

South Carolina Civil War Sesquicentennial Advisory Board Meeting
South Carolina Archives and History Center
11:00 A.M.
July 20, 2011

Those attending: Eric Emerson, Marion Edmonds, Faye Jensen, Beth Bilderback, Jannie Harriot, Fritz Hamer, Allen Roberson, Michael Allen, Ted Gragg, Tracy Power, Krissy Johnson, Steve Longcrier and guest, Craig Glass, and Ben Hornsby.

Chair Eric Emerson welcomed the group and thanked them for coming. He then asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the March 23, 2011 meeting. Fritz Hamer moved the approval of the minutes and Jannie Harriot seconded the motion. The minutes were unanimously approved as submitted.

Eric Emerson noted that one of the main items in the previous meeting minutes was updating of the official state sesquicentennial web site. He noted that Paul Harmon of the archives staff had re-worked the web site at no cost to the sesquicentennial advisory board and it was now much more user friendly. He went through the site and noted the various headings and their content.

Eric Emerson then introduced Craig Glass, who is managing the South Carolina Civil War Sesquicentennial Advisory Board's face book page. He began his work as a volunteer at the Archives and developed the face book page. He now holds a regular job and does the face book page as a service to the South Carolina Civil War Sesquicentennial Advisory Board. He noted there are many reasons to have a face book presence. Several of these are: to promote and to implement the goals of the advisory board; to create interest in the sesquicentennial and the history of the Civil War and South Carolina; to promote events and programs around the state with a calendar; and to create a legacy of the observance and the South Carolina Civil War Sesquicentennial Advisory Board. He stressed the importance of member organizations of the advisory board sending information for the face book page. He also noted that South Carolina is one of eight states, which is active in promoting the sesquicentennial on face book.

The idea of the South Carolina Civil War Advisory Board being a participant in Twitter was discussed, but the general consensus after much dialogue was not to pursue this option. Twitter would involve having someone live at an event for coverage. Allen Roberson commended Craig Glass for his work and suggested that the South Carolina Civil War Sesquicentennial Advisory Board consider paying him for his services. Craig Glass noted that he enjoys doing the face book page and wishes to continue doing it.

Under old business, Eric Emerson noted that the ETV Civil War Commemoration Summit went well and was fairly positive. Jannie Harriot, Michael Allen, and Lonnie Randolph participated on a Connections show and it was a positive experience. Jannie Harriot believes there is some agreement about the commemoration now that a dialogue was been initiated by various individuals. Eric Emerson told of his participation on

History Detectives with the topic being Old Secession cannon. Eric Emerson also noted that he, Elizabeth Johnson, Tracy Power, and Steve Smith had spent two days exploring the routes of the 15th Corps and 17th Corps of Sherman's Army from below Hardeeville to Columbia. On May 24, 2011 the following sites were visited: Stoney Creek Cemetery, McPhersonville, Independent Presbyterian Chapel, Gillisonville Baptist Church, and site of town of Gillisonville, Robertsville Baptist Church, Smyrna Baptist Church, and the Ashley Willis House, Williston. On June 2, Broxton's Bridge, River's Bridge State Park, Edisto Gardens, Orangeburg, and Woodlands, home of William Gilmore Simms, were visited. The next trip will be open to all members of the advisory board.

Discussion followed about South Carolina's image in regard to the Civil War. The consensus is that people are learning about the conflict in a more truthful way and more people want to and are willing to come to South Carolina not only to visit but also to live here. Michael Allen noted the erection of the historical marker to Camp of Wild's "African/Brigade," 1863-1864/Wild's Brigade Cemetery. The two regiments in Wild's brigade were the 55th Massachusetts, made up largely of free blacks, and the 1st North Carolina, made up of former slaves. Also, mentioned was the rehabilitation of the Sol Legare Seashore Farmer's Lodge 767. Michael Allen also noted that this May 13, 2012 is the 150th anniversary of Robert Smalls taking the Confederate steamer, Planter, and joining the Union fleet. Other projects mentioned in conjunction with the fall of the Sea Islands to Union forces were Mitchelville, erection of a state historical marker to Ft. Howell, and plans to commemorate the founding of Penn Normal and Industrial School.

Various upcoming events and programs around the state were noted in continued discussion. Joe Long of the South Carolina Confederate Relic Room and Military Museum will speak on the First Battle of Manassas. Eric Emerson noted Charleston seminar on December 11 and 12 to commemorate the great fire of Charleston, which drastically changed the appearance of Charleston. Students of Katherine Saunders will read research papers about the fire. Eric Emerson noted how the fire and the fall of the Battle of Port Royal had a profound effect on the government of South Carolina and Governor Pickens. As a result of these events, South Carolina was governed by the Executive Council (1861-1862). Fritz Hamer noted a new exhibit, The Life of a Soldier, at the State Museum. Ted Gragg mentioned creation of murals for Hunley exhibit. Jannie Harriot told of plans for the annual meeting of the South Carolina African American Heritage Commission in January with emphasis on how people at home lived during the Civil War. Marion Edmonds related activities planned for Rose Hill State Park, Redcliffe State Park, and Hampton Plantation State Park. Allen Roberson told about Bold Banners: Early Civil War Flags of South Carolina, an exhibit which consists of thirteen flags, some of which have rarely been seen and some which have been recently conserved.

The next topic was how to promote South Carolina's Civil War heritage and sites. Jannie Harriot would like to ask Ken May of the South Carolina Commission to join the South Carolina Civil War Sesquicentennial Advisory Board as he could assist with this goal. She also said that Joy Young represents the Arts Commission on the South Carolina

African American Heritage Commission. Jannie Harriot told of her involvement with promoting heritage tourism in the Pee Dee and with assisting in the development of a Civil War tour brochure. Fritz Hamer agreed that South Carolina needs a brochure to promote its Civil War heritage. Craig Glass suggested that South Carolina might wish to consider a program like the one that Arkansas has developed called Arkansas Passport where one gets a card stamped after visiting historic sites. Several suggested that the South Carolina Civil War Sesquicentennial Advisory Board should be working with various other statewide organizations such as the Federation of South Carolina Museums, Confederation of South Carolina Local Historical Societies, South Carolina Tourism Association, and the Governor's Conference on Travel and Tourism. Marion Edmonds mentioned that he did not think printed materials was the way to go now and suggested that Virginia was using electronic means to get the word out about its programs and sites. Michael Allen suggested historical sites see an increase in visitation the week after public programming at the site. Steve Longcrier said Virginia puts out a newspaper that is privately funded. He also mentioned the Civil War Heritage Trails and its web site, which has a calendar of sesquicentennial events and programs. Jannie Harriot commended the Civil War marker program in Georgia. Allen Roberson suggested that the advisory board might like to invite Chester DePratter to come a future meeting and tell of his survey of Camp Sorghum and Camp Asylum before the latter is developed.

Eric Emerson suggested that the advisory board work to secure an official state historical marker for the great fire of December 11, 1861, in Charleston. The marker would be placed north of Market Street near the cruise terminal.

Allen Roberson, Eric Emerson, and Joe McGill will appear on a panel at the AASLH meeting in Richmond. Michael Allen appeared on a panel at the National Council of Public Historians.

The advisory board should plan to meet in late October.

Allen Roberson moved that Eric Emerson work with the executive committee to work out a contract with Craig Glass for the face book page. Jannie Harriot seconded this motion and it was approved.

The meeting adjourned at 1:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Ben Hornsby, acting secretary