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# Bowling Green Civil War Round Table Newsletter (April 2014)

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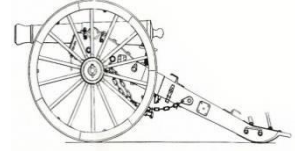
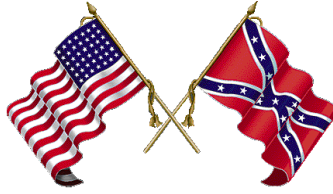
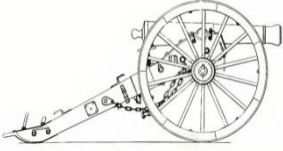
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Founded March 2011 – Bowling Green, Kentucky

# Bowling Green Civil War Round Table

President –Tom Carr; Vice President - Jonathan Jeffrey; Secretary – Carol Crowe-Carraco; Treasurer – Robert Dietle;  
Advisors –Glenn LaFantasie and Program Chair-Greg Biggs (President - 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).

Email: [BGCWRT@wku.edu](mailto:BGCWRT@wku.edu)

The 28th meeting of the Bowling Green Civil War Roundtable will be on Thursday, April 17th, 2014  
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.**

## **Our Previous Meeting: March 20<sup>th</sup> 2014**

At our last meeting Greg Biggs presented the first of his planned two part series on the Atlanta Campaign. From a detailed account of the Generals on both sides of the conflict to a discussion of early skirmishes, Mr. Biggs made Sherman's march to Atlanta come alive. Concluding with the brutal battle at Kennesaw Mountain, which appeared to presage Lincoln's defeat in the 1864 election, the strength of early Confederate defenses were made apparent. In the second half of his presentation, scheduled for our August 21<sup>st</sup> meeting, Mr. Biggs will discuss the remaining conflicts of the Atlanta campaign and conclude with Sherman's successful defeat of CSA General Joe Johnston's forces at Atlanta.

**Business: The Treasurer's Report was read. The Secretary's Report is the Newsletter.**

**The Program for April 2014--**The BGCWRT is pleased to have Mr. Jerry Wooten, Park Manager of Johnsonville Historic Park, as our guest speaker. His topic is "Johnsonville and Forrest's Raid: November 1864," in which he will outline the effects of General Nathan Bedford Forrest's raid on the Union supply depot at Johnsonville, Tennessee. This depot was crucial to the Union war effort in the region, acting as a depot for supplies sent to the larger Nashville depot. General Forrest believed that destroying the Johnsonville depot would cut off supplies to the forces of General William T. Sherman, forcing him to retire from the "March to the Sea." What Forrest did not know was that Sherman's forces had cut themselves off from the Tennessee supply line and were resupplying themselves with procured Southern goods. Though it failed in its original purpose, Forrest's daring raid destroyed Union supplies worth millions of dollars.

Mr. Wooten received a B.A. from Austin Peay and a Masters of Public History from Murray. In April 2011 Mr. Wooten assumed his current position as Park Manager for Johnsonville State Park in New Johnsonville Tennessee.

## **This Month in Civil War History**

- **April 4<sup>th</sup> 1864**- General Phillip Sheridan becomes commander of the Union Cavalry Corp. of the Army of the Potomac.
- **April 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> 1864**- CSA forces under Major General Richard Taylor defeat Union forces under Major General Nathaniel Banks in the battle of Mansfield (also known as Sabine Crossings). This battle marked the beginning of the end for the Union's Red River campaign. a
- **April 8<sup>th</sup> 1864**- The U.S. Senate approves the thirteenth amendment, providing the abolition of slavery, by a vote of 38 to 6. The amendment then moved on to the House of Representatives, where it would not pass until April 1865. Kentucky ratifies in 1976.
- **April 10<sup>th</sup> 1864**- Battle of Prairie D'Ane occurs when a combined Union force under Major General Fred Steele and Brigadier General John Thayer meet CSA forces.
- **April 12<sup>th</sup> 1864**- CSA forces under General Nathan Bedford Forrest defeat Union forces in the Battle of Fort Pillow, Tennessee. This battle led to post-war controversy, as the congressional committee on the conduct of the war gathered evidence showing Forrest's men executed Black soldiers after the battle.
- **April 17<sup>th</sup> 1864**- General Ulysses S. Grant ends prisoner exchanges with the CSA, arguing that returning Confederate soldiers was prolonging the war.
- **April 18<sup>th</sup> 1864**- Battle of Poison Springs occurs in Ouachita County Arkansas.
- **April 20<sup>th</sup> 1864**- U.S. War Department announces a reduction in rations for CSA prisoners of war in response to reports of the mistreatment of Union prisoners held in the South.
- **April 26<sup>th</sup> 1864**- Admiral David Porter's fleet is badly damaged by onshore CSA forces while rescuing Nathaniel Bank's retreating forces.
- **April 30<sup>th</sup> 1864**- Joseph Davis, the son of CSA President Jefferson Davis, dies following a fall from the Confederate White House porch in Richmond Virginia.
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### **UPCOMING PRESENTATIONS TO THE BGCWRT**

- **May 15<sup>th</sup>**: Michael Bradley- "Raiding Winter: Confederate Cavalry operations of KY and TN 1862/1863 (based on his new book)
- **August 21<sup>st</sup>**: Greg Biggs- "The Atlanta Campaign: Part II"

### **Glenn Lafantasie's Family Memories on the Civil War and Rhode Island.**

When I was a boy growing up in Rhode Island, way up there in Yankeeland, my mother took my father's watch to be fixed at a clock shop in Providence. Inside, I looked around at the watches and clocks on display. This must have been in the mid-1950's, when all watches and clocks had to be wound to keep them running. I noticed that every clock and watch was set for the same time: 7:22. So I asked my mother why all the clocks and watches were set the same. Her answer surprised me. "It was 7:22 A.M.," she said, "when Abraham Lincoln died on April 15, 1865." It turned out that most Northerners of her generation knew the importance of 7:22, and I mention this today only to emphasize, in a very personal way, how close we still are to the Civil War, Abraham Lincoln, and the generation of Americans who experienced this nation's worst catastrophe. Many of you probably have your own connections to the Civil War-some of them of a more intimate family link to a forebear who served in the Union or Confederate armies. My point is that the Civil War, even though it is now removed from us at a distance of one hundred fifty years, is still close enough in time to strike in us what Lincoln called "the mystic chords of memory."

## **Membership Information**

Will you join us! If you have friends interested in the Civil War, please bring them along. *January is our fiscal year when dues for the current campaign are due.* If you haven't paid your dues for this season yet please do so. Our dues help us get great speakers. With enough members we may also assist with historical preservation in the future. Dues are:

- Student- \$10
- Single- \$20
- Family- \$30
- Military (active duty and veterans)- 15
- Military family (active duty and veterans)-\$25

### **Suggested Civil War web sites:**

**The Valley of the Shadow:** <http://valley.lib.virginia.edu/>

**The American Civil War:** <https://www.facebook.com/pages/The-American-Civil-War/127650407273823>

**The National Park Service:** <http://www.nps.gov/civilwar/index.htm>

**The History Channel Website:** <http://www.history.com/topics/american-civil-war>