackson. Once his rear was clear, Grant again turned his sights on Vicksburg.

Union victories at Champion Hill and Big Black Bridge weakened Pemberton's forces, leaving the Confederate chief with no alternative but to retreat to Vicksburg's defenses. The Federals assailed the Rebel stronghold on May 19 and 22, but were repulsed with such great loss that Grant determined to lay siege to the city to avoid further loss of life. Soldiers and civilians alike endured the privations of siege warfare for 47 days before the surrender of Pemberton's forces on July 4, 1863. With the Mississippi River now firmly in Union hands, the Confederacy's fate was all but sealed.

Mr. Ed Bearss is known by many as the greatest living Civil War historian and a true American icon. Ed is a WWII Marine veteran, formerly Chief Historian of the National Park Service. He has written over 18 Civil War books. He appeared in Ken Burns', The Civil War; A&E's, Civil War Journal; History Channel's, Civil War Combat; and the Smithsonian's, Great Battles of the Civil War. He has edited many other books and written many Civil War articles for various magazines and periodicals.

THE 2013 – 14 LECTURE SERIES

September 11, 2013 @ 6:45 pm – Becoming Harriet Tubman

Natalie Daise, Actress, Founder and Star of TV Program "Gullah Gullah Island"

October 9, 2013 @ 6:45 pm – South Carolina Civilians in Sherman's Path: Stories in Courage

Karen Stokes, South Carolina Historical Society, Charleston, SC

November 13, 2013 @ 6:45 pm – Desperate Hours Gettysburg

Ron Roth, Past President LCWRT and a former Gettysburg Battlefield Guide

January 8, 2014 @ 6:45 pm – General Ulysses S. Grant in Person

Larry Clowers, Nationally Known Portrayer of U.S. Grant, Winner of Valley Forge Honor Medal

February 12, 2014 @ 6:45 pm – Adventures in Civil War Publishing

William C. "Jack" Davis, Professor of History, Virginia Tech

March 12, 2014 @ 6:45 pm – The Siege of Vicksburg

Ed Bearss, Former Chief Historian for the National Park Service

April 9, 2014 @ 6:45 pm – The Burning of Bluffton

Jeff Fulgham, Author

May 14, 2014 @ 6:45 pm – The Civil War from behind the Camera

Robert Lisle, MD

NOTE: There is a \$10 Guest/Nonmember fee for any individual lecture. *Students and Teachers with ID Are Free*

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

I hope each of our members can attend our March 12 program. Don't miss this chance to see and hear the superlative master battlefield guide and lecturer, Ed Bearss. He has been very supportive of our roundtable over the years and his focus on the Siege of Vicksburg is one of his favorite topics. Come listen to this unique style orator!

Ed spent years as park historian in Vicksburg where he did the research that led him and 2 friends to the long-lost Union gunboat, U.S.S. Cairo. He also located two forgotten forts at Grand Gulf, Mississippi.

Ed served with the 3rd Marine Raider Battalion in the Pacific during WWII. If this country ever recognizes "Living National Treasures", Bearss should be an immediate honoree!

He not only has won numerous awards, but in 2001 the Civil War Preservation Trust created the Ed Bearss Award in recognition of his achievements.

Respectfully, your obedient servant,

Joe Roney

President

NEW/RENEWAL MEMBERSHIP FORM

NOTE: HALF PRICE MEMBERSHIP FOR REMAINDER OF PROGRAM YEAR!

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP PERIOD SEPTEMBER 1, 2013 to AUGUST 31, 2014

Please Print All Information Below

Last Name First Name Badge Nickname

Additional Household Member Last Name First Name Badge Nickname

Address

City State Zip Code

Phone () E-Mail

(We will keep this confidential!)

Referred by

Check YES & Help us save money! I want my monthly newsletter E-MAILED to me YES _____ NO _____

New Enlistment:

Single: One-Time Initiation Fee \$25.00 + Annual Membership (to Aug 31, 2014): ~~\$30.00~~ \$15.00 = \$40.00 _____

Household: One-Time Initiation Fee \$35.00 + Annual Membership (to Aug 31, 2014): ~~\$45.00~~ \$22.50 = \$57.50 _____

Reenlistment -- Previous Members Only:

Single: Annual Membership (to Aug 31, 2014): ~~\$30.00~~ \$15.00 _____

Household: Annual Membership (to Aug 31, 2014): ~~\$45.00~~ \$22.50 _____

We always need volunteers to continue making the LCWRT successful. **Please check the area(s) for which you are volunteering:**

____ Program Committee: select topics & speakers ____ Editor of the *Minie Ball* ____ Assist *Minie Ball* Editor

____ Assist on Program Night (Greeter, Collect D inner Tickets or Guest Fees, Tally Program Attendance)

____ Historian ____ Maintain Membership Roster ____ Work at Sun City Club Fair ____ LCWRT Web Site Maintenance

Mail to or leave in "lower" box: **Don Welch, 48 Herons Bill Dr., Bluffton, SC 29909**

Make Check Payable to: **LCWRT Inc.** Any questions, please call **Don Welch** at **705-7633**

THE PETERSBURG CAMPAIGN

Our March speaker, Ed Bearss, has written a two volume history of the operations around Petersburg, VA in 1864 and 1865 in collaboration with Bryce Suderow. The first volume, *The Eastern Front Battles, June-August 1864* is now available. The second volume, *The Western Front Battles, Sept. 1864 – April 1865*, will be available later this year. If you are interested in purchasing either, or both, of these books you can contact the publisher, Savas Beatie, directly at www.savasbeatie.com or by calling 916-941-6896. Mention the coupon code **BEARSS** to receive a 10% discount, free shipping, and a bookplate signed by the authors. Each volume sells for \$34.95

MORNING ROUNDTABLE

The Morning Round Table on Thursday, March, 13 will be held at 10:00 a.m. in the Community Room at the Palmetto Electric office on Highway 278 across from the USC-Beaufort Campus. Ed Bearss will be there to continue answering questions about Wednesday’s presentation.

THE LUNCH LADY DINNER MENU for WEDNESDAY, MARCH 12, 2014

MARCH DINNER AT 5:45 P.M.

Mixed Salad

Baked Ziti with Meat Sauce

Garlic Bread

Cookies and Brownies

Unsweetened Iced Tea and Coffee

The Cost for dinner is **\$11.00 per person**, which includes taxes and gratuities.

An Additional guest charge of \$10 per person to attend the lecture is due and payable at the door.

Reservations are required **ONLY** for dinner and **must** be received *on or before March 5!*

*Don't forget that your reservation must be received by the **WEDNESDAY** preceding the meeting – in this case **March 5, 2014**. Any reservation received **AFTER** this date will not be accepted!*

----- Clip & Submit with your check -----

DINNER RESERVATIONS FOR WEDNESDAY, MARCH 12, 2014

Meal service promptly beginning at 5:45 pm in the Bluffton High School Cafeteria

Total Number of Dinners Ordered: _____ @ **\$11.00** each = _____

Member Phone #: _____

Member # 1 Name _____

Member # 2 Name _____

Guest: _____

Guest: _____

List Guests on additional paper if necessary.

[Please pay guest charges to attend the lecture at the door]

Make check for *dinner only* payable to: **LCWRT, Inc.**

Mail check and this form (or leave in lower mailbox) to:

LCWRT – Gwen Bucklin

13 Becket Place

Bluffton, SC 29909

Telephone: 843-705-5168

MUST BE RECEIVED BY WEDNESDAY, MARCH 5!

----- Clip & Submit with your check -----

LCWRT JUNE 1, 2013 – MAY 31, 2014**Executive Committee**

President	Joe Roney	843-838-4972	jvrjersey@gmail.com
Vice President	Dale Conrad	843-705-9557	dwconrad@hargray.com
Treasurer	Jeff Rugg	843-838-9713	jefflen@embarqmail.com
Secretary	Michael Sweeney	843-707-7275	msweeney9@sc.rr.com
Past President	Ron Roth	610-207-5532	patronroth@hargray.com
Member-at-Large	Andre Nougaret	843-706-2191	anougaret@aol.com

Committee Chairpersons

Communication	Gary Welsh	843-705-6852	gbw206@sc.rr.com
Membership	David McColloch	843-705-3060	mccollochd@hargray.com
Hospitality	Gwen Bucklin	843-705-5168	pgbghb@hargray.com
Program	Charles Burns	843-705-9338	ctburnsmd@hotmail.com
	Robert Drabik	617-803-5158	Robert.Drabik@yahoo.com

The MINIÉ BALL GAZETTE

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NOTE: The website address for the Lowcountry Civil War Round Table (LCWRT) is: www.lcwrt.squarespace.com and it can be used to get current and historical LCWRT information.

Lowcountry Civil War Round Table, Inc
Joe Roney, President