

# LOWCOUNTRY CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

November 2003 Issue 32

## THE WESTERN CAMPAIGN

A NEW FRAMEWORK FOR UNDERSTANDING THE CIVIL WAR


PRESENTED BY RICHARD McMURRY

Contrary to popular belief, the military outcome of the American Civil War was not decided or changed at Gettysburg. More than a year and a half before that great July 1863 battle in Pennsylvania, Union armies had begun an inexorable process of dismembering the Confederacy. (Gettysburg, in fact, is properly understood as an unsuccessful effort by the Secessionists to reverse that process.)

The course of Union victory in the war was far advanced by the time of Gettysburg. In 1861, 1862, and 1863 Federal forces had pretty much determined the fate of the Confederacy in a series of battles along the great interior rivers of North America—the Mississippi, the Ohio, the Tennessee, and the Cumberland. By the late spring of 1862 the rebellion had dealt a series of fatal blows along those waterways.

The main battles to be covered concern Forts Henry and Donelson. By February 1862, Fort Henry, a Confederate earthen fort on the Tennessee River with outdated guns, was partially inundated and the river threatened to flood the rest. On February 4-5, Brig. Gen. U.S. Grant landed his divisions in two

**BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH**

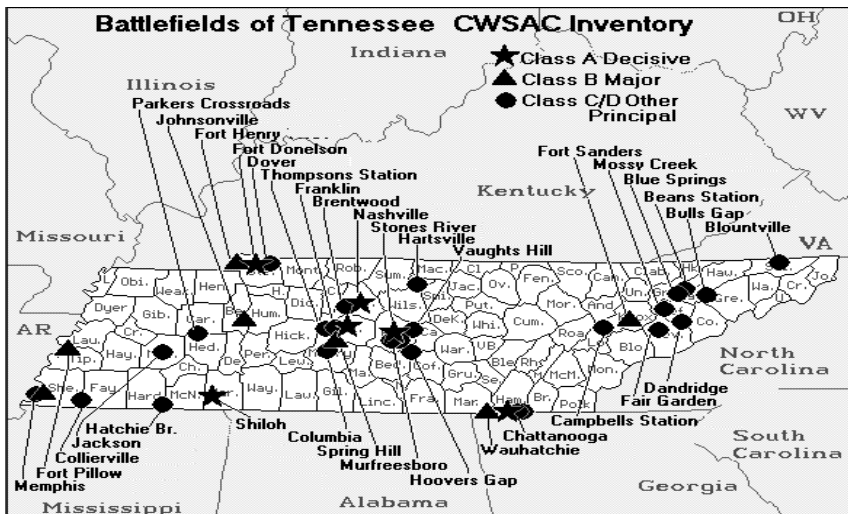


**R**ichard M. McMurry is a native of Atlanta. From 1967 until 1981 McMurry taught history at Valdosta (Georgia) State College. Since 1988 he has been a freelance writer and speaker and has served as a guide/historian for many tour and cruise groups.

McMurry's field of specialization is the American Civil War. He has authored more than one hundred articles on various facets of that great conflict. In 1994 two of

*(See McMurry on page 4)*

different locations, one on the east bank of the Tennessee River to prevent the garrison's escape and the other to occupy the high ground on the Kentucky side which would insure the fort's fall; Flag-Officer Andrew H. Foote's seven gunboats began bombarding the fort. Brig. Gen. Lloyd Tilghman, commander of the fort's garrison, realized that it was only a matter of time before Fort Henry fell. While leaving artillery in the fort to hold off the Union fleet, he escorted the rest of his force out of the area and sent them safely off on the route to Fort Donelson, 10 miles away. Tilghman then returned to the fort and, soon afterwards, surrendered to the fleet, which had engaged the fort and closed within 400 yards. Fort Henry's fall opened the Tennessee River to Union gunboats and shipping as far as Muscle



*(See Western on page 4)*

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The 2003 – 2004 Lowcountry Civil War Round Table dinner meetings have gotten off to a great start! All committees are working hard so that we may offer our membership a great evening of food, friendship, and speakers. Please think about becoming a volunteer for the coming year. See a member of the Executive Board and let them know you want to be active in a particular area. All committees are very important in order for our Wednesday evenings and Thursday mornings to be presented in a positive manner. As one of our former leaders said, "If we have many horses pulling the wagon, the load is not a burden for anyone."

Mike Taylor, director of the South Carolina Battle-ground Preservation Trust, will give a brief update on the progress of preparing records of identification of civil war sites in Beaufort County. The Lowcountry Civil War Round Table has several volunteer participants involved with this project.

Please stop by our corporate sponsors, Key Infiniti, Liberty Savings Bank and Butler Chrysler, Dodge, Jeep and let them know we appreciate their sponsorships.

This is a reminder to our members concerning the "guest policy". If you have an *out-of-town* guest and you wish to bring that guest to our dinner/meeting, please contact the Lundys at 705-5663. Guests will be approved on a "seat available" basis. Please honor the *out-of-town* qualification - neighbors and friends do not meet the criteria. We would be happy to have those folks become *members*.

I look forward to seeing you at the meeting!  
*Bernie Covert*



### 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. The **video** version is also available for home use. For further information, call Tom Oliver at 705-7217.

### 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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## 2003-2004 PRESENTATIONS THE CIVIL WAR YEAR OF 1862

November 12	<b>The Western Campaign.</b> The battles of Forts Henry & Donaldson in Tennessee and the City of New Orleans. <i>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</i>
January 14	<b>Civil War Medicine</b> A fascinating look into the horrors of battlefield caring for the wounded and dying. <i>Presented by "Bud" Robertson, a most entertaining and informative Civil War speaker and Director of the Virginia Tech Civil War Center</i>
February 11 <b>No Morning After</b>	<b>Weapons of War.</b> A first-hand introduction, with actual implements, into the fighting instruments of the war. <i>Presented by Roy Davenport, a Civil War weapons specialist, recommended to us by the Charleston Museum</i>
March 17	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Manassas/Bull Run.</b> A revisit, with new insights, to this battle which resulted in another victory for the Confederacy. <i>As told by the energetic, indomitable Edwin C. Bearss, one of the best known Civil War lecturers and an ardent battlefield preservationist</i>
April 14	<b>Battle of Sharpsburg/Antietam.</b> Considered the bloodiest single day of the entire war! <i>Presented by Dr Tom Clements, an Antietam Park Guide, a noted historian, lecturer, college professor and an expert on this important battle</i>
May 12	<b>Seven Days Battle in Virginia.</b> From June 25 to July 1, the hills & towns of Virginia were alive with fire. <i>Presented by R. E. L. Krick, a most informative young rising star as a Civil War historian and speaker</i>

There is a **Morning After** for all meetings **EXCEPT** as noted at Palmetto Electric on River Walk. 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.



A bawdy picture card that the Feds just adored on their nights alone.  
Scandalous!

### WHAT WAS THAT YOU SAID?

(ANSWER ON PAGE 8)

What were the most 'stars' on a flag used by Confederate sympathizers and what did they represent?

(Picture next year)

## WESTERN

*(Continued from page 1)*

Shoals, Alabama. After the fall of Fort Donelson, ten days later, the two major water transportation routes in the Confederate west, bounded by the Appalachians and the Mississippi River, became Union highways for movement of troops and material. The principal commanders were Brig. Gen. Ulysses S. Grant and Flag-Officer A.H. Foote [US] and Brig. Gen. Lloyd Tilghman [CS]. The forces engaged were the District of Cairo [US] and the Fort Henry Garrison [CS]. The estimated casualties were 119 total (US 40; CS 79).

**A**fter capturing Fort Henry on February 6, 1862, Brig. Gen. Ulysses S. Grant advanced cross-country to invest Fort Donelson. On February 16, 1862, after the failure of their all-out attack aimed at breaking through Grant's investment lines, the fort's 12,000-man garrison surrendered unconditionally. This was a major victory for Brig. Gen. Ulysses S. Grant and a catastrophe for the South. It ensured that Kentucky would stay in the Union and opened up Tennessee for a Northern advance along the Tennessee and Cumberland rivers. Grant received a promotion to major general for his victory and attained stature in the Western Theater, earning the nom de guerre "Unconditional Surrender." Principal Commanders: Brig. Gen. Ulysses S. Grant and Flag-Officer A.H. Foote [US]; Brig. Gen. John B. Floyd, Brig. Gen. Gideon Pillow, and Brig. Gen. Simon B. Buckner [CS]. The forces engaged were the Army in the Field [US] and Fort Donelson Garrison [CS]. The estimated casualties were 17,398 total (US 2,331; CS 15,067).



Gen Mansfield Lovell

New Orleans' morale sagged when word of the fall of Forts Henry and Donelson reached the city. Criticism of Confederate leadership was widespread among the citizens and the press. New Orleans was on the verge of panic when General Mansfield Lovell [CS], acting on orders from Richmond, declared martial law in effect on March 15, 1862. After an intense bombardment from the Federal riverboats, and the fall of several forts along the Mississippi, New Orleans finally surrendered on April 29, 1862.

## MCMURRY BIOGRAPHY

*(Continued from page 1)*

*his books—John Bell Hood and the War for Southern Independence and Two Great Rebel Armies; An Essay in Confederate Military History—were listed among the one hundred best modern Civil War books as selected by the eminent historian Garry W. Gallagher for the magazine Civil War. His history of the 1864 military operations in North Georgia—Atlanta 1864: Last Chance for the Confederacy—was published by the University of Nebraska Press in 2000 as a volume in the Great Campaigns of the Civil War Series. McMurry's latest book, The Fourth Battle of Winchester: Toward a New Civil War Paradigm, was published in 2002 by Kent State University Press.*

*Richard McMurry has spoken to Civil War groups; high school, college, and university students; historical, literary, and library societies; and civic club in twenty five states and the District of Columbia. He is a member of numerous historical societies and is active in such organizations as The Civil War Preservation Trust and the Blue and Gray Education Society. He presently lives and writes in Roanoke, Virginia.*

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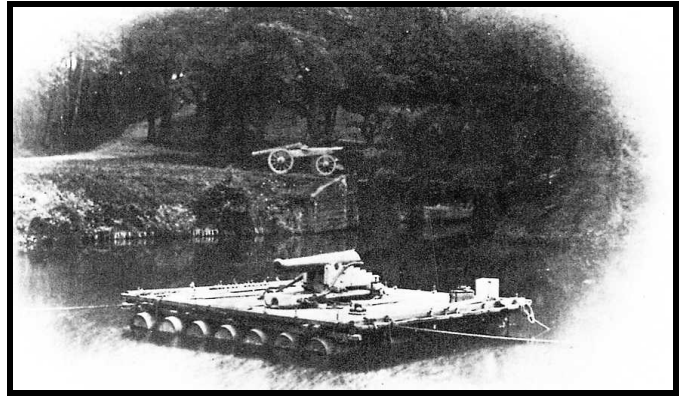
**9 Oak Forest Road**

## NEW MEMBERS THIS MONTH

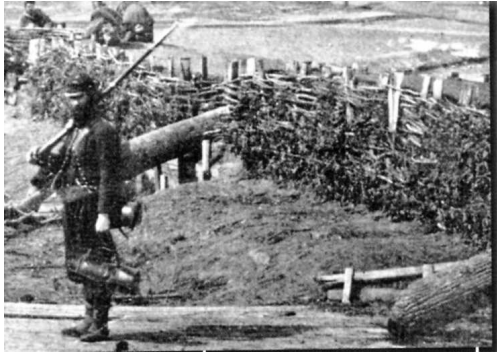
The LCWRT Board and members welcome the following new Civil War aficionados to our growing round table.

Name	City
Ernie & Mary Jane Karlson	Bluffton
Len Rosenberg	Bluffton

*If you haven't already done so, please stop by the Membership Table during our November meeting and pick up your name badge for 2003 – 2004.*



Cannon mounted on rafts were used on the Mississippi by both sides



Dummy guns such as these wooden logs were used throughout the war to fool attackers as to the strength of defenses.



Prentiss defending the Hornets' Nest at the end of the first day's fighting at Shiloh. He saved the day for Grant.

### GARGLE FOR SORE THROAT, DIPHTHERIA OR SCARLET FEVER



Mix in a common size cup of milk two teaspoonfuls of pulverized charcoal and ten drops of spirits of turpentine. Soften the charcoal with a few drops of milk before putting into the cup. Gargle frequently, according to the violence of the symptoms.

*(Not approved by Medicare)*



New Orleans: Looking down the levee from Canal St just after its surrender. Bales of cotton await shipment

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## THE LOST CAUSE BY HENRY MOSLER

The interest in Henry Mosler's "The Lost Cause" is growing and we are very excited to have such a famous piece to offer for sale at our January meeting! You may enter your silent bid at our November meeting (your silent bid may be the highest bid at the auction)! "The Lost Cause" is an excellent photocopy of the original. We have been told that only a very few copies were made; therefore, this photocopy is a true piece of history! Don't miss this opportunity!!!

*By Bernie Covert*



### ITS UNDER OUR NOSES BY BILL TRAPP



*Well, literally speaking anyway! The Heritage Library on Hilton Head Island is a great source for information and reference materials on the Civil War. Located just outside the Greenwood Gate to Sea Pines, the library is open to the public for genealogical and historical research. Among the many books on site is the fifty volume set of official Federal and Confederate records titled "The War of the Rebellion" which was compiled*

*by the government after the war. Civil War readers will think themselves in the promised land when they see what other books are available there. Whether you want to know more about South Carolina or Beaufort County during the war, or are looking for Civil War information on a broader basis, you need to visit the Heritage Library.*

*Do you have Internet access? Go to [www.heritagelib.org](http://www.heritagelib.org) and click on "Links", choose "Search" and type in "Civil War". Your search will bring up a menu of thirty-seven related references and links for information. Much of the information can be viewed on line but if not, is available at the Library on CD, microfilm or on hard copy. But your quest need not end there – the Library has access to LDS, NARA and many other sources for CD's microfilms and hard copies.*



*Directions for driving there: Go to the Sea Pines Circle and exit to Greenwood Drive (to Sea Pines); stay in the left lane and look for the sign "Courtyard Building" that is in the median about two blocks from the Circle. Turn left there and you will see the three story building on your left. The Library is on the third floor. It is open Monday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday from 9:00AM to 3:00PM. Phone number is 843 868 6560.*

**RESERVATION FOR NOVEMBER 12<sup>TH</sup> MEETING  
AT McCracken Middle School  
DINNER @ 5:45PM—PROGRAM @ 7:00PM**

**MENU FOR THIS MEETING**



**TURKEY  
STUFFING-GRAY  
CRANBERRY SAUCE**

**PULLED PORK • YAMS • FIELD PEAS  
• SLAW**

**PISTACHIO SALAD  
BANNANA PUDDING**

**CHOCOLATE CAKE**

**ROLLS • ICE TEA • COFFEE**

**CATERED BY DUKE'S OF RIDGELAND**



Dinner For November 12<sup>th</sup>, 2003

Number of Dinners: \_\_\_ @ \$11 each = \_\_\_

Names: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Ck# \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

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**TO ATTEND PROGRAM ONLY**

**(no dinner) Make your reservation by  
calling 705-9898**

**DINNER FORM & CHECK MUST BE RECEIVED NO LATER THAN**

**NOVEMBER 7<sup>RD</sup> 2003**

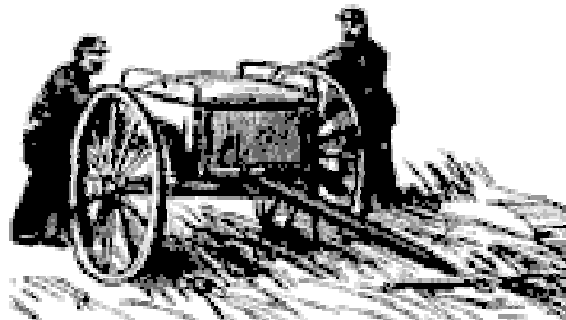
**TO RELIEVE ASTHMA**

**THE CURE MIGHT KILL**

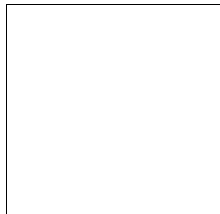
Take the leaves of the stramonium dried in the shade, saturated with a pretty strong solution of salt peter, and smoke it so as to inhale the fumes. It may strangle at first if taken too freely, but it will loosen the phlegm in the lungs. The leaves should be gathered before frost. (Need a picture of *stramonium*)

**We have 400 Members as of  
October 8th**

**Ask your friends to join for a  
'half-year' (4 month) trial  
Feb to May 2004**



Farragut running the gauntlet to take New Orleans



THE MINIE BALL GAZETTE  
Lowcountry Civil War Round Table Inc.  
P.O. Box 2252  
Bluffton, SC 29910

**NEXT MEETING**  
**JANUARY 14<sup>TH</sup>, 2004**  
**CIVIL WAR MEDICINE**  
**BY BUD ROBERTSON**  
**Medical Care on**  
**the Battlefield**

Our Web Site: [lowcountrycwrt.org](http://lowcountrycwrt.org)  
Read about the *California Sons of the Confederacy* at  
<http://www.scvcalifornia.net/Vidette12.pdf>

**ANSWER TO TEST ON PAGE 3 DON'T PEEK**

The most stars displayed on an 1861 Pattern Confederate flag is 17. The flag still survives and was taken by Capt. Jack Biderman an officer of the California State Militia on July 4th 1861, in Sacramento, California after an incident with an armed secessionist. The flag, sometimes called the "Biderman Flag", is an example of the skewed thinking that affected Confederate flag design in general, in that they often contained stars for territory that was coveted, but not under actual Confederate control. The flag is believed to have been associated with a secret society which was active the American West called the *Knights of the Golden Circle*. Their avowed goal was to take California, Nevada, Washington and Oregon out of the Union and either have them join the

Confederacy or start a new nation to be called *Pacifica* or the *Pacific Republic*. An 18 star version will be discussed next year.