

5-2012

Bowling Green Civil War Round Table Newsletter (May 2012)

Manuscripts & Folklife Archives
Western Kentucky University, mssfa@wku.edu

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.wku.edu/civil_war

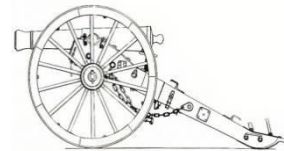
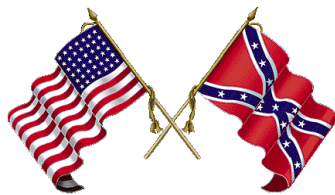
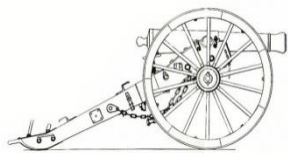


Part of the [Military History Commons](#), and the [United States History Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Folklife Archives, Manuscripts &, "Bowling Green Civil War Round Table Newsletter (May 2012)" (2012). *Bowling Green Civil War Round Table Newsletter*. Paper 36.
https://digitalcommons.wku.edu/civil_war/36

This Newsletter is brought to you for free and open access by TopSCHOLAR®. It has been accepted for inclusion in Bowling Green Civil War Round Table Newsletter by an authorized administrator of TopSCHOLAR®. For more information, please contact topscholar@wku.edu.



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)

May, 2012: President's Notes

In May of 1862, Gen. T. J. “Stonewall” Jackson’s name became household words (North and South) for the rapid succession of his defeat of 3 Union armies in the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia.

I knew that a new era of Civil War study had dawned when I attended a seminar on Jackson, sponsored by the trust which owns Jackson’s home in Lexington, VA, in the 1990’s, and one topic featured the mediocrity of the 3 different Union commanders as the major explanation for Jackson’s success. Such blasphemy and in Lexington, Jackson’s home where he had been a professor at VMI, and where he is buried!!!

Here we are 150 years after the fact and the facts don’t change, but our understanding of them, the sum of knowledge about them and the **need** for their interpretation may. In those times of 1862 the South needed a successful hero and the North was in no position to label all 3 of those generals in the field inept. I have lived long enough to see an “evolution” of American history and remain fascinated. Bring your fascination and come to 125 Cherry Hall at 7PM, Thursday, May 17.

Ron Hatcher

The BGCWRT will meet at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, May 17 in Cherry Hall 125.

This month’s program: Historian Michael Bradley will speak on Nathan Bedford Forrest’s Staff and Escort.

Sign up for Fort Henry and Fort Donelson tour:

Accomplished Civil War historian and tour guide Greg Biggs is offering a guided caravan tour of the Ft. Henry/Ft. Donelson Campaign to BGCWRT members on Saturday, June 9 OR Saturday, June 16, for \$10 per person. Sign-up sheet was available to members at April meeting and you may also register for the event on our BGCWRT Facebook page. Or contact Tom Carr at tcarr710@insightbb.com, with your contact information. (NOTE: It will make it easier for me to find your e-mail amongst dozens of others, if you put DONELSON TOUR in the subject line.) Please indicate your preference of dates. We will choose the date based on member interest. Greg's preference is for us to drive as few vehicles as possible to prevent getting lost, etc.

Civil War Historian Ed Bearss to speak at Clarksville CWRT

Legendary NPS Historian-Emeritus Ed Bearss will speak at the Clarksville CWRT on July 18th. Meeting starts at 7pm. Meet & greet will take place before. The Clarksville (TN) Civil War Roundtable meets at the Bone & Joint Center, 980 Professional Park Drive, Clarksville, TN right across the street from Gateway Hospital. Just off Dunlop Lane and Holiday Drive and only a few minutes east of Governor’s Square mall.

150 Years ago this month:

1 May 1862: New Orleans

City occupied by Federal Forces under Admiral David G. Farragut and General Benjamin F. Butler.

5 May 1862: Battle of Williamsburg, Virginia

Confederate rearguard action delays McClellan, reinforcing his developing case of “the slows.”

8 May 1862: Battle of McDowell (Shenandoah Valley), Virginia

First battle of ‘Stonewall’ Jackson’s campaign in the Valley. The battle disrupted General Fremont’s plan to attack south into Eastern Tennessee.

9 May 1862: Department of the South

General Hunter, commanding Department of the South, issues General Order No. 11 freeing slaves in South Carolina, Georgia, and Florida, without informing President Lincoln.

10 May 1862: Battle of Fort Pillow

Confederates win victory on the Mississippi when their gunboat fleet surprises the Union fleet attacking Fort Pillow.

15 May 1862: Battle of Drewry’s Bluff, Virginia

Confederate gun batteries repulse a Union fleet attempting to reach Richmond.

15 May 1862: Brooklyn, New York

Unions Grounds, first enclosed baseball park, opens.

19 May 1862: Washington D.C.

President Lincoln declares General Hunter’s General Order No. 11 void, and “that neither General Hunter, nor any other commander, or person, has been authorized by the Government of the United States to make proclamations declaring the slaves of any State free.” (See *Collected Works*, V: 222-3)

20 May 1862: Washington D.C.

Congress passes the Homestead Act. The law provided that any adult citizen, or intended citizen, who had never borne arms against the U.S. government could claim 160 acres of surveyed government land. Claimants were required to “improve” the plot by building a dwelling and cultivating the land. After 5 years on the land, the original filer was entitled to the property, free and clear, except for a small registration fee. After the Civil War, Union soldiers could deduct the time they had served from the residency requirements.

23 May 1862: Battle of Front Royal (Shenandoah Valley), Virginia

Jackson’s army destroys the small Union garrison at Front Royal.

26 May 1862: First Battle of Winchester (Shenandoah Valley), Virginia

Jackson’s Confederate forces defeat Union army at Winchester, forcing it to pull back to the Potomac.

31 May-1 June 1862: Battle of Fair Oaks/Seven Pines, Virginia

Confederates attacked the Union army outside Richmond. Wounding of the Confederate commander Joe Johnston allowed Robert E. Lee to be promoted on June 1 to command the armies around Richmond.