

# THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

Volume LV, Battlefield Tour Edition

Chicago, Illinois

May 3-7, 1995

## 45th Annual Battlefield Tour: Charleston May 3-7, 1995

Charleston, South Carolina, "The cradle of secession," is the major site of the 45th annual battlefield tour of The Civil War Round Table. From Wednesday evening, May 3, until mid-afternoon Sunday May 7, the tour will center on the coastal historical areas around Charleston, South Carolina, Savannah, Georgia, and Beaufort, South Carolina. In the Charleston area we will see the target of the first shot of the Civil War — Fort Sumter. Other locations in Charleston Harbor include Fort Moultrie, Fort Johnson, James Island, and the Battle of Secessionville. Close to Savannah are Fort Pulaski and Fort McAllister, and at Beaufort we will view the Parris Island Museum and the Battle of Honey Hill. A complete itinerary appears on page 3.

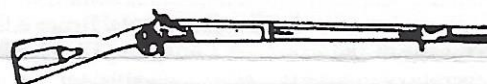
Our bivouac for the first three nights will be the Heart of Charleston Quality Inn, located centrally in downtown Charleston. On the evening of May 6, we will stay at the Beaufort Holiday Inn. You must check out of the Quality Inn prior to boarding the buses Saturday morning, May 6, and bring all of your luggage with you, as we will not return to the hotel. The same applies to Sunday morning, May 7.

Transportation throughout the tour will be by air-conditioned motor coaches. Our chief guide, as usual, will be Edwin C. Bearss, who has been leading our tours since 1961. He will be assisted this year by Dale Phillips, a National Park Service employee who served at Fort Moultrie before assuming his current responsibilities as a Park Service administrator in Lafayette, Louisiana.

### Fort Sumter April 12-13, 1861

In the middle of the entrance to Charleston Harbor is Fort Sumter. Begun in 1829 and named for Thomas Sumter, South Carolina's "Gamecock of the Revolution," Fort Sumter was built on a shoal about 3.3 miles east of Charleston Battery. The fort is about one and one-half miles east of Fort Johnson on James Island, and about one mile southwest of Fort Moultrie on Sullivan's Island.

On November 15, 1860, Major Robert Anderson was posted to Fort Moultrie. Anderson was appalled at the vulnerable and untenable position of the fort. On December 20, 1860, the South Carolina Order of Secession was passed at St. Andrew's Hall in Charleston. Six days later Anderson transferred his tiny garrison of 73 men and a few civilian workmen from Fort Moultrie to Fort Sumter.



### COST OF TOUR

\$435 per person, double occupancy

\$535 single occupancy

\$25 additional for Friday's plantation and antebellum house tour

Please indicate the person with whom you wish to share a room.

**For shuttle limousine service** from Charleston Airport to the Heart of Charleston Quality Inn, use Low Country Limo Service. Call 800-222-4771 for reservations.

**Includes:** Accommodations at the Heart of Charleston Quality Inn (803-722-3391) from Wednesday evening through Friday evening; Beaufort Holiday Inn (803-524-2144) on Saturday evening; lunches and dinners on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, and lunch on Sunday; daily bus transportation; refreshments on buses; experienced guides; all admission fees; badges; group service tips; and evening programs.

Breakfasts are on your own.

Cash bar at Command Posts.

**For variations:** Portions of tour, joining enroute, or individual meetings, or individual nicknames on badges, call or write Carole LeClaire, tour registrar, 8417 Johanna, Niles, IL 60714. 708-698-3228 (home), 708-724-0646 (work).

**Local CWRT groups** and others joining in lunches or dinners, please make reservations through our registrar so that the caterers can be notified.

South Carolina troops occupied Fort Johnson in late December 1860 and later occupied Fort Moultrie. The Rebel troops began construction of gun emplacements at the forts and on the shores of Charleston Harbor. By April 12, 1861, two 10-inch mortar batteries of two mortars each and one three-gun battery had been completed. Under the direction of Anderson's former

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### Battery (Fort) Wagner July 18, 1863

In June 1863, Union Major General Quincy Adams Gillmore replaced General David Hunter as Commander of the South. Gillmore's strategy was to land on the southern tip of Morris Island, then advance up the four-mile island. The Federals hoped to overwhelm Battery Wagner and Battery Gregg on the northern end and use artillery to demolish Fort Sumter.

Battery Wagner mounted eleven heavy guns and had a huge bombproof that could protect 750 men during a bombardment. The fort stretched 800 feet from the ocean to a marsh. Only a frontal attack between the marshes and ocean was feasible.

After one failed attack by Brigadier General George C. Strong's brigade, Gillmore tried again at dusk on July 18. The Federals first attempted to soften up the fort with an intensive artillery bombardment. Strong was chosen to lead seven regiments in the first wave. The 54th Massachusetts Colored Regiment, under Colonel Robert Gould Shaw, spearheaded the attack. The attack proved disastrous for the Union. Shaw was killed and the 54th Massachusetts had a very high casualty rate. However, as a result of this courageous action, many blacks enlisted and fought for the Union during the Civil War.

### Fort McAllister December 13, 1864

In the latter part of Sherman's March to the Sea (November-December 1864), his army advanced to about twenty miles south of Savannah. Sherman's forces were deployed between the Ogeechee and Savannah Rivers, facing Savannah's Rebel defenses. Inside Savannah Rebel General William Hardee rallied 10,000 troops. Confederate General P.G.T. Beauregard told Hardee not to risk his army's capture.

Fort McAllister stood on the south side of the Ogeechee River, near the Atlantic Ocean about fifteen miles from Savannah; it was key to the city's defenses. Although it was manned by less than 200 Confederates, it was strongly constructed of dirt and logs, and was filled with bombproofs. On December 12, Sherman ordered the commander of his right wing, Major General Oliver O. Howard, to capture the fort; Howard assigned the mission to Brigadier General William Hazen. On the afternoon of December 13, Hazen deployed his 1,500 troops for the attack. About 4 p.m., with just an hour of daylight remaining, Hazen's men rushed forward through fallen trees, rows of abatis, and over a large ditch. They climbed the fortress walls and, after ferocious hand-to-hand fighting, overwhelmed the garrison. The fall of Savannah was then merely a matter of time.

### Port Royal Experiment 1862-1865

Federal troops occupied the Sea Islands around Beaufort, South Carolina, in 1862. Although the Confederates fled the islands, more than 10,000 freed slaves remained to work the rich cotton plantations. Many idealistic whites went to the Sea Islands to help the freedmen as teachers

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## TOUR SCHEDULE

Variations will be announced on the tour.  
All times are approximate.

### Wednesday, May 3, 1995

Assemble at the Heart of Charleston Quality Inn in Charleston, headquarters for the first three nights.  
Tour kits will be distributed in the hotel lobby.

### Thursday, May 4, 1995

*Breakfast on your own, as on each day of tour.*

- 8:00 a.m. Board buses. Tour Fort Moultrie and book shop.
- 11:30 a.m. *Lunch* at Mt. Pleasant Holiday Inn.
- 12:30 p.m. Visit Charleston Museum
- 2:00 p.m. Boat ride to Fort Sumter and tour of the fort.
- 5:00 p.m. Return to Quality Inn.
- 6:30 p.m. Command Post. Cash bar at the Governor Thomas Bennett House.
- 7:30 p.m. *Dinner*. Speaker: Edwin C. Bearss

### Friday, May 5, 1995

#### *Regular Tour*

- 8:00 a.m. Board buses. Tour Fort Johnson and vicinity. Ed Bearss will discuss Battery Wagner.
- 11:30 a.m. *Lunch* at A.W. Shuck's in Charleston.
- 1:00 p.m. James Island and Battle of Secessionville
- 5:00 p.m. Return to Quality Inn.
- 6:30 p.m. Command Post. Cash bar.
- 7:30 p.m. *Dinner*. Speaker: Dr. Charles Perry on "Blockade Runners".

#### *Optional Tour (\$25 extra)*

- 9:00 a.m. Depart Quality Inn for Middleton Place.
- 11:45 a.m. *Lunch* at Middleton Place
- 12:45 p.m. Depart Middleton Place.
- 1:30 p.m. Tour Charleston and the Edmonston-Alson House.
- 3:30 p.m. Return to Quality Inn.

### Saturday, May 6, 1995

*Check out of motel.*

- 8:00 a.m. Board buses.
- 10:30 a.m. Tour Fort Pulaski.
- 12:30 p.m. *Lunch* at Williams Restaurant in Savannah.
- 1:30 p.m. Board buses for Fort McAllister.
- 4:00 p.m. Depart Fort McAllister.
- 5:30 p.m. Arrive at Beaufort Holiday Inn.
- 6:30 p.m. Command Post. Cash bar.
- 7:30 p.m. *Dinner* and "Fun Night." Speaker: Marshall Krolick. Presentation: New Life Deliverance Temple Choir led by Pastor D.L. Russell, Jr.

### Sunday, May 7, 1995

*Check out of motel.*

- 8:00 a.m. Presentation by Dr. Steven Wise on Port Royal Experiment.
- 9:00 a.m. Board buses for Parris Island Museum.
- 10:30 a.m. Board buses for Honey Hill Battlefield.
- 11:30 a.m. Depart for Charleston
- 1:00 p.m. *Lunch*. Buses will be available to take you to the airport following lunch.

# Orders and Ammunition

By Marshall D. Krolick



- Barnes, Frank, *Fort Sumter National Monument* (National Park Service Handbook).
- Bragg, William Harris, "An Incident of the Savannah Campaign: The Fight at Honey Hill," *Civil War Times Illustrated*, January, 1984.
- Burton, E. Milby, *The Siege of Charleston 1861-1865*.
- Carse, Robert, *Department of the South*.
- Castel, Albert, "Fort Sumter, 1861," *Civil War Times Illustrated*, October, 1976 (special issue).
- Catton, Bruce, *The Coming Fury* (Vol. I of *The Centennial History of the Civil War*).
- Catton, Bruce, *Never Call Retreat* (Vol III of *The Centennial History of the Civil War*).
- Cox, Jacob D., *The March to the Sea* (Vol X of Scribner's *Campaigns of the Civil War* series).
- Crawford, Samuel Wylie, *The Genesis of the Civil War*.
- Current, Richard N., *Lincoln and the First Shot*.
- Davis, Burke, *Sherman's March*.
- Doubleday, Abner, *Reminiscences of Fort Sumter and Moultrie in 1860-61*.
- Esposito, Vincent J., *The West Point Atlas of the Civil War*.
- Foote, Shelby, *The Civil War: A Narrative*, Vols I and III.
- Gibson, John M., *Those 163 Days*.
- Glaathaar, Joseph T., *The March to the Sea and Beyond*.
- Hendrickson, Robert, *Sumter: The First Day of the Civil War*.
- Johnson, John, *The Defense of Charleston Harbor Including Fort Sumter and the Adjacent Islands 1863-1865*.
- Johnson, Robert U. and Clarence C. Buel, *Battles and Leaders of the Civil War*, Vols I and IV.
- Jones, Charles C., Jr., *The Siege of Savannah*.
- Jones, Samuel, *The Siege of Charleston*.
- Jones, Virgil Carrington, *The Civil War at Sea*.
- Julian, Allen P., "Fort Pulaski," *Civil War Times Illustrated*, May, 1970.
- Keith, Willis J., "Fort Johnson," *Civil War Times Illustrated*, November, 1975.
- Lattimore, Ralston B., *Fort Pulaski National Monument* (National Park Service Handbook).
- Lewis, Lloyd, *Sherman, Fighting Prophet*.
- Marszalek, John F., *Sherman*.
- Meredith, Roy, *Storm Over Sumter*.
- Merrill, James M., *William Tecumseh Sherman*.
- Miles, Jim, *Georgia Civil War Sites*.
- Miles, Jim, *To the Sea*.
- Mosser, Jeffrey, "Gateway to the Atlantic," *Civil War Times Illustrated*, December, 1994.
- Nicolay, John G., *The Outbreak of the Rebellion* (Vol I of Scribner's *Campaigns of the Civil War* series).
- Patterson, Gerald, "The Battle of Secessionville," *Civil War Times Illustrated*, October, 1968.
- Ripley, Warren, "Fort Sumter," *Civil War Times Illustrated*, April, 1970.
- Scaife, William R., *The March to the Sea*.
- Scaife, William R., "Sherman's March to the Sea," *Blue & Gray Magazine*, December, 1989.

## BULLETIN BOARD



**ON THE TOUR:** Please be prompt in boarding the buses at the appropriate time each morning to allow maximum time for touring. A bus marshal will be on each bus to help you. If you plan a side excursion, or for any other reason will not be on the bus, you must notify your bus marshal so that buses are not detained waiting for you.

**Port Royal Experiment** (continued from page 3) and overseers. The blacks were given land to determine their abilities and work ethic.

At the end of the Civil War, as the Federal government wavered in its policies, the freed slaves lost their rich cotton fields — the experiment was over. This meager attempt at land reform of southern plantations — the idea of 40 acres and a mule for each African-American family — never became a reality.

### The Battle of Honey Hill November 30, 1864

In the late fall of 1864 Sherman's march on Savannah was well advanced. To prevent reinforcements from reaching that city, the Union army needed to break the railroad between Charleston and Savannah. On the evening of November 28, Major General John G. Foster left Hilton Head with 5,500 troops. He planned to cut the rail line near Grahamville.

Foster passed command to Brigadier General John P. Hatch who was slow in reaching Grahamville; he did not arrive until after 9 a.m., November 30. By this time the Confederates had massed in his front, although they only numbered about 2,000 Georgia militia. Fighting began when Hatch advanced four of his regiments. He found the Confederates behind earthworks on a stream-bordered crest known as Honey Hill. The defenses at Honey Hill, as well as the terrain, prevented a flank movement. Hatch therefore launched three direct attacks, each of which failed. Finally, Hatch pulled back, having suffered about 750 casualties to the militia's 50.

Sherman, William T., *Memoirs of General William T. Sherman*.

Swanberg, W.A., *First Blood: The Story of Fort Sumter*.

Tilley, John Shipley, *Lincoln Takes Command*.

*War of the Rebellion, Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies*, various series.

*War of the Rebellion, Official Records of the Union and Confederate Navies*, various series.

Wheeler, Richard, *Sherman's March*.

Williams, T. Harry, *P.G.T. Beauregard, Napoleon in Gray*.

Wise, Stephen R., *Gate of Hell*.