

THE MINIE BALL GAZETTE

LOWCOUNTRY CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

P. O. BOX 2252 BLUFFTON, S.C. 29910 (843) 705-9898

Editor - Carol J. Cutrona (843) 705-6189 ccutrona@hargray.com

Assistant Editor - Bob Eberly (843) 785-5393 prinzarnulf@hargray.com

Dedicated to Historic Preservation and Enlightenment

TRUST IN GOD BUT KEEP
YOUR POWDER DRY

DECEMBER 2001
ISSUE 013

NEWS FLASH ----

INSTEAD OF HOSTING A DECEMBER GENERAL MEETING, we will celebrate the holiday season by attending a Holiday Party on December 2nd at the Boardwalk, Folly Beach Road, Hilton Head Island (formerly the Hilton Head Beach and Tennis Resort).

FOR LAST MINUTE RESERVATIONS, PLEASE CALL BERNIE COVERT, 705-7808

YOU MUST ACT BY
NOVEMBER 30!

THE BLUE AND GRAY SYMPOSIUM

Your Round Table will be hosting the South Atlantic Civil War Symposium at the Hilton Head Holiday Inn from February 27 to March 2, 2002.

The Symposium will feature nine nationally known speakers and a tour of Savannah Civil War sites. As the hosting Round Table, our members will receive a substantially discounted fee for the event. The regular price is \$350; our price is \$195, if you register by November 30, 2001. See the enclosed flyer and registration form for details.

This is a great way to enhance your understanding of the war and support a worthy organization - the Blue & Gray Educational Society.
by Tom Oliver

MAIL CALL

by Bob Eberly

On December 27, 1861 Adam Bright, a soldier with the Pennsylvania Reserves, wrote to his uncle in Western Pennsylvania, describing his first Christmas away from home. He wrote from the Union army's winter quarters at Camp Pierpont in Northern Virginia:

*Camp Pierpont
December 27th 1861*

Dear Uncle,

Your letter of the 24th has just been read with pleasure. I am glad to hear that you are all alive and well but sorry that I cannot dine with you, for a mess of mush and sausages would not be hard to take. I had a very nice dinner on Christmas day. One of my friends had a box sent to him by express containing 4 large Shanghai roosters stuffed, a number of pound cakes, and pies, pickles and apples. You may be sure I did them all justice.

I have been very busy for some time building a shanty, or I would have written sooner. But I sent you a paper containing a tolerable correct account of the battle at Drainsville [December 20, 1861] and I see our Lieutenant (who is now in Pittsburgh) has had an account of it published in the Pittsburgh Post, so it is not necessary for me to say much about it only I was not in the mix. I had been up all night drawing grub and having it cooked, but I think I will quit the business for I always like to see everything that is going on.

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Our boys had warm quarters for a little while, but they did well. . . . One man in our Company was shot through the leg . . . and one had his arm skinned a little bit. But they all came off very safe. The 9th [Regiment] deserves the credit for the victory, for they opened the fight and fought bravely while it lasted. This is the first victory of any account in this part of Virginia, and it was won by the Pennsylvania boys. . . . This was the Reserves' first fight and they had to fight the best regiments in the rebel army. I must close. My love to all. Write soon, from

Adam Bright served his three-year enlistment with the Pennsylvania Reserves and returned to his home in time to help with the farm work in the summer of 1864. He married twice, had several children and died in 1888. His older brother, Mike, was killed at the battle of Chickamauga in 1863.

TRIVIA

How many blockade runners escaped the Federal blockade net?

Answer - An estimated 6,000 vessels, carrying 200 million in goods.

New trivia - What happened to many of the amputated limbs from the Civil War?

Answer - next month

JANUARY NEWSLETTER
DEADLINE IS DECEMBER 10TH

MILITARY ENGAGEMENTS

December 2 - Holiday party

January 16 - General Meeting - Held at Boardwalk - Professor "Bud" Robertson on "Why Soldiers Fight"

February 13 - General Meeting - Held at

the Boardwalk - Ed Bearss - "The Battle of First Manassas"

PARTY! PARTY! PARTY!

In keeping with the spirit of the Lowcountry Civil War Round Table, your officers and program committee members look forward to welcoming you at your antebellum Holiday Party. This festive occasion will be held on Sunday, December 2nd from 1630 to 2000 at the Boardwalk (formerly called the Hilton Head Beach and Tennis Resort) on Folly Field Road.

The relaxing and fun-filled affair will feature a Civil War band in period dress which will entertain us with both music and instruction for period dancing, with gourmet food aplenty, amid holiday floor to ceiling decorations, creating a delightful mood for you to enjoy.

At the time of this printing, there are still some openings available. If you wish to attend, please call Bernie Covert, 705-7808, right away.

To rent costumes, call A Starr Struck, 785-6862, or Acme Costumes, 912-966-0201.

NOTE CHANGE IN DATE AND PLACE. JANUARY MEETING WILL BE HELD ON THIRD WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 16TH. LOCATION WILL BE THE BOARDWALK. FOR "MORNING AFTER" PROGRAM RESERVATION, CALL BERNIE COVERT, 705-7808!

WEB SITE UP AND RUNNING

Log onto www.lowcountrycwr.org to view your club's web site.

A grand "thank you" to George Pinkerton, our web master, for his work in making it all happen.

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HOLIDAY PARTY

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2001

TIME: 1630 TO 2000

The Boardwalk
\$40 Folly Field Road
35.00 PER PERSON

An antebellum HOLIDAY PARTY with gourmet food and festive floor to ceiling decorations including 8 & 16-foot trees softly lit amid ficus plantings and old English Nutcrackers.

An abundant selection of GOURMET food to choose from – three buffet tables each attended by a chef, plus a savory array of 3 soups, salads, and specialty islands of sensational sweets & antebellum treats to satisfy even the most diverse appetite – a joyous catered affair.

CIVIL WAR BAND will play both dance and listening music of the 1860's.

Civil War & antebellum dress optional. Door Prizes

Total inclusive price \$35.00 per person. Guests of members welcomed. Cash bar will be available as well as special overnight hotel rates for those who wish to continue to party.

**FOR LAST MINUTE RESERVATIONS TO ATTEND THE PARTY
PLEASE CALL BERNIE COVERT, 705-7808**

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**SEE "THE BLUE & GRAY SYMPOSIUM" INFORMATION ON
NEXT PAGE —————>**



Seminar & Tour Program

REGISTRATION FORM

Richard McMurry's South Atlantic Civil War Symposium at Hilton Head Island

Presented by the Blue and Gray Education Society

Hosted by the Lowcountry Civil War Round Table

Over the years, historian Richard McMurry has emerged as one of the leading scholars of Western Civil War historiography. Now McMurry has invited eight colleagues to a significant, diverse, and exciting forum. Successive presentations will advance beyond narrow single theme programs to generate a *higher level of understanding of the war*. When mixed with several days of touring this is sure to chase away the "Winter Blues."

Better known as a golf, tennis, and beach Mecca--Hilton Head is one of the Civil War's undiscovered treasures. Perhaps it is more recognizable by its earlier name Port Royal. Captured in November 1861, the Union invasion was the largest US amphibious operation until World War II -- 77 ships, 13,000 troops and 1,500 horses. This barrier island was the staging area for various forays into the heart of Dixiedom and a symbol of hope for thousands of free blacks--the first freedmen's village, Mitchelville, was built there. From the beachfront you can see Fort Pulaski. At Hilton Head earthen forts such as Fort Mitchel and Fort Howell now stand silent.

Wednesday, February 27, 2002

Arrive at leisure during the day. Our headquarters is the magnificent *Holiday Inn Oceanfront Resort*. The sparkling facility just completed a seven million dollar renovation. You may arrive earlier than Wednesday if

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you wish. Our unbelievably low hotel rate will be honored throughout the week. The golf courses are in *PGA tournament* condition! The sparkling beaches will belong to you.

You must arrive by 1 PM if you've registered for our *optional tour* of the Civil War sites at Hilton Head. **For current BGES members this tour is FREE but pre-registration is required!** For all others, the \$45 rate includes refreshments. Registration is required by February 6th.

Our program opens with registration from 6 to 7 PM. A buffet dinner will follow. A keynote address will open the academic program. We will be finished for the day by 9 PM.

Thursday, February 28, 2002

You may register from 8:30 until 9:30 AM. Our first lecture is at 9:45 the second at 11 AM. We will provide a sumptuous lunch. The afternoon starts at 2 PM with a 3rd lecture. The 4th lecture will start at 3: 15 PM. The day concludes with a panel discussion from 4:30 PM until 5:30 PM.

Friday, March 1, 2002

We are off at 8:30" AM. Following a pick up at Del Webb's Sun City, we will head for Savannah and their Forts Pulaski, McAllister, and Jackson. Lunch and refreshments are included. That evening **BGES** members will have a **FREE** private reception. They will receive an annual report on the state of the organization and programs we are engaged in. The annual meeting is FREE.

Saturday, March 2, 2002

Our final day begins at 9:00 AM. Two lectures will be followed by a two-hour break so you can get lunch on your own. From 1:30 PM, two lectures and panel discussion will conclude at 5 PM.

THE FACULTY

Richard McMurry: Freelance historian. Ph.D. Emory University, author of **Two Great Rebel Armies, Atlanta 1864, John Bell Hood and the War for Southern Independence.** His topic will be "Historical Perspectives: A New Framework for the War's Military History."

William C Davis: Deputy Director, Virginia Tech Civil War Center, author of over 40 books including **Jefferson Davis, The Man and the Hour.** He will be discussing "The Siege of Charleston. "

Joe Glatthaar: University of Houston, author of **Partners in Command and Forged in Battle.**

Bill Shea: University of Arkansas-Monticello, co-author of **Pea Ridge: Civil War Campaign in the West.**

Lesley Gordon: University of Akron, author of **General George E. Pickett in Life and Legend.** Dr. Gordon's topic will be "Surely They Remember Me: The 16th Connecticut in War and Captivity"

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Joe Harsh: George Mason University, expertise includes the Eastern Theatre and R. E. Lee, author of **Confederate Tide Rising, RE Lee and the Making of Southern Strategy and Taken " at the Flood, RE Lee and Confederate Strategy in the Maryland Campaign of 1862.** He will be speaking on "The War in the Eastern Theater During the First Two Years."

Richard Rosen: Freelance historian, author of **The Jewish Confederates and Confederate Charleston.** His topic is "The Jewish Confederates."

Anne J. Bailey: Georgia College and State University, author of **The Chessboard of War, Sherman and Hood in the Autumn Campaigns of 1864** and others.

J. Tracy Power: South Carolina Archives and History, author of **Lee's Miserables, Life in the Army of Northern Virginia from the Wilderness to Appomattox.** During his sessions, he will follow three brothers from the 25th South Carolina through out the course of the war.

HOTEL AND AIRPORT INFORMATION

We have selected the **Holiday Inn Oceanfront**, One South Forest Beach Drive. This oceanfront hotel has extended a rate of \$99 single or double (inclusive of tax) for this event. This is a GREAT rate and a large discount over their normal rates. You can call the hotel at 800-423-9897 for reservations--**ask for code BGE.** This room block expires **January 27, 2002.**

Savannah International Airport is about 1 hour south of Hilton Head. If you fly in you will need a rental car. There is currently limited air service directly to Hilton Head Island on US Airways commuter, however it is very expensive.

BGES is a non-profit, tax exempt charitable and educational organization under IRS code 501 ©(3). Donations are tax deductible

TO MAKE A RESERVATION: SEE REGISTRATION FORM ON NEXT PAGE →

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Blue & Gray Education Society
South Atlantic Civil War Symposium at Hilton Head
February 27 – March 1, 2002

Lowcountry Civil War Round Table Registration Form

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

* The following rates are only available to the dues paying members of the Lowcountry CWRT.
Under this agreement the members must adhere to the deadlines listed. Full registration rate is \$350.

_____ Lowcountry CWRT Rate (postmarked by November 30th) \$ 195* Save 44%

_____ Early Bird (postmarked by December 31st) \$ 263 Save 25%

_____ Pre-registration (must be received by February 25th) \$ 315 Save 10%

_____ Registration for Wednesday afternoon tour of Port Royal (Hilton Head) \$ 45

Form of Payment

_____ Check (payable to BGES) enclosed for payment in full

_____ Charge my (circle one as applicable) AMExp VISA MasterCard

_____ Exp: _____

Signature: _____

You may cancel your registration with a full refund until February 25th. Your money will be refunded in full if you are not completely satisfied.

Mail this registration form to **BGES Hilton Head Symposium**; 416 Beck Street; Norfolk, Virginia 23503

Or fax this registration form to 1-434-836-3292 or call Toll Free 1-888-741-BGES (2437)

THIS ENDS THE DECEMBER 2001 ISSUE