



**PRESIDENT
JIM MILLER**

Lübeck - Association Newsletter



Hansestadt Lübeck

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16th National Reunion - Charleston, South Carolina

♪..In my mind I'm going to Carolina.....I'm going to Carolina in my mind...♪James Taylor.

Well, we did ole J.T. one better, we actually went to Carolina, Charleston, South Carolina, that is, all one hundred of us (attendee list on last page of trip report).

Folks started gathering over the weekend of February 16th & 17th, the weather was chilly to say the least (29°) on Saturday, but our sprits were high as we looked forward to the weeks activities and some of that famous "southern hospitality."

Our home away from home was the fantastic Mills House Hotel, which has a rich history unto itself, ole Robert E. himself slept there at the beginning of the Civil War.

Towards the early evening folks started migrating towards the hospitality room , and before long the party was underway. Jim Miller opened the festivities by welcoming all in attendance, including reunion first timers, family members, and guests.

Then our hosts John Herd and Jim Bell talked about what was in store for us in the coming days, while reunion souvenirs' were distributed. Men and women received very nice windbreaker jackets, which would come in handy during our visit to Fort Sumter later in the week, plus totes for the ladies.

Monday February 18th:

Our first activity was a tour of the City. Folks were herded into groups depending on whether they wanted to ride by carriage or preferred the walking tour. Very professional guides were allotted to each group, and away we went. Among the many historical venues we visited, was St. Michael's church where George Washington worshipped in 1791. The highlight of the tour was a walk through of the Heyward Washington House ca. 1722. The many upstairs rooms were resplendent with fine furniture, the best being a book cabinet that had been featured on "The Antiques Road Show," and deemed priceless. On the ground floor, detached from the house was a huge kitchen, as well as the "necessary," a scrubbed up word for the outhouse.

The remainder of the day was free time for shopping, lunch, dinner and of course a visit to the hospitality room.

Tuesday February 19th:

After breakfast we all boarded buses for "military day." First stop the aircraft carrier USS Yorktown, which is permanently moored in Charleston Bay and is now a museum. The ship was commissioned in 1943, and named the Yorktown after the original was sunk in the battle of Midway in 1941. Many WWII aircraft are on display below decks, as well as replica's of John

Glenn's Friendship 7 (1st US spacecraft to orbit the earth), and Apollo 8 (The 1st spacecraft to leave earth orbit and circle the moon ca. 1968). Several newer aircraft (jets) are displayed on the flight deck. There are two other ships moored along with the Yorktown, the USS Laffey, commissioned in 1944 and named after the 1st destroyer Laffey that was sunk during the battle of Guadalcanal in 1942. And the USS Clamagore, the only Cold War "Guppy III" submarine preserved in the U.S.

Well, all that nautical stuff can make a body hungry, so we all loaded into the buses for a short trip to RB's for lunch.

Following lunch we again hopped into the buses and headed for the ferry that would take us out to Fort Sumter. Because the weather was rather raw, some opted to return to the hotel, but most braved the elements for the 40 minute boat ride out to the fort.

Fort Sumter was the beginning of the Civil War (1861), where 500 brave Confederate soldiers, using 43 cannons, shelled the fort, and it's 68 men, for 34 hours, before finally annexing the tiny island.

Among the interesting things to see while walking the grounds, are the many huge cannons, and the areas of the fort that were damaged by incoming cannon fire. In some places one can see cannon balls that are still embedded in the walls of the fort.

After a ferry/bus ride back to the hotel, the rest of the night was open.

Wednesday February 20th:

No activities were scheduled for the entire day. However after breakfast at "Eli's,"(our favorite little eating place), most folks signed up for more tours around the town, and/or went shopping at The Charleston City Market for local treasures, such as Sweet grass baskets. Some people jumped in their cars and visited other cities in the area such as Hilton Head and Savannah.

By early evening the hospitality suite was again the "great meeting place."

Thursday February 21st:

The last full day of the reunion saw us off to Middleton Place or Middleton Plantation depending who you talk to. Today's Museum, the South Flanker, was originally built in 1755 as a gentlemen's guest quarters and together with the North Flanker - a library and conservatory - completed Henry Middleton's overall grand design. It is the only surviving portion of the three-building residential complex that once stood overlooking the Ashley River.

The flankers, along with the main house, were burned by Union troops in February, 1865, just two months before the end of the Civil War. The South Flanker was the least damaged of the three buildings and was restored to provide family living quarters. Repairs began in 1869 and included a new roof, Dutch gable ends and an entry hall leading from the Greensward. Thus strengthened, the South Flanker survived Charleston's Great Earthquake in 1886 that felled the gutted walls of the other buildings. By 1870 the Middletons returned to live again at Middleton Place and the South Flanker continued to serve subsequent generations until becoming a House Museum in 1975.

We broke up into four groups, each with a very capable guide, and began touring the estate that lies on some 1800 acres. One group toured the stable/blacksmith area, while another toured the gardens, while another toured the main house. We then would rotate, so in the end

all groups saw all areas. Somewhere during that rotation, lunch was called, so we all hustled over to partake in a very good buffet of "southern cookin."

Later we all hit the gift shop before heading back to the hotel.

Later that afternoon, the Association meeting was held for Ami's only. After the mundane issues were covered, I.e. Treasurer's report, nominations for officers were held. Without objections Jim Miller was reinstated as President and Barry Brown was installed as Vice President. Jim also stated that due to a personal "full plate" (4 grandkids under 12 years of age, and work with his son-in-law), this would be his last go-around.

Next the most important topic was soon loudly being debated.....where we goin next? Several ideas were brought up, a cruise (because we're getting to old to walk around); Las Vegas had its brief moment, and San Antonio. The guys, almost to a man, said the most important thing a reunion must have is a hospitality room, so there went the cruise. In the end, San Antonio won out and Ross Crawford was the stuckie. Ross will have help from Fess Parker, and maybe a couple of other guys that live in that area of Texas.

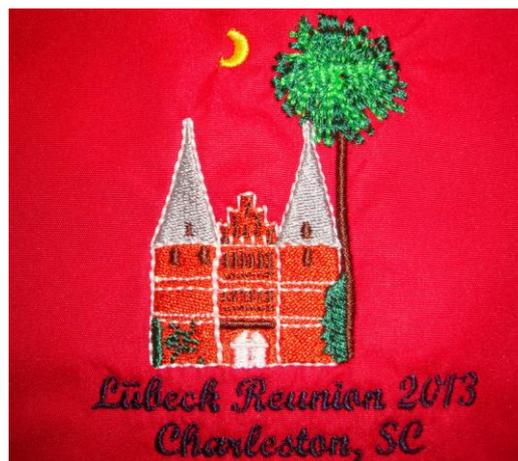
That evening the closing dinner was held in the hotel, Jim Miller opened the ceremonies, followed by a very moving invocation by Bill Delaittre (page 4). All enjoyed an excellent dinner with plenty of wine before settling in and hearing several after dinner speakers.

George McLeod (Lübeck '54-'55) told us about the early days of Army life in Lübeck, and Pete Grizzell (Lübeck '65) shed light on the final closing days of 1965. In between Harry Dusenberry, an attorney from Brooklyn got up and spoke....because that's what lawyers from Brooklyn do.

Finally John Herd and Jim Bell and their wives were called up and presented with a gift from the attendees as a small token of appreciation for all they had done to make this a most memorable reunion.

After 20+ months of planning and anticipation, the curtain finally came down on Charleston 2013. Folks gathered one last time in the hospitality room, where fond farewells were expressed, with promises of "see ya in San Antonio."

Note: A huge part of why this reunion was so successful, besides the hard work of John Herd and Jim Bell, was the attendance of "new blood." The Slack's, Staple's, Frick's, McLeod's Grizzel's, Weil's, Melanson's and Crawford's. Those folks, along with others of the '63-'65 era, not only made the reunion more fun, they are really the future of the Association.



Invocation: (By Bill Delaittre Feb. 21st 2013)

Our Father,

We are assembled once again, to remember and honor the efforts -- that many of our number made -- to stave off world catastrophe.

No one can ever know -- how well our work served -- but each of us hopes that ours was a noble effort -- not just the nobility of our stations -- but the nobility of our thoughts and deeds -- and what large or small contributions -- we were privileged to make.

Tonight, let us remember that we dine not very far -- from the graves of some who founded our nation -- and of others who paid bitter prices -- in places called Valley Forge -- Gettysburg -- St. Lo -- Normandy -- Chosen -- Khe Sahn -- Baghdad -- Kabul -- and thousands of unnamed places -- where silent soldiers remain -- or where new grass betrays a recent loss.

That the price is so high -- for our most dedicated men and women -- is an unfairness we recognize -- yet one that sometimes -- eludes our nation's grasp.

We visit ships now moored at honored rest -- and conflict places of days gone by -- and we pray that you've taken their many souls unto you.

Please let 'God Bless America' -- never be an assumption -- but always a beggar's prayer.

Please bless those whose health makes them unable to be here this evening -- and restore them to us.

Please sustain the smiles of friendship -- ignited long ago -- in a little place -- called Lübeck,

Please keep everyone in your care -- as we find our ways home.

Please let us be worthy of all this and more -- and extend our personal -- tours of duty.

Amen.

Those in attendance:

Jim & Hildegard Bell

Bill & Carol Bessel

Dave & Marion Black

Barry & Nasrin Brown

Mike Burke

Barbara Clement & Tony Santare

Ross & Donna Crawford

Bill & Pam Delaittre

Don & Patricia Dietz

Harry Dusenberry

Fred & Jacqueline Dwight

Dean & Pat Featherston

Bob Frick

Jack & Trish Gardner

Dick & Geri Gauthier

Jon & Judy Hunter with Merlyn & Peggy Kammer

Ernie & Carol Serna with Jeff & Diane Serna

Jim & Bonnie Miller with Kelly Clark

Tom & Rita Gremling

Pete Grizzel

Phil Hanley & Linda Eastman

Robert & Judy Harris

Chuck & Pat Hartwig

John & Hannelore Herd

Joe Hewitt & Susan Nutter

David & Bernie Hodge

Dixie Howell

Art & Jane McEldowney

George McLeod & Marcia Schoeller

Leo & Susan Melanson

George & Amalia Morrissey

Leonard & Renee Nack

Tom & Judy Newhouse

Fess & Nancy Parker

Lenny & Sue Pittman

John & Peggy Riordan

Stanley & Kay Roark

Wes & Lily Roche

Chick & Christa Rogers

Joe & Sue Self

Duain & Joyce Shaw

Jim & Heinke Shaw

Fred & Vivian Slack

Mallory & Ylva Slate

Phil & Patricia Staples

John & Andrea Sterritt

David & Elizabeth Truitt

Gary & Becky Weil

Dave & Barbara Wrench

In Memoriam:

Sadly the following fellow Lübeckers have passed on during the past two years:

2011

Alan K. Cowie

John Mendelsohn

2012

Cliff Wilcox

John H. Hall

Robert "Joe" Hurst

All of the above have been proudly added to the Lübeck Association Memorial Plaque.

Medical report:

Irv Deranger: Irv suffered a stroke early in 2012, was recovering fairly well, albeit slowly, when in June of 2012 he fell and broke his hip. Since then progress has been even slower, he has part time help every day that take care of the hygiene stuff, and he now can use a walker with a little help. Myrtle says his appetite is good, but some days are better than others.

Amalia Morrissey: As many of you know George and Amalia had a terrible car accident one week after attending the reunion in Charleston. George was hurt somewhat, but Amalia suffered a broken neck. She was Med-a-Vac'd to Miami where she underwent surgery immediately. According to George the next several weeks were the worst of his life, as it was not certain if Amalia would fully recover her physical skills. Since then things have improved, Amalia still has limited use of her limbs, she can touch her face, and can walk with assistance, but progress is slow. George and Amalia have relocated to the Tampa area and are staying with their daughter. George said, "therapy will take 18 to 24 months, but a full recovery is predicted." Their new E-mail Address is hullbaycottahes@gmail.com.

Frank Crane: Frank also was involved in a serious accident, as someone ran a red light and rammed his car. Frank suffered a severe spinal cord injury, and during the many X-ray sessions, lung cancer was discovered. As of last week Frank has completed Chemotherapy, the doctors say they "got it," but to be on the safe side, Frank has opted to go through radiation treatments as well. Won't be long till he's on the golf course I'm sure.

Dues:

It's that time of year again, if you get anything out of what the Association does, please make out a check for \$25 to the **Lübeck Association**, and send it to Jim Miller, 341 Kentfield Dr. San Marcos, CA 92069.

It would be greatly appreciated if the folks who have been attending the reunions would keep in mind that it is the Association that has sponsored many of the items you seemed to enjoy, I.e. hospitality rooms, hosted bars etc.

The following folks are exempt from further dues in 2013, having already paid this year, or fall in the "**paid for life**" category.

2013: Jerry Tyler, Phil Staples, Tom Newhouse, Jack Gardner.

Paid for life: Harry Dusenberry, Bill Dean, Chick Rogers.

Website: (www.lubeckers.com)

In the next few weeks, I will be adding some 286 pictures of the 2013 reunion in Charleston, as well as, some additions to the "people" category that have been forwarded to me in the past several months. I don't want to get you too "jacked up," but one of the photo's is of a Lübecker G.I. and Jane Mansfield.....yeah, that Jane Mansfield.

San Antonio 2015:

The planning for **Reunion 17** is already underway, Ross Crawford along with a local San Antonian (is that a word?), Jesse Ellisor (Lübeck '62-'65), have already started some of the footwork for what looks like a fantastic time. The dates have not been selected, the thinking right now is Fall of 2014 or early Spring of 2015. Details will be published when they become available.

We're all "gettin up there," so save your pennies and take back your empties, you don't want to miss this one.....**Remember the Alamo!**

Jim Miller

