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Bowling Green Civil War Round Table Newsletter (March 2012)

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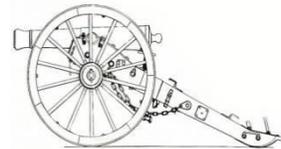
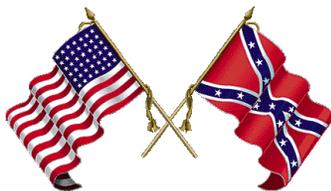
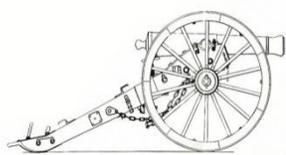


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Founded March 2011 – Bowling Green, Kentucky

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)

President's Notes: March, 2012

First, I know it's obvious, but I want to point out (for those of you who missed our last meeting) just how fortunate the BGCWRT is to have the full support of the WKU History Department. With the mix-up on dates for our intended speaker, Betty Jane Gorin, Dr. LaFantasie was able to go to his office for a few moments and return to give a very interesting and insightful program on the youth of President Grant. This was gleaned from his upcoming book on Grant and Lincoln which will be of interest to many of us, I'm sure.

Secondly, I've since had the opportunity to meet Betty Gorin and know that we can truly look forward to a rescheduled presentation on the battle of Tebb's Bend from her. She is informed, charming and grounded in the history of Taylor Co. Kentucky.

Third and last, remember that we hope to have a brief business session at this meeting on the 15th. Come and make your opinions known!

Ron Hatcher

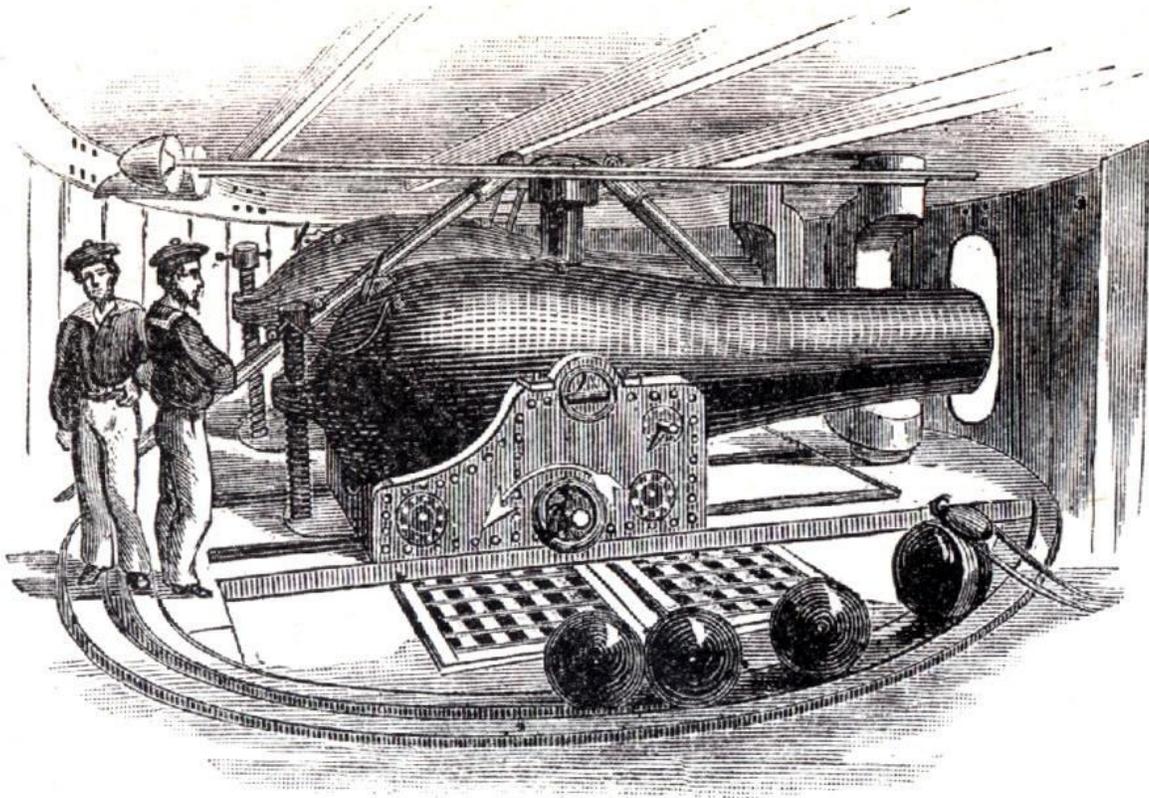
The BGCWRT will meet at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, March 15 in Cherry Hall 125.

This month's program: Jim Lewis will speak on *My Poor Orphans!* – A presentation that tells the tale of one of the most famous Confederate units in the Western Theater, the First Kentucky (Orphan) Brigade.

Jim Lewis has been a Park Ranger with the National Park Service since 1991. Since 1997, he has been fixture at Stones River National Battlefield, serving as a ranger, curator, and de-facto historian there. Jim has researched and presented dozens of interpretive programs at Stones River National Battlefield and across the country on a variety of Civil War topics. He has also written numerous interpretive publications for the National Park Service and played a large role in planning and researching the material in the new Stones River National Battlefield museum.

March 1862 witnessed decisive events that changed the course of military history. One hundred and fifty years ago this month, the Monitor and the Merrimac faced off in the first battle of iron-clad, steam-powered warships. The revolutionary breakthroughs of these new and dreadful weapons made other warships obsolete and hastened the coming of the modern Navy.

The picture below shows the interior of the revolving turret atop the Monitor:



During March 1862 President Lincoln, increasingly frustrated with General George McClellan's reluctance to seek battle, relieved McClellan of his position of General-in-Chief of the Union Army. The goal was to free McClellan of wider responsibilities and allow him to focus on the opening of the Peninsula Campaign. Meanwhile, Stonewall Jackson began his famous campaign through the Shenandoah Valley. Partially because of incorrect intelligence he had been given, Jackson suffered what was perhaps his only defeat at Kernstown, Virginia on March 23. The defeat helped the Confederate cause as Union troops which were originally designated to help with McClellan's Peninsula Campaign were instead used to reinforce the area where Jackson was rampaging.

Military and Political Events:

March 1862: McClellan moves his army to the tip of the peninsular between the James and York rivers, intending to bypass the Confederate lines and attack Richmond from the east.

6 March 1862: Lincoln sends a message to Congress recommending passage of a joint resolution beginning, "Resolved that the United States ought to co-operate with any state which may adopt gradual abolishment of slavery, giving to such state pecuniary aid, to be used by such state in its discretion, to compensate for the inconveniences public and private, produced by such a change of system." (*Collected Works* 5:144-5) During March Lincoln will meet with his cabinet and a variety of congressional leaders in an attempt to gain support for compensated emancipation.

7-8 March 1862: [Battle of Pea Ridge](#) (or Elk Horn), Arkansas

Battle that ended a confederate attack from Arkansas that was hoped to cut Grant off from the north.

8-9 March 1862: [Battle of Hampton Roads](#), Virginia

Two days of fighting that changed naval warfare. 8 March saw the confederates launch the first ironclad battleship, which threatened to destroy the Union army, but on the next day the Federal ironclad appeared, and held off the Confederates.

13 March 1862: Congress prohibits the use of the armed forces for the restoration of escaping slaves.

13 March 1862: [Battle of New Madrid](#), Missouri

Union forces drive Confederate garrison out of New Madrid.

14 March 1862: [Battle of New Berne](#), North Carolina

Second Union success during the Burnside expedition on the North Carolina coast. New Berne remained in Union hands for the rest of the war

23 March 1862: [Battle of Kernstown \(I\)](#), Virginia

Stonewall Jackson attacked a much larger Union army at Kernstown (Shenandoah valley), thinking he was only facing a rearguard. Although Jackson was defeated, Lincoln assumed that the Confederates must have a large army to take such risks, and withheld some troops from McClellan on the Peninsular Campaign.