

11-2014

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

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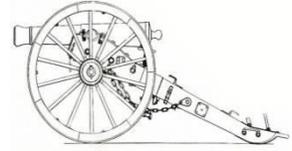
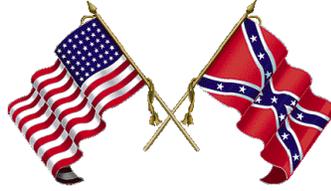
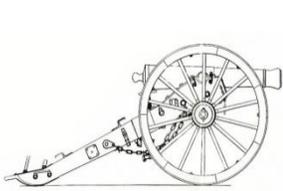


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Founded March 2011 – Bowling Green, Kentucky

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

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 Program for November 20, 2014

Linda Barnickel,

“The Battle Of Milliken's

Bend - A Civil War Battle In History And Memory”

The Bowling Green Civil War Roundtable is pleased to have Linda Barnickel as our guest speaker this month. Linda will be discussing the battle at Milliken’s Bend Louisiana, which comes from her A.M Pate and Jules Frances Landry awards winning book: *Milliken’s Bend: A Civil War Battle in History and Memory*. At Milliken’s Bend, Louisiana, a Union force composed predominantly of former slaves met their Confederate adversaries in one of the bloodiest engagements of the war. This small yet important fight received some initial widespread attention but soon drifted into obscurity. The fighting at Milliken’s Bend occurred in June 1863, about fifteen miles north of Vicksburg on the west bank of the Mississippi River, where a brigade of Texas Confederates attacked a Federal outpost. Most of the Union defenders had been slaves less than two months before. The new African American recruits fought well, despite their minimal training, and Milliken’s Bend helped prove to a skeptical northern public that black men were indeed fit for combat duty. After the battle, accusations swirled that Confederates had executed some prisoners taken from the “Colored Troops.” The charges eventually led to a congressional investigation and contributed to the suspension of prisoner exchanges between North and South.

About the Author: Linda Barnickel is an archivist and freelance writer with master’s degrees from the University of Wisconsin–Madison and The Ohio State University. Passionate about discovering the hidden and fascinating stories of history, she is interested in local history, military history, oral history, and the cultural power of archives.

For More Information on Milliken’s Bend please visit: <http://www.millikensbend.com>

Our Previous Meeting: October 17, 2014

At our previous meeting Mr. Dan Lee discussed the role of the Louisville and Nashville Railroad in the Civil War. Beginning operations just prior to the war, the L&N became a pivotal source of supplies in the Western theater. This made the L&N the target of both Union and Confederate governments, who fought for control of the railroad throughout the war. In early 1862 Union forces gained permanent control of the railroad, which soon came under attack from John Hunt Morgan and his guerilla forces. At the center of this conflict was L&N President James Guthrie, who is suspected of supplying both Union and Confederate forces, despite the protests of the Union high command. The Bowling Green Civil War Roundtable would like to thank Dan Lee for his excellent discussion of the L&N railroad, and extend an invitation for him to return in the near future.

Important Dates/Information

There's a ton of 150th anniversary things happening in Tennessee from early November onward. At the first part of November, Johnsonville and NB Forrest State Parks are doing events for the 150th of Forrest's Johnsonville Raid. Their events can be found at - www.tn.gov/environment/parks/about/johnsonville

Also, events for the 150th of Hood's Tennessee Campaign begin middle of the month. You can find much of these listed at - www.battleoffranklintrust.org and www.franklin-stfb.org

Events commemorating the battle of Nashville are also coming up in December: You can find information on this at the battle of Nashville Preservation Society website - www.bonps.org

Stones River National Battlefield is also having their annual seminar in October. You can get the information by Googling their web site. <http://www.nps.gov/stri/index.htm>

This Month in Civil War History

- November 4th-5th 1864: Nathan Bedford Forrest's cavalry and two captured Union boats move up the Tennessee River to Johnsonville and attacked the Union supply depot there causing major damage.
- November 7th 1864: Jefferson Davis addressed the Confederate Congress in Richmond, downplaying the loss of Atlanta and urging John Bell Hood to attack Sherman's army.
- November 8th 1864: Abraham Lincoln is reelected President over Democratic candidate and former General of the Army of the Potomac, George B. McClellan.
- November 11th 1864: Union forces destroy any infrastructure that could be of use to the Confederacy in Atlanta and Rome Georgia.
- November 15th 1864- Sherman begins his famed "march to the sea" which would culminate in the capture of Savannah, Georgia on December 21st 1864.
- November 19th 1864: A call for troops in Georgia results in few enlistments, with many Georgia citizens fearing that resistance could cause their homes to share Atlanta's fate.
- November 22nd 1864: Battle of Griswoldsville occurs when A Union Army Brigade under General Charles C. Walcutt fought three brigades of Confederate militia under Brigadier General Pleasant J. Philips. This was the first battle in the "march to the sea," and resulted in Union victory.
- November 28th: Battle of Buckhead Creek occurs when Union Army cavalry under Brigadier General Judson Kilpatrick repulse an attack by the small Confederate cavalry corps under Major General Joseph Wheeler.

- November 29th 1864: Hood's Army of Tennessee has the chance to defeat Union forces at Springhill Tennessee but fails to do so due to a breakdown in communications between commanders.
- November 30th: the Battle of Franklin begins with CSA forces under John Bell Hood attack the fortified Union position under Major General John Schofield. Hood fails to stop Schofield from retreating to Nashville, where Hood suffers a disastrous defeat on December 16th 1864.

Civil War Quotes

"I have been up to see the Congress and they do not seem to be able to do anything except to eat peanuts and chew tobacco, while my army is starving."- Robert E. Lee

"I know only two tunes: one of them is "Yankee Doodle," and the other isn't."- Ulysses S. Grant

"The case is before you. This is our golden opportunity. Let us accept it, and forever wipe out the dark reproaches unsparingly hurled against us by our enemies. Let us win for ourselves the gratitude of our country, and the best blessings of our posterity through all time."- Frederick Douglass appeal for African American enlistment.

"The world will little note, nor long remember what we say here, but it can never forget what they did here. It is for us the living, rather, to be dedicated here to the unfinished work which they who fought here so nobly advanced."- Abraham Lincoln, Gettysburg Address

"If slavery be a sin, it is not yours. It does not rest on your action for its origin, on your consent for its existence. It is a common law right to property in the service of man; its origin was Divine decree."- Jefferson Davis

"In every battle there comes a time when both sides consider themselves beaten, then he who continues the attack wins." – Ulysses S. Grant

"It's just like shooting squirrels, only these squirrels have guns" - A Federal Veteran training new troops

"Hello, Massa; bottom rail on top dis time."- Comment made by an African American prison guard upon seeing his master as a prisoner

"Sir, if you ever presume again to speak disrespectfully of General Grant in my presence, either you or I will sever his connection with this university." - Robert E. Lee, defending his opponent Ulysses Grant to a teacher.

"That man will fight us every day and every hour till the end of the war."- James Longstreet on Ulysses S. Grant

"In giving freedom to the slave, we assure freedom to the free - honorable alike in what we give, and what we preserve. We shall nobly save, or meanly lose, the last best hope of earth. Other means may succeed; this could not fail. The way is plain, peaceful, generous, just - a way which, if followed, the world will forever applaud, and God must forever bless."- Abraham Lincoln

"On the Avenue in front of the White House were several hundred colored people, mostly women and children, weeping and wailing their loss. This crowd did not diminish through the whole of that cold, wet day; they seemed not to know what was to be their fate since their great benefactor was dead, and though strong and

brave men wept when I met them, the hopeless grief of those poor colored people affected me more than almost anything else."-Gideon Welles, Secretary of the Navy.

UPCOMING EVENTS FOR THE BGCWRT

- **No Meeting in December**
- **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)

A View of the Battle at Milliken's Bend

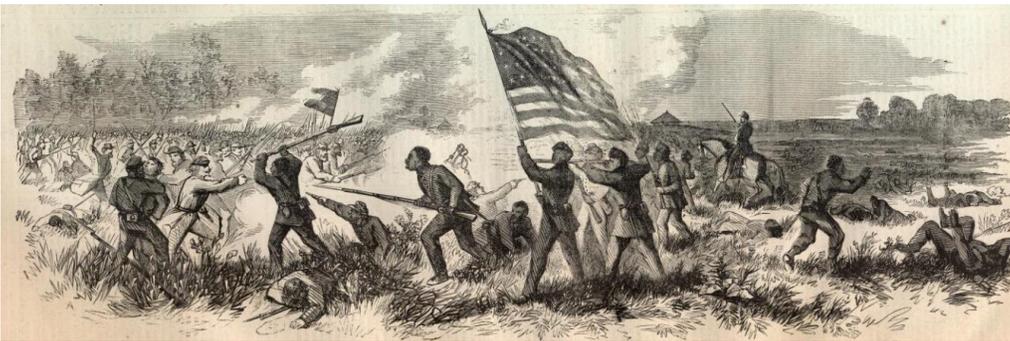


Figure 1: Depiction of the battle appearing in *Harper's Weekly*

Figure 2: Plaque commemorating the battle of Milliken's Bend

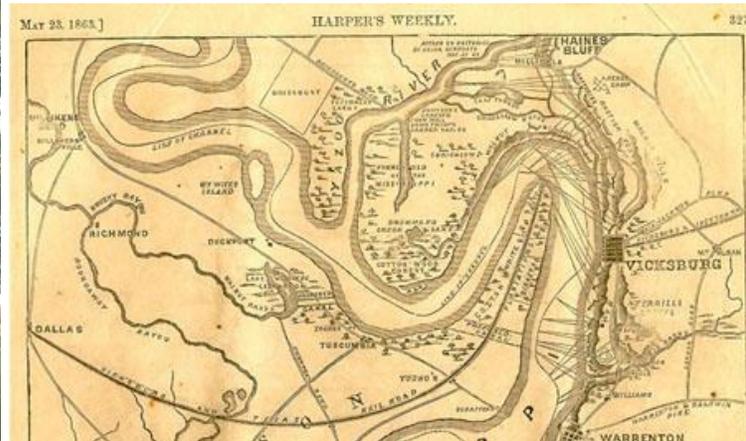
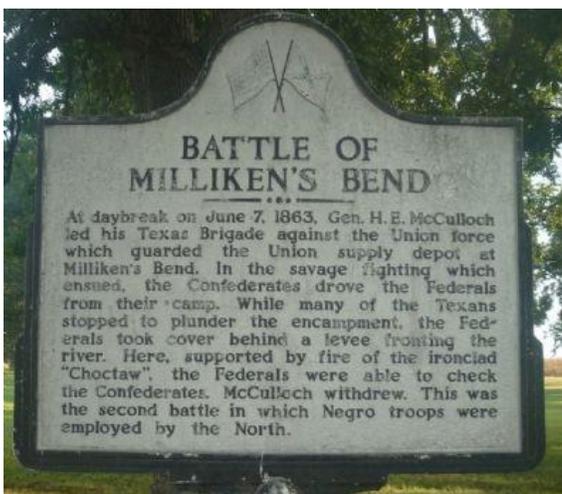


Figure 3: Map of battle from *Harper's weekly*

Correspondence by and about African Americans in the Civil War is rare. WKU's Manuscripts & Folklife Archives is fortunate to own an account book containing General Orders and Special Orders for the 61st U.S. Colored Infantry and the 2nd West Tennessee Volunteer Infantry of African Descent. Here is General Order no. 1, which relays the daily routine for the 2nd. The content may not to be re-printed or used in any format without written permission from the repository. Click [here](#) for contact information.

A. D. 1863

Head Quarters 2nd West Tennessee Volunteer Infantry
Lagrange Tenn. July 5th 1863

General Order
No 1

The following hours are designated
for the Drill and discipline of this command.

Reveille Roll Call	at	4.15 A.M.
Squad Drill from	4.30 to 5.30	" "
Breakfast	at	6.00 " "
Dick Call	"	7.00 " "
Guard mounting	"	7.30 " "
Company Drill	"	7.45 " "
Officers Drill from	8.45 to 9.45	" "
Drummed Roll Call	at	12.00 M.
School for Officers	at	3.00 P.M.
Supper	at	5.00 " "
Dress Parade	at	6.00 " "
Squad Drill from	6.30 to 7.30	" "
Tattoo Roll Call	at	8.45 " "
Taps	at	9.30 " "

All Officers will be in their quarters at taps and remain there unless by special permission they are allowed to be absent.

By order of
John Foley
Lieut Col, Comd'g

E. A. Terry
Adjutant