



THE MINIÊ BALL GAZETTE

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE
LOWCOUNTRY CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE, INC

NOVEMBER 2005, ISSUE 50

On November 9, The Great Locomotive Chase

Railroads played a significant role in the Civil War: they made possible rapid troop movements on a grand scale, hospital care, and brought supplies such as medical bags and weaponry including muskets, swords, pistols, rifles, and carbines to the front lines. It is no wonder then that on April 12, 1862, James J. Andrews and a band of Union raiders attempted to disable the Confederate Western & Atlantic Railroad. Their plan was to board a train headed north out of Atlanta for Chattanooga, capture the train and continue steaming north, stopping frequently to cut telegraph lines and burn bridges, thereby disrupting Confederate lines of communication and aiding the Union Army's drive on Chattanooga. They stole the *General*, a locomotive built for the Western & Atlantic Railroad at a cost of \$8,850, from under the watchful eyes of guards at nearby Camp McDonald while passengers and crew were eating breakfast at the Lacy Hotel.

Unfortunately, the plan went awry, and all the men were captured just before reaching Chattanooga. Eight, including their civilian leader, Andrews, were hanged in Atlanta on June, 1862. Eight more escaped from jail in Atlanta in October of that year. Then on March 17, 1863, nearly a year after their adventure began, the remaining six Raiders were exchanged via City Point, Virginia. When they arrived in Washington on March 25, 1863, Secretary Stanton sent word that he would like to see them. He was particularly impressed by Jacob Parrott, at age 19, the youngest of the group. Parrott calmly recited the major details of the raid along with the story of the brutal beatings he had suffered in captivity. Stanton praised Parrott's devotion to duty, then turning to an aide, selected a medal from a black leather case containing six Congressional Medals of Honor.

"They are the first that have been given to private soldiers in this War," he said as he pinned the medal to the left breast of Parrott's uniform. The remaining five men were also presented medals on March 25, 1863. Eventually 19 of these men were awarded the Medal of Honor. The official citation for their award is: "Nineteen of twenty-two men (including two civilians) who penetrated nearly 200 miles south into the enemy's territory and captured a railroad train at Big Shanty, Georgia, in an attempt to destroy the bridges and track between Chattanooga and Atlanta."



Come with us as we ride the *General* with our engineer Charlie Crawford northward to Tennessee with the Confederates in hot pursuit. We will follow in the footsteps of Confederate Conductor William Fuller as he chases "Andrews Raiders".

There will be a Morning After at Palmetto Electric on US 278 at 10 AM, Nov 10.

For additional historical information, go to <http://www.andrewsraid.com/index2.html> or <http://www.locomotivegeneral.com/locomotivechase.html>

In addition, we will have Walt Lineberger's Civil War Memorabilia display; guns, swords, medals, etc. Come early, and look for it on your way into the Bluffton High School cafeteria.

ATTENTION!

- Meeting starts at 7:00 PM, in the *Bluffton High School* auditorium. Please be seated by 6:45 PM
- Please, no drinking, no eating in the auditorium
- Buffet starts at 5:45 PM
- Morning After will be held at Palmetto Electric on US 278, 10 AM, Nov 10
- Checkout our Web Site for back issues or membership application:

WWW.LOWCOUNTRYCWRT.ORG

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Book Recommendations

Bob Williams

UNION LIST (Lowcountry)

A BRAVE BLACK REGIMENT: THE HISTORY OF THE 54TH MASSACHUSETTS, by Luis F. Emilio, 1894. Reprinted in 1995 by Da Capo Press. The author served as an officer in the 54th Massachusetts.

CAPTAIN OF THE PLANTER: THE STORY OF ROBERT SMALLS, by Dorothy Sterling, 1958 Doubleday. Robert Smalls was a slave from the Beaufort area. The "Planter" was a Confederate vessel Robert Smalls commandeered in Charleston and sailed to the Union blockade. A school and highway are named after him in Beaufort. His master's and after the war, his home still stands in Beaufort.

THE COMPLETE CIVIL WAR JOURNAL AND SELECTED LETTERS OF THOMAS WENTWORTH HIGGINSON, edited by Christopher Looby, 2000, The University of Chicago Press. Thomas Higginson was colonel and commanding officer of the 1st South Carolina Regiment, Colored.

CULTIVATING A NEW SOUTH: ABBIE HOLMES CHRISTENSEN AND THE POLITICS OF RACE AND GENDER, by Monica Maria Tetzlaff, 2002, University of South Carolina Press. Abbie Holmes came to the Beaufort area as a 10 year old girl in 1864. She married Neils Christensen a native of Denmark who commanded an Afro-American unit during the War Between the States.

GATES OF HELL: CAMPAIGN FOR CHARLESTON HARBOR., Stephen R. Wise, 1994, University of South Carolina Press This is a history of Union attempts to capture Charleston in 1863. Steve Wise is director of the Parris Island, SC museum and sometimes teaches at USC Beaufort.

The Minié Ball Gazette

P.O. Box 2252
Bluffton, SC 29910
843-705-9201

WWW.LOWCOUNTRYCWRT.ORG

Editor: Walter G. Hartung

The Lowcountry Civil War Round Table Inc. is a not-for-profit, charitable organization as qualified under section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code

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Editor	Walt Hartung	705-1055
Dinner	June McIntyre	705-5049
Hospitality	Don & Margaret Hubsch	705-7786
Historian	Help Wanted	



LCWRT thanks Palmetto Electric for allowing us use of their meeting room for our *Mornings After* and EXCOM meetings.

Upcoming Programs

Date	Subject	Speaker	Morning After?
Nov 9	Great Locomotive Chase ___see page 1 of this issue.	Charlie Crawford	Yes
December	No Meeting		
Jan 11	<u>Robert E. Lee</u> : Virginia Soldier, American Citizen. Can we ever know enough about this Confederate General?	Bud Robertson	Yes
Feb 8	<u>Emancipation Proclamation</u> . Lincoln comes to the lowcountry, where on January 1, 1863 the reading of the Proclamation was joyfully received by crowds of former slaves.	Lincoln Actor, James Getty	Yes
Mar 8	<u>Women at War</u> . Women contributed to the Union effort by serving with the U.S. Sanitary Commission. Learn about their work in aiding the soldiers.	Wendy Venet	?
Apr 12	<u>Vicksburg Campaign</u> . Grant's armies converged on Vicksburg in May and June of 1863 and entrapped a Confederate army under Lt.Gen. Pemberton.	Ed Bears	Yes
May 10	LCWRT Annual Meeting, ELECTION OF OFFICERS		
	<u>Lincoln and the Trent Affair</u> . Crisis on the high seas; Great Britain is outraged when the Union removes two Confederate emissaries from a British ship. How will Lincoln respond ?	Craig Symonds	Yes

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Southern Museum of Civil War and Locomotive History

A recommended trip back in time to this era is to visit the Southern Museum of Civil War and Locomotive History (www.southernmuseum.org) in Kennesaw, Georgia, just west of Atlanta. This trip could also include Kennesaw Mountain where General Sherman suffered massive losses charging General Hood's entrenched troops during the battle for Atlanta. With three impressive permanent collections and a membership in the prestigious Smithsonian Affiliations Program, the Museum offers a wide range of exhibits, including a glimpse into the daily lives of soldiers during the Civil War; a reproduction of a turn-of-the-century locomotive factory; and an exciting depiction of the Civil War's Great Locomotive Chase. Learn more about the spies in the Museum's Raiders Gallery that features Sgt. Scott's Medal of Honor, as well as photos and information about all 22 raiders. The famous locomotive *The General* is on display here. In addition to the role of railroads, comprehensive Civil War Collections give visitors a glimpse into the lives of soldiers and citizens during the Civil War era, with a wide variety of weapons and personal items including uniforms, leather goods, bibles, musical instruments, and more.

Mary Edwards Walker, Civil War Doctor and Medal of Honor Recipient



The very remarkable Dr. Mary Edwards Walker is the only one of 1.8 million women veterans to earn the Congressional Medal of Honor; this was for her service during the Civil War. Out of a total of 3,440 medal recipients, she is the only woman.

Controversy surrounded Mary Edwards Walker throughout her life. She was born on **November 26**, 1832 in the town of Oswego, New York, into an abolitionist family. Her birthplace on Bunker Hill Road is marked with a historical marker. Her father, a country doctor, was a freethinking participant in many of the reform movements. He believed strongly in education and equality for his five daughters. He believed that they were being hampered by the tight-fitting women's clothing of the day.

Mary, became an early enthusiast for women's rights, and passionately espoused the issue of dress reform. The most famous proponent of dress reform was Amelia Bloomer, a native of Homer, New York, who defended a colleague's right to wear "Turkish pantaloons". *Bloomers* as they became known achieved popularity towards the end of the 19th century as women took up the new sport of bicycling. Mary Edwards Walker discarded the severely restrictive women's clothing of the day. Later in her life she donned full men's evening dress to lecture on women's rights.

In June 1855 Mary became the nation's second woman doctor when she graduated from Syracuse Medical College, the nation's first medical school and one which accepted women and men on an equal basis. She graduated at age 21 after three 13-week semesters of medical training for which she paid \$55 each.

In 1856 she married another physician, Albert Miller and wore trousers and a man's coat and kept her own name. Together they set up a medical practice in Rome, NY, but the public was not ready to accept a woman physician, and their practice floundered. They were divorced 13 years later.

When war broke out, she came to Washington and tried to join the Union Army. Denied a commission as a medical
Continued on Page 4

Scenes from October Meeting



Left, as Bob Eberly signs his book *Bouquets from the Cannon's Mouth: Soldiering with the Eight Regiment of the Pennsylvania Reserves*, his wife keeps track of the profits. At right, members inspect Walt Lineberger's display of Union Civil War rifles (Sharps, Henry, Spencer & Springfield).



Below, Cathy Barton and Dave Para electrify the LCWRT with their Civil War era songs and unique, authentic musical instruments which included wooden spoons, Jew's harp, and a *plastic leaf*. Her beautiful voice gave added poignancy to the many soldier ballads. After a truly outstanding performance, including sing-a-longs, they received rousing, standing ovations. This memorable event was enthusiastically enjoyed by all. Many purchased CDs of their music.



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Mary Edwards Walker (continued)

officer, she volunteered anyway, serving as an acting assistant surgeon -- the first female surgeon in the US Army. As an unpaid volunteer, she worked in the US Patent Office Hospital in Washington. Later, she worked as a field surgeon near the Union front lines for almost two years (including Fredericksburg and in Chattanooga after the Battle of Chickamauga).

In September 1863, Walker was finally appointed assistant surgeon in the Army of the Cumberland for which she made herself a slightly modified officer's uniform to wear in response to the demands of traveling with the soldiers and working in field hospitals. She was then appointed assistant surgeon of the 52nd Ohio Infantry. During this assignment it is generally accepted that she also served as a spy. She frequently crossed Confederate lines to treat civilians. She was taken prisoner in 1864 by Confederate troops and imprisoned in Richmond for four months until she was exchanged, with two dozen other Union doctors, for 17 Confederate surgeons. She was released back to the 52nd Ohio as a contract surgeon, but spent the rest of the war as an assistant surgeon in charge of female prisoners at Louisville, Ky., upon the recommendation of Major-Generals Sherman and Thomas.

On **November 11, 1865**, President Johnson signed a bill to present Dr. Mary Edwards Walker with the Congressional Medal of Honor for Meritorious Service, in order to recognize her contributions to the war effort without awarding her an army commission. To this day, she is the only woman to receive the Medal of Honor, her country's highest military award.

In 1917 her Congressional Medal, along with the medals of 910 others was taken away when Congress revised the Medal of Honor standards to include only "actual combat with an enemy". She refused to give back her Medal of Honor, wearing it every day until her death in 1919. A relative told the New York Times: "Dr. Mary lost the medal simply because she was a hundred years ahead of her time and no one could stomach it." Under President Carter, an Army board reinstated Walker's medal posthumously in 1977, citing her "distinguished gallantry, self-sacrifice, patriotism, dedication and unflinching loyalty to her country, despite the apparent discrimination because of her sex."

After the war, Mary Edwards Walker became a writer and lecturer, speaking here and abroad on women's rights, dress reform, health and temperance issues. Tobacco, she said, resulted in paralysis and insanity. Women's clothing, she said, was immodest and inconvenient. She was elected president of the National Dress Reform Association in 1866. Walker prided herself by being arrested numerous times for wearing full male dress, including wing collar, bow tie, and top hat. She was also something of an inventor, coming up with the idea of using a return postcard for registered mail. She wrote extensively, including a combination biography and commentary called *Hit* and a second book, *Unmasked, or the Science of Immortality*. She died in the Town of Oswego on February 21, 1919 and is buried in the Rural Cemetery on the Cemetery Road.

A 20¢ stamp honoring Dr. Mary Walker was issued in Oswego, NY on June 10, 1982. The stamp commemorates the first woman to have been awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor and the second woman to have graduated from a medical school in the United States.

For all that Mary Walker has done, we owe her our endearing gratitude.

For more information please check our the web site: <http://www.northnet.org/stlawrenceaauw/walker.htm>



President's Message

If you have a friend, neighbor or relative who might have an interest in the Round Table, do bring them to a meeting. You may also invite them to make a dinner reservation, as well. The Executive Committee recognizes the fact that it's difficult to imagine what we are all about unless one has a chance to experience a meeting first hand. All we ask is that your guests stop by our membership table to register and receive a temporary name-tag. We have a great organization. Let's not keep it a secret.

It's hard to believe but with the November meeting we are actually one-third through our program year. The months are just flying by. Before we know it, all of us will be preparing for the holidays.

This is the last issue of the Minie Ball for 2005. So, all the Officers & Committee Chairpersons would like to wish you and your loved ones a happy, healthy and safe holiday season: Happy Thanksgiving, Happy Hanukkah and Merry Christmas! Happy New Year to all!

See you all in January for our annual visit with *Bud* and his added insight on Robert E. Lee!

Johanna Verwer



Johanna with Cathy and Dave

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Buffet Reservations for Wed., Nov 9th, 5:45 PM. Reservations due by noon Fri Nov 4

Number of Dinners: ____ @ \$12 each = \$ _____

Names: _____

Phone: _____ Ck# _____ Date _____

Make Check Payable to: **LCWRT Inc**

Mail Check with this Form to:

JIM STROHECKER

125 LAKE SOMERSET CIRCLE

BLUFFTON, SC 29909

(OR PLACE IN GREEN BOX)

Buffet Menu for Nov 9

Bluffton High School Cafeteria, catered by ***Dukes Bar-BQ of Ridgeland***

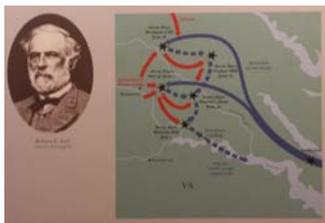
Turkey, BBQ Pork, Sugar Peas, Corn, Broccoli Salad, Cranberry Salad

Red Velvet Cake & Peach Cobbler

Coffee & Tea



Coming on Jan 11, 2006, Robert Lee



Meet anew this remarkable soldier and man as only “Bud” Robertson can present. Bud , Director of the Virginia Center for Civil War Studies, Blacksburg, Virginia, is a most informative, enthusiastic and entertaining speaker. Bud will host a morning after for us to ask what we will about R.E. Lee. Walt Lineberger will continue his wonderful display of Civil War memorabilia. For this special event, Dukes BarBQ will present a super buffet to include BBQ Pork, Chicken, Pistachio Salad, Banana Pudding and Chocolate Cake.

REWARD!

Do you know the where we can find the **LCWRT history book** started by Carol Cutrona? It is a scrapbook filled with pictures & memorabilia measuring approximately 15” x 20”. It was last seen at a LCWRT meeting quite some time ago. If you have information concerning the whereabouts of this treasure, please contact Johanna at 705-9201 and earn her unbridled gratitude.



Psst! Do You Have It ????



Charlie Crawford

November’s speaker, Charlie Crawford, is president of Georgia Battlefields Association and editor of the Georgia Battlefields monthly newsletter. He has a B. S. in Applied Mathematics and an M. S. in Systems Management. Charlie is a life member of the Civil War Preservation Trust.

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