

8-2014

Bowling Green Civil War Round Table Newsletter (Aug. 2014)

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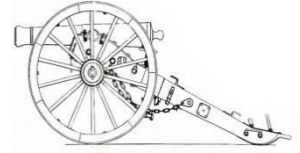
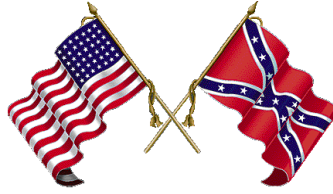
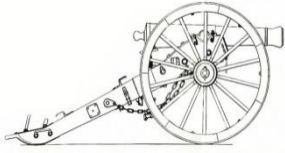


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Founded March 2011 – Bowling Green, Kentucky

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

AUGUST 21, 2014, THE CWRT WILL BIOUVAC

Rm. 125, Cherry Hall, on the Campus of Western Kentucky 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: May 15th 2014

Our previous meeting featured a presentation from Michael Bradley, entitled: “Raiding Winter: Confederate Cavalry operations of KY and TN 1862/1863.” Mr. Bradley elaborated on General Nathan Bedford Forrest’s raid 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. These campaigns marked the transition of the Confederate Cavalry from scouting parties to a legitimate Southern strike force. It also sparked the rise of General Nathan Bedford Forrest and helped to cement his legacy in postwar Southern literature. The BGCWRT would like to extend our appreciation to Mr. Bradley for his informative presentation, and encourage anyone interested in further details to pick up a copy of his book on the subject entitled: “The Raiding Winter.”

Our Program for August 2014

Greg Biggs,

Pres. of Clarksville CWRT

"The Atlanta Campaign: Part II."

The program will begin with Sherman's controversial attack at Kennesaw Mountain and continue to the Confederate change of command on July 17th when John Bell Hood replaced Joe Johnston. It will also cover three major battles around Atlanta and conclude with the fall of the city on September 2nd, 1864 as well as Sherman’s famous telegram to Lincoln, which declared that “Atlanta is ours and fairly won.” The victory ensured Lincoln’s reelection over Democratic Candidate George B. McClellan in November 1864, and helped cement the eventual Union victory in April, 1865.

This Month in Civil War History

- **August 1st**- General Phillip Sheridan assumes command of Union forces in the Shenandoah Valley. Under Sheridan's leadership the "Army of the Shenandoah" successfully defeated CSA forces under General Jubal A. Early, and initiated a "scorched earth" policy in the region, dealing irreparable damage to crucial Confederate food and supply lines.
- **August 3rd**- The battle of Mobile Bay begins in Alabama, ending in Confederate defeat at the hands of Union Naval forces commanded by Admiral David Farragut.
- **August 7th**- The Battle of Moorefield begins in West Virginia, with Union cavalry under Brigadier General William W. Averell defeating CSA cavalry led by Brig. Gen. John McCausland. This would be the final battle of the Civil War to occur in West Virginia.
- **August 14th**- the second battle at Dalton begins in Whitefield County Georgia, when Joseph Wheeler's Confederate Cavalry were attacked by Union forces out of Chattanooga Tennessee. Major General James B. Steedman's Union forces, including a regiment of African American soldiers, successfully drove off the CSA Cavalry, who had been attempting to disrupt General Sherman's supply lines.
- **August 19th**- President Lincoln meets with Frederick Douglass to discuss plans to move freedmen North should the Union prove incapable of subduing the Confederacy.
- **August 21st**- CSA forces under General Nathan Bedford Forrest are successful in temporarily capturing Memphis Tennessee. Though the Union would eventually retake the city, Forrest now had free reign to attack General Sherman's supply lines in a last ditch effort to subvert his Atlanta campaign.
- **August 27th and 28th**- Nearly 60,000 Union soldiers participated in this effort, which saw Union forces move South toward Jonesboro in an effort to cut off John Bell Hood's forces and break the CSA supply line at the Macon and Western railroad.
- **August 29th**- Northern Democrats nominate George B. McClellan for President and George H. Pendleton for Vice-President. Ironically, the Democratic platform called for a negotiated peace with the Confederacy, while McClellan initially favored continuing the conflict. This confusion, coupled with Sherman's victory in Atlanta, would ensure Lincoln's reelection.
- **August 30th**- Sherman's forces descend upon the Macon and Western Railroad, prompting General Hood to send CSA forces under Patrick Cleburne and Stephen Lee to defend it. This leads to the Battle of Jonesboro.
- **August 31st**- The Battle of Jonesboro commences. It would claim the lives of 1149 Union soldiers and 2,000 of the Confederate defenders. Once the smoke cleared Hood's Army of the Tennessee was routed and Sherman's forces occupied Atlanta.

Quotes from the Civil War

"I hate newspapermen. They come into camp and pick up their camp rumors and print them as facts. I regard them as spies, which, in truth, they are. If I killed them all there would be news from Hell before breakfast."- General William Tecumseh Sherman

"We talked the matter over and could have settled the war in thirty minutes had it been left to us." – Unknown Confederate soldier in reference to his conversation with a Union soldier.

"If I owned Texas and Hell, I'd rent out Texas and live in Hell." General Phillip Sheridan

"I know Mr. [Jefferson] Davis thinks he can do a great many things other men would hesitate to attempt. For instance, he tried to do what God failed to do. He tried to make a soldier of Braxton Bragg."- General Joseph Johnston

UPCOMING EVENTS FOR THE BGCWRT

- **September 18th 2014** - Jamie Gillum, author/historian - "Twenty Five Hours To Tragedy - The Affair At Spring Hill, November 1864" (based on his new book) (tentative)
- **October 16th 2014** - David Mowery - author/historian, Cincinnati CWRT - "John Hunt Morgan's Great Raid" (based on his recent book)
- **November 13th 2014** - Linda Barnickel, author/historian - "The Battle of Milliken's Bend - A Civil War battle in History and Memory" (based on her award winning book - one of the first battles where United States Colored Troops were used)
- **January 15th, 2015** - Brian Allison, author/historian - The United States Colored Troops in the Battle of Nashville
- **February 19th 2015** - Ron Sydnor, Jefferson Davis State Historic Site - "Jefferson Davis - The Man"
- **March 19th 2015** - Mark Hoffman, author/historian - "The 1st Michigan Engineers and Mechanics" (based on his book)
- **April 16th 2015** - TBA
- **May 14th 2015** - Gus and Traci Belt, authors/historians - "Religion and the Army of Tennessee" (based on their book)

Photos From the Atlanta Campaign



The Battle of Jonesboro

Left: Artist depiction of the bloody battle at Kennesaw Mountain, where 4000 men lost their lives.

Right: Depiction of the pivotal battle at Jonesboro.

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 obtain 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**