

THE MINIE BALL GAZETTE

LOWCOUNTRY CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

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Dedicated to Historic Preservation and Enlightenment

TRUST IN GOD BUT KEEP
YOUR POWDER DRY

NOVEMBER 2001
ISSUE 012

NEWS FLASH ----

**NOVEMBER 14th MEETING - ----- - Held
at McCracken Middle School, Buckwalter
Parkway. DINNER OR PROGRAM
RESERVATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED NO
LATER THAN NOVEMBER 4TH. Mail
enclosed form and check to the above
address.**

NOV -- GENERAL MEETING -- NOV THE EVOLUTION OF FORT SUMTER

Mr. Richard Hatcher, author and historian, returns to the Round Table to present another fascinating program, "The Evolution of Fort Sumter." He will provide an overview of the development of Charleston and its defenses (Ft. Johnson, Ft. Moultrie, & Castle Pinckney) up to the Civil War and will discuss Fort Sumter from 1829 through World War II.

Following its settlement in 1670, Charleston soon grew into the fourth largest city in the 13 original colonies and the most important port on the South Atlantic seaboard. By 1860, the city maintained its status as the major seaport on the South Atlantic coast. With the Confederacy's formation in 1861, Charleston became the new nation's second largest city and a vital seaport for the South's war effort.

With the April 12, 1861 firing on Ft. Sumter the fort and Charleston became a symbol for both North and South. For the North, Ft.

Sumter and the city became symbols of secession, rebellion, and treason. For the Confederacy, both represented the beginning of a "Second American Revolution" where its fight for nationhood and independence was initiated. From these two perspectives came the Siege of Charleston.

The siege lasted over 19 months with Fort Sumter as the Union's primary objective. Over the course of the siege, U.S. Army and Naval forces fired over 7,000,000 pounds of artillery rounds at the fort, but the Confederates would not surrender. Finally, with the February 17, 1865 capture of Columbia, South Carolina by General William T. Sherman, Southern forces evacuated Fort Sumter and Charleston.

After the war, repairs were made to the fort. In 1898, Battery Isaac Huger was built in the middle of Fort Sumter in response to the Spanish-American War. Used by the U.S. Army Coast Artillery Corps through World War II, the fort was closed by the military in 1947 and was transferred to the National Park Service in 1948.

Mr. Hatcher and co-author, Dr. William G. Piston, wrote, *Wilson's Creek, The Second Major Battle of the Civil War and the Men Who Fought it*. The publication was offered as an alternate selection of the History Book Club.

Rick will offer for sale autographed copies of the book during the meeting.

A graduate of Virginia Commonwealth University with a degree in History, Mr. Hatcher has worked for the National Park Service since 1970. He has served as Historian at Wilson's Creek, Fort Sumter National Monument, the Charles Pinckney National Historic Site and Fort Moultrie.

**REGISTRATION DEADLINE IS
NOVEMBER 4TH!**

THE MINIE BALL GAZETTE
LOWCOUNTRY CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE - NOVEMBER 2001

THE MORNING AFTER

Mr. Hatcher will be pleased to conduct a second more in-depth, round table discussion the following morning, Thursday, from 10:00 o'clock until noon. **THIS SESSION WILL BE FREE OF CHARGE.** The location will be announced later. To reserve your seat at the Thursday session, please call Bob Eberly at 785-5395.

TRIVIA

What female slave became a spy in the headquarters of Jeff Davis, passing information to Northern operatives?

Answer - Mary Elizabeth Bowser

How many blockade runners escaped the Federal blockade net?

Answer - next month

THIS MONTH IN HISTORY

November 1, 1861 - General-in-Chief Winfield Scott relinquished his post to General George McClellan

November 6, 1861 - Jefferson Davis was elected to a six-year term as President of the Confederacy

November 24, 1861 - Union troops establish a stronghold on Tybee Island

November 28, 1861 - Washington authorizes Federal officials in Port Royal, S. Carolina to seize agricultural products and slaves

NOTES ON THE OCTOBER MEETING

Carol Cutrona, our *Minie Ball* editor, gave a presentation of "Women in the Civil War." She overwhelmed us with intellectual minie balls. Two weeks after the fall of Fort Sumter, 20,000 women's groups had volunteered their services. President Lincoln and politicians expected them to become prime nuisances. Carol went on to show that the women became unlikely saviors during the war and served well, not only as nurses, but as

suppliers, spies, soldiers, military strategists, and in other roles.

Toward the end of the war, Lincoln said, "God bless the women of America."

The Round Table's share of the 50/50 raffle totaled \$125. That amount was added to the existing fund and was donated to the Bluffton Firefighters Fund for fallen firefighters and emergency personnel in New York.

A round of applause goes to the folks who gave so generously.

by George Cabaniss

***DECEMBER NEWSLETTER
DEADLINE IS NOVEMBER 11TH***

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 the Savannah Civil War sites. As the hosting Round Table, our members will receive a substantially discounted fee for the affair. The regular price is \$350; our price is \$195, if registered 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.

Tom Oliver

MILITARY ENGAGEMENTS

October 26, 27 - Community Festival at Honey Horn Plantation

November 1 - Field trip to experience the Battle of Port Royal **AT THE TIME OF PRINTING THERE WERE A FEW OPENINGS.** CALL MAC, 705-5234

November 9, 10, 11 - Battle of

THE MINI E BALL GAZETTE

LOWCOUNTRY CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE - NOVEMBER 2001

Secessionville - Boone Hall Plantation, Mt. Pleasant, S. Carolina

November 14 - General Meeting - Rick Hatcher on "The Battle of Ft. Sumter"

December 2 - Holiday party

January - General Meeting - Dr. Bud Robertson on "Why Soldiers Fight"

February - General Meeting - Ed Bearss - "The Battle of First Manassas"

SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES

By decision of the Executive Committee, if you have a house guest on the night of our program and wish to bring him or her, you may call 705-9898 to see if there is an opening. Members in good standing will be accepted first.

MAIL CALL

By Bob Eberly

Soldiers at the front longed for news from home. Isaac Sherrick, a private in Company K of the 211th Pennsylvania Infantry (a cavalry regiment) was no different from any of the thousands of other young men who found themselves far from home for the first time in their lives. Isaac's brother John wrote to him from the family's farm in southwestern Pennsylvania in September of 1863:

West Overton Sept 6th 1863

Dear Brother

I seat myself this pleasant morning to indite to you a few lines in answer to yours of Sept

2d which came to hand last evening. We were all very glad to hear from you again. We are all well at present but down in Overton considerable sickness prevails. On last teusday a week ago Mr. Haberlie's oldest child died of the Diphtheria. . . . Several have got the dysentery. Old Mrs. Overholt has got it but is getting better again. Professor

Johnson of the Mt. Pleasant college is dead. He died of the dysentery. We have not seeded any yet nor will not till the last of this week. . . . We have over the half of our corn cut off & then we quit again because it is too green down the hollow. . . . We have about one third of our tobacco hung up. Last week Pap sold the old hay stack to a man that is buying for the cavalry at Pittsburgh & may be you will get some of it for your horses. . . . I do not think that that rascal Wymer's thieving will reflect any disgrace on your company, because he was a copperhead. . . .

Tomorrow a week our school will commence. Those soldiers have left Connellsville and gone to Uniontown. . . . I don't think we will feed any cattle next winter because [John Stevenson] thinks it will pay better to sell the grain although we may feed one side of the stable full.

I suppose I have wrote enough for once so I will stop.

From your brother

John Sherrick

Isaac Sherrick survived the war and was honorably discharged June 6, 1865. On that date he received his last pay from the War Department. It totaled \$124.

THE COASTAL DISCOVERY MUSEUM

On behalf of the museum, I wish to thank the members of the Lowcountry Civil War Round Table for their generosity in contributing so graciously to our facility.

The Coastal Discovery Museum offers programs, activities and exhibits to make learning about Hilton Head and other sea islands an enjoyable experience for visitors and residents alike.

Among other tours, the following ones are related to the

THE MINIE BALL GAZETTE

LOWCOUNTRY CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE - NOVEMBER 2001

history of Hilton Head Island during the Civil War.

Wednesdays 10:00 a.m. - The History of Hilton's Headlands Tour, includes the early explorers of the island, including William Hilton, the island's importance during the Civil War, Mitchelville (the nation's first freedman's community and the steam cannon. The tour also includes a visit to the ruins of the forts of Port Royal.

Fridays at 2:00 p.m. - The Fort Howell and Mitchelville Tour traces the African-American experience on the sea islands from the mid 19th century through the early 20th century, including reconstruction and the Gullah culture. The tour includes visits to Fort Howell and the site of Michelville.

Tuesday at 2:00 p.m. - Tour includes Fort Mitchel and the Civil War Overview which is presented at the site of the earthen work fort on Skull Creek, including the role Hilton Head Island played during the Civil War and identifies other Civil War sites.

For reservations please call 689-6767 and dial 0 or log onto www.coastaldiscovery.org. The museum is located at 100 William Hilton Parkway on Hilton Head Island and is open Monday through Saturday.

Natalie Hefter
Vice-president of
History
Coastal Discovery
Museum

COMMUNITY FESTIVAL AT HONEY HORN PLANTATION

On October 26 and 27, a fund raiser to benefit the Coastal Discovery Museum will be held from 4:00 p.m. to 9 p.m. at the Honey Horn Plantation.

A haunted house and dog costume contest, among other events, will entertain all.

A charge of \$10 per car includes \$6 toward ticket price. Honey Horn Plantation is located near the intersection of the Cross Island Parkway and Highway 278. Look for signs and balloons to direct your way.

For further information, please call Mary Ann Peoples at 686-4138.

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 costume 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.

Among the several door prizes, one of special interest will be a beautiful framed calendar print of noted Civil War painter Mort Kunstler's "Candlelight and Roses." It features General J.E.B. Stuart at the 1863 Culpepper Ball, reflecting a fleeting, romantic interlude from the hardships and harshness of war, cavaliers in gray uniforms, belles in hoop skirts, flags, bunting and

THE MINI E BALL GAZETTE
LOWCOUNTRY CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE - NOVEMBER 2001

a military band, all putting on a brave front. Please complete and return the reservation form inserted in this issue, plus a check for \$35 p/p, as soon as possible. A cash bar will be available. There will be a guest charge.

DINNER MEETING
WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 14

MCCRACKEN MIDDLE SCHOOL - BLUFFTON - TAKE HWY 278 TO BUCKWALTER PARKWAY

5:30 SOCIAL HOUR - JOIN THE TROOPS AND SHARE YOUR CANTEEN

6:00 BUFFET - ELEVEN BUCKS - SLICED BAKED HAM, SCALLOPED POTATOES, MINI CORN ON THE COB, BROCCOLI SPEARS, DESSERT AND BEVERAGE

7:00 SPEAKER - MR. RICHARD HATCHER SPEAKS ON "THE EVOLUTION OF FORT SUMTER"

***DINNER RESERVATIONS AND CHECKS MUST BE RECEIVED BY
NOVEMBER 4TH***

HOLIDAY PARTY

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2001

TIME: 1630 TO 2000

HILTON HEAD BEACH AND TENNIS RESORT

\$40 Folly Field Road

35.00 PER PERSON

SEE NEXT PAGE FOR DETAILS & RESERVATION FORM

HOLIDAY PARTY

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.

Cut Here and Mail

HOLIDAY PARTY RESERVATION

Make check payable to **LCCWRT**

Please return reservation and check by Monday, November 19 to:

Lowcountry Civil War Round Table

P.O. Box 2252, Bluffton, SC 29910

_____ Number of reservations at \$35.00 per person

Member Name _____

Phone Number _____

Total Enclosed \$ _____

**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 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.

THE MINI E BALL GAZETTE LOWCOUNTRY CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE - NOVEMBER 2001
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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"

THE M I N I E B A L L G A Z E T T E
LOWCOUNTRY CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE - NOVEMBER 2001

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.

TO MAKE A RESERVATION: CALL TOLL-FREE 1-888-741-BGES (2437)
OR

VISIT <http://go.to/bges> or fax to 804-836-3292 or mail to 416 Beck Street, Norfolk, VA 23503.

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This ends the November edition

