



MINIÉ BALL GAZETTE

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

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE – April 26, 2016

Dear Civil War Enthusiasts,

We are already at the end of our regular 2015-2016 Program Year. It is great to look back at another eight outstanding programs. But it is always time to look ahead. May is our annual election meeting. The Executive Committee is considering all candidates. If you would be interested in serving as one of our elected members, please contact any current Executive Committee member, and we'll add your name to the ballot. By the way, if you are or are not seeking a position, please attend our May meeting as a quorum is required for a legal election. I can't imagine that anyone wants to contemplate what comes next without a quorum. Can you say special meeting??

Also, it will be an exciting meeting with our Keller Family Scholarship winner introduced. Caroline Kennedy and Joe Roney have worked diligently on the selection. This year the winner will receive a \$1,000 scholarship award. Our past winner Marcel Smith will probably attend, and there may be some surprises.

Remember that we are going on a tour to the River's Bridge Battle site on Thursday. Sign up! Bring your lunch, walking shoes, and bug spray. The S. C. Humanities has partially funded the trip. We thank them. Bring friends and family. The tour is open to the public. I am told that the on-site narrator is worth the trip alone.

Finally, do not fail to sign up for the July 13 visit by Lt. Col. Ralph Peters, renowned author, and TV personality. Look for the recently sent email invitation. You must have a ticket through EventBrite! Caroline Kennedy is responsible for putting this program together. The presentation will take place at Magnolia Hall in Sun City. If you live in the City - Go! If not, we have arranged entrance. So, come to Sun City. Bring your pens for autographs and your money to purchase his brand new book. His talk is a must see and open to Sun City residents. We expect an overflow crowd.

Have wonderful summer. Don't forget to renew your membership.

Respectfully, Robert Waite
President, LCWRT, Inc.

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The Keller Family Civil War History Scholarship

"The content in both were great but what put the winning essay over the top was the writer's originality, vivid description, and organization. In my opinion, the essay could complete with that of a 1st or even 2nd-year college student!" - Marrcel Smith, Freshman Clemson University.

We received seven (actually eight) essays for our 2016 Scholarship. The Topic was “Fascinating Lowcountry Civil War Heroes.” Unfortunately for one of the students, who will remain nameless, they did not read the directions and wrote about Sergeant William Jasper, a hero during the American Revolutionary War! Oops! Rule number one – read the directions. The essay is excellent and very well written.

The other seven essays were good, with two rating excellent. Our team of fifteen judges, including several LCWRT members, teachers, and professional writers have chosen our 2016 winner. We will be contacting the winner the week of May 2nd and invite he/she and their parents to our Wednesday, May 11th meeting for the presentation. 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.)

Marrcel Smith, our first LCWRT Scholarship winner will be present, to award the 2016 Keller Family Civil War History Scholarship. Marrcel is completing his first year at Clemson and has decided to change majors. He will now be majoring in Political Science. This fine young man is a great representative for our club, and a testament to what good parenting produces.

Please make a generous contribution now to our Keller Family Civil War Scholarship Fund for 2017 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.

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Did you know? In his mid-teens Jesse James joined the Confederate raiders led by William Quantril. The famous “Dead or Alive” reward for Jesse in 1882 was issued by an ex-Confederate officer, Governor Thomas T. Crittenden of Missouri.

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The 2016 Lecture Series

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

September 14 – 6:45 p.m. - Carolynn Curray author “Life of Ella G. Clanton”

October 12, - 6:45 p.m. - Phil Leigh “Trading with the Enemy”

November 9 – 6:45 p.m. - Lou Benfante “Fort Pulaski” (tour the following day)

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

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The Battle of Rivers' Bridge

Present by John White, manager and park ranger for Rivers' Bridge State Historic Site

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 the coldest in 20 years. It was also one of the wettest winters. 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 McLaws' 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.

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Battle of Rivers' Bridge Trip

(Bring your lunch!)

Our tour to the Rivers' Bridge Battlefield State Historical Site in Ehrhardt (Bamberg County, S.C. Will be on Thursday, 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 stand against Gen. William T. Sherman's sweep across the South.) There will also be a program presented at the Activities Center at the Battlefield. (Bring your lunch. Water will be provided.) Don't forget to wear comfortable walking

shoes, a large sun hat, and bring bug spray!

Tickets are still on sale by contacting John Kemp at 201.845.4178. (Partial funding is provided by the S.C. Humanities Council.)

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Money Matters

- Slaves in Virginia could be hired for \$30 a month in 1863, yet the pay of an Army private was \$11 per month. Confederate pay rose to \$18 per month in 1864.
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- Union privates drew on \$16, but the gold value of their pay was more than seven times greater than that of Confederates.
- From 1861 - 1865 it cost the United States Government approximately 2 million dollars a day to prosecute the war; WWII cost more than 114 million dollars a day.
- In 1880, the Secretary of the Treasury reported that the Civil War had cost the Federal Government 6.19 billion dollars. By 1910, the cost of the war, including pensions and other veterans benefits, had reached 11.5 billion dollars. WWII was three months shorter than the Civil War, but from 1942 - 1945 approximately 156 billion dollars was spent on the military establishment.
- The total cost of the Civil War for the South has been estimated at 4 billion dollars.
- The public debt outstanding for an average population of 33 million rose from \$2.80 to \$75 per capita between 1861 and 1865. In mid-1958 the per capital debt stood at \$,1493 for a population of 175.5 million.
- The pursuit and capture of Jefferson Davis at Irwinville, Georgia cost the Federal Government \$97,031.62. - The Civil War & Greenbacks

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Ralph Peters - Awarding Winning Civil War Novelist

Magnolia Hall - Wednesday, July 13, 2016 - 6:30 p.m.

Ralph Peters, is a retired U.S. Army lieutenant colonel, a prolific author of both fiction and nonfiction, and a strategic analyst. He is reverentially disposed to the people who fight wars in a time when the culture seems worshipful of armed might and the towering heroes that wore the Blue and Gray uniforms. Peters' Civil War novel holds up well and is welcome in the vast library of books about the Civil War's great turning point.

Peters is both historically accurate and a well-practiced storyteller. His love of Shakespeare and The Bible is evident in all of his historical novels. This book describing the bloody three-day battle at Gettysburg (July 1-3, 1863) is vigorous, decisive, stern and otherwise populated by heroic figures. He

also has a good sense of the language and culture of the time; when Robert E. Lee enters the scene, for instance, Peters' prose becomes somber and portentous: "Still a mere John Churchill, he had seen to it that new shoes awaited his soldiers along his line of march. But Lee had men who had gone without shoes for months. At Chancellorsville, he had hoped for a Blenheim but ended with a battle reminiscent of the bloody Battle of Malpalquet in 1709 in The War of the Spanish Succession. There the Duke of Marlborough fought his fourth, bloodiest and least conclusive defeat in the field of the French army of Louis XIV."

When Lee's counterpart, George Meade, is on stage, Peters' back-and-forth is snappier, suggesting Meade's impatience; he even provides Meade with a motivation for success, for "fending off Lee would secure his family's place in Philadelphia for generations." Familiar figures — Chamberlain, Longstreet — are — here too.

Among the many high points of Peter's versions is attention to the immigrant players on the battlefield, the Polish and Irish and German soldiers from North and South who fought and died for their version of freedom. These overlooked characters add depth and diversity to his tales.

"I'm trying to write Civil War novels that dramatize history and that are much more accurate and realistic than books in the past," Peters said on Newsmax TV. He is quite successful.

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Cain at Gettysburg (February 28, 2012)

The winner of the American Library Association's W. Y. Boyd Award for Excellence in Military Fiction

Two mighty armies march carelessly toward each other, one led by confident, dearly loved Robert E. Lee and the other by obstinate George Meade. The story is told through the eyes of the generals on both sides as well as the common soldiers of both sides. It shows how mistakes were made that could have spelled disaster for either side. They'll meet in a Pennsylvania crossroads town where no one planned to fight. In this sweeping, fierce, realistic novel, the greatest battle ever fought on American soil explodes into life at Gettysburg. As generals quarrel, staffs make mistakes, a tragedy unfolds for immigrants (Germans, Poles, and Irish) in blue and barefoot Rebels alike. The 150,000 soldiers are brooding, profane, and despising or questioning of God rather than chaste, virtuous, and reverent. The fate of our nation will be decided in a few square miles of fields. Follow a tough Confederate sergeant from the Blue Ridge, an aggrieved Irish survivor of the Great Famine, a German political refugee, and gun crews in blue and gray. *Cain at Gettysburg* is as grand in scale as its descriptions of Civil War conflict are unflinching. For three desperate days, battle rages as the nightmarish horror of a fight with ordinary men are compelling and absorbing. The reader cannot help but become personally attached and sympathetic. Through it all, James Longstreet is distressed by a vision of war that leads to a disastrous feud with Robert E. Lee. Devious Dan Sickles nearly destroys his army. Gallant John Reynolds and unruly Win Hancock, angry William Barksdale and showy James Johnston Pettigrew, gallop toward their fates. *Cain at Gettysburg*, with its old-fashioned "history with dialogue" style, is bound to become a classic of men at war. He produces an entirely different perspective of those three days that so dramatically impacted the course of America's Civil War. — *Armchair General Magazine*

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Hell or Richmond (May 7, 2013)

The winner of the American Library Association's 2014 Boyd Award for Literary Excellence in Military Fiction.

Between May 5 and June 3, 1864, the Union and Confederate armies suffered 88,000 casualties. Twenty-nine thousand were killed, wounded or captured in the first two days of combat. The savagery shocked a young, divided nation. Against this backdrop of the birth of modern warfare and the painful rebirth of the United States, New York Times bestselling novelist Ralph Peters has created a breathtaking narrative that surpasses the drama and intensity of his recent critically acclaimed novel, *Cain at Gettysburg*. In *Hell or Richmond*, thirty days of endless carnage are seen through the eyes of a compelling cast, from the Union's Harvard-valedictorian "boy general," Francis Channing Barlow, to the brawling "dirty boots" Rebel colonel, William C. Oates. From Ulysses S. Grant and Robert E. Lee to a simple laborer destined to win the Medal of Honor, Peters brings to life an enthralling array of leaders and simple soldiers from both North and South, fleshing out history with stunning, knowledgeable realism. From the horrific collision of armies in the Wilderness, where neither side wanted to fight, to the shocking slaughter of the grand charge at Cold Harbor, this epic novel delivers a compelling, authentic, and a suspenseful portrait of Civil War combat. Ralph Peters brings to bear the lessons of his own military career, his lifelong study of this war and the men who fought it, and his skills as a bestselling, a prizewinning novelist to portray horrific battles and sublime heroism as no other author has done. — Amazon.com

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Valley of the Shadow (May 3, 2015)

An exciting and compelling read that makes the reader feel what it was to experience combat.

In the *Valley of the Shadow*, they wrote their names in blood. The book covers the hopeless struggle for supremacy in Virginia's Shenandoah Valley, the so-called "breadbasket of the Confederacy," and the South's key invasion route into the North. Peters writes about the daring Confederate raid that nearly seized Washington, D.C. to a staggering reversal on the bloody fields of Cedar Creek, the summer, and fall of 1864. It pitted a remarkable cast of heroes in blue and gray against each other: weak, rough-hewn Phillip Sheridan, a Union general with an unusual gift for inspiring soldiers, and Jubal Early, his Confederate counterpart, unyielding, raw-mouthed and deadly; the impressive Yankee boy-general, George Armstrong Custer, and the brilliant, very brave John Brown Gordon, a charismatic Georgian who lived one of the era's greatest love stories. From starving, hard-bitten Rebel privates to a pair of Union officers destined to become presidents, from a neglected hero who saved our nation's capital and went on to write one of his century's greatest novels, to doomed Confederate leaders of incomparable valor, Peters brings to life yesteryear's giants and their spectacular battles. Sharp as a bayonet and piercing as a bullet, Peter's excellent novel the *Valley of the Shadow* is about the desperate struggle for the Shenandoah Valley (called "The Burning" by its residents) pitted Union Gen. Philip Sheridan "Little Phil" with Confederate Gen. Jubal Early "Bad Old Man." After years of walking Civil War battlefields and painstaking research with insight gleaned from his military career, Peters excels in his precise military detailing, knowledge of the tactics, details of a soldier's life and brutal battle scenes in

the climactic battles of the 1864 Shenandoah Valley Campaign. — Barnes & Noble

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The Damned of Petersburg (June 28, 2016)

Glory turned grim ...

Peters takes the readers deep into the heart of the Civil War with his masterfully captured details as warfare changed forever. As Grant pinned Lee to Petersburg and Richmond, the Confederacy's strong-willed Army of Northern Virginia wrestled against a persistent Union big and powerful, with breathtaking courage and sacrifice on both sides. That challenge in the bloody summer and autumn of 1864 shaped the nation that we know today. From the cruelty of The Battle of the Crater (The Horrid Pit), where surprising success broke apart into violent killings, through near-constant battles fought by heat-stricken soldiers is a reminder of the horror of war at its basest level. To the incredibly important election of 1864, *The Damned of Petersburg* brings back to life our Civil War's horrid situations, as plumes and sabers gave way to miles of trenches. The killing of those resulting acute months brought together widely known leaders—Grant and Lee. The battles turned Winfield Scott Hancock and A. P. Hill into up-and-coming heroes. Confederates “Little Billy” Mahone and Wade Hampton, became last of the Cavaliers. Union warriors remembered were the tragedy-stricken Francis Channing Barlow and the very brave Nelson Miles, who became a general at twenty-four. Nor does Ralph Peters forget the men in the ranks, the ordinary soldiers who paid the price for the blunders of leaders who'd never know their names. In desperate battles, now forgotten, such as Deep Bottom, Globe Tavern and Reams Station, soldiers on both sides, moved forward to the last human limits, fought on as their superiors struggled to master a terrible new age of warfare. *The Damned of Petersburg* revives heroes aplenty — enriching our knowledge of our most terrible war—but, above all, this novel's a tribute to the endurance and courage of the American soldier, North or South. — Macmillan

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The Real Thing

By Caroline Wallace Kennedy

Morphine addiction led Confederate veteran, John Stith Pemberton, to invent the great American soft drink Coca-Cola. Without the Civil War, Coca-Cola — one of the most popular products of this century would not have been invented!

Pemberton was born in Knoxville, Georgia in 1831. He entered the Reform Medical College of Georgia in Macon, and at the age of 19, received a license to practice pharmacy. Later he married Ann Lewis of Columbus, Ga. They lived in a house in downtown Columbus. (The Coca-Cola company gave this house, his “downtown home,” to the Historic Columbus Georgia Foundation (HCGF) in 1969.) Later Dr. Pemberton moved “into the country,” in a house at 712 Broadway. The HCGF moved the house to its present location in the Historic District in 1969. During the time he lived in this house, he was involved with two drug businesses and operated a chemical lab where he manufactured many medicines, photographic chemicals, hair dye, perfumes and other cosmetics. His perfume, “Sweet Southern Bouquet,” was popular with the ladies.

John S. Pemberton was the nephew of legendary Confederate Gen. John Clifford Pemberton, a veteran of the Frontier Wars who had served honorably in the U. S. Army for 24 years. Many Civil War historians laid the responsibility for the Confederate loss at Vicksburg squarely at the feet of John C. Pemberton because he was distracted by diversions and consequently failed to discern genuine threats. One Confederate officer said Pemberton seemed “confused.” (See www.civilwar.org/battlefields/vicksburg.)

John S. served in the Confederate army for almost the entire span of the Civil War. In April 1865, while serving as a lieutenant colonel of the Third Georgia Cavalry Battalion, Georgia State Guard, he was shot and slash across his chest in the Battle of Columbus. Like many wounded veterans, he became addicted to the morphine used to ease the pain. Being a pharmacist in civilian life, he realized morphine addiction was dangerous, so he sought a cure. In 1866, in Columbus, he started working on painkillers that would serve as an opium-free alternative to morphine. When another doctor claimed he could cure opium habits with coca (cocaine), he devised his concoction. His first was “Dr. Tuggle’s Compound Syrup of Globe Flower.” Then, he began experimenting with coca and coca wines, eventually creating his version of *Vin Mariani*, a Paris concoction containing kola nut and damiana, which he called Pemberton’s French Wine Coca. He took his secret ingredient “wine” to Atlanta.

Drug addiction, depression, and alcoholism among war veterans was rampant and “highly-strung” Southern women suffered from “neurasthenia.” Pemberton’s medicine was advertised as beneficial for “ladies, and for those whose sedentary employment causes nervous prostration.”

In 1886, Atlanta and Fulton County, enacted temperance legislation forbidding the sale of alcohol. Pemberton began producing a non-alcoholic alternative to his French Wine Cola brewed in a three-legged brass kettle in his backyard. He dropped the reference to wine, in the name of the beverage, substituting sugar syrup for the wine. (At one time it was marketed as the temperance drink.)

He relied on Atlanta drugstore owner Willis E. Venable to test and help him perfect, the beverage. Eventually, they blended the base syrup with carbonated water and decided to sell it as a fountain drink rather than medicine. Mason Robinson, Pemberton’s bookkeeper, came up with the name “Coca-Cola,” and wrote the Spencerian script on the bottles and ads.

Until 1905, the soft drink, marketed as a tonic, contained extracts of cocaine as well as the caffeine-rich kola nut. Controversy over its cocaine content later prompted The Coca-Cola Company to state that the name was “meaningless but fanciful.” There were many claims for Pemberton’s product: “a valuable brain tonic that would cure headaches, relieve exhaustion and calm nerves.” (In an interview with a reporter from the *Atlanta Journal*, Pemberton explained that South American Indians considered the coca plant a sacred herb and praised its beneficial effects on the mind and body. With the aid of the coca plant, the Indians had performed “astonishing” feats, without fatigue.)

The soft drink was first sold at the soda fountain in Jacob’s Pharmacy in Atlanta on May 8, 1886. Pemberton fell ill soon after Coca-Cola came on the market. Nearly bankrupt, sick and desperate, he began selling the rights to his formula to his business partners. Part of his motivation to sell was because he needed the money to support his family, and to support his excessive morphine addiction. He saved only one share for his son Charles Ney Pemberton. The drink’s fame spread throughout the Southeast, and the demand for the beverage grew.

Pemberton died at age 57 in 1888 of stomach cancer and an addiction to morphine. Atlanta druggists closed their stores and attended the services en masse as a tribute of respect. Not one drop of Coca-Cola was dispensed that day!

In the same year, his son Charles sold the remaining portion of the patent to Asa Candler for \$2,300. (Charley was known as disagreeable and prone to drink. When he died in 1894 opium was at his side. Pemberton's wife spent the rest of her life as a pauper.)

Who would have imagined that over some hundred-and-fifty-years ago a red and white logo would still advertise a soft drink that would appear on pencils, calendars, pocket mirrors, and more? Iconic Coke is known the world over because of their marketing executives. Which of these Coke slogans is your favorite? "The Great National Temperance Beverage," "Good Till the Last Drop," "The Pause that Refreshes," "The Sign of Good Taste," "Things Go Better With Coke," "It's the Real Thing." "Coke is it!" "You Can't Beat the Feeling." And, "Taste the Feeling."

A Confederate lieutenant colonel of the Third Georgia Cavalry Battalion, Georgia State Guard, left his legacy *not* on the battlefield but in the annals of the soft drink industry. - Sources: www.worldofcoca-cola.com, inventors.about.com. History.net.

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"Nor deem the irrevocable Past, As wholly wasted, wholly vain, If, rising on its wrecks, at last To something nobler we attain."

—Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

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Civil War Timeline — May 1862

May **Battle of Chancellorsville.** The newly appointed General of the Potomac Army Joseph "Fightin' Joe" Hooker is soundly defeated in Virginia by Lee, who splits his smaller army and with skill and "Stonewall Jackson's" foot cavalry scares Hooker into a defensive position at Chancellorsville.

After too many Union counter movements, a surprise attack on the evening of May 2 would drive the Union flank almost two miles in complete confusion. Maj. Gen. Thomas "Stonewall" Jackson would be mortally wounded himself a few hours later by friendly fire and die eight days later of pneumonia. Lee states "I have lost my right arm."

Another Union disaster that Hooker blamed on several commanders but later would admit "I just lost confidence in Joe Hooker." When he stopped his advance with over twice the men on May 1, Lee's daring initiative and tactics changed the future of the battle.

May 4 **Confederates evacuate Yorktown** (Part of the Peninsula Campaign) There were 121,500 Union forces and 35,000 Confederates. The casualties were: 182 Union and 300 Confederates. The Result? Inconclusive.

- May 5 **Battle of Williamsburg, Va.** - The battle challenged the Confederate rear guard as that army withdrew from its Peninsula lines toward Richmond. The “Bloody Ravine” was the focus of the seesaw fighting that resulted in a draw. The Confederates continued their withdrawal that evening. Union Commander Gen. George B. McClellan, and Confederate Commander Lt. Gen. James Longstreet (Old Pete). Forty-thousand, seven-hundred-sixty-eight Union forces and 31,823 Confederates. The casualties were: 2,23 Union and 1,560 Confederates.
- May 8 **Battle of McDowell, Va.** - Maj. Gen. T.J. Jackson marched his army west along the Parkersburg Road to confront two brigades of Fremont’s force (Milroy and Schenck), advancing toward the Shenandoah Valley from western Virginia. At McDowell, the Union seized the initiative and assaulted the Confederate position on Sitlington’s Hill. The Federals were repulsed after severe fighting, lasting for hours. Afterwards, Milroy and Schenck withdrew into western Virginia, freeing up Jackson’s army to march against the other Union columns threatening the Valley.
- May 15 **Battle of Drewry's Bluff, Va.** - Fort Darling on Drewry’s Bluff repulsed Union Gunboats seven miles from Richmond. The Confederate ironclad *Virginia* at Norfolk was scuttled to prevent her capture. This opened the James River to Federal gunboats. Five gunboats, including the ironclads, *Monitor*, and *Galena*, steamed up the James River to test the Richmond defenses. They encountered submerged obstacles and deadly accurate fire from the batteries at Drewry’s Bluff, which inflicted severe damage on the *Galena*. The Federal Navy was turned back! Commanders: Union Cdr. John Rodgers; Confederate Cdr. E. Farrand, Brig. Gen. Wm. Mahone, Capt. S.S. Lee, and Lt. John Taylor Wood.
- May 23 **Battle of Front Royal, Va.** - Gen. Stonewall Jackson and 16,000 Confederate troops liberated Front Royal from Union forces. The Confederate First Maryland engaged the Union First Maryland in a decisive battle that completely surprised the Union Gen. Nathanael Banks; shoe forces were camped just ten miles to the west in Strasburg. The battle so startled President Lincoln and the Union military that they withdrew a large contingent of troops headed for McClellan’s planned attack on Richmond, instead sending them to defend the Shenandoah Valley.
- May 25 **The First Battle of Winchester, Va.** - Union Gen. Nathaniel P. Banks managed to retreat to Winchester. However, his 6,000 men were outnumbered by more than two to one by Stonewall Jackson’s Confederates. At Winchester Banks stopped and turned to face Jackson in a reasonably strong position on hills south of the town. However, Jackson’s men were not to be denied. After some sharp fighting during the morning of 25 May, Bank’s men broke and fled back toward the Potomac. As Jackson’s men rested and refreshed their supplies from Union supplies, Washington panicked. A call was issued for new troops to defend the Capitol. Fremont was ordered east into the southern valley. McDowell’s corps, which was meant to be part of McClellan’s army on the Peninsula, was now held near Washington, and two divisions ordered west in an attempt to trap Jackson. This decision poisoned the already poor relations between McClellan and the administration. McClellan’s almost paranoid reaction did not bode well for the future of the Peninsula campaign.

May 31 **Battle of Seven Pines** - (Fair Oaks, Va.) Confederate Gen. Joseph E. Johnston's troops attack Union Gen. George B. McClellan's troops in front of Richmond and nearly defeats them. But Johnston is badly wounded. The battle was a draw but prevented McClellan from advancing on Richmond. Confederate President Jefferson Davis, appointed Robert E. Lee to command Johnston's Army of Northern Virginia aka Army of the Potomac. Lee held this position for the Remainder of the war. — Sources: www.historyofwar.org

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This 'n That!

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. You may sell your space, but no refunds will be possible for any reason. Trip insurance available through AAA in Bluffton or American Express. Hurry!

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.lcwrt.squarespace.com with your interest and/or qualifications and someone from the Executive Committee will reply. Also, we need more members to participate in 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!

Ralph Peters — Summer, July 13, 2016, Free Meeting! Don't forget to register for tickets via EventBrite.

We're excited to announce that on Wed., July 13, 2016, Lt. Col. Ralph Peters will speak Magnolia Hall in Sun City for the LCWRT. 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 June 28, 2016*. 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! YOU MUST REGISTER FOR TICKETS THROUGH EVENTBRITE. (We expect this event to be sold out! Do not be disappointed – get your tickets today!)

Coming Events at the Morris Center for Lowcountry Heritage

Carolina Gold Rice by David Shields. Tuesday, May 10 at 2 p.m. Learn the history of Carolina Gold Rice. Dr. Shields will give a historical overview of this once prevalent golden crop. **Kid's Grow it, Study it, & Eat It Gardening Program.** Wednesday, May 18 from 1:30 p.m. To 3 p.m. The Morris Center for the Lowcountry Heritage located at 10782 S. Jacob Smart Blvd., Ridgeland, SC 29936 – call 843.284.9227 or visit www.morrisheritagecenter.org for more information.

South Carolina Humanities Festival

Beaufort, SC – June 9-11, 2016

“Be inspired, enriched and engaged with lectures, films, and exhibits.” The South Carolina Humanities graciously supported us with a grant for \$500 which we are using to supplement our tour to the Rivers' Bridge Battlefield. I attended their kick-off campaign on April 20 at the home of Mayor Billy Keyserling in Beaufort. Rather than hosting significant events in South Carolina's two major cities of Columbia and Charleston the SC Humanities is hosting festivals each June in various towns across the state. Their first Humanities Festival is June 9-11, 2016. The kick-off will be Thursday, June 9th at the USCB Center for the Arts, 801 Carteret St., Beaufort with a performance by Beaufort Mass Choir under the direction of Scott Gibbs. On June 10th, Honey Horn will have a guided tour “Honey Horn in the Hunting Club Era and Beyond,” at the Coastal Discovery Museum, also at 10 a.m. a lecture will be held in Beaufort hosted by the USCB History Department “Reconstruction Sesquicentennial Lecture: Part 1.” There are 38 jam-packed programs planned, including “The History of Penn School” at the Penn Center on St. Helena Island, and “The Art of Jacques le Moyne,” at the Santa Elena History Center at 1501 Bay St., Beaufort. For complete information on the Festival, please contact BeaufortHumanitiesFestival.com. - Caroline Wallace Kennedy

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Lowcountry Civil War Round Table Inc.

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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.