



MINIÉ BALL GAZETTE

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

April 2021

President's Letter

The current slate of officers has agreed to remain in office for another year. Please see the list below. We will vote on this slate at our May meeting. Additional candidates can be nominated. If you have an interest, please let John Allen, our president know.

President: John Allen

Vice President: Kay Allen

Treasurer: Ron Albert

Secretary: Dave McCollogh

Communications: Sandi Schroeder Chairman
John Foster

Program Committee Chairman: Gene Sullivan

Membership Committee Chairman: Joe Passiment

Member at Large: Tom McNamara

April 28 Program is on General Ulysses Grant and the Battle of Belmont

Ed Flanagan, our speaker, is a retired branch manager and librarian in the Brooklyn (NY) Public Library. He graduated from SUNY Plattsburgh with a B.A. History and a M.S. in Library Science from Clarion University.

Ed has been a lifelong student of the American Civil War since he visited the Gettysburg Battlefield as a 10-year-old in 1972. He has experienced 30 years of Civil War lectures, programs and tours given by many of the leading Civil War historians such as Ted Alexander, Ed Bearss, Dennis Frye, Chris Mackowski, and Eric Wittenberg.

He is a member of the CWRT of New York, the Nassau County (NY) and the Low Country CWRT; Ed has given talks on "How to Build a ACW Library," "Fort Pickens: The First Shots of the ACW," "Captain Henry Walke: The Man Who Ran the Guns and Lived to Draw About It," "Newspaper Battle Maps of the ACW," "Fort Hatteras: The First Move in the Game," and "Blake's Wagner's Civil War Negatives Archives."

Ed's talk will be on ex-army Captain Sam Grant's transformation to General Grant at the Battle of Belmont in November of 1861. How does a perceived ne'er-do-well town drunk in the small town of Galina in April 1861 and six months later leads a raid that disrupts Confederate operations and catches the attention of President Lincoln!

Talk Background

Battle of Belmont

The Battle of Belmont was fought on November 7, 1861 in Mississippi County, Missouri. It was the first combat test in the American Civil War for Brig. Gen. Ulysses S. Grant, the future Union Army general in chief and eventual U.S. president, who was fighting Major General Leonidas Polk. Grant's troops in this battle were the "nucleus" of what would become the Union Army of the Tennessee.

Ulysses S. Grant as general in the Civil War

On April 12, 1861, Confederate troops attacked Fort Sumter in Charleston Harbor, South Carolina. This act of rebellion sparked Grant's patriotism, and he volunteered his military services. He was initially rejected for appointments, but with the aid of an Illinois congressman, he was appointed to command an unruly 21st Illinois volunteer regiment. Applying lessons that he'd learned from his commanders during the Mexican-American War, Grant saw that the regiment was combat-ready by September 1861.

When Kentucky's fragile neutrality fell apart in the fall of 1861, Grant and his volunteers took the small town of Paducah, Kentucky, at the mouth of the Tennessee River. In February 1862, in a joint operation with the U.S. Navy, Grant's ground forces applied pressure on Fort Henry and Fort Donelson, taking them both — these battles are credited as the earliest significant Union victories of the American Civil War. After the assault on Fort Donelson, Grant was promoted to major general of volunteers.

In April 1862, Grant moved his army cautiously into enemy territory in Tennessee, in what would later become known as the Battle of Shiloh (or the Battle of Pittsburg Landing), one of the bloodiest battles of the Civil War. Confederate commanders Albert Sidney Johnston and P.G.T. Beauregard led a surprise attack against Grant's forces, with fierce fighting occurring at an area known as the "Hornets' Nest" during the first wave of assault. Confederate General Johnston was mortally wounded, and his second-in-command, General Beauregard, decided against a night assault on Grant's forces. Reinforcement finally arrived, and Grant was able to defeat the Confederates during the second day of battle.

One Remaining Program

There will be one remaining lecture this spring via Zoom

May 26

Paul Quigley

Arlington National Cemetery: Where America reunited and Redivided

Meet the CWRT Congress

By Mike Movius, Founder and President



With the loss of nearly 70 Civil War Round Tables (CWRTs) in the past decade, it became abundantly clear that the movement that once boasted close to 500 CWRTs worldwide was in jeopardy. In 2016, Mike Movius, the president of the Puget Sound CWRT wanted to understand how that could be prevented. From that humble beginning, the CWRT Congress was born.

Since that time, we have held conferences in Centreville, VA, Harrisburg, PA and St. Louis, MO. Our conferences seek to inform CWRT members about practices that have proven successful in the areas of program development, fundraising, preservation, marketing, recruitment, governance, culture, partnerships and a host of other organization development areas. We also encourage networking with one another to better understand how CWRTs can succeed.

CWRT Congress does not have memberships. We do not charge dues of any kind. We are a registered 501(c)3 and rely on voluntary donations of those who want the CWRT movement to thrive. We are all about CWRT sustainability. Our motto is *Improvement through Education and Networking*. Our website is loaded with proven practices that CWRTs and their leaders should consider.

www.cwrtcongress.org/proven.html

When the pandemic hit in the first quarter of 2020, we knew that CWRTs were going to be unable to meet for some time. Our fear was this was an existential threat as members would lose interest and that CWRTs would fail. So, we began to offer free, online Civil War lectures. The response has been overwhelming. Speaker have donated their time and talents because they believe in the movement. Watch them at www.cwrtcongress.org/videos.html

Reservations for upcoming events can be made at www.cwrtcongress.org/speaker.html We also have a living historian series called “Fridays with Grant” by Dr. Curt Fields www.cwrtcongress.org/grant.html

Our 2021 conference will be held in the Philadelphia area September 17-19. We have a great lineup including workshops on board organization, member retention, mission statements, the new normal, newsletter improvement, managing organizational change, changing organizational culture, meaningful partnerships, writing press releases, the sister CWRT connection, succession planning and targeted recruitment. Registration opens in July and we hope to meet you there.

Plans starting in the fall of 2021-22

The group is planning on starting the 2021-22 meetings using Zoom, but hopes to be able to switch by January 2022 to regular meetings inside Sun City

Some of the possible speakers for next year include the following:

22-Sep	ZOOM	7-8:30	Jack Rabbitt	the Civil War: Why Did So Many DIE
27-Oct	ZOOM	7-8:30	Carolyn Coppola	Reconstruction in Bluffton & Campbell AME Church
1-Dec	ZOOM	7-8:30	C Russell Horres	Morris Island & the Civil War

Confederate Memorial Day

Confederate Memorial Day is a state holiday in Alabama, Florida, and Georgia on the fourth Monday in April. In Mississippi it is observed on the last Monday in April. In South Carolina and North Carolina, it falls on May 10.

In these areas, state offices are generally closed. However, Confederate Memorial Day is not a federal holiday and federal offices may be open. Some schools in states including Georgia are also open. Stores and other businesses may be open or closed according to local custom. Public transit services may operate on their normal or reduced schedules. There may be some minor road closures or congestion around war memorials or important battlegrounds.

Bluffton Myths and Misconceptions—General Sherman Didn’t Burn Bluffton

The night of June 4, 1863 changed Bluffton forever. On that morning nearly 1,000 Union troops stationed on Hilton Head Island, their first foothold in the South, sailed downstream from Hunting Island Plantation, bent on revenge. Their target was the town of Bluffton, chosen less for strategic reasons and more for the town’s outsized role in secession. Throughout the day and night soldiers poured through down, burning nearly everything in sight. From a nearby post, 238 Confederate cavalry members were dispatched to meet the threat, but by then it was too late. Just two churches and 15 private homes survived amid the ashes of Bluffton.

It would be easy to conflate this historic event with the far more infamous pyromania of Sherman's March to the Sea, but the fact is the Burning of Bluffton predates Sherman's "Special Field Orders No. 67" by nearly a year and a half. If anything that day's conflagration served as a chilling omen of things to come for the South.

Beaufort County New Reconstruction Sites

New sites in Beaufort County were added to a network of Beaufort-based Reconstruction Era National Historic Network which is now a national collection of 67 private sites and programs providing education, historical interpretation and research related to America's Reconstruction Era.

Historic Mitchellville Freedom Park on Hilton Head. The park on the north end of the 12-mile island preserves the site of the nation's first-governed town of formerly enslaved people, a community that emerged early in the Civil War as part of what was known as the Port Royal experiment.

Penn Center on St. Helene Island. The center safeguards the historic campus of Penn Scholl that was established in 1962 and acted as one of the first schools in the county for formerly enslaved people. Penn Center also interprets the importance of education and Gullah culture on the Sea Islands.

Wesley United Methodist Church in Beaufort. The church, which has an active congregation, served as a school for formerly enslaved people and as a headquarters for some of the Republican politicians in the region during the Reconstruction era.

Other Beaufort County sites includes the Mather School in Beaufort and Beaufort's Reconstruction Era National Historical Park. It included Darrah Hall and Brick Church on St. Helene Island, a former firehouse building in downtown Beaufort, and Camp Saxton and the Emancipation Oak on the site of the Naval Hospital Beaufort in Port Royal.

LOWCOUNTRY CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE, INC.

Annual Membership for all household members (to Aug 31, 2021): **\$20.00**

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

CURRENT MEMBER _____

NEW MEMBER _____

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP PERIOD SEPTEMBER 1, 2020 to AUGUST 31, 2021

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 () Additional Phone ()

Sun City Residents Only

New CAM number _____

Additional Household member **New** CAM number _____

E-Mail

Additional Household member E-mail

(We will keep this confidential!)

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 or contact at the email address **joseph.passiment900@gmail.com**

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The Lowcountry Civil War Round Table, Inc.

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education and battlefield preservation.

**A Not-for-Profit, Charitable Organization as qualified under section
501 (C) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code.**

Note: The website address is

www.lcwrt.squarespace.com and it can

be used to get current and historical LCWRT information.