

5-2015

Bowling Green Civil War Round Table Newsletter (May 2015)

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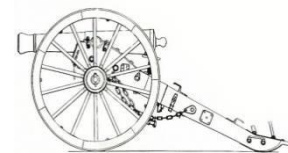
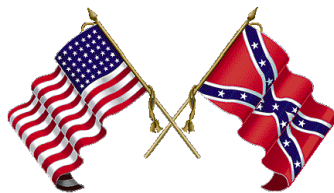
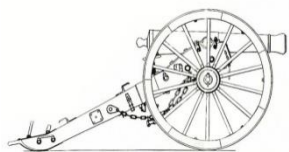


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Founded March 2011 – Bowling Green, Kentucky

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 May 21st, 2015

“Onward Southern Soldiers: Religion And The Army of Tennessee in the Civil War”

Synopsis: Our guest speakers for this month are Gordon T. Belt and Traci Nichols-Belt, who will be discussing religion in the Army of Tennessee. Gordon and Traci will document how religion unified the Confederate Army of Tennessee, and its importance in sustaining the Confederates as supply inefficiencies and battlefield setbacks became impediments throughout the war. Rather than fall apart under the pressure imposed by these conditions, the Confederate soldiers of the Army of Tennessee rallied around their cause, and used their faith to interpret their struggle as necessary for Southern independence. Using primary source material such as diaries, letters, journals and sermons of the Army of Tennessee, Traci Nichols-Belt, along with Gordon T. Belt, presents the history of the vital role of the army’s religious practices.

About our speakers: Gordon T. Belt is the founding editor and publisher of *The Posterity Project* and author of *John Sevier: Tennessee's First Hero*, published by The History Press.

Gordon has had a lifelong passion for history, and has worked in special collections libraries and archives in the "Volunteer State" since 1995. He is currently the Director of Public Services for

the Tennessee State Library & Archives. Previously, Gordon worked as the Library Manager for the First Amendment Center, a non-partisan think tank based in Nashville, Tennessee, and Washington, D.C.

Gordon received his master's degree in History in 2003 with a concentration in archival administration from Middle Tennessee State University, and a bachelor's degree in Political Science in 1994 from the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga. Gordon is a past president of the Society of Tennessee Archivists, and holds memberships in the Society of American Archivists, the National Council on Public History, and the Tennessee Historical Society.

Gordon has written several articles for the First Amendment Center website on legislative issues and history. Historical works include, "George Mason: Honoring a Forgotten Founder," "Remembering the Father of the Constitution: James Madison and the First Amendment," "Public access to presidential records: Historical perspective, recent controversies," "Sedition Act of 1798: A brief history of arrests, indictments, mistreatment & abuse," and "The First Amendment in the Colonial Newspaper Press."

Traci Nichols-Belt is the author of *Onward Southern Soldiers: Religion and the Army of Tennessee in the Civil War*, published by The History Press. Traci is an ordained and licensed minister and holds a master's degree in history from Middle Tennessee State University and a bachelor's degree in political science from Anderson University.

During her academic career at MTSU, Traci worked for the Tennessee State Museum and wrote two National Register nominations for the Johnsonville Historic District in New Johnsonville, Tennessee, and the Historical AME Church and Cemeteries in Alexandria, Tennessee. Traci has also worked as a historical consultant and grant writer for the Clement Railroad Hotel and Museum in Dickson, Tennessee.

Traci's article "Chaplains in the Army of Tennessee, CSA: Warring Disciples Carrying the Gospel" was published in the Winter 2004 issue of the *Tennessee Historical Quarterly*. Additionally, she wrote a review of Sam Davis Elliot's book, *Doctor Quintard Chaplain CSA and Second Bishop of Tennessee* for the Spring 2004 issue of the *Tennessee Historical Quarterly*.

Traci has been interviewed on radio and appeared on television to speak about the role of religion in the Civil War. In June 2012, She was among several religion and history scholars interviewed for the Nashville Public Television documentary, "Crisis of Faith," part of NPT's "Tennessee Civil War 150" series, a multi-part project coinciding with the Sesquicentennial anniversary of the Civil War. In April 2012, Traci and Gordon appeared together on NPT's "A Word on Words with John Seigenthaler" to discuss their book, *Onward Southern Soldiers*. In July 2012, Traci and Gordon co-authored an article also titled "Onward Southern Soldiers" for *The New York Times* Civil War blog, "Disunion."

Our Previous Meeting: April 16th, 2015

Last month Ellen Kanervo and Phyllis Smith discussed the diary of Middle Tennessee Southerner Nannie Haskins Williams. Kanervo and Smith discussed the research process, and importance of the Haskins diaries to Civil War history. As one of the most thorough accounts of civilian life during the war, the Haskins diaries provide compelling insight into the experiences of Confederate civilians, and of occupied Middle Tennessee. 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 Bowling Green Civil War Roundtable would like to thank Ellen and Phyllis for their excellent presentation, and extend an invitation for them 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.

July Meeting

Though we had not originally planned on having a meeting during the summer months, the Bowling Green Civil War Roundtable is pleased to announce that we will be having a special event on Thursday, July 17th at 7:00 P.M. Mr. Jonathan Jeffrey will be conducting a presentation in the Kentucky Library's Western Room over Civil War Resources in WKU's Library Special Collections.

Jonathan will discuss and exhibit both primary and secondary sources in the Special Collections related to the Civil War, and explain some exciting new resources that are available to researchers both online and in-house. Resources will include books, newspapers, diaries, letters, documents, photographs, etc.

August Meeting

The Bowling Green Civil War Roundtable is pleased to announce that Mr. Greg Bayne, from the American Civil War Roundtable of the United Kingdom, will be our guest speaker for our meeting in August. Mr. Bayne will be traveling from the U.K. to discuss Confederate propaganda in Great Britain. Greg's presentation entitled: "*Henry Hotze and the Confederate Index; Confederate Propaganda in Britain,*" will shed light on Confederate propagandist Henry Hotze's effort to gain British support for the South. This will be a great opportunity to hear a new and interesting perspective on the Civil War, and we encourage everyone to attend, and bring a few guests with them as well.

This Month in Civil War History

- May 3rd 1865- Georgia Governor Joseph Brown calls a meeting of the state legislature once he hears of Joseph Johnston's surrender to Gen. William T. Sherman.
- May 6th 1865: Phillip Henry Mulky is arrested in Eugene, Oregon for shouting "Hurrah for Jeff Davis!" A pro-Union crowd attacked the jail but Mulky was not harmed.
- May 7th 1865- Henry Wirz, the former commander in charge of prisoners at Andersonville Georgia, is arrested at his home in Andersonville and taken to Washington D.C to stand trial for war crimes. Wirz trial and conviction remain a source of controversy, dividing observers often based on biased characterizations of Wirz from proponents of a victorious and morally righteous Union, and adherents of the Southern "lost cause" narrative.
- May 8th 1865- General Richard Taylor surrenders the remaining Confederate troops in Alabama and Mississippi to Union Gen. Edward Canby at Citronelle, Alabama.
- May 10th 1865- Jefferson Davis is captured in Irwinville County, Georgia. This was the beginning of a period of prolonged confinement for Davis at Fortress Monroe, which would last two years.
- May 11th 1865- Confederate Vice-President Alexander Stephens is arrested at his estate in Crawfordville, Georgia.
- May 12th 1865- Eight conspirators in the Lincoln assassination plead not guilty during their trial. By June 30th, all eight were found guilty, and four, including Mary Surratt, were executed.
- May 12th 1865: President Johnson appoints Major General O.O. Howard as the head of the Freedman's Bureau.
- May 12th-13th 1865: the last official engagement of the war, the Battle of Palmito Ranch, occurs. CSA forces under John Ford meet Union forces under Theodor Barrett, resulting in the death of four Union soldiers, and the injury of 18 soldiers (12 Union, 6 Confederate)
- May 29th 1865- President Andrew Johnson issues a conditional amnesty for Southerners once engaged in the Confederate rebellion. Under its terms, Southerners could take an oath of allegiance to the United States, and once again become citizens and have their property restored to them. Former Confederate officials, high ranking officers etc. were exempt from Johnson's amnesty bill.
- May 29th 1865: President Johnson appoints William Holden provisional governor of North Carolina. Holden's administration would provide the framework for subsequent Southern state governments during reconstruction.

Civil War Quotes

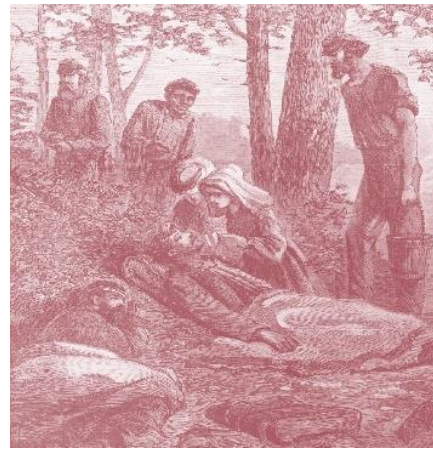
- *"In giving freedom to the slave, we assure freedom to the free – honorable alike in what we give, and what we preserve. We shall nobly save, or meanly lose, the last best, hope of earth. Other means may succeed; this could not fail. The way is plain, peaceful, generous, just – a way which, if followed,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

- *"I have fought against the people of the North because I believed they were seeking to wrest from the South its dearest rights. But I have never cherished toward them bitter or vindictive feelings, and have never seen the day when I did not pray for them."* - Robert E. Lee
- *"The storm cometh- we hope the infatuated rebels like the appearance of the northern horizon. The storm of patriotism may shortly become the hurricane of vengeance, and they have only themselves to thank... Those who sow the wind must reap the whirlwind"* – Milwaukee Sentinel.
- *I had a right to my own political opinions. I am a Southern woman, born with Revolutionary blood in my veins. Freedom of speech and of thought were my birthright, guaranteed, signed and sealed by the blood of our fathers.* - Rose O'Neal Greenhow
- *"If you bring these leaders to trial it will condemn the North, for by the Constitution secession is not rebellion."* - Salmon P. Chase
- *"Whenever you see anything blue, shoot at it and do all you can to keep up the scare."* - Nathan Bedford Forrest
- *"Southerners have a natural right to revolution but not a constitutional right of secession."* - Howell Cobb
- *"My shoes are gone; my clothes are almost gone. I'm weary, I'm sick, I'm hungry. My family have been killed or scattered. And I have suffered all this for my country. I love my country. But if this war is ever over, I'll be damned if I ever love another country."*
Confederate Soldier During Retreat To Appomattox
- *"Our Confederacy has gone with one crash, the report of the pistol fired at Lincoln."*
Sarah Morgan Dawson
- *"Hot ****! We got us a MAN who can fight."* Unknown Cavalry Trooper regarding General Phil Sheridan and his command of Union forces in the Shenandoah.
- *"What a beautiful world God, in His loving kindness to His creatures, has given us! What a shame that men endowed with reason and knowledge of right should mar His gifts...."* – Robert E. Lee
- *"People who are anxious to bring on war don't know what they are bargaining for; they don't see all the horrors that must accompany such an event."* - Thomas "Stonewall" Jackson
- *My chief concern is to try to be an humble, earnest Christian.* - Robert E. Lee
- *"My religious beliefs teach me to feel as safe in battle as in bed. God has fixed the time of my death. I do not concern myself with that, but to be always ready whenever it may overtake me.*

That is the way all men should live, and all men would be equally brave.”- Thomas “Stonewall” Jackson

- *Hold fast to the Bible. To the influence of this Book we are indebted for all the progress made in true civilization and to this we must look as our guide in the future.*- Ulysses S. Grant
- *“You people of the South don't know what you are doing. This country will be drenched in blood, and God only knows how it will end.”* – William T. Sherman

A View of Religion In the Civil War



Top Left: Father Mooney saying mass for the 69th New York State Militia, an Irish regiment, at their camp in Virginia. Photographed in 1861 by Mathew Brady or an assistant.

Top Right: Depiction of Christian volunteers attending Confederate wounded

Bottom Left: Unknown artist portrayal of President Lincoln praying

Bottom Right: St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Richmond Virginia, in April 1865

Wartime Sermons: North and South

God has given us of the South today a fresh and golden opportunity—and so a most solemn command—to realize that form of government in which the just, constitutional rights of each and all are guaranteed to each and all. ... He has placed us in the front rank of the most marked epochs of the world's history. He has placed in our hands a commission which we can faithfully execute only by holy, individual self-consecration to all of God's plans.- William C. Butler, Saint John's Episcopal Church, Richmond VA.

Since the words of this proclamation were penned by which we are convened, that which all men dreaded, but against which all men hoped, has been realized; and in the triumph of a sectional majority we are compelled to read the probable doom of our once happy and united confederacy. It is not to be concealed that we are in the most fearful and perilous crisis which has occurred in our history as a nation. Sectional divisions, the jealousy of rival interests, the lust of political power, a bastard ambition which looks to personal aggrandizement rather than to the public weal, a reckless radicalism which seeks for the subversion of all that is ancient and stable, and a furious fanaticism which drives on its ill-considered conclusions with utter disregard of the evil it engenders all these combine to create a portentous crisis, the like of which we have never known before, and which puts to a crucifying test the virtue, the patriotism and the piety of the country.- Rev. Benjamin Morgan Palmer, Thanksgiving sermon, 1st Presbyterian Church, New Orleans L.A. Nov. 29th 1860

What connection has our war with this consummation [of the Millennium]? The progress of the promised grace has subdued its first enemy, idolatry. This destroyed man's allegiance to God. It must subdue the second enemy, which is man's hostility to man. This hostility assumes civic and social forms. It is monarchic, slavish, disuniting. Against these, march democracy, unity, fraternity, every man the equal and the brother of every man. To gain this victory we are now contending. . . . All governments based on the few, by the few, and for the few, are hostile to the government of Christ, and must be abolished before his Glory fully come. –

Thanksgiving sermon in Boston MA, Nov. 26th 1863

The evils we combat, have been growing for eighty years, and are not going to disappear at our word. God is testing our worthiness to enjoy the boon of liberty, by asking how much we love it, how hard we are willing to fight for it, how much we are willing to sacrifice for it: and if we shall do this work like men, if we shall fall in with God's manifest design to purge our national anthem, singing with ever bolder emphasis, until the palmetto groves, and the still lagoons, and the snowy fields of cotton, now no longer King, shall be stirred with the voice of thanksgiving. Aye! methinks, when that day shall dawn, the nation's shout might almost penetrate farther. Methinks it might steal into the hearts of those fallen heroes who sleep on hillsides far away, and by whose graves sorrowing hearts shall give thanks with sobs.—of thanksgiving, not that peace has been restored; not that husbands and sons, and fathers, shall go forth to battle no more; not that trade is revived and commerce safe; but that God has led the nation through the vale of

tears, through the terrible baptism of blood and fire, to a nobler and purer national life. – Rev. Marvin Richardson Vincent, First Presbyterian Church, Troy N.Y., Nov. 25th 1863

Soldiers and Religion: A Letter From George Henry Weeks, 103rd Ohio

Special thanks to Jonathan Jeffrey and the Kentucky Library for making this letter available to us.

Service men often mention religion and religious services, particularly prayer meetings, in their letters home and in their personal diaries. On occasion they were even granted leave to attend religious services in nearby communities. In addition, men often looked to military chaplains as a source of advice and religious training. Some chaplains were good and others questionable, according to two letters found in WKU's Manuscripts & Folklife Archives. A.W. Randolph, serving in the 1st Kentucky Infantry CSA, wrote his parents about the upright character of Chaplain Pickett, who served his unit. On 27th September 1863, Randolph penned: "To day I had the pleasure of listening to [a] very good sermon from the Rev Mr. Pickett Chaplin of the 2nd Ky. a reformer but unlike any that I have ever heard before. There is not a man or officer in the Brigade who dose (sic) not love him. He is such a friend to the sick and wounded. He goes in field with the Regiment to Cheer and speak a comforting word to the wounded. He has no fear for himself. At the Battle of Hartsville last winter he was taken prisoner while attending to the wounded." (SC 57)

Conversely, George Henry Weeks, a Union soldier from the 103rd Ohio, had this to say about his unnamed chaplain: "Our Chaplain is good for nothing has not preached to us for over five months, & I don't think he would have much influence over the boys even if he did preach." (SC 798)

15,000, I should think, between
 here & Knoxville Tennessee, but
 I cannot tell. Mother, this
 is rare fun for our boys to
 be so near the "rebs." I expect
 to go out on picket to-mor-
 row, when I shall see some
 more rebs. I do not think
 they will attack us, although
 they brag so much about it,
 if they do they will get most
 awfully whipped, as we have
 a great many thousand troops
 back a few miles farther.
 Dear Mother This is Sunday,
 the Lords day, but I have
 not been to church as I
 should have done had I
 been in Old Cleveland, but
 I am not to blame for that
 you know as I do not have
 a chance to go. Our Chap-
 lain is good for nothing,
 has not preached to us
 for over five months & I think
 he had better go home. I dont
 think he would have much
 influence over the boys even if
 he did preach. Ma, we have
 a beautiful camp, our Co. is
 right in the midst of a cedar

DL SC
 MSS
 SC 798

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