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Bowling Green Civil War Round Table Newsletter (Jan. 2012)

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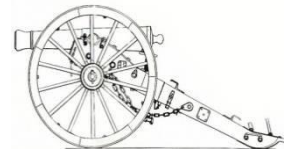
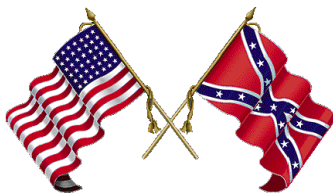
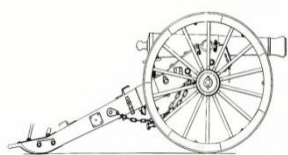


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Founded March 2011 – Bowling Green, Kentucky

Bowling Green Civil War Round Table

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

BOWLING GREEN CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE – JANUARY 2012 NEWSLETTER

This Month's Program

"The Battle of Perryville"

In August 1862, Confederate forces in three columns moved into the Bluegrass State hoping to seize it for the Southern cause. One hope was to recruit thousands of men into the Confederate Army. Accordingly, arms and equipment were brought along to equip them. But the key was to win a battle and defeat the Army of the Ohio of General Don Carlos Buell. Only then would pro-South recruits risk enlisting.

After a smashing victory at Richmond in late August, the column under General Edmund Kirby Smith took Lexington and Frankfort and sent cavalry towards Cincinnati, Ohio causing a panic there. Meanwhile, another column, under General Braxton Bragg, captured a large Union force at Munfordville, threatened Louisville and then moved towards battle with Buell at Perryville. On October 8, 1862, the largest battle fought in Kentucky was fought with a portion of Bragg's Army of the Mississippi and most of Buell's forces. By day's end, the Confederates had pushed Buell back but were forced to withdraw for strategic reasons not long after. Eventually, the entire campaign collapsed with the Confederates in full retreat back into Tennessee.

Our speaker, Chris Kolakowski, will discuss the campaign and battle that came close to making Kentucky a Confederate state. Command decisions, strategy, successes and failures and much more will be on the table presented by one of the finest experts on the battle in the nation today. This is a program that you will not want to miss presented by a wonderful speaker.

Christopher L. Kolakowski was born and raised in Fredericksburg, Va. He received his BA in History and Mass Communications from Emory & Henry College, and his MA in Public History from the State University of New York at Albany. Chris has spent his career interpreting and preserving American military history with the National Park Service, New York State government, the Rensselaer County (NY) Historical Society, the Civil War Preservation Trust, and the Army Reserve. From 2005-2008 Chris was Executive Director of the Perryville Enhancement Project; during his tenure he added 152 acres of critical battlefield land and increased Perryville's national profile. He has written and spoken on the Civil War, American Revolution, Napoleonic Wars, and both World Wars. In 2009 the History Press published his first book, *The Civil War at Perryville: Battling For the Bluegrass*. His current book, *The Stones River and Tullahoma Campaigns*, was recently published. Today Chris currently serves as Director of the General George Patton Museum of Leadership in Fort Knox, KY. In 2012 the U.S. Army will publish his volume on the 1862 Virginia Campaigns as part of its sesquicentennial series on the Civil War.

Our President's Message

We are actually meeting on the 150th anniversary of the Battle of Mill Springs, Kentucky—the second largest engagement in the state and an important psychological early victory for the Union. This defeat in the East, followed soon by the losses of Forts Henry and Donelson, made Albert Sidney Johnston's position untenable and resulted in the evacuation of Bowling Green by the Confederates. That evacuation had obvious ramifications for our local history!

Certainly 1861 doesn't compare to the "phony war" of 1940 in Europe, but the conflict heated up in 1862 and continued for 3 more bloody years, as we all know. These years created literally an unlimited number of topics for our programs and a basis for our expectation that the BGCWRT will not end with the close of the sesquicentennial. Your attendance and input and telling friends about our programs are all vital to that success. I hope to see you for our next meeting on Thursday, January 19, which also happens to be the 205th birthday of Robert E. Lee.

Ron Hatcher

FUTURE PROGRAMS (please check our new web site for other events):

February 2012 – Betty Jane Gorin-Smith – author/historian - *“The Battle of Tebb’s Bend and John Hunt Morgan”*

March 2012 – Jim Lewis – Stones River National Battlefield – *“My Poor Orphans – The Orphan Brigade At Stones River”*

April 2012 – Mark Christ, historian/author – *“The Civil War In Arkansas 1863”* (based on his recent book)

May 2012 – Dr. Michael Bradley – author/historian – *“The Staff and Escort of Nathan Bedford Forrest”*

July 2012 – BGCWRT members are invited to attend the meeting of the Clarksville, TN CWRT. The speaker is the one and only Ed Bears!!!!

August 2012 – Phil Seyfrit – Battle of Richmond Battlefield - *“The Battle of Richmond, Kentucky”*

September 2012 – David Simpson – historian – *“Captain Ellis Harper: Confederate Partisan or Guerrilla?”*

October 2012 – TBA

November 2012 – Ruth Hill McAllister, author/historian – *Sam Watkins Memoirs, Company Aytch”* (tentative)

MEMBERS AND DUES – We hope you will support the Bowling Green CWRT by joining our ranks. Those who have already joined, thank you. Our dues help us get great speakers and are also used for historic preservation. Annual dues are as follows:

Individual membership - \$20

Family (same address) - \$30

Student - \$10

Name badges will be created for each member when dues are paid. Badges will be available before the meeting and are to be left with Kathy Leath, Treasurer, at the end of the meeting. Please see Kathy at the next meeting to check your information on the Membership Roster. There are some missing addresses, phone numbers and emails.

Bowling Green CWRT Officers

President – Dr. Ron Hatcher: rhatcher2@gmail.com **Vice President** – Jonathan Jeffery: jonathan.jeffery@wku.edu

Treasurer – Kathy Leath: LeathGenealogy@bellsouth.net

CIVIL WAR NEWS AND EVENTS

Kentucky Historical Society Gives Award to Phil Seyfrit of Battle of Richmond, Kentucky (From the Civil War News)

The Kentucky Historical Society recently presented its 2011 Frank R. Levstik Award given for professional service to Phillip Seyfrit. Seyfrit is the superintendent of the Battle of Richmond Battlefield in Kentucky. He began working at the park in 2007 and guided most of the projects aimed to making it a viable resource and tourist destination including the new visitor center which opened in 2008. His official title is Madison County Historic Properties Director.

In addition to running the battlefield park, Seyfrit is a member of the Kentucky Civil War Sesquicentennial Commission (appointed in 2010 by Governor Steve Breshear), as well as the program chair for the Madison County Civil War Roundtable. He is also an officer of the Central Kentucky World War Two Roundtable. He also won a previous award, the Pinnacle Award, given by the Kentucky Museum and Heritage Alliance. Seyfrit will be our August speaker. Our heartiest congratulations!

Online Civil War Program At The US Army Heritage And Education Center, Carlisle, Pennsylvania (From the Kankakee Valley CWRT newsletter in Illinois)

If you are looking for some good online Civil War lectures you cannot do wrong by visiting www.carlisle.army.mil/ahec/. A search through their Media Galleries will lead you to their lecture series. Some of their presentations do have a bit of static, and some even have some distortion and focus issues. However, the material presented is of very high quality. Here’s the list of what’s currently online and expect more topics to become available as the Civil War Sesquicentennial moves along.

Devils Own Work-CW Draft Riots and the Fight to Reconstruct America Barnet Scheter 73 mins

Virginia Campaign-May-June 1864 Mark Grimsley 60 mins

Harp and Eagle Irish-American Volunteers and the Union Army, 1861-1865 Dr. Susannah J. Ural 64 mins

Role of the Constitution in the CW Mark Neely, Jr. 73 mins.

From Engineer Lieutenant to Corps Commander-The Civil War Career of Godfrey Weitzel Dr. Arthur W. Bergeron Jr. 61 mins

Generalship of Ulysses S. Grant and the American CW Dr. Richard J. Somners 81 mins

West Pointers in the Civil War Dr. Wayne Hsieh 69 mins

Other online topics range from the militia men in King Philips War through *Magnificent Desolation: The Long Road Home from the Moon* with Dr. Buzz Aldrin, former Apollo astronaut.

Tennessee Civil War Sesquicentennial Signature Event: Invasions By Rail and River, April 4-5 2012

The next series of Tennessee Sesquicentennial Civil War events will be held on April 4-5, 2012 at Pickwick Landing State Park. This site is not far from Shiloh National Military Park. Part of the festivities will include - *Looking Back: The Civil War In Tennessee* digitization project, where people can bring their letters, diaries, photos, weapons and much more to the event so that they can be documented by the state archives. Other programs include living history demonstrations; special exhibits from the Tennessee State Museum and Tennessee State Library and Archives plus musical performances and lectures by noted Civil War historians. These speakers include Larry Daniel, Wiley Sword, Stacy Allen, Tim Smith, James McDonough, John Marszalek Carroll Van West and others.

For more details on the location please visit www.tn.gov/environment/parks/PickwickLanding/. The hotel at Pickwick Landing is offering a special sesquicentennial rate of \$75 per night and to secure that rate please call 800-250-8615. For more details on the event please call 615-741-2159 or email vionne.williams@tn.gov

Shiloh National Military Park Sesquicentennial Events – April 6-7, 2012

If you stay in the Pickwick Landing area a couple more days you can attend the additional sesquicentennial events hosted by Shiloh National Military Park just down the road. These include special extended tours of the battlefield and a grand illumination of the Shiloh National Battlefield with 23,746 luminaries, one for each American soldier killed, wounded or missing at Shiloh. If that isn't enough, two amazing locally sponsored living history reenactments featuring 6,000+ re-enactors and hundreds of cannons will be held on March 29 through April 1st in Hardin and McNairy counties to commemorate the 150th Battle of Shiloh.

For more information on these locally organized events visit www.nps.gov/shil/.

Fort Donelson National Battlefield Sets Their 150th Anniversary Programs

Fort Donelson National Battlefield in Dover, Tennessee, will be having a number of events for their upcoming 150th Anniversary. Not all of the programs have been filled as yet but several known authors including Ed Bearss, Kendall Gott, Jack Hurst and Myron Smith have all been tabbed to make appearances at the park, most of them during the February events. Smith is an expert on the naval war in the west with several books to his credit while Hurst and Gott have both written books on the Fort Donelson Campaign. Ed Bearss is...well... Ed Bearss! Most of the events will be around the date of the battle, February 12-16, 1862, but there will also be events for the fall of Fort Henry and Fort Heiman around February 4-6, 2012. Many of the programs will be led by park rangers but there will also be living historians and their encampments to add luster to the affair.

For more information on all of the events please visit the park's web site at: www.nps.gov/fodo

150th Anniversary Fort Donelson Reenactment – March 2-4, 2012 To Be Held At Cumberland City, Tennessee

This 2012 national event will be held 20 miles south of the actual battlefield on the Stewart-Houston County line in an industrial park. The event will feature loads of cannons, thousands of troops as well as civilian events like a ladies tea. The whole affair is sponsored by Porter's Tennessee Battery (www.portersbattery.com) and the Armies of Tennessee (www.armiesoftennessee.com).

For more details about attending either as a spectator or reenactor please visit the event web site at – www.FortDonelson.org. This is an approved state of Tennessee Sesquicentennial event – visit www.tnvacation.com for details of all of their Civil War events.

Battle of Franklin Blog and Emailed Newsletter

Noted Tennessee historian Kraig McNutt, offers a fine blog on the Battle of Franklin as well as an emailed newsletter that will offer updates, information and much more. To get to the blog please go to - www.BattleofFranklin.net – and be prepared for a lot of information. If you wish to receive his emailed newsletter simply send your email address to – BattleofFranklin@yahoo.com.

Kraig also offers a site dedicated to the descendants of those men who fought at Franklin on November 30, 1864. Please visit - <http://franklindescendants.wordpress.com/>