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# Bowling Green Civil War Round Table Newsletter (March 2016)

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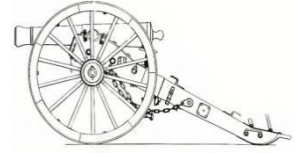
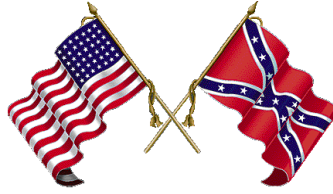
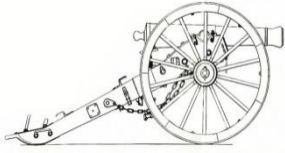
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Founded March 2011 – Bowling Green, Kentucky

# 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 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each month (except June, July, and December).

Email: [BGCWRT@wku.edu](mailto:BGCWRT@wku.edu)

We meet at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, March 15th 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 March 2016: Divided Allegiances: The Civil War in the Sequatchie Valley

While Civil War battles are generally well researched, documented and discussed, life behind the lines is not as often studied in depth. The home front was many times an area of divided loyalties and tensions we could not imagine today as more often than not, citizens were strongly at conflict in their political views. Soldiers home on furlough were sometimes hunted down by neighbors loyal to the other side. Foraging was usually a polite term for “stealing” while starvation would exist in many areas of the South before the war would end. Describing these incredible challenges to survive, Gregory Wade will present “Divided Allegiances” at our March Round Table event.

**Bio:** Wade released his first historical novel, *Broken Valley*, in 2014 which deals with one family’s trials behind the lines in the Sequatchie Valley of East Tennessee. “Divided Allegiances” details how citizens in much of Tennessee and the Cumberland Plateau up into Kentucky coped with these times. Murder, rape and wanton crime were not uncommon. The facts of “Divided Allegiances” inspired the novel, and described the difficulties faced in many areas of the South during the war, not just Tennessee. Civil War historian Greg Biggs said, “ this program provides a refreshing change from typical Civil War round table fare and shows just how much there is to learn about this war.”

Wade has written as a staff member for the *Civil War News* for several years and has been published in many historical publications such as *Sea Classics* and *North and South*. He currently writes a monthly guest column on the Civil War for the *Franklin Home Page*. He founded the Franklin Civil War Round Table in 2008 which now has over 125 members and presents well received lectures and tours on mostly Western Theatre topics. He has spoken to numerous history related groups, including in 2014 as a guest historian at the Civil War Trust annual meeting in Nashville. He was the recipient of the Tennessee Civil War Preservation Association preservationist of the year in 2015.

He and his wife, Beth, also a Franklin Civil War Round Table member, reside in Franklin.

### **Officer Elections**

Since dues have been collected for 2016 it is time to think about officer elections. Due to concerns over low membership turnout in the past, we had decided to hold off on the regularly scheduled election period in January. Since the last two meetings have featured a respectable turnout, it is important that we hold elections. Any member that is interested in running for a position may do so, and current officers are more than welcome to run for reelection. Voice votes will be utilized to nominate, and then decide on candidates for the respective offices. Currently, our positions include: President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer. We encourage all of our members who are interested to consider running for office, as it provides a unique opportunity to become more involved in the roundtable.

### **Survey Results**

After receiving a large number of responses we have learned that there are several topics that our members would like to see presentations on in the future. The role of local and state politicians in the Civil War being mentioned most often, in addition to requests for presentations on Fort Henry and Fort Donelson, Civil War POW camps, and the effect of the war on the Northern and Southern home front, as well as information on medicine during the war. Additionally, there have been requests for a section of the newsletter to be devoted to genealogical accounts, with our members providing information on any ancestors that they had who participated in or lived in the Civil War time period. If you are interested in providing us with information please send it to: BGCWRT@wku.edu.

Thanks to all the members who took time out of their schedules to take the survey, we appreciate it and will see that your suggestions are taken into consideration.

### **Our Previous Meeting: February 2016**

At our last meeting Dr. Glenn LaFantasie presented a compelling discussion of how the audience felt about the Gettysburg Address. Contradictory accounts allege that onlookers silence represented either displeasure or profound solemnity. Ward Hill Lamon, Lincoln's self-appointed bodyguard, even alleged that the speech made no impression on the audience, who were disappointed with its brevity. Other accounts, like those provided by John Hay and John Nicolay in their multivolume Lincoln biography assert that Edward Everett, the keynote speaker at the dedication, believed the Gettysburg Address made a far greater impression than his own two hour speech. Dr. LaFantasie reasoned that the reactions of the large audience at the commemoration cannot be limited to a single interpretation. From the evidence of Northern newspaper accounts in the aftermath of the dedication it is clear that the audience was receptive of Lincoln's 273 word speech. Moreover, reactions varied over the course of the speech, as Lincoln's focus ranged from connecting the Civil War with the founding generation to honoring the sacrifice of the soldiers being interred at Gettysburg cemetery. Observers could feel pride, sadness, and hope in equal measure throughout the course of the address. Moreover, the fact that the Gettysburg Address remains one of the most important speeches in American history, and that it continues to be the subject of inquiry, demonstrates its importance not only in the present, but the past as well. The Bowling Green Civil War Roundtable would like to thank Dr. LaFantasie for his presentation, and extend an invitation for him to speak to us again in the future.

### **Notice: Civil War Exhibit Featuring John Hunt Morgan Items**

Special thanks to Tom Carr for sending us this information:

"The Horse Soldier," a special Civil War cavalry exhibit featuring rarely seen personal items belonging to Confederate General John Hunt Morgan, will be on display at the Cave City Welcome & History Center from November 5, 2015 to March 30, 2016. The Welcome Center is located at 418 Mammoth Cave St., Cave City, KY 42127.

The special exhibit tells the story of the "Horse Soldier" during the Civil War and highlights items used by Confederate cavalymen, particularly those of Morgan and some of his fellow soldiers.

Among items to be exhibited will be the door from the cell block of Morgan's imprisonment in the Columbus, Ohio, Penitentiary in 1863; the cavalry saber he used following his escape from prison in November 1863; and a revolver presented to Morgan in 1854 by Lexington Mayor F. K. Hunt, Morgan's uncle. Probably the most personal item displayed

is a neckerchief given to young W. B. Redmon on June 11, 1864, by Morgan after he ate breakfast cooked by the young man's mother, on the morning of the Battle of Cynthiana.

Morgan, a successful businessman in Lexington before the war, was known as the "Thunderbolt of the Confederacy" for his daring raids as a cavalry leader. The cave area featured heavily during Morgan's Christmas Raid of 1862-1863 that included capture of Glasgow and a skirmish at Bear Wallow near Cave City. Their route took them through Horse Cave and Munfordville to Bacon Creek (now Bonnieville) where they burned the L&N Railroad bridge. The events of December 1862 was not Morgan's first foray into the region. Morgan and his men were sworn into the Confederate Army, October 1861, on the steps of Woodsonville Baptist Church. He was killed in action at Greeneville, Tennessee, in 1864.

"We are delighted the Kentucky Department of Parks allowed Cave City the opportunity to showcase this exhibit," states Sharon Tabor, Executive Director, Cave City Tourist and Convention Commission. "As part of Cave City's 150<sup>th</sup> Commemoration of its incorporation in 1866, we felt the exhibit would be appropriate to celebrate Cave City's history."

The exhibit will be open through March, 30, 2016. Admission to the exhibit is free. This is the exhibit's last appearance on its two year travel between Kentucky State Parks.

**The public is invited to an Open House reception for the inaugural viewing November 5, 10AM – 7PM, Cave City Welcome Center, 418 Mammoth Cave St., Cave City, KY.**

### **This Month in Civil War History**

#### **1861**

- March 1<sup>st</sup>- Texas accepted as a state by the provisional government of the Confederate States of America. Also on this date, the U. S. Congress rejects the Washington Peace Conference proposals.
- March 2<sup>nd</sup>- The U. S. Congress passes a proposed 13th Amendment stating that the Congress will not abolish or interfere with slavery where it exists. The amendment is never ratified.
- March 4<sup>th</sup>- Abraham Lincoln is inaugurated President of the United States. 7 states had already seceded.
- March 21<sup>st</sup>- Missouri secessionist convention adjourns having voted 98-1 against secession.
- March 29<sup>th</sup>- After deliberating with his cabinet President Lincoln makes the decision to reinforce Fort. Sumter.

#### **1862**

- March 3<sup>rd</sup>- President Lincoln appoints Andrew Johnson to be military governor of Tennessee.
- March 6<sup>th</sup>- President Lincoln proposes that slaves in the border states be emancipated gradually, with compensation to the owners.
- March 8<sup>th</sup>- The Merrimac (CSS Virginia) battles the USS Congress and the USS Cumberland, destroying both frigates and killing more than 240 of their crewmen.
- March 9<sup>th</sup>- The first battle between two ironclad warships, The Monitor and The Merrimac (CSS Virginia) occurs. This battle would also mark the first use of a turreted gun.
- March 17<sup>th</sup>- George McClellan begins transporting his men to Fort Monroe for the Peninsula Campaign

#### **1863**

- March 3<sup>rd</sup>- The Conscription Act (National Enrollment Act of 1863) is signed into law by President Lincoln. Congress requires quotas of draftees by state, but allows wealthy Americans the right to buy their way out of service for \$300.00. Also called the Draft Act or any number of variations.
- March 10<sup>th</sup>- President Lincoln issues an order of amnesty for men absent without leave from the Union Army. They must report by April 1st or they will be considered deserters

- March 13<sup>th</sup>- An explosion in the Confederate Ordnance Laboratory on Brown's Island in the James River near Tredegar Iron Works in Richmond kills 69 people, 62 of them women and young girls. A friction primer exploded.
- March 22<sup>nd</sup>- A detachment of John Morgan's cavalry captures the federal outpost at Mount Sterling, Kentucky.
- March 29<sup>th</sup>- Stymied in his attempt to reach Vicksburg on the east bank of the Mississippi, Grant orders General John McClernand to march south on the west bank to Miliken's Bend.

#### 1864

- March 2<sup>nd</sup>- Fitzhugh Lee traps Ulric Dahlgreen's cavalry following a raid on Richmond, killing Dahlgreen and 109 of his men.
- March 4<sup>th</sup>-The Confederate States of America adopts the Stars and Bars as its official flag.
- March 9<sup>th</sup>- Ulysses S. Grant promoted to Lieutenant General and given command of all active United States forces.
- March 17<sup>th</sup>- William Tecumseh Sherman, meeting with Grant in Nashville, is promoted to Military Division of the Mississippi commanding the Department of the Ohio, Department of the Tennessee, Department of the Cumberland and the Department of the Arkansas. Major General James McPherson is promoted to Sherman's old position, commander of the Army of the Tennessee.
- March 21<sup>st</sup>- Abraham Lincoln signs legislation allowing Nevada and Colorado to become states even though they don't meet population requirements.

#### 1865

- March 2<sup>nd</sup>- Robert E. Lee sends a message to Ulysses S. Grant asking for a conference to "iron out differences" between the North and the South.
- March 4<sup>th</sup>- Lincoln outlines his second term talking directly to the Confederate people "...with malice toward none; with charity for all..."
- March 13<sup>th</sup>- Confederacy allows the induction of "negro soldiers." The measure did not state that blacks who fought for the Confederacy would be free, although that was apparently the understanding.
- March 27<sup>th</sup>- Lincoln held a council of war with Ulysses S. Grant, William Tecumseh Sherman, and David Porter on the *River Queen* at City Point.
- March 31<sup>st</sup>- Battle of Dinwiddie Court House: In a tactical victory for the Confederates, George Pickett [CS] turns back Phil Sheridan cavalry and elements of the Fifth Corps.

#### Civil War Quotes

*"How long, your Honor, will it take for the world to get back the humane emotions that were slowly growing before the war? How long will it take the calloused hearts of men before the scars of hatred and cruelty shall be removed?"*- Clarence Darrow

*"Battles lost not alone because of superior numbers and failing ammunition and stores, but because of generals who should not have been generals, who were generals not through training in contemporary methods or aptitude for learning them, but by the divine right to say 'Go there' conferred upon them by an absolute caste system."*- William Faulkner

*"Sea and land may lie between us, but my heart is always there with you."*- Nancy P. Brewer

*"Were half the power that fills the world with terror, Were half the wealth bestowed on camps and courts Given to redeem the human mind from error, There were no need of arsenals or forts."*- Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

*"I'm American. Like I told you. And I'm American and not something else because they failed that day. They couldn't do it and most of them probably knew they couldn't do it before they even started, but they went anyhow. There's honor in that."*- Lance Weller

*"The same young men who crowded each other as they faced the recruiters' tables now crowded each other as they died."*- Charles Phillips

*"It was as if God had decreed this characterless engagement of brainless forces as his answer to the human presumption."* - E.L. Doctorow

*"While the framers of the United States Constitution were ashamed of slavery and used euphemisms in place of the term "slave", the authors of the Confederate Constitution proudly used the term no less than ten times."* - C.L. Gammon

*"If the men I had the honor to command that day could not take that position, all Hell couldn't take it."* - Issac Trimble, in Michael Shaara's *The Killer Angels*

*"Lee replied: "Tell your friends it is unworthy of them as women, especially Christian women, to cherish feelings of resentment against the North. Tell them that it grieves me inexpressibly to know that such a state of thing exists, and that I implore them to do their part to heal our country's wounds."* - Clint Johnson, Touring Virginia and West Virginia's Civil War Sites

*"I have never been the fiddle-dee-dee, carefree Scarlett O'Hara his fantasies imagined. I'm more of the Civil War version—tired, hard, and determined."* - Jennifer Harrison

*"They wept for the goodness of half-imaginary yesterdays, yesterdays beyond altering, instead of anticipating and helping to shape the good of possible tomorrows. They found things to blame for the flow of events they wanted to stop and could not."* - John Jakes

*"To The Undertaker or Friends Who Open This Coffin: After laying back the lid of the coffin, remove entirely the pads from the sides of the face, as they are intended merely to steady the head in traveling. If there be any discharge of liquid from the eyes, nose, or mouth, which often occurs from the constant shaking of the cars, wipe it off gently with a soft piece of cotton cloth, slightly moistened."* - Dr. Jupiter Jones in Edison McDaniel's "Not One Among Them Whole: A Novel of Gettysburg"

*"No, I went to the bar to ask for a mojito and that guy Johnny said he didn't make mojitos. Then he offered to make me a mint julep, in one of those silver cups and everything."*

*"Did you know say the true cause of the Civil War was some Northerner adding nutmeg to a mint julep?" Lucy asked."* - Mary Jane Hathaway, "Persuasion, Captain Wentworth, and Cracklin' Cornbread"

*"It is something great and greatening to cherish an ideal; to act in the light of truth that is far-away and far above; to set aside the near advantage, the momentary pleasure; the snatching of seeming good to self; and to act for remoter ends, for higher good, and for interests other than our own."* - Joshua Lawrence Chamberlain

*"Louisa went about her duties at the hospital, trying not to dwell on the fact that this might be her last day alive."* - David Healey, *Rebel Fever: A Civil War Novel*

*"Before the Civil War, there were no national cemeteries, no processes for identifying the dead in the battle. There weren't any dog tags, and there was no next-of-kin notification. You didn't necessarily even hear what the fate of your loved ones had been. It was up to their comrades to write and inform you."* - Drew Gilpin Faust

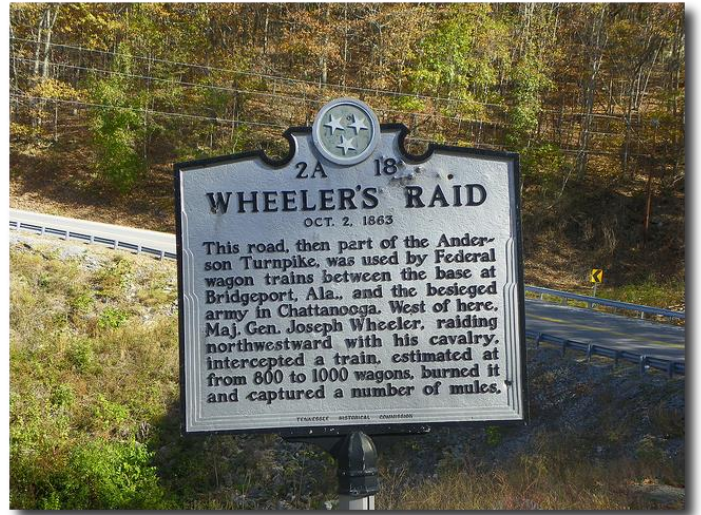
*"With one terrible exception, the Civil War, law and the Constitution have kept America whole and free."* - Anthony Lewis

*"What we forget is that African Americans made the largest contribution to America, economically, before the Civil War of any sector of society. I read that the railroads were worth about \$2 billion, but slavery was a \$3 billion asset."* - Andrew Young

*"The United States needed a civil war to unite properly."* - Umberto Eco



A View of Wheeler's Raid



Top Left: Joseph "Fighting Joe" Wheeler

Top Right: Artist depiction of Wheeler's raid on Union supply train (October 1863)

Bottom Left: Another depiction of Wheeler's raid

Bottom Right: Plaque commemorating Wheeler's raid

### **UPCOMING EVENTS FOR THE BGCWRT**

- 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**