



MINIE BALL GAZETTE

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

May 14, 2019

Dear LCWRT members:

Three high school seniors submitted essays to the Keller Family Scholarship Fund. Our panel of judges concluded that Katherine Reilly, a student at John Paul II Catholic School, was the winner. Her essay was titled “The Naval Battle of Port Royal.” One other wrote on the same subject and the other on “The Underground Railroad in SC.” The college/university where Ms. Reilly has been accepted will be given \$1,000 in her name. (Editor's Note: Katherine's sister, Megan was our 2017 Scholarship winner!)

We have been advised that our preferences for the venue in September, October, and November will not be granted. Our choices were Magnolia Hall and Pinckney Hall, but we have been “assigned” to Hidden Cypress ballroom. This facility will supposedly accommodate 150 persons, and the required amenities for our presenters are available. The rental is less, and LCWRT will still be able to meet in Sun City – importantly we have been granted the dates we requested. This is most important since these dates have been agreed on between LCWRT and respective speakers.

I reported earlier that I have copies of the *Mini Ball Gazette* starting with the original in September, 2000. Here are some interesting facts I learned in the early copies: 1. The first officers were for the year 2001-02; 2. These were Bob Eberly (President); Thomas Oliver (Vice President); Johanna Verwer (Secretary); Walter Hartung (Treasurer) and Donald McCoy (At Large Member); and 3. “Bud” Robertson spoke to us in Jan. 2001 and “Jack” Davis in Sept. 2001.

-Alexander Stephens (VP of the CSA) is credited with the phrase “War Between the States.”

-Mary Ann Bickerdyke was the first woman to receive army pension; battlefield relief

-Mary Elizabeth Bowser (a slave in Jefferson Davis’ house) was a spy for Union

-Mini ball; founded by Captain Claude Minie; cylindro-conical projectile with three grooves and conical cavity

-Sherman needed 600 tons of ammo, food, clothing, and forage daily during his march to Atlanta. All were transported over a single railroad from Chattanooga to Atlanta; needed 5000 wagons to distribute.

Michael Sweeney, President
LCWRT

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2019 Lecture Series for the LCWRT

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Sept. 26, 2019	Jack Rabbitt	“Jews in the Civil War”
Oct. 24, 2019	Sandra Ottley	“Female Nurses, Spies and Soldiers”
Nov. 20, 2019	Richard Murray	“Atlanta Campaign”

Please check each month’s *Minie Ball Gazette* for meeting places in

Sun City. Our 2019/2020 schedule is a work in progress.

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Ron Roth

Since retiring to Bluffton in 2011, Ron has actively involved himself in history related projects to benefit our community and the region.

He has raised funds to replace the roof of the **Cole-Heyward House** for the Bluffton Historical Preservation Society. And, he led the effort and raised funds for the erection of a permanent South Carolina state historical marker in Bluffton on the burning of Bluffton by Union forces during the Civil War.

He was part of the team that implemented the “Celebrate Bluffton” **app** that provides users with tours of Bluffton’s historic past, and was past present of the LCWRT.

Ron designed and curated the exhibition, *The Beaufort Volunteer Artillery: Guardians of the Lowcountry Since 1776*, for the Beaufort Historic Foundation’s Bureau making presentations throughout South Carolina on history topics. He is a speaker for the State Humanities Council of South Carolina’s Speakers Bureau making presentations throughout South Carolina on history topics.

In 2017, he was invited to speak at the Annual Civil War Symposium of the South Carolina Department of Archives and History on the Beaufort Volunteer Artillery in the Civil War.

As an independent curator and consultant, he researched and wrote the script for the permanent exhibition of the Central Pennsylvania African American Museum in Reading, Pennsylvania and its exhibit on the Underground Railroad.

Ron was a seasoned historian for the Gettysburg National Military Park and a Licensed Battlefield Guide at Gettysburg.

He has recently completed a book on the history of the Civil War in the Lowcountry entitled, *Soldiers, Slaves, and Masters: A Portrait of the Civil War in the South Carolina Lowcountry*. The book is scheduled for publication by McFarland Press in 2020.

Ron is a former director and CEO of the Reading Public Museum in Reading, Penn., and director of the Nebraska Museum of Art of the University of Nebraska. He has curated numerous exhibitions,

He received his bachelor’s degree in history from Case Western Reserve Univ., Cleveland, Ohio, and a Masters-at-Teaching degree in Museum Studies from George Washington University, Washington, D.C.

Bound for Canaan: The Underground Railroad and the African American Quest for Freedom

The History of the Underground Railroad represents one of the most epic movements in American History. This presentation describes the heroic efforts of African Americans and whites to hide and guide runaway slaves to freedom in northern states and Canada. Highlights of the presentation will include first-person narratives of escaping slaves and their encounters with slave catchers and kidnappers and the courageous work of “railroad conductors” like Harriet Tubman.

* * *

Harriet Tubman **“Moses of her people.”**

A leader in the underground railroad.

Harriet Tubman was born into slavery in Dorchester County, Md. in either 1819 or 1820 on the plantation of Edward Brodess. She freed herself and played an active role in freeing millions. After the Civil War, she joined her family in Auburn, N.Y., where she founded the Harriet Tubman Home. She became known as an underground railroad “conductor,” nurse and spy. (Named at birth Araminta Rose by her parents, slaves, Harriet “Rit” Green owned by Mary Pattison Brodess; and Ben Ross owned by Anthony Thomson).

She was reared under harsh conditions, exposed to whipping as a small child. She was “hired out” to numerous masters who proved to be exceptionally cruel and abusive to her. Her first outside job was as a nursemaid where she was viciously and often beaten when she let the baby cry. She was then hired to set muskrat traps. Because of the nature of the job she fell ill and was sent back to Brodess. At the age of 12, she was gravely hurt by a two-pound weight aimed at a runaway slave, caused by a white overseer for rejecting to assist in tying up a man. She experienced harsh headaches and narcolepsy (excess in daytime sleepiness) for the rest of her life.

In 1840, Tubman’s father was freed as a result of a provision in his master’s will but continued to work for his former owner’s family. Although Tubman, her mother, and her siblings were also supposed to be freed the law was disregarded and they stayed enslaved.

Five years later, afraid she would be sold South, she escaped. She was given a piece of paper by a white neighbor with two names and told how to find the first house on her path to freedom. At the first house, she was put into a wagon, covered with a sack, and driven to her next location. Following a route to Pennsylvania, she settled there, where she met William Still, the Philadelphia Stationmaster on the Underground Railroad (UGRR). With his help and other members of the Philadelphia Anti-Slavery Society, she studied the workings of the UGRR.

Although slaves were not legally allowed to marry, Tubman did marry John Tubman, a free black man, in 1844. She became seriously ill with complications from her head injury, and her owner put her up for sale, but could not find a buyer. Her owner, Brodess, died leaving the plantation in dire circumstances. Three of her sisters, Linah, Soph and Mariah Ritty, were sold.

On Sept. 17, 1849, Harriet and her brothers, Ben and Henry, escaped from the Poplar Neck Plantation. The brothers had second thoughts and returned to the plantation. The newspaper *The Cambridge Democrat* published a \$300 reward for the return of Harriet and her two brothers. Harriet traveled 90 miles to Pa., a free state, using the Underground Railroad. In 1850, she changed her name to Harriet in honor of her mother and took her husband’s last name, Tubman.

She settled in Philadelphia and was able to support herself doing odd jobs. But in 1850, word came that her niece and her two children were to be sold. In 1851 she began relocating members of her family to St. Catharines, (Ontario) Canada West. North Street in St. Catharines remained her base of operations until 1857. While there she worked at various activities to finance her activities as a Conductor on the UGRR, and attended the Salem Chapel BME Church on Geneva Street. Here she met Quaker abolitionist Thomas Garrett and Frederick Douglass. (On one expedition, Tubman contacted her husband in the hopes that he would follow her to Pa., but discovered he had remarried and wanted to stay in Maryland with his wife, Caroline.)

In 1858 Tubman met John Brown. She helped recruit supporters for the Harper’s Ferry attack. Brown called her “General Tubman.” In 1859, John Brown was executed in Dec. after the Harper’s Ferry Raid.

Abolitionist and U.S. Senator, William H. Seward, sold Tubman a piece of land on the outskirts of Auburn, N.Y. for \$1,200. It became her home for the rest of her life.

Over 11 years, Tubman rescued more than 70 slaves from Md. and helped 50 to 60 others in making their way to Canada. During this time, her reputation in the abolitionist community grew, and she became acquainted with Frederick Douglass and John Brown. She also moved her base of operations to Auburn. Tubman's last mission was to rescue her sister. When she arrived, she found out that she was deceased. Instead, she took the Ennals family.

In all, she is believed to have rescued about 300 persons to freedom in the North. The tales of her achievements reveal her religious nature, as well a firm resolve to guard her charges and those who helped them. She always voiced assurance that God would help her efforts and threatened to shoot any of her charges who thought to turn back.

Tubman was a woman of no airs; indeed, a more normal specimen of humanity could hardly be found among the most unfortunate farm hands of the South. Yet, in point of courage, shrewdness, she was without her equal.

Time and again she made fruitful visits to Maryland on the Underground Railroad, and would be absent for weeks at a time, running daily risks while making preparations for herself and other passengers. Great fears were considered for her safety, but she seemed wholly lacking of personal fear. The idea of being captured by slave hunters or slave-holders seemed never to enter her mind. She was evident proof against all adversaries. While she thus provided utter personal indifference, she was much more vigilant to those she was piloting. Half of her time, she had the look of one asleep. She would sit down by the road-side and go fast asleep when on her errands of mercy, yet, she would not suffer one of her party to whine once, about "giving out and going back," however tired they might be by the hard travel day and night. She had a concise and pointed rule or the law of her own, which implied death to any who talked of giving out and going back. Thus, in an emergency, she would give all to comprehend that "*times were very serious and therefore no folly would be humored on the road.*" That several who were rather weak-kneed and faint-hearted were much fortified by Harriet's direct and positive manner and the threat of extreme measures, there could be no doubt. Her success led a slaveowner to post a \$40,000 reward for her dead or alive. She was never caught and never lost a "passenger."

Harriet was matchless, and her followers generally had full faith in her and would back up any word she might utter. So, when she said to them that "*a live runaway could do great harm by going back, but that a dead one could tell no secrets,*" she was sure to have obedience. Therefore, none had to die as traitors on the "*middle passage.*" It is obvious enough, however, that her successes in going into Md. did as she did, attributable to her adventurous spirit and utter disregard of consequences.

On the road between Syracuse and Rochester, were some sympathetic Quakers and other abolitionists who had settled at Auburn. Here also was the home of U.S. Senator and former New York State Governor William H. Seward. Sometime in the mid-1850s, Tubman met Seward and his wife, Frances. Mrs. Seward offered a home for Tubman's favorite niece, Margaret, after Tubman helped her to escape from Md. In 1857, the Swards provided a home for Tubman, to which she relocated her parents from St. Catharines. This home was later sold to her for a small sum and became her center of operations when she was not aiding fugitives from slavery, and speaking in support of the cause.

Tubman was intimately linked with Abolitionist John Brown and was well acquainted with the other Upstate abolitionists, including Frederick Douglas, Jermain Loguen, and Gerrit Smith. She worked directly with Brown, and apparently missed the raid on Harper's Ferry only because of illness.

Abraham Lincoln was elected President of the United States on Nov. 6, 1860.

In 1861, at the beginning of the Civil War, Tubman worked as a cook and nurse in South Carolina and Florida. She began associating with Gen. David Hunter, Tubman also served as a guerrilla soldier, spy, and a nurse behind Confederate lines. In June of 1863, she escorted Col. James Montgomery in an attack on several plantations along the Combahee River. She was the first woman to lead an offensive during the Civil War where 700 slaves were set free. Her deed was celebrated in the press, and she became even more famous. (As a Union spy and scout, she often transformed herself into an old woman. She would wander the streets under Confederate control and learn from the enslaved population about Confederate troops placements and supply lines. She helped many of these individuals find food, shelter, and even jobs in the North. As a nurse, she passed out herbal remedies to black and white soldiers dying from infection and disease.)

President Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation setting slaves in the Confederacy free.

Some slaves remained with the plantation owners until the end of the war in 1865. Many South Carolina escapees pursued freedom in Mexico and Cuba. Others traveled short distances and found refuge in swampy communities - clandestine encampments created by runaway slaves in isolated secure areas of wilderness, that dotted the Lowcountry parishes of St. John's, St. James, Goose Creek, St. George, Dorchester and Christ Church. (In 1868 the state constitution abolished the parishes and selected judicial districts officially as counties.)

With the end of the war, Tubman returned to Auburn, and married a Civil War veteran named Nelson Davis, 22 years younger than her that had been born into slavery. They adopted a daughter named Gertie in 1874. They lived in a home they built on South Street, near the previous house. This house still stands on the property and serves as a home for the Resident Manager of the Harriet Tubman Home.

Although her service in the Union Army was well known, she had great difficulty in getting a pension from the government. Her husband died, and she was awarded \$8 per month as his widow, and \$20 in 1899 for her service. In 1880 Tubman's house in Auburn was devastated by fire.

She gave women's suffrage speeches in Boston, New York, and Washington. Unable to sleep, Tubman endured brain surgery at Boston's Massachusetts General Hospital. She declined anesthesia and instead chewed on a bullet just like she had seen soldiers do when they had a leg amputated.

Only 12 miles from Seneca Falls, Tubman helped Auburn to remain a center of activity in support of women's rights. With her home literally down the road, Tubman remained in contact with her friends, William, and Frances Seward. In 1908, she built the wooden building that served as the home for the aged and impoverished. She died there on Mar. 10, 1913, encircled by family and friends, she was 93. After her death, Harriet Tubman was buried in Fort Hill Cemetery in Auburn, with military honors.

She has since received many awards, plus the naming of the World War II Liberty Ship *Harriet Tubman*, christened in 1944 by Eleanor Roosevelt. On June 14, 1914, a large bronze plaque was placed at the Cayuga County, N.Y. Courthouse, and a public holiday declared in her honor. Freedom Park, a tribute to the memory of Harriet Tubman, opened in the summer of 1994 at 17 North Street in Auburn. In 1995, Harriet Tubman was honored by the federal government with a commemorative postage stamp bearing her name and likeness.

In April 2016, the U.S. Treasury Department announced that Harriet Tubman would replace Andrew Jackson on the center of a new \$20 bill. The announcement came after the Treasury Department received a groundswell of public comments, following Women on 20s' campaign calling for a notable American woman to appear on U.S. currency. *"Not only did she devote her life to racial equality, she*

fought for women's rights alongside the nation's leading suffragists."

Legacy: Harriet Tubman, generally known and well-respected while she was alive, became an American Icon in the years after she died. A survey at the end of the 20th century named her as one of the most famous civilians in American history before the Civil War, third only to Betsy Ross and Paul Revere. She continues to inspire generations of Americans fighting for civil rights with her courage and valor.

A 1978 movie *A Woman Called Moses*, commemorated her life and career.

Poplar Neck Plantation at Marsh Creek:

The northwest side of Marsh Creek Bridge is a portion of the former Anthony C. Thompson "Poplar Neck" plantation where Harriet Tubman conducted several escape missions during the 1850s. The northwest side of the Marsh Creek Bridge is the portion of the plantation owned by Caroline County and accessible to the public today. The rest of the former plantation is privately owned. Harriet Tubman's parents, Ben, and Rit Ross were active in the Underground Railroad from their home on this large plantation in Caroline County, M.D. They assisted Tubman, her brothers, and others as they escaped from or through here. Harriet Tubman led her three brothers, Robert, Henry, and Ben, Ben's fiancé Jane Kane, and friends John Chase and Peter Jackson to freedom on Christmas Day 1854 from this place. With Ben Ross's aid, Tubman was able to affect the escape of Josiah Bailey, his brother William Bailey, and friends Peter Pennington and Eliza Manokey from here to Canada in November 1856. Josiah was a skilled timber foreman for shipbuilder William R. Hughlett at Jamaica Point in Talbot County, six miles downriver from here. In Nov. 1856, Josiah rowed up the Choptank River at night, to Poplar Neck where he told Ben Ross they were ready to flee when Tubman was ready to go. They were hotly pursued by their enslavers, who offered a reward of \$2,600 for the capture of the fugitives, including \$1,500 for Josiah Bailey, one of the highest ever for a Maryland slave. Later, after Ben and Rit provided aid in the escape of eight enslaved people in Mar. 1857 from Dorchester County, revealing their Underground Railroad activities. Threatened with arrest, their daughter Harriet Tubman returned from Canada to rescue them, bringing them safely to St. Catharines.

John Brown's Raid:

John Brown believed he could free the slaves, and selected Harpers Ferry as his starting point. Determined to seize the 100,000 weapons at the Arsenal and to use the Blue Ridge Mountains for guerrilla warfare, abolitionist Brown launched his raid on Sunday evening, Oct. 16, 1859. His 21-man "army of liberation" seized the Armory and several other strategic points. Thirty-six hours after the raid began, with most of his men killed or wounded, Brown was captured in the Armory fire engine house (now known as "John Brown's Fort") when U.S. Marines stormed the building.

Brought to trial at nearby Charles Town, Brown was found guilty of treason, of conspiring with slaves to rebel, and murder. He was hanged on Dec. 2, 1859. John Brown's short-lived raid failed, but his trial and execution focused the nation's attention on the moral issue of slavery and headed the country toward civil war.

Today John Brown's Fort and the Arsenal ruins are part of the legacy of our nation's struggle with slavery.

William Henry Seward:

Seward was appointed Secretary of State by Abraham Lincoln on Mar. 5, 1861, and served until Mar. 4,

1869. Seward carefully managed international affairs during the Civil War and also negotiated the 1867 purchase of Alaska.

Seward was born in Florida, N.Y. on May 16, 1801. He graduated from Union College in Schenectady in 1820. He won a seat in the State Senate in 1830 and served as Governor from 1838 to 1840. In 1849, Seward was elected to the U.S. Senate, where he became a leading antislavery politician.

He was the frontrunner for the Republican presidential nomination in 1860, but his antislavery speeches caused some party members to view him as too radical to win over swing voters in critical states. The party instead settled on the more moderate Abraham Lincoln, whose victory in the general election precipitated the secession of the South and formation of the Confederate States of America.

Seward unsuccessfully negotiated to resolve the secession crisis during the winter of 1861. Once in Lincoln's Cabinet, Seward anticipated that he would wield a strong influence over foreign policy. However, he underestimated Lincoln's interest in international affairs.

Although Seward was willing to consider war against European powers should they prove too friendly toward the Confederacy, Lincoln overruled Seward on this point. Seward thus focused most of his efforts on preventing foreign recognition of the Confederacy.

Seward sent U.S. agents to Europe to publicly lobby for the Union cause, but early in his tenure, a diplomatic crisis arose when the U.S. Navy arrested Confederate envoys headed for Europe. Despite public support in favor of their detention, Seward agreed to release the envoys to avoid the threat of war with Great Britain.

He faced difficulties in encouraging foreign governments to curtail the smuggling of goods and war material, as well as the construction of Confederate warships. Seward worked with the U.S. Minister in London, Charles Francis Adams, to put an end to the building of these ships. The British Government failed to prevent the launch of the CSS *Alabama* and CSS *Florida*, but the subsequent embarrassment caused officials to more strictly enforce British neutrality and prevented the building of further Confederate ships on British soil.

Combahee River Raid:

On June 2, 1863, Harriet Tubman, under the command of Union Col. James Montgomery, led 150 black Union soldiers in the Combahee River Raid. Tubman often referred to as "the Moses of her people." Tubman had been working for years to bring slaves from the South to the North through the Underground Railroad, however, this was the first time that she was asked to work on a major Union military operation. (The Combahee River is part of the ACE Basin, a calm and marshy waterway stretching from Yemassee area through Beaufort.)

On the night of June 2nd, three federal gunboats set sail from Beaufort, S.C. up the Combahee River. Tubman had gained vital information about the location of Rebel torpedoes planted along the river from slaves who were willing to trade information for freedom. Because of this information Tubman was able to steer the Union ships away from any danger. She led the ships to specific spots along the shore where fugitive slaves were hiding and waiting to be rescued. At first many of the slaves were frightened by the Union soldiers' presence, but Tubman was able to talk with them and convince them to come aboard.

As "Lincoln's gunboats" traveled up the river more slaves were rescued, and eventually 750 boarded the vessels. The boats however, had a specific military mission. They carried Union troops who came on shore and succeeded in destroying several influential South Carolina estates owned by leading secessionists, including the plantations of the Heyward's, the Middleton's, and the Lowndes families. Many of the Union soldiers who took part in the raid were former slaves who saw the burning and pillaging of these estates as an opportunity to enact revenge on the master class.

By the time Confederate forces learned of the raid much of the damage had been done and hundreds of slaves slipped away to freedom. A company of Confederate troops was sent to challenge the raiders.

They were not successful and managed to stop only one slave from escaping to the gunboats. Confederate artillery proved almost as ineffective since none of the rounds they fired hit any of the gunboats.

Harriett Tubman was the only woman known to have led a military operation during the American Civil War. Thanks in significant part to the intelligence she provided, the Union boats escaped unharmed, and the raid was a major military and psychological blow to the Confederate cause.

According to a 2013 South Carolina state resolution, Tubman was the first woman to plan and execute an armed expedition during the Civil War. - cwk

Frederick Douglass:

Douglass was an American social reformer, abolitionist, orator, writer, and statesman. After escaping from slavery in Maryland, he became a national leader of the abolitionist movement in Mass. and N.Y., gaining note for his oratory and incisive antislavery writings. In his time, he was described by abolitionists as a living counter-example to slaveholders' arguments that slaves lacked the intellectual capacity to function as independent American citizens. Northerners at the time found it hard to believe that such a great orator had once been a slave. One of the most prominent civil rights figures in history, Douglass escaped from slavery and spent his life advocating for social justice. He saw the fruits of his labor with the 13th Amendment but was more than aware of the long struggle African-Americans would face in the years to come.

Thomas Garrett:

Garrett is known as one of the most active and most influential stationmasters on the Underground Railroad. Garrett served as a stationmaster for more than four decades, and it has been claimed that Garrett helped 2,700 enslaved people on their journey to freedom. Garrett even served as the inspiration for the character Simeon Halliday in Harriet Beecher Stowe's famous novel *Uncle Tom's Cabin*.

Sources: www.biography.com/activist/harriet-tubman/
www.womenwww.williamhenrysseward/www.USnationalparkservice/poplareckplantationshistory.org/http://www.harriet-tubman.org/https://battlefields.org/learn/biographies/harriet-tubman/www.blackpast.org/african-americanhistory/USnationalparkservice/combatcheeriverraid

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LOWCOUNTRY CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE, INC.

MEMBERSHIP FORM - 2019/2020

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP PERIOD SEPTEMBER 1, 2019 to AUGUST 31, 2020

Please **Print** All Information Below

Last Name First Name Badge Nickname

Last Name (Additional Household Member) First Name Badge Nickname

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Phone () _____

Sun City Residents Only

CAM number _____

CAM number _____

E-Mail _____

E-mail _____

(We will keep this confidential!)

CURRENT MEMBER _____

NEW MEMBER _____

Household: Annual Membership (to Aug 31, 2020): \$40.00

We always need volunteers to continue making the LCWRT successful.

Please check the area(s) for which you are willing to volunteer:

___ 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, 26 Schooner Lane, Bluffton, SC 29909-4305**

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

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MINIÉ BALL GAZETTE

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The Lowcountry Civil War Round Table, Inc.

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education and battlefield preservation.

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