

10-2012

# Bowling Green Civil War Round Table Newsletter (Oct. 2012)

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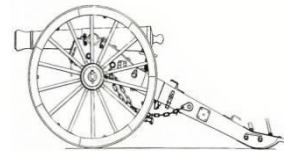
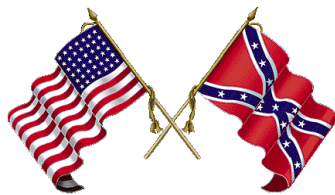
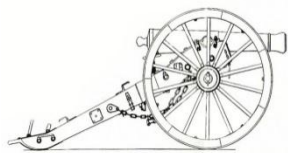
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Founded March 2011 – Bowling Green, Kentucky

# 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: October, 2012

Is it true that the “devil” is in the details? That old saying has many potential interpretations. When I looked at local news on AOL 9/30/12, I was pleased to see that Perryville, KY and the state tourism commission were gearing-up for the 2000 re-enactors and the many visitors expected for the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of KY's largest Civil War battle.

The “details” in the article, however, implied that many, many thousands of soldiers' wives would have been on the field “cooking” and that as late as Oct. 8, 1862, the Confederate General Bragg was hoping to enlist thousands of Kentuckians to the Southern cause.

Everyone receiving this newsletter knows those details to be very wrong, but my more important question might be this: Is it better to give historic events due notice in the hope that it will motivate those so inclined to find accuracy on their own and learn in spite of the misinformation it might leave with the less-informed and casual reader?

I come down solidly on the side of more exposure of our past with the belief that we can learn from both previous mistakes and glories and be inspired by individual predecessors both ordinary and famous. The historical knowledge of the average American high school graduate is abysmal—they would be ahead of the curve, unfortunately, to know the American Civil War was going on 150 years ago!!

Come to our next meeting in room 125 Cherry Hall, Thursday, 7PM CDST, Oct. 18, 2012 and hear Brian Wills speak about General George Thomas, USA --until recently that under-appreciated, Virginia born “Rock of Chickamauga” and victor of Nashville.

Ron Hatcher

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**October's Program:** Brian Wills will speak on General George Thomas.

7:00 p.m., Thursday, October 18 in Cherry Hall 125 on WKU's campus.

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## Christmas Meeting With the Clarksville and Bowling Green CWRTs – December 19, 2012

We will have a joint Christmas meeting with these two CWRTs at Ariella Italian Restaurant on the third Wednesday of December – December 19th. We will have the whole restaurant to ourselves and Debbie plans a wonderful offering of her excellent food. Ariella is located on the square in Russellville, KY, only 28 miles or so from Bowling Green. Our speaker will be Krista Castillo, president of the Nashville CWRT and the topic is “*Christmas in the Civil War.*” Please put this on your calendars as it promises to be a terrific night. We can organize car pools, etc. to get folks there from Clarksville.

## **Timeline: October 1862**

**October 1:** The Confederate press portrayed Lincoln's emancipation declaration as a recipe for slave insurrection.

**October 4:** The Confederates launched a major but unsuccessful attack on Union troops occupying Corinth, Mississippi.

**October 7, 1862:** In response to a growing population from a recent gold rush, British Columbia's first hospital opens in New Westminster, then capital of the province and now a suburb of Vancouver. It is designed for thirty patients and only serves men who are neither "incurable" nor "insane."

**October 8, 1862:** Some 38,000 soldiers fight in the Battle of Perryville, the largest battle ever fought in Kentucky. The battle is a tactical victory for Confederate Gen. Braxton Bragg's Army of Mississippi, but it ultimately proves a strategic victory for Union Maj. Gen. Don Carlos Buell's Army of the Ohio, which keeps control of Kentucky for the rest of the war after Bragg retreats to Tennessee.

**October 10, 1862:** 1800 Confederate cavalymen, led by Maj. Gen. J.E.B. Stuart, raid the town of Chambersburg, Pennsylvania, cutting telegraph lines, seizing hundreds of guns and horses, destroying \$250,000 worth of railroad property, and abducting eight black boys and men. They intend to destroy the railroad crossing Conococheague Creek but then realize they only have swords with them, so they abandon the project.

**October 10, 1862:** A combined popular revolt and military coup forces King Otto of Greece to give up the throne and escape the country. The ensuing chaos will eventually lead to a new constitution in 1864 and the establishment of a constitutional monarchy.

**October 10:** Jefferson Davis requested to the Confederate Congress that 4500 African Americans be drafted in to build defences around Richmond.

**October 11:** The Confederate Congress agreed with Davis but stipulated that anyone who owned twenty slaves or more was exempt from this call-up. This decision was not well received and the less well-off slave owners in the Confederacy started to comment that it was "a rich man's war and a poor man's fight".

**October 13:** Lincoln wrote to McClellan to urge him to do something. "You remember my speaking to you of what I called your over-cautiousness. Are you not over-cautious when you assume that you cannot do what the enemy is constantly doing? Should you not claim to be at least his equal in prowess, and act upon that claim? If we do not beat the enemy where he now is, we never can, he again being within the entrenchments of Richmond."

**October 19:** As military governor of New Orleans, General Benjamin Butler gave orders to raise three regiments of "free coloured men." He also sought to introduce the legal precedent that 'blacks were equal to whites' in the eyes of the law.

**October 20:** Abraham Lincoln issues an executive order establishing a provisional government in Louisiana. When the State Department creates a numbering scheme for executive orders in 1907, they will retroactively name this Executive Order No. 1.

**October 25:** Major General Ulysses S. Grant assumes command of the 13<sup>th</sup> Army Corps and the Department of Tennessee.

**October 30:** Major General William Rosecrans assumes command of the Army of the Cumberland.