


5-2011

## Bowling Green Civil War Round Table

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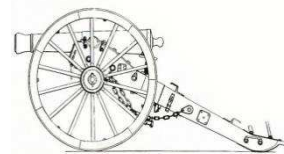
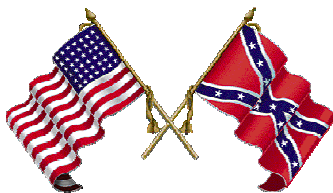
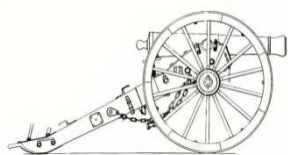
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Founded March 2011 – Bowling Green, Kentucky

# Bowling Green Civil War Round Table

## MAY 2011 NEWSLETTER

President - Dr Ron Hatcher; Vice President – Jonathan Jeffrey; Secretary – Jeff Hayes; Treasurer – Kathy Leath; Advisors – Dr Glenn LaFantasie and Greg Biggs(CCWRT)

**ATTENTION:** Our next meeting is this Thursday, May 19, at 7:00 pm at Cherry Hall in room 125. This is the location of our first meeting and will be our regular meeting room. Please arrive 15 minutes early to ensure that the meeting begins on time. There will be no meeting in June or July. Regular meetings will resume the third Thursday in August.

**SPEAKER:** For May 2011, our speaker will be Nicky Hughes. The presentation title will be “Border State Capital-Frankfort, Kentucky, in the Civil War.”

The study of Frankfort, Kentucky, in the Civil War offers unique perspectives. Frankfort was a small town, but yet the capital of what was then one of the most influential states in the Union. Here, some of the most important events of the war in Kentucky occurred - notably the General Assembly's decision not to take Kentucky out of the Union. During the secession crisis, most of the town's residents - the whites, anyway - wanted to preserve the Union and keep Kentucky in it, but most were at least as dedicated to the preservation of slavery in Kentucky. Frankfort enjoyed the unwanted distinction of being the only pro-Union state capital occupied by the Confederate Army. In 1864, the town actually became a battlefield as local militiamen fought off a detachment of John Hunt Morgan's raiders - with long-lasting consequences for the Commonwealth of Kentucky. Postwar Frankfort saw the triumph of the Bourbon Democrats who capitalized upon Kentuckians' resentment toward the Lincoln administration's late-war policies toward slavery.

Biography highlights written by Nicky:

- Graduate of Franklin-Simpson High School, 1968 (that takes guts to admit to a Bowling Green audience); Graduate of WKU, 1972, with degree in History and Government (so this speech better be darn good).
- Curator of the Kentucky Military History Museum, 1974 to 1986; Museums Division Manager, Kentucky Historical Society, 1986 to 1992; Curator of the Old State Capitol, 1992-1997; Curator of Historic Sites, City of Frankfort, 2000 to present; Capital City Museum - Local history museum.
- Leslie Morris Park on Fort Hill - Civil War earthworks & skirmish site.
- Involved in Civil War living history since 1981.
- Former commander of The Breckinridge Battalion, a regional Confederate reenactor umbrella organization.
- Drum major & narrator of Saxton's Cornet Band, a re-created CW brass band.
- Former editor, "Camp Chase Gazette" - national magazine for reenactors; Former editor, "Civil War Historian" - national magazine for reenactors & CW enthusiasts
- Co-author of books, "Historic Images of Frankfort" in two volumes; co-author of book, "Frankfort - Then & Now."; Co-author of book, "Frankfort Cemetery - The Westminster Abbey of Kentucky."
- President, Frankfort Civil War Round Table.
- Recipient of Commander's Award for Public Service Medal from the Kentucky National Guard.
- 2010 recipient of the Kentucky Historical Society's William R. Buster Award for Excellence in Military History.
- Resident of Frankfort with wife Susan Lyons Hughes (Bowling Green native and was a Purple & WKU grad).

## **PRESIDENT'S NOTES:**

### **May, 2011**

In May of 1861 Kentucky declared its neutrality in the War Between the States, Western Virginia took the first steps to separate from Virginia, and while things were chaotic in general, very few, if any, Americans foresaw the death and the destruction of the next 4 years. Kentucky has never regained the stature enjoyed among its fellow states until that time and there should be a lesson here for all who would rely on "wishful thinking" the deal with crisis.

One hundred and fifty years later the BGCWRT can enjoy hearing details of how the citizens of that time dealt with the problems of their day- their triumphs, heroism, blunders, and tenacity- and perhaps profit by those examples under the most trying of national times. Tell all you know who might be interested about our group, and hope to see you at 7:00 pm on the 19<sup>th</sup> back in Cherry Hall.

Ron Hatcher

## **FUTURE PROGRAMS:**

**June 2011** – NO MEETING IN JUNE.

**July 2011** – NO MEETING IN JULY. See you in August.

**August 2011** – Karel Lea Biggs, Clarksville CWRT – "Shortages and Substitutions on the Confederate Homefront"

**September 2011** – John Walsh, Fort Donaldson Relics, "Civil War Photography"

**October 2011** – Phil Seyfrit, Richmond, KY Battlefield – "The Battle of Richmond, Kentucky"

## **Paymaster's Report May 2011:**

Previous Balance: \$929.55 Income: \$250.00 Expenses: \$31.62 (Bank fee for checks) Current Balance: \$1147.93

Membership increase in April: 16 new members. Total Members: 67

## **MEMBERSHIP AND DUES:**

Membership is open to anyone interested in the Civil War. Annual dues are as follows:

**STUDENT - \$10 SINGLE MEMBERSHIP - \$20 FAMILY - \$30** You will receive a name badge at the meeting following receipt of your dues. Badges are to be worn during the meeting and turned in as you leave.

## **We're on Facebook:**

Look for us on Facebook under Bowling Green Civil War Round Table. Meeting updates, notice of Newsletter sent or items of interest between meetings will be posted. If you have website design experience, please contact Kathy Leath at [LeathGenealogy@bellsouth.net](mailto:LeathGenealogy@bellsouth.net) as we are considering one for BGCWRT.

## **WEB SITES:**

For information about the Kentucky Civil War Sesquicentennial Commission and some of the state wide events that will take place in Kentucky during the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the war, please see [www.history.ky.gov/civilwar](http://www.history.ky.gov/civilwar). Click on "News and Events" for the event listing. If you have any questions or need more information please feel free to email me at [stuart.sanders@Ky.gov](mailto:stuart.sanders@Ky.gov).

Sincerely,

Stuart Sanders

Kentucky Historical Society

## **CIVIL WAR NEWS AND EVENTS:**

### **Cave City, Kentucky Civil War Relic Show and Civil War Reenactment – May 27 – 29, 2011**

Cave City, Kentucky, located just east of Exit 53 off I-65 North of Bowling Green, is having a combination Civil War Relic Show and Reenactment on the weekend of May 27 – 29, 2011. This is Memorial Day weekend. The event will be held in the Cave City Convention Center. The relic show is on Saturday from 9 to 9 and on Sunday from 9 to 5. For more information call Cave City, City Hall at 270-773-2188 or visit their website [www.cityofcavecity.com](http://www.cityofcavecity.com)

Make this an additionally fun weekend by also going up US 31W to Rowlett's Station and Munfordville and see more Civil War history on the walking trails they have developed.

### **Simpson County Historical Society Summer Tour – June 18, 2011**

The Simpson County Historical Society and Simpson County Tourism have arranged a Backroad B & B Tour (Bernheim and Bardstown). Date is Saturday, June 18. The trip includes a tour of Bernheim Forest and visitor center, the American Civil War Museum, Old Bardstown Village, dinner at Kurtz Restaurant and wrap up with the performance of The Stephen Foster Story. The tour bus leaves Franklin at 11:00 AM from the old Food Lion parking lot with a lunch break at Horse Cave and returns about midnight. Cost is \$85 per person and includes transportation, all admissions and dinner. Contact Simpson County Historical Society at 270-586-6161 for more information. As of May 16, there are 25 spots left.

### **Bowling Green-Warren County Civil War Sesquicentennial September 17, 2011**

Individuals from several organizations are planning daylong activities showing many aspects of the role Bowling Green and Warren County had in the Civil War. We were invited to be a part of this committee. Events include a Confederate Encampment at Riverview at Hobson Grove, Downtown Walking Tours, Living History Demonstrations (blacksmithing, weaving, spinning, children's activities, etc.) Smoke Writing Tours and Spirits of the Civil War, a guided tour by Fountain Square Players that evening. The September events focus more on Confederate history. Another event in spring will focus on BG-WC Union history. Check our summer newsletters for additional details as they develop.

## **CIVIL WAR ANECDOTES:**

During the Civil War, Henry Ward Beecher traveled to England in order to solicit British support for the Northern cause. While addressing a turbulent crowd of rebel sympathizers in Manchester, Beecher was asked a difficult question: "Why didn't you whip the Confederates in sixty days, as you said you would!" "Because," he replied, "we found we had Americans to fight instead of Englishmen!"

## **THANK YOU:**

We would like to thank David Lee, Dean of WKU's Potter College of Arts and Letters, for hosting the reception of the April BGCWRT meeting. It was a rousing success.

## **DIRECTIONS TO CHERRY HALL FOR THE MAY 19, 2011 MEETING:**

If you are coming from out of town and would like to avoid Scottsville Road afternoon traffic, the best route would be (both north and south bound) to take I-65 to Exit 26. If you are Northbound: at the top of the ramp, turn left onto Cemetery Road/Fairview Avenue (234). If you are Southbound: at the top of the ramp, turn right onto Cemetery Road. Turn left onto College Street which leads up to the front of Cherry Hall. Parking is available at the corner of College and 15<sup>th</sup> Avenue.

## **Bowling Green Civil War Round Table Executive Board**

**PRESIDENT** – Ron Hatcher [rhatcher2@gmail.com](mailto:rhatcher2@gmail.com) - **VICE PRESIDENT** – Jonathan Jeffrey [jonathan.jeffrey@wku.edu](mailto:jonathan.jeffrey@wku.edu)  
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**ADVISORS** – Glen LaFantasie [glenn.lafantasie@wku.edu](mailto:glenn.lafantasie@wku.edu) and Greg Biggs of Clarksville Civil War Round Table