



MINIÉ BALL GAZETTE

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

January 2021

President's Letter

Dear LCWRT Members,

2020 has been a challenging year due to the COVID pandemic. We have had to switch to Zoom for our general and executive meetings. We have continued to have excellent speakers and I have found that I really like the Zoom format. We have only had about 35 members at the last two meetings. For those of you that have not tuned in, I would encourage you to log in for our next meeting in January. I think that you will be pleasantly surprised at how well our LCWRT meetings are suited to the Zoom format. If any of you are having difficulty using Zoom, just give me a call and I'll help you with it (540-815-5651). I don't think that we will be able to resume in person meetings until next Fall. I hope to see you at the January 27th meeting.

With regard to the Scholarship fund, the Executive Committee has decided not to offer a scholarship this year because of the schools not being open. We will resume the scholarship program in 2022 until the funds are used up.

I hope everyone has a safe Holiday Season and we hope to see you on January 27th.

MERRY CHRISTMAS and HAPPY NEW YEAR

John Allen, President LCWRT

Remaining lectures, locations and dates of the upcoming 2020-21 lectures. Please note that the March and April programs are new.

Feb. 24	Jack Davis	A Vice Pres. Flees, Breckinridge's Escape	Zoom
Mar. 31	John Quercetin	Ironclads Strike: <i>CSS Palmetto State</i> and <i>CSS Chicora</i>	Zoom
Apr. 28	Ed Flanagan	Gen. Grant at the Battle of Belmont	Zoom

Our speaker for January 27th will be John Warley.

John is the award-winning author of five published novels and one work of nonfiction, *Standing Forever, Yielding Never: The Citadel in the 21st Century*. His most recent novel is a historical fiction set in Beaufort during the Civil War. The title is *The Home Guard: A Novel of the Civil War*. Please see the summaries of these books following this article.

He is a native of Florence, S.C. and attended The Citadel on a football scholarship and graduated in the class of 1967. After receiving a law degree from the University of Virginia in 1970, he served in the army. He spends two years in Washington, D.C. as staff counsel to a trade association, then moved to Newport News, Virginia, where he practiced law for 21 years. In 1993 he moved to San Miguel de Allende, Mexico, where he wrote *A Southern Girl A Novel*, and taught at the Tec de Monterrey. In 2005, he moved to Beaufort, where he lives and writes today.

His talk discusses whether or not there was a realistic chance of avoiding the Civil War. With the election of Abraham Lincoln, many leaders foresaw the economic and human carnage certain to result from armed conflict, which would provide a powerful motivation for compromise. He will discuss the Crittenden Compromise of 1860, the three-man Southern delegation sent from Montgomery attempting to meet with Lincoln and the last minute, ongoing negotiations that ended literally an hour before the Confederate bombardment of Ft. Sumter began. As most feared, war proved inevitable, but efforts by those wishing to spare the country that trauma make for fascinating history.

Crittenden Compromise

The Crittenden Compromise was an unsuccessful proposal to permanently enshrine slavery in the United States Constitution, and thereby make it unconstitutional for future congresses to end slavery. It was introduced by United States Senator John J. Crittenden on December 18, 1860. It aimed to resolve the secession crisis of 1860–1861 that eventually led to the American Civil War by addressing the fears and grievances of Southern pro-slavery factions, and by quashing anti-slavery activities.

John J. Crittenden

John Jordan Crittenden was an American statesman and politician from the U.S. state of Kentucky. He represented the state in both the U.S. House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate and twice served as United States Attorney General in the administrations of William Henry Harrison, John Tyler, and Millard Fillmore. He was also the 17th governor of Kentucky and served in the state legislature. Although frequently mentioned as a potential candidate for the U.S. presidency, he never consented to run for the office.

Books Authored by John Warley

***Bethesda's Child* (2020)**

- Senator Martin Harmon is poised to claim his party's nomination for vice president of the U.S. He improved his chances by becoming the leading spokesperson for the REA, a law designed to prevent abuses in genetic engineering; abuses that Harmon believes threaten the country and mankind. But he has a problem: the woman he loves is not his wife. The woman who is his wife wants nothing to do with the spotlight that comes with a presidential campaign. Harmon must confront the consequences of the law he fought to enact, for if he has won political friends with his support for the REA, he also has made enemies among genetic researchers, including Max Grunfeld, a scientist whose most recent discovery will change the entire field of genetics.

***The Home Guard: A Novel of the Civil War* (2019)**

- In 1861, a boy and his grandmother flee their elegant home along the Beaufort River to shelter in the wilderness of Cane Island, South Carolina. They struggle to survive as the Civil War lays waste to the existence they've known and loved, a way of life doomed by history and events. In time, the boy Carter Barnwell is thrust into early manhood as he faces the challenges of living off the land, caring for his ailing grandmother, wrestling with his budding sexuality, wrangling with his awakening conscience while spying for the South. When he meets an Abolitionist missionary from the North—who happens to be a beautiful young girl—Carter begins to see his world through new and critical eyes, even as he maintains loyalty to the people and homeland he loves.

***The Moralist* by John Warley and Chris Beatrice (2011)**

- The Moralist is wonderfully clever & funny -- made me smile, chuckle & laugh out loud all the way thru. John's background & life experiences give him the audacity to boldly mock issues such as ineptness of health insurance industry, justice system, political system (the political acronyms are priceless!), parenting, adulation of pro athletes, Southernisms, media intrusion into gov't and even the endless Israeli/Palestinian conflict. All this irreverence is revealed thru a wide variety of colorful, crazy, crafty, quirky (and throw in a kinky kid for good measure!) characters -- John can be very alliterative & it's rubbed off on me. And then there is the wonderful & wise main character Fran, through whom John ties all his crazy scenarios & characters together. John's diversity as an author is very refreshing and I know there's lots more great things to come -- he sure keeps surprising me who's known him for 50 years!

***The Moralist II. More Tales of People and Events in Centerfield, Texas during a year* *Recently concluded* By John Warley and Chris Beatrice (2018)**

- Fran, the heroine from an earlier novel, *The Moralist*, is back in *The Moralist II* with the same cast of wacky characters in Centerfield, Texas. During a year recently concluded. In *The Moralist II*, Fran brokers world peace as Ed seeks to make Centerfield great again while meeting his match in China. What was said about *The Moralist* applies equally to the sequel: There are many deeply serious books written every year; *The Moralist II* is not one of them.

***A Southern Girl: A Novel.* (2014)**

- This book is a tale of international adoption and of families lost then found anew through revelations, courage, and the perseverance of a love without bounds. With two biological sons and a promising career, Coleman Carter seems to fulfill his promise as a resourceful trial lawyer, devoted husband and dutiful father until his wife, Elizabeth, champions the adoption of a Korean orphan. Elizabeth, a liberal with a global sense of duty is eager for the adoption, while Coleman is at best a reluctant participant. With the arrival of Soo Yun (later called Allie) into the Carter household, the challenging reactions of Coleman's peers and parents awaken in Coleman a sense of responsibility. Coleman must come to terms with his past. In this truly international tale, John Warley guides the reader through the enclaves of Southern privilege, the poverty stricken-back alleys of Seoul, South Korea, the jungles of Vietnam and the stone sidewalls of San Miguel de Allende, Mexico, as the bonds between father and daughter become strong enough to confront the trials of their pasts and present alike.

***Stand Forever, Yielding Never: The Citadel in the 21st Century* (2018)**

- In Pat Conrod's novel, *The Lords of Discipline*, protagonist, Will McLean vows to write the history of his military college. John Worley took on this challenge. Worley's narrative account in a chronicle of change over time. On March 20, 1843, 20 young men from South Carolina assembled on Marion Square in Charleston to begin the educational experiment called The Citadel. Interwoven with the remembrances of alumni, faculty, and college and community leaders, Worley's narrative account is an enlightening chronicle of change over time as told from the vantage point of one who wears the ring.

Coastal Discovery Museum

70 Honey Horn Drive, Hilton Head 843-689-6767 ext 223 or coastaldiscovery.org

There is a presentation on the Civil War on Thursdays at 3 pm. Cost is \$12 for adults and \$7 for children. Reservations are required. You can call to get more information each week.

Importance of Bluffton in the Civil War

Ron Roth a previous president has an article on the Burning of Bluffton, which some of you may not have seen. Ron was our speaker in December.

By the fall of 1861, the Civil War had gone badly for the Union. The bombardment of Fort Sumter in April of that year was followed by a resounding defeat at the First Battle of Manassas in Virginia. To stem the Confederate momentum, United States President Abraham Lincoln ordered a naval blockade of Southern coastal cities and ports in an effort to halt southern trade with European markets and disrupt its communications.

For the blockade to work, the North needed a southern base of operations for U.S. naval ships. Port Royal Sound was selected as an ideal location with its large harbor and ample space for anchorage. Thus, on October 29, 1861, a massive Federal naval force of over seventy ships and 12,000 soldiers under the command of Admiral Samuel Du Pont was dispatched to capture Port Royal Sound and its surrounding islands.

Defending the harbor were two Confederate forts: Fort Walker on the north shore of Hilton Head Island, and Fort Beauregard on Bay Point across the channel to the north. These forts were soon overwhelmed by the massive firepower of the Federal fleet and surrendered on November 7, 1861. Although Beaufort and Hilton Head Island were captured, the town of Bluffton remained in the Confederate hands. 1

Soon after Beaufort and Hilton Head Island were captured and secured by Union forces, it became clear to Union General Thomas W. Sherman, commander of the Department of the South, and his replacement in March 1862, Major General David Hunter, that the Charleston and Savannah Railroad located inland from Bluffton was of the highest strategic importance. 2 Indeed, Robert E. Lee, while serving as commander of the Department of South Carolina, Georgia and Florida prior to his reassignment to command the Army of Northern Virginia constructed earthworks and breastworks designed to protect the Railroad from amphibious assault. 3

The Railroad was a critical supply link between Charleston and Savannah, but more importantly from the military standpoint, provided rapid troop transport capabilities to the Confederates to mass troops quickly to defend against Union amphibious operations and infantry attacks from the nearby islands. General Sherman understood that in the effort to secure and destroy the railroad link, gaining footholds in Bluffton and Hardeeville were necessary, and as early as March, 1862, he considered making an amphibious assault on Bluffton. 4

As a result, beginning in March of 1862, a series of back-and-forth military engagements and skirmishes between Union and Confederate forces took place in and around the Bluffton area as Union Forces probed Confederate defenses for weaknesses; Confederates likewise launched counterattacks and raids on Union positions.

On March 22nd, Union forces of the 3rd New Hampshire Regiment conducted a reconnaissance in force expedition to Bluffton to gather intelligence on Confederate troop strength in the area. 5 On August 21, 1862, Company E of the 11th South Carolina Infantry under the command of Captain John Meckler and men of the Beaufort Volunteer Infantry under the command of Captain Stephen Elliott made an early morning raid on the 3rd New Hampshire camped on Pinckney Island. Fifteen Union troops were killed, 4 wounded, and 36 captured in this guerrilla style attack.

A full-scale battle between Union and Confederate forces erupted on the morning of October 22. Troops of the 48th New York Regiment under the command of Brigadier General J. M. Brannan were transported up the Broad River with the objective of destroying the Savannah Charleston Railroad at the town of Pocatolico. After receiving intelligence on the movements of the 48th, General P.G.T. Beauregard, the newly appointed commander of the Department of South Carolina, Georgia and Florida dispatched confederate troops to find and engage the Federals sending soldiers stationed in Hardeeville via the Charleston Savannah Railroad. After heavy fighting, Brannan's troops were forced to withdraw suffering 337 casualties. The Confederate losses totaled 163 casualties. 6

To help break this stalemate, Major General Hunter focused his attention on Bluffton. 7 Bluffton was a hub of the Confederate's intelligence network with its lookouts, couriers and pickets moving freely in and out of the town providing valuable reports to Confederate commanders on enemy movements in the Lowcountry. 8 Thus on May

27, 1863, Hunter made a request to rear Admiral Samuel Francis DuPont for naval assistance in mounting an attack on Bluffton that would include the destruction of the town by fire.

At this stage of the war, the military destruction of civilian property was not a generally accepted practice. Although Hunter's motives in ordering this action are not clear, it was the belief among some of his troops that this drastic action was in retaliation for the unorthodox guerrilla attacks on Federal forces like the raid on Pinckney Island. 9

Hunter's reputation as an ardent abolitionist may have been a factor as well. He would have been very aware of Bluffton as the location where the Bluffton Movement was launched in 1844 in support of South Carolina's secession from the Union by secessionist Robert Barnwell Rhett, a movement that received national attention. Prior to the war Bluffton was also the summer residence of many of the Sea Island plantation owners. While there is no documentary evidence to suggest that this aspect of Bluffton's history played a role in his decision to burn Bluffton, its destruction would not have been an event likely to generate much criticism in the north or by his military superiors. In addition, Bluffton was largely uninhabited, deserted by the plantation owners after the Union's victory at Port Royal Sound and the Federal occupation of nearby Hilton Head Island.

His plan called for 1,000 infantry troops to be transported on four naval vessels that would also provide artillery support. The force was made up of six companies from the 48th New York Regiment, and 50 infantrymen each from the 3rd Rhode Island Artillery and the New York Volunteer Engineers, and three companies from the 115th New York regiment. 10 The troops would be landed at Hunting Island Plantation that was not actually an island, but part of the mainland two miles downstream from Bluffton. 10

In the early morning hours of June 4, the Federal troops disembarked from the ships and began to make their way north to Bluffton. The convoy then proceeded on and ultimately anchored at a point about a half mile from Bluffton where they could provide artillery support to the infantry units. 11

Confederate troops in the area were stationed Camp Pritchard located near present day Pritchardville, approximately eight miles from Bluffton. These troops included companies A, B, and G, 3rd South Carolina Cavalry, and company B, 4th South Carolina Cavalry. Company E of the 11th South Carolina was camped in Bluffton near the wharf.

Three Confederate lookouts stationed on the May River sighted the convoy sometime in the early hours of the morning. One of them left immediately to alert the 11th South Carolina in Bluffton. Unfortunately, for reasons that continue to be unclear, he never made it to the South Carolina unit to warn them. At 6:15 am, one of the two remaining soldiers, a private Savage of company B, mounted his horse to notify the Confederate cavalry units at Fort Pritchard. 12 He reached the Fort at about 7:00 am, and the bugler sounded the call to arms.

As late as 7:15 am, Lt. Wilson Smith, acting commander of Company E of the 11th South Carolina was still unaware of the approaching Federals. Then, one of his infantrymen sounded the alarm: enemy gunboats had been spotted on the May River.

Federal troops landed without opposition at Hunting Island Plantation, quickly formed and entered Bluffton at approximately 7:30 am. As they swarmed through the abandoned town, they set fire to several homes on the east side of Heyward Cove near the bank of the May River. They were unopposed in Bluffton because the 11th had left the town to take a defensive position west of the town about one mile away. However, Colonel Barton of the 48th New York had no intention of moving west of the town to engage Confederate troops. Thus, as Smith's Confederate troop were filing out of town, Barton's 48th were streaming in unopposed. 13

Federal troops fanned out through the town in squads with specific orders to torch specific homes. Soon the entire town was engulfed in flames.

Lt. Colonel Thomas Johnson, commander of the South Carolina cavalry units arrived about this time just ahead of his units, met Lt. Smith, and directed him to return to Bluffton and engage the enemy with forward elements of the cavalry. The confederate force amounted to 238 men opposing 1,000 Federals and gunboats. Throughout the morning Confederate and Union troops exchanged fire, but the artillery salvos from the Federal gunboats proved decisive. The intensity of the bombardment of the Confederate troops severely hampered their ability to make headway against the Federals. Lieutenant –Commander Bacon aboard the largest gunboats described the scene and the rout of the Confederate troops.

The enemy advanced down the street leading to the wharf through the town, expecting no doubt to sweep off in the general rush the (rear guard) who were covering the embarkation, as they were in considerable force by that time. They charged with cheers to within a short distance of the steamers, when, from their repeated volleys, we got their position. . . when we opened with shrapnel and shell in the direction of the

enemy, and the effect was instantaneous, as I have since been assured by the commander of the land forces that our shrapnel and shell passed directly over the heads of our men, exploding in front of the ranks of the enemy, causing them to break and retreat in disorder. 14

By 12:00 pm, all of the Federal troops had been loaded on the boats and were on their way for offloading at Ft. Pulaski and Hilton Head Island.

Estimates vary, but most of the approximately 60 buildings standing in Bluffton at the time of the attack were destroyed. The *Charleston Mercury* newspaper reported that approximately 40 private homes and additional outbuildings were destroyed. 15

Federal operations would continue in the Sea Islands throughout the war including efforts to destroy the Charleston Savannah Railroad. These efforts would not be successful until General William Tecumseh Sherman's march through the Carolinas in 1865.

1 Lawrence Rowland, Alexander Moore, George C. Rogers, Jr. *The History of Beaufort County, South Carolina, Volume 1, 1514-1861* (Columbia, S.C., University of South Carolina Press, 1996) 443-458.

2 Jeff Fulghum. *The Bluffton Expedition* (Bluffton, S.C., 2012), 79.

3 H. David Stone. *Vital Rails: The Charleston & Savannah Railroad and the Civil War in Coastal South Carolina*. (Columbia, S.C.: University of South Carolina Press, 2008), 81-82.

4 Jeff Fulghum. *The Bluffton Expedition* (Bluffton, S.C., 2012), 79.

5 *Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies. Series 1, Volume 6.* (Washington D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1894-1922), 117.

6 Frank Moore. *The Rebellion Record: A Diary of American Events. Volume 6.* (New York: G. P. Putnam, 1863), 35.

7 *Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies. Series 1, Volume 14.* (Washington D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1894-1922), 237.

8 Jeff Fulghum. *The Bluffton Expedition* (Bluffton, S.C., 2012), 125.

9 Jeff Fulghum. *The Bluffton Expedition* (Bluffton, S.C., 2012), 157.

10 Jeff Fulghum. *The Bluffton Expedition* (Bluffton, S.C., 2012), 128.

11 *Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies. Series 1, Volume 14.* (Washington D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1894-1922), 309.

12 Jeff Fulghum. *The Bluffton Expedition* (Bluffton, S.C., 2012), 136.

13 Jeff Fulghum. *The Bluffton Expedition* (Bluffton, S.C., 2012), 138, 139.

14 *Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies. Series 1, Volume 14.* (Washington D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1894-1922), 239.

15 *Charleston Mercury*, June 6, 1863

DuBois Park Pavilion Grand Opening Agenda and Historic Marker Unveiling

Introductions

Mayor Sulka and Senator
Davis

Opening Statement and History of Park

Mayor Sulka

Ribbon Cutting

Mayor Sulka and
Dignitaries

Introductions by Lowcountry Civil War Roundtable

Joe Roney

Brief History of Federal Raid on Bluffton

Jeff Fulghum

Unveiling of Marker

Joe Roney and Dignitaries

Bluffton's DuBois Park Debuts Pavilion & Dedicates Historic Marker of the "The Burning of Bluffton"

Pavilion Offers Catering Kitchen & Public Bathrooms in Middle of Historic District

Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony is October 17 at 9 a.m.

Bluffton Town leaders, residents and Civil War enthusiasts will debut the newly-built pavilion at DuBois Park and dedicate a new historic marker with a ribbon-cutting ceremony Thursday, October 17, 2013 at 9 a.m. Bluffton residents, business owners and guests are invited and encouraged to attend. The ribbon-cutting ceremony will also include the dedication of the historic marker describing the Burning of Bluffton.

“Old Town is the soul of Bluffton; the pavilion makes it easier to enjoy activities in the Historic District as well as giving people an opportunity to host their own event in the center of Bluffton’s charm. The new historic marker will also remind park patrons of Bluffton’s rich and layered history,” Mayor Lisa Sulka said.

The pavilion, designed with Lowcountry architecture, will provide Bluffton’s residents and guests a place to gather with its restrooms and catering kitchen. In addition, the pavilion will provide people with public bathrooms, which is an amenity that will enhance the hundreds of special events which occur in Bluffton each year.

Sulka said the completion of the pavilion is the culmination of years surveying residents and implementing ideas about how the Town can enhance the Old Town experience.

“Back in 2008, the Town welcomed many suggestions and requests from the public regarding what amenities they wanted the Town to add. We are proud the features of DuBois Park and its pavilion combine several requests which will make it easier for people to access and enjoy the Historic District,” Sulka said.

In addition, the ceremony will dedicate the installation of an historic marker at DuBois Park which tells the story of the Burning of Bluffton by Union Troops during the Civil War. The historic marker is placed in the park because many homes and businesses in the neighborhood were destroyed during this event.

The Lowcountry Civil War Roundtable organization funded and sponsored the historic marker.

The speakers and guests for the dedication ceremony include: Joe Roney; president of the Lowcountry Civil War Roundtable, Jeff Fulghum; author, “The Bluffton Expedition: The Burning of Bluffton, South Carolina, During the Civil War,” State Senator Tom Davis, Mayor Lisa Sulka, Town Councilmembers and Town staff.

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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Minié Ball Gazette

Is published by

The Lowcountry Civil War Round Table, Inc.

Located in the greater Hilton Head area of South Carolina.

Founded in 2000 and dedicated to Civil War history,
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.