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# Bowling Green Civil War Round Table Newsletter (Sept. 2013)

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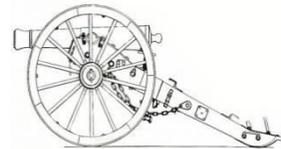
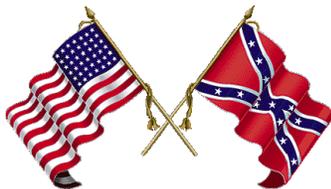
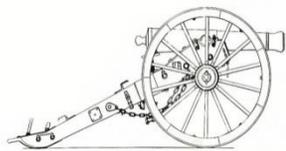
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Founded March 2011 – Bowling Green, Kentucky

# 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-(Clarksville CWRT)

The Bowling Green, KY Civil War Round Table meets on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of each month except June, July, and December.

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## September 19<sup>th</sup>, 2013 – Our 22nd meeting.

The 22th meeting of the Bowling Green Civil War Roundtable will be on Thursday, September 19th, 2013 in Rm. 125, Cherry Hall, on the Campus of Western KY University.

The meeting begins at 7:00 pm and is always open to the public.

**Members please bring a friend or two – new recruits are always welcomed.**

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### President's Notes

As you all are aware, the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of 2 great Union victories occurred in July—Gettysburg and the fall of Vicksburg. The last offensive foray of the Army of Northern VA north of the Mason-Dixon and the opening of the Mississippi to the sea; unquestionably two really “big deals”.

I was struck by the national attention Gettysburg received in comparison to Vicksburg and wondered if the fact that one was in Pennsylvania and the other in the deep South, Mississippi, played a part. That thought brought me to the current “red state” and “blue state” designation in national party politics and how that has changed in my lifetime. Imposing those labels as of today on the 36 states at war 150 years ago gives, to me, a vivid demonstration of some of the carry over of the War Between the States. (Remember it took the 2<sup>nd</sup> convention for VA to secede and only the panhandle of FL was settled in 1863 if you're looking at the 2012 presidential election:) The titles have changed but the “red states” of the old solid South aren't even nominally the “Party of Lincoln” any more than the “blue states” relate to the philosophies of Breckinridge and Douglas. The point I'm trying to make is that the expectations of and from government vary geographically today. It may always be so, but where are the statesmen to remind us of how we are similar rather than emphasizing our differences and who can continue to encourage a more “perfect union” rather than focus on the next election cycle?

To me the Civil War represents the ultimate struggle between two visions of governance based on constitutional interpretation. We should and have learned from that horror, but a government that polls rather than leads, that postures rather than debates and spends without a budget deserves little respect. History calls. . . are we listening? Ron Hatcher

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## Our Program for September 2013

~  
Greg Wernke

**"Tornado of Death. How Combat Effective Were Civil War Repeaters"**

- University of Cincinnati 1986 with majors in History and Computer Science and minors in Math and Literature.
- Currently employed with Deloitte and Touche where he develops distributed computing systems

- Member of the Organization of American Historians
- Member of the Sons of Union Veterans
- Member of the Western Sharpshooters. We portray the various regiments attached to the Lightening (Wilder's) Brigade (17th, 65th and 72nd, Indiana, 98th and 123rd Illinois).

Greg's talk is entitled - "Tornado of Death. How Combat Effective Were Civil War Repeaters" we will be examining each major Civil War long arm (the Enfield, the Henry, The Spencer) and post war weapon that replaced all of them. Greg will attempt to answer one question - Were the Henry and the Spencer "game changing" weapons?

The talk is based on having the weapons on site. He will be bringing an **1853 Enfield**, **1860 Henry** and **1860 Spencer** as well as an **1873 Trapdoor Springfield**, and will allow audience members to handle each weapon so they get a tactile feel and understanding for each arm.

Below: Greg and others helping to commemorate the 151<sup>st</sup> Anniversary of the Surrender of Ft. Donelson on 16 Feb 2013



Left to Right: Sgt. Bill Heard, Privates: Tommy Phillips, Greg Wernke, Issac Heard, Ranky Hart, Chaplain Sam Gant, Captain Dave Du Brucq, General U.S. Grant (Curt Fields)

### 151<sup>st</sup> Surrender of Fort Donelson

Members of the 10<sup>th</sup> Tennessee (U.S.) Volunteer Infantry participated in several events to commemorate the 151<sup>st</sup> Surrender of Fort Donelson on 16 Feb 2013. Members, with Gen. U.S. Grant (Curt Fields) were on hand to re-enact the surrender at Dover Hotel. Later in the day, members served as Color Guard for the annual wreath laying at Fort Donelson National Cemetery.



## **Tennessee's Last Living Daughter of a Civil War Veteran Passes Away. (From the Nashville Tennessean)**

Corinne Smith Davenport, 97, of Nashville passed away on August 23, 2013. An authentic testament of southern history, Corinne was the last living daughter of a Confederate Soldier in Tennessee. Beloved mentor, school teacher, Sunday school teacher, mother, grandmother, friend, and member of the UDC Kate Litton Hickman Chapter 597. A college graduate at 19, Corinne went on to teach math at Bellevue High School for 38 years, teaching over 3 generations of students. She touched the lives of many, as evidenced by the multitude of students, dear friends, and family who visited her until her final days. Many of her students went on to become math teachers themselves due to her significant influence. She was an active member of First Baptist Church Nashville since 1927 where she met her husband and taught numerous Sunday school classes. A regular attendee of Sunday services, Corinne was a devoted Christian woman who placed her faith in God and service towards others above herself. The world has lost a beautiful soul full of light, grace, humility, selflessness, and steadfast faith but whose legacy will live on in the lives of those she mentored, taught, and loved. The family would also like to thank the United Daughters of the Confederacy whose undying devotion through the years touched the life of Corinne and her family.



## **COMING EVENTS**

### **“Where The River Campaigns Began” Civil War Tour – Friday-Saturday, September 27-28, 2013**

The river campaigns that conquered the Mississippi, Cumberland and Tennessee Rivers all began in Cairo, Illinois. This area became the major Union naval base for the west in the Civil War as well as a large supply and hospital center. All of the Union campaigns from Belmont in Missouri through Vicksburg in Mississippi emanated from the Cairo area. This town was arguably the strategically most important site in the US during the Civil War from 1861-1863. One cannot understand the river campaigns until they visit Cairo where the Mississippi and Ohio Rivers join.

Join Greg Biggs for a tour of the Cairo, Illinois area. Sites visited will include the naval ways at Mound City, IL where three of the City-class ironclads were built, as well as the National Cemetery. In Cairo, the Fort Defiance site, Grant's headquarters and the Cairo Museum will be covered. The tour then crosses into Kentucky for a visit to Fort Jefferson and Columbus, site of the massive Confederate fortifications. From there the tour will interpret the battle of Belmont, U.S. Grant's first battle. The tour will base out of Paducah, KY and some of that town's Civil War sites will also be part of the tour. The fee is \$30 per person.

For more information please email Greg at – [BiggsG@charter.net](mailto:BiggsG@charter.net) or call (931)217-4265. Cairo is only a little over 2 hours from Clarksville so it is not that far away. The cost is \$30 per person. Hotels are on your own and a list will be provided.

### **Annual Mount Olivet Cemetery Civil War Walking Tour – Nashville, TN - October 12, 2013**

On the evening of Saturday October 12, the dead come alive for a historic graveyard tour of Mt. Olivet Cemetery- the site of over 1,500 Confederate graves. Re-enactors, in period dress, will portray spies, soldiers (from privates to generals) and southern belles of Nashville's past. Stationed at their own burial site they will tell the story of the person who is buried there, reliving the battles and other historical events that took place during their time. Don't miss this interesting and educational presentation that is sure to appeal to all ages. Please bring a flashlight and wear walking shoes. The tour costs \$10 for adults, \$6 for children (age 5 or younger get in free). The tours begin at 4:30 P.M. and end at 8:30 P.M.

The tours last a little over an hour and leave at regular intervals. For additional information please calls (615) 780-3598

PRESENTED BY: THE SONS OF CONFEDERATE VETERANS CAMP #28, a non-profit organization raising money for erection of historic markers and maintenance of the Memorial Hall at Mt. Olivet Cemetery.

### **150th Anniversary of the Battle of Chattanooga and Chickamauga Events – October 9-12, 2013**

The Tennessee Sesquicentennial Commission and several other historical organizations in Tennessee are jointly sponsoring a series of conferences, from October 9-12 at the Chattanooga Convention Center in Chattanooga, TN. ALL EVENTS ARE FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC IF YOU REGISTER IN ADVANCE!! Presenters will discuss the battles, events and stories of the Civil War. Also included in the Signature Event are brief dramas and musical performances. Special tours of nearby battlefields are available for separate purchase. You can download the entire program of the Tennessee Sesquicentennial Commission Signature Event here: <http://www.tnvacation.com/civil-war/media/signature-event-agenda-final-august-2013.pdf>

Speakers include William Glenn Robertson, Peter Cozzens, Brooks Simpson, Sam Davis Elliott, Richard McMurry and Wiley Sword.

### **Tennessee Valley CWRT Civil War Symposium – The Civil War In The Tennessee Valley Area, November 2, 2013**

Join the Tennessee Valley Civil War Round Table and the Huntsville-Madison County Public Library at the Huntsville, Madison County

Library in Huntsville, Alabama on November 2, 2013, to explore the strategic importance of the Tennessee Valley, along with other related activities. The event begins at 9 AM and ends at 4: 30 PM. Huntsville is about 2 1/2 hours from Clarksville.

**Featured Speakers and Topics:** A full range of outstanding historians and authors –

- Greg Biggs – “Nashville – Siren’s Song of the Confederacy”
- Thomas Flagel – “A Landscape Transformed: Union Fortifications and the Alteration of Middle Tennessee”
- Eric Jacobsen – “The Battle of Franklin”
- J.F. (Pete) Sparks – “The Federal Occupation of North Alabama in 1862”
- Peggy Allen Towns – “Duty Driven: The Plight of North Alabama’s African Americans”

There will be other events and displays, including a book dealer, during the day.

There is a single admission fee for the Featured Speaker presentations – \$15 for general audience; \$10 for Active Duty military personnel (ID required); \$5 for students up through and including college (ID required for college students)

For more information please email - [tnvalleycivilwarrt@gmail.com](mailto:tnvalleycivilwarrt@gmail.com)

### **Civil War Reenactment In Franklin, Tennessee – November 8-9, 2013**

Civil War reenactors - sign up now for a November 8 and 9 Reenactment: Franklin's Blue-Gray days will be held at Historic Carnton Plantation on November 8 and 9, 2013.

The annual battle re-enactment to commemorate the 149th Battle Anniversary will be on Saturday, November 9 at 1:00 pm. Register with an email to [bthargrove123@aol.com](mailto:bthargrove123@aol.com) or [rghuff123@aol.com](mailto:rghuff123@aol.com) . There is no registration fee. Cavalry and Artillery are limited so register now for a reserved spot.

### **Tennessee installs permanent Civil War exhibits in state Welcome Centers**

Permanent Civil War exhibits were recently installed in Tennessee Welcome Centers. The purpose of the Civil War exhibits is to educate visitors and Tennesseans as to the important role Tennessee played in the Civil War. Each Tennessee Civil War Exhibit features an overview of Tennessee’s role in the Civil War, as well as the regional impact of the Civil War and will also promote rural tourism development through the Tennessee Civil War Trail and Discover Tennessee Trails & Byways programs.

“Tennesseans are proud of our commitment to tell the whole story of the Civil War through our statewide auto trail system, our many historic sites and national battlefields,” said Dr. Carroll Van West, director of the MTSU Center for Historic Preservation and Tennessee Civil War National Heritage Area and co-chair of the Tennessee Civil War Sesquicentennial Commission. “The new Welcome Center exhibits not only introduce our story and approach to any and all visitors; they are also part of the commitment that Tennesseans today make to the future: to tell the whole story of the Civil War and to remind everyone that the Civil War era issues of national unity and citizenship still shape our world.”

A ribbon cutting and dedication will be held Wednesday, Sept. 4 at 1 p.m. EST at the I-81 Sullivan County Welcome Center, located at the southbound mile marker 75.3 in Bristol. Permanent exhibits can also be found at Tennessee Welcome Centers located at I-40 Shelby County — Memphis; I-65 Robertson County — Mitchellville; I-24 Hamilton County — Tiftonia; I-65 Giles County — Ardmore; I-40 Smith County — Buffalo Valley; I-75 Campbell County — Jellico; I-26 Unicoi County —Erwin; I-40 Cocke County — Hartford; I-75 Hamilton County — Chattanooga; I-24 Montgomery County — Clarksville; and I-155 Dyer County — Dyersburg. This project was made possible through a partnership with Tennessee Department of Finance and Administration, Tennessee Department of Tourist Development, MTSU Center for Historic Preservation, Tennessee Civil War National Heritage Area, and the Tennessee Civil War Sesquicentennial Commission and was funded by the Tennessee Department of Finance and Administration, State Capital Commission.

### **~ UPCOMING PRESENTATIONS TO THE BGCWRT ~**

- ~~October~~ ~~Brian McCutchen, superintendent of Fort Donelson National Battlefield speaking on the Battle of Arkansas Post, January 1863 (Later date!)~~
- **October** – Possibly Lee Ann Newton to talk about her book on Erastus Winters of the 50th Ohio who fought at Perryville and was garrisoned in KY during the war.
- **November** - Jerry Wooten, Superintendent of Johnsonville State Park in New Johnsonville, TN on Johnsonville in the Civil War and Forrest's Raid of November 1864.

- **January 2014** - Rhea Cole, Middle Tn CWRT, William Rosecrans Signal Corps in the Army of the Cumberland
- **February ?**
- **March** - Greg Biggs - Atlanta Campaign, Part 1

### **BOWLING GREEN CWRT OFFICERS**

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