



MINIÉ BALL GAZETTE

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

Summer 2015

Special July Meeting - Wednesday, July 8, 2015

"Gettysburg: Five Factors that Determined the Outcome"

By Jack Rabbitt

The Lowcountry Civil War Round Table will offer a special Wednesday, July 8 program at 6:45 p.m. at Magnolia Hall in Sun City besides our usual September to May Series. We've hit the jackpot with Jack Rabbitt as our speaker. Rabbitt is a well-known Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) lecturer. His topic will be **"The Battle of Gettysburg: Five Factors that Determined the Outcome."** He will mark the events and sacrifices around the colossal three-day clash across the hills and fields in rural Pennsylvania in July 1863. He will cover the enormous casualties at Gettysburg, the Richmond Arsenal explosion and fire on March 13, 1863, Robert E. Lee's health issue, and the Battle of Brandy Station (June 9, 1863). Also, he'll discuss the rise of the Union cavalry, Longstreet's delay on day two (July 2), and the conflict and dereliction among CSA commanders.

John J. Rabbitt was born in Brooklyn, NY and grew up in Hicksville (Oyster Bay), Long Island. In 1971, he graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in Economics from Fordham University. From 1971-1973, he served in the U.S. Army as a chaplain's assistant in Seoul, Korea.

He is a retired financial executive, for 35 years, and an inspirational speaker for ten years with a variety of Catholic/Christian ministries. When he retired in August 2008, he moved to the Hilton Head area. Today he is a coordinator for the Family Promise Ministry (supporting homeless families in their journey toward sustainable employment and affordable housing) at St. Gregory the Great Catholic Church parish in Bluffton. He is the author of *More Like Christ* (Outskirts Press, January 2012), challenging Christians to adopt a more active spirituality, driven by a faith-based commitment to serve others.

Since the age of ten, Rabbitt has had a fascination with the American Civil War. He's read hundreds of history books and articles on the events and sacrifices and has done extensive research on memorable aspects of the war. He has toured many Civil War battlefields and sites across a vast swath of the USA. In grade school and college, whenever he went to a library to do research for a school paper, he would spend the first few hours reading books on the Civil War. Even if he was had a deadline for other projects such as science, literature or a business course, he took the time to read about The War. He admitted he was often late for dinner. (Remember Beatrix Potter's timeless tales of *The Tale Of Peter Rabbit* when Peter was always late for dinner after outfoxing Mr. Fox.)

He has been a volunteer instructor for six years at OLLI, teaching nine courses (five on the Civil War; one on castles of Western Europe and two on business and economics.) He has also taught a course on religion, based on his book and served four years on the OLLI Curriculum Committee and three years on the Development Committee. As if his time was not filled with his speaking and valuable volunteer engagements he has many hobbies and interests such as rocking out on his drums in his home studio, and staying fit playing basketball. He works part-time in player services at the Hidden Cypress Golf Club in Sun City and is an eight-handicapper. Other hobbies include reading about the Civil War, European castles, business topics and cooking.

Message from the New President

Well, here we are starting a new administration. Some years ago when I retired, moved to Sun City and began completing my "Bucket List" by joining the LCWRT, I never thought that I would become President of this distinguished organization. Before anything else, I want to thank Joe Roney for an excellent two years as president. He and his team did an outstanding job.

Your new leadership is very excited about the next year. Our goals are relatively straightforward. We will be trying to bring you the very best programs possible. Provide the highest quality experience that we can and provide value added for your membership commitment. With this philosophy and better marketing, we hope to increase our membership. Lastly, your officers are committed to accessibility and communications with you. Please feel free to call, email or speak to us at any time. Our contact information is available in every issue of the *Gazette*.

I am very fortunate because the team that we have assembled has many old faces that bring experience and continuity. At the same time, there are some new faces that will bring fresh ideas and approaches to the process. Gary Welsh, who has been our Communications Chairman, has become Vice President and has been replaced by co-chairs: Caroline W. Kennedy and John Foster. Tom McNamara has assumed the "Member at Large" position. John Kemp, who is doing a great job as our crucial Program Chairman and Larry Krone, will serve as his new co-chairman.

Our program focus is on local Civil War events. They are interesting, little known, and we can get the very best presenters. Also, we can have coordinated field trips with the local speaker. At the same time, we still will have a battle or two discussed and more entertaining presenters without quite the academic gravitas. Finally, the Program Committee will continue our traditional annual presenters like Bud Robertson, Jack Davis and Ed Bears.

Our strategy is reflected in our plans for 2015-2016. We are having a never done before and definitely value added, July 8th meeting at Magnolia Hall in Sun City. A well-known local presenter will talk about Gettysburg. Jack Rabbitt's talk has garnered high praise.

To kick off our new program year, on September 9th the program will be highlighted by an "All You Can Eat for \$3 Ice Cream Social." Our "Women at War" presenters will be at the social, mingling in costume with the members. At the same time, a quilting club will be showing some of their work. Some of the quilts date back to the Civil War. Later in the year we have trips planned to Port Royal and River's Bridge.

In closing, let me make a plea. We need volunteers to achieve our goals. You can volunteer to work for one meeting; all the meetings; to sit on a committee or just do some behind the scenes work. **In any case, we need you!** Please speak to any officer or committee person and we will get you involved. Help make our Round Table the best in the country,

Respectfully yours,

Robert Waite

Things You Should Know About the Battle of Gettysburg

— From *HISTORY.com*

1. Gettysburg ended the Confederacy's last full-scale invasion of the North.
2. The battle proved that the seemingly invincible Lee could be defeated.
3. Gettysburg stunted possible Confederate peace overtures.
4. The battle bolstered badly sagging Union morale.
5. Gettysburg ended the Confederate enslavement of free blacks from the North.
6. The battle led to the Gettysburg Address in which Lincoln redefined the Civil War as a struggle for freedom and democracy.
7. The battle forever transformed the town of Gettysburg.

The 2015-2016 Lecture Series

September 9 @ 6:45 p.m.

Sun City Community Theatre; *Women at War: 1861-1865*

October 14 @ 6:45 p.m.

Dr. Mary DeCredico; History Department of the USNA; *Myths and Realities of Reconstruction*

November 11 @ 6:45 p.m.

Michael D. Coker, author; Operations Assistant Old Exchange and Provost Dungeon
Charleston; *The Battle of Port Royal - 1861* (with a tour on Thursday)

January 13 @ 6:45 p.m.

Dr. James A. Robertson, Jr.; Virginia Tech; *After the Civil War: The Heroes, Villains, Soldiers & Civilians Who Changed America*

February 10 @ 6:45 p.m.

Jack Davis; Virginia Tech; *Reluctant Hero: Lee's Last Years*

March 9 @ 6:45 p.m.

Ed Bearss; Chief Historian Emeritus of the National Park Service; *Vicksburg*

April 13 @ 6:45 p.m.

Barry Sheey, author; *Urban Slavery in Savannah* (with a tour on Thursday)

May 11 @ 6:45 p.m.

John White; Park Ranger Rivers' Bridge Historic Site; *The Battle of Rivers' Bridge*

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

Lincoln — Civil War Trivia

1. Who was the oldest General at the Battle of Gettysburg?
2. What was Lincoln's first official act as President?
3. At the Battle of Fort Stevens in 1864 Lincoln came under Confederate fire, making him the second and last sitting president to be in such a position. Who was the first President to be under fire?
4. What new pieces of military technology did Lincoln personally test?
5. What holiday did Lincoln create?
6. What Department did Lincoln form?
7. The Emancipation Proclamation was issued on what holiday?
8. What were the citizens of the North, primarily in the Democratic Party, who wanted to stop the fighting and negotiate a two-state peace called?
9. What member of Lincoln's administration was attacked on the night of April 14, 1865?
10. How many people came to Lincoln's bedside during the evening after his assassination?
(Answers on following page.)

The Gettysburg Address

By Abraham Lincoln — November 19, 1863
Gettysburg, Pennsylvania

Four score and seven years ago our fathers brought forth on this continent, a new nation, conceived in Liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal.

Now we are engaged in a great civil war, testing whether that nation or any nation so conceived and so dedicated, can long endure. We are met on a great battle-field of that war. We have come to dedicate a portion of that field, as a final resting-place for those who here gave their lives that that nation might live. It is altogether fitting and proper that we should do this.

But, in a larger sense, we can not dedicate — we can not consecrate — we can not hallow — this ground. The brave men, living and dead, who struggled here, have consecrated it, far above our poor power to add or detract. The world will little note, nor long remember what we say here, but it can never forget what they did here. It is for us the living, rather, to be dedicated here to the unfinished work which they who fought here have thus far so nobly advanced. It is rather for us to be here dedicated to the great task remaining before us — that from these honored dead we take increased devotion to that cause for which they gave the last full measure of devotion — that we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain — that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom — and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth.

Editor's Note: The Bliss copy, the fifth draft, of the speech was in Lincoln's handwriting. It is the only draft to which the President applied his signature. Only two drafts included the words "under God." An eyewitness, Mrs. Sarah A. Cooke Myers, said there was *no* applause when he stopped speaking. The crowd stood silent. The Bliss version is inscribed on the South wall of the Lincoln Memorial on the National Mall in Washington, D.C.)

Gettysburg's place in American history was intensified when Abraham Lincoln, the 16th President of the United States, visited the site of the battle (July 1-3, 1863) four months later, on the afternoon of Thursday, November 19, 1863. He had been invited to attend the dedication of the Soldiers' National Cemetery for the Union dead. He addressed the crowd gathered to give a short speech which would provide a reason for the war. The Gettysburg Address would become known as one of the best speeches ever delivered. The text of the speech even though short is brilliant. In less than 300 words, it expressed the nation's dedication to the cause of the war. The phrase "Four score and seven years ago" — referred to the Declaration of Independence, written at the start of the American Revolution in 1776." - cwk

Lincoln — Civil War Trivia Answers:

1.) George S. Greene (Pap Greene), Union commander in the Army of the Potomac, age 62 from Warick, R.I.
2.) Appointed John Nicolay as his personal secretary. 3.) 4th President James Madison at the Battle of Bladensburg on August 24, 1814. 4.) Union Repeating Rifle, which he coined "the coffee mill gun," and the Spencer Repeating Rifle. 5.) He proclaimed a national day of Thanksgiving, on the final Thursday of November, 1863. 6.) Department of Agriculture. 7.) New Year's Day, 1863. 8.) The citizens of the North were labeled "Copperheads." 9.) Lewis Powell forced his way into Sec. of State William Seward's bedroom and stabbed him repeatedly with a knife. Seward survived! 10.) 46 people.

LOWCOUNTRY CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE, INC.

NEW/RENEWAL MEMBERSHIP FORM

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP PERIOD SEPTEMBER 1, 2015 to AUGUST 31, 2016

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

Please 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, 2016): \$30.00 = \$55.00 _____

Household: One-Time Initiation Fee \$35.00 + Annual Membership (to Aug 31, 2016): \$45.00 = \$80.00 _____

Reenlistment - - Previous Members Only:

Single: Annual Membership (to Aug 31, 2016): \$30.00 _____

Household: Annual Membership (to Aug 31, 2016): \$45.00 _____

We always need/solicit volunteers to continue making the LCWRT successful.

Please check the area(s) for which you are volunteering:

____ Program Committee: select topics & speaker's ____ Assist in Production of the *Minie Ball Gazette*

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

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

Mail to or leave in "lower" box: **David McColloch, 42 Concession Oak Drive, Bluffton, SC 29909**

Make Check Payable to: **LCWRT Inc.** Any questions, please call **Dave McColloch** at **843-705-3060**

Lowcountry Civil War Round Table Inc.

2015-2016 Executive Committees

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MiINIÉ 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.