

11-2015

Bowling Green Civil War Round Table Newsletter (Nov. 2015)

Manuscripts & Folklife Archives
Western Kentucky University, mssfa@wku.edu

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.wku.edu/civil_war

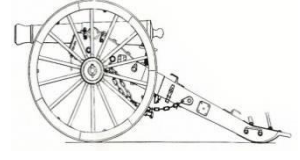
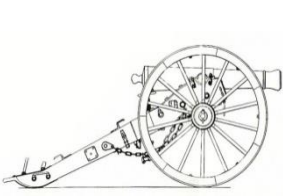


Part of the [Military History Commons](#), and the [United States History Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Folklife Archives, Manuscripts &, "Bowling Green Civil War Round Table Newsletter (Nov. 2015)" (2015). *Bowling Green Civil War Round Table Newsletter*. Paper 15.
https://digitalcommons.wku.edu/civil_war/15

This Newsletter is brought to you for free and open access by TopSCHOLAR®. It has been accepted for inclusion in Bowling Green Civil War Round Table Newsletter by an authorized administrator of TopSCHOLAR®. For more information, please contact topscholar@wku.edu.



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

We meet at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, November 19th in Cherry Hall 125 on the Campus of Western Kentucky University.
Our meetings are always open to the public.

Members please bring a friend or two – new recruits are always welcome.

Our Program for November 19th 2015: Greg Biggs, “The Question Was One of Supplies: William T. Sherman’s Logistics in the Atlanta Campaign”

The Bowling Green Civil War Roundtable is proud to have Mr. Greg Biggs as our guest speaker for this month. Greg will be discussing the difficulties that General William T. Sherman encountered in supplying his troops during the Atlanta campaign. No army in history moved without a secure line of supplies especially if it moved into enemy territory. If an army got cut off from its supplies then calamity usually followed often ending in defeat and/or destruction. When William T. Sherman set his sights on Atlanta he prepared for the supplying of his army in a manner that surpassed every other Civil War general. Rebuilding railroads and confiscating locomotives and cars to haul supplies, Sherman set a daily goal for shipments to his forward base in Chattanooga. Ruthless in making sure that only supplies got on the cars, Sherman also had to worry about protecting the line of rails that ran back to Louisville, Kentucky from Confederate raiders. Building on a system begun by William S. Rosecrans, Sherman's engineers built forts and blockhouses and prepared pre-fabricated trestles for replacing those brought down by Confederate raiders. While his preparations were masterful and thorough, they were not without some flaws. This program will examine the nuts and bolts of these logistics and cover the errors that were also made. In the end, his supply line performed as expected and Atlanta was captured. This set the stage for two more campaigns that Sherman would undertake before the war ended in April 1865.

Bio: Greg Biggs has studied military history for over 45 years with interests from the ancient Greeks through today. He specializes in the Napoleonic Era, the Civil War and World War 2 with other interests in armor doctrine, logistics and command studies. He has spoken to Civil War groups across the country at CWRTs, conferences and seminars as well as for Revolutionary War and World War 2 events. He has been published in Civil War Regiments journal; Blue & Gray magazine; North-South Trader; Citizens Companion and Civil War News for whom he reviews books. He has also contributed to several books on Civil War flags. He is currently

working on a unit history of the 83rd Illinois Infantry as well as with partner authors on a serious analysis of Hood's Tennessee Campaign. He has also led Civil War tours in Illinois, Kentucky, Tennessee and Georgia. Greg is president and program chair of the Clarksville CWRT; program chair of the Nashville CWRT as well as the Bowling Green CWRT.

Our Previous Meeting: October, 2015

Wayne Motts, the CEO of the National Civil War Museum in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, was our guest speaker on Thursday, October 22. Mr. Motts gave a rousing presentation about interpreting the entire Civil War, North and South, by using historical artifacts. He began by explaining the mission of the National Civil War Museum and describing its large and diverse collection of historical artifacts, manuscripts, and books. The museum has a permanent Civil War exhibit and occasionally mounts or hosts special exhibits dealing with different facets of the war. About 45,000 visitors a year enter the museum's doors. The museum also conducts school programs; so far 7,000 student visitors have participated in the museum's educational programs. One visitor has said that seeing the exhibits is like taking "a walk through history." By means of a slide show, Mr. Motts used photographs of items from the National Civil War Museum collections to dramatize and humanize the Civil War in ways that diaries, letters, and books cannot do. Among the most impressive items he discussed were a blood-stained diary and Robert E. Lee's wartime Bible. The BGCWRT is grateful to Mr. Motts for his informative and colorful presentation.

This Month in Civil War History

1861

- November 1st- General George McClellan replaces Winfield Scott as General in Chief of the Union Army.
- November 2nd- President Abraham Lincoln relieves General John C. Fremont from command of the Department of the West. Fremont's prior order freeing slaves in Missouri, a key border state, proved crucial in his removal.
- November 8th- The British vessel *Trent*, carrying Confederate commissioners to Europe, John Slidell and James Mason is halted by the Union warship *San Jacinto* in the Bahama Channel.
- November 15th- General William T. Sherman is relieved of command of the Department of the Ohio and replaced by General Don Carlos Buell. Sherman, who had a reputation for depressive episodes, was deemed incapable of leadership.
- November 20th 1861- U.S. Treasury Secretary Salmon P. Chase instructs the U.S. Mint to place "In God We Trust" on all American coins.

1862

- November 5th- President Lincoln removes General McClellan from command of the Army of the Potomac following his failure to follow Lee after the battle of Antietam.
- November 7th- Ambrose Burnside assumes command of the Army of the Potomac, replacing McClellan. Also on this date, General Braxton Bragg breaks the Department of the Mississippi into two corps, one under William Hardee, and another under Leonidas Polk.
- November 8th- Benjamin Butler is removed of command in New Orleans due to public protests regarding his actions. Before Nathaniel Banks replaces him, Butler orders the closing of all breweries and distilleries in retaliation for his removal.
- November 15th- Confederate War Secretary George Randolph resigns in protest of President Davis' control of the War Department. James Seddon replaces Randolph on November 22nd.

1863

- November 2nd- President Lincoln is invited to make a few remarks at the dedication of the Gettysburg Memorial Cemetery. Despite the brevity of his speech, and Lincoln's own doubts about its importance, the Gettysburg Address is now recognized as one of the greatest pieces of oratory by any President.
- November 7th- The shelling of Fort Sumter resumes, and would continue for three days. Shelling resumed once again on November 12th.
- November 9th- President Lincoln goes to see *The Marble Heart*, a play starring his future assassin, John Wilkes Booth.
- November 22nd- Unaware of the Union buildup in Chattanooga, Braxton Bragg orders Simon Bruckner's Corp to join James Longstreet in Nashville, Tennessee.
- November 27th- John Hunt Morgan escapes from the Ohio State Penitentiary.

1864

- November 5th- Nathan Bedford Forrest attacks the Union supply station at Johnsonville, Tennessee, causing massive damage.
- November 8th- President Lincoln easily defeats Democratic rival George B. McClellan for President. Tennessee Unionist Andrew Johnson serves as Vice-President, replacing Hannibal Hamlin.
- November 12th- General Sherman sends his final message from Cartersville, to General Thomas in Nashville. It would be another month before Sherman resumed contact with Union leaders.
- November 14th- General Sherman enters Atlanta, dividing his troops into a left and right wing.

Civil War Quotes

"You might as well appeal against the thunder-storm as against these terrible hardships of war."- General William T. Sherman

"...that we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain; that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom; and that this government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth."- Abraham Lincoln,

"The education of a man is never completed until he dies."- Robert E. Lee

"When you have warfare, things happen; people suffer; the noncombatants suffer as well as the combatants. And so it happens in civil war."- Emmeline Pankhurst

"We can only imagine the history of the free world today if, at the end of the Civil War, there had been two countries: the United States and the Confederate States of America."- Douglas Brinkley

"While the scars of the monstrous Civil War still remain, the wounds have closed since 1865, in large part, because of the civility of Grant and Lee."- Douglas Brinkley

"When the blood of thousands of Americans is shed, the impact lingers. For a generation after the Civil War, the Republican injunction to 'vote as you shot' kept the party dominant for decades; from 1868 to 1912, only one Democrat - Grover Cleveland - won the White House."- Jeff Greenfield

“In 2001, I moved from Philly to Atlanta, where I lived for six years. I had never lived anywhere but Philly, and you can imagine the culture shock; the Civil War seeps into daily life and conversation down South in a way it never does up North.” - Karen Abbott

“Something often neglected in popular accounts of the Wild West is the extent to which its dramas were colored by the politics and personal resentments left by the Civil War.” Gary Krist

“Few Americans born after the Civil War know much about war. Real war. War that seeks you out. War that arrives on your doorstep - not once in a blue moon, but once a month or a week or a day.” - Nick Turse

“In the middle of the nineteenth century, the United States embarked on a new relationship with death, entering into a civil war that proved bloodier than any other conflict in American history, a war that would presage the slaughter of World War I's Western Front and the global carnage of the twentieth century.” - Drew Gilpin Faust

“You know, the thing that struck me about Civil War music was how bloody it was; it was full of hatred. There was incredible vitriol in it.” - T Bone Burnett

UPCOMING EVENTS FOR THE BGCWRT

- January- Matthew Hulbert: Kentucky Historical Society, Historian/Author, “William Clark Quantrill in Kentucky and his Civil War Guerillas,” (from his recent book)
- February- Dr. Glenn LaFantasie, Western Kentucky University Department of History, Historian/Author: topic to be announced
- March- Greg Wade, Franklin Tennessee Civil War Roundtable, Historian/Author: “The Civil War in the Sequatchie Valley of Tennessee
- April- Tom Parson, Corinth National Battlefield, Historian/Author: “Work for Giants: The Battle for Tupelo/Harrisburg Mississippi” (based on his recent book)
- May- Brian McKnight, University of Virginia/Wise, Historian/Author: “Champ Ferguson, (based on his book)

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**