



MINIÉ BALL GAZETTE

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

MARCH 2015

The April Program

“Surviving the Confederacy – The Story of How a High Rolling Confederate Couple Survived the War”

By

Jack C. Waugh

Roger and Sara Pryor were major players in Washington before the Civil War and in the wartime Confederacy. Their story is a true and dramatic chronicle of meteoric rise, rebellion, ruin, and redemption, set against the agony of the South in the War Between the States.

Almost from the day they met on a stairway in a house in Charlottesville, Virginia, and fell in love, they moved on the highest levels of politics and society. They lived in the last two thirds of the fantastic nineteenth century, knew most of the major men and women who made that century notable, and were personal friends of the prominent movers and shakers of the times, North and South. Indeed, they were movers and shakers themselves.

They were both Virginians with thoroughbred genealogies. He was tall, handsome, and eloquent. She was beautiful, gifted, and gracious. And when the Union was splitting in the turbulent 1850s, they were there, in Washington, intimates of two presidents. When the split came, Roger was there, on the floor of Congress helping to drive the wedge. When President James Buchanan heard that the first Southern state, South Carolina, had seceded in late 1860, Sara was there, whispering the news in his ear. When Confederate guns opened on Fort Sumter in Charleston harbor and plunged the country into war, Roger was there, in the delegation demanding the fort's surrender.

When the South became a nation of refugees made homeless in the fighting, Sara was there nearly destitute with the rest. When the war finally came down to the siege of Petersburg, Sara was there, living the terror. When U.S. Grant's army finally broke Robert E. Lee's lines in the Petersburg trenches and marched into the city, both Roger and Sara were there, sharing the agony. Throughout those catastrophic years, they were there, amid all the suffering and dying. And when it was over, they were still there, working to reknit the severed Union. From beginning to end they were there. This is their story.

Jack Waugh is a journalist turned historical reporter. He has contributed to various magazines and periodicals including Civil War History, American Heritage, Civil War Times Illustrated, Columbiad, The Washington Post Book World, The New York Times, The New Republic, The Nation, The Los Angeles Times Magazine, The Boston Globe, The Boston Herald American, and Country Magazine. He began writing history books on the Civil War era in 1989, and has since written and published eleven such books. His first book, "The Class of 1846", won the New York Civil War Round Table's Fletcher Pratt Literary Award for the best non-fiction book on the Civil War published in 1994. His five other major works are "Reelecting Lincoln" (1997), "Surviving the Confederacy" (2002), "On the Brink of Civil War" (2003), "One Man Great Enough" (2007), and "Lincoln and McClellan" (2010). His twelfth book will be published in October by Southern Illinois University Press titled "Lincoln and the War's End".

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

If you have seen or read "Gone with the Wind" you know how hard it was for families in the South to survive the War. Our April program will describe a real confederate couple, Roger and Sara Pryor, an admired high society couple, and how they fought and survived the devastation. It is not only their story, but that of an entire section under the stress. They were at the center of many of the crucial events during the War, from Ft. Sumter to the siege of Petersburg and the fall of Richmond. We have a direct descendant of the Pryor's living in Savannah. We have invited Mr. Leftwich Kimbrough and his wife, to attend our program. Our speaker, John C. "Jack" Waugh has done the research and written the book "Surviving the Confederacy" which reflects how America became one nation. It is one of several books he has published on the Civil War and I hope that each of you will attend to witness this poignant story.

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.

Respectfully, your obedient servant,

Joe Roney

President

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.

OF INTEREST TO MEMBERS

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.**

The Great Courses

The Great Courses has a DVD course on the Civil War now on sale for \$69.95 (normally \$519.95). This is a series of 48 half hour lectures on all aspects of the war presented by Dr. Gary W. Gallagher, Professor in the History of the American Civil War at the University of Virginia. The sale is good until April 2. You can get more information at getgreatcourses.com.

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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.