

LOWCOUNTRY CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

May 2004 Issue 37

SEVEN DAYS BATTLE IN VIRGINIA

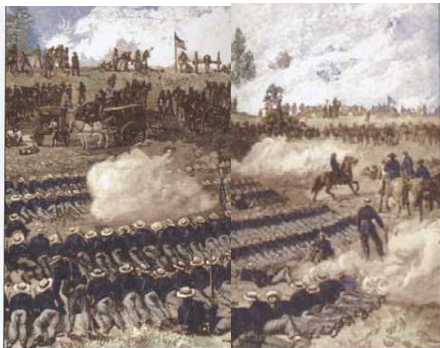
From June 25 to July 1 1862 the hills & towns of Virginia were alive with fire

PRESENTED BY R. E. L. KRICK

By the spring of 1862, Union forces were successful in the West: Nashville had fallen, Forts Donaldson and Henry were captured and New Orleans was in Union hands. The Union had high hopes for ending the war as Major General George B. McClellan prepared to advance up the Virginia Peninsula towards Richmond, using the powerful Union navy in the James and York rivers to

protect his flanks. McClellan believed his army unstoppable.

As McClellan's Army reached within 15 miles of the



city, Confederate forces under the command of General Joseph Johnston attacked the divided Union forces at Seven Pines. This attack, which preceded the Seven Days' Battles, proved to be a major turning point for the Confederates. During this attack, Confederate commander Joseph Johnston was severely wounded, resulting in Robert E. Lee being placed as commander of the Army of Northern Virginia. Lee, formerly

Jefferson Davis' Military Advisor, now readied the Confederate army for an offensive strike against McClellan.

Between June 26 and July 2, Union and Confederate forces fought a series of battles: Mechanicsville (June 26-27), Gaines's Mill (June 27), Savage's Station (June 29), Frayser's Farm (June 30), and Malvern Hill (July 1). Known as the Seven Days' Battles, they began when Lee combined Jackson's forces with his to fight against an exposed Union corps near Mechanicsville. These battles forced McClellan to

(Continued on page 3) Seven Days

UNION
Commanders
Maj. Gen. George B. McClellan
Armies
of the Potomac
Strengths
105,445 infantry, cavalry, engineers, guns (As of June 20)
Casualties
1,734 dead, 8,062 wounded, 6,053 missing/prisoners
Perspectives
McClellan's timidity and consistent overestimation of the forces ranged against him lost the campaign and Lincoln's confidence. He was saved from disaster by Lee's mistakes

CONFEDERATES
Commanders
General Robert E. Lee
Armies
of Northern Virginia of the Valley
Strengths
80-90,000 infantry, cavalry, guns
Casualties
3,286 dead, 15,909 wounded, 940 missing/prisoners
Perspectives
Lee's performance was far below what he would later achieve; Jackson showed none of his brilliance

commander of the Army of Northern Virginia. Lee, formerly

ROBERT E. L. KRICK

Krick has lived or worked on Civil War battlefields almost continuously since 1972. He grew up on the Chancellorsville battlefield, and graduated from Mary Washington College in Fredericksburg with a degree in history. He has worked in various historical capacities at several battlefields, including Custer Battlefield in Montana, and Manassas Battlefield.

Since 1991 he has been an historian on the staff at Richmond National Battlefield Park. Mr. Krick is widely published on Confederate topics. His first book was a unit history, *The Fortieth Virginia Infantry*. His biographical register of the Army of Northern Virginia's staff officers *Staff Officers in Gray* was published by the University of North Carolina Press in 2003. He has just commenced work on a study of the Battle of Gaines's Mill.

Lowcountry Civil War Round Table

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

This will be the last meeting of the program year. I truly can say that I, personally, have had a great deal of fun and have enjoyed our dinner meetings and learned a lot about civil war history. When one has a lot of "horses pulling the load", the journey is a pleasant experience. The Executive Board and the Program, Dinner, Hospitality, Communication and Membership Committees have been absolutely great this year. Everyone carried his/her share of the load. Thanks to a great crew!

Three new people have agreed to handle vital assignments for the Lowcountry Civil War Round Table. Please say "thanks" to Rachel Buie for volunteering to receive and process your dinner reservations. Also, thank you to Ralph and Carol Morrison who will be our official historians.

We certainly appreciate our two corporate sponsors for the 2003 – 2004 program year: Key Infiniti, located at the Auto Mall adjacent to Sun City, and Butler Chrysler, Dodge, Jeep of Beaufort. When you are interested in a vehicle please remember our sponsors.

The Lowcountry Civil War Round Table has made a significant difference in preserving civil war history by the following contributions: Total: \$3,888

- Bluffton Library - \$500.
- Civil War Preservation Trust - \$500.
- Friends of The Hunley - \$500.
- VA. Center For Civil War Studies - \$500.
- Longstreet Society - \$250.
- Mills Spring, KY. Battlefield Preservation Assoc. - \$500.
- Research Grant to Clemens - \$300.
- Richmond Battlefield Assoc. - \$500.
- In Memory of George Stidworthy/Coastal Discovery Museum - \$338

The Program Committee made this possible.

The Nomination Committee has offered a slate of officers for the 2004 – 2005 program year:

President	Jim Hamilton
Vice President	Johanna Verwer
Secretary	Roger Ramm
Treasurer	Walter Hartung
At-Large	Paul Bucklin

This is an experienced group that has been involved with the Lowcountry Civil War Round Table for some time. Nominations may be made from the floor at 5:45 p.m. on May 12, 2004. The membership will have the opportunity to vote for officers at approximately 7:00 p.m.

The Program Committee is offering outstanding speakers for 2004 – 2005. The topics are detailed in this issue. It's time to start our re-enlistment campaign! We have limited space so our slots will go quickly. Make sure your re-enlistment is

THE MINIÉ BALL GAZETTE

Lowcountry Civil War Round Table Inc.
 P.O. Box 2252
 Bluffton, SC 29910
 843-705-9898
*Dedicated to Historic Preservation and
 Enlightenment*

Officers & Committee Chairpersons		
President	Bernie Covert	705-7808
Vice Pres	Jim Hamilton	705-7575
Secretary	Johanna Verwer	705-9201
Treasurer	Walter Hartung	705-1055
At-Large		
Membership	Shirley & Bill Trapp	705-2455
Program	Paul Bucklin	705-5168
Program	Bob Zabawa	341-9142
Communications	Marian & Mitch Sackson	705-2628
Dinner	Carol & Sam Sawyer	705-5267
Hospitality	Randi Lyon	705-7110
Historian	Carol & Ralph Morrison	705-6189
Photographer	Robert Reilly	705-6072

early. Tell your friends and neighbors about our club so they may have an opportunity to enlist.

We are offering a day trip to Columbia, SC, to visit historical sites in June. More information on this trip will be announced at the May dinner meeting. Don't miss this opportunity!

And last, I would like to use this forum to thank my wife, Karen, for her help with my many chores as president – editing, spelling, grammar, e-mailing, etc. and just being a great helpmate.

I look forward to seeing you at the May meeting on May 12, 2004!

Berne Covert

2003-2004 Presentations The Year 1862

May 12

Seven Days Battle in Virginia. From June 25 to July 1, the hills & towns of Virginia were alive with fire. Presented by **R. E. L. Krick**, a most informative young rising star as a Civil War historian and speaker

There is a *Morning After* for all meetings (**except** as noted) at Palmetto Electric at River Walk. Call Jim Hamilton about 3 days before the meeting at 705-7575 to sign-up to allow for morning coffee and cake.

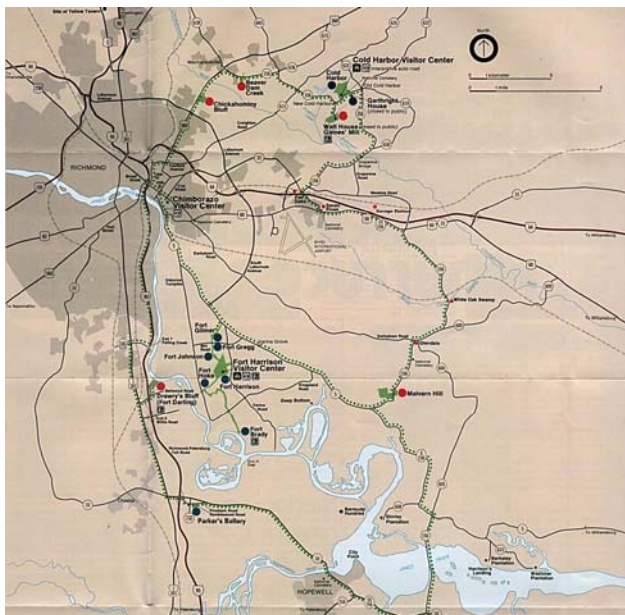
Seven Days (Continued from page 1)

retreat across the Peninsula to the James River. They ended on July 1, 1862, when the Union army successfully repulsed several Confederate assaults at Malvern Hill.

Despite having only lost the battle at Gaines's Mill and despite Southern losses at almost twice those of the Union, McClellan withdrew to entrench at Harrison's Landing on James River where his army was protected by gunboats. Lee's offensive, although costly in men, achieved its objective: Richmond was saved. McClellan's failure at the doorstep of Richmond plunged Northern opinion from springtime euphoria to summertime despair.

McClellan's army now ceased to threaten Richmond and Lee was able to send Jackson to operate against Maj. Gen. John Pope's army, thus initiating the Northern Virginia Campaign. As we learned from Ed Bearss at our March meeting, Lee's forces triumphed at the Second Battle of Manassas, August, 1862. Lee's successes prompted him to go north, leading to the battle of Antietam which we learned at our April meeting was the bloodiest single day of the entire war.

By Walter Hartung



Richmond June 1862

Norman M. Mackay
General Manager



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Coming Attractions

SEPTEMBER 15 CIVIL WAR MUSIC Hear being played several stringed instruments including hammered and fretted dulcimers, banjo, guitar, and autoharp, as well as “found” instruments like bones, spoons, mouth bow and leaf. You’ll hear Civil War songs and tunes learned either directly from individuals around the country or from archive collections, family scrapbooks and well known folk song collections. Be prepared for some sing-alongs by Cathy Barton & Dave Para. This versatile duo from Booneville, MO, are folklorists and collectors of traditional music and are caretakers of a long musical heritage.

OCTOBER 13 THE NAVY BATTLE OF NEW ORLEANS Following the passage of Fort Jackson and Fort St. Philip, near the mouth of the Mississippi River, on April 24, 1862, the Union occupation of New Orleans was inevitable. Union Flag-Officer David G. Farragut, with his squadron, continued up the Mississippi and demanded the surrender of New Orleans the next day. The city surrendered on April 28. On May 1, Maj. Gen. Benjamin Franklin Butler’s army began landing and occupying the city. New Orleans, considered an international city and the largest city in the Confederacy, had fallen. The Union occupation was an event that had major international significance as told by Art Bergeron, who is an author and research historian for the U.S. Military Institute at Carlisle Barracks, PA. He has previously served as the historian for Pamplin Historical Park and the state of Louisiana.

NOVEMBER 10 BATTLE OF FREDERICKSBURG On December 13, 1862, Union General Burnside built his bridges, crossed the Rappahannock, and assailed General Lee’s army in its prepared position. The attack had no chance to succeed. Solidly established on high ground with clear fields of fire, the Confederates beat off a succession of doomed assaults. One will also learn about the Angel of Marye’s Heights via Mac Wyckoff a long time member and leader of the Rappahannock Valley CW Roundtable and sought after Civil War presenter.

JANUARY 12 “FAITH IN THE FIGHT: CHAPLAINS IN THE CIVIL WAR” The chaplains on both sides fought for the spiritual and physical well-being of the combatants. Governors, regimental or post officers, and Federal authorities appointed an estimated 3000 chaplains to the Union forces and the Confederacy appointed somewhere between 600 to 1000. Chaplains duties were worship services conducted in tents, outdoors or around campfires and performing pastoral functions by counseling, providing guidance and comforting the sick and wounded and Bud Robertson will share much more about “faith in the fight”. Dr. Robertson is one of our most informative speakers and he is the Director of the Virginia Tech Civil War Center.

FEBRUARY 9 THE JEWISH CONFEDERATES Learn about Jewish aspects of the Civil War. Contrary to popular belief, the Old South was very hospitable to Jewish Southerners. Southern Jews, in short, were part and parcel of both Southern and Confederate society and played their small part in the war for Southern independence by Robert N. Rosen a native of Charleston and founder of The Rosen Law Firm.

MARCH 9 THE VICKSBURG CAMPAIGN In May and June of 1863, Maj. Gen. Grant’s armies converged on Vicksburg, investing the city and entrapping a Confederate army under Lt. Gen. Pemberton. On July 4, Vicksburg surrendered after prolonged siege operations. This was the culmination of one of the most brilliant military campaigns of the war. With the loss of Pemberton’s army and this vital stronghold on the Mississippi, the Confederacy was effectively split in half as related by our RT favorite Edwin C. Bearss, a well known military expert and renowned Civil War lecturer.

APRIL 14 GEORGIA HEROINES The dedication and hardships that women suffered during the “War Between the States” will be highlighted. Our presenter will describe the lives of some of the Georgia women she has discovered during her years of research by Tommie Phillips LaCavera from Athens, GA. Mrs. LaCavera is a noted author and very knowledgeable about the Daughters of the American Revolution, the United Daughters of the Confederacy, and the U.S. Daughters of 1812.

MAY 11 THE FIRE-EATERS OF SOUTH CAROLINA A closer look about those Southerners who were staunch and unyielding advocates of secession. The lives of these men show that secessionism was not a monolithic ideology but rather a movement that emerged from many sources, spoke in many voices, and responded to many regional problems, needs, and aspirations as presented by Dr. Larry Rowland of Beaufort, SC. Dr. Rowland, now retired, was a long time Professor of History at the University of South Carolina - Beaufort.

COME VISIT COLUMBIA'S CIVIL WAR SITES

A SUMMER DAY TRIP TO THE CAPITAL

TUESDAY, JUNE 22, 2004

(Note: Sites are tentative but fairly sure)

VISIT & TOUR THE GOVERNOR'S MANSION

TOUR THE STATE HOUSE

VISIT THE STATE MUSEUM & CONFEDERATE RELIC ROOM

SEE THE TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH & GRAVEYARD

DRIVE BY THE CHESTNUT COTTAGE

ENJOY LUNCH AT A CAPITAL AREA RESTAURANT on your own

7:30 a.m. Depart Hardeeville Wal-Mart parking lot aboard a Point Tours coach

7:00 p.m. Return to Wall-Mart parking lot

Limited to 45 participants. Cost: \$35.00 (cost of lunch not included)

Return tear-off below & return on or before **MAY 24**.

Columbia Civil War Sites, June 22, 2004

Name(s) _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Number of Reservations: _____ @ \$35.00 Total enclosed: _____

Make check payable to : *LCWRT Inc*

Return on or before **May 24** to:

ROBERT WILLIAMS
14 CAROLYN DRIVE
BEAUFORT, SC 29907
Phone 524-4919
robjnil@hargray.com

Reenlistment Form

LOWCOUNTRY CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE, Inc
P. O. BOX 2252, BLUFFTON, SC 29910
843-705-9898 www.lowcountrycwrt.org

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP PERIOD
September 1, 2004 to August 31, 2005

Civil War Heritage Interests

Would like to participate in heritage group ___ yes ___ no

Family member was in the Civil War ___ yes ___ no

Search for family ties to the Civil War ___ yes ___ no

Last Name _____ First Name _____ Badge Nickname _____

Family/Household Member Name _____ Badge Nickname _____

Address _____ City _____

State _____ Zip Code _____ Phone() _____ E-Mail _____

New Enlistment: Single One Time Initiation Fee \$25.00 + Annual Membership \$26.00 = \$51.00** _____

New Enlistment: Household One Time Initiation Fee \$30.00 + Annual Membership \$38.00 = \$68.00** _____

Re-enlistment: Single Membership: \$26.00 _____ **Family/Household: \$38.00** _____

Check # _____ **Date:** _____ **Payable To: LCWRT Inc**

Mail to address at top or leave in "green" box at 65 Hampton Circle

**** After February 1 - Dues are 1/2 price, i.e. \$26 becomes \$13 and \$38 becomes \$19.**



**Brigadier General
 Willis A Gorman
 commanded a bri-
 gade in Sumner's
 corp.**

**He and his wife say
 "You must reenlist or
 else!"**

Reservation for May 12th Meeting At McCracken Middle School Dinner @ 5:45pm—Program @ 7:00pm



Menu for This Meeting

- BBQ Chicken • Ribs
- Macaroni • Butter Beans
- String Beans • Corn on the Cob
- Apple Salad • Cole Slaw
- Peach Cobbler • Red Velvet Cake
- Rolls • Ice Tea • Coffee

Catered by Duke's of Ridgeland



Dinner For May 12th, 2004

Number of Dinners: ___ @ \$11 each = ___

Names: _____

Phone: _____ Ck# _____ Date _____

Make Check Payable to: LCWRT Inc

Mail Check with
this Form to:

RACHEL BUIE
6 SCREVEN COURT
BLUFFTON, SC 29909

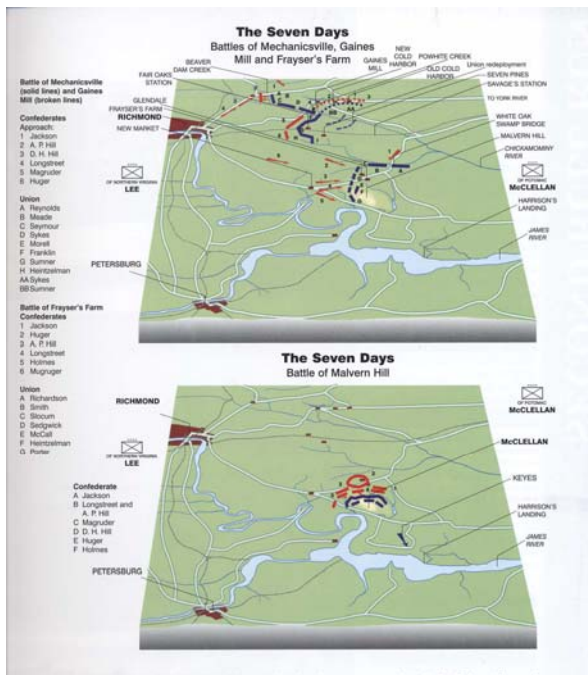


**NOTE NEW
COORDINATOR**

TO ATTEND PROGRAM ONLY

(no dinner) Make your reservation by
calling Jim Hamilton at 705-9898

Dinner Form & Check Must be
RECEIVED no later than May 7th 2004



RICHMOND IN JUNE 1862

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Difference!*

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CONTACT:

ORREN BELL

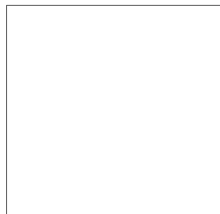


HOURS: MON-FRI: 8:30AM - 7PM
SAT: 9AM-5PM • CLOSED SUNDAY

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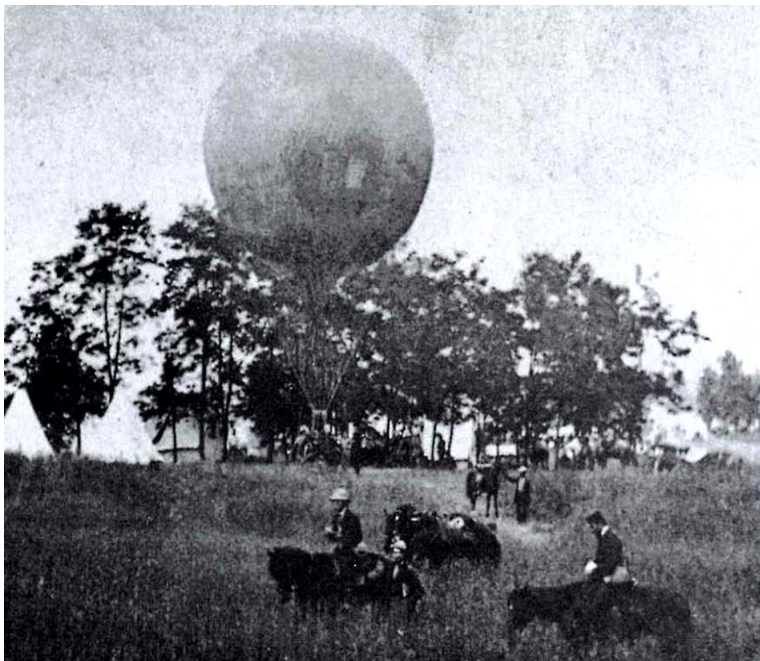
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THE MINIE BALL GAZETTE
Lowcountry Civil War Round Table Inc.
P.O. Box 2252

**Make Sure to Attend Our End-of-Season Meeting on May 12 2004
Seven Days Battle in Virginia
Presented by R. E. L. Krick**

Our Web Site: lowcountrycwrt.org



Brady captures Lowe's balloon as-
sent at Fair Oaks during the Seven
Days Battle