



MINIÉ BALL GAZETTE

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

President's Message, October 27, 2016

Dear Civil War Enthusiast,

Well! Well! Well! It has been a strange few weeks since my last letter to you. Hurricane Matthew really had his way with our area. My prayer is that you all are okay, have your power back and have returned to a somewhat normal life.

We had to cancel last month's speaker and meeting. Many of you were yet to get home and the speaker could not make the trip. Also, we have had to cancel our trip to Fort Pulaski in November as it is closed until further notice for repairs. There was considerable damage to the Monument from Matthew.

We at Sun City were very fortunate. I was on Hilton Head before the bridge was opened and it looked like it had been carpet bombed. Thank God most of the trees fell harmlessly, most structures were spared and very few instances of any persons being injured. Many other islands were hit hard as well.

Anyway, whew!! It is a fresh start. Our November speaker is Lou Benfante. He will discuss the significance of Fort Pulaski and its history. Lou is well known to many of us. He is local. He is knowledgeable and passionate about his subject. We are trying to arrange to bring you a more detailed update on Fort Pulaski and there should be some other activities to interest you. Mark your calendar for November 9.

This Saturday, October 29, we will have a table at the annual Club Fair in Sun City. Please stop by and say hello. I think there will be a free raffle to attract folks to our table. You can certainly participate. There will be several winners and we have some great prizes.

Finally, as I always mention, we need volunteers. If a board or committee chair asks you to consider helping out, please do. It is not only the amount of work that needs to be done but we need new and fresh perspectives on what we are doing. If we had more volunteers our activities would not be a burden on any one person or small group.

See you at the November meeting,

Respectfully, Robert Waite

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Lou Benfante

Lou Benfante graduated from Lehigh University in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania in 1969 with a B.A. in History. He graduated magna cum laude with Interdepartmental Honors and membership in Phi Beta Kappa. He is a member of the Lehigh University Alumni Association Board of Directors and was recently

presented with a Distinguished Alumni award, which is the highest honor bestowed on an alumnus by the university.

Lou's career included over 40 years as a Supply Chain Management executive with companies such as Milliken, Estee Lauder, Cummins, and Hilton Head Regional Healthcare

After retiring at the end of 2010, Lou joined the all-volunteer Heritage Library. He is presently serving as President of the Library's Board of Directors and as Chairman of the History Department. He conducts weekly lectures and tours on the history of Hilton Head Island, and also teaches courses for the University of South Carolina at Beaufort's Osher Lifelong Learning Institute. He has written numerous articles on the history of Hilton Head Island for local publications. This past June, he was a plenary session speaker at the National Underground Railroad's National Conference.

He is a board member of First Shore and a former member of the Board of Directors of the Mitchelville Preservation Project where he served as its Education and Research Chairman. Lou is currently a member of the Beaufort County Mayors' Heritage Tourism Task Force, South Carolina Historical Society, Beaufort County Historical Society, Gullah Geechee Consortium of Beaufort County, National Trust for Historic Preservation, Coastal Discovery Museum, Santa Elena Foundation, Italian American Club of Hilton Head Island, VanLandingham Rotary Club, and the Greater Island Council.

Lou and his wife, Laurette, enjoy playing golf, tennis, and bocce, attending cultural events, and spending time with their daughter, two sons, and 7 grandchildren. - cwk

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Battle for Fort Pulaski

April 10-11, 1862

Following the secession of South Carolina in Dec. 1860, Georgia become alarmed for the safety of her undefended coast. Georgia Governor Joseph Brown visited Savannah on Jan. 1, 1861. He met with Col. Alexander Lawton, commander of the 1st Volunteer Regiment of Georgia. Lawton laid out a plan to take Fort Pulaski preventing the federal government from taking it as they had done to Fort Sumter in Charleston.

The Confederacy would need Savannah, Georgia's largest city, and its large sea port and key rail hub. The Governor dispatched 50 men from the Savannah Volunteer Guards, 50 men from the Oglethorpe Light Infantry and 34 men from the Chatham Artillery and raised the flag at Fort Pulaski. Only two men occupied Fort Pulaski at the time. Fort Pulaski was one of 30 "Third System" forts built after the War of 1821. The brick fortification at the mouth of the Savannah River had walls as thick as a man is tall.

Fort Pulaski was named after the Revolutionary War hero Count Cashmir Pulaski. During the battle of Savannah Pulaski led his men in a charge against the entrenched positions of British regulars. He suffered a severe wound in the attack and died two days later.

Brig. Gen. Thomas W. Sherman (US), thought it might be more advantageous to bypass Fort Pulaski and make a direct attack on Savannah. He tried to sell the plan to Flag Officer

Samuel DuPont (US) because the commander of the naval forces would have to transport, protect and provide assistance in the siege. DuPont did reconnaissance of the spider-web-like waterways and discovered how shallow the waterways were at low tide. He deemed the scheme too impractical and too dangerous. Navy ships could not safely come within effective range, and there was no firm ground to place land batteries nearer than Tybee Island that was one to two-and-one-half miles away. DuPont knew that beyond a distance of 700 yards smooth-bore guns and mortars would have little chance to break through heavy masonry walls. Even U.S. Chief of Engineers, Gen. Joseph C. Totten (US) said, "You might as well bombard the Rocky Mountains."

Lt. Robert E. Lee, joined the Corps of Engineers, after graduating second in the West Point class of 1829. He became an assistant to Maj. Samuel Babcock on Cockspur Island a mostly mud and marsh island containing a few small sand ridges. He remained on Cockspur Island to finish his survey drawings, which included dikes, a drainage system, and many of the details of the support structure until the end of Mar. 1831. Hampton Roads, Va. was his next assignment.

On Oct. 29, 1861, DuPont left Hampton Roads, Va. sailed fifty-one vessels and 12,000 troops with Brig. Gen. Thomas w. Sherman with the intent of establishing a base at Port Royal 30 miles northeast of Savannah. They quickly defeated the Rebels at Fort Walker and Fort Beauregard. Sherman captured Beaufort, S.C. On Nov. 7, 1861. Everyone thought the remaining Union forces were headed south to capture the Fort Pulaski and Savannah.

Fourteen years later, after the completion of Fort Pulaski, Lee made a return visit to Cockspur Island on Nov. 10, 1861. He'd been appointed the commander, Department of South Carolina, Georgia and Florida on Nov. 5, 1861. He established his headquarters at Coosawhatchie, S.C. when he was fortifying the coastal defenses of South Carolina and Georgia. The evening of Nov. 10, he arrived to take personal command of the situation of Savannah's defenses and Fort Pulaski the following day. By December 1861, he'd ordered the withdrawal of Confederate forces from Tybee Island because it was too isolated and unprepared for conflict plus he realized that lacking troops the artillery could be overrun as it had been at Port Royal on Nov. 7, 1861. The Rebels could not spare more troops. Lee withdrew the men guarding the coast to armaments inland to form a stronger line, fortifying the Fort with 385 men, 48 cannons.

The Federals, on Hilton Head Island, began preparations for besieging Fort Pulaski. In Jan. the Union troops gained a foothold across the Savannah River from Fort Pulaski and began construction of batteries along the beaches of Tybee Island. Earlier, the Fort was considered invincible with its red and gray seven-and-one-half foot solid brick walls backed with massive piers of masonry.

The condition of the Fort was deplorable. The federal government overextended itself building the Third System forts, leaving little money for maintenance. The moat was filled with

mud with sea grass growing in it. The case-mates were so bad in the positions that had been filled that the guns could not fire safely.

Lee, standing on the parapet of the Fort with Col. Charles H. Olmstead (CA), pointed to the nearest part of Tybee Island, 1,700 yards away. He remarked, "Colonel, they will make it pretty warm for you here with shells, but they cannot breach your walls at that distance." After Fort Pulaski had fallen, on April 11, Lee's defense proved successful in blocking Federal advance on Savannah. The city of Savannah held until the end of 1864 until Sherman's arrival in his "March to the Sea."

At three p.m. on Nov. 24, the federal forces landed on Tybee Island taking it without a fight. The island contained a lighthouse, for ships navigating the waters around the Fort, and a refueling port for the Navy's coal-burning steamships.

Every week the *Ida*, a small Confederate supply side-wheeler came down the broad Savannah River to the fort to resupply the men. The morning of Feb. 13, a battery of heavy guns opened up on the *Ida*. The Federals had secretly constructed a battery at Venus Point on the north bank of the river. Full steam ahead, the *Ida* ran the gauntlet with shots splashing only in her wake. After firing nine shots, the Federal guns recoiled off their platforms.

The following week, the Federals completed the blockade of Fort Pulaski.

By building a strong battery on the south bank of the Savannah River opposite Venus Point. They threw a boom across Tybee Creek, then added to the infantry companies, a gunboat to patrol the channel, and destroyed the telegraph line between Savannah and Cockspur Island. Completely cut off, no supplies, reinforcements, and communications with Savannah were possible. After Feb. 15 the only way the Fort could communication with Savannah was by a courier who traveled by night swimming the extensive swampy marshes to avoid the Federal pickets.

There were five companies at Fort Pulaski when it was cut off. The total strength was 385 officers and men with 48 guns. Savannah native, Col. Charles H. Olmstead (CA) was in command.

The Union needed to decide whether to take Fort Pulaski by force or to wait out the garrison to starve. They had a six months supply of food, and with careful rationing, could last possibly to the first of September. Surrender would eventually be inevitable. Sherman was bent on the quick capture of Savannah like the Northern press was publicizing, and pushing. The Commanding General of the U.S. Army ordered the expeditionary force to attack Fort Pulaski on Feb. 14.

Before the order reached headquarters on Hilton Head Island; Sherman had sent his Chief Engineer, Capt. Quincy A. Gillmore (US), to take command of all troops on Tybee Island to prepare for the bombardment. Gillmore, a member of the Corps of Engineers, was a quick-speaking, quick-moving man, known to have a fearless disregard for tradition. At the beginning of the battle, he was brevetted to a brigadier general (a highly unusual move), and later became a major general of volunteers. He was familiar with a new weapon — the massive 10-

inch Parrott rifle gun, which the Army had experimented with since 1859. On Dec. 1861, he reported to Sherman it would be possible to reduce Fort Pulaski with mortars and rifled guns from Tybee Island. He submitted a plan for the attack which Sherman approved. Sherman doubted the usefulness of the new guns, and wrote, "All that can be done with guns is to shake the walls in a random manner."

Federal troops erected 11 batteries on the northwest shore of Tybee Island facing Fort Pulaski. The job was nearly impossible because of an open marsh in full view of the Fort and within the angle of its weapons. They were forced to work in the dead of night, hauling the extraordinarily heavy guns across the marsh on sling carts, speaking only in whispers and coded whistles. Carefully at dawn, they camouflaged the night's work. The evening before the bombardment, the men worked under the flickering light of lanterns.

Meanwhile, on Cockspur Island, the Confederates were making final preparations to defend Fort Pulaski. The garrison worked long hours working under the instructions of Gen. Lee, removing the officers' quarters veranda replacing it with a covered passage made of wood and earth. For the protection of the gunners, the troops piled sandbags between the guns on the ramparts, and dug "rat holes" in the terreplein (a level space where a battery of guns is mounted). They cut the ground into wide traps and trenches to prevent shots and shells from rolling. Life in Savannah continued without knowledge of the impending battle of Fort Pulaski.

A strong wind whipped the river into whitecaps on the morning of April 10. Capt. Quincy A. Gillmore (US) sent his aide J.H. Wilson, in a small boat under a flag of truce and the demand for unconditional surrender to the United States."

Col. Charles Olmstead (CA) commandant of the Fort, after acknowledging the receipt of the order, heroically and with few words replied: "I am here to defend the Fort, not to surrender it."

Shortly after eight a.m. and the return of the flag of truce, the bombardment of the Fort commenced, with 10-inch and 13-inch mortar shells exploding high in the air. The few that dropped buried themselves in the ground and threw up geysers of mud. When a shot landed squarely on the wall, the entire Fort quivered and shook. About two hours later, one of the solid shots entered an embrasure and dismounted a large gun. Several of the gun crew forces were wounded, one so severely that it was necessary to amputate his arm immediately. The Confederate flag swooped down within the fort at eleven o'clock because of the severed halyards on the flag pole. Lt. Christopher Hussey and Pvt. John Lathan sprang upon the parapet and carried the flag under fire where they raised it again on the northeast on the ramrod of a cannon. At the end of the day, observers on Tybee saw the dents and scars on the Fort, but it still looked reliable and capable of resistance when the firing began that morning. The Union soldiers felt the day's work had not hastened the surrender. In the Federal batteries, there no injuries. During the night shelling continued.

The Fort was in shambles. Most of the barbette guns and mortars aimed at Tybee were dismantled, with only two of the five case-mate guns operational. The southeast angle wall was flaking away to the depth of two to four feet.

The following morning, the bombardment reopened and continued all day. At midday, all the guns of the Fort bore upon Tybee except two that were disabled. The fire from Pulaski was less accurate than that of the Federals from Tybee. A little ridge on Tybee masked the heavy sandbags. The Confederate shot and shell buried in the beach or traveled over the batteries and trenches of the Federals. By nine o'clock, the Union received its only casualty a sailor wounded so severely that he died quickly. The U.S. naval gunboat, USS *Norwich*, a wooden, screw steamer, began to fire against the northeast face of the Fort, but her shots only struck glancing blows on the brick walls. Soon, shots from Long Island landed on the south wall guns located on a barge in Tybee Creek.

By noon, the Federals aimed their fire against the guns on the ramparts of the Fort. Within half an hour, two great holes had opened through the walls, so the inside of the Fort was visible from Tybee. It appeared the whole east angle would soon be in ruins. Gen. Henry W. Benham (US) gave the order to prepare to take the Fort by direct assault.

One Confederate was mortally wounded, and another had this foot removed by the recoil of a gun. Shell fragments struck dozens of soldiers. Under the circumstances, Col. Olmstead believing the lives of his command to his next care, gave the necessary order for a surrender. When the Confederate flag was at half mast, a final gun was fired, and a white sheet replaced the flag. At two p.m. on April 11, Olmstead surrendered. In Col. Olmstead's quarters, the officers of the Fort gave up their swords to Maj. Gen. David Hunter's (US) representative. Maj. Charles G. Halpine (US). Col. Olmstead (CA) laid his weapon on a table and said, "I yield my sword, but I trust I have not disgraced it." Pulaski became the property of the Union, with the raising of the Stars and Stripes over the ramparts. The technological advancement of the rifled cannon had been proven to change future operations helping the North win the Civil War.

After the takeover of Fort Pulaski, the blockade strengthened the Fortress at the mouth of the Savannah River. Within six weeks, the repairs completed all shipping in and out of Savannah ceased. Northern troops throttled the economic life of the South for the remainder of the war.

In Oct. 1864, the Fort became a prison for a group of captured Confederate officers known as "The Immortal Six Hundred." Before arriving at Fort Pulaski, the Confederate prisoners were in South Carolina. Edwin M. Stanton, Federal Secretary of War, ordered 600 prisoners placed on Morris Island in Charleston harbor within direct line of fire from Confederate guns at Fort Sumter. Stanton's order was a response that followed word that 600 Union officers imprisoned in the City of Charleston were in direct line of fire from Federal artillery. A yellow fever epidemic forced Confederate Maj. Gen. S. Jones to remove the Federal prisoners from the city limits. The Confederate prisoners were then transferred from the open stockade at Morris Island to Fort Pulaski never receiving sufficient food, blankets or clothes. The

Fort would house a Confederate Secretary of State, Secretary of the Treasury, Secretary of War, Assistant Secretary of War as well as three state governors, a senator.

The Union moved Col. Olmstead and the other officers of the garrison to Governor's Island, New York harbor, and finally to Johnson's Island, near Sandusky, Ohio, where they remained until their exchange was effect in Sept., 1862 in Vicksburg, Miss.

A reduced garrison held Fort Pulaski for the rest of the war. Savannah would remain in Confederate hands until it became the objective of Maj. Gen. William T. Sherman's "March to the Sea."

Early in Dec. 1864, Lt. Gen. William J. Hardee (CA), mustered a garrison of 10,000 regulars and militia to cover all sides of Savannah, surrounded by swamps, rivers, and rice fields. Sherman's 62,000 man army moved into north, west, and south positions on Dec. 9 and 10. On Dec. 17, Sherman called on Hardee to surrender, threatening to destroy Savannah, Hardee, however, refused. Sherman arranged for Maj. Gen. John G. Foster, commanding Union forces in South Carolina to seal off Savannah from the east. Sherman wanted to trap Hardee so it would not be necessary to carry out an assault on Savannah. Hardee, constructed a makeshift pontoon bridge across the Savannah River and his troops escaped into South Carolina on the night of Dec. 20. On Dec. 21, Sherman's Union division occupied Savannah. - cwk

Sources: www.sip.armstrong.edu/Forts, www.savannahvolunteerguard, www.mycivilwar.com

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The 2016-2017 Program Season

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

2017

January 11 - 6:45 p.m. Dr. James "Bud" Robertson - bestselling author and acclaimed historian will speak about "The Four-Legged Soldiers."

February 08 – 6:45 p.m. Dr. William C. "Jack" Davis – Davis has been our most loyal and famous presenter since the Round Table was founded. - "Looking for Loreta"

March 08 - 6:45 p.m. Ed Bearss, historian, author and veteran - "The Battle of Pittsburg Landing (Shiloh)"

April 12 – 6:45 p.m. Karen Abbott, author - "Liar, Temptress, Soldier, Spy: Four Women Undercover in the Civil War."

May 10 - 6:45 p.m. Dr. Kyle Sinisi, professor at The Citadel, educator, author and historian - "Seeds of Seccession"

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

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Dr. James “Bud Robertson

Best-selling author and acclaimed historian Dr. Robert has been a frequent presenter at the LCWRT over the past 16 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-winning *General A. O. 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 Associations' 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 Lt. Gen. 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.

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Civil War Timeline - November 1862

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| Nov. 2 | Naval assault on Ft. McAllister | Georgia |
| | Ulysses S. Grant begins the First Vicksburg campaign | Mississippi |
| Nov. 4 | Moving south, east of the Miss, Ulysses S. Grant enters La Grange and Grand Junction | |
| | For the first time since the party was founded, Republicans lose seats in Congress. | |
| Nov. 5 | Lincoln orders McClellan to be relieved of command because he did not pursue Lee following the Confederate loss at Antietam | |
| Nov. 6 | Jefferson Davis and Alexander Stephens are elected President and Vice-president respectively, of the Confederate States of America. Confederate James Longstreet and Thomas “Stonewall” Jackson are promoted to Lt. Gen. | |
| Nov. 7 | Ambrose E. Burnside assumes command of the Army of the Potomac, relieving George B. McClellan. | |
| | Braxton Bragg reorganizes the Department of Mississippi, creating | |

- two corps, one under William Hardee and one under Leonidas Polk.
- Nov. 8 Benjamin Butler (US) is relieved of duty in New Orleans because of his total disregard of the civilian population. Nathaniel Banks is chosen to replace him. Butler closes all breweries and distilleries to retaliate against civilians.
- Nov. 14 Ambrose Burnside reorganizes the Army of the Potomac command structure into three Grand Divisions with the Right Grand Division under Maj. Edwin Vose Sumner. Central Grand Division under Joe Hooker and the Left Grand Division under William B. Franklin.
- Nov. 15 Confederate Secretary of War George Randolph resigns over President Jefferson Davis's control of the War Department.
- Nov. 17 Burnside's Right Grand Division, under the command of Edwin Vose Sumner arrives north of the Rappahannock River at Fredericksburg.
- Nov. 19 Naval assault on Ft. McAllister Georgia
- Nov. 20 The Army of Mississippi renamed The Army of Tennessee
- Nov. 21 James Seddon becomes Confederate Secretary of War
- Nov. 24 Joseph E. Johnston (CS) assumes command of a reorganized Department of the West with two armies under him. Bragg's Army of Tennessee and Pemberton's Army of Mississippi.
- Nov. 28 Battle of Cane Hill Arkansas
 Battle of Boston Mountain
 James Blunt (US) defeats John Marmaduke (CS)
- Nov. 29 John Magruder assumes command of Confederate Texas
 forces in Texas.

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Dixie

Dixie. (There's just no other way to say it!) Making money in the "Land of Dixie" was a term used by river men and merchants, because \$10.00 bank notes were general denominations, and the French word for ten is "dix."

The Rebel Yell

The Rebel yell is a long, shrill battle cry voiced by attacking Confederates that struck fear in the hearts of the enemy. The first "Rebel Yell" was believed to have been used for the first time in battle at First Bull Run (First Manassas), on July 21, 1861.

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A Lincoln Thanksgiving

By Caroline Wallace Kennedy

"Give thanks, all ye people, give thanks to the Lord, Alleluias of freedom with joyful accord: let the East and the West, North and South roll along Sea, mountain and prairie, one Thanksgiving song."

— from "The President's Hymn" written by William Augustus Muhlenberg

— for President Lincoln, 1863

President Abraham Lincoln in 1863 established Thanksgiving Day as a formal and regular holiday. He was not the first government official to recognize a day of gratitude. In 1777, the Continental Congress declared a Thanksgiving holiday for the 13 colonies. In 1789, George Washington called for a celebration exactly 74 years before Lincoln's. Before this, each state scheduled its Thanksgiving holiday at different times, mainly in New England and other Northern states.

We consider the "First Thanksgiving," when the Pilgrims landed at Plymouth Rock in 1620. To celebrate their first harvest, they held a feast; inviting the Wampanoag Indians, who had helped them adapt and survive, to join them. The Thanksgiving in 1621 was a continuation of a tradition they experienced in Europe when with most agricultural societies it was common to hold harvest feasts. The "First Thanksgiving," in the Americas may have taken place between the 16th-century Spanish explorer Francisco Vásquez de Coronado and his Coronado expedition the first European explorers to discover the Palo Duro Canyon in Texas, and the Apache Indians on May 23, 1541! (Palo Duro is from the Spanish meaning "hard stick.")

Confederate President Jefferson Davis called for a Thanksgiving celebration on Sunday, July 28, 1861, after the Confederate victory at Bull Run. The Union states still continued to observe Thanksgiving on their own. On Sunday, April 13, 1862, President Lincoln declared a national day of Thanksgiving to honor the victories at Fort Henry, Fort Donelson, and Fort Shiloh. After the Confederates second victory at Bull Run, on September 28, 1862, the Confederacy had their second and final Thanksgiving celebration.

Lincoln's Thanksgiving Proclamation — October 3, 1863

“The year that is drawing toward its close has been filled with the blessings of fruitful fields and health skies. To these bounties, which are so constantly enjoyed that we are prone to forget the source from which they come, others have been added, which are so extraordinary a nature, that they cannot fail to penetrate and soften even the heart which is habitually insensible to the ever-watchful providence of Almighty God. In the midst of a civil war of unequalled magnitude and severity, which has sometimes seemed to invite and provoke the aggressions of foreign States . . . I do, therefore, invite my fellow-citizens in every part of the United States, and also those who are at sea and those who are sojourning in foreign lands, to set apart and observe the last Thursday of November next, as a day of Thanksgiving and Praise to our beneficent Father who dwelleth in the Heavens. . . .” (To read the entire proclamation go to www.civilwar.org/education)

On November 29, 1860, Lincoln and his family celebrated an unofficial Thanksgiving meal — one of his favorite meals, after being elected president. The menu featured a roasted turkey, followed by a church service giving thanks for good health, good luck, and for families.

In 1863, Lincoln celebrated two Thanksgivings with the first was on August 6, 1863, after the Union's victory at Gettysburg. The second was his official declaration of Thanksgiving as a national holiday, on the last Thursday of every November.

Lincoln declared, in 1864, that the holiday would once again be celebrated on the last Thursday in November. Thanksgiving that year focused heavily on honoring the Union troops with the feast being the highlight of the holiday. They wanted to fill the empty bellies of the Union soldiers with a festive meal. The Union League Club of New York ensured that no soldiers, on land or sea went without a Thanksgiving dinner by asking for donations from the public, and asking restaurants to cook the traditional Thanksgiving foods.

The *now* annual tradition of the “Presidential Turkey Pardon,” was started by Lincoln when he spared the life of his son Tad's pet turkey. The first pardon happened at Christmastime, but through the years the tradition became associated with Thanksgiving due to the turkey's role in the feast.

Sarah Josepha Hale's Thanksgiving Cause

Thanksgiving had a resurgence before the Civil War when 30 states and two territories joined Sarah Josepha Hale's “Thanksgiving Cause.” Hale, a 74-year-old magazine editor for *Godey's Lady's Book*, wrote a letter to Lincoln on September 28, 1863, urging him to have the “day or our annual Thanksgiving made a National and fixed Union Festival.” In 1827, she began to write essays calling for the national holiday. In 1846, as editor of *Godey's Lady's Book*, she launched a letter-writing campaign to support her cause. When the Civil War broke out on April 12, 1861, Hale's plan for a national Thanksgiving was put on the back burner because of the bitter Civil War. Did the letters from Sarah Josepha Hale's cause Lincoln to make its declaration It's hard to believe if they did not play a role in the establishment of the annual holiday.

Research Sources: *Thanksgiving: The Biography of an American Holiday* by James W. Baker, *The Thanksgiving Book* by Laurie C. Hillstrom, *Miss Leslie's Complete Cookery*, by Leslie Eliza (1837).

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This 'n That - November 2016

Coastal Discovery Museum - Honey Horn Plantation: The Museum is currently closed to visitors. Honey Horn is being used as the Town's hurricane debris processing area and the site is not suitable for visitors at this time. As soon as a reopening date is known, it will be posted on their website. - 70 Honey Horn Drive, Hilton Head Island, S.C. 29926

Heritage Library - Hilton Head: The Library is hosting "Drink, Nibble & Chat" with *New York Times* Bestselling author Mary Kay Andrews on Friday, Nov. 11, at the Golf Club of Indigo Run, and A Book Fair presented by The Library at Christ Lutheran church on Sat., Nov. 12 (9-3 p.m.). For details go to Evenbrite.com or www.heritageLib.org.

Historic Ft. Mitchel in Hilton Head Plantation - every Thursday at 10:00 a.m. through November. Register at HeritageLib.org

Historic Zion Cemetery & Baynard Mausoleum - every Friday at 10:00 a.m. through November. Register at HeritageLib.org

Honey Hill Battlefield Preservation Efforts

Nov. 30, 1864 - Grahamville, Jasper County, S.C.

To raise money for the battlefield preservation, the Sons of Confederate Veterans, Colonel Charles Jones Colcock, Camp #2100 is raising money to help present the battlefield to the public. They are holding a drawing for a donated limited edition Dale Gallon print. "Clubs are Trumps" #306 of 950. Tickets are \$10 each or six for \$50. The drawing will be held on July 3, 2017. You do not have to be present to win. This drawing is sponsored by the Sons of Confederate Veterans and the Sons of Union Veterans. All proceeds go towards the historical preservation efforts. (The Battle of Honey Hill "Boyd's Neck" was the third battle of Sherman's march to the Sea.) To purchase the tickets go to: <http://colcock2100.wixsite.com/scscv/battlefield-preservation>.

Morris Center for Lowcountry Heritage

10782 Jacob Smart Blvd., S. Ridgeland, S.C. 29936 – 843.284.9227

Raptors of the Lowcountry: A Birds of Prey Meet and Greet!

Take a special close look at some of the Lowcountry's most astounding birds of prey! Learn the ecologies of owls, falcons, hawks and more with a special presentation by Lily Arnold! Lily Arnold brings over 15 years of experience in avian rehabilitation and is the founder of Lowcountry Raptors, a birds of prey sanctuary for non-releasable raptors.

Through public education, Lowcountry Raptors fosters a connection between people and birds of prey, with a goal to help the human part of the natural community learn to value, understand and honor the role of wildlife while preserving the natural and cultural heritage of the Lowcountry!Join us on November 2 from 4pm-5pm.

Cooking the Daufuskie Way With Sallie Ann Robinson

Join us to learn about Lowcountry Gullah cuisine from the Daufuskie Island Diva herself, Sallie Ann Robinson. A celebrated author and cook, Robinson will demonstrate how to cook Daufuskie Fried Ribs and her famous apple nut salad. Learn the secrets of Daufuskie Island's unique brand of culinary tradition. The event will be followed by a book signing with Sallie Ann Robinson. This event is limited to 35 people, preregistration is encouraged. This program was made possible by South Carolina Humanities. Join us on Friday, Nov. 11 at 5:00 p.m.

The American Revolutionary War in South Carolina - through Jan. 16, 2017

The traveling exhibit examines the major role that South Carolina played in the Revolutionary War, in which more than 200 battles and skirmishes took place, more than any other colony during the war. The exhibit looks at the great turmoil that broke out leading up to the war between the colonies and Great Britain and highlights' major battles that took place in the Palmetto State, including the Battle of Sullivan's Island, the Cherokee Attack and the Battle of Cowpens. The exhibit also highlights the important role African Americans and women played in the war. The American Revolutionary War in South Carolina is part of the South Carolina State Museum's Traveling Exhibits Program. The exhibit was designed and produced by the State Museum in 2014 through a grant from the South Carolina Humanities Council. To learn more, visit scmuseum.org.

The Port Royal Sound Foundation Maritime Center

301 Okatie Hwy., Okatie, S.C. - info@PortRoyalSoundFoundation.org

The Maritime Center Nov. 12, 2016 – 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. The Maritime Center is celebrating its second year with a day full of FREE fun activities and special guests. Over 30 vendors including art, live animals, demonstrations, boating and more!! Food will be available for purchase.

The Santa Elena History Center

1501 Bay St., Beaufort, S.C. 29903 (843.379.1550)

Nov. 5 – Capt. William Hilton Visits Santa Elena (10:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.)

Nov. 10 – The Converses in the New World; Part 1, New Mexico (4 – 5 p.m.)

Nov. 16 - Fort Fremont: Homeland Security at the Dawn of the 20th Century (4-5 p.m.)

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Wreaths Across American Comes to Beaufort National Cemetery

The Beaufort National Cemetery is located at 1601 Boundary Street in Beaufort. This National Cemetery was established in 1863 for the burial of Union soldiers who died during the Federal occupation of Beaufort and for the re interment of Union soldiers' remains from various locations in South Carolina, Georgia, and Florida. More than 9,000 Union soldiers or veterans are buried here; 4,400 of them are unknown, including 2,800 prisoners of war from the camp at Millen, Ga. Seventeen hundred African-American Union soldiers are also buried at Beaufort National Cemetery. One hundred and seventeen Confederate soldiers are buried here. The cemetery's layout is that of a half circle contained within a rectangular boundary. The cemetery is open for visitations daily from 8:00 a.m. to sunset. The cemetery office phone number 843.524.3925.

Wreaths Across America is coming to Beaufort National Cemetery December 13, 2016. "REMEMBER, HONOR, TEACH." That is the mission of the National "Wreaths Across America", in which wreaths are placed at veterans' grave sites in all 230 National Cemeteries across the U.S. at noon on Saturday, December 13, 2016. The U.S. Military Vets Motorcycle Club of Beaufort is charged with coordinating this year's ceremony and has been asking for sponsors for the wreaths. Each wreath costs \$15.00 each. Individuals or groups can purchase one or more wreaths.

The wreaths will arrive in Beaufort National Cemetery by 18 wheel trucks, given an escort by the Beaufort and Colleton County Sheriff's Departments. Everyone is invited to the ceremony at noon on Saturday, December 13 to join in and also to help place the wreaths on as many graves as possible.

Wreaths Across American is a nonprofit organization founded to continue and expand the annual wreath laying ceremony at Arlington National Cemetery begun by Maine businessman, Merrill Worcester, in 1992. - cwk

For more information please email waabeaufort@outlook.com or for a Wreath Sponsorship Form please contact - WreathsAcrossAmerica.org. Please make checks payable to Wreaths Across America, and send to: POB 249, Columbia Falls, ME 04623. For more information in Beaufort please contact: Ronald I. Voegell - 843.812.2796 or rvoegeli@hargray.com

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LOWCOUNTRY CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE, INC.

NEW/RENEWAL MEMBERSHIP FORM - 2016/2017

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP PERIOD SEPTEMBER 1, 2016 - AUGUST 31, 2017

Please **Print** All Information Below -

Last Name First Name Badge Nickname

Additional Household Member - Last Name First Name Badge Nickname

Address

City _____ State _____

Zip Code _____

Phone () _____

E-Mail

(We will keep this confidential!)

Recruited by _____

Please check YES & help us save money! I want my monthly

newsletter E-MAILED to me: YES _____ NO _____

New Enlistment:

Single: One-Time Initiation Fee \$25.00 + Annual Membership (to Aug 31, 2017): \$30.00
= \$55.00 _____

Household: One-Time Initiation Fee \$35.00 + Annual Membership (to Aug 31, 2017):
\$45.00 =

\$80.00 _____

Reenlistment - - Previous Members Only:

Single: Annual Membership (to Aug 31, 2017): \$30.00 _____

Household: Annual Membership (to Aug 31, 2017): \$45.00 _____

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

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

____ Program Committee: help select topics & speakers ____ Assist in
Production/Distribution of the *Minie Ball Gazette*

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

____ Historian ____ Maintain Membership Roster ____ Work at Sun City Club Fair

Web Site Maintenance

Mail to or leave in "lower" box: **Joseph Passiment, 62 Concession Oak Drive,
Bluffton, SC**

29909

Make Check Payable to: **LCWRT Inc.** Any questions, please call **Joseph Passiment** at
732-995-2102

NOTE! Your current LCWRT membership runs through August 31, 2016. For the 2016-2017
Program Year (September 1, 2016 – August 31, 2017) we will be offering a promotion to
increase LCWRT membership. If you can enroll two new members, we will waive your
membership fee for the year. Membership fees remain unchanged from previous years.

**Start taking up the LCWRT to your friends and neighbors! Bring them to the Nov.
9, 2016 meeting!**

* * *

Lowcountry Civil War Round Table Inc.

2016-2017 Executive Committee

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MINIÉ BALL GAZETTE

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