



LOWCOUNTRY CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

November 2006 Issue 59

The Western Theater

The *War Between the States* was seen by both sides as being fought in three geographical areas. First of all, the *War in the East* ranged from the Canadian border to Florida but always stayed east of the Appalachians. The *War in the West* (the *Western Theater*) ranged from Minnesota to Mississippi and Alabama and was bracketed by the Appalachians to the east and the Mississippi River to the west. All other battles west of the Mississippi were simply referred to the *Trans-Mississippi Theater* in which area the battles ranged from Louisiana to New Mexico.

With that said Dr. McMurry will discuss the *Western Theater* and its strategic impact on the war.

One must keep in mind that the Eastern Theater only ranged a few hundred miles with the main focus on the area between Washington City and Richmond. The Western Theater was much larger and had a much more powerful STRATEGIC impact. "The side that controls the Mississippi River end to end wins."



OHIO 3rd Infantry Memorial at Vicksburg National Battleground by Mitch Sackson

Based on General Winfield Scott's Anaconda Plan, the North realized it must capture the Mississippi River and then eventually cut a path across the South (Sherman's March to the Sea). The river was captured at the same time as the Battle of Gettysburg (1863) and Sherman's 62,000 "bummers" arrived in Savannah shortly before Christmas in 1864. General Scott's "snake" plan had been realized.

However, this is far too simplistic. A true student of the war knows that the Western Theater Campaign began in the winter of 1861/62 with Grant's capture of Forts Donelson and Henry. Grant's brilliant tactics opened up the "Heartland" for the duration

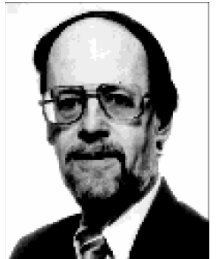
(Continued on page 4 WESTERN)

SUPRISE Special Event for December!

(SURPRISE Continued on page 6)

Richard McMurry

Over the years, historian Richard McMurry has emerged as one of the leading scholars of Western Civil War Historiography. He was raised in Georgia and received a B.A. degree in history from the Virginia Military Institute. He received his M.A. and Ph.D. from Emory University, after which he taught history at Valdosta (Georgia) State College and North Carolina State University for more than twenty years. Since 1989, he has been a free-lance writer and historian and has served as a guide/faculty for many years.



McMurray has authored more than one hundred articles on various facets of the American Civil War. In 1994 two of his books - *John Bell Hood* and *The War for Southern Independence* and *Two Great Rebel Armies* - were listed among the one hundred best modern Civil War books as selected by historian

(Continued on page 5 McMURRY)

Lowcountry Civil War Round Table

AS I SEE IT by Paul Bucklin, President

On the 8th of November we will offer a special treat for our membership. **Richard McMurry** will make his second visit to our Lowcountry Roundtable. In November 2003 he impressed all of us as he talked about "VD" (the Virginia Disease as he called it). The focus of so much of the Civil War was on the Eastern Campaign in and around Virginia, while many important battles were taking place and changing the dynamics of the war on the Western Campaign. He opened our eyes to the importance of the Trans-Mississippi region and how the major rivers played such a key role in the Union's plan to defeat the Confederacy. He'll give us more details about key western battles during this visit. You won't want to miss it!

Our **Special Call to Action** about you asking your friends and neighbors to join us has our **Membership at 278** as of October 10. We are in the final efforts now to reach all members who have not re-enlisted to date. We will surely be over 300 by month end. So there is still time for you to help!

I plan throughout the program year to help you understand how we operate **financially** as a group or Roundtable. Our current budget is \$25,000. That seems like a lot of *bucks* for just 8 outstanding programs. But it takes more than just a few dollars to bring you the quality programs you've come to expect at LCWRT. Our income stream is rather simple. We have budgeted \$9,500 from dues; \$13,500 for the meals we receive from the Golden Corral; the 50/50 program produces \$1200; sponsors and miscellaneous is \$650; and \$150 from bank interest. Next month I'll share how this sum is expensed.

I want to **THANK** our Past President, Johanna Verwer, for stepping in for me as Gwen and I visited grand-kids and an important reunion last month. I'm told Johanna lost a few strands of hair in the process, but came through the opening session with flying colors. I expected nothing less from this dedicated member and friend. I heard from so many of you that Golden Corral's food was outstanding and that Mac Wyckoff was an exceptional speaker. We are off to a great start for our 2006-2007 season.

See you all in November.

Lowcountry Civil War Round Table Inc.

The Minie Ball Gazette

P.O. Box 2252
Bluffton, SC 29910
843-705-9898

WWW.LOWCOUNTRYCWRT.ORG

*Dedicated to Historic Preservation
and Enlightenment*

Editors: Mitch & Marian Sackson

The Lowcountry Civil War Round Table Inc. is a not-for-profit, charitable organization as qualified under section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code

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There will be a *Morning After* at 10am with Richard McMurry at Palmetto Electric, off 278 near WalMart.

Please return the Dinner Reservation Form as soon as possible, but no later than **November 2, 2006**

October Buffet



There were almost 150 ravenous members at our buffet in October. The more, the merrier. Golden Corral, as usual, provided a sumptuous meal. See ya in November.

The 2006-2007 Lecture Series

Sept 13 2006 Chancellorsville. Mac Wyckoff will explore Chancellorsville, a bloody affair that best portrayed Robert E. Lee's confidence, determination, tactical courage and military genius. It was a battlefield triumph for the South and a personal tragedy for Lee with the loss of his "right arm" General Thomas "Stonewall" Jackson. Mr. Wyckoff will bring this battle to life as seen through the eyes of the major personalities locked in combat May 1-3, 1863, Chancellorsville, Virginia.

Oct 11 2006. Gettysburg. Rev. Jeff Miller will examine Gettysburg, the strategies of Lee and Meade, and the aftermath of the Confederate loss. The three days of Gettysburg, July 1-3, 1863 are called by some the turning point of the Civil War or the "high tide" of the Confederacy. General Lee marched into Pennsylvania expecting to win his third major battle in six months; but now he entered the enemy's country and the outcome was quite different. From the gallantry of Pickett's charge to the bravery on Little Round Top, Gettysburg has become the symbol of the War Between the States.

Nov 8 2006 The Western Theater. Richard McMurry will talk on the Western battles: Forts Donnellson and Henry, Shiloh Church, Vicksburg, Chickamauga and many others in what is referred to as the trans-Mississippi region. These battles have until recently been relegated to a position of less importance than the battles in the Eastern states, yet they represented, for the Union, the most significant victories. What was the Unions strategy and why were they more successful?

Jan 10 2007 Topic to be Announced in the next Bulletin. Jack Davis Mr Davis is a renown historian of the Civil War

Feb 14 2007 Role of 'Colored' Troops. This presentation will depart from our usual format and present a living history when the Charleston Re-enactors Group becomes the 54th Massachusetts and portrays their role in the battle of Battery Wagner. We will discuss the events that led to the formation of the so called "Colored Troops" and their role in the Civil War. Also, we will show the uniforms and customs of this regiment and discuss details of the battle.

Mar 14 2007 Chickamauga & Chattanooga. Ed Bearss will return to examine the battles of this region of Tennessee, including Missionary Ridge and Lookout Mountain. The name Chickamauga was an old Cherokee word meaning river of death and it lived up to its name as each side lost nearly a third of its men. Chickamauga was a Union disaster. As September 1863 ended the federals held Chattanooga but were on the verge of surrender. The Union was galvanized by the potential destruction of the Army of the Cumberland and dispatched large numbers of troops quickly by rail from the Eastern Theatre.

Apr 11 2007 Fort Pillow. Brian Steel Wills will tell us what really happened at Fort Pillow. Situated on a high bluff on the eastern bank of the Mississippi river about forty river miles above Memphis, TN, it became part of a chain of Federal garrisons. In April 1864 it was manned by 295 white Tennessee troops and 262 U.S. Colored Troops when Nathan Bedford Forrest, the famous (or infamous) Confederate cavalryman, attacked and the fort surrendered. Casualties were high and only sixty-two of the U.S. Colored Troops survived the fight. The Confederates were accused of massacre, a controversy that continues today. Fort Pillow became the subject of a Federal joint Congressional investigation. Was it a massacre, revenge or "war as an act of violence pushed to its utmost bounds"?

May 9 2007 Mobile Bay. Craig Symonds is back with us to elaborate on the added significance of Rear-Admiral Farragut's naval victory at Mobile Bay in light of Sherman's victory in Atlanta. Farragut, aloft in the rigging of his flag ship Hartford, directed the battle as his ships outmaneuvered the feared rebel iron clad, Tennessee, so that she struck no blow but went to the bottom under federal gunfire. The capture of Mobile Bay left only Wilmington, North Carolina as the only open port for blockade runners in the closing days of the war.

Lowcountry Civil War Round Table

(WESTERN *Continued from page 1*)

of the war. In April of 1862, Grant and his good friend, William T. Sherman, had a "near thing" at Shiloh (Pittsburgh Landing). The horrible slaughter at the Sunken Road and Peach Orchard jolted both nations into action.

One of the most brilliant campaigns ever conducted in military history took place following Shiloh and ended on the 4th of July, 1863 when Grant struggled past the Bluff City of Vicksburg and then simply out flanked it.

Fighting key battles such as Port Gibson, Raymond, and Champion's Hill, he then laid siege and starved the city into surrender. As President Lincoln said: "The Father of Waters now flows unvexed to the sea." It should be noted that the city of Vicksburg has not celebrated the 4th of July until recently. Vicksburg will launch Grant's promotion to Lt. General and ultimately to General-in-Chief (and future president).



Corinth Battle Field by Mitch Sackson

Meanwhile, Southerners will carry on the struggle in Kentucky and the eastern half of Tennessee fighting in such battles as Perryville and Stones' River (Murfreesboro). The south's last great crushing victory took place just south of the

city of Chattanooga along a tiny creek called Chickamauga (the River of Death). The result will be the unsuccessful Confederate siege of Chattanooga and the Northern relief of the "cracker line."

It will be from Chattanooga that Sherman will launch his brilliant campaign through the entire length of Georgia. Key battles to note here are: Resaca, Kennesaw Mountain and the Battles for Atlanta. As Sherman marched to the sea, he will fight the Battle of Griswoldville and crush all Georgian resistance but will lose his cavalry, who will become prisoners at an infamous spot known as Camp Sumter (Andersonville Prison).

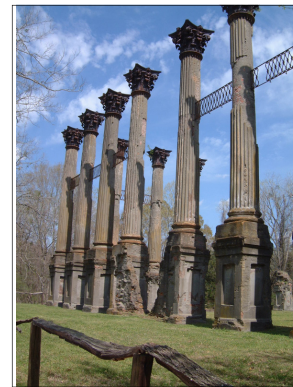
Savannah will surrender (thank goodness) and will remain unburned but not after a sharp little battle at Fort McAllister.

While Sherman was marching to Savannah, what was left of the Confederate Army of

the Heartland tried to capture Nashville and destroy Sherman's supply line in the Fall of 1864 (Sherman could have cared less). The result was the bloody destruction of the southern army just outside the town of Franklin, Tennessee.

Strangely enough, the war in the West ended in the East when Confederate General Joseph Johnston surrendered what was left of his army to General Billy Sherman at a little town called Bentonville, North Carolina.

By Stephen Bacon, Membership & Programs



Ruins of a Mansion,
Vicksburg
Photo by Mitch Sackson

Worthwhile Web Sites

Very descriptive site for Sherman's March. It is quite long but worth the trip: <http://www.shermansmarch.com/>

A large collection of Civil War data and clips:

info@civilwarinteractive.com

Specializes in South Carolina during the Civil War. Also has description of Sherman's burning of Columbia:

<http://sciway3.net/clark/civilwar/>

(Continued from page 1 McMurry)

Gary W. Gallagher for the magazine *Civil War*. John Bell Hood also received both the Mrs. Simon Baruch University Award and the Fletcher Pratt Award. In 1999, McMurry published *Virginia Military Institute Alumni in the Civil War: In Bello Presidium*. 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*. The Austin (Texas) Civil War Round Table selected the book for the 2001 Daniel M. & Marilyn W. Laney Prize awarded for distinguished scholarship and writing on the military or political history of the Civil War. McMurry's book *The Fourth Battle of Winchester: Toward a New Civil War Paradigm*, was published in 2002 by Kent State University Press.



Above: Several of the Confederate dead in front of Fort Robinette in Corinth, MS. Colonel William P. Rogers of the 2d Texas lies at left, and to his right, leaning on his shoulder, is the body of Colonel W. H. Moore, who led a brigade of Missouri and Mississippi troops in futile assaults against Robinette.
Alabama State Department of Archives & History

From Our Book Reviewer Johanna

I want to alert you to a new book: "The Wanderer: The Last American Slave Ship and the Conspiracy that Set Its Sails." The true story takes place in 1858, and much of it in Charleston SC.

Let's Understand the 50-50 Tickets

The 50-50 is used as a method to raise additional funds for your Roundtable. The total dollars for the purchased tickets is divided by two. One-half goes to our Treasurer. The remaining 50% is divided into two awards with 60% as the first prize and 40% as the second. For example, if \$100 is collected, \$50 goes to our Roundtable. Of the balance, 60% or \$30 becomes first prize and \$20 is the second prize.

Guest Policy

In general, we are a *member's only* organization. However, the Dinner Committee may allow houseguests of members to attend as long as there is sufficient seating for dinner and program.

Guests from the community may also make a reservation for program and dinner. This may be done on a trial basis for one time only. All guests will be expected to pay the cost of dinner. It is understood that local guests as well as houseguests may choose to attend just the program and not come for dinner. Local guests who wish to attend only program may do so one time.

Sufficient notice of attendance must be given to allow for dinner, if it is chosen. All guests are welcome at the "morning after" meeting.

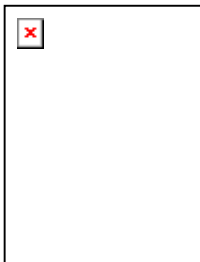


Lowcountry Civil War Round Table

(Continued from page 1) **SURPRISE**

It will be an extra present for December 2006 and will be at Palmetto Electric building on Wednesday December 13 from 3:30pm to 6:00pm. Our speaker will be Ted Alexander. There will be a handout at the November meeting giving all the details as well as the admission ticket procedure. Palmetto Electric can accommodate only 100 people and 60 cars. The topic will be:

The Role of Indians in the Civil War



At 5:00pm we will have a question and answer period. Admittance will be by ticket only and free to members of the round table.

Biography of Charles "Ted" Alexander

Ted was born in Tupelo, Miss, served in USMC, 1968-1973 - Highest Rank Attained - Sgt. Highest Award Attained - Navy Commendation Medal with Combat V for Helicopter Support Team Operations in Vietnam 1969 -1971; Masters Degree U. S. History, University of Maryland

His adventures included High School History Teacher - Greencastle Antrim High School, Greencastle, Pa. 1980 - 1982, and Park Ranger Washington D.C. National Park Sites including the Lincoln Memorial, Washington Monument and Ft. Washington. Park Ranger and Costumed Interpretive Volunteer Coordinator at Antietam National Battlefield 1985 - 1992. Chief Historian at Antietam National Battlefield from 1992 to present.

His books include:

Co - Author **When War Passed This Way** 1982

Compiled and Edited **The 126th Pennsylvania** 1984

Author and Editor **Southern Revenge** 1989

Consulting Editor **The Battle of Antietam - Cobblestone Magazine** (booklet for young

people) 1997

Author of more than 100 articles and book reviews in publications such as **Blue and Gray Magazine, Civil War News, Civil War Times Illustrated, Maryland Historical Magazine, North and South Magazine,** and **The Washington Times.**

His recent activities included conducting study tours and lectures for Smithsonian Associates and Johns Hopkins University on 18th and 19th Century military and social history, author, *The Burning of Chambersburg and McCausland's Raid: A History and Tour Guide*, 2004; "Antietam: The Bloodiest Day" - **North and South Magazine - Official 140th Antietam Commemorative Issue, Fall 2002**; Associate Editor, **North and South Magazine**; Author of "Destruction, Disease and Death: The Battle of Antietam and the Sharpsburg Civilians", in **The Maryland Campaign of 1862 and Its' Aftermath (Civil War Regiments Magazine, Winter 1998).**

Founder and Coordinator of Chambersburg Civil War Seminars; Founder and Past President Cumberland Valley Civil War Round Table; Past President Harpers Ferry Civil War Round Table; Member, National Board of Directors - Council on America's Military Past (CAMP); 2002 Recipient of Gilder -Lehrman Research Fellowship.

Ted is also a devoted Elvis and Jerry Lee Lewis Fan and has seen them each 4 times in person.



97th Indiana Musicians ready to provide entertainment from *Civil War Album*

The Dinner Menu for November 8, 2006

Pot Roast with Vegetables, Baked Wild Alaskan Salmon, Bourbon St Chicken and White Rice,
Pulled Barbeque Pork

House Salad with Carrots, Cucumbers, Onions, Peppers, Tomatoes, Cheese and 7 Types of Dressing (Ranch, Blue Cheese, Italian, Thousand Island, Catalina, Honey Mustard, Caesar)

Green Beans, Potato Salad, Mac & Cheese, Mash Potato, Okra & Stewed Tomatoes, Carrots, Steamed Spinach, Dinner Yeast Rolls with Honey Butter

Mixed Fruit with Cantaloupe, Honeydew, Strawberries (if in season), Grapes, Watermelon-if possible

Mixed Cookies (Oatmeal Raisin, Chocolate chip, Peanut butter), Brownies, Coconut Macaroons, Lemon Bars

Sweet & Unsweetened Tea, Lemonade, Coffee

Served on Dinner Plates with Silverware and Glasses

Catered by **Golden Corral, Bluffton, SC**

(Note: Substitutions may need to be made)



Our cooks at work for your next meal

Dinner Reservations for November 8th Meeting At Bluffton High School
Social @ 5pm • Buffet @ 5:30 • Meeting @ 6:45 • Presentation @ 7:00
NO LATER THAN THURSDAY NOV 2, 2006

Note: There will be two (2) lines at the buffet. Do not go on line until your table is selected!!! This will eliminate the l o n g line & long wait. You may take a 2nd plate for salad. Violators will be given the choice of Andersonville or Elmira.

All Members are invited to the General Meeting. Reservations are required ONLY for DINNER.

Dinner Reservation For November 8th, 2006
NO LATER THAN THURSDAY NOV 2, 2006
Number of Dinners: ____ @ \$12 each = _____

Names: _____

Phone: _____

Make Check Payable to: **LCWRT Inc.**
Mail Check with this Form to: →

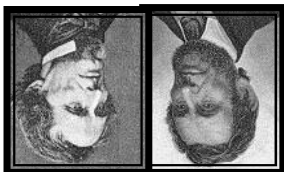
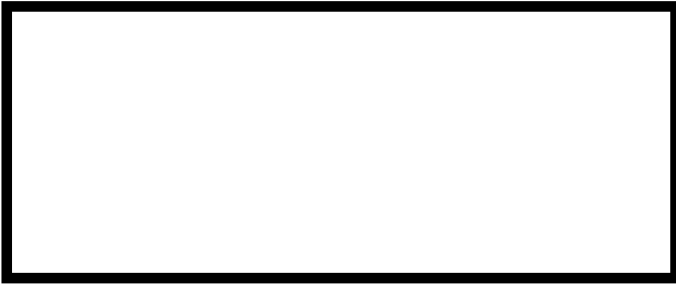
Or place it in Jim's Lower Newspaper Box

Jim Strohecker
125 Lake Somerset Circle
Bluffton, SC 29909

Guests: _____

List Guests on additional paper if necessary

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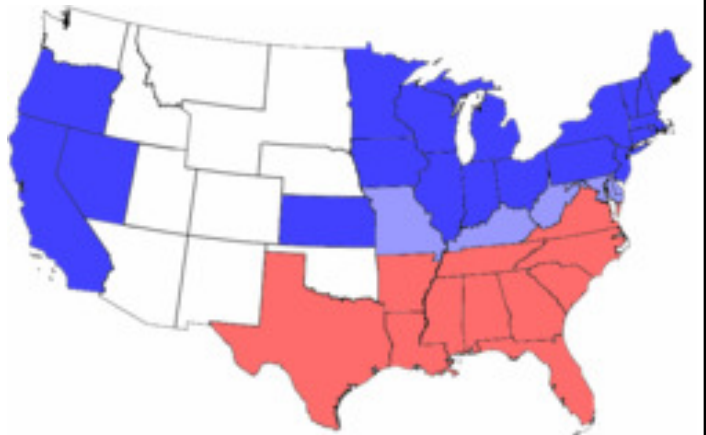
New Historical Marker Notes Lowcountry Slave Rebellion

From Bluffton Today 09/12/2006

A new historical marker in Charleston County notes a slave rebellion in 1739 that some historians say was the largest and deadliest uprising in the area of North America controlled by the British. The marker along U.S. 17 in the Rantowles community was unveiled Saturday, exactly 267 years after the bloody and unsuccessful Stono Rebellion. The revolt, which began on Sept. 9, 1739, killed 30 slaves and 60 colonists.

It gets scant notice in textbooks, and got little attention at the time because some feared it would encourage future uprisings, said University of South Carolina history professor Mark M. Smith, who wrote a book about the rebellion.

A number of slaves swarmed a nearby store, arming themselves. They then marched on through what are now the towns of Ravenel and Hollywood, freeing slaves at plantations along the way, killing some slave owners and sparing others, Smith said. Up to 100 slaves may have been involved before the group was caught by a militia about 15 miles away, Smith said.



Map of the United States in 1861

- ▶ Federal States
- ▶ Confederate States
- ▶ Border States



We thank Palmetto Electric for their allowing the LCWRT usage of their meeting room for our *Morning After*.