



MINIÉ BALL GAZETTE

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

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE – February 24, 2016

Dear Civil War Enthusiasts,

I thought it was a good time to look back on our year, and pass out kudos for work well done, and look forward to the balance of this year. As far as programs, we have living legend Ed Bearss appearing in March. His memory is incredible at ninety-three plus years, and as he often states, "If I am still alive, I'll be there." While we are trying to cover new territory on the Civil War, Ed will give us an in-depth look at Vicksburg. In April and May, we have local speakers followed by modestly priced bus trips to the subjects locations. We finish up the year in July with an extra, exciting presentation by prize-winning bestselling author Ralph Peters at Magnolia Hall in Sun City. Peters is also a journalist/commentator and strategic analyst. His Civil War novels are brutally realistic.

What a terrific year it has been. Since September, we have had an unusual presentation of Civil War Diaries, Letters, and Journals by the women of the Sun City Theater Group with quilts displayed, followed by an ice cream social. Professor Mary DeCredico from the Naval Academy spoke in October. In November, we had a definitive look at the Battle of Port Royal with a bus and boat trip to the Battle sites. January and February saw our annual visits by Bud Robertson and Jack Davis. Both of these distinguished speakers (and Ed Bearss) forgo their regular fees and minimize their expenses in support of the LCWRT.

Financially we are in excellent shape. The Executive Board is conservative in their approach to spending your hard earned dues. Several programs are more expensive, but we think are worthy. We've held the line on raising dues for several years and have still brought you outstanding programs. This year we presented nine great presentations at an average cost of \$2.80 per meeting. We'll continue to seek new and innovative ways to bring you great programs such as the grant we received from the S.C. Humanities for our River's Bridge Tour.

Our Keller Family Scholarship is well on the way to being fully funded for this year. The two raffles held recently were a tremendous help. We will only have raffles when there is an outstanding book to warrant it. Jack Davis donated his honorarium that would normally go to the Civil War Trust to the Scholarship. Caroline recently reported that we have offered our scholarship to 21 high schools in Beaufort and Jasper counties. What a wonderful program and a great way for people to get to know us.

Finally, our entire staff of volunteers has done an excellent job. Whether it is Caroline's expanded *Minie Ball Gazette* or Tom McNamara's Wednesday night challenge of getting into the building setting up and closing down; or John Kemp's fantastic programs, I am eternally grateful. These people are great, but they need help. Think about volunteering.

Regards, Robert Waite
President, LCWRT, Inc.

Edwin Cole Bearss

A legendary career employee of the U.S. National Park Service.

Born on 26, 1923, in Billings, Montana Bearss grew up on the rugged family cattle ranch, the "E Bar S," near Sarpy, Mont., through the depths of the Great Depression. His father, a Marine in WWI, read accounts of military campaigns to young Ed and his brother. Ed's lifelong interest in military history was jump-started by a biography of the dashing Confederate Cavalry General J.E.B. Stuart by John Thomason. Bearss named many of the ranch animals after famous generals and battles; his favorite milk cow was "Antietam."

Bearss graduated from high school in May 1941 and hitchhiked around the United States, visiting his first Civil War battlefields. He joined the Marine Corps in April 1942 and served with the 3rd Marine Raider Battalion at Guadalcanal. In January 1944, Ed was severely wounded at "Suicide Creek" Cape Gloucester, New Britain by Japanese machine gun fire. Evacuated to California, Ed spent 26 months recovering in various hospitals.

He used the G.I. Bill to finance his education at Georgetown University, from which he obtained a B.S. degree in Foreign Service Studies in 1949. He worked for three years in the U.S. Navy Hydrographic Office in Maryland and used his spare time to visit numerous Civil War battlefields in the East. Receiving his M.A. in history from Indiana University in 1955, he wrote his thesis on Irish-born Confederate Major General Patrick R. Cleburne killed in the Battle of Franklin (Nov. 30, 1864).

Bearss worked as a historian at Vicksburg National Military Park, Vicksburg, Mississippi. It was at Vicksburg that he met his wife, Margie Riddle Bearss (1925-2006), also a Civil War historian; they were married on July 30, 1958. They first lived in the Leila Lockett House in Vicksburg formerly occupied by then-Maj. Gen. Ulysses S. Grant's soldiers in 1863, and eventually had three children. At Vicksburg, Bearss did the research leading him and two friends to the long-lost Union ironclad gunboat *U.S.S. Cairo*. The *Cairo* was torpedoed and sunk on December 12, 1862. The gunboat spent 100 years on the Yazoo River well preserved in mud. It was raised on December 12, 1964, and is on exhibit near the Vicksburg National Cemetery.

He has written over 18 Civil War books including *Hardluck Ironclad: The Sinking and the Salvage of the Cairo*. He appeared in *The Civil War*, PBS series by Ken Burns, *Civil War Journal*, A & E Network, *Civil War Combat*, History Channel and the *Smithsonian's Great Battles of the Civil War*, TLC. He has also edited many other books and written many Civil War articles for various magazines and periodicals. His 2007 book *Fields of Honor: Pivotal Battles of the Civil War*, is illustrated with detailed maps and archival images with a unique narrative of the War's most critical battles. The informative book feels like you are walking in the battlefields and getting a clear description of the action and fascinating details about the men. He has won a huge, devoted following with his battlefield tours and soliloquies about the heroes, scoundrels, and little-known moments of the conflict that still fascinates America. Antietam, Shiloh, Gettysburg, rich with human interest and colorful details learned from a lifetime of study

His encyclopedic knowledge of military affairs extends well beyond the Civil War, covering the American Revolution, War of 1812, Indian Wars and WWI and WWII.

Ed Bearss is known by many as the greatest living Civil War historian and a true American icon. He was Chief Historian of the National Park Service from 1981 to 1994. After his retirement, he received the title Chief Historian Emeritus, which he holds to this day.

Aboard the Gunboat *Cairo*

Edwin C. Bearss - "Hardluck Ironclad!"

The Choctaw Indians called the Yazoo the "River of Death," before the Confederates infested it with "secret weapons." (The Choctaws were originally from the southeastern states of Mississippi, Louisiana, or Alabama. The River was also named by French explorer La Salle in 1682 as "*Riviere des Yazous*" about the Yazoo tribe living near the River's mouth at the confluence with the Mississippi "the Father of Waters"- a 2,340-mile river. The River is considered to mark the southern boundary of what is called the Mississippi Delta, broad floodplain that was cultivated for cotton plantations before the War. The South relied on the River as one of its major means of commerce and communication.) On the bleak, overcast morning of Dec. 12, 1862, the river proved true to its name. It claimed as its victim the Union Ironclad River City-class ironclad gunboat *U.S.S. Cairo*, the first warship ever sunk by electrically activated torpedoes (now considered an underwater mine) on her rendezvous with destiny on the Yazoo.

Gen. Ulysses S. Grant, during the winter of 1863 spent attempting to take the strategic river port city of Vicksburg, Miss. an important town high above the Mississippi River, Grant and his Army of the Tennessee had been trying to seize the strategic Confederate river fortress of Vicksburg. It was all but impregnable. A Confederate cannon aimed at the River from the heights controlled all river traffic. Direct assault from the River was impossible because of the steep, well-defended heights. The Union boats could not control the River until Vicksburg, was neutralized. The Rebels counter moves and some of the most pernicious terrain in the entire Western theatre resisted the previous attempts. The day dawned cold and cloudy on Dec. 12, 1862. The twisting Yazoo was then nearing flood stages as the *Cairo* with her 22-foot paddlewheel nosed her way up the Yazoo north of Vicksburg. She triggered two Confederate demijohn mines. Within minutes, the 512-ton ironclad had sunk six fathoms to the muddy bottom with no loss of life.

"Two sudden explosions in quick succession occurred, one close to my port quarter, the other apparently under my port bow – the latter so severe as to raise the guns under it some distance from the deck. She commenced to fill so rapidly that in two or three minutes the water was over her forecastle. . . . The Cairo sunk . . . minutes after the explosion, going totally out of sight, except the top of the chimneys . . . though some half a dozen men were injured, no lives were lost. There was perfect discipline." - Capt. Lt. Com. Thos. O. Selfridge.

Eventually, the military forgot the *Cairo's* exact location. Over the decades, however, during periods when the Yazoo's waters were particularly low, fishermen and others working on the river reported seeing what they believe to be sections of the ironclads' superstructure.

Edwin C. Bearss the chief historian of the National Park Service, Washington, D.C. But 43 years ago, he worked as a historian at the Vicksburg National Military Park in Miss. There he heard stores about what had happened to the *Cairo*. They raised his curiosity, began a historical adventure, and resulted in his writing a fascinating history of the gunboat. On Nov. 12, 1956, Bearss and his friend Warren Grabau sat with another man in a small outboard motor powered boat on the muddy Yazoo. Believing that a systematic search of the river would yield up the *Cairo*, by Bearss and Grabau had researched historical documents that related to the vessel and studied Civil War-era river maps. They developed a hypothesis about where the unlucky gunboat lay. So, armed with not much more than a pocket compass, and guided by the owner of the motorboat, they set out for what proved to be a very short search. They found the ironclad that very day. It took three years for the *Cairo* project to reach its next phase. Scuba divers made two dives in early Oct. 1959. They groped blindly around the ironclad in total darkness 20 feet below the surface encountering the *Cairo's* latest occupants – hundreds of tiny freshwater shrimp. In 1960 a nonprofit corporation, "Operation *Cairo*, Inc.," was formed to raise the gunboat and preserve it as a naval museum.

Since then the Yazoo has also proved to be a river of resurrection. Less than a century after its total immersion in muddy waters, the sunken gunboat was discovered intact and well preserved on the fast moving

river's bottom, big guns loaded and ready to fire – a ready-made museum piece. The discovery of the sunken ship on Nov. 12, 1956, through April 29, 1979. The salvage operation didn't go smoothly and the sunken wreck received some damages and artifacts were lost during the recovery operation. The vessel recovery was completed on Dec. 22, 1984 – 102 years after it was sunk. (Through the years, the artifacts were taken to the Vicksburg National Military Park, where they were cleaned, cataloged and stored. Artifacts recovered during the salvage operation included everything from ordnance to personal items belonging to the crew. Through the recovery of these artifacts, we are allowed to meet and learn about some of the crew members.) With the recovery of the ship came care and storage problems. In 1965, the *Cairo* was moved by barge to Ingalls shipyard in Pascagoula, Miss. During the next 12 years at Ingalls, the vessel was dismantled, marked, cleaned and treated with preservatives. The timbers had to be kept wet to prevent rot and decay. The hulk weathered Hurricane Camille at a shipyard in Pascagoula, where it suffered more damage and valuable pieces of the ship were lost. The ironclad returned to Vicksburg in June 1977, and on-site restoration work began two years later. Bearss named her the “Hardluck Ironclad” because of the troubles she faced during her short life afloat and during her salvage and restoration.

Finally, she met with good fortune. Today, the *Cairo*, one of the first of the Union's river ironclads, is the only one of its class in existence – the only one that has survived the War. The six million dollar project consists of a museum, walkways, and a covered berth, containing the restored *Cairo*. The museum displays 1,200 artifacts and has several thousand more in storage. The “Hardluck Ironclad” is both Civil War history and modern archaeology. (There are 29 sunken ships from the Civil War beneath the waters of the River.)

The *Cairo* is sheltered permanent in a berth in the Vicksburg National Military Park, Vicksburg, Mississippi. Open on one side, refitted with some new timbers, it is still an impressive example of Victorian technology. (There were six similar city-named sister ships that fought the inland river patrols during the War.)

Perhaps the ultimate irony in the *Cairo's* life is that the silt in the waters of the “River of Death” which so effectively hid the Rebel's “infernal machines” also kept the vessel preserved until it could be raised and restored.

NOTE: In 1876, the Mississippi River changed its course, shifting west several miles and leaving Vicksburg without a river front. In 1902, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers diverted the Yazoo River into the old river bed, forming the Yazoo Diversion Canal. The modern-day Port of Vicksburg is still located on this canal.

Sources: *Hardluck Ironclad: The Sinking and Salvage of the Cairo* – Edwin C. Bearss
U.S. S. Cairo: The Story of a Civil War Gunboat – Virgil Carrington Jones &
Harold L. Peterson
Civil War Times – Nov. 1986 by Roger B. Steakley

Civil War Timeline – March 1862

- March 2 Leonidas Polk completes his withdrawal from Columbus. He moves south to New Madrid, Missouri
- March 3 Abraham Lincoln appoints Andrew Johnson to be military governor of Tennessee
General John Pope lays siege to New Madrid
- March 4 Over what is regarded as a communication problem, Halleck relieves Grant from command and replaces him with Charles Ferguson Smith
- March 6-8 Battle of Pea Ridge (US), Arkansas. CSA of the West and Missouri State Guard, Union Army of the Southwest

Abraham Lincoln proposes that slaves in the border states be emancipated gradually, with compensation to the owners.

The Monitor, the first Union ironclad, departs from New York.

Barnwell Rhett proposes a yellow sun in a blue shield with a ray for each state. It would eliminate the stars and the red, white, and blue combination of the Yankee flags.
- March 8 Battle of Elkhorn Tavern (CS)

The Merrimac (CSS *Virginia*) battles the *USS Congress* and the *USS Cumberland*, destroying both frigates and killing more than 240 of their crewmen.

Joseph E. Johnston orders the Confederate Army of the Potomac to withdraw from Centerville /Manassas to the Rappahnnock River based on reports from JEB Stuart of increased Yankee activity.

Abraham Lincoln chagrined at George McClellan for not appointing corps commanders, names Edwin Vose Sumner, Samuel Heintzelman, Erasmus Keyes and Irvin McDowell for him.
- March 8-9 Battle of Hampton Roads, VA. The duel of the ironclads, *The Monitor* and *The Merrimac* (CSS *Virginia*). First use of a turreted gun.
- March 11 President Lincoln relieves George McClellan as General-in-chief of the U.S. Army. He continues as commander of the Army of the Potomac.

President Lincoln puts Henry Halleck in charge of all forces in the West. Lincoln also creates the Mountain Department, covering West Virginia and the mountainous area of Virginia. John Fremont is put in command.

For their disastrous performance at Fort Donelson, President Jefferson Davis relieves John Floyd and Gideon Pillow from command.
- March 12 Jacksonville is occupied by Union naval forces.
- March 13 Grant is reinstated to his command.

Jefferson Davis orders Robert E. Lee to “. . . conduct military operations of the armies of the Confederacy.”
- March 14 Battle of New Berne, N.C. Confederate garrison, Union North Carolina Expeditionary Corps.

Union Gen. Ambrose Burnside (US) captures the city.

Following a two-week siege, Federals under John Pope take New Madrid.

March 15 William Tecumseh Sherman and Stephen Hurlbut arrive at Pittsburgh Landing and move inland to Shiloh Baptist Church.

March 17 Ulysses S. Grant assumes command of the forces at Pittsburgh Landing.

George McClellan begins transporting his men to Fort Monroe for the Peninsula Campaign.

Major Gen. Lew Wallace and his division stop at Crump's Landing to destroy the tracks of the Mobile and Ohio Railroad.

March 18 Jefferson Davis moves Judah Benjamin from the War Department to Secretary of State, replacing R.M.T. Hunter. George Randolph of Virginia is appointed Secretary of War.

March 19 Following more than \$10,000 in renovations, Ford's Theater reopens for business (Ford's Athenaeum was the name at the time.)

March 20 Threatened by Stonewall Jackson, Nathaniel Banks withdraws from Strasburg to Winchester.

March 23 John Parke (US) demands the surrender of Fort Macon on the coast of North Carolina. When the Confederates refuse, he lays siege to the fort.

Battle of Kernstown, VA. Confederate Army of the Valley, Union Division, V Corps.

In the first battle of the Shenandoah Campaign, Major Gen. Thomas "Stonewall" Jackson (CS) loses to Brig. Gen. James Shields (US).

Stanwix Station, Ariz. Confederate Company A, Arizona Rangers, Union cavalry from Calif.

March 24 Albert Sidney Johnston's Army arrives at Corinth from Murfreesboro, Tennessee.

March 25 La Villa, Florida. Confederate 4th Florida Inf., Union 4th New Hampshire Infantry

March 26 Moving along the Santa Fe Trail, Confederate Army of New Mexico, Union Dept. of New Mexico engaged a group of Colorado volunteers at Johnson's Ranch. Federal forces withdraw to Glorietta.

March 28 Jefferson Davis proposes a conscription bill, shocking many Southerners.

March 29 The Central Army of Kentucky and the Army of Alabama and West Florida, and is merged into the Army of Mississippi in Corinth under Albert Sidney Johnston with P.G.T. Beauregard as second-in-command. Corps commanders are Braxton Bragg, Leonidas Polk, William Hardee, and George Crittenden.

March 30 **B & O reopens following six months of Confederate control in Maryland and West Virginia.**

The Keller Family Civil War History Scholarship

by Caroline Wallace Kennedy

We are pleased to announce our second Civil War History Scholarship was such an outstanding success we are increasing the amount to \$1,000 and are including private and public high schools in Beaufort and Jasper Counties. The scholarship is intended to promote interest and education in Beaufort and Jasper County residents during the American Civil War.

Applicants must have or above a minimum GPA of 3.0 and be a senior in a Beaufort or Jasper County High School. They must meet the following criteria: Applicants must plan on attending college (either a two-year or four-year program.) Applications must enroll in an accredited college/university in the Fall of 2016. Applicants are required to submit a typed essay (see below).

The 2016 Scholarship Topic: "How the Civil War Created Changes?" The Civil War ended 150 years ago this spring (2015). The students will be required to write an essay on a Civil War topic of their choice that includes stories about one or more personalities that experienced the war in Beaufort and/or Jasper Counties. Explain the importance of knowing about the individual (s) either by describing how they affected the Lowcountry during the War or by describing how they influenced the outcome of the Civil War. A well-written essay of 1,000 words or less is to be typewritten and double spaced. (We will send a complete list of rules to each essay participant.)

The Essay Review Committee will be made up of the LCWRT Executive Committee, and certain other LCWRT members, local teachers, business professionals and professional writers. Judging will include neatness, grammatical correctness, historical accuracy, and originality. The essay should include reference citations or sources used (Wikipedia is not an acceptable reference source.) The citations and bibliography should reflect reading in the appropriate Civil War literature.

The essay contest will be open from January 25, 2016, through March 31, 2016. (Entries must be m. Or postmarked on or before midnight March 31, 2016.) The student's school scholarship counselor will be required to sign the application form.

The winner of our 2016 Keller Family Civil War Scholarship will be notified and asked to attend the LCWRT meeting on, Wednesday, May 11, 2016, to receive his/her scholarship award. The student may use the scholarship to further their educational goals in any recognized college or university. (The LCWRT reserves the right to withhold the offer of a scholarship if it deems the quality of the submissions inadequate.)

If you know of a senior graduating in 2016, and would like a Rules and Application Form, please contact Caroline Wallace Kennedy, communications chairperson for LCWRT: 843.705.5654, cwkenned@aol.com, 8 Rose Bush Lane, Bluffton, SC 29909.

Please make a generous contribution now to our Keller Family Civil War Scholarship Fund for 2016 so we can offer a unique opportunity to a deserving student to further his education. Send to: Michael Sweeney, Treasurer LCWRT, 318 Shearwater Pointe Drive, Bluffton, SC 29909.

The 2016 Lecture Series

April 13 - 6:45 p.m.

Vaughnette Goode-Walker; *Urban Slavery in Savannah*

(April 10th walking tour of Savannah with Ms. Goode-Walker. See *This 'n That* for information.)

May 11 - 6:45 p.m.

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

(Tour to Rivers Bridge Battlefield on May 12th. See *This 'n That* for information.)

July 13 - 6:45 p.m. - Ralph Peters, novelist, essayist, former career soldier who frequently appears 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 Battle of Rivers' Bridge

During the Campaign of the Carolina's (Dec. — Mar., 1865), Maj. Gen. William T. Sherman's Union armies marched north across South Carolina. The winter of 1865 was especially cold — one of the coldest ever on record — and wet — It rained, sleeted, or snowed practically the entire months of Jan. and Feb. Charleston even had 2 inches of snow which stayed on the ground for over a week. The rain and snow, coupled with the Lowcountry swamps made it a “very cold day in hell” for Sherman's troops. Men climbed trees to sleep or stood knee deep in freezing water all night. Many of the men were found dead from the cold in the mornings.

On Feb. 2-3, 1865, the 50th Regiment, North Carolina Infantry with 1,200 Confederate forces held the crossings of the Salkehatchie Rive, under the command of Maj. Gen. Lafayette McLaws against the advance of the right wing of Sherman's Army

Federal soldiers (5,200 strong) began building bridges across the swamp to bypass the road block. In the meantime, Union columns worked to get on the Confederates' flank and rear. The next day two brigades under Maj. Gen. Francis P. Blair waded through the swamp and flanked the Confederates. On Feb. 3rd, two Union brigades waded the swamp downstream and assaulted McLaw's right. McLaws retreated toward Branchville after stalling Sherman's advance for only one day.” (By March 9, 1865, his troops had passed out of the state into North Carolina — leaving behind a path of destruction 100 miles wide and extending the entire length of the state.)

The battle was a Union victory under Maj. Gen, Francis Preston Blair, Jr. There were 92 Union casualties with 170 Rebel casualties. (The Battle was also known by other names: Battle of Duck Creek, Hickory Hill, Lawtonville, Owens' Crossroads and the Battle of Salkehatchie River.)

“Again at the hospital I see the horrid results of every battle. Men mutilated in every shape conceivable groaning, begging for assistance and gasping in death. Many of our wounded will have to lie all night in that horrid swamp, it being impossible to find them and carry them out on the narrow foot bridge that has been made. Many have had their heads propped up out of the water where they lay to keep them from drowning.” —

Lt. Col. Oscar L. Jackson, 63rd Regiment O.V.I. from New Castle, Pa.

The Irish in the American Civil War

The first St. Patrick's Day was celebrated in America on March 17, 1737 in Boston, Mass.

"For each petal on the shamrock this brings a wish your way - good health, good luck and happiness for today and every day." - Irish Blessing

There is perhaps no other ethnic group so closely identified with the Civil War years and the immediate aftermath of the war as Irish-Americans. In 1960 there were 1.6 million Irish-born people in the United States, with many hundreds of thousands more first generation Irish-Americans in New York, one in four of the population were Irish-born. During the war, 180,000 Irish-born fought for the Union, 30,000 for the Confederacy. (There were 200,000 Irish men and women who were involved in various ways in the War.) The majority of the Irish, who fought and suffered through the conflict, had endured the Great Famine.

The Irish were chiefly distrusted because they were Catholic, and there was much opposition in the U.S. to the Church of Rome. Tempers boiled over in July 1863 when the first official draft was held; a mob of mostly immigrant laborers gathered at the site of the draft lottery, and as names were called and those not wealthy enough to purchase a substitute were required to join up, the mob's temper flared. The situation escalated into full-scale rioting; for three days, New York and Boston were caught up in a rampage of looting, burning, and destruction. Many of the rioters were frustrated Irish laborers who could not get jobs, and their targets were draft officials, as well as free blacks living in the North, who seemed able to get jobs that the Irish were denied. It took the return of armed troops from the fighting at Gettysburg to bring the cities back to peace and quiet.

In the Federal army, there was the fabled Meagher's Irish Brigade, led by the flamboyant Thomas Meagher; they went into battle with an emerald green flag with a large golden harp in its center, celebrating their heritage even in the midst of death. The Brigade was, probably, the best known of any brigade organization, it having made an unusual reputation for dash and gallantry. It belonged to the First Division of the Second Corps, Army of the Potomac and was numbered as the Second Brigade. The regiments which properly belonged to the Irish Brigade were the 63rd New York Infantry, 69th New York Infantry, 88th New York Infantry, 28th Massachusetts Infantry and the 16th Pennsylvania Infantry. The Brigade earned their battlefield reputation in the Seven Days Battles. On numerous occasions they had acted as the rear guard, being all that stood between the Union Army and destruction. The Brigade advanced giving voice to their Gaelic battle cry "*Faugh a Ballagh*" (Clear the Way.) They had earned the respect of their enemy. In frustrated admiration, a Confederate commander had noted "Here come those damned green flags again." Now four out of five regiments had *no* green flags, they had been shot to pieces, only the newly arrived 28th Mass. had the green flag inscribed with the brigade motto "*Riamh Nar dhruid C sbairn lan.*" (They shall never retreat from the charge of lances.) At Fredericksburg, the nation's deadliest conflict, they would live up to that motto to the last full measure. The Irish Brigade lost more than 4,000 men in killed and wounded. Here is an inscription on a memorial on the Fredericksburg battlefield: "*To the Sons of Erin who put God, Country and Duty Before Self. We must never forget the sacrifices they made for Freedom.*"

"The Irish immigrants who fought for the Confederacy were not as well known as the Irish that fought for the Union since they were not as numerous. Irish Catholics were not as persecuted in the South as those in the North, mainly because they were so few in the South and they did not draw attention to themselves as those in the North could not help doing by their sheer numbers. As was the case with the Union Irish, the Confederate Irish were usually Roman Catholic, especially those from Louisiana and Missouri. Of course, they were not limited only to those few Southern states, and not all Irish Confederates were Roman Catholic: many were Protestants. In Historian Phillip Thomas Tuckers book *Irish Confederates: The Civil War's Forgotten Soldiers*, he examines some of the South's most overlooked heroic fighting men. Some chapters focus upon the Irish-Americans in specific regiments and brigades, such as the Irishmen who served in the 1st Missouri Confederate

Brigade at the Battle of Champion Hill, and the Celtic-Gaelic rebels of the 10th Tennessee Infantry Regiment of Volunteers.

Despite their wartime heroics, many Irish veterans came home to find the same ugly bias they faced before going off to fight for the Union. Many of them chose to go into the post-war army. Still others followed Thomas Meager into Canada, where they joined up in an attempt to free Canada from British domination. Eventually, things did get better for the Irish, but it was many long years before ugly anti-Irish prejudice faded.

Irish-American Civil War Music

The American Civil War represented the second great trauma of their lives. Listen to the Southern accent, and listen to the sorts of tunes Southern soldiers loved to sing, and you will realize that a great deal of the South was settled by Irish immigrants. Next to “Dixie’s Land,” perhaps no other song was as well loved by the Confederate soldier as “The Bonnie Blue Flag.” Written by Harry Macarthy and sung to the old Irish tune “The Irish Jaunting Car.” The song lays out the order of secession of the States that went on to form the Confederacy. The first flag of the Confederacy was a single white star on a blue background. This song, especially popular in the South during the early years of the War, counts out the 11 seceding states one by one.

“We are a band of brothers and native to the soil, fighting for the property we gained by honest toil; And when our rights were threatened, the cry rose near and far — “Hurrah for the Bonnie Blue Flag that bears a single star!” Chorus: “Hurrah! Hurrah! For Southern rights hurrah! Hurrah for the Bonnie Blue Flag that bears a single star.”

The Irish-American Civil War Union and Confederate soldiers left us a legacy of songs with sounds of the fretless, gut-string banjo, guitar, uilleann pipes, fiddle and button accordion, to the 19-century four-part vocal harmony arrangements and piano. This song “Song of the Rebel Irish,” was featured in a campfire scene filmed for *Gods and Generals* but it was cut from the final version. You can find it on YouTube under a search for Irish Confederates. Image the Irish Confederates playing this song on their pipes and adding a Rebel yell at the charge. I think it would scare anyone half to death.

“Oh, not now for songs of a nation’s wrong, not the groans of starving labor; Let the rifle ring and the bullet sing to the clash of the flashing saber! There are Irish ranks on the tented banks of Columbia’s guarded ocean . . .” - Kelly’s Irish Brigade

The Irish Connection in Margaret Mitchell’s “Gone With the Wind.”

In *Gone With the Wind*, Tara was founded by Irish immigrant Gerald O’Hara after he won 40 acres of land in an all-night poker game. The O’Hara men were Irish immigrants who came to Savannah. Gerald had dreams of becoming a planter and named the plantation Tara after the Hill of Tara, once the capital of the High King of ancient Ireland. Gerald borrows money from his merchant brothers and bankers to buy slaves and turns the farm into a successful cotton plantation. (Mitchell modeled Tara after several plantations particularly the plantation of her maternal grandmother, Annie Fitzgerald Stephens, of the daughter of an Irish immigrant.)

Editor’s Note: I have a long-standing interest in the Irish experience in the American Civil War. Many of my ancestors fought in the conflict with the most famous being my fifth-great-great-grandfather William “Tee” Sullivan (1826-1090), a full-blooded Irishman, who fought in Capt. Ed Baxter’s Company Light Artillery, C.S.A. He served as a teamster in the War and was captured and paroled on April 28, 1865 at Macon, Ga. Also known as Uncle Billy, he was a mule man. He was said to have preferred the mule under saddle to the horse. His job in the War was to keep the mules trained and in good physical shape for movement at anytime and to drive the munitions wagons to the front. This was no frivolous job that in that era everything moved on the backs or at the heels of horses and mules. The unbroken, untrained, hungry, sick and weak stock was a liability

no army could afford. He was a master of returning animals from their “sick” category back to the “working string.” William was also called Reverend, serving his Lord as a Methodist preacher whenever the need arose. His father, Owen T. Sullivan, had one of the first land grants in Middle Tenn. in the late 1700s. The Sullivan's and their ancestors are still farming the same land. (My Sullivan's came to the Virginia Colony via England from Ireland in the early 1600s to work the tobacco fields in servitude for King James I.) - cwk

Sources: www.civilwar.org, -www.legacy-america, www.irishcentral.com, *Descendants of William M. And Artemese E. Green Sullivan* - G. Wayne Bradford, *Capt. Ed Baxter & His Tennessee Artillerymen, C.S.A.*, by Dennis J. Lampley

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LOWCOUNTRY CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE TRIP TO GETTYSBURG, AND ANTIETAM AND LEXINGTON

October 17-20, 2016 (4 days/3 nights)

Includes: Transportation via a luxury motor coach, three nights accommodation, three meals, bus driver gratuity, snacks on bus, entrance fees, and guided tours of Gettysburg and Antietam

Cost: LCWRT Member (double occupancy) - \$465 per person; Non-member - \$515 (includes LCWRT Membership for 2016-2017) Single occupancy rate: Member - \$699, Non-member - \$740.

Limited space is available. First come first served. Full payment reserves space. Minimum deposit of \$300.00 per person due with registration. Cancellation possible with a full refund of deposit until Feb. 15, 2016. After this date, you may sell your space, but no refunds will be possible for any reason. Trip insurance available through AAA in Bluffton or American Express.

Trip details will be provided at a later date along with hotel contact numbers, itinerary, recommended sites to visit on own time, etc . . . but, for now, highlights are as follows:

Day One - Lowcountry to Gettysburg: B transit to and arrival for two-night stay at Gettysburg Hotel (exact time TBD); dinner at historic antebellum Gettysburg Inn; special presentation by a local historian.

Day Two - Gettysburg: Breakfast on own; tour Gettysburg battlefield covering events of July 1 and 2, 1863, with box lunch provided; visit Gettysburg Visitor Center and Cyclorama; dinner and evening on own; overnight at the hotel.

Day Three - Gettysburg/Antietam/Lexington: Early breakfast on own; tour of battlefield covering events of July 3, 1863; free time (lunch on own) will follow (approximately 10 a.m. through 2 p.m.). Optional activities will include: return to Visitor Center, Seminary Ridge Museum, shop for memorabilia in town, or participate in walking guided tour of Pickett's Charge.

Depart Gettysburg for Lexington via a **driving tour of Antietam battlefield**; dinner and evening on own in Lexington with lodging in historic central district of town.

Day Four - Lexington and Transit to Lowcountry: Breakfast at the hotel in Lexington; morning on own for optional activities including: Lee Chapel and Museum, Stonewall Jackson home and/or tomb in the cemetery named for him, and the Marshall Museum; lunch on own.

Depart Lexington for return tip to Lowcountry.

Lodging all nights will be in the historic central Gettysburg and Lexington, within walking distance, or short rides, of main historic sites and attractions. Many dining options are available for breakfasts, lunch, and dinners on your own. Military stores, art galleries, and souvenir shops will be provided to participants for use during the time on own. Information: Make checks payable to LCWRT. For Registration Form and further information call Richard Thomas at 843.422.3842.

Civil War Trivia

Something happen in 1864 which was the “turning point” for the re-election of President Lincoln. What was it? (see answer at the bottom of “This 'n That” - last page)

Lowcountry Civil War Round Table Inc. 2016 Executive Committee

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Programs	John Kemp 319 Shearwater Pointe Drive Bluffton, SC 29909	201-845-4178 Norwich68@gmail.com

Five Known Manuscript Copies of the Gettysburg Address

Of the five known manuscript, copies of the Gettysburg Address, the Library of Congress has two. President Lincoln gave one of these to each of his two private secretaries, John Nicolay, and John Hay. The other three copies of the Address were written by Lincoln for charitable purposes well after Nov. 19. The copy for Edward Everett, the orator who spoke at Gettysburg for two hours prior to Lincoln, is at the Illinois State Historical Library in Springfield; the Bancroft copy, requested by historian George Bancroft, is at Cornell Univ..

This 'n That!

Bus Trips to Savannah & Battle of Rivers' Bridge

Savannah Heritage-History Waking Tour

Our tour of Savannah will be a walking tour on **April 10th**. The chartered bus will leave from the Walmart parking lot in Hardeeville at 4400 U.S. Hwy. 278 promptly at **9:30 a.m.** The one and one-half hour tour, will include a six-block are of Old Town Savannah. Tickets will be sold at our next meeting on Wed., march 9th for \$20 which includes the tour and bus. The Wed, April 9th meeting speaker will be Vaughnette Goode-Walker, an author, and Savannah historian. (Goode-Walker is the founder and operator Footprints of Savannah Walking Tours, since 2009. Learn about “urban slavery,” its impact on the city of Savannah, and its rich, diverse history. There will be time for everyone to have lunch on their own. For more information call John Kemp at 201.845.4178.

Battle of Rivers' Bridge Trip

Our tour to the Rivers' Bridge Battlefield State Historic Site in Ehrhardt (Bamberg County), S.C. Will be on **Thurs., May 12th**. The bus will leave from the Walmart parking lot at 4400 U.S. Hwy. 278 in Hardeeville promptly at **9:00 a.m.** We will have a guided tour of the preserved battlefield and the surrounding area. (The site is one of the Confederacy's last stands against Gen. William T. Sherman's sweep across the South.) There will also be a program presented at the Activities Center at the Battlefield. (We are still working on the lunch details of the trip.) Tickets will be on sale at each meeting or by calling John Kemp at 201.845.4178. (Partial funding is provided by the S.C. Humanities Council.)

Volunteer to Help Your Club!

Please consider volunteering with the LCWRT. We need someone to assist John Kemp and eventually take over as program chairperson. 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.lcwrtsquarespace.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>. If you cannot volunteer, please bring your friend(s) to our meetings. We have programs geared for everyone!

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 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.lcwrtsquarespace.com, and you will be contacted.

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 **Wed., July 13, 2016**, Lt. Col. Ralph Peters will speak at Magnolia Hall in Sun City for the LCWRT. Peters is a retired Army lieutenant colonel and former enlisted man, a controversial strategist for Fox News, and veteran of the intelligence world; a bestselling, prize-winning novelist; a journalist who has covered multiple conflicts and frequently appears in the broadcast media; and a lifelong traveler with experience in over seventy countries on six continents. A widely read columnist, Ralph Peters' journalism has appeared in dozens of newspapers, magazines and web-zines, including *The New York Post*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *USA Today*, the *Washington Post*, *Newsweek*, *Harpers*, and *Armchair General Magazine*. Peters grew up in Schuylkill County, Pennsylvania, and studied writing at Pennsylvania State University, and graduated from St. Mary's University in San Antonio, Texas with a M.A. in international relations. 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 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 all LCWRT members and to anyone who lives in Sun City!

LCWRT Scholarship Fund – Name Change!

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 tremendous success. The LCWRT Executive Committee has decided to expand the Scholarship Fund. At the last Executive Committee meeting, it was voted to change the name of the Scholarship to the Keller Family Civil War Scholarship, as a tribute to the Keller family founding members of our club. 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!

Michael Skinner – The Man of Many Uniforms!

The Battle of Pocotaligo was held January 23-24, 2016 hosted by the Charles Jones Colcock Camp #2100 Sons of Confederate Veterans, Ridgeland, S.C. The Saturday events were canceled, but they rallied on Sunday for a respectable battle according to Skinner. "It was cold and wet. We did an infantry skirmish deep in the woods on Saturday just for the troops. We used an actual gun emplacement and trenches. Sad to say I was slain in battle!" Civil War battle reenactors in South Carolina include more than 16 reenactor units that honor our forefathers. The reenactors drill, march, and battle. They give the general public an understanding of the military event of the War, and have a blast doing it! They pride themselves in offering authentic and diverse battles and living history impressions. The SCV is the direct heir of the United Confederate Veterans and the oldest hereditary organization for male descendants of Confederate soldiers. Organized at Richmond, Va. in 1896, the SCV continues to serve as a historical, patriotic, and non-politic organization dedicated to ensuring that a true history

of the 1861-1865 period is preserved. Membership in the Sons of Confederate Veterans is open to all male descendants of any veteran who served honorably in the Confederate armed forces. The reenacting group professes no political, religious, or cultural affiliations whatsoever. We are fortunate to have First Lt. Michael Skinner, who appears at our meetings dressed as either a Johnny Reb or a Billy Yank. Thanks, Michael! At our next meeting, have your photo made with a brave Rebel or a Yank.

Coming Events for the Morris Center for Lowcountry Heritage

Have friends and family coming to visit this spring? Don't forget the special events sponsored by the Morris Center in Ridgeland, S.C. On **Thurs., Mar. 3rd** River Dog Brewery & the Morris Center will host a **Pirates, Plunder & Lager Party** to preview the Lowcountry Pirates Exhibit. Quench your thirst with some local brew by River Dog Brewery, and enjoy light refreshments. Interact with pirates, and learn about the Buccaneers of the Lowcountry. Take your guests to the Morris Center and have lunch at Duke's BBQ at 10190 S. Jacob Smart Blvd. (open Thurs., Fri., and Sat.) and enjoy their barbeque, sweet tea, peach cobbler or banana puddin' or enjoy a hamburger with pimento cheese and fried green tomatoes (highly recommended by LCWRT member Jim Kilgore) at Fidler's Seafood Restaurant and Market, 7738 W. Main St., Ridgeland, S.C. Check www.Morrisheritagecenter.org for prices. On Mar. 24th, from 1 to 2 p.m. Patricia McNeely will present "The End of Sherman's Campaign through the Carolinas and the Lost Confederate Gold." *"Even as Sherman angrily denied the rumors, the hunt began for the Confederate gold that was trundling down through the Carolinas into Georgia. The search is still going on today."* - P. McNeely. The Morris Center for the Lowcountry Heritage is located at 10782 S. Jacob Smart Blvd., Ridgeland, SC 29936 – call 843.284.9227.

Civil War Times Magazine Discount for LCWRT Members

Love the *Civil War Times* magazine? (When I get my copy, I read it cover to cover. - cwk) Well, we as members of the LCWRT get a discount. Enter the discount code for a good savings - \$18.95 vs \$29.95 for a year's subscription (six issues) with similar savings for a two-year subscription. To subscribe call 1.800.435.0715 and use the code 52LCCR. For more information go to HISTORYNET.COM – historynet.com/civil-war-times.

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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.