



THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

Volume XXX, Battlefield Tour Number

Chicago, Illinois

April 1970

20th BATTLEFIELD TOUR - SAVANNAH - CHARLESTON - April 30, May 3, 1970.

BATTLES, by Colonel Allen P. Julian

SHOT AT FORT SUMTER OPENS WAR.

Immediately on arrival in Savannah, our buses will take us to Fort Pulaski, at the mouth of the Savannah River. Fort Pulaski stands as a mighty monument to the era of the masonry fortress. Upon Georgia's secession, the fort, seized earlier by the governor of Georgia, was transferred to the government of the Confederacy. It was considered impregnable, a belief soon shattered by the yet untested fire of heavy rifled guns.

Early April 10, 1862, after days of heartbreaking labor bringing ponderous guns through heavy surf and moving them over a mile of deep sand and marsh, 11 heavy Union batteries were ready to open fire. A demand for surrender was rebuffed by Col. Charles H. Olmstead, Fort Pulaski commander. A 30 hour bombardment began. About 2 p.m., April 11, the fort gave up and the day of brick fortifications was done. Heavy rifled cannon had opened a new era.

On Friday, May 1, our party will board the *Waving Girl* for a trip down the Savannah River to Tybee Roads. We will have a view of Fort Pulaski from the anchorage of the blockading ships as well as the sites of Union and Confederate forts and batteries.

In the afternoon, our buses will take us to Fort McAllister. Unlike Fort Pulaski, Fort McAllister was built of sand and packed earth. The parapets absorbed heavy shells with little damage. After seven attempts to reduce it, including eight hours of shelling by 11 inch and 15 inch guns on March 3, 1863, the Union naval vessels were withdrawn. Little was accomplished other than the destruction of the CSS Nashville (Rattlesnake) by the USS Montauk while she lay fast aground in Seven Mile Reach across a narrow point from the fort.

Fort McAllister guarded the Great Ogeechee river—the back door to Savannah—without further challenge until Dec. 13, 1864, after General Sherman had completed his March to the Sea and was closing in on Savannah. His immediate need was to re-supply his army and to bring up heavy guns for a siege.

The Great Ogeechee river was the only route by which Union supply vessels could bring their cargoes within wagon-haul of his lines. To open it, he detached Hazen's division, 15th corps (his old division at Shiloh), to assault Fort McAllister from the rear. Unprepared to withstand an infantry assault in force, the fort's garrison of 230 officers and men was overpowered after a hand-to-hand struggle. The river was open.

Details from the 17th corps built wharves and warehouses at King's Bridge, on the Ogeechee Plank road and supplies began rolling to the troops as fast as the vessels could come upstream and be discharged.

On Saturday, May 2, our buses will take us to Fort Walker and Fort Sherman, where there are very extensive earthworks
(continued on page 4)

COST OF TOUR

\$230.00, Two to a room (*) \$245.00 Single
(*) Indicate person with whom you wish to share room.

INCLUDES: Round trip plane fare, bus ground transportation, hotel room, Command Posts, lunches and dinners (breakfasts on your own), group service tips, group admission fees where required, tour literature in packet, and \$10 registration fee to cover promotional and overhead expenses.

FOR VARIATIONS: Portions of tour, joining en route, individual meetings, meals or rooms, write or phone Registrar, Margaret April, 18 East Chestnut Street, Chicago, Illinois 60611. Phone 312-944-3085.

Gilbert Twiss was one of the most beloved and certainly the most dedicated member of the Civil War Round Table. He performed nobly and arduously "over and beyond the call of duty" in his role as editor of our News Letter. There have been few people with a love of the Civil War who have had a personal acquaintance with as many individuals throughout this land sharing our common interest as did Gil Twiss.

Eleven years ago, our 9th Battlefield Tour took us to Charleston and Savannah and our special publication announcing the trip was written by Gil. It is hard to improve on perfection and we are, therefore, reprint, almost exactly as written, the text that Gil prepared for that occasion.

EVENTS . . . by Gilbert Twiss

TRAVEL BY PLANE, BUS AND BOAT

Our 9th Battlefield Tour, April 30 to May 3, to Savannah and Charleston, is by plane, bus, and boat. The main party leaves Chicago by Delta air liner and will be joined in Atlanta and Savannah by other campaigners.

The morning departure from Chicago will allow time, immediately after arrival, for a trip, by bus, to Fort Pulaski, where a box luncheon will be served in the Fort picnic grounds. This will be followed by a tour of the fort and an explanation of its bombardment and capture, by a National Park Service Guide. We will then proceed to the Hilton DeSoto Hotel. Our tradition of Command Post refreshments will be renewed, followed by dinner and a talk by Col. Lindsey P. Henderson, Jr. (USA, Ret.) on *The Volunteer Units of Savannah*.

The second day begins with a boat trip aboard the *Waving*

Girl down the Savannah River to Tybee Roads. A box luncheon will be provided on the boat. The sites of Union and Confederate forts and batteries will be pointed out and we will



see Fort Pulaski from the anchorage of the blockading ships. We will then visit Fort McAllister and return to our hotel. The usual Command Post will be in operation. The speaker of the evening will be Federal Judge Alexander A. Lawrence who will talk on "If Longstreet Had Come up at Gettysburg."

On Saturday morning, we will travel the Low Country of South Carolina. There should be plenty of camellias, azaleas, and marshland flora and fauna on view. Fort Walker, Hilton Head Island, and Beaufort are the focal points of this bus jaunt. We will check into the Francis Marion Hotel in Charleston for the Command Post, followed by dinner, at which the speaker will be Warren Ripley, State Editor of the Charleston Evening Post. His subject: "Operations Around Charleston."

On Sunday morning, there will be a boat tour of Charleston harbor to Fort Sumter. There is a small museum there. The tour returns to the hotel for lunch. In the afternoon, there will be a choice of a tour of the historic city of Charleston or a bus tour of Fort Moultrie on Sullivan's Island. A buffet dinner will be served at the hotel before departure for the airport and Chicago.

SAVANNAH

Georgia, last of the 13 original colonies, dates from Feb. 12, 1733, when Gen. James Edward Oglethorpe landed with 120 followers from England at an Indian Village called Yamacraw, 18 miles upriver from the Atlantic. Here today is Savannah, a city of 132,000 population.

This is the first planned city in America. Oglethorpe had under his arm a design prepared in England. It was checker-boarded with squares surrounded with wooden fences—refuges for the settlers in case of attack. The central thoroughfare is Bull street.

Oglethorpe made a friend of the Indian Chief, Tomo-chi-chi—now memorialized by a granite boulder over his grave in Wright square. And Oglethorpe sent the Spaniards packing at the Battle of Bloody Marsh on St. Simon's Island in 1742.

The squares, adorned with statues, are surrounded by early American architecture. Gen. W. T. Sherman, completing his March to the Sea, settled down in relative quiet for five weeks in 1864-65 in the Green-Meldrim house on Madison square, now the parish house of St. John's Episcopal church.

During the Revolution the British came in force and stayed from 1778 to 1782. Among the heroes who tried to dislodge them—and gave his life in the attempt—was Count Casimir Pulaski, Gen. Lafayette's Polish friend. Lafayette was a guest of the city in 1825.

John Wesley, founder of the Methodist church, was a clergyman at Christ's Episcopal church and wrote the first hymnal used in Georgia. The hymn, "From Greenland's Icy Mountains" was first sung to the music of Lowell Mason, organist of the Independent Presbyterian Church.

Savannah Chamber of Commerce is in a building where for many years the world price of naval stores was set. The U.S. Customs house, erected in 1850, is on the site of a little house in which Oglethorpe lived.

Juliette Gordon Low founded the Girl Scouts in Savannah in 1912 and the coach house of her later home is now headquarters.

At City Hall tablets commemorate the sailing in 1819 of the S.S. Savannah, first steamship to cross the Atlantic, and the launching in 1843 of the S.S. John Randolph, first ironclad in American waters.

FROM THE EDITOR'S PEN

1970 TOUR COMMITTEE

Co-Chairman—Hal Hixson, Chicago;
Col. Allen P. Julian, Atlanta
Registrar—Margaret April
Leaflet—Gilbert Twiss—Allen P. Julian
Marshals—Al Meyer, Dick Cohen, Brooks Davis, Jerry Warshaw
Book List—E. B. "Pete" Long



Tybee light, a modern light standing 144 feet high, guides vessels to the mouth of the Savannah river. It replaced an earlier light of 1791.

FORT PULASKI

About 25 million bricks were placed in the massive walls of Fort Pulaski in a building period of nearly 20 years. It is a memorial to the valor of Count Casimir Pulaski, Polish friend of America in the Revolution, who fell at the siege of Savannah in 1779.

The war of 1812 showed the weakness of American coastal defenses. In 1816, congress created a military board of engineers for seacoast fortifications. Brig. Gen. Simon Bernard, a military engineer for Napoleon, was associated with the new fortifications board from 1816 to 1831. He made preliminary plans in 1827 for the fort on Cockspur, a small marsh island. Work was begun in 1829 under Maj. Samuel Babcock. Robert E. Lee's first appointment after his graduation from West Point, in 1829, was to Cockspur. He remained until 1831.

Fort Pulaski's armament was to include about 140 cannon, but at the beginning of the Civil War only 20 cannon had been mounted. In November, 1861, Gen. Robert E. Lee, then commanding southeastern coast defenses, inspected Fort Pulaski and Fort McAllister. Pulaski's casemates served as a military and political prison in 1864-65.

FORT McALLISTER

Fort McAllister constituted the right of the exterior line of earthworks which were designed and held for the sea defense of Savannah.

Begun early in 1861, the fort was constructed by slave labor, leased from plantation owners. First designated as "the battery at Genesis Point," it was later named for the nearby McAllister Plantation.

By September, 1861, Fort McAllister mounted 4 heavy guns, which commanded the channel, and was garrisoned by 2 officers and 74 men. In March, 1862, Gen. Robert E. Lee, commander for the southeast, stated that "an obstruction on the mouth of the Ogeechee has been proposed, and the planters on the river have offered to furnish the necessary labor." A row of heavy piles was driven from bank to bank, immediately below the fort. There was a narrow passage commanded by the fort's guns. The piles obstructed the river until they were removed by Gen. Sherman's forces in December, 1864.

BEAUFORT

Beaufort (pronounced BEWFORT) is one of a group of 64 islands ranging in size from 40 square miles to a few rods-length of sand and marshweed. Branches of the Inland Waterway wind around them.

The approach to Beaufort threads through marshlands, across shining rivers, with far vistas of wooded islets, unpeopled and unapproachable across the high-waving reeds. Entry to the town is between a long double row of royal palmettos.

In the town are belvedere mansions, the old arsenal, now a museum, and older slave quarters, "tabby" buildings built of a unique amalgam of oyster-shell mortar. The noble architecture of St. Helena's church (1724) is set in the bowered luxuriance of its churchyard, its spreading live oaks, and a profusion of flowers.

Old Sheldon parish church (1746) has three foot thick brick walls, surrounded by centuries old oaks and evergreens, shrouded in gently swaying gray and mournful Spanish moss. In the churchyard are marble sarcophagi.

Early settlers raised indigo, rice, and finally cotton—all abandoned now. From the coast of Africa were brought the Gullah slaves to St. Helena island. Their descendants are perhaps the purest blooded strain of American Negroes. The area is the home of the "praise spiritual."

The area has tropical flora and fauna—camellias, chinaberry trees, wild jasmine, barrier cacti—terrapin, snowy egrets, mockingbirds, marsh hens, godwits, willets, skimmers, water turkey, pileated woodpeckers, herons, black buzzards, quail, dove, ten varieties of duck, and snipe.

Parris island, a base of the United States marines, is 4 miles south of Beaufort. Other towns near Beaufort are Port Royal, Bluffton and Yemassee.

CHARLESTON

In 1670 the English settled on Albemarle point. It was Charles Town in honor of King Charles II, of England, but became Charleston when incorporated in 1783. Population of the area now is about 225,000.

Charleston is on a peninsula, the Cooper river on the east and the Ashley river on the west and southwest, the two converging and forming Charleston harbor.

Much of Charleston's history is preserved in its buildings—Dock Street Theater (first one in 1736)—Pringle House (1765), headquarters for British troops, 1781-82; headquarters for Union troops, 1865—Heyward-Washington House (1770), home of Thomas Heyward, signer of the Declaration of Independence; George Washington a guest in 1791—City Hall (1801) erected for a branch of the First Bank of the United States; council chamber houses Trumbull's famous portrait of Washington, as well as portraits of Beauregard, Wade Hampton, and others—"Old Slave Market"—Old Exchange building, where provincial congress met in March, 1776—Old Powder magazine (1711-13), used during Revolution—City Market (1841), houses Confederate museum.

Col. William Rhett's mansion, begun about 1712—Charleston museum, founded 1773, oldest city museum in America—Joseph Manigault mansion (begun in 1802)—Cabbage Row (scene of "Porgy and Bess").

On Broad street there is a marker at the site of St. Andrew's Hall, burned in 1861, where the Ordinance of Secession was passed, December, 20, 1860.

FORT SUMTER

Archaeologists are uncovering parts of Fort Sumter unseen in this century, a National Geographic news bulletin reported.

The National Park Service plans to restore the parade ground and 12 gun rooms of the pentagonal fortification which stood guard over the main ship channel to Charleston harbor. The work requires removal of 18,000 tones of protective fill, first placed inside the fort in 1894, after a hurricane.

Planned in 1827, and named for Thomas Sumter, South Carolina's "Gamecock of the Revolution," the fort was still unfinished when Maj. Robert Anderson occupied it on Dec. 26-27, 1860.

Anderson, with 73 men and a few civilian workmen, had to defend a fort intended for a garrison of 650 men and an armament of 135 guns. Only the bottom and topmost of the fort's three tiers of gun rooms were useable. Several months later, 60 guns had been mounted, the largest being 15,000 pound Columbiads hurling 128 pound shot.

A German born carpenter named Wittyman, ordered to build a spiked fence, or "cheval-de-frise," as an added defense, produced such an odd contraption that onlooking Confederates thought it was a secret weapon. The Union defenders called it "Wittyman's Masterpiece."

Fort Sumter, containing about 2.4 acres, was erected on a shoal about 3½ miles from Charleston Battery. Four sides, 170

to 190 feet long, were designed for three tiers of guns; the gorge, designed for officers' quarters, supported guns only on the third tier. Enlisted men's barracks paralleled the parade side of the flank gun rooms. A sally port pierced the gorge and opened onto a quay and a wharf. The 5 foot thick walls rose 48.4 feet above low water.

Thursday, April 30, 1970

- 7:30 a.m. Check in with registrar at booth, Delta Airlines, O'Hare International Airport, for tickets and tour packet.
- 8:30 a.m. Depart, Delta flight #819 (Breakfast served)
- 11:05 a.m. Arrive Atlanta
- 11:43 a.m. Depart Atlanta, Delta flight #355
- 1:03 p.m. Arrive Savannah
Depart for Fort Pulaski. Bus will take luggage to hotel.
- 2:00 p.m. Box lunch, Fort Pulaski picnic grounds.
Tour of fort and talk by National Park Service Guide.
- 4:00 p.m. Leave for hotel.
- 4:30 p.m. Arrive DeSoto-Hilton Hotel
- 6:00 p.m. Command Post
- 7:00 p.m. Dinner at hotel.
Speaker: Col. Lindsey P. Henderson, Jr.
(USA-Ret.)
Subject: The Volunteer Units of Savannah

Friday, May 1, 1970

- 8:30 a.m. Leave hotel
- 9:00 a.m. Board boat, the *Waving Girl* for boat trip down Savannah River to Tybee Roads.
Box lunches aboard.
- 2:00 p.m. Return to Savannah and depart for Fort McAllister.
- 5:00 p.m. Return to hotel
- 6:30 p.m. Command Post
- 7:30 p.m. Dinner at hotel
Speaker: Federal Judge Alexander A. Lawrence.
Subject: If Longstreet had come up to Gettysburg.

Saturday, May 2, 1970

- 9:00 a.m. Leave hotel
- 9:50 a.m. Arrive at Fort Walker
Visit Fort Sherman, Hilton Head
- 10:45 a.m. Leave Hilton Head
- 11:45 a.m. Luncheon, Anchorage House, Beaufort
Tour of Beaufort
- 2:00 p.m. Leave Beaufort
- 3:30 p.m. Arrive Francis Marion Hotel, Charleston
- 6:00 p.m. Command Post
- 7:00 p.m. Dinner at hotel
Speaker: Warren Ripley, State Editor, *Charleston Evening Post*
Subject: Operations Around Charleston

Sunday, May 3, 1970

- 9:15 a.m. Leave hotel
- 9:45 a.m. Board boat for Fort Sumter
- 12:15 p.m. Return to hotel
Lunch
- 2:00 p.m. Buses leave for Fort Moultrie, on Syllivan's Island
- 4:30 p.m. Buffet at hotel
- 5:30 p.m. Leave hotel for airport
- 6:36 p.m. Depart Charleston. Delta flight #722 (Snack served)
- 7:28 p.m. Arrive Atlanta
- 8:25 p.m. Depart Atlanta, Delta flight #648
- 9:00 p.m. Arrive O'Hare International Airport, Chicago

SUGGESTED READING

By E. B. "Pete" Long



For general study on the areas the *Georgia* and *South Carolina State Guides* of the *American Guide Series* are recommended. More specifically for the Civil War period Bruce Catton's *Centennial History of the Civil War* sets the scene. Volumes I, II, and IV of *Battles and Leaders* contains important articles. In the *Official Records* the following volumes of Series I are the most vital: I, VI, XIV, XXVIII, XXV, XLIV, XLVII. Numerous volumes of the *Navy Official Records* cover the area. *Operations on the Atlantic Coast*.

Charleston-Fort Sumter

(Be sure to consult the National Park Service pamphlet on *Fort Sumter* which will be included in your tour kit.)

- Cardozo, Jacob Newton, *Reminiscences of Charleston*.
Chesnut, May Boykin, *A Diary From Dixie*.
Current, Richard N., *Lincoln and the First Shot*.
Doubleday, Abner, *Reminiscences of Fort Sumter and Moultrie in 1860-61*.
Gilmore, Quincy Adams, *Engineer and Artillery Operations Against the Defences of Charleston Harbor in 1863*.
Heyward, DuBose, and Herbert R. Sass, *Fort Sumter, 1861-65*.
Jervey, Theodore D., *Charleston During the War*.
Johnson, John, *The Defense of Charleston Harbor, 1863-65*.
Jones, Samuel, *The Siege of Charleston*.
Molloy, Robert, *Charleston; A Gracious Heritage*.
Ravenel, Mrs. Harriott H., *Charleston: The Place and the People*.
Ravenel, Henry William, *The Private Journal of Henry William Ravenel*.
Rhett, Robert G., *An Epic of Carolina*.
Stoney, Samuel Gaillard, *This is Charleston; A Survey of the Architectural Heritage of a Unique American City*.
Swanberg, W. A., *First Blood; the Story of Fort Sumter*.
Williams, T. Harry, *P. G. T. Beauregard, Napoleon in Gray*.
- For naval operations at Charleston and along the coast see particularly: Ammen, Daniel, *The Atlantic Coast*; DuPont, Samuel Francis, *A Selection from His Civil War Letters*, edited by Rear Admiral John D. Hayes; Jones, Virgil Carrington, *The Civil War at Sea*, Vols. I and II; Soley, T. R., *The Blockade and the Cruisers*.

Hilton Head-Savannah Area

- (Be sure to see the National Park Service pamphlet, *Fort Pulaski*, which will be included in your tour kit.)
- Carse, Robert, *Department of the South, Hilton Head Island in the Civil War*.
Coulter, E. Merton, *Georgia, A Short History*.
Cox, Jacob D., *The March to the Sea*.
Hart, B. H. Liddell, *Sherman, Soldier, Realist, American*.
Hedley, Fenwick Y., *Marching Through Georgia*.
Hitchcock, Henry, *Marching With Sherman*.
Jones, Charles C., *History of Savannah, Ga.*
Jones, Charles C., *The Siege of Savannah in December, 1864*.
Julian, Allen P., *Presentation of Fort McAllister to the State of Georgia*, pamphlet.
Lawrence, Alexander A., *A Present for Mr. Lincoln, the Story of Savannah from Secession to Sherman*.
Lee, F. D., *Historical Record of the City of Savannah*.
Lewis, Lloyd, *Sherman, Fighting Prophet*.
Rose, Willie Lee, *Rehearsal for Reconstruction, the Port Royal Experiment*.
Sherman, W. T., *Memoirs, Vol. II*.

BATTLES . . . (continued)

in an excellent state of preservation. Between Savannah and Charleston lies a difficult pattern of rivers and swamps. The passage with troops and trains during a season of unusually heavy winter rains made the Campaign of the Carolinas one of

BULLETIN BOARD



CHECK-IN TIME: 7:30 a.m., Thursday, April 30, Delta Air Lines, O'Hare International Airport, with Registrar Margaret April at special desk. Luggage tags and tour packet will be provided.

DEPARTURE: 8:30 a.m., Delta flight #355. Breakfast will be served. 11:09 a.m., arrive Atlanta. 12:15 p.m., depart Atlanta, 1:00 p.m., arrive Savannah.

RETURN: Sunday, May 3. 6:35 p.m., depart Charleston, Delta flight #722. 7:30 p.m., arrive Atlanta. 8:29 p.m., depart Atlanta, Delta flight #648. 9:10 p.m., arrive O'Hare. A snack will be served.

the most difficult logistically in military history. We will travel through a portion of this terrain en route to Beaufort.

First settled in 1562, the Port Royal and Parris island areas by 1861 had become the seat of a wealthy aristocracy. More important to the Union cause, Port Royal sound offered the finest fleet anchorage on the South Atlantic coast. Admiral Du Pont described Port Royal bay as "the finest harbor south of Chesapeake bay, which it resembled in capacity and extent."

On October 29, 1861, an expedition commanded by Brig. Gen. Thomas W. Sherman, sailed from Hampton Roads to seize Port Royal for use as a coaling station for the South Atlantic Blockading Squadron and as a base of military operations against Savannah and Charleston. Convoys by a naval squadron under Flag Officer Samuel F. Du Pont, the expedition arrived off Port Royal on Nov. 4, after a stormy passage in which several vessels were lost and the cargoes of others were jettisoned.

A reconnaissance revealed that the entrance to Port Royal bay was guarded by Fort Walker, on Hilton Head, Fort Beauregard, on Phillip's island, and three gunboats. On Nov. 7, leaving the troop transports at anchor well out of range, Du Pont led his fleet of 15 war steamers and gunboats to the attack. Small and lightly armed, the Confederate gunboats retired quickly, but the forts opened fire as soon as the range was closed.

Although each fought steadily until their guns were dismantled by Du Pont's superior fire power, by 11 a.m. Fort Beauregard was silenced. By 2 p.m., Fort Walker was ordered abandoned and its garrison removed to the mainland.

Port Royal, Beaufort, and Parris island were occupied quickly. For the remainder of the war, Port Royal sound served as a Union base of operations and supply. On March 15, 1862, a Department of the South was created with headquarters at Hilton Head, Maj. Gen. David Hunter, commanding.

At 4:30 a.m. on April 12, 1861, a shot was fired at Fort Sumter, in Charleston Harbor, the last outpost of the Federal Union in the seceded state of South Carolina.

That shot, fired from a 10 inch mortar by Capt. George S. James from Fort Johnson, was the signal for a general bombardment which, after nearly 40 hours of firing by 30 guns and 17 mortars, reduced Fort Sumter to flaming indefensibility, commenced four years of costly war, and opened wounds between two sections of our country which are not all healed.

We shall visit Fort Sumter, by boat, on Sunday morning, May 3. After lunch at the hotel, our buses will take us to Sullivan's island and Fort Moultrie to visit that post which is famous for its part in the attack on Sumter, and its defense by the Confederates, and also for its gallant repulse of a strong British fleet during the Revolution.