



# MINIÉ BALL GAZETTE

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

## March 23, 2022 6:45

### LCCWRT 2022 PROGRAM

DATE	LOCATION	TIME	SPEAKER	SUBJECT
3/23	HIDDEN CYPRESS	6:30-8:30	Jack Davis	The Information Age--1860 Style
4/27	MAGNOLIA HALL	6:30-8:30	Debra Conner	Dr Mary Walker, Civil War Surgeon
5/17	MAGNOLIA HALL.	6:30-8:30	Jim Morgan	Ball's Bluff
9/29	HIDDEN CYPRESS	6:30-8:30	Neil Baxley Park Service	Stephen Elliott, jr. Beaufort Confederate General
10/26	HIDDEN CYPRESS	6:30-8:30	Rep	Reconstruction—After Civil War
11/30	HIDDEN CYPRESS	6:30-8:30	Paul Quigley	Civil War Origins of Thanksgiving

### Jack Davis

William C. Davis, a native of Independence, Missouri, was educated in Northern California, spent 20 years in editorial management in the magazine and book publishing industry. He left the industry in 1990 to spend the next decade working as a writer and consultant.

The author or editor of more than 50 books and numerous documentary screenplays in the fields of Civil War and southern history, Davis was the on-camera senior consultant for 52 episodes of the Arts & Entertainment Network/History Channel series “Civil War Journal” as well as a number of other productions on commercial and public television, including the BBC abroad. He has acted as historical consultant for several television and film productions, including “The Blue and the Perfect Tribute.”

Davis is a three-time winner of the Jefferson Davis Award given for book-length works on Confederate History. His most recent book is *The Pirates Laffite: The Treacherous World of the Corsairs of the Gulf*.

Davis came to Virginia Tech to serve both as director of programs for the Virginia Center for Civil War Studies and as a professor of history. In coming to Virginia, he has returned to his southern roots. He has presented many excellent programs for our chapter.

# The Information Age—1860s Style

How did people in the armies and at home get the news? How fast? And how accurately?

Thanks to electricity, the steam engine, and an exposition in the newspaper industry, Americans North and South were better informed and more up to date on events than ever before during the Civil War and no one craved news more than the families at home and the men in the ranks during an internecine conflict. Tens of millions of letters were exchanged between the war and home fronts, filled with news both broad and minute, real facts, fanciful rumors and outright fabrications.

Railroads and steamships carried them at a speed unknown just a generation earlier, and not just to the folks at home. Every day hundreds of letters from soldiers appeared in hometown newspapers, which the same trains and steamers carried to other towns where local editors reprinted them. Thus, a single letter could appear in scores of different places, vastly expanding the picture civilians North and South framed of their war.

Faster yet, indeed almost as rapidly as today, electricity sent millions of messages all across the war-torn country via the telegraph, even to California and, for \$8 per word, across the Atlantic Ocean to England. Thus, important news from Louisiana could be in Washington in a matter of hours rather than days. In some cases, telegraphs with headquarters at an army's front could be in communication with Richmond or Washington, with the ability to influence actions on the battlefield and report the results of engagement almost incautiously.

It was truly an "information age" and fed and heightened a hunger in the American public for news that has never abated.

## President's Letter

Dear LCWRT Members,

The LCWRT needs member support to continue to produce the quality that you are used to. There will be several vacancies among the officers for next year. We will need replacements for President, Vice President, Membership Chair, and Communications Chair. The LCWRT cannot continue to function without officers. If you want the club to continue to exist, members need to participate by serving as officers. Three years ago, our President, Mike Sweeney moved leaving an opening. I had just joined the club and knew very little about the Civil War but I was assured that I would have plenty of help so I agreed to accept the job of President of the club. The assurances proved to be absolutely true. The club runs smoothly thanks to the Board and Committee Chairmen. My wife and I will be stepping down as President and Vice President after this year as will Joe Passiment, who has done an incredible job as

Membership Chairman. Our Communications Chair plans on traveling out of the area and will not be able to produce a monthly newsletter.

We need club members to volunteer to fill these jobs if the LCWRT is to continue. You do not have to have any knowledge of the Civil War to help administer the club. We have very knowledgeable people on the Board that have the experience and contacts to ensure we have good speakers. The President's job is mainly administrative with scheduling and running Board meetings and reserving rooms for our monthly meetings. Please consider volunteering because the continued existence of the club depends on it. I think that you will find it a worthwhile experience.

Sincerely,

John T. Allen, President

## **146<sup>th</sup> Annual Confederate Memorial Day Service**

The Rivers' Bridge Confederate Memorial Association is sponsoring the 146th annual Confederate Memorial Day Service on May 13, 2022. The public is invited.

The service, which will be held at the Memorial Grounds located at The Battle of Rivers' Bridge State Historic Site, will begin at 10:00 a.m. with a prelude of period musical selections by Dr. Jim Dreyfus followed by the main program at 11:00 a.m.

After the program the traditional dinner on the grounds will be available for a nominal fee.

The Memorial Grounds are located on the property of Rivers' Bridge State Historic Site at 325 State Park Road, near Ehrhardt, SC, which can be accessed from either the Rivers' Bridge Road or Highway 641.

The Rivers' Bridge Confederate Memorial Association has held this memorial service annually since 1876 to commemorate the battle and its Southern dead.

Rivers' Bridge State Historic Site is managed and interpreted by the South Carolina State Park Service. In addition to the Memorial Grounds, the Park Service maintains the well-preserved remains of the Confederate earthen field fortifications overlooking the Salkehatchie Swamp.

You want to take the Hwy 321 route, which takes about an hour and a half; there are shorter routes, but those have more turns.

If anyone would like a tour of the battleground, please let me know so that I can pass the word on.

## Heritage Library Hilton Head Classes

Pathfinders for Freedom: the 1st and 2nd South Carolina volunteers of African descent

Tuesday, 3/22/22 – 2:00 PM – 3:30 PM

Location: USCB Hilton Head Campus, Room 115

Instructor: Richard Thomas

Without the efforts of a few Federal officers and about 1,500 former slaves in Hilton Head and Port Royal in mid-1862, the regiments of black soldiers raised in the North following Emancipation may never have had the opportunity to demonstrate the full value of African-Americans as fighting men. Learn how the 1st and 2nd SCVAD paved the way for the 54th Massachusetts and other US Colored Troops' regiments to earn fame and glory in later battles of the Civil War.

Cost is \$15 for non-members and \$12 for members

## Hilton Head Lifelong Learning

The Battle of Gettysburg and Civil War Reconstruction will be courses offered in the Winter/Spring Lineup. The classes begin February 7 and run through March 25. Membership is \$55. The course catalog is available Online at [continue to, org](http://continue.to).

Danny Crooks will present classes on the Reconstruction at the Seabrook on March 10

*Jim Crow and Damn Yankees: Home Rule Returns to the South by 1876*

*Was the Civil War Reconstruction a Success or Failure.*, and Dave Desjardins will present a class on the Battle of Gettysburg in three sessions on March, 11, 18, and 25 at the Bayshore of Hilton Head Island.

## Olli (Ocher Lifelong Learning Institute) Courses

Courses are offered at USCB campuses in Beaufort, Bluffton, and Hilton Head. The cost is \$15 a course. To obtain more information, call 843-208-8247. I am also including a link. There are several classes on the Civil War.

[https://www.uscb.edu/lifelong-learning/olli/OLLI\\_WinterSpringGuide\\_Compressed.pdf](https://www.uscb.edu/lifelong-learning/olli/OLLI_WinterSpringGuide_Compressed.pdf)

*The Battle of Honey Hill* will be presented by Rich Thomas on March 1

# Juneteenth

Juneteenth, also known as Freedom Day, Jubilee Day and Celebration Day, is an American holiday celebrated on June 19. On June 19, 1865, the Emancipation Proclamation— which had been issued on January 1, 1863— was read to enslaved African Americans in Texas by Gordon Granger.

The 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Bluffton Juneteenth Festival will be celebrated at Burnt Church Distillery, 120 Bluffton Rd.

It is sponsored by the Bluffton MLK Observance Committee. More information to follow nearer the date.

**LOWCOUNTRY CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE, INC.**

Annual Membership for all household members: **\$30.00**

**MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION**

CURRENT MEMBER \_\_\_\_\_

NEW MEMBER \_\_\_\_\_

**ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP PERIOD SEPTEMBER 1, 2021 to AUGUST 31, 2022**

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 ( ) Additional Phone ( )

**Sun City Residents Only**

**New** CAM number \_\_\_\_\_

Additional Household member **New** CAM number \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
E-Mail

\_\_\_\_\_  
Additional Household member E-mail

(We will keep this confidential!)

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 or contact at the email address **joseph.passiment900@gmail.com**

# Lowcountry Civil War Round Table, Inc.

## 2019-21 Executive Committee

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# Minié Ball Gazette

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education and battlefield preservation.

**A Not-for-Profit, Charitable Organization as qualified under section  
501 (C) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code.**

*Note: The website address is*

*[www.lcwrtsquarespace.com](http://www.lcwrtsquarespace.com) and it can*

*be used to get current and historical LCWRT information.*