



LOWCOUNTRY CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

January 2007 Issue 60

Jefferson Davis & His Generals

What a Mixed Bag! By Stephen B. Bacon

Our January speaker will be discussing Confederate President Jefferson Davis and some of his key generals. There are quite a few details that need to be addressed in regards to that subject. Like Abraham Lincoln, Jefferson Davis was born in a log cabin, the son of a Kentucky backwoodsman. But, the similarities ended there.

Where Lincoln's father remained a poor backwoodsman and headed into the wild and woolly "West" (Indiana and Illinois), Davis' father moved southward and settled the family on a plantation called "Rosemont" near Woodville, Mississippi. In contrast to the self-taught Lincoln, Davis was sent away at age 7 to a boys' school in Kentucky, and, at age 13, was enrolled in Transylvania College. Davis then spent 4 years at West Point and graduated in 1828 with a Second Lieutenant's commission.



Davis With Full Beard

Both future presidents served in the Black Hawk War and both left the military immediately afterwards. Davis became a planter, near Vicksburg, Mississippi. His bride, Sarah Knox Taylor, daughter of his commanding officer (and future President), Zachary Taylor, died of malaria after 3 months of settling on the plantation. As a result, the

devastated Davis secluded himself on to the plantation and devoted himself to the study of philosophy, law and constitutional law. At the conclusion of 7 years in virtual isolation, Davis was elected to the House of Representatives and remarried. In 1846, he resigned from Congress and served in the Mexican War as Colonel and Commander of the 1st Mississippi Volunteers. He played a key role in the brilliant U.S. victory at the battle of Buena Vista in 1847 (where he was wounded). This propelled him to the Senate serving as Chairman of the Military Affairs Committee and then Secretary of War under President Franklin Pierce in 1853.

In 1860, the two future presidents, oddly enough had similar points of view. Davis was NOT a secessionist and urged National reconciliation, compromise and harmony. When South Carolina seceded in Dec. 1860,

Biography of William Davis



William C. Davis, a native of Independence, Missouri, was educated in northern California, and then spent twenty years in editorial management in the magazine and book publishing industry, before leaving in 1990 to spend the next ten years working as a writer and consultant. He is the author or editor of more than forty books in the fields of Civil War and Southern history, as well as numerous documentary screenplays. He 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, as well as for the BBC abroad, and has acted as historical consultant for several television and film productions, including "The Blue and the Gray," "George Washington," and "The Perfect Tribute."

He has twice been nominated for the Pulitzer Prize in History, and is the only three-time winner of the Jefferson Davis Award given for book-length works in Confederate History. His most recent book, *Look Away! A History of the Confederate States of America* was published in May by the Free Press.

Davis has come to Virginia Tech as Director of Programs for the new Virginia Center for Civil War Studies, as well as serving as Professor of History. In coming to Virginia he is in a way returning to his roots, since his Davis ancestors settled in nearby Carroll and Grayson Counties some 200 years ago, and virtually all of his ancestry goes back in the Old Dominion, some as far as 1610.

(Continued on page 4 BACON)

Lowcountry Civil War Round Table

AS I SEE IT

by Paul Bucklin, President

Happy New "2007" Year to one and all. We're still following events that most occurred in 1863 as we continue to chronologically follow the Civil War this program year. We have offered programs about personalities and subjects of special interest such as music, prisons, heroines, chaplains, medicine, plantation life, fire-eaters, and journalism (our recent November program). We have a special treat to kick off our January '07 program. Jack Davis, our guest, is in the upper tier of Civil War historians and speakers. His subject will be "PRESIDENT JEFFERSON DAVIS and his GENERALS". You won't want to miss it!!

It takes \$\$\$ to run any organization like ours and following up my last article I want you to know and understand how we spend the \$25,000 it takes to keep our Roundtable solvent. The largest expense is PROGRAM as you might expect. We've budgeted \$3900 for speaker travel; \$3900 for philanthropy, which is how we thank our speakers and they in turn donate monies to their worthy Civil War charities; \$11,400 to our CATERER, Golden Corral, for the meals they provide at our pre-meeting social; \$1,600 to Bluffton High School for RENT of the Atrium and Auditorium where we hold our 8 meetings; and \$175 for our MORNING AFTER program and executive committee meeting refreshments; COMMUNICATIONS expenses are \$1950, which involves publishing the Minie Ball Gazette (our member newsletter), our web site, postage and supplies; our INSURANCE, member refunds, and postal box expenses are \$1,030; VOLUNTEER recognition and treasurer expenses are \$885; and finally our BANK charges and safety deposit box cost \$160....for a total of \$25,000. For what our members pay to re-enlist (\$26) and for what we charge for the monthly social (\$12), for those who choose to participate, our 8 yearly programs offer a "big bang" for each dollar expended by our members. Know that our treasury is in good hands and well managed on our behalf.

Finally, it takes many volunteers giving precious time to our organization that allows it to provide all of us with an exceptional Civil War Roundtable experience. On behalf of our membership, I salute those who help in this endeavor.

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-

Officers & Committee Chairpersons

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Dinner Register	June & Janice McIntyre	705-5049
Hospitality	Margret & Don Hubsch	705-7786

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

Please return the Dinner Reservation Form as soon as possible, but no later than *January 5th 2007*

November Buffet



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

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 Jefferson Davis and his generals. Jack Davis is a renown historian of the Civil War. His talk will concern Jefferson Davis' relationship with his generals, specifically Gen Johnston, Beauregard and Bragg.

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

(BACON Continued from page 1)

Davis voiced his opposition to secession; however, he did believe that states had a constitutional right to secede, which was supported by the original Articles of Confederation (prior to the U. S. Constitution). On Jan. 12, 1861, 12 days after Mississippi seceded; Davis made one last, impassioned plea for peace, but then accepted a commission as a Major General to lead Mississippi's Army. He was then chosen as the Provisional President of the Confederacy in Montgomery, Alabama.

Like Lincoln, Davis was constantly in conflict with key members of his cabinet and some of his generals. One good example of constant conflict was Davis vs. the Confederate Vice-President Alexander H. Stephens of Georgia. Stephens was known to be a physical wreck but a brilliant politician. Davis insisted on micro-managing his cabinet which brought about constant conflict with Stephens and several other members of the cabinet. Stephens had the audacity to approach the North with peace terms (behind Davis' back).

Two generals that constantly seemed to be a thorn in Davis' side were Generals Joseph Johnston and Pierre Gustave Toutant Beauregard.



INAUGURATION OF JEFFERSON DAVIS

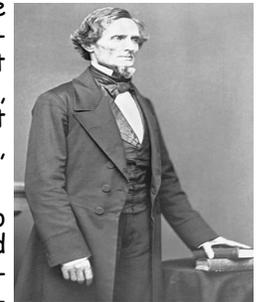
General Beauregard, from the state of Louisiana, was a brilliant artilleryist. He learned his trade during his time at West Point, under a Professor of Artillery, Major Robert Anderson. Beauregard was such a bright student of the subject that Anderson retained him for an extra year at West Point to help teach junior cadets. Through a strange twist of history, Major Anderson was assigned to Fort Moultrie and then Fort Sumter at the beginning of the war. And his former student, Beauregard, was in command of all South Carolina forces lining Charleston Harbor. After the 34 hours of bombardment, the professor surrendered to his former student. This propelled Beauregard upwards to be the Confederate national hero of the hour and commander of most of the Southern forces in Northern Virginia in the Summer of 1861. The commander of the rest of the Southern Forces was Joseph Johnston and was located in the Shenandoah Valley. Following the brilliant victory by Southern troops at First Bull Run/Manassas, President Davis reluctantly offered overall command in Virginia to Johnston, but sent Beauregard to the "West" to serve as second in command under the brilliant Albert Sydney Johnston, who had just arrived from California. Sending Beauregard West was due to the fact that Davis and Beauregard "just didn't get along well with each other." The other general who Davis did not "get along well with" was Joseph Johnston. Through another twist of history, Beauregard would take command of Southern forces at Shiloh in April 1862, following the death of A.S. Johnston. Because Beauregard "lost" the Battle of Shiloh, Davis decided to rid himself of this irritation Cajun. Beauregard was assigned to the defenses in and around

Charleston for the duration of the war. It was Beauregard who ordered the ultimate use of the H.L. Hunley against blockading U.S. naval forces.

General Joseph Johnston was one of the most senior generals on either side of the Civil War. He was placed in command of Southern troops in Virginia in the fall of 1861. His first true test was during the Peninsular Campaign vs. George B. McClellan in 1862. Johnston's tactics, for the most part, were brilliant, but unfortunately, he was seriously wounded during the campaign. He was replaced by Robert E. Lee.

Johnston's next serious appearance was in command of some of the Southern forces in central Mississippi during Grant's attack on and siege of Vicksburg. Johnston proved to be too little and too late to help relieve Vicksburg. Johnston was then placed in command of Southern forces in Northwest Georgia in 1864. It was here that had to face the "ultimate pyromaniac", William T. Sherman. Most of Johnston's maneuvers during the spring and summer of 1864 were spectacular, but he was ultimately forced back into the trench works around Atlanta. The ultimate loss of Atlanta would prove to be disastrous for the South.

This was the last straw for Davis, who replaced Johnston with John Bell Hood of Texas. One problem with Hood was that he had been seriously wounded twice and was constantly taking injections of Laudanum [ed. Tincture of Opium]. Hood proved to be a fierce fighter but a terrible strategist and tactician. Johnston, in the mean time, was shuttled off to meaningless assignments until the very end of the war. Following Hood's disastrous campaign in Tennessee, in the late fall of 1864, Johnston was recalled to take command of what was left of the Western Army, only to be forced to surrender it to Sherman near Bentonville, North Carolina.



DAVIS AT HIS INAUGURATION

Perhaps, if Davis had not been so much of a micro-manager and worked with his military commanders, a much different outcome of the war would have transpired.

CASINO NEAR GETTYSBURG !!!

HELP...HELP...HELP!!!

Go to nocasinogettysburg.com and see how you can help prevent the building of a major casino very close to the hallowed grounds of the Gettysburg Battlefield.

The Dinner Menu for January 10 2007

Sliced Ham, Baked Wild Alaskan Salmon, Fried Chicken

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, 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 January 10th Meeting At Bluffton High School

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

(NOTE: BUFFET TIME OF 5:45)

NO LATER THAN THURSDAY JAN 5 2007

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 January 10 2007

NO LATER THAN THURSDAY JAN 4 2007

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

Names: _____

Phone: _____

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

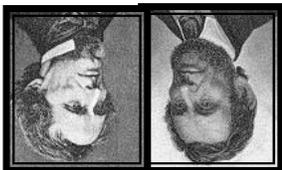
Or place it in Jim's LowerBox

Jim Strohecker
125 Lake Somerset Circle
Bluffton, SC 29909

Guests: _____

List Guests on additional paper if necessary

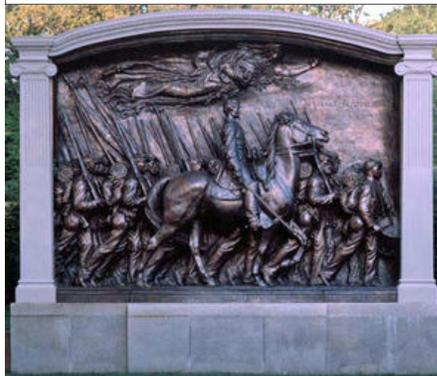
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Presented by
Jefferson Davis
Jack Davis



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NEXT MONTH

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The Memorial to the 54th Division of the Federal Army and Their Attack on Fort Wagner.

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/>



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