

LOWCOUNTRY CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

April 2004 Issue 36

BATTLE OF SHARPSBURG/ANTIETAM. Considered the bloodiest single day of the entire war

Presented by Dr Tom Clemens

In early September of 1862 Confederate General Robert E. Lee crossed the Potomac River and invaded Maryland. The debate has centered around what Lee intended to accomplish in Maryland and how well, if at all, he succeeded in his efforts. The program will visit the reasons Lee chose to invade Maryland and how his plans changed during the campaign as developments beyond his control affected his plans. More

importantly, what resulted was the most pivotal battle and campaign in the Civil War.

Tom Clemens will present some fresh ideas about how and why this campaign was the most important of the war.

CASUALTIES AT ANTIETAM

Approximate Numbers	Union	Confederate	Total
Killed	2,100	1,550	3,650
Wounded	9,550	7,750	17,300
Missing/ Captured	750	1,020	1,770
Total	12,400	10,320	22,750

Casualties include three categories: 1) dead; 2) wounded; and 3) missing or captured.

These are the approximate numbers for September 17th, 1862. No one knows the actual number of men who would later die of their wounds or the number of missing who had been killed. If you take a conservative estimate of 20% of the wounded dying of their wounds and 30% of the missing killed, **the approximate number of soldiers that died as a result of this battle are 7,640.** *Ref: National Park Service*

DR TOM CLEMENS

Tom Clemens is a history professor at Hagerstown Community College and an avid Civil War enthusiast and student of the Maryland Campaign of 1862. He holds Bachelor's of Arts and Master's of Arts degrees from Salisbury University, and a Doctor of Arts from George Mason University. His doctoral dissertation on Antietam historian General Ezra A. Carman's manuscript is being readied for publication in the near future. He is a frequent tour guide and historian for many groups touring the Maryland Campaign of 1862, and has appeared at numerous Civil War Round Tables throughout the country.

Tom has published articles in various magazines, including *Columbiad*, *America's Civil War* and *Maryland Historical Magazine*. He also writes a regular book review column in *America's Civil War*. In addition, Tom has appeared in episodes of *Civil War Journal*, *Hidden Civil War*, and was an on-camera historian in *Antietam, A Documentary Film*, which is shown regularly by the National Park Service in their Visitor's Center. His most recent television appearance was on *C-Span*, where he and Brian Pohanka discussed the battle of Antietam as portrayed in the recent 140th anniversary reenactment.

In addition to his vocation, Tom has been active in the battlefield preservation movement. He is a founding member and current president of *Save Historic Antietam Foundation*

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I hope many of you were able to purchase the biography of Ed Bearss by John C. Waugh. Ed is truly a "legend in his own time". A sincere thank you to the Kellers for hosting Ed!

The BGES presented its 2004 South Atlantic Civil War Symposium on March 11, 12 and 13th. The speakers were great and Richard McMurry did an outstanding job. There were eight Lowcountry Civil War Round Table members in attendance! We have a great deal of information to pass along to our Program Committee regarding future speakers and topics. Len Riedel, Executive Director of BGES, advises that next year's symposium may be held in Savannah, Georgia.

We hope to publish a complete list of next year's programs in the next newsletter.

Larry Rowland has agreed to speak on "Fire Eaters" with an emphasis on South Carolina. I have had the pleasure to hear Dr. Rowland and he has written a powerful history of South Carolina - great job, Program Committee!!

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 War sites and monuments. With this in mind, I encourage each of you to help us reach out to friends and neighbors with membership information as we begin our re-enlistment campaign.

No one has claimed the key that was found last November after our dinner/meeting. It is on a bent golf club key ring. Please contact me if this is your key.

I look forward to seeing you all on April 14, 2004.

Berne Covert



BURNSIDE BRIDGE TODAY LOOKING FROM THE FEDERAL SIDE

THE MINIÉ BALL GAZETTE

Lowcountry Civil War Round Table Inc.
P.O. Box 2252
Bluffton, SC 29910
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Dedicated to Historic Preservation and Enlightenment

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Hospitality	Randi Lyon	705-7110
Historian	Carol Cutrona	705-6189
Photographer	Robert Reilly	705-6072



THE STANDARD FLAG OF THE CONFEDERATE STATES OF AMERICA FROM 1861 THRU 1862

PASSING OF GEORGE STIDWORTHY

A long-time member of the Low Country Civil War Round Table, George Stidworthy, passed away March 12, 2004. George had been a member of the Program Committee for the past four years and made many wonderful contributions. Our condolences go out to the Stidworthy family.

2003-2004 Presentations
The Year 1862

April 14	Battle of Sharpsburg/Antietam. Considered the bloodiest single day of the entire war! Presented by Dr Tom Clemens , 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 as noted) at Palmetto Electric at River Walk. Call Jim Hamilton about 3 days before the meeting at 705-7575 to sign-up to allow for morning coffee and cake.

The Next Issue Will List All of 2004-2005 Presentations

SAVING OUR CIVIL WAR SITES

America has lost more than 20 of its Civil War battle sites due to development and sprawl. The Civil War Preservation Trust issued a report on the most endangered battlefields.



A black regiment fights to take Fort Wagner in the 1989 film *Glory*.

Topping the list are two famous sites: Morris Island in South Carolina, best known as the place where the 54th Massachusetts Regiment, comprised of African-Americans, made its valiant charge against Fort Wagner, immortalized in the 1989 film *Glory*. A planned housing development could destroy what remains of Fort Wagner and affect Fort Sumter too.

Also at risk is the battlefield at Chancellorsville where Robert E. Lee won a victory in 1863 that is still studied today. Attempts have been made to build a 2000-house artificial city and a highway bypass on the site. Visit www.civilwar.org for details.

Norman M. Mackay
 General Manager



I N F I N I T I

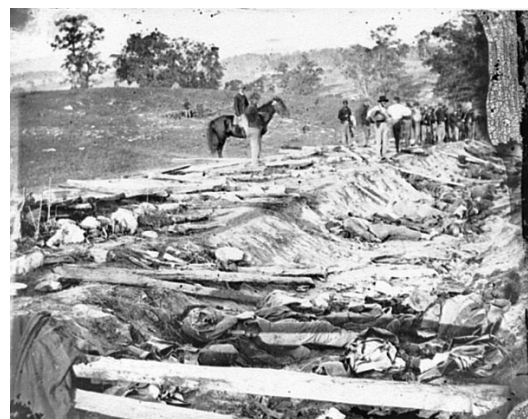
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A WOMAN'S RECOLLECTIONS OF ANTIETAM BY MARY BEDINGER MITCHEL

On Thursday night we heard more than usual sounds of disturbance and movement, and in the morning we found the Confederate army in full retreat. General Lee crossed the Potomac under cover of the darkness, and when the day broke the greater part of his force—or the more orderly portion of it—had gone on toward Kearneysville and Leetown. General McClellan followed to the river, and without crossing got a battery in position on Douglas's Hill, and began to shell the retreating army and, in consequence, the town. What before was confusion grew worse; the retreat became a stampede. The battery may not have done a very great deal of execution, but it made a fearful noise. It is curious how much louder guns sound when they are pointed at you than when turned the other way! And the shell, with its long-drawn screeching, though no doubt less terrifying than the singing minie-ball, has a way of making one's hair stand on end. Then, too, every one who has had any experience in such things, knows how infectious fear is, how it grows when yielded to, and how' when you once

begin to run, it soon seems impossible to run fast enough; whereas, if you can manage to stand your ground, the alarm lessens and sometimes disappears.

Some one suggested that yellow



CONFEDERATE DEAD AT BLOODY LANE, LOOKING NORTH-EAST FROM THE SOUTH BANK. THE GROUP OF UNION SOLDIERS LOOKING ON WERE LIKELY MEMBERS OF THE 130TH PENNSYLVANIA, WHO WERE ASSIGNED BURIAL DETAIL ON THE 19TH.

was the hospital color, and immediately everybody who could lay hands upon a yellow rag hoisted it over the house. The whole town was a hospital; there was scarcely a building that could not with truth seek protection under that plea, and the fantastic little strips were soon flaunting their ineffectual remonstrance from every roof-tree and chimney. When this specific failed the excitement became wild and ungovernable. It would have been ludicrous had it not produced so much suffering. The danger was less than it seemed, for McClellan, after all, was not bombarding the town, but the army, and most of the shells flew over us and ex-



THIS IMAGE SHOWS THE HEAVILY DAMAGED LUTHERAN CHUCH ON THE EAST SIDE OF SHARPSBURG. THE CHURCH, WHICH WAS BUILT IN 1768, WAS HIT REPEATEDLY BY UNION ARTILLERY AND TORN DOWN AFTER THE BATTLE.

ploded in the fields; but aim cannot be always sure, and enough shells fell short to convince the terrified citizens that their homes were about to be battered down over their ears. The better people kept some outward coolness, with perhaps a feeling of "noblesse oblige"—but the poorer classes acted as if the town were already in a blaze, and rushed from their houses with their families and household goods to make their way into the country. The road was thronged, the streets blocked; men were vociferating, women crying, children screaming; wagons, ambulances, guns, caissons' horsemen, footmen, all mingled—and jammed together—in one struggling, shouting mass. The negroes were the worst, and With faces of a ghastly ash-color, and staring eyes' they swarmed into the fields, carrying their babies, their clothes, their pots and kettles, fleeing from the wrath behind them. The comparison to a hornet's nest attacked by boys is not a good one, for there was no "fight" shown; but a disturbed ant-hill is altogether inadequate. They fled widely and camped out of range, nor would they venture back for days. Source: *Battles and Leaders of the Civil War*

TODAY'S REMEDY: TROUBLESOME COUGH

take of treacle and vinegar six tablespoonsfuls each, add forty drops of laudanum (tincture of opium), mix it well and put into a bottle. A teaspoonful to be taken occasionally. The mixture will be found efficacious without the laudanum in many cases but, alas, is best with it.

Reservation for April 14th Meeting At McCracken Middle School Dinner @ 5:45pm—Program @ 7:00pm



Menu for This Meeting

Fried chicken • Ham

Yams • Baked Beans

Beets • Broccoli Casserole

Apple Salad • Blueberry Salad

Strawberry Shortcake • Red Velvet Cake

Rolls • Ice Tea • Coffee

Catered by Duke's of Ridgeland



Dinner For April 14th, 2004

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

Names: _____

Phone: _____ Ck# _____ Date _____

Make Check Payable to: LCWRT Inc

Mail Check with this Form to:

Frank Bulson

37 Strobhar St.

Bluffton, SC 29909

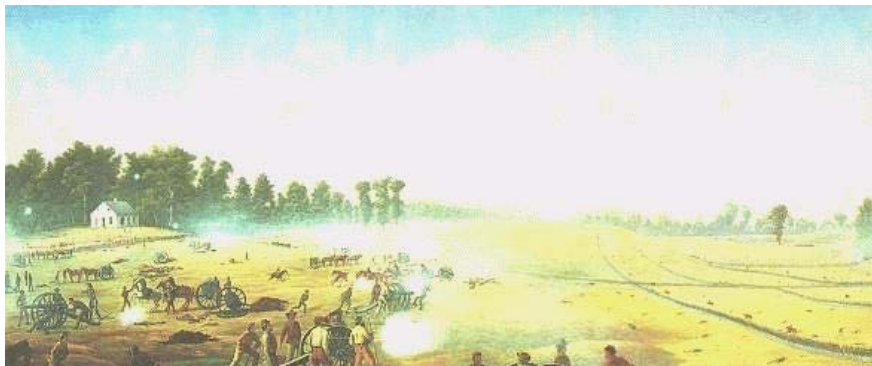


TO ATTEND PROGRAM ONLY

(no dinner) Make your reservation by calling Jim Hamilton at 705-9898

Dinner Form & Check Must be

RECEIVED no later than April 9th 2004



"From the position assigned me near the centre of Lee's lines, both armies and the entire field were in view. The scene was not only magnificent to look upon, but the realization of what it meant was deeply impressive. Even in times of peace the sight of a great army passing in review stirs our sensibilities. How infinitely more thrilling in the dread moments before the battle to look upon two mighty armies upon the same plain, 'beneath spread ensigns and bristling bayonets', waiting for the impending crash and sickening carnage!"

J. B. Gordon, stationed on a sunken road near the crest of a hill 1 1/2 miles North-east of Sharpsburg

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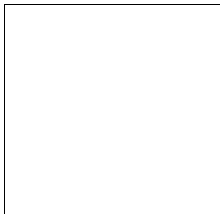
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ANTIETAM, MD. CONFEDERATE DEAD IN A DITCH ON THE RIGHT WING. GARDNER, ALEXANDER, 1821-1882, PHOTOGRAPHER



THE MINIE BALL GAZETTE
Lowcountry Civil War Round Table Inc.
P.O. Box 2252

May 12 2004 Meeting
Seven Days Battle in Virginia
Presented by R. E. L. Krick

Our Web Site: [lowcountrycwrt.org](http://www.lowcountrycwrt.org)
Read the *Longstreet Chronicles* at
<http://www.tennessee-sev.org/longstreet/>

See our coming presentation of Summer trips Next Issue

A NOTE ON NAMING OF BATTLES

The Battle of Sharpsburg/Antietam (the Confederates tended to name battles after the nearest town or landmark while the Union often named them for the nearest body of water) that took place on 17 September 1862 was really three separate battles on the same battlefield. The first battle, begun at 6 AM, took place on the Confederate left flank and was centered on the woods and cornfield near the Dunker Church, just north and slightly to the east of Sharpsburg, MD.

The second battle, beginning in the mid-morning and lasting until early-afternoon, took place to the east of Sharpsburg, in the center of the Confederate lines in the vicinity of a sunken road, later called "Bloody Lane." The final stage of the battle took place on the right of the Confederate lines at the Rohrbach or Lower Bridge, one of three bridges crossing Antietam Creek in the vicinity of Sharpsburg.