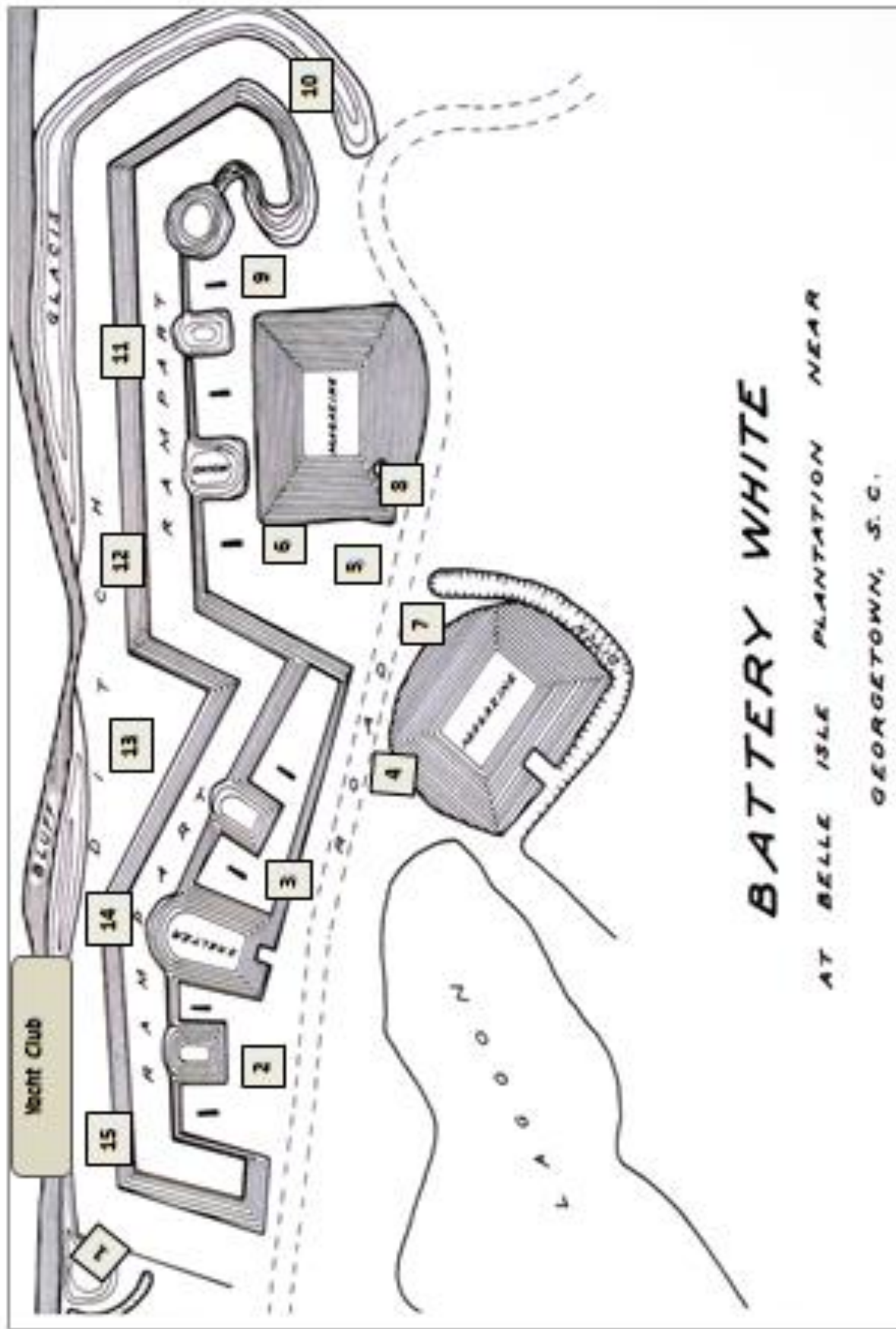


BATTERY WHITE

Memorial

Trail

GUIDE



BATTERY WHITE

AT BELLE ISLE PLANTATION NEAR

GEORGETOWN, S. C.

Battery White Memorial Trail

Belle Isle Yacht Club and Marina, Georgetown, South Carolina

Directions: Follow the **Points of Interest** indicated by the numbers on the trail, beginning with #1 located at the mound immediately to your right, just outside the Belle Isle Yacht Club to the right of the roadway.

1

Left Flank Battery

This rise is the exact location of the left flank battery* containing a 12-lb. Napoleon cannon, which was a type of cannon used frequently during the Civil War. The artillery on this battery mound protected the main Battery from a ground assault from the north, or the cannon could be turned to support/protect the rifle ditch in front of the main Battery. In cannon artillery, the “pound” indicates the size of the cannonball to be fired along with the name of the type of artillery used. Thus, a 12-lb. cannonball was used in this Napoleon artillery, the most popular smoothbore cannon used in the Civil War. Several “12-pounders” were also located in the rear battery, which protected the rear of Battery White from the South Island Road location. (**note: the designation right or left indicates direction as one is standing ground that faces the enemy*).

2

Cannon Decks and Traverse

Location #2 displays how the earthworks of Battery White are preserved. Earthworks were built around cannon emplacements and were often located in pairs (as indicated by the flat areas here). They were often separated by a traverse, which may have been either a dirt mound or an enclosed a shelter or bunker for protection of the gun crews. The flat parts on either side of this traverse contained wooden gun decks connected to the wooden revetment, which supported the parapet or rampart in front. Battery White was considered an “en barbette” battery, where the guns would be pushed into place and then fired *over* the rampart, as opposed to firing through an opening in a wall or mound. Wooden gun decks make it easier for gun crews to move the cannons back into place after the recoil of firing. The decks also enabled the ability to aim across the full width of the emplacement.

3

Single Cannon Placement and Shelter

At this location, one can stand near the parapet and look out over Winyah Bay, as if one were standing at one of the gun emplacement locations. The large traverse to the left of this position appears to have been a shelter, as its size is much larger than the other traverses on Battery White.

4

North Powder or Munitions Magazine

The backside of the first of two powder magazines (also called munitions magazines) is demonstrated at this location. These earthworks were constructed to shelter the powder and ammunition needed to operate the gun batteries. A typical magazine would consist of a wooden structure that was then covered with tons of dirt or sand. This design not only helped disguise the location of such critical supplies, but also would minimize any damage to the rest of the Battery in the event of an explosion of the powder or ammunition.

Eagle's Roost

5

Remember that during the Civil War, there were no trees growing at Battery White. Nowadays, when looking upward at the trees that have grown here, you may be fortunate enough to see a Bald Eagle perched in the lofty short-leaf pine trees. In modern years, several Bald Eagles have, from time to time, built their nests nearby so they can scout for food in and around Winyah Bay. Certain times of the year Belle Isle residents have watched eagles moving back and forth from here to Fraser's Point in Hobcaw Barony (across Winyah Bay). Interestingly, the head of a Bald Eagle does not actually become white until the bird has reached sexual maturity (usually about 4-5 years), and immature eagles spend the first years of their lives exploring nomadically, flying hundreds of miles a day. Bald Eagles have been known to live up to 38 years old. They tend to return to their nests every season, so Belle Isle residents hope these current inhabitants will continue to return to this area for generations to come.

10-inch Columbiad Cannon

6

The weapons located in the main Battery of Battery White consisted of 12 mounted guns, with 3 more guns located on other flanking batteries. Two of the guns are identified as 10-inch Columbiads and were among the last few cannons to be built at Richmond Virginia's famous Tredegar Iron Works. Another 3 cannons were rifled 32-pounders, 4 other cannons were 24-pounders, and another 2 cannons were 12-inch banded guns. These totaled 11 guns, all of which faced Winyah Bay and guarded the seaside. The right flank of the main Battery was defended by a 24-pounder in a separate smaller battery, as well as a 12-pounder located in an earthwork detached from the main Battery (situated in "section 3" of present day Belle Isle condos). The main Battery also had a 24-pounder fortifying each flank with intervals for other artillery pieces.

North Magazine Access Ditch and Earthworks

7

This additional view of the North Powder Magazine allows the viewer to see the access path or ditch that allowed gun crews to move munitions and powder nearly undetected from the magazine to the guns. Time has eroded some of the depth away from the ditch, however one can imagine the necessity to move munitions and powder undetected by the enemy and the depth required for that task.

South Powder Magazine

8

This is the South Powder Magazine at Battery White. The area that appears collapsed indicates the site where the entrance to the powder magazine is thought to have been located. As noted previously in the North Magazine description, powder and munitions to supply the gun crews were stored here and protected with tons of dirt and sand to prevent major damage to the entire Battery in the event of an explosion.

Columbiad Cannon (# 2065)

9

This piece of artillery is the second original 10-inch Columbiad enduring at Battery White. Notice that the outside of the cannon is very rough. This roughness is due to the lack of polish used to "finish off" cannons that were made toward the end of the war. Resources had become very scarce, so measures were used to conserve as much as possible. Importantly, both of these cannons remaining in Battery White today would have been used only for target practice and drills, as there is no evidence that *any* of the guns in Battery White were ever fired during acts of aggression. The ordnance or a projectile used in these Columbiads typically weighed more than 100 pounds.

10

Walk the Rampart

A rampart (or parapet) is a dirt or sand earthwork built for the protection of the gun emplacements. The rampart between this location and Winyah Bay is an earthwork artillery emplacement built and manned by Confederate troops during the Civil War. It was erected in an ideal location for securing Winyah Bay from incursion from the ocean. The smaller earthwork on the other side of the small ditch would have protected the infantry who may have been positioned in the ditch in case of ground assault.

11

Fraser's Point

This location highlights Fraser's Point, which is directly across Winyah Bay. Fraser's Point is the southernmost point of land between the Waccamaw River (which feeds Winyah Bay) and the sea. The area between Fraser's Point and Battery White is the narrowest point in Winyah Bay and was the ideal location for erecting cannon batteries. The Fraser Point Battery featured 2 8-inch Columbiads at each end of the battery.

12

USS Harvest Moon: Admiral Dahlgren's Flagship

The *USS Harvest Moon* is a 193-foot Union steamer that was commanded by Admiral John A. Dahlgren. Anchored in the channel directly out from this marker and on the other side of what is now a small island, it floated into a mine (at that time, the device was called a *torpedo*). The *torpedo* had been placed in Winyah Bay the previous autumn by Confederate Captain Thomas Daggett in an effort to thwart Union ships. This mine (*torpedo*) tore a large hole in the bottom of the *Harvest Moon*, and the ship sank within minutes. Across the Bay at low tide, the single funnel (smokestack) of the *Harvest Moon* can still be seen as it remains in its final resting place.

13

Lest We Forget Memorial

Looking outward from this point toward Winyah Bay, a large stone can be seen. This stone serves as a memorial to those Confederate Soldiers who served here at Battery White and who fell sometime during the Civil War. This memorial was dedicated on May 25, 1929 and was bestowed by the local United Daughters of the Confederacy.

14

Georgetown Lighthouse

Looking outward toward Winyah Bay, notice the nearest red channel marker. Look into the distance to the right of that marker. On a clear day, the Georgetown Lighthouse (also referred to as the North Island Lighthouse) can be seen as a small white pillar. This lighthouse was built in 1801 to serve the indigo and rice trading ships navigating between the North and South Islands that separate the Atlantic Ocean from the entrance into Winyah Bay. Originally built from cypress, the 72-ft. lighthouse was destroyed by a storm in 1806. In 1807 with help from slave labor, the structure was rebuilt from brick. The lighthouse was used as an encampment during the War of 1812. During the Civil War (until 1862), the structure was used as a lookout tower for Confederate troops until the lighthouse was taken by the Union in May of that year. The Georgetown Lighthouse was restored in 1867, at which time its height was extended to 87 feet. A Fresnel prism lens was also installed, allowing the lighthouse to be seen up to 15 miles away. Prior to the lens becoming electrified, whale oil and kerosene had to be used to keep the lens illuminated. The Georgetown Lighthouse is the oldest operating lighthouse in South Carolina.

Beyond the Trail

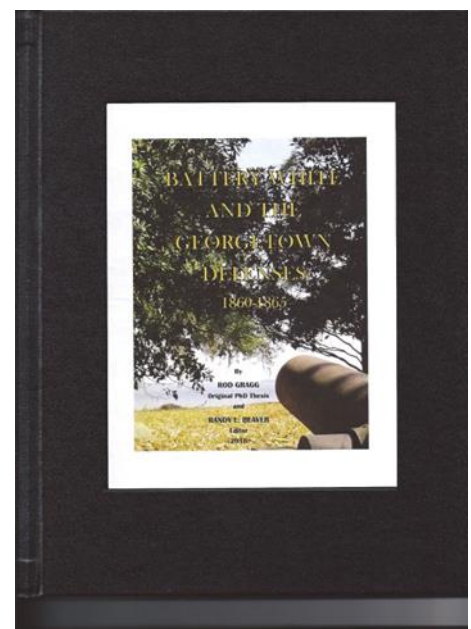
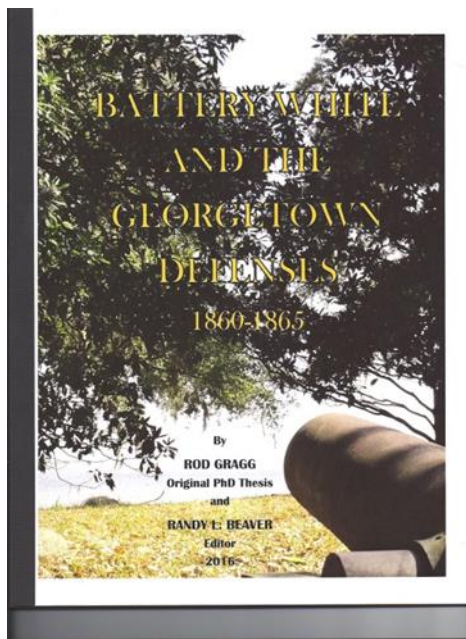
Thank you for walking the Battery White Memorial Trail. It is our hope that you learned new information about this historic place and that you will seek more opportunities (listed below) to learn about Battery White, Belle Isle, Winyah Bay, and the historic town of Georgetown.

1. The Belle Isle Yacht Club building contains artifacts discovered on and near these grounds depicting life from early Indian residents, plantation life and Battery White.
2. The book, ***Battery White and the Georgetown Defenses***, provides detailed information about Battery White and the surrounding area during the Civil War. Included is the development of Battery White, recruitment of soldiers, and the military engagements/protection of Georgetown, Murrells Inlet, and other nearby areas. Ordering information is located on the back cover of this pamphlet.
3. The South Carolina Maritime Museum in downtown Georgetown on Front Street contains 5-ft., detailed model of the *USS Harvest Moon*, as the ship appeared when it entered Winyah Bay in February 1865.
4. When leaving Belle Isle, note the rear battery that protected Battery White from potential attacks from the South Island Road: When leaving the Belle Isle subdivision, the last road to your left is Washington (at the intersection with Belle Isle Road). Looking to your left, you will see large mounds between the roads at the intersection. This area is the rear battery of Battery White.
5. Georgetown National Guard Armory, Francis Marion Park, Kaminski Park, and American Legion Post in Georgetown all have a variety of models of pre-Civil War and Civil War cannons on display in those locations.
6. A historical marker is located in front of the *Rice Museum* on Front Street in Georgetown. The 2-sided marker was erected in 2011 by the Arthur M. Manigault Chapter No. 63, United Daughters of the Confederacy and the Battery White Camp No. 1588, Sons of Confederate Veterans to commemorate the sinking of the *Harvest Moon* in early 1865.



Thank you for visiting
Belle Isle and Battery White

To purchase the book:



Please send \$32.50 for the softcover or \$42.50 for the
hardcover to:

Battery White Historical Association
1146 Belle Isle Road, #102
Georgetown, SC 29440

Or stop by
Waterfront Books in Downtown Georgetown