

# LOWCOUNTRY CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

September 2004 Issue 39

And Music by  
Bill DuPont  
5:30 - 6:45

## Joseph E. Johnston: A Controversial General

A Look Behind the Scenes and Politics of the Civil War.

Presented by Alan Downs



Many Civil War historians are quick to point out the military shortcomings of Joe Johnston ultimately relegating him to the second tier of Confederate heroes. They argue Johnston's preference for trading space for time was inappropriate for the Confederacy and merely a reflection of his flaws. It is perhaps worthwhile to examine what was probably his state of mind

as he made those decisions. Joseph Eggleston Johnston was born on February 3, 1807. His father, Peter Johnston, had left college to serve under Light Horse Harry Lee in the closing years of the Revolution, and later became a distinguished jurist. His mother was a niece of Patrick Henry.

He won the first Confederate victory at Bull Run but went on to become at serious odds with the Confederate President Jefferson Davis. He was removed from command only to be restored to duty to lead the fight against General Wm. T. Sherman.

General Johnston, who is rated by many historians as more capable than General Lee, was the highest-ranking regular army officer to resign from the U S Army (West Point 1829) and join the Confederacy. As the Confederacy strove for legitimacy, it made deliberate and tangible reference to the Revolutionary War.

When his former foe, General Sherman, died early in 1891, Johnston served as a pall bearer as he had at the funerals of Grant and Sheridan. He was then 84 and unusually feeble. In the inclement weather, he contracted a cold, his strength gradually failed, and on March 21 he died of a heart attack. He was the last of the great leaders of the Civil War, both Federal and Confederate, with the exception of Beauregard. He was buried in Greenmount Cemetery in Baltimore

### BIOGRAPHY OF ALAN DOWNS

Alan Downs is a professor of history at Georgia Southern University and earned his PhD from the University of North Carolina. He joined the faculty at Georgia Southern in 1992 and has lectured across the country. His talk will be stimulating and entertaining.

**Charge to the enlistment form right now**



See  
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### Memo from Jim Hamilton Your President

Greetings and salutations.....it is an honor to be LCWRT's fourth president. In less than ten years we have become the largest active Roundtable in the United States and our eight yearly presentations are considered among the finest in the nation.

An over-simplified review of LCWRT's history indicates during the 1980's and early 90's there were 10 to 20 stalwart individuals in Hilton Head, Bluffton, Beaufort and an occasional Savannahian who came together - now and then, here and there - to discuss various aspects of the Civil War. Some of the names that I can recall include (alpha order) Bruce Claxton, Bob Eberly, Jim Fannon, Jack & Joyce Keller, George Stidworthy.

With the advent of Sun City and its residents from all over the country, "Mac" McCoy, working with the other Civil War buffs in the area, stimulated unprecedented LCWRT growth - overnight we grew to 100 members, to 200, then 400 - all in a matter of five or six years.

In 1999 Bob Eberly (1999-02) was elected our first president and served for two terms. Thanks to Bob, we became an organization with officers, standing committees, by-laws, and chartered by the state of South Carolina as not-for-profit Corporation. Programs were developed and professional speakers came to educate and entertain us at our dinner meetings. We averaged about 100 at dinner with another 20 to 30 in the "bleachers." The "Morning After" meetings began providing

*(Continued on page 3 JIM)*

# Lowcountry Civil War Round Table

**Norman M. Mackay**  
General Manager



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**Lowcountry Civil War Round Table Inc.**  
The Minie Ball Gazette  
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Bluffton, SC 29910  
843-705-9898

*Dedicated to Historic Preservation and Enlightenment*  
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Hospitality	Bonnie & Ralph James	705-6800
Historian	Carol & Ralph Morrison	705-6189
Photographer	Robert Reilly	705-6072



**So You Wanna Be a Writer!**

The Editor desires articles written by our membership. It could be a story of any type (within reason). Also, any information that is of Civil War interest should be submitted. E-mail me for guidelines.

Please note that articles will be edited for content, length and timeliness. Almost any story or item will be considered. This is **YOUR** newsletter. Email your story to **mitch615@hargray.com** or call at **705-2628** for details on guidelines.

## Reservation for September 8<sup>th</sup> Meeting At McCracken Middle School Dinner & Music @ 5:30pm—Program @ 7:00pm

**Menu for This Meeting**

Fried Chicken • BBQ Pork  
Yams • Sugar Peas  
String Beans • Potato Salad  
Apple Salad  
German Chocolate Cake • Strawberry Cake  
Rolls • Ice Tea • Coffee  
*Catered by Duke's of Ridgeland*

**TO ATTEND PROGRAM ONLY** (no dinner) Make your reservation by calling Johanna Verwer 705-9201

✂

Dinner For September 8<sup>th</sup>, 2004

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

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

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

Make Check Payable to: **LCWRT Inc**  
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LILLIAN HARTUNG  
124 LAKE SOMRSET CIRCLE  
BLUFFTON, SC 29909  
(OR PLACE IN GREEN BOX)

New Address

→

✂

**Dinner Form & Check Must be RECEIVED no later than NOON September 2<sup>nd</sup> 2004**

# Season Schedule

**SEPTEMBER 8 TWO FOR ONE** Our season kick-off program will have **Music** (5:30 to 6:45) plus a stimulating and articulate **Speaker**. Your feet will start tapping, your fingers will be snapping as our local troubadour performs many of the Civil War era songs for your enjoyment. Then the noted and entertaining historian Alan Downs will look at the controversial West Point graduate General Joseph Johnson who won the first Confederate victory at Bull Run but went on to become at serious odds with the Confederate President Jefferson Davis. He was removed from command only to be restored to duty to lead the fight against General Wm. T. Sherman. A fascinating look behind the scenes and politics of the Civil War.

**OCTOBER 13 THE NAVY BATTLE OF NEW ORLEANS** The Union occupation was an event that had major international significance as told by Art Bergeron, who is an author and research historian for the U.S. Military Institute at Carlisle Barracks, PA. He has previously served as the historian for Pamplin Historical Park and the state of Louisiana.

**NOVEMBER 10 BATTLE OF FREDERICKSBURG** On December 13, 1862, Union General Burnside built his bridges, crossed the Rappahannock, and assailed General Lee's army in its prepared position. One will also learn about the Angel of Marye's Heights via Mac Wyckoff a long time member and leader of the Rappahannock Valley CW Roundtable and sought after Civil War presenter.

**JANUARY 12 FAITH IN THE FIGHT: CHAPLAINS IN THE CIVIL WAR** The chaplains on both sides fought for the spiritual and physical well-being of the combatants. Dr. Robertson is one of our most informative speakers and he is the Director of the Virginia Tech Civil War Center.

**FEBRUARY 9 THE JEWISH CONFEDERATES** Learn about Jewish aspects of the Civil War and their contribution to the Southern war effort. Presented by Robert N. Rosen a native of Charleston and founder of The Rosen Law Firm.

**MARCH 9 THE VICKSBURG CAMPAIGN** In May and June of 1863, Maj. Gen. Grant's armies converged on Vicksburg, investing the city and entrapping a Confederate army under Lt. Gen. Pemberton. On July 4, Vicksburg surrendered after prolonged siege operations. This is excitingly presented by Edwin C. Bearss, a well known military expert and renowned Civil War lecturer.

**APRIL 13 GEORGIA HEROINES** The dedication and hardships that women suffered during the "War Between the States" will be highlighted. Our presenter, Mrs. Tommie Phillips LaCavera, is a noted author and very knowledgeable about the Daughters of the American Revolution, the United Daughters of the Confederacy, and the U.S. Daughters of 1812.

**MAY 11 THE FIRE-EATERS OF SOUTH CAROLINA** A closer look about those Southerners who were staunch and unyielding advocates of secession. Presented by Dr. Larry Rowland of Beaufort, SC. Dr. Rowland, a long time Professor of History at the University of South Carolina - Beaufort.

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(JIM Continued from page 1)

an opportunity for an informal and wide ranging Q & A and coffee with our guest speaker.

Our second president Tom Oliver (2002-03) brought his organizational skills to bear and fine-tuned our financial picture. He also produced LCWRT's first written Operating Procedures. Our executive committee grew in importance and in size as it assumed more operating responsibilities. Dinner attendance grew to over 130 as did the "bleacher" attendance.

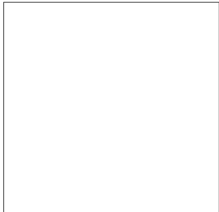
Bernie Covert (2003-04), as our third president, used his skills that he "honed" as program chairman to develop a new look for our eight programs. He and the Program Committee balanced "battles" with "other" cultural and political aspects of the Civil War. Dinner attendance averaged 150 and the bleachers another 35 to 40.

Today, we are well organized – we have a stimulating, educational and entertaining Program year ahead of us – we have a solid financial outlook allowing us to continue to contribute to worthwhile Civil War foundations – an excellent cadre of Committee members – and a super group of members i.e. you!

Let me close by "thanking" those who have reenlisted. If you have not, please do so. I look forward to seeing you at our September 8th program, a two for one special. ☺ Jim



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**ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP PERIOD September 1, 2004 to August 31, 2005**

\_\_\_\_\_

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**New Enlistment: Single    One Time Initiation Fee \$25.00 + Annual Membership \$26.00 =    \$51.00 \_\_\_\_\_**

**New Enlistment: Household    One Time Initiation Fee \$30.00 + Annual Membership \$38.00 = \$68.00 \_\_\_\_\_**

**Re-enlistment:            Single Membership: \$26.00 \_\_\_\_\_            Family/Household: \$38.00 \_\_\_\_\_**

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**09/04**