Bowling Green Civil War Round Table Newsletter (April 2014)

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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 20th 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 21st
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 4th 1864**: General Phillip Sheridan becomes commander of the Union Cavalry Corp. of the Army of the Potomac.
- **April 7th and 8th 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.
- **April 8th 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 10th 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 12th 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 17th 1864**: General Ulysses S. Grant ends prisoner exchanges with the CSA, arguing that returning Confederate soldiers was prolonging the war.
- **April 18th 1864**: Battle of Poison Springs occurs in Ouachita County Arkansas.
- **April 20th 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 26th 1864**: Admiral David Porter’s fleet is badly damaged by onshore CSA forces while rescuing Nathaniel Bank’s retreating forces.
- **April 30th 1864**: Joseph Davis, the son of CSA President Jefferson Davis, dies following a fall from the Confederate White House porch in Richmond Virginia.

UPCOMING PRESENTATIONS TO THE BGCWRT

- **May 15th**: Michael Bradley- “Raiding Winter: Confederate Cavalry operations of KY and TN 1862/1863 (based on his new book)
- **August 21st**: 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/](http://valley.lib.virginia.edu/)
The National Park Service: [http://www.nps.gov/civilwar/index.htm](http://www.nps.gov/civilwar/index.htm)
The History Channel Website: [http://www.history.com/topics/american-civil-war](http://www.history.com/topics/american-civil-war)