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Bowling Green Civil War Round Table Newsletter (April 2013)

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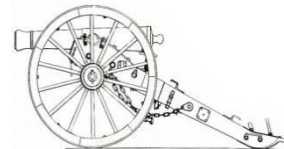
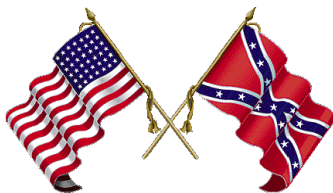
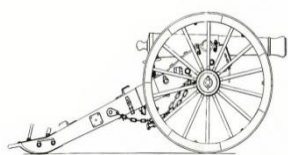


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Founded March 2011 – Bowling Green, Kentucky

Bowling Green Civil War Round Table

President - Dr Ron Hatcher; Vice President – Jonathan Jeffrey; Secretary – Tom Carr; Treasurer – Robert Dietle; Advisors – Dr Glenn LaFantasie and Greg Biggs(CCWRT)

President's Notes: April 2013

Good friends from Georgia deer hunted on my place last fall and before they left they invited me to relic hunt on their family farm in North Georgia near Dallas. It turns out there was a pretty significant engagement in late May 1864 right there and one that I knew nothing about.

David Guion put me on to a good metal detector and to get ready I started reading The Civil War Battlefield Guide and looked in The Official Military Atlas and Battles and Leaders. My next source however brought me to my theme for this note.

I am fortunate to have the book collection of Maj. T. E. Moss, CSA, adjutant of the Orphan Brigade and when I went to his copy of Johnston's Narrative, published in 1874, I found his old bookmark. This had lain between the pages unseen for so long that it had discolored the adjacent pages. It is red, about one and one-half inches by six inches and in upper case asks simply "REMEMBER ME". Isn't that sentiment what we're about as a Civil War Roundtable? Isn't that why we read or site visit and attend presentations relative to our Nation's greatest trial? An event terrible in its cost and performed by so many participants worthy of collective and many times individual remembrance. (Major Moss was one of those, but that's another story.)

Ron Hatcher

April's Program: **April 18** - David Bastian, historian/author will speak on "Grant's Canal" 7:00 p.m., Thursday, April 18, in Cherry Hall 210.

About this Month's Speaker: David Bastian is a retired hydraulic engineer with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, with a degree in civil engineering from Georgia Tech and a masters in river engineering from Delft in the Netherlands. His training allows Mr. Bastian to calculate the potential success of the Union's endeavor. He is now a practicing engineering consultant after having a career with the Army Corps of Engineers that was punctuated by a 6-year stint in Panama as a delegate to the tri-national Commission for the Study of Alternatives to the Panama Canal.

Description of the Topic – "Grant's Canal"

Mr. Bastian writes, "My slide presentation would take the your Civil War Round Table back in time through war-time photos and maps. The topic is based upon my book. It is about the two Union campaigns against Vicksburg and focuses on the efforts to divert the Mississippi River away from Vicksburg by digging a canal across the narrow bend opposite the town. Had they succeeded, they would have had immediate and complete control of the river (definitely in the summer of 1862 and possibly in the winter of 1863). We would explore Vicksburg's geographical importance and the topographical characteristics that made it so defensible.

Most books are a new twist on a battle, campaign or leader. Mine is about a totally new topic; one that

historians have really not understood to date. As a civil engineer who lived in Vicksburg, I understand the river and how close the Union came in succeeding. Had they succeeded, Vicksburg would no longer have been an important target.”

At Last Month’s Meeting: The March 2013 meeting of the Bowling Green Civil War Round Table took place in Rm. 210, Cherry Hall, on the campus of Western KY University with President, Dr. Ron Hatcher presiding. We were pleased to have a large turn-out for our guest speaker, Betty Gorin Smith, whose welcome subject – “Morgan is Coming” – detailed the Kentucky battle at Green River Bridge, usually known as the Battle of Tebbs Bend. Betty is a noted authority on the battle, and of many of the individuals involved - both Union and Confederate. Members greatly enjoyed meeting her and appreciated her program.

Schedule of upcoming BGCWRT Speakers:

May 16 - Thomas Flagel, Columbia State College/Franklin CWRT - "The 1863 Federal Occupation of Franklin"

June and July– No Meetings

Aug 15 - Greg Biggs, Bowling Green/Clarksville CWRTs - "Debacle On The Rivers: The Forts Henry and Donelson Campaign"

150th Anniversary Commemoration of the Union Occupation of Bowling Green, Ky. April 20-21, 2013
Visit: <http://www.visitbgky.com/micro/civilwar/>

As Civil War Sesquicentennial commemorations continue across the country through 2015, make plans to join the Bowling Green Civil War Committee on **Saturday, April 20** for a living history event at the **Historic Rail Park & Train Museum**.

This educational and informal event will focus on the Union Occupation of Bowling Green from February 1862 until the end of the war. **All activities are free to the public!**

Kentucky adopted a policy of neutrality at the beginning of the Civil War. The status ended in early September 1861, when Confederate troops seized the Mississippi River town of Columbus, Kentucky followed by Paducah and Smithland, Kentucky.

Both sides wanted control over Bowling Green and Warren County. Productive farms and ample quantities of fresh water promised plentiful supplies for an army. The center of a reliable and defensible transportation network made Bowling Green one of the state’s most strategic cities. The L&N Railroad, a system of roadways, and the Barren River could be relied upon to move men and supplies quickly and efficiently.

Fully realizing its importance to the Southern cause, Confederate General Simon Bolivar Buckner led approximately 5,000 troops to occupy Bowling Green on September 18, 1861. The town of 3,000 people found themselves suddenly thrown into the burgeoning conflict and the center of Kentucky’s Confederate Government.

The new year brought serious concern to the Confederate occupation force. A Union victory at Mill Springs, in Eastern Kentucky, on 19 January 1862, and General Grant's victories at Forts Henry and Donelson to the west, made Bowling Green untenable for the Confederates.

Under the command of General Ormsby Mitchel, Bowling Green was bombarded from across the Barren River. The Confederate army evacuated the city, burning crops and buildings as they fled, and by mid-February 1862, the city fell into Union hands.

To commemorate the Union invasion, a reenactment of the artillery bombardment will kick off the day's activities at 10 a.m. on the lawn of the **Historic Rail Park & Train Museum** at the L&N Depot. Spectators then can enjoy the **Civil War Living History exhibits** on the grounds from **10 a.m. to 4 p.m.** with craftsmen exhibiting period skills, military re-enactors practicing drills, civilian re-enactors portraying daily life and a possible visit from the Kentucky Historical Society's newest HistoryMobile exhibit featuring Kentuckians and the Civil War.

Children will have hands-on fun from **11 a.m. to 1 p.m.** while participating in period games of marbles, jacks, hoops and sticks. Led by **Melissa Page**, the **Monroe County Knucklers** coach and past National Marbles Champion, each child will walk away with a few tokens and new ideas for the next bout of afternoon boredom.

Next, enjoy live skits from period performers who will educate and entertain as they portray characters from the Civil War era. These will take place from **1 to 2 p.m.**, then the women and girls break away for a special Ladies' Tea just down the street at the **Eloise B. Houchens Center** from **2 to 3 p.m.** Join civilian re-enactors and members of the Bowling Green Garden Club for this lively and free event (donations appreciated). Seating is limited, so reserve your spot by calling [842-6761](tel:842-6761).

Another fun afternoon activity is a **self-guided architectural tour** of Bowling Green's Civil War buildings with costumed docents at several locations. The downtown tour begins at **The Presbyterian Church** and is available from **12 to 2 p.m.** with maps to guide the way.

Later in the evening from **6 to 9 p.m.**, help commemorate the soldiers' hardships as we celebrate with a **Military Ball** inside the **L&N Depot Lobby**. Come as you are in casual dress or mark the occasion with period attire. Tap your feet to the Americana sounds of local trio **The Pennyrilers** and enjoy light refreshments before we close out the Ball with a nighttime cannon firing, weather permitting.

We'll round out the day with two **Pioneer Cemetery Lantern Tours**, available to the public free of charge at **7:30 and 8:45 p.m. weather permitting**. If you missed this last fall, you'll certainly want to make plans to catch it this time! Follow guides around Bowling Green's first public cemetery and hear from 10 'residents' as they relay the complicated impact the war had on their family and friends. Tours leave from the NAPA parking lot on the corner of 6th and Center St. Arrive early to guarantee your spot, wear comfortable shoes and bring a flashlight.

Additionally on Sunday afternoon, we will honor the fallen with a Union and Colored Infantry **Memorial Service** between **Mt. Moriah** and **Fairview Cemeteries** at **1:30 p.m.** Anyone who wishes to participate is welcome.

To learn more about the day's activities, Bowling Green's role in the Civil War and the area's Civil War Discovery Trail and Audio Tour, go to <http://www.visitbgky.com/micro/civilwar/> or call the Convention & Visitors Bureau at [782-0800](tel:782-0800)

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Lincoln Memorial University Civil War Symposium – April 20, 2013: War in the Mountains III
Lincoln Memorial University, Harrogate, TN (at the south end of Cumberland Gap)

1. Dr. Wilma Dunaway will discuss “The Civil War and Emancipation through the Eyes of Appalachian Slaves.”
2. Dr. Michael Toomey plans to tell us about “The Campaign that Never Was: The Union Invasion of East Tennessee, 1861.”
3. Dr. McKnight has been working on a new project which he is titling, “The Roles of Weather and Terrain in the Rise and Fall of Felix Zollicoffer.”

Re: the DVD - ***The Civil War at Cumberland Gap*** tells the story of three individuals: the slave: Samuel; the Union soldier, Franklin Jones; and the Confederate soldier, Jeremiah Dean. Both Jeremiah and Franklin Jones were poor mountaineers and Samuel was a Green County TN slave “rented” to a Claiborne County plantation owner. Samuel was believed to have ridden on a local raid with a Unionist group and was subsequently killed by a Confederate raid. Franklin and Jeremiah both survived the war. The project was grant funded and both High School and Middle School lesson packets were written by Lincoln Memorial University faculty. The entire project was a partnership between the Abraham Lincoln Library and Museum and Cumberland Gap National Historical Park. Teachers who have previewed the DVD and Lesson Booklets give it rave reviews.

Contact Information: Carol Campbell, Director of Programs

Phone: 423.869.6439 or 800.325.0900 Extension 6439

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Civil War Tours in Middle Tennessee - June 2013

A) **Michael Bradley**, author of the first book on the Tullahoma Campaign, and **Greg Biggs** (Clarksville CWRT), are teaming up to do the **Tullahoma Campaign tour on the weekend of June 1-2, 2013**. This was Union General William S. Rosecrans masterpiece which drove the Confederates out of Middle Tennessee for the rest of the war and set up the taking of Chattanooga. We will meet in Murfreesboro with a Friday evening program on May 31st. Prices, etc. yet to be determined. The tour may just take Saturday, June 1st, only. Motels for Friday night to be determined. We will be using the Blue & Gray magazine on the campaign for the maps which are \$6 each.

B) **Gregg Biggs**: On *Saturday, June 29th*, Greg Biggs is doing a **tour of the Fort Donelson Campaign** for a couple CWRTs and everyone is invited to join. The base will be in Clarksville and a Friday evening program will be held on the 28th. Cost is \$20 per person for the tour; motel, meals, etc. are extra for each participant. We will be using the Blue & Gray magazine on the campaign as they have the best maps. These will run \$6 per person.

For more information please contact Greg at: Bigggsg@charter.net

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The Filson Civil War Field Institute - *East Tennessee in Turmoil* - June 6-8, 2013

The Filson Historical Society will host another Civil War Field Institute whose mission is to explore the complex history of the Civil War era in Kentucky, The Ohio Valley region and the Upper South through a series of field trips and lectures that allow participants to follow the footsteps of the armies and stand on the grounds where they fought.

"From the first days of the Civil War, East Tennessee stood as a bastion of unionism nearly surrounded by regions loyal to the newly minted Confederacy. Home to important unionist politicians like Andrew Johnson, "Parson" Brownlow, and Horace Maynard, East Tennessee was a jewel for both the Union and Confederacy. Unionists feared for their lives because of the armed Confederates in their midst and the Confederates lived in constant fear of unionist guerrilla attacks. As a result, the Civil War in East Tennessee saw street fights, shootouts, skirmishes, battles, bridge burnings, and executions. On our tour, we will visit many of the most important Civil War sites in East Tennessee where many of the region's signature events played out." - Brian D. McKnight

We will headquarter in Greeneville, TN and travel by coach bus to various sites over the course of two days.

Our tour Guide

Brian D. McKnight is Associate Professor of History at the University of Virginia's College at Wise where he teaches southern history and courses in the Civil War era. His first book, *Contested Borderland: The Civil War in Appalachian Kentucky and Virginia* (Kentucky, 2006), won the James I. Robertson Literary Prize in Confederate History. His most recent book, *Confederate Outlaw: Champ Ferguson and the Civil War in Appalachia*, tells the story of the Confederacy's most notorious borderland guerrilla and was awarded the Tennessee Historical Commission's award for the Best Book on Tennessee History for 2011.

Fieldtrip Fee

\$280 for Filson members;

\$330 Non-members

Includes all admission fees to museums and parks, Chartered Bus, Two lunches, a reception and one dinner (Thursday evening)

To reserve your place: A non-refundable deposit of \$50 (***Due by 4/22/2013***) per person is required at time of registration and balance is due to the Filson by **May 28, 2013**

Space is limited.

To assure your field trip reservation, you can register on line through eventbrite. (additional fees)

<http://www.eventbrite.com/event/3585760105#>

The Filson Historical Society
c/o Scott Scarboro CWF
1310 S Third Street
Louisville, KY 40208

All participants are responsible for their travel arrangements to and from Greeneville, TN and making their own hotel accommodations and dinner on Friday evening. During the field trip we will travel by chartered bus as a group.

Accommodations

General Morgan Inn

111 North Main Street

Greeneville, TN 37743

(423) 787-1000 / (800) 223-2679

\$85 per night – Filson group rate.