

# THE MINIE BALL GAZETTE

## LOWCOUNTRY CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

P. O. BOX 2252 BLUFFTON, S.C. 29910 (843) 705-9898

[www.lowcountrycwrt.org](http://www.lowcountrycwrt.org)

Editor - Carol J. Cutrona (843) 705-6189 [ccutrona@hargray.com](mailto:ccutrona@hargray.com)

Assistant Editor - Bob Eberly (843) 785-5393 [prinzarnulf@hargray.com](mailto:prinzarnulf@hargray.com)

Web Master - George Pinkerton (843) 705-5328 [amblside@hargray.com](mailto:amblside@hargray.com)

*Dedicated to Historic Preservation and Enlightenment*

TRUST IN GOD BUT KEEP  
YOUR POWDER DRY

APRIL 2002  
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### NEWS FLASH ----

**APRIL 10TH MEETING . . .**

**PROFESSOR "JACK" DAVIS ON "Forming  
the Confederacy"**

**Held at McCracken Middle School.**

**DINNER RESERVATIONS MUST BE**

**RECEIVED BY APRIL 1ST.**

**Mail enclosed reservation form and check.**

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

### FORMING THE CONFEDERACY

Our speaker on April 10th will be noted historian and author William C. "Jack" Davis. He has written or edited forty books on the Civil War and Southern history, as well as numerous documentary screenplays. His subject will be "A Government of Our Own: The Making of the Confederacy." The next morning he will lead a "round table" discussion covering subjects of your choice. These "Morning After" meetings have been well attended and are greatly enjoyed by all.

Jack Davis is a native of Missouri with B.A. and M.A. degrees from Sonoma State University in California. He was the on-camera consultant for 52 episodes of the Arts and Entertainment Network/History Channel series "Civil War Journal." Jack has twice been nominated for the Pulitzer Prize in History, and is

the only three-time winner of the Jefferson Davis Award. Davis is Director of Programs for the Virginia Center for Civil War Studies, where he is associated with Professor James I. Robertson. He holds a professorship in the History Department. Don't miss this most knowledgeable and entertaining speaker.

Jack Keller

Program Committee Member

To reserve your seat for the "Morning After," please call Bob Eberly at 785-5393.

### MILITARY ENGAGEMENTS

**April 10 - General Meeting - Prof.**

**"Jack" Davis on "Forming the Confederacy"**

April 11 - "Morning After" with Jack Davis - Held at Palmetto Electric

**May 8 - General Meeting - Dennis Frye  
on "John Brown's Raid on Harpers Ferry"  
followed by the annual meeting of members**

May 9 - "Morning After" with Dennis Frye at Palmetto Electric

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**GRAND REVIEW 2000**

by Bob Eberly

One hundred thirty six years ago in June 1865, Union Generals Grant and Sherman marched their victorious armies through Washington, D.C. to celebrate the conclusion of the War of the Rebellion. The two-day spectacle was called the "Grand Review," and drew a huge crowd of spectators to the newly-reunited nation's capital. On an extremely hot weekend in June, 2000 some three thousand Civil War re-enactors gathered in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania to recreate the Grand Review, albeit this time with a difference.

Billed as "Grand Review 2000," the event brought together both Union and Confederate re-enactors, as well as a large contingent of civilian re-enactors under the banner, "The Healing of our Nation." Rebel regiments marched alongside their Yankee counterparts as the Saturday afternoon parade wound its way past reviewing stands, occupied by "General Robert E. Lee" and "General U. S. Grant," to the State Capitol. There, in a moving ceremony, a reproduction of the regimental flag of the 101<sup>st</sup> Pennsylvania Volunteer Regiment was returned to the care of the state government. The original flag was buried by soldiers of the 101<sup>st</sup> Regiment behind their earthworks at Plymouth, North Carolina in April, 1864, just before their position was overrun, and they were forced to surrender. To this day, the flag has not been found. Lowcountry Civil War Roundtable President Robert Eberly reenacts with the 101st Pennsylvania and took part in the flag-return ceremony. His great-great uncle, Private John Springer of Fayette County, Pennsylvania, was among those Union soldiers who were captured and sent to Andersonville. He died there in June, 1864 at eighteen years of age.

Eberly views his reenacting with the 101<sup>st</sup> Pennsylvania Volunteers, and his participation in the return of its regimental flag to a place of honor, as a very personal way of honoring his ancestor's memory and sacrifice.

Other events occurring during the Grand Review 2000 weekend included a reenactment of the momentous 1862 Hampton Roads, Virginia naval battle between the Monitor and the Merrimac. This engagement featured manned, cannon-firing scale replicas of the famous warships maneuvering against each other on the Susquehanna River within sight of the state Capitol Building. A Military Ball was held Saturday night, and a river-crossing battle reenactment Sunday afternoon brought the weekend to a rousing close. Robert E. Lee's Army of Northern Virginia had come perilously close to capturing Harrisburg in 1863 in the days preceding the Battle of Gettysburg. South Carolina Educational Television had a crew on hand to film the highlights of the "Grand Review 2000," and a videotape of the weekend's events is now available. If you are interested in acquiring a copy of the videotape, you may give Bob Eberly a call at 785-5393 or E-Mail him at <prinzarnulf@hargray.com> for further details.

**LINCOLN'S FIRST YEAR**

**A Re-cap of the March Program**

by George Cabaniss

If you weren't there for our last dinner meeting, you missed a fantastic program. Jim Getty, the nation's foremost Abraham Lincoln impressionist, returned to share with us Mr. Lincoln's reminiscences of his first year in office, a year marked by the outbreak of civil war. Getty began his presentation with a review of events that transpired prior to his inauguration in March of 1861. Of course, South Carolina's secession from

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the Union in December 1860 was the most significant of these. In the months that followed, Lincoln formed his cabinet, distributing the posts in a manner that would weld together the disparate geographic regions and political parties that, he hoped, would remain loyal to the Union. In this respect, he didn't hesitate to bring disaffected Democrats into the administration.

The first crisis Lincoln faced following his inauguration was the re-supply of the Federal facility in Charleston Harbor—Fort Sumter. When he decided to send food to the garrison, South Carolinians asked Confederate President Jefferson Davis for permission to fire on the fort. Given the go-ahead, when Union ships appeared on the horizon, Southern militia opened fire on both the fort and the vessels. This action led directly to Lincoln's call on April 17, 1861 for 75,000 volunteers to put down the rebellion. Washington soon became a city of bivouacs. On April 19, Lincoln established a blockade of southern ports. On the same day, he suspended the writ of habeas corpus in Baltimore due to rioting there by Southern sympathizers. That action helped to keep Maryland in the Union and preserved the viability of Washington as the nation's capital.

After the first Battle of Bull Run, Lincoln replaced General McDowell with George McClellan. McClellan re-organized the Union army and dramatically improved its sagging morale. Later in the year, Lincoln promoted McClellan to replace the aging Winfield Scott. On the financial front, Lincoln pushed for the adoption of an income tax to pay for the cost of the war. The Congress went along, and the tax (imposed on personal income at a rate of 3% and set to be repealed at the end of the war) is with us to this day.

The biggest crisis at the end of the year was the "Trent Affair." Two Southern agents, Messrs. Mason and Slidell, were dispatched to England to serve as envoys for the Confederate

government. They escaped the Northern blockade and made their way to Cuba where they boarded the *Trent*, a British ship. The next day, sailors from a Union naval vessel boarded the *Trent* and seized the two men, taking them to Boston as prisoners of war. Great Britain was outraged at this affront to their sovereignty and threatened to enter the war on the Confederate side. Lincoln defused the situation by releasing the two men, thus averting England's entry into America's war.

At the "Morning After" event, Mr. Getty spoke informally to a smaller group of enthusiastic Round Table members and took part in a wide-ranging discussion. He noted that Lincoln was devoted to the law and had thoroughly researched the previous court decisions on the slavery issue. He was personally convinced that the infamous "Dred Scott" decision was wrong. Getty recounted the events surrounding Lincoln's Gettysburg Address and noted that few people at the time recognized it as the masterpiece it has become. He spoke of Lincoln's limited formal education (only about one full year of school), noting that Lincoln was largely self-taught. He loved to read, and the Bible and the works of William Shakespeare were his favorites. Getty said that Lincoln practically worshipped the Declaration of Independence.

We were most fortunate to host Jim Getty in the Lowcountry and look forward to him returning from time to time to enlighten us on President Lincoln's actions during the later years of the Civil War.

#### **Notice of Annual Meeting of Members**

Pursuant to the relevant provisions of the South Carolina Nonprofit Corporation Law, please take notice that the annual meeting of members of the Lowcountry Civil War Round Table will be held Wednesday, May 8, 2002 at the McCracken Middle School, Buckwalter Parkway, Bluffton,

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South Carolina. The meeting will take place immediately following the presentation of the evening's program. The purposes of the meeting are (i) to elect officers for the 2002-2003 year and (ii) to act upon such other matters as may properly come before the members. The Executive Committee has approved the slate of nominees proposed by the Nominating Committee and, accordingly, recommends the following individuals for election to the offices following their names:

Thomas Oliver--President  
Samuel Sawyer--Vice President  
Johanna Verwer--Secretary  
Walter Hartung--Treasurer  
Andrew Kudarauskas--At-Large member

Nominations will be accepted from the floor for any of the listed positions. It is noted that the Round Table's By-Laws provide that the incumbent Vice President (currently Mr. Oliver) will succeed to the office of President upon the completion of the term of the incumbent President (currently Robert Eberly).

***MAY NEWSLETTER***  
***DEADLINE IS MARCH 25TH***

**WE AIM TO PLEASE . . .**

Kudos to the membership committee folks who recognized and diligently worked on the problems of serving dinner to so many and the inadequacies of the sound system. Diners now pass through the line faster, and we can all hear the marvelous speakers who grace our programs.

**DEADLINES PUBLISHED IN THIS NEWSLETTER ARE NECESSARY DATES.**

**PLEASE TRY TO ADHERE TO THEM, ESPECIALLY WHEN RESERVING DINNER/PROGRAM MEETINGS.**

**MUSINGS. . . . .**

**A couple can buy the following items today for less than \$4.80.**

**McDonalds # 3 breakfast  
Popcorn and a soda at the movie  
3 gallons of gasoline  
4 \_ trips across the Cross Island Parkway  
A Wendy's Spring Salad and soft drink  
or . . . . .**

**A night of learning and fellowship at a meeting of the Lowcountry Civil War Roundtable.**

**The many benefits of membership are:**

**Education  
Support of Historic Preservation and Civil War Heritage  
An evening out with other people of the same interest  
Outstanding Programs  
Field Trips to historic locations**

**What a great value for the money.**

**ATTENTION ALL RECRUITS . . . .**

**Any trooper who attempts to fall in at the general meeting and is not wearing his/her name tag will be obligated to hand over \$1 to the guard. Those failing to comply may be seated in the brig for the evening.**

**JUST KIDDING GUYS! But we really do need you to bring or wear your name tags to each meeting.**

**DON'T MISS THE MAY 8TH MEETING, HELD AT MCCRACKEN MIDDLE SCHOOL. FOR "MORNING AFTER" PROGRAM RESERVATION, CALL BOB EBERLY, 785-5393.**

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**IT'S TIME TO START PLANNING FOR LCWRT's SUMMER TRIPS**

Please respond to the following suggestions of **one day bus trips** for June or July or on a cool August day, 2002. All trips would be Civil War oriented w/guest speakers during the trip and on site. Estimated costs are from \$33.00 to \$45.00 per person.

1. **Charleston** including a CW Walking Tour, luncheon and free time for shopping and/or sightseeing.

Yes, let's do \_\_\_\_\_ Good, tell me more \_\_\_\_\_ Nope \_\_\_\_\_

2. **Port Royal/Beaufort Boat Trip** which would include a 3 hour boat trip, luncheon at a noted restaurant, and free time for Beaufort shopping or sightseeing.

Yes, let's do \_\_\_\_\_ Good, tell me more \_\_\_\_\_ Nope \_\_\_\_\_

3. **Ft's Pulaski & McAllister** w/lunch at delightful, gourmet restaurant and refreshments along the way.

Yes, let's do \_\_\_\_\_ Good, tell me more \_\_\_\_\_ Nope \_\_\_\_\_

4. **Additional suggestions for a one day trip**  
**are:** \_\_\_\_\_

5. Do you have any interest in a two day, overnight trip such as Andersonville; Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_  
Suggestions: \_\_\_\_\_

*Thank you. LCWRT Program Committee; P.O. Box 2252, Bluffton, SC 29910*