

**SC Civil War Sesquicentennial Advisory Board Meeting**  
**SC Department of Archives and History**  
**11:00 A.M.**  
**September 14, 2010**

Those attending: Eric Emerson, Corky Huey, Fritz Hamer, Willie Calloway, Bernie Wright, Michael Allen, Jannie Harriot, Robin Copp, Allen Roberson, Claude Sinclair, Ted Gragg, John Tucker, Faye Jensen, Krissy Johnson, Rick Hatcher, Steven Smith, Abel Bartley, Joseph McGill, Jr., Marion Edmonds, Steve Longcrier, Tracy Power, Mary Katherine Marshall, and Ben Hornsby.

Eric Emerson called the meeting to order at 11:07. Jannie Harriot made a motion that the minutes be approved as distributed, seconded by Faye Jensen, and approved unanimously.

Eric Emerson introduced Steven Smith who has received a \$64,200 grant from the American Battlefield Protection Program, which is part of the National Park Service. Smith will be identifying and providing status reports of the battle sites and camps associated with Sherman's march through South Carolina. Smith expects to document 60 sites throughout the project but said that no excavation work will be done. Rather the goal is to compile information to help identify and preserve the historic sites. Once the information is compiled about these camps and battlefields, Smith said other organizations may be able to use this information to create a historic trail in South Carolina. The beginning date of the project will be late November or early December. Various members told Smith about research materials that exist about Sherman's march.

Eric Emerson asked that the agenda be amended so that all groups present could report on their sesquicentennial plans.

John Tucker reported on activities planned by the Ft. Sumter/Ft. Moultrie Trust which is the coordinating body in Lowcountry for the sesquicentennial. He first mentioned that the group had a new web site: [sccivilwar.org](http://sccivilwar.org) with a calendar listing all events. He also requested that the minutes note the passing of Mike Taylor who had made so many contributions to various history causes. Tucker also expressed the apologies of Robert Rosen who was unable to attend the meeting. Tucker mentioned the two scholarly conferences that are being planned for December and April. He reported that the Charleston group had met with the legislative delegation and that funding was unlikely. However the legislators were willing to help raise money from private sources. Michael Allen noted that the Atlanta director of the National Park Service is supporting sesquicentennial efforts and developing a web site and handbook dedicated to the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Civil War. The Secretary of the Interior plans to visit Beaufort rich in Reconstruction history in the near future.

Allen Robertson reported that current plans call for the original Ordinance of Secession to be on display in the South Carolina State House around the December 17 date of the beginning of the Secession Convention in Columbia for four or five days. There will also be a press conference and several explanatory exhibit panels. He said the document is of national significance and then asked Emerson to expound on his theory about how this one document significantly changed the course of history of the United States as well as the world. This document led to the Civil War, Reconstruction, Jim Crow, and the Civil rights movement. Joe McGill said it was important for South Carolina to capture the moment as the opening of the Secession Convention and the signing of the Ordinance of Secession began in South Carolina as well as the first shots of the war.

Eric Emerson said that General Services which controls the State House is reluctant to have it on display there as it could be a divisive issue. Jannie Harriot and Michael Allen said it would be an opportunity to promote healing and understanding between the races as well as serve as an educational opportunity. Jannie Harriot said that a member of the African American Heritage Commission would talk to Representative Gilda Cobb-Hunter and request her support for the use of the State House. Jannie Harriot also said the African American Heritage Commission would write a letter of support for the State House use. John Tucker suggested that s brochure be provided with the text of the Ordinance with no additional comments and he would like the Ordinance to be on display in Charleston for two weeks during the Christmas season. Marion Edmonds said he would not be favor of printing brochures and said that it should be on the web site. Several members said the Ordinance should be on display at the State House on December 17. Eric Emerson said if the State House did not work out the Ordinance would be on display at the SC Department of Archives and History.

Eric Emerson also asked for the group's support in helping to get the word about the importance of the Ordinance. He would like to get an op Ed in some of the nation's large newspapers and asked for suggestions for contacts. Bud Robertson's name was suggested as was Clarence Page's. The suggestion was made to prepare an authorized facsimile of the Ordinance and the Declaration of Causes for all media. Jannie Harriot asked that the black media not be overlooked. Michael Allen suggested that the state's political leaders including Jim Clyburn be involved in the process as their involvement might lead to funding for the sesquicentennial in future years. Michael Allen suggested that Eric Emerson get on county and municipal associations annual meeting programs.

Fritz Hamer moved that due to the importance of the Ordinance and the significance it played in the beginning of the Civil War that the group work to see the document displayed in the State House on December 17, 2010. The motion was seconded by Ted Gragg and approved. Allen Roberson moved that a committee be appointed to work on placing the Ordinance in the State House and this was seconded by Fritz Hamer and approved. The committee is to consist of Eric Emerson, Fritz Hamer, Allen Roberson, Krissy Anderson, Jannie Harriot, and Michael Allen. Krissy Anderson noted that the idea of a Columbia observance came from the Greater Columbia Civil War Alliance.

Eric Emerson asked for sesquicentennial reports from the various organizations in attendance.

1. Fritz Hamer reported that the State Museum is planning a series of small exhibits to observe the sesquicentennial. The first exhibit will focus on the reasons for secession.
2. Ted Gragg noted that work was continuing on The South Carolina Civil War Museum at Myrtle Beach. He and his wife are building the exhibits for the facility; he is also working to promote the Horry County Museum with its L.W. Paul Living History Farm and its display of artifacts recovered from the sunken CSS Pee Dee, a gunboat launched in January 1865. The CSS Pee Dee Research and Discovery Team found the site and the scuttled vessel were in 1991.
3. Rick Hatcher of Ft. Sumter noted that they were working with Senator Chip Campsen to get a resolution passed for the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the adoption of the state flag on January 28, 1861. He also mentioned plans for the firing on Ft. Sumter beginning the Civil War and that they were working with the Palmetto Battalion for various Living History re-enactments at both Fort Sumter and Fort Moultrie as well as various venues around Charleston. Discussion followed as to who would be the point of contact for the planned activities. John Tucker said the Mayor and the City and perhaps Helen Hill of the Charleston Area Convention and Visitors Bureau.
4. Steve Longcrier of the Georgia Civil War Heritage Trails noted that his group had nearly completed work on the Georgia trail which chronicles the Civil War era through historic driving routes and interpretive markers, patterned after Virginia's "heritage tourism" initiative. He would like to see a similar trail in South Carolina.
5. Claude Sinclair of the Palmetto Battalion is working to have various re-enactments throughout the City of Charleston. He reports that the city has not been receptive as the units must have permits from the city. He expects units from throughout the United States as well as the world to participate in the re-enactments. At this time he has commitments from units from Germany and Australia and expects others from Scotland and England and other countries.
6. Allen Roberson of the Confederate Relic Room and Military Museum reported that his institution was planning a series of exhibits over the sesquicentennial. They are: various battle and regimental flags, religion during the period, Colin J. McRae business papers from 1861-72, and South Carolinians at Gettysburg.
7. Jannie Harriot of the African American Heritage Commission introduced Joe McGill and Abel Bartley who are working on sesquicentennial programming for the Commission. Joe noted that the 54<sup>th</sup> Massachusetts Reenactment group is conducting a number of living history demonstrations and Joe himself has received much publicity for spending the night in slave cabins around the state. Professor Bartley is working with the group's Speaker's Bureau and is organizing a sesquicentennial program for Clemson University, preparing a series of timely articles and symposiums.
8. Bernie Wright of Penn Center is planning to take the sesquicentennial and the history of Penn Center to the Heritage Festival and to Community Sings. Planning special observance in 2011 at Oak Plantation where Penn Center began.
9. Faye Jensen of the South Carolina Historical Society noted the Society is planning an exhibit based on letters, diaries focusing on slaves, free blacks and is sponsoring an evening with Susanna Ashton, author of *I Belong to South Carolina; South Carolina Slave Narratives* and is participating in *A House Divided: Secession and Its Legacy* with the Citadel and The Fort Sumter-Fort Moultrie Historical Trust. The Society will be open to the public on December 19 and 20 for viewing the Secession Banner.
10. Robin Copp of the South Caroliniana Library reported that work continues on their IMLS grant digitization project which includes Reconstruction era newspapers through the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. The library is also digitizing documents that led up to the beginning of the Civil War.

Eric Emerson suggested that the group may be interested in erecting an official state historical marker to the site of Institute Hall in Charleston where South Carolina's Ordinance of Secession was signed on December 20, 1860. The proposed marker would also give a description of the building.

Tracy Power of the Archives' staff has drafted a text for the marker and will e-mail the draft to everyone. After considerable discussion, the consensus was to attempt to raise money to cover the cost of the marker. The funds being sought would not come out of any state budgets.

Allen Roberson suggested that a top priority of the advisory board should be the upgrading of its web site, which is <http://sc150civilwar.palmettohistory.org/>. Eric Emerson will explore this as well as the management possibilities of a web site.

John Tucker on behalf of the Ft. Sumter-Ft. Moultrie Historical Trust, which is the official coordinating organization for the commemoration of the Sesquicentennial of the Civil War to begin in 2010 and conclude in 2015 for the South Carolina Coastal Counties, requested that the advisory board ask the state legislature to appropriate money for a planned Robert Smalls observance to occur in 2012. The Trust will coordinate a variety of events to educate the community about the significance of Smalls' contributions to the Civil War, the state, and nation. These events will coincide with the City of Charleston's 2012 MOJA Festival.

There was considerable discussion about the request. Several members thought that money should not be asked for a specific project; other state officials commented that they were concerned about appropriated money coming from their already depleted budgets; others noted the current bad economic times; and others think that the legislature should be asked for funding for sesquicentennial activities and programming.

The general consensus was that the advisory board should work on a comprehensive plan for the statewide sesquicentennial effort and then approach the state legislature for funds. Robin Copp made a motion for a committee to be formed to develop a comprehensive plan for all sesquicentennial activities over the course of the commemoration and then ask the legislature for funding. Jannie Harriot seconded the motion and it was approved. Allen Roberson will work on putting together a committee to look at planning and funding needs.

There was an agreement that the group should work to have the original Ordinance of Secession on exhibit on December 17, 2010, the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the opening of the Secession Convention in Columbia.

Marion Edmonds reported there was \$115,000 in the War Between the States Trust Fund and it was noted that these funds were primarily for the acquisition of land associated with battles and actions. He also suggested that the advisory board meet in November after the election.

On a motion by John Tucker and seconded by Fritz Hamer, the meeting adjourned at 1:25 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,  
Ben Hornsby  
Acting secretary