

5-2014

Bowling Green Civil War Round Table Newsletter (May 2014)

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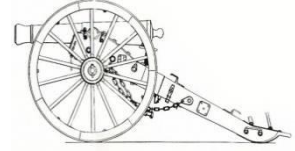
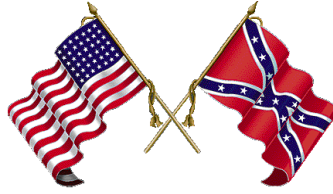
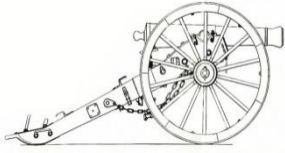


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Founded March 2011 – Bowling Green, Kentucky

Bowling Green Civil War Round Table

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

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

Email: BGCWRT@wku.edu

The 29th meeting of the Bowling Green Civil War Roundtable will be on Thursday, May 15th, 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: April 17th 2014

Our previous meeting featured a presentation from Mr. Jerry Wooten, park manager for Johnsonville State Historic Parks. Jerry discussed General Nathan Bedford Forrest's raid on the Union supply depot at Johnsonville, Tennessee. From detailed maps and pictures of the terrain and important personalities involved Jerry made the daring Confederate raid come to life. During the presentation Wooten expertly answered a series of questions from the audience, demonstrating his in-depth knowledge of the Johnsonville raid, as well as the passion that he has for both its history and maintaining the site for posterity.

Our Program for May 2014

Our guest speaker for this month is Dr. Michael Bradley, whose topic is "Raiding Winter: Confederate Cavalry Operations of KY and TN 1862/1863," which is based on his upcoming book on the subject. Mr. Bradley will discuss the 1862 decision of the Confederate high command to use cavalry against Union supply lines in the Western theater. Bradley will focus on Nathan Bedford Forrest's raids on Grant's Mobile-Ohio and Mississippi Central supply lines, as well as John Hunt Morgan's raid on William Rosecrans's Louisville and Nashville supply line. With these raids the Confederate cavalry shifted from its former role as the "eyes and ears" of CSA forces, to become a successful mobile strike arm that accomplished both strategic and tactical goals.

A native of the Tennessee-Alabama state line region near Fayetteville, Tennessee. Dr. Bradley attended Samford University for his B. A., took a Masters of Divinity at New Orleans Seminary, and attained his M. A. and Ph. D. from Vanderbilt University, graduating there in 1970. For thirty six years Dr. Bradley taught United States History at Motlow College, near Tullahoma. He retired in May 2006.

He is also the author of several books on the Civil War, including *Tullahoma: The 1863 Campaign*; *With Blood and Fire: Behind Union Lines in Middle Tennessee*; *Nathan Bedford Forrest's Escort & Staff in War and Peace*; *It Happened in the Civil War*, and *Home Fires in the Line of Fire*, published as part of an anthology titled *Sister States/Enemy States* about the war in Tennessee and Kentucky.

This Month in Civil War History

- **May 4th 1864**- The Wade-Davis Reconstruction bill passes in the House of Representatives. Written by Radical Republicans Benjamin Wade of Ohio and Henry Winter Davis of Maryland, this bill would have required a majority of Southern citizens to declare allegiance to the United States before their state could be readmitted to the Union. President Lincoln, who believed only ten percent should have to take an oath of allegiance, refused to sign the bill, ensuring its demise.
- **May 5th 1864**- The battle of the Wilderness occurs when Union forces under General Ulysses S. Grant meet General Robert E. Lee's Army of Northern Virginia in the wilderness surrounding Spotsylvania, Virginia. Both sides suffered heavy casualties, with Grant withdrawing on May 7th after CSA forces under General James Longstreet arrived, preventing the collapse of the Confederate right flank.
- **May 6th 1864**- The first skirmish of the Atlanta campaign occurs, as Union forces easily defeat Confederates at Tunnel Hill.
- **May 9th 1864**- Battle of Spotsylvania Courthouse occurs: Continuing Grant's battle of attrition against Lee. Having arrived earlier, Lee's forces establish defensive entrenchments in this bloody battle which continued until May 21st. In the end, the Union lost over 18,000 men killed or wounded, while the CSA suffered over 12,000 casualties, making this the bloodiest battle of Grant's Overland campaign.
- **May 11th 1864**- Battle of Yellow Tavern occurs when Union cavalry under Gen. Phillip Sheridan, attempting to conduct a raid on Richmond, meet CSA cavalry under Gen. J.E.B Stuart at Yellow Tavern. Heavily outnumbered, the Confederates lose the battle, and Stuart is mortally wounded while attempting to rally his men.
- **May 13th 1864**- the first Union soldiers are buried at Arlington National Cemetery. Ironically, the grounds used for this prolific military burial site came from the estate of Robert E. Lee's wife, Mary Anna Custis Lee.
- **May 27th 1864** - Battle of Pickett's Mill commences when Gen. Sherman ordered Oliver O. Howard to attack CSA Gen. Joe Johnston's exposed right flank. The Confederates were ready for this attack and repulsed the Union advance, leading to over 1600 Union casualties.
- **May 31st 1864**- The battle of Cold Harbor begins, one of the last engagements in the Overland campaign. Grant sent thousands of Union soldiers against the fortified Confederate position, resulting in nearly 13,000 casualties. This was one of the bloodiest battles of the Civil War, and was also the last strategic victory for Gen Lee.
- **May 31st 1864**- A small group of abolitionist-Republicans, angry over the limitations of Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation, meet in Cleveland Ohio and nominate John C. Fremont for President. Fremont had previously been the Republican nominee in the 1856 Presidential campaign.

Quotes from the Civil War

"War means fighting, and fighting means killing."-- General Nathan Bedford Forrest

"War is cruelty. There is no use trying to reform it. The crueler it is, the sooner it will be over."-- General William Tecumseh Sherman

"Any victory would be dear at such a price."-- General Robert E. Lee on the death of Stonewall Jackson at Chancellorsville

"It is well that war is so terrible, else we should grow too fond of it."-- General Lee to General James Longstreet

"The possibility that we may fail in the struggle ought not to deter us from the support of a cause we believe to be just."-- Abraham Lincoln

"I have just read your dispatch about sore-tongued and fatigued horses, Will you pardon me for asking what the horses of your army have done since the Battle of Antietam that fatigues anything?"-- Lincoln to General McClellan after Antietam

UPCOMING EVENTS FOR THE BGCWRT

- No meeting for June or July (will have information on future meetings when available)
- Fall Bivouac will commence August 21, 2014
- Gregg Biggs will present “The Atlanta Campaign, Part II”, August 21, 2014

Lincoln and Davis Families



The children of Jefferson & Varina Davis, c1867 (l to r): Jeff Jr., Margaret (Maggie), Varina Anne (Winnie), and William (Billy)

Jefferson Davis' children, Richmond, VA



The Lincoln Family, Washington, DC

Ironically, both Lincoln and Davis had small children die while in office.

Membership Information

Come 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. Annual dues are as follows:

- 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>