



# MINIÉ BALL GAZETTE

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

September 2021

## President's Letter—John Allen

We are having our first LCWRT meeting after the summer break. It will be on **Thursday Sept 23rd** at 6:45 PM in the Hidden Cypress Ballroom. This will be our first in-person meeting in almost two years. The speaker will be Jack Rabbit and his topic will be: "The Civil War: Why Did So Many Die?" We hope to see a good turnout for our first in-person meeting this Fall, But if you don't feel comfortable attending, we will also be Zooming the meeting. Members will be sent the login info as usual. Thanks, hope to see you on **Thursday the 23rd**.

John Allen, President, LCWRT

## September 23, 2021 Meeting

Jack Rabbitt will present his program on "The Civil War: Why Did So Many Die?" Topics to be discussed include:

- New weapons with old tactics
- Medical knowledge and practices
- Elements of camp life that contributed to the germination and spread of disease
- And recent research that indicated the death toll of the war at 750,000 which is more than the long-standing figure of 620,000.

Jack is a resident of Sun City and a favorite speaker of our group. He is a volunteer instructor at the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at USB, teaching several courses on the Civil War. He has been fascinated with the Civil War since the age of 10 and has visited many battlefields. He is a published author.

**Guest fees will be waived for this meeting.** So this would be a good time to invite your friends to come with you.

Please note this program is on Thursday September 23 at 6:45.

## **Dues**

The Executive Committee has voted to keep dues at \$30 this year per family. This is a reduction in \$10 from our previous amount of \$40. A form for renewing can be found at the back of this newsletter. It is an easy drop off in Riverbend.

## **Club and Group Fair 2021**

The Club and Group Fair for Sun City will be on Saturday October 2 from 10 am to 2 pm at Pinckney Hall and the Pavilion Grounds. LCCWRT will be on the Pavilion Grounds. Please stop by and visit with other group members and get information about upcoming programs.

## **October 27, 2021 Meeting**

### **Carolyn Coppola Reconstruction, Bluffton & Campbell AME Church**

Carolyn has been active in historic preservation since 2007. She nominates buildings to the National Register of Historic Places and defines plans for rehabilitating historic residential, commercial and industrial properties.

She will be talking about the Campbell Chapel AME Church to our group on October 27. The Campbell Chapel AME Church was formerly listed on the National Register of Historic Places, one of only two buildings in Bluffton that are individually listed. Her research led to a rich and compelling story about freedom in Bluffton and the low country during the post-Civil War period. She will talk about the social, religious, political, and economic changes after the Civil War which enabled the church to symbolize a new life for its congregation.

## **December 2, 2021**

### **C. Russell Horres Morris Island and the Civil War**

Due to Thanksgiving, our November meeting will be held in early December. Russel Horres is a native of Charleston and currently resides in Mount Pleasant. He has been a volunteer research and interpretative guide for the National Park Service since 2001. His work with the National Park Service has led to the discovery of long-lost records of the construction of Fort Sumter. He is the author of *Morris Island and the Civil War Strategy and Influence*.

Morris Island held a critical position in the Civil War. It was first used by the Confederates in the bombardment of Ft. Sumter and Charleston. Then the roles were reversed and the Union forces used the site to also bombard Ft. Sumter and Charleston. Both sides expended a vast amount of money for what appeared to be of little value.

## **Beaufort History Museum Living History Encampment**

Saturday, December 4, 2021 from 9 A.M. to 4:30 P. M.

The Arsenal Courtyard. Free, but donations are accepted

The Beaufort History Museum will present a Civil War Era Living History Encampment on Saturday, December 4 in the Arsenal courtyard, Re-enactors from the New York 79<sup>th</sup> Highlanders and New York 48<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment will portray Union troops from the Department of the South who were garrisoned in the Lowcountry and occupied the Beaufort Arsenal during the Civil War. The re-enactors will set up camp in the walled Arsenal courtyard and provide a unique educational opportunity for visitors of all ages, who will be able to interact with the soldiers to learn firsthand and how life was lived in Beaufort during the Civil War years.

Beaufort History Museum is a nonprofit corporation and is devoted to facilitating, displaying and managing the collection of art and artifacts owned by the City of Beaufort.

## **Friends of Honey Hill**

The Friends of Honey Hill are excited to report that we are beginning the process of clearing trails on the battlefield, in our ongoing mission to preserve this very special and hallowed ground. As we near the 157th anniversary of the actions that took place on November 30th 1864, we're continually reminded of the many sacrifices by both sides - and the importance of the stories they left behind. Gallant actions by ordinary soldiers, commanders who led bravely from the front, and a 21-year-old African-American Corporal in the 55th Massachusetts would forever leave their imprint on the slopes of Honey Hill. After watching his color sergeant fall, Andrew Jackson Smith would lift the flag of the 55th and carry on through the hail of bullets and grape shot, taking a wound in the process. Colonel Hartwell (who commanded a brigade that day), would have 3 horses shot from beneath him and take a wound himself, with the heroic Captain Thomas Ellsworth risking his life to carry Hartwell from the battlefield - earning a Medal of Honor for his actions. Corporal Smith's own Medal of Honor took generations to award, but his bravery at such a young age exemplified the passion and determination of African-American soldiers. As you weave through the battlefield, these and other stories will shed a light on what happened in late fall of 1864.

Well-marked trails will provide visitors a pathway to history as they stop at key points to view the battlefield from the same angles as troops on either side. The battle featured a large variety of units, and resulted in nearly 1000 combined casualties. While the Confederate troops

temporarily prevented Union soldiers from reaching further inland, these smaller engagements would prove instrumental in hastening a surrender. Sherman's march to the sea would end just 3 weeks after the Battle of Honey Hill, and the Confederacy would fall just a few months later.

Our mission is to protect and preserve the battlefield in Ridgeland for all future generations to visit and learn of the men who fought here, and the reasons for their actions that day. It's rare that such a ground exists - one that was not developed and lies in much the same state as it did over a hundred and fifty years ago. That's not to say the path ahead is easy - there is much work that needs doing, from clearing the trails and creating paths, to eventually paving a parking lot and beyond. We are dedicated to the project, and have secured grants and funding to work towards these goals. And we'd love to have anyone with a passion for history and a love of stories to join us. Whether you're able to come out and help clear the battlefield, or you're moved to make a donation - there are many ways to help. Please visit our website at <http://www.fohnb.org/> to learn more about our mission and how you can participate. And if you'd like to simply follow our progress, please follow/like our social media pages (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/fohh1864> and <https://twitter.com/fohh1864>).

We look forward to hearing from you!

## Speakers in 2022

January 26	Jerry Morris	Battle at Rivers Bridge
February 23	Ford Hutchinson	Civil War on Hilton Head Island before, during and after
March 23	Jack Davis	The Information Age—1860 Style
April 27	Debra Conner	Dr. Mary Walker, Civil War Surgeon
May 25	Jim Morgan	Ball's Bluff
Sept. 28	Neil Baxley	Gen. Stephen Elliott, Jr., Beaufort Confederate General
Oct. 26	Park Service Rep	Reconstruction after Civil War
Nov. 30	Paul Quigley	to come

## ***Mitchelville*, a play by Aurin Squire**

A play of interest will be *Mitchelville* by Aurin Squire. This is a Lean Ensemble Theatre Production running from March 17 to 27. Tickets are available at calling 843-715-6676

Directed by Christopher Windom

When a young man tries to save his Gullah family home, he dives into the history of his family lineage, the Civil War, and the first town of Black freedmen in America. *Mitchellville* is a story about learning from the past, saving for the future and keeping a tradition going.

## **Juneteenth Celebration**

Juneteenth is the oldest nationally celebrated commemoration of the ending of slavery in the United States. Dating back to 1865, it was on June 19<sup>th</sup> that the Union soldiers, led by Major General Gordon Granger, landed at Galveston, Texas, with news that the war had ended and that the slaves were now free.

Juneteenth is celebrated every year in Historic Mitchellville Freedom Park. From the Praise House to the Bateau, the park features historical exhibits that will take you back in time. The park is open daily from 6 AM to 9 PM. There are self-guided tours, events, and you can bring a picnic lunch or dinner to enjoy the beautiful coastline views.

## **Civil War Round Table Congress News and Events**

The American Battlefield Trust wrapped up a large chapter of preservation efforts at the Harpers Ferry Battlefield by donating the last of four tracts totaling approximately 17 acres to the National Park Service. This parcel will now be part of the Harpers Ferry National Historical Park. Over the past 29 years the trust has succeeded in saving 542 areas of hallowed ground at the West Virginia battlefield.

## **Coastal Discovery Museum presentation**

Hilton Head Island was home to many Union soldiers during the Civil War. The presentation features maps and historic photos from 1861-1865. Cost is @12 for adults. Presentation is at 3 pm on Thursdays at Coastal Discovery Museum. 70 Honey Hill Drive. Reservations are needed. Call 843-689-6767 ext. 223 or [coastaldiscovery.org](http://coastaldiscovery.org).

## Hilton Head Tours

You can learn more about local history by foot, by bus, or by horse-drawn carriage.

### Historic Fort Mitchel Tours

Thursday 10:30 through October 14, 2021

Limited to 8 people per tour

Fort Mitchell contains the remains of a coastal defense battery erected in 1862 to protect the Port Royal Sound by way of Skull Creek from incursions by Confederate gunboats. Costumed characters and an expert tour guide will demonstrate the vital historic importance of this place and the role the fort and its namesake, General Mitchell, played in shaping Hilton Head history, including historic Mitchellville.

Cost \$15/adult and \$10/child

The tour is located at Ft. Mitchel in Hilton Head Plantation, 65 Skull Creek Drive Hilton Head

Registration required. Contact [www.eventbrite.com/e/2020-historic-fort-mitchel-tours-national-register-tickets-104850035278](http://www.eventbrite.com/e/2020-historic-fort-mitchel-tours-national-register-tickets-104850035278)

### Gullah Heritage Trail Tour

Take a break from your typical walking tours and get ready to sit on an air-conditioned bus for two hours learning about history. If you're looking to learn more about the history of the Gullah people on the island, this is the perfect tour to take. The **Gullah Trail Tours** are guided by fourth generation Gullah family members. These knowledgeable guides will keep it informative and fun so you'll be sure to enjoy yourself while also learning a wealth of new information. You'll pass through all 10 Gullah neighborhoods on the island and your tour guides will share their own family and personal anecdotes.

### Sallie Ann Robinson Gullah Tour

Learn all there is to know about Daufuskie Island with Sallie Ann Robinson, a sixth-generation Daufuskie native. She'll tell you all about growing up on an island with limited access to the mainland. See sites such as the Daufuskie Museum and Library, Oyster Hall, the First Union African Baptist Church and more. Sallie takes you on a journey through her childhood and through the history of her ancestors.

## **Beaufort History Tour**

Sea Island Carriage Company wants to immerse you in the rich history that surrounds Beaufort, South Carolina's second oldest city. Take time out of your day to experience all Beaufort has to offer when riding in a red horse-drawn carriage. The tour guides are locals who know everything there is to know about the area. You'll see breathtaking homes, live oaks and even sites where *Forest Gump* was filmed.

## **Hilton Head History Tours**

Take a deep dive into the island's great history on this bus tour. Richard and Todd are local historians and Hilton Head experts. They will tailor the experience to what you want to learn about and add fun and facts along the way. See sites in private gated communities that only members see. Learn about the significance of certain landmarks, what they were before and how they came to be what they are now.

## **Interested in traveling**

### **American Cruise lines**

There are several cruises offering areas of the Civil War. They include

#### **New Orleans Round Trip**

Highlights include visits to New Orleans, La., Oak Alley, La., Natchez, Ms, Vicksburg, MS, St. Francisville, La, Baton Rouge, LA, and Houmas House, La.

#### **Lower Mississippi**

Highlights include New Orleans, Oak Alley, La., Baton Rouge, La, Natchez, Ms., Vicksburg, Ms. And Memphis, Tenn.

#### **Historic South and Golden Isles.**

Highlights include visits to Charleston, S.C., Beaufort, S.C, Hilton Head, S.C. , Savannah, Georgia, intercoastal waterway, Jekyll Island, Ga., St. Simon Island, GA, and Amelia island, Fl.

**LOWCOUNTRY CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE, INC.**

Annual Membership for all household members: **\$30.00**

**MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION**

CURRENT MEMBER \_\_\_\_\_

NEW MEMBER \_\_\_\_\_

**ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP PERIOD SEPTEMBER 1, 2021 to AUGUST 31, 2022**

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](mailto:joseph.passiment900@gmail.com)**



# Lowcountry Civil War Round Table, Inc.

## 2019-21 Executive Committee

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# Minié Ball Gazette

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501 (C) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code.**

*Note: The website address is*

*[www.lcwrtsquarespace.com](http://www.lcwrtsquarespace.com) and it can*

*be used to get current and historical LCWRT information.*