



MINIÉ BALL GAZETTE

The Official Newsletter of the Lowcountry Civil War Round Table, Inc.

September 16, 2019

Greetings members of the Low Country Civil War Roundtable. Welcome to our 2019 Fall/Winter season.

We are pleased to announce our slate of officers for 2019/2020. We will vote at the September 25, meeting.

President - John Allen
Vice President - Kay Allen
Secretary - Dave McCulloch
Treasurer - Ron Albert
Membership-at-large - Tom McNamara.

Our program for Wednesday, September 25, will be Sun City resident Jack Rabbit. Rabbit is a favorite at the LCWRT. He will present "Jews in the Civil War." Please invite your friends and neighbors to come and enjoy this excellent program.

The meeting in September will be at the Hidden Cypress Ballroom! Spread the word.

It is time to send in your dues for 2019 or pay at the door. Remember we offer an excellent opportunity for entire households to join at one low price.

See you soon.

With every good wish,

Caroline Wallace Kennedy
Communication Chairman

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John "Jack" Rabbit

Sun City resident, Jack Rabbitt was born in Brooklyn, N.Y. He grew up in Hicksville, Long Island, N.Y. and graduated from Fordham University, NYC (1971) with a B.A. in Economics. A U.S. Army veteran (1971- 73); he was honorably discharged; served in San Antonio, Texas, and Seoul, Korea as a chaplain's assistant.

He spent 20 years in banking (1973-92) as a regional executive supervising 18 branches in NYC, Long Island and the Hudson Valley for ten years; division sales executive for two years, and responsible for all retail sales in a 48-branch unit. Also, he was a financial advisor for four years (1992-96), working with business owners and high-net-worth individuals, until one of his clients recruited him to join his company.

Later, he worked 14 years (1995-2008) in the restaurant industry, managing finance, administration, marketing, training and development for a McDonald's franchisee in Queens

N.Y.- has over 15,000 hours in the stores. He retired in Aug. 2008 to Hilton Head, S.C. area; continued part-time work for McD's franchisee.

His fascination with the American Civil War began at age ten and has been a hobby ever since. He's read hundreds of books and articles on the subject, and done extensive research on specific aspects of the war; has also done many battlefield visits for days at a time. (In grade school and college, whenever he went to a library to research for a school paper, he would spend the first two hours reading books on the Civil War - even if he was there for science, literature or business course project. Often he came home every late and missed dinner!)

He was a volunteer instructor for ten years at the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at USCB, teaching ten courses (six on the Civil War, one on the castles of Western Europe, two on business and economics; one on religion, based on a book he published in 2012); also served four years on the Curriculum Committee and three years on the Development Committee for the new OLLI building.

He became a published author in Jan. 2012 with his book: *More Like Christ*, which calls Catholics to adopt a more active spirituality, driven by a faith-based commitment to serve others. He started the Family Promise ministry (working with homeless families and host congregations in Bluffton) at St. Gregory the Great parish in 2013, and has been the Coordinator for six years

Rabbitt loves golf. He works two days a week as the Course Ranger at Hidden Cypress Golf Club in Sun City.

His hobbies/interests are playing the drums (has a studio in his house); playing basketball and golf * (7.2 index). He's an avid reader about the Civil War, European castles, business topics, and cooking.

He has been married to Rosemary for 45 years; they have a daughter in Seattle, and a son on Long Island, with five grandchildren, ranging in age from seven to 19.

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Jews in the Civil War

All Americans were divided in the Civil War—even Jews. Southern Jews supported the Confederacy. Northern Jews favored the Union. Before the war, Jews never took a public stand on slavery. Many did share antislavery views, but they regarded the Christian-slanting abolitionist crusade with skepticism.

“The Jews of the U.S. have never taken any steps whatever, with regard to the Slavery question. As citizens, they deem it their policy `to have everyone choose whichever side he may deem best to promote his own interests and the welfare of his country’.”

Thousands of Jews volunteered and many died on both sides of the conflict. An estimate places the number in the Union forces at about 6,400 and in the Confederate forces at about 10,000.

There were nine Jewish generals in the North and several in the South. Jews fought not only for their respective causes but also for equal treatment for themselves. Six Jewish soldiers in the Union army received the Congressional Medal of Honor for their bravery. Jewish soldiers returned to their homes after the war ended, to rebuild their country and their lives.

On August 1, 1862, General William Tecumseh Sherman had warned in a letter to the Adj. Gen. of the

Union Army that, *“The country will swarm with dishonest Jews”* if continued trade in cotton is encouraged. (Sherman, in his letter written in 1858, had described Jews as *“. . . without pity, soul, heart, nor bowels of compassion . . .”*)

“The Jews, as a class violating every regulation of trade established by the Treasury Department and also department orders, are hereby expelled from the department (the ‘Department of the Tennessee,’ an administrative district of the Union Army of occupation composed of Kentucky, Tennessee and Mississippi) within twenty-four hours from the receipt of this order.

“Post commanders will see to it that all of this class of people be furnished passes and required to leave, and anyone returning after such notification will be arrested and held in confinement until an opportunity occurs of sending them out as prisoner unless furnished with permit from headquarters. No passes will be given these people to visit headquarters for the purpose of making personal application of trade permits.”

In the fall of 1862, Grant’s headquarters were overwhelmed by merchants seeking trade permits. When Grant’s father appeared one-day pursuing trade licenses for a group of Cincinnati merchants, some of whom were Jews, Grant’s annoyance brimmed over.

A few of the illicit traders were Jews, while the vast majority were not. In the impassive climate of the war zone, age-old prejudices thrived. The terms “Jew,” “profiteer,” “speculator,” and “trader” were used interchangeably. Union commanding Gen. Henry W. Halleck connected *“traitors and Jew peddlers.”* Grant shared Halleck’s attitude, calling *“the Israelites”* as *“an intolerable nuisance.”*

A handful of the illegal traders were Jews, although the great majority were not. In the emotional climate of the war zone, ancient prejudices flourished. The terms “Jew,” “profiteer,” “speculator” and “trader” were employed interchangeably. Union commanding General Henry W. Halleck linked *“traitors and Jew peddlers.”* Grant shared Halleck’s mentality, describing *“the Israelites”* as *“an intolerable nuisance.”* In the fall of 1862, Grant’s headquarters were besieged by merchants seeking trade permits. When Grant’s own father appeared one day seeking trade licenses for a group of Cincinnati merchants, some of whom were Jews, Grant’s frustration overflowed.

In November 1862, convinced that the black market in cotton was organized *“mostly by Jews and other unprincipled traders,”* Grant ordered that *“no Jews are to be permitted to travel on the railroad southward (into the Department of Tennessee) from any point,”* nor were they to be granted trade licenses. Grant issued orders on November 9-10, stating that *“the Israelites especially should be kept out. They may go north and be encouraged in it; but they are such an intolerable nuisance, that the department must be purged of them.”*

Subordinates enforced the order at once in the area surrounding Grant’s headquarters in Holly Springs, Mississippi. Some Jewish traders had to trudge 40 miles on foot to evacuate the area. In Paducah, Kentucky, military officials gave the town’s 30 Jewish families—all long-term residents, none of them speculators and at least two of them Union Army veterans—24 hours to leave.

To control that trade, Lincoln maintained it be licensed by the Treasury Department and the army. As commander of the Department of Tennessee, Grant was charged with issuing trade licenses in his area. As cotton prices rose in the North, unlicensed traders payed-off Union officers to allow them to buy Southern cotton lacking a permit. As one frustrated reporter told the Secretary of War, *“Every colonel, captain or quartermaster is in a secret partnership with some operator in cotton; every soldier dream of adding a bale of cotton to his monthly pay.”*

A group of Paducah’s Jewish merchants, led by Cesar Kaskel, remitted an angry telegram to President Lincoln, condemning Grant’s order as an *“enormous outrage on all laws and humanity, ... the grossest*

violation of the Constitution and our rights as good citizens under it.” Jewish leaders planned protest rallies in St. Louis, Louisville, and Cincinnati, and telegrams reached the White House from the Jewish communities of Chicago, New York, and Philadelphia.

Cesar Kaskel arrived in Washington on Jan. 3, 1863, two days after the Emancipation Proclamation went into effect. There he talked with prominent Jewish Republican Adolphus Solomon, then went with a Cincinnati congressman, John A. Gurley, to the White House. Lincoln received them immediately and considered Kaskel’s copies of General Order No. 11 and the specific order expelling Kaskel from Paducah. The President told Halleck to have Grant revoke General Order No. 11, which he did in the following message:

Grant canceled the order three days later.

On January 6, a delegation led by Rabbi Isaac M. Wise of Cincinnati, called on Lincoln to express its gratitude that the order had been rescinded. Lincoln received them cordially expressed surprise that Grant had issued such a command and stated his conviction that *“to condemn a class is, to say the least, to wrong the good with the bad.”* He drew no distinction between Jew and Gentile, the president said and would allow no American to be wronged because of his religious affiliation.

Jews in the South Treated Well

In the South, Southern Jews were playing an essential role in the Confederate government and armed forces and *“were used to being treated as equals.”*

Charleston had more Jews than any city in North American, and many were valued citizens, officeholders, and prosperous entrepreneurs. Some described the city as “our Jerusalem”; the land of milk, and honey.

The total Southern Jewish population of less than 25,000—chiefly in the cities of Memphis, Nashville, Mobile, and Shreveport. An average Jewish soldier was a recent immigrant who *“enlisted to prove he was a man and a worthy citizen.”*

Jews calling the South their home, continued loyal of it, contending that Southern society and the Confederate army and may have been more accepting of Jews than the North.

The Confederacy’s Secretary of War and later State was Judah P. Benjamin. The top Confederate commander, Gen. Robert E. Lee, is renowned for openly displaying great esteem for his Jewish soldiers. Confederate soldiers felt they were fighting for their homeland and their families, against an invading army from the North that was trying, to kill them and their comrades, burn their homes, and destroy their cities.

After the war, Grant transcended his anti-Semitic reputation. He carried the Jewish vote in the presidential election of 1868 and named several Jews to high office. But General Order No. 11 remains a blight on the military career of the general who saved the Union.

The officials in charge for the U.S. government’s most malicious anti-Jewish actions ever were never sacked, rebuked. They were never officially criticized for the religious persecution they wreaked on guiltless citizens. – cwk

Sources: www.jewishmag.com, www.myjewishlearning.com, www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org, trailingthetrile.wordpress.com

2019 Lecture Series for the LCWRT

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Sept. 25, 2019	Jack Rabbitt	“Jews in the Civil War”
Oct. 23, 2019	Sandra Ottley	“Female Nurses, Spies and Soldiers”
Nov. 20, 2019	Richard Murray	“Atlanta Campaign”

The September 25 meeting will be held in the Hidden Cypress ballroom!

Please check each month’s *Minie Ball Gazette* for meeting places in Sun City. Our 2019/2020 schedule is a work in progress.

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LOWCOUNTRY CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE, INC.

MEMBERSHIP FORM - 2019/2020

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP PERIOD SEPTEMBER 1, 2019 to AUGUST 31, 2020

Please **Print** All Information Below

Last Name First Name Badge Nickname

Last Name (Additional Household Member) First Name Badge Nickname

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Phone () _____

Sun City Residents Only

CAM number _____ CAM number _____

E-Mail _____ E-mail _____

(We will keep this confidential!)

CURRENT MEMBER _____ NEW MEMBER _____

Household: Annual Membership (to Aug 31, 2020): \$40.00

We always need volunteers to continue making the LCWRT successful.

Please check the area(s) for which you are willing to volunteer:

___ Program Committee: help select topics & speakers ___ Assist in Production/Distribution of the *Minie Ball Gazette*

___ Assist on Program Night (Greeter, Collect Tickets or Guest Fees, Tally Program Attendance)

___ Historian ___ Maintain Membership Roster ___ Work at Sun City Club Fair ___ Web Site Maintenance

Mail to or leave in "lower" box: **Joseph Passiment, 26 Schooner Lane, Bluffton, SC 29909-4305**

Make Check Payable to: **LCWRT Inc.** Any questions, please call **Joseph Passiment** at **732-995-2102**

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LOWCOUNTRY CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE, INC.

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*NOTE: The website address for the Lowcountry Civil War Round Table
(LCWRT) is: www.lcwrt.squarespace.com and it
can be used to get current and historical LCWRT information.*