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

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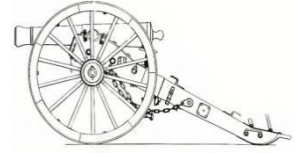
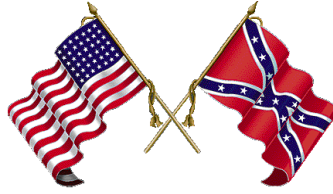
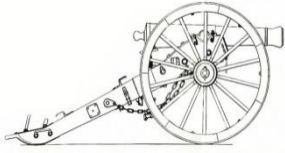
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Founded March 2011 – Bowling Green, Kentucky

# Bowling Green Civil War Round Table

President –Tom Carr; Vice President - Jonathan Jeffrey; Secretary – Carol Crowe-Carraco; Treasurer – Robert Dietle;  
 Newsletter: Tom Burden 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, April 19th in **Cherry Hall 227** on the Campus of Western Kentucky University.

## **PLEASE NOTE ROOM CHANGE**

Our meetings are always open to the public.

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

### **Our Program for April 2016:**

The Bowling Green Civil War Roundtable is pleased to have Mr. Tom Parson as our guest speaker this month. During the summer of 1864 a Union column, commanded by Maj. Gen. Andrew Jackson Smith, set out from Tennessee with a goal that had proven impossible in all prior attempts: to find and defeat the cavalry under the command of Confederate major general Nathan Bedford Forrest. Forrest's cavalry was the greatest threat to the long supply line feeding Sherman's armies as they advanced on Atlanta. Smith marched at the head of his "gorillas," veteran soldiers who were fresh from the Red River Campaign. Aside from diverting Confederate attention away from Sherman, Smith's orders were to destroy Southern railroads and confront Forrest in Mississippi. Just weeks earlier, a similar Union expedition had met with disaster at the Battle of Brice's Crossroads, perhaps the greatest victory of Forrest's military career.

Joined by reinforcements led by Lt. Gen. Stephen Dill Lee, Forrest and his men were confident and their morale had never been higher. For two weeks, however, Smith outmarched, outfought, and outmaneuvered the team of Lee and Forrest. In three days of bitter fighting, culminating in the battle at Harrisburg, the Confederates suffered a staggering defeat. Forrest's corps was devastated. He and his men would recover but would never regain their earlier strength, nor would they ever again prove a serious threat to veteran Union infantry.

*Work for Giants* focuses on the details of this overlooked campaign and the efforts, postbattle and postwar, to minimize the outcome and consequences of an important Union victory. The book draws heavily from previously untapped diaries, letters and journals, and eyewitness accounts, bringing to life the oppressive heat, cruel depredations, and brutal combat the soldiers encountered, and the stoic strength they used to endure them.

### **Our Previous Meeting: March, 2016**

On Tuesday, March 15, members of the BGCWRT enjoyed a presentation by Gregory Wade, Tennessee native, insurance executive, and local historian, on Tuesday, March 15. Mr. Wade spoke on "Divided Allegiances: The Civil War in the Sequatchie Valley." Using materials gleaned from the Tennessee State Archives and from family memories, Wade discussed the East Tennessee home front where Civil War loyalties were often deeply divided. People in the Sequatchie

Valley, which today stretches from Nickajack Reservoir to Chattanooga, found survival difficult as they faced the challenges of the Civil War in their isolated area of Tennessee. For these 19<sup>th</sup> century residents few difference could be found between Union and Confederate soldiers and supporters as they all took advantage of non-combatants. Both sides resorted to abusive actions and stole horses and foodstuffs from local residents in the guise of foraging.

Much more of this story can be found in Gregory Wade's 2014 novel *Broken Valley: A Wartime Story of Isolation, Fear and Hope in a remote East Tennessee Valley.*"

Those hearing this presentation had to have recognized the similarities in the Tennessee story with that of South Central Kentucky. Both Eldress Nancy Moore of the South Union Shaker community in Logan County and Josie Underwood of Bowling Green recorded the activities of both armies during the Civil War.

### Presidents Notes

We will continue with our usual schedule of not meeting in Cherry Hall in the months of June, July and Dec., due to the building shutdown during those months. However, as I did in 2015, I will attempt to create events, or make available knowledge of existing ones, for our members in June and July.

If you have an idea for an off-site event for either June, July or December, please let me know. (Since writing the above, June and July events have become available. Please think ahead for Dec.'16 and for next year.)

#### • **JUNE: Two opportunities**

1. I am assisting the *Orphan Brigade Kinfolk Association* (of which I am a life member) in locating a suitable venue for our Annual Meeting, to be held on Saturday, June 4th, near the Jefferson Davis State Historic Site. We are holding our meeting earlier in the year than usual, to coincide with the June 3-5, 2016 event commemorating the 208th anniversary of Jeff Davis' birth on June 3, 1808. The OBKA meets each year, as near as possible to the location where the veterans of the Orphan Brigade met 100 years before.

As soon as I find a location for our meeting, I will let you know. You are all invited to attend.

2. According to our friend, and BGCWRT member, Dr. Michael Trapasso, Civil War reenactor Curt Fields will portray Gen. U. S. Grant on Tuesday, June 14th at 6:30 p.m., at the Bob Kirby branch of the Warren County Public Library.

• General Grant is coming to Bowling Green to talk about his activities in the Civil War. General Grant in real life is actually Curt Fields, a modern educator and actor, who has researched US Grant extensively. He even looks like the General.

On June 14th (2nd Tuesday) at 6:30 PM General Grant/Curt Fields will speak at the Kirby Branch of the Bowling Green/Warren County Public Library. Dr. Michael Trapasso dressed as General Rufus Ingalls will introduce General Grant. [For those who missed the suggested Sunday, June 28, 2015 event at Riverview, Michael ably portrayed Ingalls and spoke on his life and actions during the war.]

I hope that people who attend the Bowling Green Civil War Round Table will come to the library on June 14th to listen to General Grant.

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• I always wonder which of my fellow students of the Civil War have an ancestor who participated in, and/or experienced the Civil War. I'm sure there are many who have, or are searching for, such an ancestor.

I am a generation closer to my Civil War ancestors than most my age, as my parents were considerably older than is usual when I was born.

If you are a descendant of a Civil War participant please send me, via email, any details you may be willing to share about your ancestor's activities and experiences. In particular the unit or units with which he(or she) was associated, his rank(s) and any skirmishes, battles or campaigns in which he participated, with dates and locations.

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• **JULY 19**

Eileen Starr, Director of Riverview at Hobson Grove, called me Fri., April 1, to invite us to meet at Riverview at Hobson Grove for our July 19th meeting. She also wanted to let me know of the Curt Fields event (#2 above).

Coincidentally (see notes above), she suggested that those in attendance, who wish to, could speak for a short period each, on what they know of their Civil War ancestor(s).

• Riverview address: 1100 West Main Ave, Bowling Green, KY 42101

*(PLEASE NOTE: If you are not familiar with the location, I suggest using the GPS coordinates I've provided below. The address above, if followed, will direct you to the clubhouse, or the back of the Hobson Grove golf course, which is not where you want to go.)*

• GPS coordinates to Riverview (Hobson House) parking lot: Go to 37.01082, -86.45890

and continue counter-clockwise around Hobson House to parking lot on right.

(NOTE: You may copy & paste the above coordinates into any mapping app on your smart phone or computer, and it will map the route for you.

I hope to see each of you at all three of these events. Bring a friend.

Tom Carr

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

**1861**

- April 3<sup>rd</sup>- A "test vote" in the Virginia convention shows a 2-1 margin against secession. The following day the Virginia delegation votes 80-45 against secession
- April 6<sup>th</sup>- Abraham Lincoln sends a message to Governor Pickens informing him that Fort Sumter will be provisioned, and that if the effort is resisted the fort will be reinforced with troops.
- April 11<sup>th</sup>- Confederates demand the surrender of Fort Sumter.
- April 12<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup>- Beginning at 4:30 am on the 12th and continuing until the morning of the 13th, Confederate batteries along the shore of Charleston Harbor fire on Fort Sumter under the command of Major Robert Anderson. Anderson arranges a surrender with Texas Senator Louis Wigfall on the morning of the 13th.
- April 15<sup>th</sup>- President Lincoln calls for 75,000 volunteers for three months service to deal with the "insurrection."

**1862**

- April 6<sup>th</sup>- On the first day of the battle of Shiloh/Pittsburg Landing, General Albert Sidney Johnston, commander of the Department of the West is killed while leading an advance against a Union position in a peach orchard.
- April 7<sup>th</sup>- Ulysses S. Grant [US] defeats Albert Sidney Johnston [CS] in southwest Tennessee. P. G. T. Beauregard assumed command following Johnston's death
- April 12<sup>th</sup>- Combining the Confederate Army of the Potomac with John Magruder's Army of the Peninsula and a large garrison at Norfolk, President Jefferson Davis creates the Army of Northern Virginia.
- April 16<sup>th</sup>- Confederate Congress passes a conscription law, the first of the two sides of the conflict to do so.
- April 28<sup>th</sup>- City of New Orleans surrenders to Union forces.

**1863**

- April 2<sup>nd</sup>- A mob demands bread from a supply wagon in Richmond, starting the so-called Bread Riot. The mob looted other stores and was personally addressed by Jefferson Davis, who tossed the money from his pocket into the crowd. Police and soldiers eventually dispersed the crowd.
- April 13<sup>th</sup>- Ambrose Burnside issue General Order 38 in which he stated "anyone found guilty of committing acts for the benefit of the enemies of our country will be subject to execution."
- April 20<sup>th</sup>- Lincoln proclaims that West Virginia would join the Union on June 20, 1863.
- April 22<sup>nd</sup>- Comprehensive "tax-in-kind" plan passed by the Confederate Senate. It required 10 percent of everything produced or grown be given to the Confederate government.
- April 30<sup>th</sup>- About noon, Ulysses S. Grant begins crossing the Mississippi and landing U. S. troops south of Vicksburg.

## 1864

- April 8<sup>th</sup>- By a vote of 38 to 6, the U. S. Senate approves the 13th Amendment and sends it to the states for ratification.
- April 9<sup>th</sup>- Ulysses S. Grant issues campaign orders. He tells George Meade [US], "Wherever Lee goes, you will go there." Similar orders are issued to William Tecumseh Sherman.
- April 12<sup>th</sup>- Nathan Bedford Forrest [CS] defeats [US]. Following the defeat, Forrest's men massacre most of the occupants of the fort, the majority of whom were black soldiers.
- April 17<sup>th</sup>- Ulysses S. Grant ends prisoner exchanges with the South. He felt the practice was '...prolonging the conflict.' Grant's decision made official preexisting U.S. policy toward the POW issue, as the Confederate refusal to exchange black soldiers on an equal basis with whites ensured the demise of the Dix-Hill cartel governing prisoner exchange.
- April 20<sup>th</sup>- The War Department announces a reduction in the amount of rations received by Confederate prisoners in response to reports of mistreatment of Union prisoners.

## 1865

- April 2<sup>nd</sup>- With the Petersburg line crumbling, Lee informs Davis he will abandon his position that evening. The Confederate government evacuates Richmond and Mayor Joseph Mayo surrenders the city to General Godfrey Weitzel.
- April 4<sup>th</sup>- President Lincoln visits Richmond, walking to the Confederate White House among cheering crowds, mostly freed slaves. A detachment of 10 men protected him.
- April 7<sup>th</sup>- Grant begins communication with Lee known as the "Surrender Letters."
- April 9<sup>th</sup>- After attempting to break-out of the Union envelopment, Robert E. Lee surrenders the Army of Northern Virginia to Ulysses S. Grant at the home of Wilmer McLean in Appomattox Court House.
- April 14<sup>th</sup>- United States President Abraham Lincoln is assassinated on Good Friday by John Wilkes Booth in Ford's Theatre, Washington, D. C.

### Civil War Quotes

*"All wars are civil wars because all men are brothers."* - Francois Fenelon

*"All we ask is to be let alone."* - Jefferson Davis

*"If men were equal in America, all these Poles and English and Czechs and blacks, then they were equal everywhere, and there was really no such thing as foreigner; there were only free men and slaves."* - Michael Shaara

*"Labor in the white skin can never free itself as long as labor in the black skin is branded."* - Karl Marx

*"While, then, every part of our country thus feels an immediate and particular interest in Union, all the parts combined cannot fail to find in the united mass of means and efforts greater strength, greater resource, proportionably greater security from external danger, a less frequent interruption of their peace by foreign nations; and, what is of inestimable value, they must derive from Union an exemption from those broils and wars between themselves, which so frequently afflict neighboring countries not tied together by the same governments, which their own rivalships alone would be*

*sufficient to produce, but which opposite foreign alliances, attachments, and intrigues would stimulate and embitter.”- George Washington*

*“The Autocrat of all the Russias will resign his crown, and proclaim his subjects free republicans sooner than will our American masters voluntarily give up their slaves.”- Abraham Lincoln*

*“Not the Constitution; the Constitution recognizes the property in many forms, and imposes obligations in connection with that recognition. Not the Bible; that justifies it. Not the good of society; for if they go where it exists, they find that society recognizes it as good...”- Jefferson Davis*

*“My argument against the dissolution of the American Union is this. It would place the slave system more exclusively under the control of the slave-holding states, and withdraw it from the power in the northern states which is opposed to slavery. Slavery is essentially barbarous in its character. It, above all things else, dreads the presence of an advanced civilization. It flourishes best where it meets no reproving frowns, and hears no condemning voices. While in the Union it will meet with both. Its hope of life, in the last resort, is to get out of the Union. I am, therefore, for drawing the bond of the Union more completely under the power of the free states. What they most dread, that I most desire.”- Frederick Douglass*

*“Can anticipate no greater calamity for the country than a dissolution of the Union. It would be an accumulation of all the evils we complain of, and I am willing to sacrifice everything but honour for its preservation. I hope, therefore, that all constitutional means will be exhausted before there is a resort to force. Secession is nothing but revolution. The framers of our Constitution never exhausted so much labour, wisdom, and forbearance in its formation, and surrounded it with so many guards and securities, if it was intended to be broken by every member of the Confederacy at will. It is intended for 'perpetual Union,' so expressed in the preamble, and for the establishment of a government, not a compact, which can only be dissolved by revolution, or the consent of all the people in convention assembled. It is idle to talk of secession: anarchy would have been established, and not a government, by Washington, Hamilton, Jefferson, Madison, and all the other patriots of the Revolution.”- Robert E. Lee*

*“Our new Government is founded upon exactly the opposite ideas; its foundations are laid, its cornerstone rests, upon the great truth that the negro is not equal to the white man; that slavery, subordination to the superior race, is his natural and normal condition. With us, all of the white race, however high or low, rich or poor, are equal in the eye of the law. Not so with the negro. Subordination is his place.”- Alexander H. Stephens*

*“If we cannot justify the South in the act of Secession, we will go down in History solely as a brave, impulsive but rash people who attempted in an illegal manner to overthrow the Union of our Country.”- Clement A. Evans, from *The Myth of the Lost Cause and Civil War History* by Allan T. Nolan and Gary Gallagher*

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

- 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**