



LOWCOUNTRY CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

October 2006 Issue 58

Gettysburg

With the War Between the States half over, in Virginia General Robert E. Lee had just completed his most brilliant battle near the forest crossroads called Chancellorsville against an arrogant "Fightin'" Joe Hooker. With encouragement and direction from Confederate President Jefferson Davis, Robert E. Lee began to move his great army towards the North. A stunned Federal Army which was slow to react to Lee's strategic moves began to follow Lee's rag-tag army in an effort to keep the Southerners out of Washington, DC, Baltimore, Philadelphia or even New York City.

Lee, on the other hand, seized the opportunity to invade Pennsylvania in an effort to secure supplies, such as food stuffs and shoes, while at the same time, he was keeping the Federals out of the critical and strategic Shenandoah Valley in Virginia

Two "blind" armies would slowly converge on a tiny crossroads town in southern Pennsylvania called Gettysburg. On the 30th of June, 1863, approximately 69,700 Southerners would start coming into contact with the lead elements of a Union Army that some estimate at 95,800. Only days earlier, President Lincoln had decided to make another Army of the Potomac change of command. Joe Hooker was now replaced by General George Gordon Meade.

On Day One of Gettysburg, July 1st 1863, the two armies finally made serious contact. One of the great

ironies of this battle was that the Southern Army was actually coming down from the North and Northwest and engaging a Northern Army arriving from the South. The initial accidental contact took place on a series of small ridgelines to the Northwest of Gettysburg. General John Buford's cavalry held up the arrival of the Confederate

(GETTYSBURG Continued on page 4)



Civil War re-enactor Bob Eberly talks about a battery to Hilton Head Elementary students during a tour of Fort Mitchell, a Civil War earthworks in Hilton Head Plantation.

REV JEFF MILLER

The Reverend Jeffrey S. Miller is a native of Pennsylvania; he received his Bachelor of Arts degree in history cum laude from Indiana University of Pennsylvania and his Master in Divinity from the Virginia Theological Seminary. A life-long student of the Civil War, Fr. Miller served for a time with the National Park Service at Antietam National Battlefield, and several other National Park Service sites before entering the ministry. His greatest area of interest pertains to the Eastern Theater of the war and the campaigns of the Army of the Potomac and the Army of Northern Virginia. He has led tours of both the Gettysburg and Antietam battlefields. Fr. Miller is currently the rector of St. Helena's Episcopal Church in Beaufort, SC.



UNION	CONFEDERATES
Commanders	
July 1 Maj. Gen. John Hancock	General Robert E. Lee
July 2 Maj. Gen. G. G. Meade	
Armies	
of the Potomac	of Northern Virginia
Strengths	
1st day I Corps and XI Corps 19,982	At least 70,000 all arms
2nd day I, II, III, V, VI, XI, XII Corps, Artillery Reserve plus Cavalry Corps 101,679 all arms	
Casualties	
3,072 dead, 14,497 wounded, 5,434 missing/prisoners	2,592 dead, 12,709 wounded, 5,150 missing/prisoners
Perspectives	
A victory gained at enormous cost and not followed up. The loss of senior officers has obscured Meade's part in the battle	Arguably Lee's worst-fought battle: having no prior knowledge of the terrain he ran out of ideas and fell back on the frontal attack

Lowcountry Civil War Round Table

Message from Our Substitute President

Your president, Paul Bucklin, is out of town. Your editor, Mitch Sackson, invited me to fill up some empty space in the newsletter. I'm kidding, of course. Actually, Mitch suggested that I write a substitute president's message. I think it's a new term that he dreamed up. So.....

I'd like to thank those of you who helped us usher in our seventh program year. We survived a few rough spots together and can anticipate that everything will run more smoothly in the future. We were well fed and many of you invited guests to both dinner and program. In addition, Mac Wyckoff, our speaker back for a return engagement, did not disappoint.

We are in for a real treat next month. It's always fun to invite one of our local speakers to appear before the round table. This time, it's Rev. Jeff Miller from St. Helena's Church in Beaufort. He is no neophyte when it comes to history of the Civil War. He was with the National Park Service for quite some time. Since I don't have his official biography in front of me I will not be specific. But take my word for it, it was a long time.

I'd like to follow the lead of President Bucklin and encourage you to invite your friends and neighbors to hear this presentation. Of course, they are welcome to come to the dinner, as well, providing you have made a paid dinner reservation in their names. Let's not continue to keep the LCWRT as one of the best secrets in the Lowcountry.

The subject of the October meeting, as you are aware, will be Gettysburg. Not only was it the bloodiest battle, but it is also considered by many to be the turning point of the war. Some of you, including this writer, have visited the battlefield. Do plan to attend this opportunity to examine the Battle of Gettysburg through the eyes of our speaker. I hope to see you there.

Johanna Verwer, Immediate Past-President

There will be a *Morning After* at 10am with Rev Jeff Miller at Palmetto Electric, off 278 near WalMart.

Please return the Dinner Reservation Form as soon as possible, but no later than *October 5, 2006*

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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Hancock at Gettysburg, by Thure de Thulstrup. Hancock personally directs artillery as the Confederate lines of "Pickett's Charge" approach.

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 Battle Losses and Aftermath. James I. (Bud) Robertson will be with us once again. Someone said that the Civil war was the defining event for America – more so than the Revolutionary War. It is estimated that 620,000 Union and Confederate soldiers died as a result of battles and disease. The devastation in the South took over a hundred years to rebuild. Bud will examine these events and their impact on us as a nation.

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.

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(GETTYSBURG Continued from page 1)

The arrival of the Union I Corps and XI Corps cemented the battle into place. The arrival of another Confederate Corps later in the afternoon coming down from the North made the first day at Gettysburg the seventh largest and bloodiest battle of the war. At the end of the day, the Federals were forced to retreat back through the city and up on top of Cemetery Ridge to the southeast of the city.



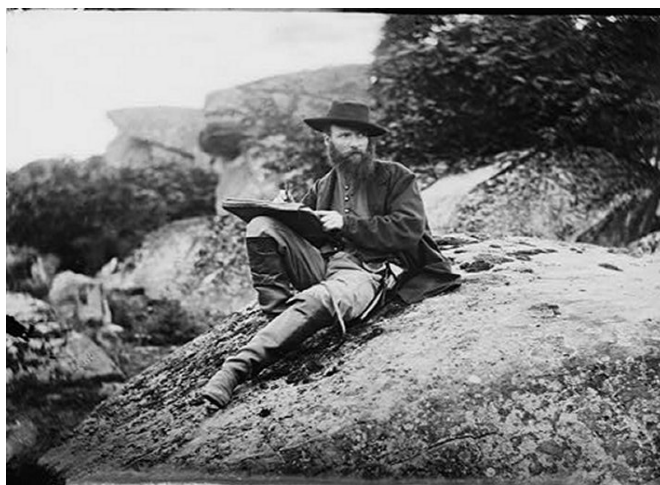
Day Two of Gettysburg saw the two armies facing each other on opposing ridgelines that ran generally north and south. Lee's Army was holding a large fish-hook shaped position while Meade had a smaller and similar shaped position. This allowed the Federals to have "interior lines" and could reinforce weakened spots in the line at will. With interior lines, a larger army and the "high ground", the Federals for once held the advantage. However, Lee was determined to finish the war right here. He ordered General Longstreet and his other subordinate commanders to attack both Federal flanks simultaneously.

These orders were carried out reluctantly and with some delay and very narrowly were successful in "rolling up" the flanks. It was only because of extremely stubborn resistance on the southern end of the line, the 20th Maine commanded by Lt Col Joshua Lawrence Chamberlain, that barely saved the day for the North. Bloody locations littered the battlefield including such infamous spots as the Wheat Field, the Peach Orchard, Devil's Den and Culp's Hill.

Day Three of Gettysburg saw Lee even more determined to defeat "those people." He ordered General Longstreet to make an attack directly towards the center of the Federal line in the mid-afternoon. Following an extensive artillery bombardment, General Longstreet reluctantly ordered General George

Pickett and several brilliant Colonels to walk across a mile wide open field directly at "the blood angle and the cospse of trees." Approximately 12,000 Southern soldiers walked into history.

The resulting bloodbath when Federal artillery and infantry opened fired killed and wounded approximately 60% of Pickett's command. Almost every single Colonel, Lt Colonel and Major in Pickett's command was killed, wounded or captured. The remainder of Pickett's command withdrew back across the field where they met General Robert E. Lee riding out on his famous horse, Traveler. He said to his blooded soldiers "it's all my fault, it's all my fault, I thought we were invincible." This thought was based on how the Southerners had conducted themselves at Chancellorsville. Unbelievable, the Southern soldiers asked their commanding general for permission to attack again. Knowing that it was now impossible to win, Lee had his army hunker down instead. Twenty-four hours later, Lee's army retreated back into Virginia to carry on a two year defensive war which would ultimately end in a sleepy crossroads town in Southern Virginia called Appomattox Courthouse. *By Steve Bacon*



**Alfred R. Waud, Artist of Harper's Weekly,
Sketching on Battlefield - Gettysburg, PA,
July 1863**

Season's First Dinner is Almost 130

Our "open" meeting drew 129 diners at the fantastic buffet provided by Golden Corral. Plenty of tasty food & as much as you desire. The baked Alaskan wild salmon was a hit. Everything down to the cookies drew complements.

Because of some initial confusion, the line wound its way almost outside of the entrance. This meeting, you will be called by table to avoid this problem.



The Dinner Menu for October 11 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, Brown Gravy, Okra &
Stewed Tomatoes, Carrots, Steamed Spinach, Dinner Yeast Rolls with Honey
Butter

Mixed Fruit with Cantaloupe, Honeydew, Strawberries, Grapes, Watermelon-
if possible

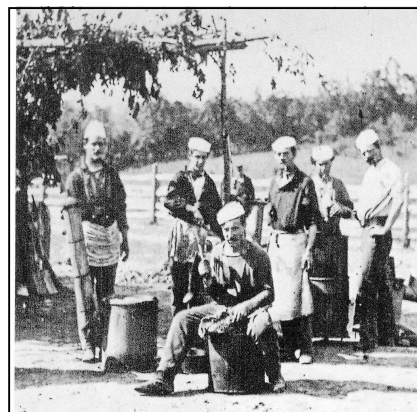
Mixed Cookies (Oatmeal Raisin, Chocolate chip, Peanut butter), Brownies, Co-
conut Macaroons, Lemon Bars

Sweet & Unsweetened Tea, Lemonade, Coffee

Served on Dinner Plates with Silverware and Glasses

Catered by Golden Corral

(Note: Substitutions may need to be made)



Our cooks at work for your next

Dinner Reservations for October 11th Meeting At Bluffton High School

Social @ 5pm • Buffet @ 5:30 • Meeting @ 6:45 • Presentation @ 7:00

NO LATER THAN THURSDAY OCT 5, 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 October 11th, 2006

NO LATER THAN THURSDAY OCT 5, 2006

Number of Dinners: ___ @ \$12 each = _____

Names: _____

Phone: _____

Make Check Payable to: **LCWRT Inc.**

Jim Strohecker
125 Lake Somerset Circle
Bluffton, SC 29909

Mail Check with this Form to: →

(OR PLACE IT IN JIM'S LOWER NEWSPAPER BOX)

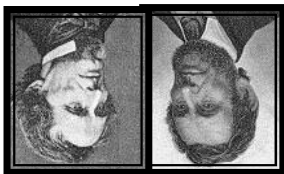
Guests: _____

List Guests on additional pa-
per if necessary



October 11 2006 Issue 58
 Gettysburg
 Presented by
 Rev Jeff Miller

A packed house for Mac Wyckoff for the
 September lecture



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Lecture Series to be Given By Steve Bacon

In October and early November, Professor Stephen B. Bacon of American Military University and a member of LCWRT will present a 6-part series on A Complete Survey of the American Civil War, "It was not War, It was Murder." From 10:00 a.m. to noon, the lecture will be at Pineland Station on Hilton Head Island, Suite 304B. From 3:30 to 5:30 p.m., the lecture will be at Sgt Jasper Park, 1458 Red Dam Rd., Hardeeville.

The course will run from 3 October to 7 November (one day a week - Tuesdays). Steve will take on the image of four Civil War soldiers (two officers and two privates) and will cover this pivotal battle of the war. When Steve assumes the role of these soldiers, he will speak to you in "first person" (1863 image) and talks about the battle "with the bark on."

At the conclusion of the lecture, all attendees may ask questions of the soldiers...but fair warning...he will answer as they would have in 1863. Authentic and replica weapons, flags, uniforms and equipment will be on display. For more information, please contact OLLI at North Campus Office, 843.521.4113 or South Campus Office, 843.208.8247.



Mac Wyckoff at the
 September meeting



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