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# Bowling Green Civil War Round Table Newsletter (Sept. 2016)

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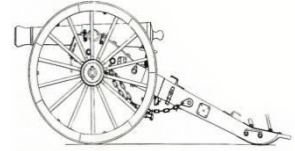
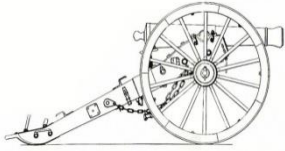
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Founded March 2011 – Bowling Green, Kentucky

# 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, September 20th 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 September 20th 2016: The Battle of Spotsylvania Court House

Spotsylvania Court House – perhaps the most forgotten major battle of the Civil War. Over 150,000 soldiers struggled for 13-days along a six-mile front in central Virginia in May 1864, leaving over 30,000 casualties on the battleground of Spotsylvania Court House. The Spotsylvania battlefield has often been in the shadows of the nearby bloodbath of The Wilderness, fought just a few days before between Lee and Grant’s armies. Filmmaker and historical researcher, Robert Lee Hodge, will shed light on the Battle of Spotsylvania Court House through maps, film, photos, and accounts from the soldiers who fought there, illustrating the importance of the combat and why more of this land should be preserved.

**Bio:** Born on Stonewall Jackson’s birthday Robert Lee Hodge has had a keen interest in the Civil War since age 4. For almost 30 years Robert has worked on several history-based film dramas, ranging from ABC’s North and South and TNT’s Gettysburg and Andersonville, to many programs on The History Channel, Arts and Entertainment Channel, and the National Geographic Channel. His own Civil War documentaries have won 5 Telly awards and a regional Emmy in 2007.

Hodge has been featured on National Public Radio’s Talk of the Nation and Soundscapes, NBC’s *Late, Late Show*, *The New Yorker*, *The Wall Street Journal*, the PBS program *Going Places*, and C-SPAN II’s Book TV. Robert has also written for *The Nashville Tennessean*, *America’s Civil War* magazine, *The Washington Post*, and *North and South* magazine. He played a major role in, and appears on the cover of, the *New York Times*’ 1999 best-seller *Confederates in the Attic* — hosting Pulitzer Prize-winning author, Tony Horwitz, on an eclectic and memorable Civil War tour-de-force of historic sites.

Robert Hodge has been a historical researcher, primarily at The National Archives and Library of Congress, working with nationally-recognized experts. He also was principle researcher on Time-Life Books 18-volume series *Voices of the Civil War* and *The Illustrated History of the Civil War*. Hodge’s interest became preserving historic greenspace when he interned with the National Park Service’s Civil War Sites Advisory Commission in 1992. Robert has organized battlefield preservation fund-raisers that have garnered over \$150,000 for the purchase of endangered battlefield land.

Hodge serves on the board of directors of the Central Virginia Battlefields Trust, also known as the CVBT; an organization that has protected over 1,000 acres at Chancellorsville, Fredericksburg, The Wilderness, and Spotsylvania, Virginia. In the last several years Hodge was featured on the National Geographic Channel, Time magazine, as well as

written for The Washington Post. He was also a researcher for the U.S. Army. Most recently Robert was script-writing for the new film at Andrew Jackson's Hermitage.

### August Meeting

**The Bowling Green Civil War Roundtable heard Nashville author, Gary W. Waddey on August 16<sup>th</sup>. His program featured an overview of the pursuits of the 11<sup>th</sup> Tennessee Infantry (CSA) from the book, *Forward my Brave Boys*, which he coauthored with M. Todd Cathey, an attorney from Hendersonville, TN.**

**Mr. Waddey discussed the activities of the 11<sup>th</sup> Tennessee from the Spring of 1861 to its surrender at the end of the war. He skillfully related the story of the Regiment's participation in numerous battles. Of particular interest was the assault on the Union defenses at Franklin, TN, which included some of the Civil War's most brutal hand-to-hand combat. Much of the material in the presentation came from accounts taken from diaries, letters, and journals which had not been used in the past, and once again gives credence to the idea that the Civil War remains an example of "felt" history to many. Mr. Waddey's talk was accompanied by a power point presentation of some never before published photographs of common soldiers and their families along with newly created battle maps.**

### Camp Hobson Civil War Wayside Marker Unveiling Slated for September 17<sup>th</sup>

Camp Hobson at Green River Bridge was the campground of several companies of two regiments: 13th Kentucky and the 21st Kentucky Volunteer Infantries. It occurred in December 1861. Many troops from this area were recruited into companies by leading citizens and their recruiter often became the captain of the company. Colonel Edward H. Hobson of Greensburg commanded the 13th Kentucky and Colonel E.L. Dudley (a physician) became the commander of the 21st Kentucky. Company F of the 13th Kentucky was composed of Taylor County men, mostly from Maple, Willowtown, and Mt. Gilboa sections. Companies A, E, G, and F were mostly from Green County; Company B and C from Adair County and Cane Valley; Company D from Adair and Metcalfe; Company I from the Campbellsburg area; and Company K from the Carrollton area. The 21st Kentucky had a large contingent from Adair County and the surrounding region.

After the men were recruited, they were mustered in, receiving a uniform and a weapon, and put into active service immediately. The mustering in ceremony will be re-enacted from 12:30 until 1:00 at this event. Flags will be flying and recruitment flyers will be available for souvenirs.

The field where the encampment was held had nearly 2,000 men in late 1861. Tents would have spread across the bottom land along Green River. The site was then owned by James Allen Sublett, and today still owned by members of the Sublett family. The log cabin on the property, built in 1849, served as a Union hospital, and would have been utilized by these troops. The cabin also served as a stagecoach stop on the Campbellsville to Columbia stage route. This property is in the National Register of Historic Places.

The marker was made possible by the following sponsors:

Dr. Ron Hatcher, Ann Cowherd in memory of James Colby "Mickey" Cowherd, Terry Mills, Richard Phelps, George Keltner, Dr. Richard Kessler, Jeremy Johnson, Steven L. Wright, Betty J. Gorin-Smith, Taylor County Historical Society, and the Tebbs Bend Battlefield Association.

The committee in charge of this event includes: Dr. Ron Hatcher of Bowling Green, past president of the Bowling Green Civil War Round Table; Cheryl Tillery of Columbia; Karen Wolfe of Greensburg; Bruce Loveall and John Gatton from West Point and Louisville; Bryan Taylor, Howard Humble, Suzanne Ince, June Fields, and Betty J. Gorin of Campbellsville.

## This Month in Civil War History

### 1861

- September 3<sup>rd</sup>- In response to a federal build-up in the West, Leonidas Polk orders Gideon Pillow to take Columbus, Kentucky on the Mississippi River. Pillow takes Columbus the following day.
- September 6<sup>th</sup>- Gen. Grant takes Paducah, Kentucky without facing any opposition from the Confederacy.
- September 10<sup>th</sup>- Jefferson Davis places Albert Sidney Johnston in command of the Confederate West.
- September 11<sup>th</sup>- President Lincoln orders John C. Fremont to rescind his order freeing some slaves in Missouri and issue a new order conforming to the Confiscation Act passed by Congress. Also on this day, Lincoln instructs Secretary of War Simon Cameron to order the arrest of Maryland legislators who are openly pro-South.
- September 13<sup>th</sup>- Entering Confederate-controlled Pensacola harbor, Lt. John Henry Russell destroys the privateer *Judah*, marking the first naval action of the Civil War.
- September 16<sup>th</sup>- Battle of Munfordville.
- September 18<sup>th</sup>- CSA troops arrive in Bowling Green.
- September 19<sup>th</sup>- Crossing into Kentucky through the Cumberland Pass, Brigadier General Felix Zollicoffer disperses a small federal garrison at Barbourville.

### 1862

- September 2<sup>nd</sup>- General John Pope is replaced by Ambrose Burnside, following the disaster at Second Bull Run, combining the Army of Virginia with the Army of the Potomac under George McClellan.
- September 3<sup>rd</sup>- Confederate forces capture Frankfurt, Kentucky.
- September 5<sup>th</sup>- Robert E. Lee and the Army of Northern Virginia enters Maryland, which would soon culminate in the battle of Antietam.
- September 8<sup>th</sup>- Moving north through Maryland Confederates destroy the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad bridge over the Monacacy River
- September 12<sup>th</sup>- General Thomas ‘Stonewall’ Jackson successfully defeats Union forces at Harpers Ferry, taking 12,000 prisoners.
- September 17<sup>th</sup>- The Battle of Antietam occurs: Gen. Robert E. Lee and the Army of Northern Virginia face the Army of the Potomac under the command of Gen. George B. McClellan. This bloody Union victory would lead President Lincoln to decide in favor of issuing the Emancipation Proclamation on January 1<sup>st</sup> 1863.

### 1863

- September 5<sup>th</sup>- British forces stop the shipment of two ironclads from Liverpool under orders from Lord Russell. This dashed Confederates hopes of British support during the war.
- General William Franklin, intending to begin the occupation of Texas, steamed past Sabine Pass to Confederate Fort Griffin on the Texas-Louisiana border. John Bankhead Magruder, with two "cotton-clads" and a force of 44 men turned back more than 200 Union troops.
- September 9<sup>th</sup>- Federal troops enter Chattanooga, Tennessee following its evacuation by the Army of Tennessee.
- September 15<sup>th</sup>- In an effort to further undermine suspected Confederate agents and sympathizers, President Lincoln rescinds the writ of Habeas Corpus. This controversial act put him at odds with Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, Roger B. Taney, the author of the infamous *Dred Scott* decision.
- September 19<sup>th</sup>-The battle of Chickamauga occurs; The bloodiest two days in American history cost the Federals 1,657 dead, 9,756 wounded, and 4,757 missing for a total of 16,170 casualties out of 58,000 troops. The Confederate losses were 2,312 dead, 14,674 wounded and 1,468 for a total of 18,545 out of 66,000 troops.
- September 28<sup>th</sup>- Repercussions from Chickamauga: US Generals Crittenden, Alexander McDowell and McCook are relieved of duty and ordered to Indianapolis to face a court of inquiry.

**1864**

- September 2<sup>nd</sup>- Atlanta falls to Gen. Sherman's forces following its evacuation the day prior.
- September 4<sup>th</sup>- John Hunt Morgan is shot dead by federal troops fleeing the home of a woman who had betrayed him in Grenville, Tennessee.
- September 5<sup>th</sup>- Voters in Louisiana who had taken an oath of loyalty to the United States ratified a state constitution abolishing slavery.
- September 9<sup>th</sup>- John C. Fremont withdraws from the race for President. In an interesting bit of trivia, Fremont was the first Union official to order the confiscation of Southern slaves as "contraband of war" though Lincoln forced him to rescind the order, out of fear that he would alienate the slaveholding border-states.
- September 16<sup>th</sup>- Meeting in Charles Town, Ulysses S. Grant and Phil Sheridan discuss the problems in the Shenandoah Valley with Jubal Early's Corps.
- September 30<sup>th</sup>- Southeast of Richmond, Fort Harrison was the main bastion of a string of Rebel defenses. 3,000 men under George Stannard [US] swarmed over the fort, capturing it in less than 20 minutes. Robert E. Lee directed a counter-attack the following day that failed to regain the position.

**Civil War Quotes**

*"The Southern rebellion was largely the outgrowth of the Mexican War. Nations, like individuals, are punished for their transgressions. We got our punishment in the most sanguinary and expensive war of modern times."* – Gen. Ulysses S. Grant

*"You must remember that some things legally right are not morally right."* - Abraham Lincoln

*"The very same British and American families who had combined to wreck the Indian textile industry in the promotion of the opium trade [...] combined to make the trade, a valuable source of revenue. In 1864 they joined forces to create causes for war and to promote the terrible War Between the States, also known as the American Civil War."* - Dr. John Coleman

*"There is a class of people (in the South), men, women and children, who must be killed or banished before you can hope for peace and order."*- Gen. William T. Sherman in a letter to Gen. Thomas Ewing

*"A question settled by violence, or in disregard of law, must remain unsettled forever."*- Jefferson Davis

*"I would have never surrendered the army if I had known how the South would have been treated."*- Gen. Robert E. Lee

*"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 on the retreat to Appomattox.

*"There are at present many Coloured men in the Confederate Army doing duty not only as cooks, servants and labourers, but real soldiers, having muskets on their shoulders, and bullets in their pockets".* Frederick Douglass

*"But Quantrill and his men were no more bandits than the men on the other side. I've been to reunions of Quantrill's men two or three times. All they were trying to do was protect the property on the Missouri side of the line..."*- Quote from President Harry S. Truman, which ignores the brutality of Quantrill's attack on Lawrence, Kansas

*"It was necessary to put the South at a moral disadvantage by transforming the contest from a war waged against states fighting for their independence into a war waged against states fighting for the maintenance and extension of slavery."*- Woodrow Wilson from his *History of the United States* on why slavery had been made the focal point of postwar Northern accounts. Wilson subscribed to many of the pseudo-scientific beliefs of nineteenth century scholars on the distinctions between the "races," and was even quoted by D.W. Griffith as calling the film *Birth of the Nation*, the "truest account" of the war and reconstruction there was.

*“If you bring these [Confederate] leaders to trial, it will condemn the North, for by the Constitution secession is not rebellion. Lincoln wanted [Confederate President] Davis to escape, and he was right. His capture was a mistake. His trial will be a greater one.”- Salmon P. Chase*

*“Many in the south once believed that slavery was a moral and political evil. That folly and delusion are gone. We see it now in its true light, and regard it as the most safe and stable basis for free institutions in the world.”- John C. Calhoun*

*“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*

*“We recognize the fact of the inferiority stamped upon that race of men by the Creator, and from the cradle to the grave, our Government, as a civil institution, marks that inferiority.” Jefferson Davis*

*“The dissolution of the Union would not give the north a single advantage over slavery, but would take from it many. Within the Union we have a firm basis of opposition to slavery. It is opposed to all the great objects of the Constitution. The dissolution of the Union is not only an unwise but a cowardly measure; fifteen millions running away from three hundred and fifty thousand slaveholders.”- Frederick Douglass*

*“South Carolina is too small for a republic and too large for an insane asylum” James Petigru “Too Large to be an Asylum,” The Charleston Post and Courier*

*“But not to be tedious in enumerating the numerous changes for the better, allow me to allude to one other though last, not least. The new constitution has put at rest, forever, all the agitating questions relating to our peculiar institution.” Alexander H. Stephens*

*“It is totally unnecessary for the gentleman to remind me of my coming from a slaveholding state. I know whence I came, and I know my duty, and I am ready to submit to any responsibility which belongs to me as a senator from a slaveholding state. I have heard something said on this and a former occasion about allegiance to the south. I know no south, no north, no east, no west, to which I owe any allegiance. I owe allegiance to two sovereignty, and only two. One is the sovereignty of this Union, and the other is the sovereignty of the state of Kentucky. My allegiance is to this Union and to my state; but if gentlemen suppose they can exact from me an acknowledgement of allegiance to any ideal or future contemplated confederacy of the south, I here declare that I owe no allegiance to it; nor will I, for one, come under any such allegiance if I can avoid it.”- Henry Clay*

*“The law of nations knows of no distinction of color, and if an enemy of the United States should enslave and sell any captured persons of their army, it would be a case for the severest retaliation, if not redressed upon complaint.” Francis Lieber, from the Lieber Code (1863)*

*“Will you suffer your soldier, captured in fighting your battles, to be in confinement for months rather than release him by giving for him that which you call a piece of property, and which we are willing to accept as a man? You certainly appear to place less value upon your soldier than you do upon your negro. I assure you, much as we of the North are accused of loving property, our citizens would have no difficulty in yielding up any piece of property they have in exchange for one of their brothers or sons languishing in your prisons.” General Benjamin F. Butler*

### **A View of the Battle of Spotsylvania, Courthouse**



Top Left: Photograph of Confederate dead in the aftermath of the Battle of Spotsylvania Courthouse. Courtesy of <http://thomaslegion.net/battleofspotsylvania.html>

Top Right: Artist Thure de Thulstrup's *Battle of Spotsylvania Courthouse*. Courtesy of <http://thomaslegion.net/battleofspotsylvania.html>

Bottom Left: Map of the Spotsylvania battlefield and current National Military Park. Courtesy of <http://thomaslegion.net/battleofspotsylvania.html>

Bottom Right: Kurz and Allison's painting *The Battle of Spotsylvania Courthouse*. Courtesy of <http://thomaslegion.net/battleofspotsylvania.html>

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**UPCOMING EVENTS FOR THE BGCWRT**

October 2016 - Howard Mann - The Civil War Prison in Alton, Illinois and the 10th Kansas Infantry, (historian, Nashville CWRT)

November 2016 - Patrick Lewis - The Confederate Government in Southern Kentucky 1861-1862, (historian)

March 2017 - Phillip Whiteman - Civil War Sutlers (historian from Georgia)

April 2017 - Allen Mesch - Union Gen. Charles Smith (based on his current book), (historian/author)

### *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**