The following timeline includes the major incidents that occurred during the Civil War in the Horry-Georgetown Districts. Significant national events relating to the war are listed in boldface.

1860

November 6, 1860: Abraham Lincoln elected president.

December 20, 1860: South Carolina secedes from the Union.

1861

February 9, 1861: The Confederate States of America are formed.

February 27, 1861: Arthur Middleton Manigault tenders his services to the State of South Carolina as captain of the North Santee Mounted Rifles.

April 1861: Fort Randall is officially dedicated at Little River. [Fort Randall was in existence by March, 1861, for at that time Captain Thomas West Daggett, who was in command of the Waccamaw Light Artillery, was trying to lodge his men in Fort Randall and in Fort Ward. Battery Randall used earthen works for fortification. This Confederate fort included a blockhouse pierced for musketry and earthworks surrounded by a ditch about 10 ft. broad and 5 ft. deep. Captain Daggett armed Fort Randall with two 6-pounder cannons and inquired about whether he should also add the 12-pounders which were in the mill yard at Laurel Hill Plantation. In addition to the blockhouse, he also built a magazine in which to store ammunition and arms. The fort was named for Capt. Thomas Randall (1791 - 1872). (Ft. Randall, Little River Neck, Horry County, SC by Ben Burroughs)]

April 12, 1861: Confederates under General P.G.T. Beauregard open fire on Fort Sumter in Charleston, and the Civil War begins.

April 13, 1861: Major William Capers White writes to the Confederate secretary of war to tell him that the thirty-three men and three officers from Captain J. Litchfield's All Saints Riflemen have been posted at Fort Randall in Little River, and twenty-six men and two officers of the Waccamaw Light Artillery, along with twenty men and two officers of the Wachesaw Riflemen, are now stationed at Fort Ward in Murrells Inlet.
April 19, 1861: President Lincoln issues a Proclamation of Blockade against Southern ports.

[August 1861: A Rally Day was attended by everyone who could manage to get to Conwayborough. Capt. Henry Buck sent beef from Bucksville and all the ice needed for lemonade and mint juleps. (The ice was brought from New England as ballast in the ships.) The county’s cooks brought food, and the festivities centered around the courthouse corner and the riverbank. Floyd, Blanche. The Sun News (Myrtle Beach, SC), “Slavery didn’t spur Most in Horry to Fight” (Thursday, July 3, 2003).]

August 1861: Colonel Arthur Middleton Manigault hears a report that Union troops have landed near Pawleys Island. Manigault takes the CSS Nina and, with two companies of infantry, as well as the Georgetown Artillery under Captain James G. Henning, proceeds up to Hagley Plantation on the Waccamaw River. The Union landing turns out to be a false alarm.

August 9, 1861: Colonel Manigault takes a detachment of men onboard the Nina and captures a Union ship, and another Union ship sinks off of Georgetown in a storm.

[October 17, 1861: A notice from the Commissary-General’s Department in Charleston appeared in the newspaper. It called attention to the “great scarcity of bacon and salt beef, articles depended upon for animal food for troops.” The department asked for help in procuring food for the soldiers. Floyd, Blanche. Sun News, The (Myrtle Beach, SC), “Civil War Deserters, Union Raided Area” (17 July 2003).]

November 1861: Federals invade and capture Hilton Head. Robert E. Lee is placed in command of the Department of South Carolina, Georgia and East Florida. Colonel Manigault (later to be promoted to brigadier general) of the Tenth Regiment, South Carolina Volunteers, was named commander of what was then known as the First Military District, which encompassed the defenses from the North Carolina line to the Southantee River. He will write to Lee on November 15, promising, “I will do the best I can should the enemy appear.”

November 2, 1861: The Union steamer USS Osceola founders off of Georgetown, and two boats of crewmen are taken captive and sent to North Island and then on to Charleston.

December 1861: With the threat of invasion in Georgetown less likely now that the Federals hold Hilton Head, troops in the Georgetown to Little River district are reduced to one thousand men.

December 13, 1861: Lieutenant George W. Browne of the USS Fernandina reports that he witnessed what he believed to be more than forty signal fires along the coast at Little River, which he judged were guides for a blockade runner or runners attempting to come in. Based on the number of men he saw when he ran in closer to shore, he realized that “there was an encampment of Confederate troops and the distant fires were their picket guard.”

December 24, 1861: Chased and fired on by the USS Gem of the Sea, the blockade runner Prince of Wales grounds while attempting to run in at North Inlet. Union seamen try to tow it off as a prize, but a company of Confederate cavalry, led by Captain John H. Tucker, and a Confederate patrol, led by Lieutenant R.Z. Harlee, from Company D of the Tenth South Carolina Regiment, open fire. The Federals claim that the Confederate shots rain down “as fast as the scoundrels could fire their pieces.” The Federals relinquish their prize.

1862

[1862: The Francis Marion, came up on the Waccamaw from Georgetown to transport newly recruited Confederate troops. Floyd, Blanche. The Sun News, “Civil War Deserters, Union Raided Area” (Thursday, July 17, 2003).]

February 14, 1862: The Gem of the Sea sights a schooner trying to run in at Georgetown, and though the Gem fires on it and chases it for three hours, the schooner escapes.

February 27, 1862: The Gem of the Sea sights the schooner British Queen trying to run into Georgetown, and though the Gem loses it in the darkness, it will be captured off of Wilmington by the USS Mount Vernon the next day.

March 12, 1862: The Gem of the Sea captures the British blockade runner Fair Play off of Georgetown. The Fair Play will be armed with four twelve-pound howitzers and converted to a Federal ship of war later that year.

March 14, 1862: General John C. Pemberton is placed in overall command of the district.

March 20-27, 1862: The Confederate steamer CSS Nashville, the first ship to fly the Confederate flag in England when it arrived in Southampton in October 1861, is in Georgetown. On October 27, the commander of the USS Keystone State will learn that he has just missed it.

March 25, 1862: Pemberton writes Colonel Manigault, stating, “Having maturely considered the subject, I have determined to withdraw the forces from Georgetown, and therefore to abandon the position. You will proceed with all the infantry force under your command to this city, Charleston, and report to Brigadier General Ripley.”
March 28, 1862: Manigault’s troops leave for Charleston, and 903 men arrive in Mount Pleasant on April 3.

April 3, 1862: The USS Keystone State chases the runner Seabrook as it is coming out from Georgetown, and though it runs into the Santee to avoid capture, it is bottomed and crippled there.

April 10, 1862: The 180-ton schooner Liverpool tries to run into Georgetown, and as the Keystone State chases it, the Liverpool runs aground. Its crew burns it to prevent capture. Colonel Robert F. Graham of the Twenty-first South Carolina, who had remained in command of Georgetown after the transfer of Manigault and his men, is also ordered out of Georgetown. Command of the district now passes to Confederate Major William P. Emanuel.

April 15, 1862: The Keystone State and the Gem of the Sea chase a suspicious ship that proves to be the blockade runner Success. Though the ship flies the British flag, Commander William Le Roy of the Keystone State knows it to be "the former privateer Dixie, lately the Kate Hale, and now the Success." The ship is seized along with its cargo of "100 bales of cotton, 234 barrels spirits turpentine, 40 bushels peanuts, and 3000 pounds rice."

April 25, 1862: Commander Le Roy of the Keystone State writes to Union Admiral Samuel F. DuPont and notes "the importance of Georgetown as a place for receiving and distributing supplies for the rebel states." He asks for "more vessels to blockade its waters."

May 13, 1862: The CSS Planter, a 300-ton side-wheel steamship, served the Confederate Army as an armed only with Quaker guns [dummy guns].

May 22, 1862: The Albatross and the Norwich steam into Georgetown. Confederate Major William P. Emanuel has his men set fire to the turpentine-laden brig Joseph and set it adrift to block the Union ships, but to no effect. Later that afternoon, the two Union ships go up the Waccamaw River and raid a mill, carrying off eighty slaves in the process.

May 26, 1862: The blockade runners Lucy Holmes, Emma and Caroline all run out of the Santee successfully.

May 31, 1862: Union General Daniel Hunter thinks that the Georgetown area should be a high-priority target, noting that "there is said to be 4,000,000 or 5,000,000 bushels of rice there. It is important that we should have this rice, and that the enemy should be deprived of it."

June 1, 1862: General Robert E. Lee assumes command of the Confederate Army of Northern Virginia.

June 3, 1862: The Gem of the Sea captures the blockade runner Mary Stewart.

June 5, 1862: The Gem of the Sea goes up the South Santee and picks up five contrabands [escaped slaves or slaves taken behind Union lines] from Blake’s Plantation.

June 20, 1862: Federals in the Albatross capture the blockade runner Louisa and the tug Treaty near Georgetown. The schooner Louisa is captured on the Santee loaded with 147 bales of cotton and two lighters of rice. The tug Treaty is captured off the Georgetown bar and will eventually be sheathed with two-inch planks and armed with a rifled howitzer for use against the Confederates.

June 24, 1862: A Federal expedition consisting of the Albatross and the steamers USS Western World, USS E.B. Hale and USS Henry Andrew, as well as the steam tug North Santee, head up the South Santee River, intent on destroying the Northeastern Railroad bridge. Several ships run aground.

June 25, 1862: It becomes obvious that only the E.B. Hale can actually make it upriver, so the mission that began on the twenty-fourth is aborted. On the way back downriver, the ships are fired upon by Confederate "artillery, riflemen, and cavalry" according to Commander George Prentiss. Union marines burn Blake’s Plantation and destroy a large supply of rice. Union soldiers plunder the plantation, prompting a rebuke from Secretary of the Navy Gideon Welles. On the northern
end of the coast, boats from the USS Penobscot, the USS Mystic, the USS Mount Vernon, the USS Victoria and two from the USS Monticello enter Little River inlet to destroy blockade runners reported to be there. The Federals destroy two schooners, sixty bales of cotton, two hundred barrels of turpentine and fifty-three barrels of rosin.

June 30, 1862: Federal ships ascend the Waccamaw River in order to secure five lighters of rice to feed the growing contrabands colony on North Island.

July 2, 1862: The USS Western World captures the British runner Volante in Winyah Bay. It carries a cargo of salt and fish. Other Confederate ships and runners in the area at the time include the Nina; the Weenee, a 50-ton side-wheel steamer; the Orah Peck, a 150-ton schooner; and the General Ripley, a 175-ton side-wheel steamer.

July 3, 1862: Federal Naval Commander George Prentiss declares attempts to ascend the South Santee River a "failure" and orders the E.B. Hale and the Henry Andrew out of the area.

July 5, 1862: In light of recent Union incursions in the Georgetown area, Adjutant and Inspector General Samuel Cooper suggests to General Pemberton that "it would be well to occupy...Georgetown, constructing the necessary works, and placing...a garrison of the best artillery sufficient to serve the requisite number of guns, so as to prevent the entrance of marauding vessels." Pemberton replies, "We cannot protect the whole coast. If it is attempted to put guns in position at...Georgetown they will be lost."

July 10, 1862: Pressed again by Cooper to fortify Georgetown, Pemberton argues, "It is absolutely impossible to put guns on...South or Cat Islands, near Georgetown. The enemy's gunboats can always prevent it; they command those places." On July 11, Pemberton again argues, "No more troops can be spared for the defense of Georgetown and vicinity. Heavy guns for that purpose are out of the question."

July 21, 1862: The Western World, the Gem of the Sea and the Treaty steam into Murrells Inlet, and while a Federal landing party is demolishing saltworks, they are attacked by twenty-five Confederates. Though under fire, the Federals destroy the saltworks, scattering the salt among the sand at a cost of only two Federal wounded.

July 29, 1862: The USS Pocahontas goes up the Waccamaw River, taking on twenty-eight contrabands at Dr. Joseph Magill's plantation.

August 1862: Acting on a request from Confederate secretary of the navy Stephen R. Mallory, Annapolis graduate Lieutenant Alphonse Barbot recommends Mars Bluff, S.C., as the site for a Confederate navy yard. [The yard, at first, had one mission: to build a wooden warship that could traverse the deep Pee Dee and slip through the Union naval blockade at one of its weak points, Georgetown's Winyah Bay. But as work progressed and the yard grew, it became valuable as a producer of raw materials like timber for the war effort, and served as a supply transfer station for other military sites. Eventually, workers at Mars Bluff built some river and torpedo boats, and its pride and joy, the CSS Pee Dee...Marion County residents, Union prisoners from a prison camp in Florence, Confederate officers and a contingent of Negro slaves worked there for nearly four years, producing munitions and other military material, until the fall of Charleston in 1865 and Union Gen. William T. Sherman's march through South Carolina. Morgan, Mike. Sun News, The (Myrtle Beach, SC), “Sifting through History,” 15 March 1998]

August 3, 1862: Deferring to higher authorities at last, General Pemberton visits Georgetown to select locations on which to build new forts to defend Georgetown and block access to all of the area's rivers. He selects Mayrant's Bluff and Frazier's Point on Winyah Bay for the sites of the new forts.

August 7, 1862: As a stop-gap measure until the forts on Winyah Bay are completed, Confederate troops re-occupy the fort at Laurel Hill with a force of 150 men, and new earthworks up the Black River are garrisoned as well.

August 8, 1862: Alarmed by the July attacks by the Federals on the LaBruce and Ward saltworks in Murrells Inlet, Peter Vaught writes to Columbia to ask for state troops to guard property and saltworks he owns in what is now Myrtle Beach. [See letter on page 12.]

August 14, 1862: The Pocahontas and the Treaty set out in search of the Nina, the Waccamaw Light Artillery and any fortifications that they can destroy. Confederate batteries at Sparkman's Plantation open fire. Commander Balch of the Pocahontas notes, "The bluffs were lined with troops, and for a distance of 20 miles we had to run the gauntlet." Major Emanuel claims, "I don't think the enemy's loss could have been less than 50 killed and wounded."

August 29, 1862: General Pemberton is relieved of command of the district and transferred, and Confederate General P.G.T. Beauregard is given command of the Department of South Carolina, Georgia and East Florida.

September 17, 1862: Major William Capers White, who was one of the first officers to organize the defenses along the coast, is killed at Sharpsburg.

October 1862: Beauregard selects a local man, Brigadier General James Heyward Trapier, to command the
troops in the Georgetown area. Confederate Charles Ost laments the lack of safe ports between Georgetown and Cape Fear. Major A.B. Magruder suggests Little River, as it “is not down on the charts nor on the coast survey, and its existence even certainly its harbor and anchorage ground—is hardly known to any Yankee. Communications from a little village or post-office called Little River, about 4 or 6 miles from the mouth, are readily had with the interior by country roads, etc., with Charleston and Wilmington. A pilot can be had at Wilmington to meet and bring in vessels from the coast, and rosin and turpentine in any quantity can be procured for return cargo; also cotton, lumber, etc.”

October 8, 1862: Beauregard writes to Governor Francis Pickens and assures him that he has given orders for the construction of a battery of five or six pieces of artillery for the defense of Winyah Bay.

November 10, 1862: General Beauregard writes to Colonel James Chestnut in Columbia and orders a regiment of state troops to Trapier’s position to man the “batteries until other forces can be sent in that direction.” Beauregard sends an engineer to examine the Santee in order to find sites for underwater obstructions, to fortify a battery at Nowell’s Point and to construct a new battery on the North Santee at Ladson’s Bluff.

November 11, 1862: Two Federal gunboats steam into Winyah Bay and start firing on the fort at Mayrant’s Bluff. They are met by returning fire from the Second South Carolina Artillery under the command of Captain Frederick F. Warley. After a few minutes, the Federals retire.

November 17, 1862: Trapier is appalled at the state militia he has been sent, noting that they “arrived without arms and without ammunition...It is questionable whether they can be rendered efficient...even if well armed and equipped. At present they are literally worth nothing at all.”

November 21, 1862: Federal naval commander J.C. Beaumont of the USS Sebago notes that construction is under way at Mayrant’s Bluff.

November 24, 1862: The USS Monticello bombards and destroys two extensive saltworks near Little River Inlet.

December 16, 1862: Secretary Mallory writes to lieutenant William G. Dozier, who is in charge of operations at the Mars Bluff navy yard, and notifies him that “the department relies on you to complete [your work], in the shortest possible time...push the work on night and day.”

December 24, 1862: Secretary Mallory writes to Lieutenant Dozier once again, telling him that “a paymaster and constructor are on the way to Mars Bluff to report to you.” A large detail of men, including Acting Naval Constructor John L. Porter, CSN, shipwrights and the support staff the navy yard needs, are soon on site, and the work begins.

December 30, 1862: Runaway slaves taken aboard the USS Victoria inform the Federals that two blockade runners, the Argyle and the James Bailey, are anchored at Little River and are ready to run out.

December 31, 1862: A reconnaissance party from the Victoria attempts to land near Little River but encounters a patrol of Confederate cavalry from Fort Randall and is forced to withdraw. The Federals proceed upriver and attempt another landing but again stumble on Confederate pickets.

1863

January 1, 1863: President Lincoln issues the Emancipation Proclamation, freeing all slaves in territories held by Confederates.

January 2, 1863: The Victoria captures the schooner Argyle, although the runner James Bailey is able to slip away in the confusion and run out.
January 5, 1863: Twenty-five men led by Lieutenant William B. Cushing briefly capture Fort Randall until they are driven out by Confederate troops.

January 11, 1863: USS Matthew Vassar, Acting Master Hugh H. Savage, captured schooner Florida off Little River Inlet, South Carolina, with cargo of salt for the Confederacy.

January 15, 1863: The Lotus, a ship out of Boston carrying supplies for the Federal troops stationed at Port Royal, runs ashore on North Island. Commander Beaufort of the USS Sebago notes that when his men attempt to remove the cargo, they are surprised to find liquor hidden among the supplies. Most of the cargo is lost.

[January 31, 1863: The First South Carolina Volunteers was a Union Army regiment composed of escaped slaves from South Carolina and Florida. (There had been previous attempts to form black units in New Orleans and Kansas, but they were not officially recognized. The 54th Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry... was formed afterwards and drew from free Northern blacks)...Although it saw some combat, the regiment was not involved in any of the war's major battles. Its first commander was Thomas Wentworth Higginson who was—as were all the other officers—white. ... As a hangover from the "contraband" days, black privates were paid $10 per month, the rate for laborers, rather than the $13 paid to white privates. Besides serving as the precedent for the over 170,000 "colored" troops that served in the Union Army the men have significance in cultural history. Col. Higginson, a significant literary figure, was able to document the Gullah dialect spoken by the men and make a record of the spirituals that they sang, material that might otherwise not have been well preserved. The regiment was re-designated the 33rd Infantry Regiment, U.S. Colored Troops on February 8, 1864. Colored Troops from South Carolina - 5,462 http://en.wikipedia.org/ and wiki-i/1st_South_Carolina_Volunteers_%28Union%29]

February 1863: Battery White at Mayrant's Bluff is complete.

February 3, 1863: General Trapier reports that Captain Warley has fifty-three men at Battery White manning nine guns. The Waccamaw Light Artillery is stationed at Frazier's Point with fieldpieces.

February 9, 1863: Reconnaissance boats from the USS Maratanzia capture a Confederate supply boat, five soldiers and supplies heading for Fort Randall. They learn that there is one company of cavalry and one company of infantry stationed at Fort Randall, totaling 175 men in all.

February 22, 1863: The Matthew Vassar and the Victoria report barely missing a steamer running out of Little River. Later that night, a runner trying to enter the inlet sees the two Union ships on blockading duty and returns to the high seas.

February 24, 1863: A steamer trying to run into Little River comes upon a patrolling Federal guard boat from the Matthew Vassar but escapes when the Federals try to board it.

February 24, 1863: The English blockade runner Queen of the Wave runs aground in the North Santee River and is set afire by its captain to keep it from being captured. On the morning of the twenty-fifth, the ship is still visible and unburned, so sailors from the USS Conemaugh set out to destroy it. The Conemaugh's men discover onboard seven Confederate soldiers of the Waccamaw Light Artillery who had been conducting salvage operations all night. The Confederates surrender, and are taken onboard the USS Quaker City. The Queen of the Wave is blown up.

March 1863: The allotment of troops in the district area is 336 cavalry and 142 artillerists, a total of 478 men.

March 3, 1863: The Matthew Vassar sends Acting Master's Mate George Drain and a party of seven men to destroy a boat beached near Little River, but Confederate troops from Fort Randall capture them. Captain Benjamin F. Sands of the USS Dacotah is so incensed at the capture of Drain and the men from the Matthew Vassar—under circumstances "so unaccountable...that it looks to me very like a desertion, or at best an act of recklessness without apparent object, and a great want of ordinary prudence and caution"—that he orders the Matthew Vassar relieved of duty in the area.

March 30, 1863: The USS Monticello captures the steamer Sun off of Little River. The Sun has apparently recently unloaded salt somewhere between Georgetown and Little River.


April 20-21, 1863: Commander A.K. Hughes of the USS Cimarron sends a party of thirty armed men to destroy a mill upriver below Georgetown.

April 25, 1863: While chasing a blockade runner. Lieutenant Commander D.L. Braine of the USS Monticello notes that in Murrells Inlet "there are five large schooners and large buildings, evidently storehouses." He writes to his superior, Captain Charles S. Boggs, "With your permission, I can easily destroy them in a day, and I would like to do so, if it meets with your approval." Boggs tells Braine, "I hope you can clear out this nest...if successful, run no risk in bringing out prizes, but destroy them."
April 27, 1863: The Monticello and the Matthew Vassar appear at Murrells Inlet and shell the inlet for more than two hours. The Federals send out boats and destroy the schooner Golden Liner, [loaded with a cargo of flour, brandy, sugar, and coffee for the straitened South] along with two storehouses nearby. The Federals learn that more than two hundred Confederate infantry and cavalry are approaching, and they return to their ships. One Federal sailor is wounded and another is captured in the retreat. The Monticello and the Matthew Vassar resume their bombardment of the inlet, which continues until the ships withdraw later that afternoon.

April 29, 1863: After the attack on Murrells Inlet on the twenty-seventh, Confederate Lieutenant Colonel Joseph Yates calls up a section of artillery from Georgetown for Murrells Inlet and orders Captain Boykin to bring down his troops from Fort Randall. "They are not aware of present force at that point," he writes, "and will no doubt make another effort [to attack]."

May 3, 1863: The USS Maratanza and the USS Chocura anchor off of Murrells Inlet and begin shelling. The Federals send ashore a boat, and Major Emanuel's Fourth South Carolina Cavalry opens fire, killing one Federal sailor and seriously wounding three others. After this failure, Commander G.H. Scott of the Maratanza cautiously notes that he is "convinced from the rebel forces at this place of the utter impracticability of attempting a boat expedition for the destruction of the vessels, as the route is long, circuitous, and protected for a great distance by thickly wooded banks, affording the best possible cover for the large number of infantry now collected here."

May 8-9, 1863: The Fourth South Carolina Cavalry leaves the district on the ninth, having been replaced by two companies of the Twenty-first Battalion Georgia Cavalry on the eighth. In addition to the Georgia troops in Murrells Inlet and Georgetown, there is a company of cavalry under Captain John H. Tucker, Captain Ward's Waccamaw Artillery and Company D of the Second South Carolina Artillery under Lieutenant William E. Charles. Lieutenant Colonel Yates, however, is told that Murrells Inlet is "not regarded as of great military importance," though the Federals appear to believe otherwise. On May 8, Rear Admiral Samuel DuPont orders the USS Conemaugh and the USS Flambeau to Murrells Inlet to "establish a blockade off that entrance."

May 11, 1863: The Conemaugh and the Monticello anchor about two thousand yards off of Murrells Inlet and begin shelling. The Federals do not attempt a landing, however, as Commander Reed Werden of the Conemaugh reports though that "the inlet [is] too narrow for [his ship] to enter" and that "the enemy have increased their force, having now artillery, cavalry, and infantry." In two and a half hours, his ship alone fires more than one hundred rounds of ammunition, and the Federal bombardment damages five ships in the inlet. One, the Golden Liner, is completely destroyed.

June 23, 1863: The Flambeau captures the blockade runner Bettie Cratzer off of Murrells Inlet.

July 1-3, 1863: The Battle of Gettysburg is a major Confederate defeat and the tide of the war turns against the South.

July 4, 1863: General John Pemberton, now in command of Vicksburg, surrenders thirty thousand Confederate troops to Ulysses S. Grant. It will be the last assignment Pemberton will ever have as a general.

[July 18, 1863: Negro troops of the 54th Massachusetts Infantry Regiment under Col. Robert G. Shaw assault fortified Rebels at Fort Wagner. Col. Shaw and half of the 600 men in the regiment are killed as the assault fails. (History Place- www.historyplace.com/)]

October 5, 1863: In the defense of Charleston, the CSS David makes the first successful torpedo attack on a warship in military history.

October 16, 1863: Rear Admiral John A. Dahlgren, now commanding the South Atlantic Blockading Squadron, writes to Master W.L. Babcock of the USS T.A. Ward and orders Babcock to Murrells Inlet "for the purpose of observing a strict blockade of the place."

October 17, 1863: The blockade runner Rover attempts to run into Murrells Inlet and is driven ashore. The Rover's crew removes its cargo to a spot behind the sand dunes and burns the ship.

October 20, 1863: In Murrells Inlet, after the T.A. Ward shells "a large frame building, where it supposed Rebel cavalry were concealed," two boats go ashore. They are surprised by Confederate cavalry, and one Federal is killed and the others are captured.

November 4, 1863: Admiral Dahlgren writes to Secretary of the Navy Gideon Welles and notes that the Confederates are using Murrells Inlet because the blockade of Charleston "is driving speculators to the smaller ports." "I shall dispatch a gunboat to stop that game," Dahlgren writes.

November 5, 1863: Four Federal ships--the USS Fulton, the USS Nansemond, the USS Howqua and the USS Keystone State--are sent after and capture the... blockade runner Margaret and Jessie off of what is now Myrtle Beach.

November 6, 1863: Admiral Dahlgren sends the gunboat USS Ottawa to the blockade at Murrells Inlet.
December 5, 1863: In what will become the most controversial event in the district during the war, the USS Perry lands two boats below Murrells Inlet. Confederate cavalry bear down on them and force their retreat, and another company of cavalry take the boats, forcing their surrender. One Federal prisoner is shot and killed, and George Brimsmaid, a black freedman, [was allegedly] marched off and hanged. [However, even Union officials could not confirm this.] The final toll is four Federal dead, and the Confederates have one man killed and another two wounded. Disgusted by this latest debacle, Dahlgren says, "It was a blundering affair, without judgment on the part of the commanding officer, and aggravated by the alleged disobedience of the officer sent ashore in charge of the party."

December 23, 1863: Admiral Dahlgren, angered by repeated Union failures in Murrells Inlet, writes, "I desire...to administer some corrective to the small parties of rebels who infest that vicinity, and shall detail for that purpose the Nipsic, Sanford, Geranium, and Daffodil, and also the sailing bark [Ethan] Allen and the schooner Mangham, 100 Marines for landing, and four howitzers, two for boats, two on field carriages, with such boats as may be needed."

December 29, 1863: The USS Nipsic, the USS Sanford, the USS Daffodil and the USS Ethan Allen, with a landing force of 250 men, set out for Murrells Inlet, and on the thirtieth, they are joined by the USS George Mangham. A storm disperses the ships before the attack can commence.

1864

January 1864: There are now eleven pieces of artillery in Battery White, though none of the guns is large enough to repel ironclads.

January 1, 1864: The Nipsic returns to bombraid Murrells Inlet and to destroy a schooner. Forty men in two cutters with thirty marines open fire on the schooner, and Admiral Dahlgren reported "she took fire and, with a valuable cargo of turpentine, was soon in one blaze." These men returned to the Nipsic without mishap.

January 7, 1864: The blockade runner Dare is run aground north of Georgetown at North Inlet by the USS Aries and the USS Montgomery. The Federals attempt to land a shore party to salvage the ship, but the barges capsize and three seamen drown. The survivors are captured by Major William P. White, commander of the Twenty-first Georgia Cavalry, and Second lieutenant Thomas Young and Private Lemuel Robertson, both of Company C of White's regiment, without firing a shot.

January 12, 1864: The Aries leaves the blockade runner Vesta "a complete wreck, with five feet of water in her" at Little River. [The Confederate government ordered five steel paddle steamers with which to run the block-
ade off the Carolina coast. These were the *Hebe*, *Juno*, *Venus*, *Ceres* and *Vesta*. Two were captured and three were destroyed in 1863, the first year of service. Berry, C. B. *Sun News, The* (Myrtle Beach, SC), “Confederate Fort graced Local River,” 27 June 1992.

January 19, 1864: Confederate pickets report three Union ships patrolling just below Battery White.

February 1, 1864: General Trapier notes the desertions of the Third and Fourth South Carolina state troops, under the command of Lieutenant Colonel R. A. Rouse and Colonel J. H. Witherspoon.

February 17, 1864: Trapier writes to Beauregard, lamenting conditions in the district and noting that he now has only about three hundred men in his command. He argues that unless he is given more troops, "the navy yard at Mars Bluff [will] be exposed to almost certain destruction. For even supposing [Union] boats should not be able to navigate the river so high up, a few hundred cavalry, landed on its banks 20 or 30 miles below, could by a sudden dash complete the work of destruction in a very few hours."

**February 17, 1864:** The CSS *Hunley* rams the USS *Housatonic* using a torpedo attached to a spar, and the *Housatonic* goes down in minutes.

March 1864: The two companies of the Twenty-first Georgia Cavalry that have been stationed in Murrells Inlet and Company D of the Second South Carolina Artillery are transferred out of the district; they will eventually be replaced by Company B of the German Artillery.

March 1, 1864: Off of little River, the USS *Connecticut* captures the blockade runner *Scotia*, a side-wheel steamer out of Glasgow laden with 220 bales of cotton.

March 2, 1864: The Union navy lands troops below Battery White and pushes back the Confederate pickets, though no further action ensues.

March 8, 1864: Trapier reports that Battery White is "well-constructed and of ample dimensions" but "feebly armed."

March 18, 1864: Captain Tucker's company of independent cavalry is made Company F of the regular Seventh South Carolina Cavalry and sent to Virginia.

April 15, 1864: The Federals station two more ships, the USS *Ethan Allen* and the USS *Cimarron*, in the Georgetown area in order to shut down the blockade-running traffic.

April 16, 1864: Robert Blake, one of the contrabands sent to North Island after the Union raid up the Santee on June 24, 1862, wins the Congressional Medal of Honor for bravery while serving on the USS *Marblehead*. He is just the second African American to be so designated and the first to actually receive the medal. [Blake was born into slavery in South Santee, S.C. In June 1862, his owner's plantation was burned during a Union naval expedition up the Santee River. About 400 slaves from the plantation, including Blake, were taken as contraband onto Union ships and sent to North Island in Winyah Bay. While on North Island, Blake answered a call for twenty single men to serve on the USS *Vermont*. Blake was later promoted to seaman and re-enlisted for another term in the Navy. During his second enlistment, he served again on the USS *Vermont*. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Robert_Blake_%28Medal_of_Honor%29]

April 21, 1864: The *Cimarron* slips up the Santee River and destroys a rice mill and five thousand bushels of rice. The *Ethan Allen* sets out from Murrells Inlet, heads up the coast and destroys Peter Vaught's saltworks. The works include three warehouses, one of which was a Confederate blockhouse (or fort) and forty-eight salt pans mounted, with twelve more standing ready to be mounted.

April 22, 1864: The *Ethan Allen* destroys another saltworks at Withers Swash.

April 30, 1864: Confederate naval Lieutenant Oscar Johnson, a graduate of the United States Naval Academy, is sent to Mars Bluff with a contingent of ninety men and officers to assume command of the *Pee Dee* when it is ready to be launched.

May 1864: The armament at Battery White consists of a thirty-two-pound smoothbore, one twelve-pound smoothbore, six twenty-four-pound smoothbores, one six-pound smoothbore, three thirty-two-pound rifles, three twelve-pound rifles and one three-and-a-half-inch Blakely. The Waccamaw Light Artillery had three six-pounders and one three-and-a-half-inch Blakely at the unfinished earthworks and trenches on Frazier’s Point.
May 14, 1864: Admiral Dahlgren writes that he and General John Porter Hatch, who had more than fourteen thousand men in his command, are planning "an incursion...into the country between Georgetown and Murrells Inlet." However, Hatch is relieved of command and the plans are cancelled.

June 2, 1864: The USS Wamsutta chases the side wheel steamer Rose to ground on North Island. As soon as the Rose sees the Wamsutta approaching, she runs for the south end of Pawleys Island but accidentally "runs ashore near the wreck of another steamer and some buildings on the beach." The Wamsutta sends a boat to save the vessel as a prize, but seventy-five Confederate cavalrmen come from the north end of Pawleys Island and open fire on the Federals, forcing them to abandon the project.

September 1864: Captain Thomas West Daggett and Lieutenant Stephen A. Rouquie construct [torpedo] mines on the second floor of a store owned by the Rouquies on Front Street in Georgetown. Daggett has the mines laid at strategic intervals in Winyah Bay, ready to detonate if struck by an invading Federal warship. One of their mines will sink the Harvest Moon in March 1865.

October 5, 1864: Eleven privates from Company B of the German Artillery desert to the USS Patomska. The Federals learn that "at Battery White there are ten guns...in the rear of the battery there is a section of artillery consisting of two rifled 12-pounders."

October 29, 1864: Admiral John Dahlgren writes to Commander N.B. Harrison on the USS Canandaigua, "I have been informed that the Rebels have built a Gunboat on the 'Peedee,' which may be expected to come down as soon as the river is high enough. She is said to be of light draft, and to carry eight guns, of which two are ten inch. The account may be exaggerated but it is well to be prepared."

November 8, 1864: Abraham Lincoln is re-elected president, defeating George B. McClellan.

November 15, 1864: General Sherman, with sixty-two thousand men, begins his March to the Sea in an attempt to demoralize the South and hasten surrender.

November 19, 1864: General Trapier, who has only 361 men and twenty-two officers in the district, loses Kirk’s Rangers and Gaillard’s Artillery.

December 21, 1864: General Sherman reaches Savannah, leaving a three-hundred-mile swath of destruction in his wake, all the way from Atlanta.

December 22, 1864: Off of Savannah, the Harvest Moon becomes grounded in the mud and is unable to be moved until the following day. General William T. Sherman is aboard for a council of war, and having left orders for his army to stay put in his absence, General William Hardee's Confederates are able to evacuate Savannah that same night. Sherman writes on January 1, 1865, to Chief of Staff General Henry Halleck, lamenting the fact that he is "very much disappointed" as a result.

1865

January 1865: By the end of the month, the highest-ranking officer left in the district is Lieutenant Hermann Klatte, who has been ordered to hold out for as long as possible and then withdraw.


[January 31, 1865 – The U.S. Congress passes the Thirteenth Amendment, which abolishes slavery throughout the United States. The amendment is then submitted to the states for ratification. (History Place - www.historyplace.com/)]

February 5, 1865: Lieutenant William B. Cushing takes fifty men in four boats from the USS Monticello and captures Little River. His men destroy an estimated $15,000 worth of cotton on the docks there.

February 17-18, 1865: Charleston falls and Sherman's troops burn Columbia.

February 20, 1865: Lieutenant Klatte and the German Artillery finally evacuate Battery White, and the people of Georgetown are left to their own devices.

February 25, 1865: Georgetown surrenders and the town is occupied by six companies of Federal marines.

February 26, 1865: The CSS Pee Dee completes its only mission successfully by covering the retreat of General Hardee's troops as they cross the Pee Dee River at
February 26, 1865: Admiral John Dahlgren arrives in Georgetown and declares martial law.

February 28, 1865: Admiral Dahlgren inspects Battery White, noting, "Generally it has been much underrated...but we can now understand it was well placed, well constructed, and strongly armed, so we should have had some trouble to reduce it if well manned."

March 1865: Georgetown citizens meet with Captain H.S. Stellwagen of the Pawnee and ask for help. About thirty Confederate deserters have commandeered a flatboat and are raiding up and down the Waccamaw River, and Stellwagen orders the Mingoe upriver to search for the marauders. Later in March, another expedition is mounted to drive out the deserters, this time involving the Mingoe, the Catalpa, four large launches, ten boats and three hundred troops.

March 1, 1865: Admiral Dahlgren orders the Harvest Moon to head back to Charleston. At about 7:45 a.m., the Harvest Moon strikes a "torpedo" [assembled by Confederate Captain Thomas Daggett and placed in the channel] and sinks in less than five minutes in Winyah Bay, five miles SSE of the city of Georgetown. After the Harvest Moon is stripped of every usable piece of equipment, it is officially abandoned as a wreck in April.

March 4-15, 1865: Lieutenant Oscar Johnson and his men burn the Pee Dee after all usable supplies and ammunition are unloaded. Lieutenant Johnson has the crew fire a single defiant shot into the woods.

March 13, 1865: Confederate Congress authorizes President Jefferson Davis to recruit slave men as soldiers, with the permission of their owners; Confederate War Department issues order governing the enlistment on March 23.

April 9, 1865: General Lee surrenders to General Ulysses S. Grant at Appomattox Court House, Virginia. [Grant allows Rebel officers to keep their sidearms and permits soldiers to keep horses and mules. (History Place - www.historyplace.com/)]

April 9, 1865: On April 9, 1865, the day that Robert E. Lee surrendered at Appomattox Court House, Federal troops under Gen. Edward E. Potter occupied Sumter in one of the last battles of the war. 158 Confederates rallied by Col. George W. Lee stopped, for several hours, the advance of 2700 Union troops under Gen. Edward E. Potter.

April 14-15, 1865: The Stars and Stripes is ceremoniously raised over Fort Sumter. That night, Lincoln and his wife Mary see the play "Our American Cousin" at Ford's Theater. At 10:13 p.m., during the third act of the play, John Wilkes Booth shoots the president in the head. Doctors attend to the president in the theater then move him to a house across the street. He never regains consciousness. Lincoln dies the following day and Andrew Johnson is inaugurated as President. (History Place - www.historyplace.com/)

April 22, 1865: ...By 1803, the Conwayborough courthouse was ready for the village of Kingston (now Conway) and record keeping was started for Horry District at that time and continues today. However, the records covering Horry [1770] to 1803 were not transferred to Conway but were retained in Georgetown. During the Civil War, officials feared Georgetown might be raided and the Executive Council in Columbia passed a resolution: "That the Clerk of the Court of Common Pleas and General Sessions: Sheriff, Register of Mesne Conveyance and Commission of Equity for Georgetown be instructed by the Chief Justice and Police to move the books and respective office and other valuable papers in their possession to the town of Cheraw, or such other safe places as may be approved by Messrs. F.S. Parker, R.F.W. Allston and R.I. Middleton or a majority of them." On April 22... the records were taken to the Chesterfield Courthouse where they were stored. From his memoirs, Gen. William T. Sherman says, "On the second of March [1865] we entered the Village of Chesterfield ... Early in the morning of the third of March I rode out of Chester-
After having burned a preparatory signal and receiving no answer, I opened fire with my starboard battery on the men and fired, several of the shots being heard to strike some hard substance very distinctly.

At this time the vessel was within 700 yards of the beach in 4 fathoms of water; could see the men on shore running plainly. After firing three rounds with the starboard battery, tacked ship and fired one round of shot and one shell from port battery. By this time the fires were mostly extinguished. Secured the batteries and proceeded on our course.

From the appearance of things, I am now led to believe the fires were signals for some vessel endeavoring to run a cargo.

[April 18, 1865: Confederate General Joseph E. Johnston surrenders to Sherman near Durham, N.C. Though Confederate forces will continue to surrender for another month, essentially the war is over.]

[May, 1865: The remaining Confederate forces surrender. The Nation is reunited as the Civil War ends. Over 620,000 Americans died in the war, with disease killing twice as many as those lost in battle. 50,000 survivors return home as amputees.]

Dr. Rick Simmons was born and raised in South Carolina and attended Clemson University, Coastal Carolina University, and the University of South Carolina where he completed his PhD in 1997. He currently lives in Louisiana with his wife and children. He spends a portion of the summer at his family home in Pawleys Island. He is the holder of the George K. Anding Endowed Professorship at Louisiana Tech University, where is the director of the Center for Academic and Professional Development.

Additional Civil War Information

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Having stood close in during the morning, and seen several men on the beach, they perhaps supposed I was the vessel expected, or one wishing to run the blockade.

George W. Browne, Acting Volunteer Lieutenant, in Command
Flag-Officer L. M. Goldsborough, Commanding North Atlantic Blockading Squadron

[U.S. naval reports erroneously referred to Little River Inlet as being in N.C. instead of S.C. The state line is located just north of the mouth of the inlet.]

Peter Vaught, Sr. to S.C. Gov. Francis W. Pickens: (original letter property of Coastal Carolina University)

All Saints Parish
June 22, 1861

His Excellency Governor Pickens

Dear Sir: permit me to trouble you with a feeling in regard to the exposed situation of this place - The Bar of Little River is but little inferior to Geo Town Bar. Strange vessels have been seen anchored off & sending boats in sounding the channel. The inhabitants are fearful of a visit from our northern friends – we have built a Fort at our own expense but it is unoccupied and we have no powder or ball and in its present situation might be used to our injury – Our men at first were attentive to drilling but finding themselves neglected have quit. I hope your Excellency will think of this place & give us what assistance [is] in your power. The men have arms but no ammunition.

In haste very Respectfully
Your Obt Servt –
Peter Vaught Senr.
Letter from Peter Vaught Senr to Gov. enquiring about Coast Defense
June 22nd
Col. Moses will write & say – Col. Manigault is organizing a regt. to protect that coast & refer him to Col. Manigault.
FWP

Official Records of the Union and Confederate Navies in the War of the Rebellion, Naval War Records Office, p. 498, 506-507

Report of Lieutenant Braine
USS. Monticello
Off Wilmington, N.C., June 23,1862.

SIR: I have to report, whilst running along the coast to the westward, we picked up a skiff containing eight contrabands; they proved to be from Little River Inlet, South Carolina. Their names are as follows: Abram Mathews, Stephen Mathews, belonging to William Mathews; Daniel Randall, belonging to Thomas Randall; Dick Nixon, belonging to Thomas Nixon; Dick Montgomery, belonging to John Montgomery; Cupid Clemmens, belonging to Hardy Clemmens; Tony Charles, belonging to John Charles; Joe Mathews, belonging to William Mathews.

They gave me information of two schooners in Little River Inlet preparing to run the blockade; also a quantity of cotton, pitch, turpentine, and rosin stored there ready for loading them.

I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

Flag-Officer L. M. GOLDSBOROUGH,

Expedition up Little River Inlet, South Carolina.
Report of Commander Glisson, forwarding reports of Lieutenants Bunce and Braine,
USS Mount Vernon, Off Wilmington, N. C.
June 26, 1862.

SIR: I have the honor to inform the flag officer that, on the 24th of June, the U. S. S. Monticello, Lieutenant Commanding D. L. Braine, picked up at sea in an open boat eight contrabands from Little River Inlet, the boundary line between North and South Carolina. They gave us the information that two schooners were preparing to run the blockade, laden with cotton, turpentine, etc., and that the cargo was already in the warehouse near the wharf, ready for shipment.

On the evening of the 25th of June I ordered an expedition to be fitted out, to consist of an armed boat from each vessel, and ordered Lieutenant Commanding Braine, of the Monticello, to proceed off that inlet with the boats and send the expedition in. Enclosed you will find a copy of my order to Lieutenant Commanding Braine, marked A, and also the report of Lieutenant Bunce, U. S. Navy, and that of Lieutenant Commanding Braine, marked B and C. This important duty was ably performed by Lieutenant Commanding Braine and the officers and men mentioned in the reports. It gives me much pleasure to inform the flag-officer of the entire success of the expedition and the destruction of so large an amount of property (estimated at nearly $50,000), the loss of which falls on South Carolina.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,
O. S. GLISSON,
Senior Officer. Flag-Officer L. M. GOLDSBOROUGH,

USS. Mount Vernon
Off Wilmington, N.C.
June 25, 1862

SIR: You will proceed with the U. S. S. Monticello, under your command, off Little River Inlet, conveying one boat from each of the vessels of the squadron to that place. On your arrival you will dispatch as large a force in the boats from your vessel as is practicable into the inlet. Do all in your power to capture the two schooners that are said to be loading with cotton. If you find it impossible to get them out of the inlet, you will then set fire to them. Do all you can to obtain information in relation to the inlet, etc. Much will have to be left to your good judgment in the discharge of this important duty.

I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant,
O. S. GLISSON,
Senior Officer. Lieutenant D. L. BRAINE,
U. S. S. Monticello

Lt. D. L. Braine
Commander Oliver S. Glisson
U.S.S. Monticello
June 26, 1862.

SIR: I have the honor to report, in obedience to your order of the 25th instant, I proceeded with the U. S. S. Monticello and four boats— one from the Penobscot, in charge of Acting Master’s Mate H. I. Edwards; one from the Mystic, in charge of Acting Master J. B. Swett; one
from the Mount Vernon, in charge of Acting Master W. T. Buck; one from the Victoria, in charge of Acting Master's Mate W. H. Mayer, and all under the command of Lieutenant F. M. Bunce, of the Penobscot. I equipped also two boats from the Monticello, one in charge of Acting Master Winchester and Acting Master's Mate M. Trowbridge, the other in charge of Acting Master Hustace. We arrived off New Inlet at 5 a. m. June 26, 1852, and at 6 a. m. dispatched the expedition. They proceeded without any molestation up the inlet for about 8 miles, when they arrived off the town of Little River, in All Saints Parish, S. C, where they found two schooners high and dry ashore, which Lieutenant Bunce considered unseaworthy, and he destroyed them by fire; also (60 bales of cotton, 200 barrels turpentine, and 53 barrels rosin on a wharf close by, which he also fired and destroyed. Lieutenant Bunce, after satisfying himself the fire was under full headway and the object of the expedition was accomplished, returned to the ship, where he arrived at 9:30 a. m. I enclose his report. At the appearance of the expedition off the town the people deserted it. A contraband came off to the ship in one of the boats, who was found on board of one of the schooners that was burned. I have to congratulate Lieutenant I. M. Bunce on the success of the expedition, which he conducted in a prompt, officer-like manner, pulling a distance of over 20 miles in three and one-half hours and destroying this property so valuable to the enemy.

I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant,
Commander Oliver S. Glisson, Senior Officer, off Cape Fear River, North Carolina.

Lt. F. M. Bunce
Lt. Commander D. L. Braine
USS. Monticello
June 26, 1862

Sir: In obedience to your order I entered Little River, South Carolina, and proceeded up about 8 miles to the town of Little River, Parish All Saints. On approaching the town the inhabitants deserted it and we met with no opposition. At the wharf I found two schooners which I considered not worth the trouble to bring off. On the wharf and warehouses close by I found 200 barrels turpentine, 60 bales cotton, and 53 barrels rosin, the whole of which I destroyed by fire. The expedition was composed of one boat from each vessel of the blockading squadron and two from the Monticello. In boat from Mount Vernon, Acting Master William T. Buck, Acting Assistant Surgeon S. B. Hoppin; in boat from Penobscot, Lieutenant F. M. Bunce, Paymaster A. Pool, Chief Engineer T. L. Jones, Master's Mate H. D. Edwards, and J. Clitz, captain's clerk; in boat from Mystic, Acting Master S. B. Meader, Master's Mate J. B. Swett, Captain's Clerk Richard A. Rolf; in boats from Monticello, Acting Master J. F. Winchester, Acting Master Richard Hustace, Assistant Surgeon Fred K. Potter, Master's Mate Miner Trowbridge; in boat from Victoria, Master's Mate W. H. Mayer. The knowledge of the pilots I found to be very correct regarding the channels, etc. I also brought on board a contraband, who is a carpenter by trade, and has been employed for some time upon the obstructions in Cape Fear River and New Inlet. His information may prove valuable.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,
F. M. Bunce, Lieutenant, U. S. Navy
Lieutenant Commanding D. L. Braine

F. M. Bunce, Lieutenant
Commanding the USS Victoria
January 2, 1863

Sir: I have to report my coal as reduced to 10 tons. I have also to report that I have received information by contrabands, four of whom came to my ship December 30, that there were two schooners in Little River, nearly or quite loaded for sea, and also one in Shallotte in the same condition. On the afternoon of the 31st a sail was discovered inside, which we thought was working down to Little River Bar. We soon, however, lost sight of her. At sunset I got underway and proceeded to Little River and lay off and on for a while. At 8 p.m. I came to anchor and sent a boat on shore. At the first point of land they were met by cavalry pickets and retired. They then entered the river and proceeded several miles up the river without, however, discovering anything except more cavalry pickets. The boat returned to the ship at 7 o'clock a.m., January 1, and I returned to my anchorage. The schooners in Little River are the Argyle and James Bailey. At high water there is about 9 feet on Little River Bar.”

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,
Lieutenant E. Hooker

William B. Cushing
Lieutenant Commanding USS Monticello
January 1863

Sir: I have the honor to report that I failed to capture the Wilmington pilots where I desired to act. Having learned, however, that there was a pilot station at Little River, 30 miles below Fort Caswell, I made sail for that point and reached it on the morning of the 5th. At 8 o'clock at night I crossed the bar with three cutters and twenty-five men, and proceeded up the river. My
Sir: In obedience to your order of the 7th instant, to make reconnaissance [sic] up Little River, and to ascertain if there were any vessels up the river, on the 9th instant at 7:30 p.m. we left the ship in the launch, the crew properly armed and equipped for such an enterprise, and accompanied by a boat and crew from the schooner Matthew Vassar, moved inshore in a north-easterly direction. After some delay in finding the channel we eventually succeeded and crossed the bar, on which we found 6 feet of water, it being about mid tide. After crossing the bar, and depending on the officer in charge of the boat from the Matthew Vassar (who had been up the river before) for instructions how to proceed, we found him totally deficient of any knowledge of the course of the channel, and consequently had to depend wholly on our own resources; in doing so, we got into a false channel, and in retracing our way we discovered a boat with five men in her, pulling up the river. When about 100 yards off we hailed them and ordered them to come alongside, but they being near the shore, and taking the alarm, three of them jumped overboard and succeeded in making their escape. We immediately landed a party and sent them in pursuit, but owing to the facilities the place afforded for secret ing themselves, we failed in capturing them. In the captured boat were two men named, respectively, G.W. Hewett and Stephen Hewett, natives of North Carolina, who surrendered as prisoners without resistance. We found also in the boat 5 muskets, 23 each of jackets, caps, drawers, shirts, stockings, 2 pair of shoes and 1 dozen blankets, intended for the use of a company of infantry stationed at this place. From what appeared to us to be very reliable statements, made by the prisoners (that there was one company of infantry and one of cavalry, about 175 men in all, stationed at a small fort about one-half mile up the river from where we were then, the fugitives having alarmed the garrison, as we saw by their firing muskets and rockets), we did not deem it prudent to proceed up the river any farther, so started on our return. In running out of the inlet, sounding as we came, we found from 2 to 3 fathoms of water in mid-channel, and on the bar at 11 o’clock, it being high tide, we found 10 feet of water. We returned to the ship at 12 midnight, not being entirely successful in accomplishing the object of our enterprise.

Very respectfully, your obedient servants,
James C. Gibney, Acting Ensign.
George Smith, Commander
G. H. Scott, Acting Ensign
Commanding U. S. S. Maratanza,
off Shallotte Inlet, N. C.


USS Monticello, Off Murrells Inlet, S.C.,
April 27, 1863

Sir: I organized an expedition composed of three boats from this vessel and two from the U. S. schooner Matthew Vassar, all under the command of Acting Master L. A. Brown, of this vessel.

After an early reconnaissance this morning at daylight at Murrell’s Inlet, South Carolina, it was found the approach was too circuitous to reach the schooners, except after a very long pull, and most of that way close to heavily wooded land, where they would be subject to ambush. I accordingly directed them to land on the beach abreast the ship, which they did, crossing the narrow sand spit and wading the marsh.

They boarded and destroyed the English schooner Golden Liner, of Halifax, loaded with a valuable cargo of flour, brandy, sugar, and coffee. She had just arrived. The other two schooners and one sloop it was impracticable to get at, owing to the mud and marsh, which I regret, which I understand from a contraband I got off,
that there are upward of 2,000 bales of cotton stored in the woods beyond.

The contraband also stated that there are 200 men, infantry, cavalry, stationed here, and I dispersed a few cavalry previous to the landing of the boats. This being the case, it was not prudent, with the force we had (47 men and 5 officers) to attempt to destroy the cotton. I consequently recalled the boats. The result of the expedition is a valuable schooner burned and two large houses, which were probably used for storehouses.

I regret to state that Acting Ensign Isaac Francis, of the *Matthew Vassar* was wounded by the accidental discharge of his own revolver; also that a man named John Cahill of the same vessel is missing.

I have no doubt, from information I have received per contraband, that this is a grand depot of cotton. He says the trade has been most brisk since last Christmas, averaging five to seven vessels a week, in and out. The cargo out is exclusively cotton, and they have never met with any interruption in their trade until today. Vessels are now expected here daily, with large supplies of clothing and stores of every kind. I think it is important that this point should be closely watched, and I would be pleased, if you would assign me the duty.

I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

D. L. Braine, Lieutenant-Commander
Capt. Chas. S. Boggs, Commanding
USS *Sacramento*, Senior Officer off
Wilmington, N.C.


Headquarters Fourth Military District
Georgetown, [S.C.], April 29, 1863

Captain: I have the honor to report that on the morning of the 27th at sunrise two of the enemy’s vessels appeared off Murray’s [Murrell’s] Inlet, and after shelling for two hours landed about 70 or 80 men under protection of their guns on a small island and set fire to a schooner lying in the inlet and near the shore of this island, but out of reach of our rifles. They immediately retired to their boats, leaving one of their men, who was captured by our pickets. There were four other vessels in the inlet, which they continued shelling nearly all day, but without effect.

I immediately concentrated all the force I could spare from other points, and am prepared to resist them when they return, which I suppose will be very soon, to destroy the other vessels. I sent a section of artillery (two rifle guns) immediately up. Also ordered down one of the companies of State troops under Captain Boykin, who are stationed nearly Little River. Although not under my command ostensibly, yet are virtually so, they being within the limits of this district. At the time of their landing an effort would have been made to capture their party, but Major Emanuel had but one company at that point and one-third of those were on picket at the time; he consequently took position near the four vessels which were higher up the creek, hoping that they would attempt to come up in their barges to destroy them, but which they failed to do. They are aware of our present force at that point, and no doubt will make another effort. If they do, I have so arranged it that I am in hopes of capturing the party.

The prisoner I send under guard by tomorrow’s train subject to your order. From his statements (which circumstances render almost impossible) I have good reason to believe he was intentionally left as a spy.

I am, captain, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

Joseph A. Yates, Lt. Col. Artillery, Commanding
Fourth military District
Captain Nance, Assistant Adjutant-General

 ― Official Records of the Union & Confederate Navies. XVI. 299-300.


U.S. Steam Sloop *Pawnee*
At Sea, near Charleston, S.C.
March 27, 1865

ADMIRAL: I have the honor to report the return of another expedition of four days’ duration up the Waccamaw River some 50 miles, to Conwayboro.

Having heard that threats of a visit in force had been made by the guerrillas against the plantations and settlements, in view of which great alarm was felt on the whole route by blacks and whites, I dispatched the Mingoe, having in tow some ten armed boats, to proceed as high as Buck’s Mills, and leaving it discretionary with Lieutenant-Commanders G.U. Morris and William H. Dana to proceed the remaining distance by boats or land. The arrival of the steam launch and two large row launches from the Santee enabled me to follow with them, and the steam tug Catalpa determined to ascend as far as the water would permit. I found the Mingoe ashore near her destination, towed her off, and caused her to drop to a point where she could anchor. The shore expedition had gone on, and I took the remainder of boats in tow as far as practicable, then causing them...
to row. After incredible labor and difficulty, succeeded in getting to Conwayboro at nightfall, just after the marching division. No enemies were encountered, but it was reported many small parties fled in various directions on our approach by river and land.

The people of the town were glad to see us; even those having relatives in the army professed their joy at being saved from the raiding deserters. They assure us that the penetration of our parties into such distances, supposed to be inaccessible to our vessels, has spread a salutary dread, and that our large force of Catalpa, 4 large launches, and 10 boats, with about 300 men in all, at the highest point, presented such a formidable display, with 7 howitzers, that they thought they would be completely prevented returning to that neighborhood. I permitted several Union people to come down to Georgetown; met many negroes coming down in flats.

I encouraged blacks and whites to prosecute planting and to recommend all others to do the same, for their preservation in the coming time, as it is now the height of the season. They are at work in most places, and even along the coast, most of which has only been commenced since the officers have on all occasions since my arrival strenuously urged on them the danger of a famine. I think I may say that these efforts may be the means of saving hundreds of lives.

I passed through Bull Creek to the Pedee with the tug and four launches, and destroyed the ferries at Bull Creek Ferry and at Yahnay Ferry, where Steele’s cavalry have been taking horses across lately, which will entirely prevent their crossing. The river running 4 knots an hour cannot be swum by animals. The hands of all sorts fled for fear of being cut off, and will continue in dread along the route. This route is the richest, thickest settled with blacks, and the most insalubrious part of the South. They say the news has spread into North Carolina, and these lawless hordes are much impressed by our swift and distant trips. William O’Brien, landsman, was accidentally shot by his own gun.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

H.S. Stellwagen, Captain.

Rear-Admiral J.A. Dahlgren, Commanding South Atlantic Blockading Squadron.

**DID YOU KNOW?**

On May 29, 1865, U.S. President Andrew Johnson issued a proclamation giving a general amnesty to all who took part in the rebellion against the United States.

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**Three Raids During the Civil War**

**Conway in February 1865:** Judge Walsh recalls in his autobiography that Confederate deserters attacked the town. Dr. Jamie Norton wrote that rumor indicated Yankee forces were coming to occupy Conwayborough. In either event, the town’s few defenders were under the command of Lt. John Robinson Beaty. Beaty, 38 years old, had served in the army and was finally sent home to pursue civilian life. It seemed to him that the enemy must come by river, and that the logical place to station his men was on a big bend in the Waccamaw at the spot now occupied by the Conway Marina. The defenders were arrayed in ambush as night fell. Walsh, handicapped from birth, had not served in the war but was among them. There was a sudden alarm. In the confusion and shooting that followed, three men were seriously injured by friendly fire. Beaty, wounded by his dear friend, Samuel Bell, was carried to his home. The first battle of Conwayborough ended tragically for the townspeople and for his family. Beaty died, leaving a widow and children.

Cool Springs was not to go unnoticed during the Civil War. An article taken from the memoirs of Ellen Cooper Johnson written in 1924 and reprinted in the October 1967 Independent Republic Quarterly, states that Ellen was staying with her sister, Mrs. [Louisa] Barnhill, while she was teaching school at Cool Springs in the last days of the Civil war, about 1865, when the raids took place. The raiders, deserters from our own Confederate Army, would lie in the woods and wait and steal from defenseless families. Food and corn was put in barrels and hidden, but still the provisions were stolen by the raiders. The raiders were searched for to no avail. A strange woman was seen often in the area as she quietly slipped from one place to another. Local people thought she was carrying messages to the deserters. Ellen states they lived in constant fear of the realization that the Yankee soldiers were approaching from the Georgetown side and the raiders from the other. They experienced fires, raids for food and articles of clothing and household goods. Later a strange old man returned much of their provision, though the corn and pork was never recovered. Capt. Ervin of the Home Guard came to search for the raiders and found the “strange woman.” She refused to say where the raiders were, but admitted that she was part of the group. Several of the deserters were eventually found.

One damp day, young Ned Beaty, John Beaty’s son, and a friend went bird hunting on the Musterfield located on the edge of the settlement beyond Elm Street and the [horse racing path.] A fence separated the field from the road to Georgetown. Having had no luck hunting, the boys began shooting at the knotholes in the
Horry County Family Research Locations
by Sharyn B. Holliday

Horry County Historical Society’s *Independent Republic Quarterly* (IRQ) has been published since 1967. The IRQ contains articles about Horry history, places and people. Complete sets are located at Historical Society Headquarters, Horry County Memorial Library in Conway, Chapin Library in Myrtle Beach, and Kimbel Library in Coastal Carolina University. An online index is accessed from our website, listed below. From the homepage, click on the “Bookstore is Open” link to find a page with “IRQ index”.

HCHS website www.hchsonline.org has county information online, much of it from the IRQ. Scroll down to the last row of boxes to find the “search” link for a search engine for the site.

Horry County Historical Society’s Resource Room at Bryan House is open Wednesday afternoons from 1:30 – 4:00 and other times by appointment. All available back issues of the IRQ and a few local history books are available for purchase. There is a very small research collection including oral history interview transcripts, family genealogies, compilations of history articles from local newspapers, compiled IRQ table of contents and vertical files. You can get help in learning the places to go for information on Horry families. Phone 843-488-1966 for information and appointments.

Horry County Memorial Library in Myrtle Beach has a local history room with South Carolina and Eastern US resources. Go to www.chapinlibrary.org for information on their holdings and online databases.

Kimbel Library at Coastal Carolina University in Conway has a primary documents area that contains the Horry County Oral History and Language Project, Compiled Service Records of Confederate Soldiers Who Served in Organizations from South Carolina, and other local history subjects. For further information: http://www.coastal.edu/library/

Georgetown County Library in Georgetown has a local history room that may contain Horry items before 1801 when the area that is now Horry County was part of Georgetown District. Website description of their holdings: “The Patricia Doyle Local History Room has a wealth of print resources, including county, state, and federal censuses, cemetery and burial records, obituaries, and a variety of newspapers on microfilm. There are also vertical files on a variety of topics.”

Georgetown newspapers from 1819 throughout much of the nineteenth century are online and searchable. These were the papers published closest to our area and they have items about Horry people and places. http://georgetowncountylibrary.sc.gov/

Horry County Historical Society YahooGroup http://groups.yahoo.com/group/horrychs/

An online group of researchers interested family connections in Horry County. You may search their archive for mention of your family or join the group to ask questions and collaborate with the group members.
Land records, wills and court records from 1803 to the present are located at Horry County Court House on 3rd Avenue in Conway. Land records and deeds sometimes give connections, as in transactions between family members, such as parents giving property to children.

Probate Court records include the issuance of marriage licenses, the estate of a deceased person, the will of an individual, the estate of a minor or incapacitated person, trusts, and involuntary commitments.

Register of Deeds Dept. has records of property transactions and agreements. These records sometimes include plats of the property.

The area that is now Horry County was part of Georgetown District, 1769-1801. Limited records before 1802-1803 are located in Georgetown, but most were burned during the War Between the States.

Government records before 1769 are located in Charleston or at the South Carolina Department of Archives and History (SCDAH) in Columbia. Original deeds until 1785 are located in the office of the Register of Mesne Conveyance, County Office Building, 2 Courthouse Square, Room 201, Charleston, SC. An index for these deeds is searchable online at the SCDAH Online Records Index.

Early records are in the SCDAH in Columbia. There is an online index link at www.scdah.sc.gov The website gives information about their holdings and digital collections. www.hchsonline.org has a listing of Horry County holdings in the SC State Archives. From the home page click on “research aids” then click the top selection under “Archives” for this list.

Vital Records are located at the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control in Columbia, http://www.scdhec.gov/administration/vr/ The website gives requirements and fees for birth, death and marriage certificates and divorce reports. SC began requiring birth and death certificates in 1915, marriage records in 1950 and divorce records in 1962.

South Carolina Death Certificates, 1821-1955 are online at www.ancestry.com Most are from 1915 to 1955.

Soldier service records and pension applications from the Revolutionary and Confederate Wars are online at www.fold3.com These records can also be found at State and National Archives. WWI and WWII draft registration cards are online at www.ancestry.com

Clemson University Libraries has a manuscript collection that includes SC history and genealogy items. The Quattlebaum Family Papers Collection is held here and includes Paul Quattlebaum’s genealogy research on Horry County families. http://media.clemson.edu/library/special_collections/findingaids/manuscripts/Mss0076Quattlebaum.html#ref7

There are very few known records for early county churches. Contact individual churches to find the location of their records. Some churches have church historians who may be able to help you.

SC Baptist records are in the South Carolina Baptist Historical Collection at Furman University Library in Greenville, SC. http://library.furman.edu/specialcollections/baptist/baptist_resources.htm

SC United Methodist Collection is held at Wofford College in Spartanburg, SC. The Southern Christian Advocate has obituaries for some Methodist Church members. www.wofford.edu/library/archives/methodist.aspx

Presbyterian records are housed at The Presbyterian Heritage Center at Montreat, NC. www.phcmontreat.org

Early Episcopal Church records are most often held by individual parishes. Early records have been transcribed and published.

Catholic Diocese of Charleston has an Office of Archives. Information may be found online at: http://archives.catholic-doc.org/

Family History Center of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints is open at 48th Ave. North in Myrtle Beach on Wednesdays from 6:00-9:00 p.m. and Saturdays 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

LDS Family Search genealogy website is https://new.familysearch.org/en/action/unsec/welcome

Ben Burroughs has compiled a list of articles referring to Little River during the Civil War at http://ww2.coastal.edu/ben/other/OfficialRecordsOfUnionAndConfederateNavies-IndexOfArticlesThatReferToLittleRiver.pdf
Stories in Stone
By Shirley Long Johnson

Citizens interested in learning more about local history were afforded a unique opportunity on Saturday, March 31, through a one-day tour of Lakeside Cemetery sponsored by the Horry County Historical Society. At this inaugural event, well-versed docents brought the cemetery to life by telling historically documented stories about local founding members of Horry County, some of whom were Confederate soldiers and founding members of the Peter Horry Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution who are buried there. Those honored included Adeline Cooper Burroughs, Capt. Coleman and Julia Skipper Causey, Col. Cephas Perry Quattlebaum, Pvt. Franklin Gorham Burroughs, Senator Jeremiah Smith, Cpl. John Asa Mayo, Lt. James Arthur Norton Jr., Lt. Edward Robertson Norton, and Congressman Robert Bethea Scarborough.

Tours were set for every hour between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. Because of limited parking, approximately 120 Lakeside Cemetery guests departed from and returned to a designated off-site location in a provided minicoach. In addition, docent-guided Bryan House Tours were given at the Horry County Historical Society headquarters where other authentic exhibits were on display.

Other sponsors for Stories in Stone included the Peter Horry Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution, Litchfield Camp 132 Sons of Confederate Veterans, Goldfinch Funeral Home, and South Atlantic Monument Company.

The much needed proceeds from the Stories in Stone and docent guided tours were $3,604.

Many thanks to all the volunteers and vendors who made the day a great success.