



MINIÉ BALL GAZETTE

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

FEBRUARY 2015

The March Program

“General William T. Sherman’s March through the Carolinas: January-April, 1865”

By

Ed Bearss

Many students of the Civil War consider General William T. Sherman a military genius who demonstrated in his campaign through Georgia, South Carolina, and North Carolina the effectiveness of “Total War.” He waged the Carolina campaign through innovative, aggressive warfare. After Savannah was evacuated on December 20, 1864, Sherman moved toward Columbia, South Carolina, the capitol, and Charleston, South Carolina. This dual movement was confusing to Confederate forces and resulted in both cities being taken on February 17, 1865, without heavy fighting. To this day, who was responsible for setting the fires in Columbia continues to be debated. Civilian deaths and heavy destruction of homes and other property were common. The purpose of this total destruction was to destroy the food supply and to lower the morale and will to fight of both citizens and soldiers. There was a feeling among the Union forces that South Carolina was the initiator of the war and they must pay.

The war also moved into North Carolina at about the same time with the capture of a key Confederate installation, Fort Fisher, on January 15, 1865. In contrast to the harsh treatment of the civilian population in both Georgia and South Carolina, the civilians of North Carolina were treated somewhat better, as General Sherman ordered his troops to respect the civilian population. He felt that North Carolina was less responsible for the Civil War than her neighbor to the south. The March 19 – 20, 1865 Battle of Bentonville, North Carolina was won by the Union forces and was the last major battle in the Carolinas. On April 9, 1865, General Lee surrendered to General Grant at McLean’s house in Appomattox, Virginia. On April 25, 1865 General Johnston surrendered to General Sherman at Bennett’s house near Durham Station, North Carolina.

Ed Bearss 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 2014- 2015 LECTURE SERIES

September 10 @ 6:45 P.M.

Actress Chris Weatherhead; *“Mary Chesnut: The Fall of Richmond and the Escape from Columbia”*

October 8 @ 6:45 P.M.

Dr. Mark Wilson, UNC Charlotte; *“The Business of Civil War in the North”*

November 12 @ 6:45 P.M.

Dr. Stephen R. Wise, Director of the Parris Island Museum; *“The Battle of Honey Hill”*

January 14 @ 6:45 P.M.

Dr. James “Bud” Robertson; *“The Civil War Centennial and Sesquicentennial: Partners or at Odds?”*

February 11 @ 6:45 P.M.

Jack Davis, Professor, Virginia Tech; *“Grant and Lee: The Men That No One Knows”*

March 11 @ 6:45 P.M.

Ed Bearss, Historian Emeritus, National Park Service; “General William T. Sherman’s March Through The Carolinas: January – April 1865”

April 8 @ 6:45 P.M.

John C. Waugh, Journalist and Civil War author; *“Surviving the Confederacy – The Story of How a High Rolling Confederate Couple Survived the War”*

May 13 @ 6:45 P.M.

Ron Roth, Consultant to the Historic Beaufort Foundation; *“Undaunted Valor: The Beaufort Volunteer Artillery and the Civil War in the Lowcountry”*

NOTE: There is a \$10 Guest/Nonmember fee for any individual lecture. Students and teachers with ID are free.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

The War Between the States is heating up to a crescendo here in South Carolina (150 years ago). General William T. Sherman has left Savannah and is marching through our state with intent to punish the birthplace of Secession. Come to our March 11, 2015 program and hear the Chief Historian Emeritus of the National Park Service describe the events and impact.

There is also an increase in Sesquicentennial activity here in Lowcountry. On Saturday, March 28, 2015 there is a History Day on Hilton Head Island, from 10AM to 4 PM. The tour starts and ends at Coastal Discovery Museum. Parking is free. Get on a bus and local guides will take you back in time visiting forts, Mitchelville, Port Royal Plantation and many more sites. You can hop-on/hop off the buses and choose how long you stay at each site. It is \$10 per person, \$5 children 4-12. Your LCWRT is a co-sponsor.

Because of low attendance and increasing prices, the Executive Committee has voted to discontinue the dinners prior to our programs at Bluffton HS. This decision was arrived at after studying attendance vs. pricing for the last several years, and after getting input from outside sources on the feasibility of continuing these dinners. All of the gathered information led to the conclusion that the best decision to be made was ending them.

Respectfully, your obedient servant,

Joe Roney

President

OF INTEREST TO MEMBERS

National Underground Railroad Conference

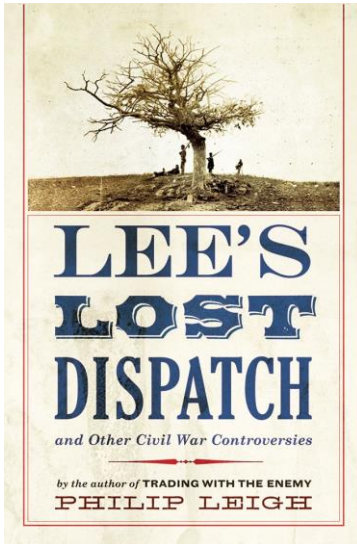
The National Park Service, National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom Program and friends, will host the 2015 National Underground Railroad Conference in Hilton Head Island, South Carolina, June 17-20, 2015. The theme for this year's conference is **Into the Light: Striving for Freedom and 'an equal chance in the battle of life'**. We will explore the transition from enslavement to freedom before, during, and after the Civil War, commemorate the sesquicentennial of the end of the Civil War, and the adoption of the 13th Amendment. This year provides a unique opportunity to pause and reflect on the meaning of freedom. The location selected for this year's conference is particularly significant since Mitchelville was established there in 1862 as the first self-governing town of formerly enslaved people in this country. Please stay tuned for more information: <http://www.nps.gov/ugrr>

Member Benefit

The *Civil War Times* magazine is now providing LCWRT members with a 50% discount for a one year subscription. An annual subscription will be available to our members for \$18.95 rather than the regular rate of \$39.95. This discounted rate is also good for subscriptions to other magazines including *America's Civil War*, *American History*, *Armchair General*, *Military History*, and *World War II*. ***To take advantage of this benefit simply call 1-800-435-0715 and give the operator the offer code of 52LCCR.***

Lee's Lost Dispatch and Other Civil War Controversies

Available for Preorder



Lee's Lost Dispatch and Other Civil War Controversies is available for pre-order at Amazon. It will be released by Westholme Publishing in May.

The signature chapter not only tells the story of how a lost order turned the tide of Lee's first invasion in favor of the Union, but also investigates the mystery about how the order came to be lost, or stolen. Each of the other chapters (some of which are summarized below) provides a tale of corruption, or examines controversies and dubious assumptions that are seldom scrutinized.

1. Biggest Confederate Error examines the merit and feasibility of contemporary proposals that the South should have quickly exported as much cotton as possible instead of embargoing it.
2. Biggest Federal Error analyzes the tardy adoption of breech-loading and repeating shoulder arms by the Union armies.
3. Preempting the War studies whether substituting a warship for a commercial steamer in the January 1861 Fort Sumter relief expedition could have aborted the war three months before it started.
4. Treasury Innovations and Mischief tells of financing and corruption in the US Treasury.
5. Camelot Couple is a tale of salacious conduct and probable treason in the outwardly glamorous marriage between a US Senator and a daughter of Lincoln's longest-serving treasury secretary.
6. Conspiracy of Silence investigates non-racial controversies of Reconstruction.
7. Burning of Atlanta is the story of the November 1864 conflagration.

Phil Leigh is a citizen historian and frequent contributor to the New York Times Disunion series, which commemorates the Civil War Sesquicentennial. In 2013 Westholme Publishing released his first book which is an illustrated and annotated version of the memoirs of Confederate Private Sam Watkins. In May 2014 Westholme released another of his books entitled *Trading With the Enemy*, which is about intersectional trade between the North and South during the Civil War.

In May of this year Westholme is scheduled to release Phil's third Civil War book, *Lee's Lost Dispatch and Other Civil War Controversies*. Phil self-published an annotated and illustrated version of Lt. Colonel Arthur Fremantle's Three Month's in the Southern States, which is a diary a British observer to our Civil War kept during the pivotal summer of 1863.

-----Please Clip and Return with Check-----

LOWCOUNTRY CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE, INC NEW/RENEWAL MEMBERSHIP FORM

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP PERIOD SEPTEMBER 1, 2014 to AUGUST 31, 2015

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 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, 2015): \$30.00 = \$55.00 _____

Household: One-Time Initiation Fee \$35.00 + Annual Membership (to Aug 31, 2015): \$45.00 = \$80.00 _____

Reenlistment - - Previous Members Only:

Single: Annual Membership (to Aug 31, 2015): \$30.00 _____

Household: Annual Membership (to Aug 31, 2015): \$45.00 _____

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

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**

LOWCOUNTRY CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE, INC.
2014-2015 Executive Committee

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The **MINIÉ BALL GAZETTE**

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The Lowcountry Civil War Round Table, Inc.

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education, and battlefield preservation.

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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.