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Bowling Green Civil War Round Table Newsletter (April 2015)

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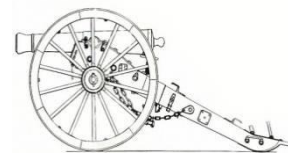
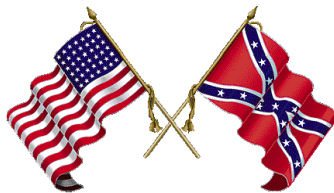
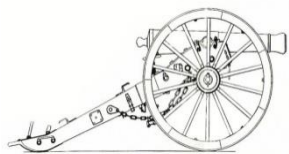


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Founded March 2011 – Bowling Green, Kentucky

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 April, 16th 2015

The Diary of Nannie Haskins Williams: A Southern Woman's Story of Rebellion and Reconstruction.

Synopsis: In 1863, while living in Clarksville, Tennessee, Martha Ann Haskins, known to friends and family as Nannie, began a diary. *The Diary of Nannie Haskins Williams: A Southern Woman's Story of Rebellion and Reconstruction, 1863-1890* provides valuable insights into the conditions in occupied Middle Tennessee. A young, elite Confederate sympathizer, Nannie was on the cusp of adulthood with the expectation of becoming a mistress in a slaveholding society. The war ended this prospect, and her life was forever changed. Though her diaries were not published until eight months ago, they are well known among Civil War scholars, and a voice-over from the wartime diary was used repeatedly in Ken Burns' famous PBS program, *The Civil War*. The diaries' four editors will give excerpts from the diaries and discuss the process of transcribing and annotating the journals.

The diaries of female civilians both north and south, have really proliferated over the last 25 years adding much to our knowledge as to how the Civil War affected the home front. Nannie Haskins' diary is the first published from the Clarksville area and hopefully will not be the last. The diary of Nannie Haskins was published in March 2014 by the University of Tennessee Press.

About our speakers who edited these diaries:

Minoa D. Uffelman is an associate professor of history at Austin Peay State University and advisor for Phi Alpha Theta History Honor Society. She is the author of “‘Can Away, Can Away, Can Away:’ The History of Canning Clubs in Tennessee” to *Their Work in the Public Sphere: Tennessee’s New Women in the New South During the Progressive Era*, forthcoming July 2013, University of Tennessee Press, “Homer Plessy, Civil Rights Activists,” *The Human Tradition in the Civil Rights Movement*, Scholarly Resources, 2006, 31 encyclopedia entries, 11 book reviews. She has given numerous conference presentations, commenting on numerous conference panels, community presentations.

Ellen Kanervo is professor emerita of communication at Austin Peay State University. She earned a Ph.D. in mass communication from the University of Wisconsin-Madison in 1979. Joining the faculty of Austin Peay State University in 1977 she taught undergraduate and graduate communication courses for 30 years, serving as department chair from 1989 through 1997, and retiring as a full professor in 2007. Dr. Kanervo has been published on communications through her career as well as presented papers at numerous conferences. Since 2010 she has served as the executive director of the Clarksville/Montgomery County Arts and Heritage Development Council.

Phyllis Smith is retired from the US Army and currently teaches high school science in Montgomery County, Tennessee. She is also a member of the Clarksville Civil War Roundtable and past president of the Friends of Fort Defiance, the support group for our Civil War fort.

Eleanor Williams is the Montgomery County, Tennessee, historian. She has spent many years researching and writing on the history of the county.

Our Previous Meeting: March, 19th 2015

Last month Mark Hoffman discussed the activities of the 1st Michigan Engineers during the Civil War. Skilled craftsmen, former railroad men, and engineers performed astonishing work repairing bridges, blockhouses, and telegraph lines in the Western theater, ensuring that supplies continued to reach the Union lines. The 1st Michigan Engineers were instrumental in relieving Union forces after the battle of Chattanooga, and in the destruction of Confederate rail lines during the Atlanta campaign. Faced with attacks from Confederate guerillas and bushwhackers, the 1st Michigan Engineers tasted combat at bridges, telegraph lines and river crossings. The Bowling Green Civil War Roundtable would like to thank Mark for his informative presentation, and extend an invitation for him to return in the future.

Announcement: Gettysburg Trip

Come join the Southern Ky. Past Finders on our fall trip to the hallowed grounds of Gettysburg, Pa. We will be leaving by bus on Wed. Oct. 14th at 6AM and returning late Sat. evening the 17th. The cost per person for the transportation and 3 nights lodging, based on double occupancy

is \$500. Breakfasts are included, so additional meals and activities are an extra. \$25. A refundable deposit is due to reserve your seat. This is a first come-first serve opportunity and the deadline for registering is June 1st. Seating is limited. For additional questions and to sign up: contact David Guion by email at daguion@hotmail.com or call 270-779-1521. You may make checks payable to Southern Ky Pastfinders.

This Month in Civil War History

- April 1st 1865: Battle of Five Forks occurs when CSA forces under George Pickett face Union cavalry and artillery led by General Phillip Sheridan. The Confederates are unable to withstand the Union attack and are defeated. This battle was a part of the siege of Petersburg, and preceded Lee's retreat to Appomattox.
- April 2nd 1865: General Robert E. Lee informs CSA President Jefferson Davis that he is leaving the Petersburg fortifications. The Confederate government evacuates Richmond, and Mayor Joseph Mayo surrenders the city to Union General Godfrey Weitzel.
- April 3rd 1865: Union troops occupy Petersburg and Richmond and are forced to put out fires started by the retreating Confederates. The CSA attempt to burn supplies caused over 25 % of the city to be destroyed.
- April 4th 1865: President Abraham Lincoln walks through Richmond amidst the cheers of a crowd of former slaves. During this trip Lincoln went to the Confederate White House, the former home of his Southern counterpart, Jefferson Davis.
- April 6th- Battle of Sailor's Creek occurs when Union forces under George Meade engage the combined CSA forces of Generals Dick Ewell and R.H Anderson. Ewell and Anderson accidentally separated from Lee's Army and were forced to surrender an army of over 8,000 men.
- April 7th 1865: General Ulysses S. Grant begins to communicate with General Lee, in what would become known as the surrender letters. Lee continued to refuse to surrender for two more days, until defeat at Appomattox station forced him to surrender the following day.
- April 8th 1865: The battle of Appomattox Station occurs: Lee's men are forced back from the station by General George Armstrong Custer's cavalry. Supplies critical to Lee's army, including medicine, food and ammo.
- April 9th 1865: Robert E. Lee formally surrenders the army of Northern Virginia to Ulysses S. Grant at Appomattox courthouse. Though General Joseph Johnston's army remained in the field, this is considered the pivotal event in ending the Civil War.
- April 14th 1865: Abraham Lincoln is assassinated by John Wilkes Booth at Ford's Theater in Washington D.C. The Lincoln assassination would lead to Booth's death, and the trial and execution of several of the conspirators involved in the plot, including Mary Surratt.
- April 15th 1865: Upon Lincoln's death, Vice President Andrew Johnson takes the oath of office, becoming the seventeenth President of the United States.
- April 18th 1865: General William Tecumseh Sherman meets with CSA General Joseph Johnston on the road to Hillsboro: the following day surrender terms, which included the resumption of citizenship for the Confederate soldiers, were agreed upon.

- April 24th 1865: General Grant personally informs Sherman that his surrender terms have been rejected by President Johnson, and is forced to prepare a resumption of the war against Johnston. Despite his misgivings, Sherman obeys his superiors orders.
- April 26th 1865: Realizing that prolonged conflict would only harm his men, General Johnston surrenders and agrees to the new terms proscribed by General Grant. These included requiring each soldier to promise not to take up arms against the United States in writing. Later terms, which provided for the speedy return of paroled soldiers to their homes, were agreed upon between General Johnston and Union General John M. Schofield.
- April 26th 1865: John Wilkes Booth is killed by Boston Corbett, a former prisoner at Andersonville, while trying to return to the burning barn of John Garrett, where he had been hiding.
- April 27th 1865: *The Sultana*, which had been carrying former prisoners of war, explodes, killing 1800 passengers. This was the greatest maritime disaster in American history.

Civil War Quotes

I soon began to dream. ... I heard subdued sobs, as if a number of people were weeping. ... I left my bed and wandered downstairs. ... There I met with a sickening surprise. Before me was a catafalque, on which rested a corpse wrapped in funeral vestments. Around it were stationed soldiers who were acting as guards; and there was a throng of people, gazing mournfully upon the corpse, whose face was covered, others weeping pitifully. 'Who is dead in the White House?' I demanded of one of the soldiers, 'The President,' was his answer; 'he was killed by an assassin.' " - Abraham Lincoln's dream prior to his assassination

"Lay aside all rancor, all bitter sectional feeling, and to make your places in the ranks of those who will bring about a consummation devoutly to be wished—a reunited country." - Jefferson Davis

"The war is over — the rebels are our countrymen again." - Ulysses S. Grant to his troops after Lee's surrender

"The interests of the State are therefore the same as those of the United States. Its prosperity will rise or fall with the welfare of the country. The duty of its citizens, then, appears to me too plain to admit of doubt. All should unite in honest efforts to obliterate the effects of war, and to restore the blessings of peace. They should remain, if possible, in the country; promote harmony and good feeling; qualify themselves to vote; and elect to the State and general Legislatures wise and patriotic men, who will devote their abilities to the interests of the country, and the healing of all dissensions. I have invariably recommended this course since the cessation of hostilities, and have endeavored to practice it myself." - Robert E. Lee

"Let it be known that if a farmer wishes to burn his cotton, his house, his family, and himself, he may do so. But not his corn. We want that." - William Tecumseh Sherman

"The enduring realization that when a great challenge comes, the most ordinary people can show that they value something more than they value their own lives. When the last of the

veterans had gone, and the sorrows and bitterness which the war created had at last worn away, this memory remained." - Bruce Catton

"If a crow wants to fly down the Shenandoah, he must carry his provisions with him."- Phillip Sheridan

"We would not have his body removed from where it lies surrounded by his brave and devoted soldiers.... We can imagine no holier place than that in which he lies, among his brave and devoted followers, nor wish for him better company – what a body-guard he has!"- Francis George Shaw on his son, Robert Shaw and his burial

"As the officers and soldiers of the United States have been subject to repeated insults from the women (calling themselves ladies) of New Orleans in return for the most scrupulous non-interference and courtesy on our part, it is ordered that hereafter when any female shall by word, gesture, or movement insult or show contempt for any officer or soldier of the United States she shall be regarded and held liable to be treated as a woman of the town plying her avocation."- Benjamin Butler

All wars are civil wars, because all men are brothers- Francois Fenelon

"I am passionately interested in understanding how my country works. And if you want to know about this thing called the United States of America you have to know about the Civil War."- Ken Burns

"Whenever I hear any one arguing for slavery I feel a strong impulse to see it tried on him personally."- Abraham Lincoln

*"We won every major battle til Gettysburg... then some **** fool put Grant in charge. That man killed more men beating us than you could imagine. But he beat us."* Sgt Nathaniel Cole, ANV

UPCOMING EVENTS FOR THE BGCWRT

- **May 14th, 2015** - Gus and Traci Belt, authors/historians - "Religion and the Army of Tennessee" (based on their book

A View of Nannie Haskins





Top Left: Nannie Haskins as she appeared at the time the Civil War began

Top Right: Photo of Nannie taken in the 1870s-1880s, (she had married Henry Phillips Williams in 1870)

Bottom Left: Photo of Nannie and one of her granddaughters, Lucy, taken in

Bottom Right: Nannie Haskins Williams gravestone located at Greenwood Cemetery in Clarksville, Tennessee

A View of Women in the Civil War

Special thanks to Johnathan Jeffrey and the WKU Kentucky Library for providing the first photo featured below:



Mrs. W. F. F. in former times.



Top Left: Unknown photo of three women and one man taken in Kentucky during the Antebellum period

Top Right: Confederate spy Belle Boyd, who gathered information on from Union war camps and acted as a courier. Boyd was a well known spy, which earned her the nickname “the rebel Joan of Arc.”

Bottom Left: Loreta Janeta Velazquez, who masqueraded as a male soldier, Lieutenant Harry T. Buford. Velazquez fought in the first battle of Bull Run and also acted as a spy for the Confederacy.

Bottom Right: Nurse attending to two injured soldiers.

Haskins Diary Entries

Special thanks to Ellen Kanervo who made these entries available:

Monday morning, February 16, 1863

Again I have commenced a journal. I used to keep one but two years ago when the war broke out, I ceased to write in it just when I ought to have continued. Yes! Our country was then perfectly distracted: To arms! To arms! was echoed from every side; volunteer companies were being gotten up all over the country to fly to her rescue; and of course Clarksville did her part. One regiment was immediately enlisted and sent forth—the 14th Tenn. regiment. Ah! What a glorious name it has made upon the 10th of July—I think it was they left—dear old Tenn. and went to Virginia to protect her soil. The war cry was still heard and in the autumn of the same year ('61) another regiment was sent from this place—the 49th Tenn.

My oldest brother enlisted in the former one and *anon* my youngest and last went to share his fate with the 49th.¹ They were immediately ordered to Fort Donelson.² Ah! There they went and there they stayed for some time. Upon the 5th of the following Feb. Fort Henry fell into the hands of the Federals.³ F. H. [Fort Henry] was only a few miles from F. D. [Fort Donelson]; consequently a fight there was inevitable. On the following Sunday, the 9th, a volunteer company went out under command of Maj. Brandon⁴ formerly a Maj. in the 14th Regt. but being in bad health came home to recruit. Scouting, our boys were met—and overpowered, some made their escape and a few were taken prisoners. Pillow⁵ & staff passed through here to take command of the two regiments at F. D. and the command from Hopkinsville⁶ which afterwards went down with Coln. Quarles'⁷ regiment. Gen. Floyd went down with some of his men. I saw old Gen. Floyd; he looked like an old war horse.⁸ Gen. Buckner⁹ with part of his command went down from Bowling Green. While all this was going on, Gen A. S. Johnson¹⁰ was moving back from Bowling Green. Skirmishing was going on all Monday and Tuesday. Wednesday the fight began. Thursday it raged. Friday was still more furious and Saturday evening was the worst of the battle up to that time. We had whipped them, driven them back, killed, slaughtered, whipped them as dogs were never beaten before. There was from 10,000 to 12,000 of our men, fighting against from 25,000 to 30,000 of their land forces, besides their *innumerable* gun boats which were contending with us Sunday morning. Ah what terrible news did we hear! That “Fort Donelson had surrendered.”

Would to God that such a great misfortune had not befallen our young republic, but I write as if I was complaining against heaven—as after all it may have been for our good. We had been victorious so far and were becoming too sanguine; now we were awakened from lethargy, but it was an awful stroke; our soldiers were worn out fighting and fasting and freezing and after *whipping* the Yankee *devils* they were

surrendered prisoners of war. Today just one year ago this horrible disaster took place; and my dear brother was among the number who was to be sent and incarcerated in a northern bastille where he languished and died.¹¹

The sixteenth of February—this is a very pleasant day. It is more like spring than winter; it is so different from this time last year. It snowed nearly every day during the fight at F. D. It came like a winding sheet for the dead. The fallen brave. I have said it was Sunday the news came, such panic stricken people were never before seen. The wounded were being brought up; they were to be attended to. A great many died on their way up here, who were to be buried. The citizens were running. There was already two hospitals¹² here which were filled with the sick and they, poor fellows, were crawling out from every place walking, going on horseback, in wagons. Indeed they went any way to get out of reach of the Yankees for it was not known at what moment that the vandals would be here, but fortunately they did not come until all the soldiers had left.

One of their gun boats came up with a flag of truce on Tuesday. Of course a white flag was raised over the town, for we had no one to try to hold the place. On Wednesday they came— Gen. Smith,¹³ Colns. Cook¹⁴ and McArthur¹⁵—they behaved very well.¹⁶ Afterwards Colns. {*Banne*} and Wright¹⁷—the latter was a black hearted abolitionist—then Colonel James,¹⁸ who was a perfect gentleman, and after him we had a Coln. Mason.¹⁹ The citizens thought as much of him as could of an enemy. Then one day in August—I have forgotten the date but I think it was either the 14th or 16th—our men under Woodward²⁰ and Johnson²¹ came dashing into Cl [Clarksville]. The Yanks surrendered without any hesitation. We took some three or four hundred prisoners, one or two cannon, a great deal of ammunition, many guns, horses, about one hundred and fifty wagons and one ambulance. I was as wild that day with delight as I was with grief on the day of the fall of Fort Donelson. Six months since I had seen a confederate. They came dashing in on their old poor horses, dirty clothes and all sorts of arms; they had no band at all not even a bugle or a flag to show to whom they belonged but their old dirty “grey” but “fight was in ’um,” and they “tuck” the place and the “Feds” with all their blue broad cloth and brass buttons. They stayed with us until the 7th of September.

They left and the Jay Hawk²² came from Fort Donelson on a thieving expedition. They took off a great many negroes and horses, and among the latter was my beautiful “gallant grey” “Stonewall Jackson”; he was a present to me from Pa.²³ I thought a great deal of him because he was all my own. I do wish I had made Woodward a present of him. Just to think that my beautiful horse should fall into the hands of those—I don’t know what to call them. I neglected to say that our men heard that these yanks were coming and went to meet them, but as they were in a large force with infantry, artillery, and cavalry, our men did not attack them. But after the Yankees shelled the woods awhile our men retired. A certain Coln. Lowe²⁴ was in command of these hungry wolves. His report of their visit up here, which was made after they went back, was a base *lie* from beginning to end.

They reported seventeen killed, which was a story for there was only one little boy who was killed by the bursting of a bomb-shell, a great many prisoners, which was not so for they only arrested two of the citizens and took them off to that loathsome place, and the capture of several hundred horses, which was the biggest—of all for I know they stole nearly all they took away with them, for mine like the rest was taken at the expense of a broken lock. I have since heard that he was sent to Mrs. Coln. Lowe as a present from the soldiers. Soldiers? Oh that is not the right title, unless they were soldiers of the d—I certainly not of their country for, if it had been patriotism that caused them to join the army, they would not have acted so much like demons; however, a description of their stay here was written and sent to Jeff Davis upon the effect of which he issued a proclamation declaring that if the said Lowe or any of his men were taken they should be treated as “felons.” After they left, our men came back, then the Yankees, and so on until Christmas day. Sometimes the two parties would meet near here and have little skirmishes; sometimes they would catch one or two of our men here. They (the Yanks) came in once and sent one

of their men on ahead dressed as a butter-nut;²⁵ of course he was thought to be one of our men. He came in and found out where several of our men were, and of course caused them to be taken prisoners. This was done several times until the rascal began to be known, so one day in came the “butter-nut,” up rode one of our men and ordered him to “halt.” He obeyed orders and the rebel crossed him over the river,²⁶ but he not having a horse (I made a mistake—the secesh²⁷ walked up to him) and being so closely pursued, he made the scamp take the southern oath, alighted him off of his horse, mounted him (the horse) himself and rode off. After he came back they burnt the ferry boat and made the young man’s father take the oath of allegiance²⁸ to the U. S. which was not very palatable I don’t suppose. That is the last we heard of the butter-nut except that he proved to be a deserter from the Southern Army and a Yankee spy.²⁹

Well upon Christmas day Coln. Bruce with his “whiskey jug” and several regiments took possession of this place and here they have been ever since.³⁰ And here I am too still writing in my journal and about those detestable blue coats for whom I have such a *disgust*. Well I am glad I have at last commenced my diary for I have been wishing to for so long, but have not been able to get a book. Now have got one, I feel like I can come here, as to an old friend, and lay my heart *open*. Sometimes I feel like writing when I cannot talk for, unfortunately, I have but one *intimate* friend and she is far from me. How I long to see her. My darling Jessie.³¹ I said I had but one intimate friend, yes I have several such friends as come to see me and tell me their secrets. In short, make me their confidant, but I have but one *bosom friend* my own dear friend who I hope loves me like I love her!

“Procrastination is the thief of time.”

Keeping History Alive

The following is the tentative wording of a planned historical marker from the Past Finders of Russellville, Kentucky:

Side 1: “A Union colonel with his 600 men came to Russellville, surprising a detachment of John Hunt Morgan’s confederate cavalry on Sept. 30, 1862. Both sides engaged in gunfire across the city, including this spot. 35 Confederates were killed and more wounded, and the rest retreated/

Side 2: The victorious colonel of the skirmish here was a 29 year old Hoosier named Benjamin Harrison. This was his first engagement in combat and earned him accolades. He marched with Sherman to Atlanta and became a Brigadier General. He later became the country’s 23rd President.”

If you would like to make a donation to help ensure that this important event is not forgotten then please contact David Guion at: daguion@hotmail.com