



MINIÉ BALL GAZETTE

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

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE - December 30, 2015

Dear Civil War Enthusiasts,

Happy New Year! Our traditional, threesome of “top speakers” in January, February and March: Bud Robertson, Jack Davis and Ed Bearss are upon us. If you have missed the special meetings thus far, you still have time to renew. Just come to January’s meeting with your check book. Besides our regular five meetings in 2016, Lt. Col. Ralph Peters (Ret), Fox News Channel and Fox Business Network Military Analyst will be speaking to us at Magnolia Hall in Sun City. Peter’s is a prolific Civil War novelist, and writes about the brutal reality of the War that has not been done before. He will speak about “1864: Our Civil War’s Savage Year.”

Remember the new entrance that we are using to enter the Bluffton High School. When you enter the school parking lot, turn to the LEFT.

At Thanksgiving with the grandkids, I had an epiphany. To my family, the Civil War is this dry, boring part of the American experience. They do not realize the pivotal role it has played in the development of our Republic as a strong central government. When asked about the War, I try to explain my fascination with it. They are surprised and seem fascinated when I tell them facts. Even the kids are shocked by the number of casualties. I try to explain that the tactics used by both sides were ineffective against the advancing technology of weaponry. “Of course,” they say, when I tell them that virtually all the higher ranking officers used the same Napoleonic tactics because they learned then together at West Point. Also, I might note that they are dutifully impressed with my newfound knowledge of the subject. Think about becoming the smartest person in the room at your next family event. For interesting facts for kids, go to www.civilwar.org and click on The Civil War for Kids.

Remember, we have field trips to Fort Pulaski (April 14) and River’s Bridge (May 12) planned. Keep these dates open.

Thank you for your support. I want to thank the entire Executive Team for their support as well. It takes a village and maybe a small city to keep this operation running.

If you would like to have input on the direction of our programming, speak to John Kemp or any Executive Committee member about helping out.

Don't forget our Scholarship Fund. All scholarship contributions are tax deductible. Please drop a check or some dollars into Joe Roney’s Scholarship Box.

Regards, Robert Waite
President, LCWRT, Inc.

Civil War Timeline — January 1862

- Jan. 10, 1862 Engagement at Middle Creek, Kentucky (Offensive in Eastern Ky.)
CSA Brig. Gen. Humphrey Marshal against US Col. James Garfield —
Union victory (indecisive).
- Jan. 15, 1862 Edwin McMasters Stanton confirmed as U.S. Secretary of War. Stanton
was a lawyer and politician from Ohio.
- Jan. 16, 1862 Edwin McMasters Stanton takes over as U.S. Secretary of War. He
proved an influential force in managing the Union war effort and became
one of Lincoln's closest advisers.
- Jan. 18, 1862 Confederate territory of Arizona formed. The territory was claimed by
The Confederate States of America during the Civil War, between 1861-
1865. Support for the Confederacy was strong in the southern part of the
New Mexico Territory. There were concerns about the lack of troops to
fight the Apaches who were raiding white settlements, ranchers, and
mining camps.
- Jan. 19, 1862 Battle of Mill Springs (Logan's Cross Roads), Kentucky was held near
Nancy, Ky. The battle led to the first significant Union victory of the
War. The victory helped keep Kentucky more solidly under Union
control.
- Jan. 22, 1862 Bombardment of Fort Henry, Tennessee by USS *Lexington*. The
Western Flotilla steamed up the Tennessee River to attack Fort Henry,
which guarded this water approach to the South's heartland. The gunboat
pounded the fort and forced CSA Brig. Gen. Lloyd Tilghman to strike
his flag and surrender. For three days the USS *Tyler*, *Conestoga*, and
Lexington swept the Tennessee for Confederate transports, seized the
unfinished tamer *Eastport* and destroyed a railroad bridge.
- Jan. 30, 1862 USS *Monitor* launched at Greenpoint, Long Island, New York. The
vessel that transformed naval warfare with its revolving turret
nearly didn't get built! Lincoln had to intercede on behalf of the
ship when controversy raged over engineer John Ericsson's
design. "All I have to say is what the girl said when she stuck her
foot in the stocking. It strikes me there's something in it." —
Lincoln on Sept. 12, 1861.

Dr. James "Bud" Robertson

After the Civil War; the Heroes, Villains, Soldiers & Civilians Who Changed America

Best-selling author and acclaimed historian Dr. Robertson has been a frequent presenter at the LCWRT over the past 15 years. Retired from Virginia Tech, he was Alumni Distinguished Professor in History having taught for 43 years. He is the author of more than 20 books including award-winners *General A.P. Hill*, *Soldiers Blue and Gray*, and *Civil War! America Becomes One Nation*. His biography *Stonewall Jackson: The Man, The Soldier, The Legend*, won eight national awards including the American Library Association's Best Book for Young Readers Award. The book is Robertson's favorite book he has authored on which he spent more than eight years. He is considered the preeminent scholar on Lieutenant General Thomas J. "Stonewall" Jackson. Robertson was the Chief Historical Consultant, a technical director for the Hollywood film, in the 2003 Ted Turner mega-movie *Gods and Generals*, which prominently features Stonewall Jackson.

Robertson is also a former member of the Board of Trustees at the Museum of the Confederacy in Richmond, Va. "The most rewarding part of teaching is putting into the mind of students an appreciation of history," he said. Robertson was executive director of the U.S. Civil War Centennial Commission and worked with Presidents Truman, Kennedy, and Johnson in marking the War's 100th anniversary.

Robertson will discuss his newest, remarkable book just released on October 27, 2015, an intriguing look into the post Civil War Era. He explores 70 fascinating people who shaped America after the War during Reconstruction and beyond. Relentless politicians, intrepid fighters, cunning innovators – the times called for bold moves, and this resilient generation would not disappoint. The book includes biographies of poet Walt Whitman and cartoonist Thomas Nast. It took decades for our nation to heal from the War. According to many historians and Robertson, Lincoln's first successors proved mostly ineffectual. Robertson gives information about positive changes and solutions to problems that transformed the nation for the better including constitutional amendments granting more rights and freedoms to the former slaves. Also included is about the beginnings of modern practices of caring for the wounded and saving lives, and inventions of better prosthetics for those who had lost limbs. The War established the supremacy of the federal government over state governments. Other cultural icons were set during the War, including standard time, pre-sized clothing, canned goods and even Santa Claus!

In 1963 Robertson did extensive research on the state funeral of Abraham Lincoln, along with David Mearns, director of the Library of Congress, to assist in the planning of John F. Kennedy's funeral. Since the lights in the government repository were inoperative since they were connected to a timer switch set to operate during the library's regular hours, the men used flashlights to find the copies of *Frank Leslie's Weekly* and *Harper's Weekly* for details of the 1865 funeral that were used to transform the East Room of the White House. The East Room was quickly transformed into a venue for Kennedy's remains to lie in repose, which matched the exact description of what it was like nearly a century earlier for Lincoln. - cwk

The 2016 Lecture Series (for January Gazette)

January 13 - 6:45 p.m.

Dr. James "Bud" 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; *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*

(With a tour on Thursday)

July 13 - 6:45 p.m. - Ralph Peters, novelist, essayist, former career soldier who appears

frequently as a commentator on TV and radio - *1864: Our Civil War's Savage Year*

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

The Diary of Dolly Lunt Burge, 1848-1879 (Southern Voices from the Past Women's Letters Diaries, and Writings)

by Christine Jacobson Carter.

Burge Plantation is still in existence as an exclusive hunting, shooting and family club in eastern Newton County, Ga. Dolly was born September 29, 1817, in Bowdoinham, Maine. She was brought up in New England. As a young woman, she moved from Maine to Georgia, where her married sister was already settled. While teaching school in Covington, he met Thomas Burge, a plantation owner and married him. When he died of tuberculosis, she was left on a farm with her little daughter Sarah (the "Sadai" of the journal) and her slaves. Dolly kept a detailed diary that is the source of much of what is known about life at Burge and the neighboring community. Sherman's 14th Corp of the left wing of his two-pronged March to the Sea, including Gen. Sherman himself, swept through and devastated the area, including Burge. "To my smokehouse, my dairy, pantry, kitchen and cellar like famished wolves they came, breaking locks and whatever is in their way." The house, though ransacked for valuables and food, was not destroyed, thanks in part to the fact that an officer of the Union was acquainted with Dolly's brother in Chicago. Dolly's Diary graphically details her wartime trials as well as the experiences of others living at Burge and nearby. (Editor's note: I lived six miles from Burge Plantation in Newborn, Ga. For 20 years. Sherman bivouacked on our farm for two weeks on the Little River. - cwk)

The Morris Center for Lowcountry Heritage in Ridgeland

“We are delighted to invite the Jasper County community — and visitors alike — to drop by the Morris Center for Lowcountry Heritage to discover more of the area’s rich history and culture,” said Annmarie Reiley-Kay, Director of Programs and Exhibits at the Morris Center for Lowcountry Heritage.

Daniel O. Morris (Danny) grew up in Tillman and enjoyed learning about people and exploring living in the Lowcountry. He acquired many businesses in Jasper County including several Handy Dan convenience stores and gas stations and antiques business. He loved to talk about the South and the history of why the locale exists like it does today. He wanted visitors to learn about the pungent, salty smell that permeates the air of the Lowcountry and pluff mud. The dark marsh soil left behind after the tide recedes. He loved the vast, flat expanses of marsh grass, the shrill songs of tree frogs and katydids, the silhouettes of live oak trees, with their long, arching limbs shrouded in bright clumps of Spanish moss.

Morris died in 2005 at 52-years-of-age from a liver failure. He was awaiting a liver transplant. Morris included in his will a trust to leave behind a legacy of educating future generations and help bring prosperity to the county. Ten years later, his plans are coming true. Four buildings on the corner of Main Street and South Jacob Smart Blvd., in Ridgeland, including the old gas station, are owned by the Daniel O. Morris South Carolina Lowcountry Heritage Trust.

The Morris Center for Lowcountry Heritage is now open to the public at the newly renovated 1937 Sinclair Service Station at 10782 S. Jacob Smart Blvd., in Ridgeland in the heart of downtown complete with a roll-up garage like an old full-service station with “full service.” Customers were not allowed to pump their gas, and attendants checked your oil and washed your windows. Those full-service stations are running near empty these days. The trust owns four buildings attached to the Sinclair Station. The buildings will house a programming and learning exhibition center where students, residents, and visitors can tour educational exhibits and get hands-on experience learning the Lowcountry History. It will feature traveling exhibits with displays changing an average of every six months.

Today, guests can view several exhibits on display, including one entitled “U.S. 17: A Road Side Story — Origins, Outcomes, and Optimism.” The show tells the story of transportation in the Lowcountry following U.S. Route 17 also known as the Coastal Highway complete with fascinating facts and anecdotes, photos, maps and a diorama created especially for the Center. The 200-mile stretch of coastal South Carolina and Georgia throughway took visitors coming from up north all the way through Savannah down into Florida. It was a familiar route before I-95 came in the 1960s. Gas was only 30 cents a gallon, and a folksy attendant would fill up the tank while the customer ran inside the convenience store for a Cheerwine cold drink before making the trip to Savannah to absorb the scenery slowly, Southern style.

Now at the Center, is the McKissick’s Traveling Exhibit: Dawn of Freedom: The Freeman’s Town of Mitchelville. The exhibition explores one of the first self-governing towns formed by self-liberated African-Americans during the Civil War. Dawn of Freedom draws on historical documents and photographs that examine the relationship between Mitchelville and the Union Army, discussing the rapid development of the community into a short-lived town that featured a legal system.

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Join the Morris Center for a special program and book signing on Saturday, Jan. 23, 2016 at 2:00 p.m. when author and storyteller Dr. Ellen Malphrus, a native of Jasper County will debut her novel *Untying the Moon*. Malphrus lives in Bluffton beside the May River. Her fiction, poetry, and essays have appeared in dozens of publications. She earned her Ph.D. in Twentieth Century American Literature and had taught literature and creative writing at USC Beaufort.

The Center has a display of the nearby Honey Hill — Boyd's Neck Battlefield where the last Southern victory in the Civil War occurred on Nov. 30, 1864. The battlefield is now within the town limits of Ridgeland and is being preserved as a historical site. The battle was launched in direct support of Gen. William T. Sherman's march from Atlanta to Savannah, and was one of three largest Civil War battles fought in South Carolina; it was also one of the most notable engagements involving African American troops. (See the movie *Glory!*) The Battlefield is a continuous landscape running east to Boyd's Landing and is underdeveloped and forested. The exhibit shows the Battlefield, and it's 1864 road that is substantially intact and earthworks that are still well-preserved. The property is considered a significant archaeological resource. Listing on the National Register occurred on July 4, 2004. The **Friends of Honey Hill** project is with assistance from the LCWRT. Starting in 2016, the Battle of Honey Hill Park will be available for touring.

The town of Ridgeland stemmed from the Charleston and Savannah Railroad completed in the mid-1800s. The Town was originally named Gopher Hill due to the "gopher tortoise" which was indigenous to the area. In Gopher Hill Square there is a bronze of a gopher tortoise in the Park at Ridgeland in recognition of the abundance of tortoises that inhabited the sand hills of the area. The reptiles, which live up to 60 years, spend much of their life in deep burrows. Now an endangered species, they're not too abundant these days. In later days, the name Gopher Hill was not considered suitable for a railroad station. Since the Depot was on the highest ridge between Charleston and Savannah, they changed the name to Ridgeland. Ridgeland was originally part of Beaufort and Hampton Counties as separated by the railroad until they formed Jasper County in 1912.

Old House Plantation, also known as the Daniel Heyward Plantation, is a historic plantation site and grave located in Jasper County. First settled in 1743, the plantation was likely active through the first quarter of the nineteenth century. It was the birthplace and burial site of Thomas Heyward, Jr., one of South Carolina's four signers of the Declaration of Independence. It is on the U.S. National Register of Historic Places. Location: Off S.C. Highway 462 just south of Old House, near Ridgeland. The site is another reason to visit Ridgeland!

Get Involved: If you are interested in volunteering for the Center contact their director Annmarie Reiley-Kay at 843.284.09227. Info@morrisheritagecenter.org or info@morrisheritagecenter.org or www.facebook.com/MorrisHeritageCenter

The Center is open free of charge from Tuesday through Saturday 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., and closed on Sundays and Mondays. Plan a group visit and have lunch at Duke's BBQ and Buffet, for home style food, Southern whole hog pulled pork, like grandmas' fried chicken, soul food veggies like greens, hush puppies, and of course sweet tea. Save room for dessert either banana/nilla wafer pudding or peach cobbler with soft-serve ice-cream. (843.726.6244). Duke's is located at 690 Jacob Smart Blvd. in Ridgeland. - cwk

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2015-2016 Executive Committee

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General Joseph E. Johnston, CSA

Gen. Joseph E. Johnston C.S.A. stood bareheaded at the February funeral of Gen. William Tecumseh Sherman his friend and former foe in New York. A concerned bystander leaned forward. "Gen., please put on your hat; you might get sick." However, Johnston would not. His warrior's heart did not let him deny his old friend a soldier's last honor. "If I were in his place," Johnston said, "and he were standing here in mine, he would not put on his hat." Ten days later, Joe Johnston was dead. - from *To The Last Cartridge* by Robert Barr Smith

The Sinking of the CSS Nashville – Famous Blockade Runner by Caroline Wallace Kennedy

The *CSS Nashville*, a 1,221-ton side-wheel steamer, was originally a passenger-merchant steamer. She was a fore topsail schooner, 216 feet long with 34-foot beam, and a 12-foot draft, powered by both sail and steam. Known as the fastest passenger liner and mail carrier on the Eastern seaboard running between New York and Charleston, her cruising speed was 16 knots in a calm sea.

The *Nashville* left New York on April 6, 1861, and arrived in Charleston in time to witness the first shots of the Civil War at Fort Sumter. Seized by the Confederacy, she became the first vessel commissioned by them. They needed a dependable ship to make trips to England to pick up and deliver military supplies and guns to their troops. Lt. R.B. Pegram, CSN took command of the boat on Sept. 27, 1861, and obtained two English made six pounder guns from the Governor of South Carolina. He made plans to take Confederate Commissions John Slidell from La. And James M. Mason from Va., on a diplomatic mission to convince the British and French to support the Confederacy. Federal authorities discovered the plan and placed a squadron of four Union ships off Charleston to thwart the mission. Realizing this hindrance, the Confederates changed course and hired the *Gordon*, a smaller lighter vessel to transport the commissioners to Cardenas, Cuba. Believing that the commissioners ran out on the *Nashville*, DuPont ordered Commander Marchand of the *USS Jams Adger*, a 215-foot side-wheel steamer, to overtake the Rebel steamer.

Meanwhile, Capt. Pegram waited for the right conditions, running the blockade in the *Nashville* on Oct. 26th. They struck a reef without injury but ran out of time before the moon rose. The *Nashville* lay in the shadow thrown by the land, completely hidden. With the moon above the horizon, they crossed the bar, enabling them to see clearly the enemy's vessels. She escaped and coaled at Bermuda en route to Liverpool. Near the mouth of the English Channel, she approached the unsuspecting Mystic-built American clipper ship the *Harvey Birch*, en route from Le Havre to New York. On Nov. 19th, they captured and confiscated its cargo, and her instrument's then burned the ship. Her appearance caused a stir because she was the first Confederate ship to visit a British port. Shippers who owned crafts scheduled for trips to the U.S. ordered them to stay in port.

Slidell and Mason found the passage from Cardenas, Cuba and took a train to Havana, to make passage on the British Royal Mail steamer *Trent*. However, on Nov. 8th, officers of the U.S. man of war *USS San Jacinto* forcibly removed them from the *Trent* and scurried off to Boston with the prisoners. Known as the Trent Affair, this international diplomatic incident jailed Slidell and Mason. They were bound for London and Paris to press for diplomatic recognition and to lobby for financial and military support in the name of Cotton Diplomacy. Lincoln did not want to risk war with Britain so after several weeks, the envoys were released and resumed their voyage but failed in their mission.

The *Nashville* returned to American waters in early 1862. They left Bermuda on Feb. 24th and after two days, encountered the schooner *Robert Gilfillan* on Feb. 26th on her way from Philadelphia to Santo Domingo, loaded with provisions. They reduced the schooner to ashes in a few minutes. She ran the blockade two days later and slipped into Beaufort, N.C. and hid until

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mid-March. Again, she ran the blockade slipped into the Gulf Stream and steamed toward Charleston. Finding the port too well guarded, she steamed up the coast, unharmed to Georgetown, S.C. For the first day in months, the blockaders had not been posted offshore. (Blockade runners helped maintain commerce in the southern states.)

She continued to deliver cargo, usually cotton and run the blockades. However, on April 30, 1862, three Union vessels from the South Atlantic Blockading Squadron sighted the *Nashville* and gave a chase. The Rebel ship outran two of the pursuers, but the USS *Keystone State* from Philadelphia kept pace with her, so the chase was on. By evening, the *Nashville's* supply of coal was running low, so the crew began to remove the bulkheads to be used as fuel to stoke the fires. Aided by darkness and a storm, the *Nashville* avoided the dangerous *Keystone State*. She entered the blackwater Ogeechee River south of Savannah and unloaded her cargo at the railroad bridge near King's Ferry. DuPont had every available ship anchored off Ossabaw Sound 16 miles south of Savannah, with orders to thwart the *Nashville's* escape. She remained blockaded for several months, as DuPont formulated plans to capture the fort at Point Genis and burn the *Nashville*. (She had become an embarrassment to DuPont!)

She was sold and renamed *Thomas L. Wragg*, and operated as a blockade runner flying the British flag, but hindered by her deep draft. She was sold again in Nov. 1861, to become a privateer under the name *Rattlesnake*. Under the protective guns of Fort McAllister, the CSS *Rattlesnake* lay at anchor in the Ogeechee River south of Savannah. Confined to the river for almost eight months, she waited for an opportunity to run the Federal blockade.

Federal forces had occupied Port Royal harbor near Beaufort, and Union Navy, Rear Adm. Samuel Francis DuPont had assembled a formidable squadron of warships south of Savannah. His intentions were to capture Fort McAllister and at the same time destroy the prize Rebel steamer reported near the fort. Unfortunately, the *Rattlesnake* ran aground after one of its many attempts to run out of the Ogeechee. A letter, written by J. R. Goldsborough at two a.m. The morning of Feb. 28, 1863, caused DuPont to take action. The letter said a bark-rigged (three or more masts) steamer, supposed to be the *Nashville*, loaded with cotton, tobacco and pine pitch aimed for England was in Ossabaw trying to get out.

On Feb. 28, 1863, as the sun rose, the Union ironclad *Montauk* maneuvered into position for an attack upon the grounded vessel. Under heavy fire from Fort McAllister, the guardian of Savannah, the *Montauk* commanded by Comm. John Worden steamed to within 1,200 yards of the grounded *Nashville/Rattlesnake* and prepared to bombard the helpless steamer, which was still aground despite desperate attempts to put her afloat. For certain, high tide the next morning would have floated her free. The *Montauk* fired an eleven-inch shell toward the vessel. The battery at Fort McAllister tried to repel the attack but offered no damage to the *Montauk*. The ironclad ignored the shots fired from the Fort, leaving the job of attacking the Fort to the gunboats placed further downstream. The *Montauk* continued the onslaught with more eleven-inch shells before unleashing the fury of its fifteen-inch gun. The second shell, fired with a ten-second fuse, hit the target and exploded with devastating effect. After the fourteenth round, the *Montauk* ceased fire; the *Nashville* was consumed in flames, shattered in smoking ruins. Nothing

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remained of her – sunk where she foundered in reflective water. The vessel had proven her worthiness as a naval vessel.

Union sailors salvaged some of her machinery. Then her remains rested for nearly a century before being disturbed. In the late 1950s, scuba divers removed artifacts and gave them to the state of Georgia. In the early 1960s, the state salvaged a portion of the *Nashville's* machinery and displayed it at the museum at Richmond Hill State Park. After the attack, one of the *Montauk's* crew members said, “As these silent witnesses of the havoc drifted past us, they seemed to show a determination that if we would not allow the *Nashville* to go to sea as a whole, she was going to run the blockade in pieces.”

- Civil War Times – March 1986, Americancivilwar.com, Georgia dept. of Natural Resources

This ‘n That!

This year we celebrate our 16th birthday! We have much to be proud of from last year and much to look forward to in 2016. Over the past 16 years, the LCWRT has grown from a small club to a major force in our community. We are excited about the coming year with noted authors, historians, and Civil War enthusiasts on a wide variety of topics. With great speakers and exciting programs, we explore the history of our nation.

Merchandise with the Lowcountry Civil War Round Table Logo . . .

Visit: <http://www.cafepress.com/worldvue/12413135>

We Need Volunteers!

Please consider volunteering with the LCWRT. We need someone to assist John Kemp and eventually take over as program chairman. John has the programs planned through 2017. Call John at 201.845.4178 or email him at Norwich68@gmail.com for more information. John has done a terrific job but has other fish to fry. **Grant Writer Needed!** We need someone to do Grant Research to help us sustain and grow. Our organization can avail itself of Grants, but we need a knowledgeable member familiar with Grant Research, Grant Writing, Grant Evaluation and technical assistance. Please email www.lcwrt.squarespace.com with your interest and/or qualifications and someone from the Executive Committee will reply. Also, we need more members to participate with events, meetings, and operations. <mailto:mccollocj@hargray.com> Keep your wonderful club rolling, rolling and rolling.

Autographed Posters Make Great Souvenirs!

John Kemp, our excellent Program Chairman, designs lovely posters to advertising each LCWRT event. Starting with our October meeting with Dr. Mary DeCredico, we are offering one poster autographed by the featured speaker. One poster per meeting will be

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available by Silent Auction. Starting bids are \$10. This project is a fundraiser for the LCWRT Scholarship Fund. If you are interested — email your name and bid to www.lcwrtspaces.com, and you will be contacted.

Check out the New Morris Lowcountry Heritage Center in Ridgeland!

Starting in 2016 the “Battle of Honey Hill” will be available for touring. The Honey Hill Battlefield Park in Jasper County needs support for development and preservation in conjunction with the efforts of the Town of Ridgeland and the Morris Museum. Check out their website: www.morrisheritagecenter.org and on FACEBOOK. Address: 10782 S. Jacob Blvd., Ridgeland, S.C.

Battlefield Preservation — Honey Hill

The LCWRT is exploring involvement in the battlefield preservation aspect of its mission by starting a charitable organization known as the Friends of Honey Hill (FOHH). The town of Ridgeland has recently acquired the battlefield site from private ownership and intends to develop it as an interpretive site for the public. Many organizations will support the Battlefield. The Friends of Honey Hill will be an important one! The FOHH will function similar to the friends organizations supporting many of the national and state battlefield parks. A committee is being formed within the LCWRT to plan the FOHH structure and recommend financial guidelines to the LCWRT Executive Committee. We need only a few LCWRT members. If you have an interest in being part of the inception of this organization, please submit your name, email address and phone number to LCWRTSC@gmail.com. You may contact [John Kemp](mailto:John.Kemp@lcwrt.com) at 201.845.4178.

Use Side Door at Bluffton High School !

Please come to the side door of Bluffton High School. The front doors will be locked! There will be LCWRT members placed along the way to remind you. We will have less walking from now on folks!

Renew Your Membership!

Whether you are just beginning to learn about the Civil War or enjoy a long experience of Civil War study, you will always find something of interest at our meetings. We invite you to explore our website, check out the list of future speakers and to become a member. Tell your history-loving friends about us as we gain new insights into the conflict that defined our nation. Give information and ask your friends and neighbors to join you. We want to share our good fortune with the community. (See Membership Form in this issue.)

Ralph Peters — Summer, July 13, 2016, Free Meeting!

We're excited to announce that on Wednesday, July 13, 2016, Lt. Col. Ralph Peters will speak at Magnolia Hall in Sun City for the LCWRT. Peters is a prolific novelist, an essayist, a former career soldier, and an adventurer. He is the author of a dozen critically acclaimed novels, two influential works on strategy, "Beyond Terror" and "Fighting for the Future: Will American Triumph?" He also writes under the pen name "Owen Parry." Check out his wonderful Civil War books: "Cain at Gettysburg," "Hell or Richmond," or my favorite "Valley of the Shadow: A Novel." The best-selling writer also appears frequently as a Fox News Strategic Analyst. The release date for his newest book "The Damned of Petersburg" is July 5, 2016. (The book is ready for pre-order from Amazon.) Peters topic is "1864: Our Civil War's Savage Year," with a concentration on the fighting in Va., the fascinating personalities and his belief that the summer of 1864 marked the birth of modern warfare. Meet Peters, at a meet, greet and book signing in the lobby after the program. Tell your friends, this event is open to anyone who lives in Sun City!

LCWRT Scholarship Fund!

The American Civil War was a profound event in our history that still has an effect on our lives today. The LCWRT is a group dedicated to studying the Civil War, the people who fought it, and promoting a broader understand of the conflict and how it has shaped American history. Our first Scholarship last May was a huge success. The LCWRT executive committee has decided to expand the Scholarship Fund. We will now include not only Bluffton High School for all of the public and private high schools in the Beaufort, Jasper County area. The Scholarship is \$1,000 eligible to a high school senior. Since we are an independent registered nonprofit 501 c (3) organization, memberships and donations are tax-deductible to the full extent as allowable by law. Help us help students in the Lowcountry learn more about the Civil War and enable a local student to further his advanced education. Please send donations to our new Treasurer Charles E. Glassick, 42 Kings Creek Drive, Bluffton, SC 29909. Please mark: For Scholarship Fund!

MINIÉ BALL GAZETTE

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