



MINIÉ BALL GAZETTE

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

JANUARY 2010

ABOUT OUR FEBRUARY PROGRAM & SPEAKER – DR. "JACK" DAVIS

It is hard to say where the road to the Civil War started. Was it in the North with radical abolitionists including John Brown? Or was here in Beaufort, South Carolina, with the radical secessionists including Robert Barnwell Rhett, Sr.? He probably did more to advance secession than any other Southern statesman. None of the fire-eaters, also known as radical secessionists, could match Rhett's dedication to secession. Starting in 1826 and for the next 35 years, he steadily evolved into an ever more strident proponent for ending the Union. In the state legislature of South Carolina, Congress, and the Senate, he sang but the one note - the right of a state to leave the Union. Robert Barnwell Rhett, Sr.'s life is a case study in zealotry carried to fanaticism. He sacrificed everything, including his family and his business, for his obsession with politics and antagonism to the Union. When the Civil War came, he could be expected to be among the Confederacy's premier leaders, but he was almost left out, even by his fellow South Carolinians. Find out what happened to the "Father of Secession" and his "Bluffton Movement."

February's speaker at the LCWRT, Dr. William C. "Jack" Davis is no stranger to the local round table. The author of "Rhett: The Turbulent Life and Times of a Fire-Eater" and the editor of "A Fire-Eater Remembered: The Confederate Memoir of Robert Barnwell Rhett" will lead us down the road which led to the Civil War. In addition to his duties as Professor of History at Virginia Tech, Jack Davis is program director for the Virginia Center for Civil War Studies. You may have seen him as the on-camera consultant for the 52 episodes of the Arts & Entertainment Network/History Channel series "Civil War Journal."

THE 2009 – 2010 LECTURE SERIES - PRELUDE TO THE CIVIL WAR

The Program Committee is pleased to be able to offer the following presentations during the current program year:

September 9, 2009-6:45pm--An Intense Look at the Institution of Slavery in South Carolina

Jim Jordan, our fellow LCWRT member from Callawassie Island, has agreed to present a lecture on slavery—its importance and impact on the Beaufort County Society. Mr. Jordan is well known for his work on tours and lectures for the Savannah Grays.

October 14, 2009-6:45pm--Prewar Formative Years of the Important Generals in the Civil War

Jack Waugh will travel from Texas to present a lecture on the most important generals of the North and South in their formative years prior to the outbreak of the Civil War in 1861. Mr. Waugh is a nationally known historian who authored the fantastic Class of 1846.

November 11, 2009-6:45pm--The Rise of Abraham Lincoln 1848-1860

Jim Getty will revisit our Round Table on this 200th anniversary of Lincoln's birth. We should enthusiastically welcome President Lincoln, who will be accompanied by our local militia, back to the Lowcountry. The topic of the discussion will be Lincoln 1848-1860.

*January 13, 2010-6:45pm--John Brown—The First Terrorist - **RESCHEDULED FOR JANUARY 12, 2011***

Bud Robertson will present a timely lecture on the incredibly controversial figure of John Brown. You will be able to follow this most famous Abolitionist from his Connecticut childhood to the bloody activities in Kansas to his final confrontation with Col. Robert E. Lee in Harpers Ferry, Virginia.

February 10, 2010-6:45pm--The Fire-eaters and Their Contribution to Secession Fever

As a complement to our January program, Jack Davis will present a program on the Fire-eaters and their contributions to the fermentation of the secessionist fever that infected the South.

March 10, 2010-6:45pm--Dahlgren's Raid on Richmond

Ed Bearss will present a lecture on Dahlgren's raid on Richmond. This cavalry raid was to terrorize Richmond, but was it its intent to follow Lincoln's wish and assassinate Jefferson Davis? Mr. Bearss will also explore the relationship that Lincoln had with Dahlgren's father. So, get ready all you conspiracy theorists for this out-of-sequence lecture.

April 14, 2010-6:45pm--Antebellum History of Beaufort County

Our local historian and writer, John McCardill, will present a local flavor lecture on the antebellum history of Beaufort County. Mr. McCardill, along with Larry Rowland and Steve Wise, has been giving this lecture to sold-out audiences and has fantastic reviews all around the Lowcountry.

May 12, 2010-6:45pm--The Real "Cold Mountain"—Desertion, Destruction, Deprivation, and Desperation

Dr. Peter Carmichael will return to help us end our program year with an out-of-sequence lecture on the dire state of the South after the Civil War but before reconstruction. It will be a historically correct "Cold Mountain" with the reality of desertion, destruction, deprivation, and desperation. For the morning-after-the program discussion group, Dr. Carmichael will present his very enjoyable program on the Confederate/Union Generals set into an NFL All-Star format.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

I was very pleased with the results of our first dinner program of 2010. We were shocked and concerned when we received the news about our friend, Bud Robertson, who sustained an injury that required surgery, thus preventing him from traveling to the Lowcountry and presenting the January program. With only three days notice, our Vice-President, Chris Clayton, stepped up to the plate and presented the LCWRT with an excellent program on the Battle of Shiloh and a well attended and enjoyable Morning-After. Thank you Chris and get well, Bud!

As you are probably aware, the nation will celebrate the Sesquicentennial of the Civil War. All the eastern states are now preparing for this five-year celebration, which will commence in 2011. The LCWRT has been invited to participate in the planning and execution of events in South Carolina. We will join with other similar organizations throughout the Lowcountry to stage many of these events, and I believe that our LCWRT should be willing to lead Beaufort County in planning them.

Also, thank you for your support of the January dinner program. We had over 90 members attend the dinner, over 200 people attend the lecture, and 20 attend the Morning-After. With only four programs remaining, we are now very actively seeking members who are willing to donate a few hours a month to assist in the organization of the LCWRT. If you can help us, please contact anyone on the Executive Committee. We know we have a position that would fit you perfectly.

In conclusion, I hope you stay warm; and I will look forward to seeing you on Wednesday, February 10th, when we welcome back the famous and most entertaining speaker, Jack Davis, who will present a program on "The Fire-Eaters and Their Contribution to Secession Fever." If you have any questions or want to express your opinions, call me at 843-671-2236 or e-mail me at

jmonkaitis@aol.com. Thank you. *John Monkaitis*

NEW/RENEWAL MEMBERSHIP FORM
ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP PERIOD September 1, 2009 to August 31, 2010
Please **Print** All Information Below

Last Name First Name Badge Nickname

Additional Member Last Name First Name Badge Nickname

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Phone () _____ E-Mail _____

Your E-Mail is very important to us and we will keep it confidential.

Check YES & Help us save money! I want my monthly Newsletter **E-MAILED** to me rather than Delivered/Mailed YES _____ NO _____

New Enlistment (**DISCOUNTED ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP IS ONLY AVAILABLE TO NEW ENLISTMENTS**):

Single: _____ One Time Initiation Fee \$25.00 + DISCOUNTED Annual Membership \$20.00 = \$45.00 _____

Household: _____ One Time Initiation Fee \$35.00 + DISCOUNTED Annual Membership \$30.00 = \$65.00 _____

Reenlistment:

Single: _____ Annual Membership: \$30.00 _____

Household: _____ Annual Membership: \$45.00 _____

We always need/solicit volunteers to continue making the LCWRT successful. **Please check the area(s) for which you'd like to volunteer:**

____ Program Committee: select topics & speakers ____ Maintain Membership (requires a computer) ____ Editor of the bulletin (requires a computer)

____ Treasurer ____ Secretary ____ President ____ Collect dinner reservations ____ Perform the 'check in' during dinner

____ Hospitality & Greeter (distribute name cards) ____ Check in New Members & Guests ____ Historian ____ Help distribute the Minié Ball

Mail to or Leave in "lower" box:

Make Check Payable to: **LCWRT Inc**

Jim and Nancy Alt
21 Trescot Lane
Bluffton, SC 29909

Any question, please call
Jim or Nancy Alt at 705-3974

SPECIAL REQUEST AND REMINDERS

We solicit your continued support for the Golden Corral Dinner preceding each meeting as it takes a considerable amount of effort to arrange these functions. We must guarantee and pay for a minimum of 70 dinners each month and when we do not have the minimum number, the LCWRT treasury and thus all of us members pay the difference. We continue working with Golden Corral to expand the menu items as you saw in January and will see from the below February menu, while still attempting to maintain the \$14.00 per person cost. We believe that this social function is beneficial to the LCWRT members and encourage your participation. If you have not already done so, we urge you to complete the HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE FOOD SERVICE SURVEY to assist us in assuring we are meeting the desires of the LCWRT membership.

Remember our new Golden Corral dinner procedures. When you arrive for the dinner at 5:45 pm, be sure to check in at the front table to get your dinner tickets.

Also remember you will only be able to enter Bluffton High School through the Main Entrance doors. The Auditorium entrance doors will be locked. If you are coming only for the program, you will need to go through the Main Entrance doors, check in at the front table in the Cafeteria and then move through the Cafeteria to the ramp leading down to the Auditorium.

GOLDEN CORRAL'S DINNER MENU for WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2010
SPECIAL FEBRUARY "ITALIAN FESTIVAL" DINNER

- Spaghetti with Marinara Sauce
- Meatballs in Marinara Sauce
- Fettuccine Alfredo with Chicken
- Parmesan Cheese for Topping
- House Salad with Choice of Four Dressings
- Garlic Bread and Yeast Rolls with Honey Butter
- Fresh Cut-up Fruit
- Chocolate Cake, Pecan Pie, and Assorted Cookies
- Unsweetened Tea, Lemonade, and Decaffeinated Coffee

The cost for dinner is \$14 per person, which includes taxes and gratuities

An additional guest charge of \$10 per person to attend the lecture is due and payable at the door

Reservations are required ONLY for Dinner

And MUST be received BY MONDAY, February 8, 2010

----- Clip & Submit with your check-----

DINNER RESERVATIONS FOR WEDNESDAY, February 10, 2010

Meal service promptly beginning at 5:45 pm

Total Number of Dinners Ordered: _____ @ \$14 each = _____ Member Phone #: _____

Member # 1 Name _____

Member # 2 Name _____

Guest: _____ [Please pay guest charge at the door]

Guest: _____ [Please pay guest charge at the door]

List Guests on additional paper if necessary.

Make check for *dinner only* payable to **LCWRT Inc.** and mail together with this form to:

Jim Hamilton
15 Walden Lane
Bluffton, SC 29909
Telephone: 843-705-7575

----- Clip & Submit with your check-----

FEBRUARY "MORNING AFTER" PROGRAM

The Thursday, February 11, "Morning After" program featuring Jack Davis is to be held at the Palmetto Electric Cooperative facility at the New River Center on Hwy 278 near the Hardeeville Walmart at 10:00 a.m.

**We thank Palmetto Electric Cooperative and Honey Horn Plantation
for the use of their facilities for our "Morning After" sessions.**

LCWRT JUNE 1, 2009 – MAY 31, 2010

Executive Committee

President	John Monkaitis	843-671-2236	jmonkaitis@aol.com
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Past President	Johanna Verwer	843-705-9201	jbm@hargray.com
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Committee Chairpersons

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The MINIÉ BALL GAZETTE

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The Lowcountry Civil War Round Table, Inc.

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Founded in 2000 and dedicated to Civil War history,
education, and battlefield preservation.

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As qualified under section 501 (C) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code

NOTE: The website for the Lowcountry Civil War Round Table (LCWRT) has a new website address. The new address is: www.lcwrt.squarespace.com and it can be used to get current and historical LCWRT information.

Lowcountry Civil War Round Table, Inc.

John Monkaitis, President
93 Club Course Drive
Hilton Head, SC 29928

**MEMBER NAME
& ADDRESS**