

## History To Chew On Series for 2015.

**June 9, 2015 - Speaker Charles H. Bogart *Guarding the Kentucky Central Railroad 1861-1865***



The Kentucky Railroad ran from Covington via Falmouth, Paris and Lexington to Nicholasville. It was the railhead for Camp Nelson. The rail line was twice attacked by John Hunt Morgan's command and heavily damaged during the occupation of Central Kentucky by Kirby Smith's Confederate Army. The battle of Cynthiana centered around the protection of the Kentucky central.

The great failure of Morgan's 1864 Raid was that while he captured Lexington, Union forces prevented him from destroying the city's railroad shops. This presentation covers the importance of the Kentucky Central to the war effort, the attacks upon it, and the defensive fortifications built to defend it.

**July 14, 2015 - Speaker Tom Beall *America's First Winery***



Kentucky has long been famous for its fast horses and fine bourbon whiskies. What is not known is lying in the heart of the Blue Grass is the site of the first commercial winery in Kentucky and the United States. Come listen to Tom tell us about the history of the winery and the involvement by famous Kentucky people at the starting of this winery by John James Dufour.

**August 11, 2015 - Speaker Eric Brooks *To Educate the Masses: Ashland, John Bryan Bowman and the 150th birthday of UK***



In 1865, the Kentucky State Legislature approved the merger of its Agricultural and Mechanical College with the private Kentucky University under its regent John Bryan Bowman. This institution two campuses: Transylvania University and the Woodlands and Ashland Estates. It would survive in this form until 1878 when it reverted to its original components and the A&M College moved to its current location and evolved into our state's flagship university. This talk will explore the turbulent early history of UK, John Bryan's role in it, and pay special attention to the museum Bowman created at Ashland, a now largely forgotten cabinet of curiosities that in different circumstances could have become a great natural history museum.

**September 8, 2015 - Speaker Jeff Garrett Treasures of The SS Central America**



Discover why the loss and recovery of artifacts from the sinking of the SS Central America in 1857 is one of the greatest rare coin discoveries of all time. The loss of the SS Central America in 1857 was one of the country's greatest disasters in American history in terms of loss of life and money. Hear about the drama of the shipwreck, its rediscovery 130 years later, and finally the epic legal battle that followed. Recently the site of the SS Central America was re-examined for artifacts and over \$100 million in rare coins and bars were found. Jeff Garrett conducted the most recent appraisal of the material and has first-hand knowledge of this incredible story. Jeff will also have actual coins and other material from the shipwreck on hand for examination.

**October 13, 2015 - SPEAKER Gwen Thompson Mary Todd Lincoln: "First Lady of Controversy"**



Sophisticated and well-educated, Mary Todd Lincoln was well versed in politics and committed to her husband's career. On the surface, her success in the White House seemed assured. Yet few women in American history have endured as much controversy and tragedy.

Although wife of the Union president, she saw more than half of her siblings supporting the Confederacy. In this maelstrom of divided loyalties, Mary Todd Lincoln found herself attacked by both sides. Confederates reviled her as a traitor and Northerners accused her of Southern sympathies.

In April 1865, Mrs. Lincoln witnessed her husband's assassination. His death was only one of the many personal tragedies she endured. In all, Mary lost three of her four sons and in 1875 her only surviving son put her on trial for insanity. Institutionalized for several months, Mrs. Lincoln was declared restored to reason the next year.