

It Is Reenlistment Time

Summer 2003 Issue 29

Our reenlistment campaign for the 2003 - 2004 membership year is in full swing, and the numbers look good so far. While many of you have already signed up for another year, we are currently taking new members as well. So, if any of your friends or neighbors are interested in learning about a fascinating period of American history and having a great time doing it, tell them to contact **Bill or Shirley Trapp**, the Co-Chairs of our **Membership Committee**. They can be reached at 705-2455 or give them a copy of the enlistment form that appears in this issue.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I would like to thank Tom Oliver and a great supporting cast for an outstanding program year. Our membership has grown by leaps and bounds and interest in Civil War history is at an all-time high in the Lowcountry. We have gotten a great deal of media coverage from our three local newspapers. The Blue and Gray Educational Society wants to return for a third year in the spring of 2004. We have had excellent comments from all of our speakers concerning our Minie Ball Gazette. Mitch and Marian Sackson are doing a fantastic job with this publication!

The Lowcountry Civil War Round Table has quite a few volunteers

compiling historical site data for the South Carolina Battleground Preservation Trust. We are, indeed, a growing organization in the Bluffton/Hilton Head area.

Good News - The Program Committee has come up with an outstanding slate of speakers for 2003 - 2004. Bud Robertson will be here in January to discuss "Medicine in the Civil War" and Ed Bearss will speak on "Second Manassas". We will open in September with Brain Steel Wills discussing General Bedford Forrest and, late in May, Robert E. Lee Krick will speak on the "Seven Days' Battle". A complete program guide will be found with dates in this issue of the Minie Ball Gazette.

I am looking forward to another great year! We are an organization dedicated to promoting, educating and stimulating interest in and discussion of all aspects of the War Between the States and the preservation of historical sites and monuments.

Encourage your friends and neighbors to re-enlist or to become part of the LCWRT for the first time and to send fees to the Membership Committee as soon as possible.

Have a safe and wonderful summer and I'll see you in September.

Sincerely,

Bernie Couvert

THE TRAIN THAT ALMOST COULD

Early on the morning of April 12, 1862 in Big Shanty, 21 Federal soldiers dressed as Confederates and under the leadership of civilian spy James J. Andrews, stole the engine *General* and three boxcars and headed north with a plan to destroy the Western and Atlantic Railroad, so important to supplying Confederate armies. The crew and passengers were eating breakfast at a nearby hotel. Hearing the engine pull out of the station, conductor William A. Fuller and two others gave chase on foot for two miles. They found a railroad crew, and commandeered their platform car, which is propelled by pushing long poles or pushing off on railroad ties with one's feet. At the Etowah River, they picked up the steam-powered yard engine *Yonah*, belonging to Cooper's Iron Works.

Meanwhile, the raiders had been delayed an hour in Kingston, where southbound train traffic had to be switched to the side to let them pass. Four minutes after they rolled north, the *Yonah* came puffing into Kingston. De-

layed in Kingston, Fuller abandoned the *Yonah* and pursued on foot and quickly was able to commandeer the *William R. Smith*. Farther north, Andrew's raiders were vandalizing track, and gathering wood to help burn bridges to the north, which would stop their pursuer. At Adairsville, the *General* had to wait to let the southbound *Texas* get by, then they steamed north. Behind them, Fuller had to abandon the *Smith* when he came to some destroyed track. Proceeding on foot three miles, Fuller and his men came upon the southbound *Texas*.

When told of the situation, the engineer threw the *Texas* in reverse to pursue the *General* at more than 60 miles an hour. When the *Texas* closed on the *General* near Resaca, Andrews' men released a boxcar to slow him up, but the *Texas* just pushed the car along in front of it. Other attempts to slow the *Texas* were unsuccessful, and the *General* was running out of fuel as it roared through Tunnel Hill and Ringgold.

If the desperate raiders could get beyond Chattanooga, a few miles away, they would be safe behind Northern lines, but it was not to be, as the engine came to a stop. Andrews told his men to "Jump off and scatter! Every man for himself!" Soon they were all captured and imprisoned in Chattanooga. Eight escaped, six were imprisoned, and eight, including Andrews, were hanged and buried in Atlanta. After the release of the six prisoners, they met with Secretary of War Edwin Stanton on March 25, 1863. He looked in amazement at the 6 young soldiers before him. The sight of the ragged remnants

Great Train Chase (Continued on page 3)

THE MINIÉ BALL GAZETTE

Lowcountry Civil War Round Table Inc.
P.O. Box 2252
Bluffton, SC 29910
843-705-9898

Dedicated to Historic Preservation and Enlightenment

Editors: Mitch & Marian Sackson

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Historian	Carol Cutrona	705-6189
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2003-2004 PRESENTATIONS

THE YEAR 1862

- September 10 **Gen Nathan Bedford Forrest** Hear about that ingenious & natural tactician who was also a cavalier. *Presented by **Brian Steel Wills**, Dean of the Faculty of the History and Philosophy Department at University of Virginia-College at Wise*
- October 8 **Battle of Shiloh**, Pittsburg Landing, Tennessee. *Presented by **Wiley Sword**, author of **Shiloh: Bloody April**, which is the definitive book on this battle*
- November 12 **The Western Campaign**. The battles of Forts Henry & Donaldson in Tennessee and the City of New Orleans. *Presented by **Richard McMurry**, one of the most provocative commentators on the Southern war effort. Author of many books including **John Bell Hood and the War for Southern Independence** and **Two Great Rebel Armies***
- January 14 **Civil War Medicine** A fascinating look into the horrors of battlefield caring for the wounded and dying. *Presented by "**Bud**" **Robertson**, a most entertaining and informative Civil War speaker and Director of the Virginia Tech Civil War Center*
- February 11 **Weapons of War**. A first-hand introduction, with actual implements, into the fighting instruments of the war. *Presented by **Dana MacBean** and other members of the Charleston Museum*
- March 17 **2nd Manassas/Bull Run**. A revisit, with new insights, to this battle which resulted in another victory for the Confederacy. *As told by the energetic, indomitable **Edwin C. Bearss**, one of the best known Civil War lecturers and an ardent battlefield preservationist*
- April 14 **Battle of Sharpsburg/Antietam**. Considered the bloodiest single day of the entire war! *Presented by **Dr Tom Clement**, an Antietam Park Guide, a noted historian, lecturer, college professor and an expert on this important battle*
- May 12 **Seven Days Battle in Virginia**. From June 25 to July 1, the hills & towns of Virginia were alive with fire. *Presented by **R. E. L. Krick**, a most informative young rising star as a Civil War historian and speaker*

There is a **Morning After** for all meetings **EXCEPT** February 11. Call Jim Hamilton about 3 days before the monthly meeting at 705- 7575 if you plan to attend so as to allow for morning coffee and cake.

(Continued from page 2) Great Train Chase

that has once been brave young commandos moved his heart.

The Medal of Honor, the nation's highest award for valor, was established in U.S. Congress and given to the Raiders, except for Andrews himself, who was a civilian.

Later the dead were interred in Chattanooga National Cemetery, their ultimate goal, and honored with a monument and commemorated by three movies, most recently being the popular Walt Disney film, *The Great Locomotive Chase*.

REENLISTMENT CAMPAIGN UNDERWAY

Charge to the enlistment form
right now.

LOWCOUNTRY CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE, ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP PERIOD:
September 1, 2003 to August 31, 2004

Inc
P. O. BOX 2252, BLUFFTON, SC 29910
843-705-9898 www.lowcountrycwrt.org

Last Name _____ First Name _____ Badge Nickname _____
 Family/Household Member Name _____ Badge Nickname _____
 Address _____ City _____
 State _____ Zip Code _____ Phone() _____ E-Mail _____
 Enlist Single: One Time Initiation Fee \$25.00 + Annual Membership \$26.00** = \$51.00 _____
 Enlist Family/Household: One Time Initiation Fee \$30.00 + Annual Membership \$38.00** = \$68.00 _____
 Re-enlistment: Single Membership: \$26.00 _____ Family/Household: \$38.00 _____
 Check # _____ Date: _____ Payable To: Lowcountry Civil War Round Table, Inc

** After February 1 - Dues are 1/2 price, i.e. \$26 becomes \$13 and \$38 becomes \$19.

Another year of spectacular programming, good fellowship, field trips and more of our terrific *Morning After* events - all this can be yours if you reenlist now. Please complete the form included in this issue and return it, together with a check for your dues, to the address shown. If you have any questions regarding reenlisting, please contact **Bill or Shirly Trapp** at 705-2455.

NEW AT THE BLUFFTON LIBRARY!
War of the Rebellion, the entire 130 volume set, is now available at our own Bluffton Library. This is a *must see* for all Civil War enthusiasts and researchers.

O. C. WELCH

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Take a Trip and Learn about the Civil War!

Your Round Table has (for your listening enjoyment) an audio course on the Civil War. We have *The American Civil War* by Professor Gary W. Gallagher of the University of Virginia available for your use. The course consists of 24 cassette tapes, each an hour long. To check the tapes out call Tom Oliver at 705-7217.

*****FORT SUMTER - FORT MOULTRIE*****

SUMMER DAY TRIP TO CHARLESTON

TUESDAY, JULY 22, 2003

*** CRUISE CHARLESTON HARBOR TO FORT SUMTER**

*** RELIVE THE OPENING SHOTS OF THE CIVIL WAR FIRED ON FORT SUMTER**

*** STAND IN THE PLACE OF THE UNION SOLDIERS**

*** VISIT FORT MOULTRIE WHERE THE CONFEDERATES FIRED ON FORT SUMTER**

*** ENJOY A WATERFRONT LUNCH AT SHEM CREEK**

8:00 a.m. Depart Hardeeville Wal-Mart parking lot (US 278) on coach

6:00 p.m. Return to Wal-Mart parking lot

Limited to **46** participants. Cost: **\$37.50** (cost of lunch not included)

Return form below on or before **July 1**

✂-----✂-----✂-----✂-----

Fort Sumter/Fort Moultrie Trip, July 22, 2003

Name(s) _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Number of Reservations: _____ @ \$37.50 Total enclosed: _____

Make check payable to: **LCWRT**

Return on or before **July 1** to: Don Walters

Riverbend

Phone: 379-9653

4 Oxban Court

Email: dwalters@temple.edu

Bluffton, SC 29909

GET-AWAYS TO CIVIL WAR SITES

At our May 14 meeting your Program Committee presented handouts and maps for 3 suggested get-aways to sites in Georgia that would provide interest related to the Civil War. The get-aways are meant to be a “do it yourself...on your own” experience in a car or van for a couple or two or a group over a 2 day period.

1. **VISIT FITZGERALD - IRWINVILLE - AND ANDERSONVILLE...**Discover the heartwarming story of how Yankee and Confederate veterans created Georgia’s Yank-Reb City. Visit the place where President Jefferson Davis was captured and enjoy the museum at the Jefferson Davis Memorial State Historic Site. And finally tour the historical site in Andersonville and see first hand the prison camp where thousands of Union Army prisoners of war died of disease and starvation and visit the National Prisoner of War Museum.

2. **FOLLOW THE “LEADERS TRAIL” FROM GAINESVILLE** and General James Longstreet’s home site; to Jefferson and the Crawford W. Long Museum; to Athens and the University of Georgia-Franklin College ca. 1800; to Lexington and Colonel Francis S. Bartow and “the Oglethorpe Rifles”; to Washington and the Robert A. Toombs’ House and his place in leadership in Civil War-era politics and the Washington Historical Museum; to Crawfordville and the Liberty Hall Historic Site and Confederate Museum; and Philomath where 350 Confederate cavalrymen finally capitulated in one of the Civil War’s final dramas.

3. **FOLLOW THE “STONEMAN’S RAID TRAIL”** from Macon through Clinton to Madison and its beautiful antebellum homes, which escaped destruction during Sherman’s March to the Sea; to Rutledge spared by Stoneman’s raiders but later burned and the railroad destroyed all the way to Madison; to Watkinsville and the Eagle Tavern and the Battle of Barber’s Creek; on to Winder and the Battle of King’s Tanyard where 300 of Stoneman’s men were captured and finally imprisoned in Andersonville; and return to Macon via Decatur, to Covington, Monticello, and Clinton.

For Further Information

Descriptive handouts and maps can be obtained from Paul Bucklin by calling 705-5168. The Program Committee would appreciate your help in gathering feedback. Please give your comments about any of these tours to a member of the committee and enjoy your summer of exploring some beautiful parts of Georgia.

SUCCESSFUL 2002-2003 PROGRAMS REVIEW

As our fourth year comes to a close, **your** program committee consisting of Messrs. Paul Bucklin, Bernie Covert (now our distinguished president), Jim Fannon, Bob Ham, Jim Hamilton, Bob Eberly (past president), George Stidworthy, Wendell Turner, Don Walters, and Bob Zabawa, are more than pleased with our speakers, their presentations, the attendance and **your** our members response. One of the committee's goals was to present a "balanced series" of not only battles but also human-interest stories.

Our kick-off in **September** was with Chris Weatherhead, theater, film, and television star. Her hour-long adventure took us right to the heart of the controversial issues of the War Between the States. Her performance was enthusiastically received.

In **October** we turned to the naval battle between the Monitor and the Merrimack as told by the leading historian John Koski - a battle that changed how land and naval battles were to be fought as new weaponry influenced warship design.

November saw our own Bill Slaughter presenting the Battle of Port Royal as "Fueling the Northern Blockade:" a strategic critical area and Bill's stimulated talk was accompanied by a slide presentation of camp life.

As our program year continued into **January 2003** we welcomed back Bud Robinson, a most entertaining and informative speaker, expounding on "Stonewall Jackson, The Man, The Soldier, and The Legend." Dr. Robinson explored Jackson's personal life and some of his interesting idiosyncrasies.

The hardship of military prisons in both the North and the South during Civil War, was presented by the dynamic speaker Ed Bearss at

our **February** meeting. This renowned historian echoed the miseries of the tens of thousands of prisoners of war during one of the darkest chapters of American history where suffering and deprivation were commonplace.

The **March** winds came with the fanfare of the trooping of the colors and presenting of arms as James Mack Adams impersonated General Robert E. Lee. He shared with us his impersonation of this respected and noted Confederate general.

April showers brought with it the delightful presentation by Talley Kirkland, Jr. of the National Park Service, discussing little known facts and human trivia of Fort Pulaski. This pleasant and entertaining speaker regaled us with behind the scenes insights of Fort Pulaski, located within two hours of the Hilton Head Area.

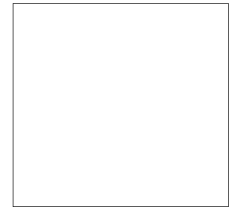
May saw the wrapping up our Roundtable programs for the 2002-2003 year with the personable, articulate and noted historian Robert Krick discussing the meteoric rise of General Stonewall Jackson

during the Valley Campaign due to the decisive role that Jackson played as he defeated his pursuers at Cross Keys and Port Royal. This was a stimulating and informative conclusion of our programs.

All in all the colorful, historical and, at times, humorous programs of 2002-2003 covering much of 1861, provides our membership with a natural and solid basis for our programs for next year - 2003-2004. We will continue our 1861 dialog and also start to explore 1862; again balancing the battles with the human side.

Gen Nathaniel Banks

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P.O. Box 2252
Bluffton, SC 29910



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NEXT MEETING
SEPTEMBER 10TH, 2003
GEN NATHAN BEDFORD FORREST

Our Web Site:
lowcountrycwr.org
Other Civil War Sites of Interest
To be announced

IS YOUR RENEWAL IN THE MAIL?

In order for your Round Table to continue to present speakers of the caliber who you have become used to, your dues are required **now**. Our Southern cooked meals will continue to be provided by Duke's. You may not be aware of it but your organization commits to speakers a year in advance. The Program Committee is now planning for **2004-2005** membership year! So, you see that we must be certain of the membership for these plans to completed.

***Please send your completed form & dues
as soon as possible. Thank you***