

A directory of Nashville + Davidson County Historical Markers by Paul H. Beasley

On the northwestern corner of Church Street and Printer's Alley—"the second Methodist Church in Nashville, where Bishop Payne preached his first sermon in the city."

At Dr. McGavock's residence near the cottage—"D. Larryman killed in 1780, Major Lucas, William Peed and a negro boy belonging to Gen. Robertson."

Buena Vista Springs—"old man Bernard was killed and his head cut off." Note: There were a number of persons killed in the vicinity of Nashville.

Johnathan Vening, grandfather of Hon. Bailie Peyton, was killed at the Nashville Island in 1780. His was the first will probated in Nashville. He was a fellow voyager with Col. John Donelson, down the Tennessee River in 1780.

1912 EARLY BATTLE OF NASHVILLE MARKERS

The markers locating various points of interest in connection with the battle of Nashville, or the position of troops, were erected by the Nashville Industrial Bureau and the Nashville Battlefield Association working in co-operation. The markers from 1 to 20 were erected in 1912 and for the most part fix the location of troops in the first day's battle. A few of the number mark the sites of historic points in the massive works about the city.

MARKER NO. 1

The location of a Federal salient and main battery in the outer defenses on December 15, 1864. The marker is located on the crest of a hill between the Belmont boulevard and the Hillsboro turnpike. This salient was the pivot on which the Federal right was swung against the troops of Gen. A. P. Stewart holding the Hillsboro road. Reached by the Belmont eight carline, and a walk up the hill by way of Linden Avenue.

MARKER NO. 2

The Federal works of the outer defenses crossed the Hillsboro turnpike at this point. Remains of the works may still be seen on the west side of the road. The marker is located just south of the limits of St. Bernard's Academy. This part of the Federal line was held by the Fourth Corps, then commanded by Gen. Thomas J. Wood, a Kentuckian, who was made a Major General for distinguished services at Nashville. The marker is at the terminus (1913) of the Broadway and Hillsboro carline.

MARKER NO. 3

Marker No. 3 fixes the location of Redoubt No. 1, the salient angle of the Confederate left. It is located on Noel's hill, about 200 yards east of the Hillsboro turnpike. It is accessible by way of the Broadway and Hillsboro carline and a walk from the terminus, or by tramping over the field from Marker No. 5.

MARKER NO. 4

The location of a battery in the Confederate line defended by the troops of Gen. Loring. The marker is located on the private property of O. F. Noel, in front of a residence facing an old boulevard of other days, an extension of the present Belmont boulevard, and is accessible by walking from the terminus of the Belmont Heights carline.

MARKER NO. 5

The site of the old Montgomery house, the ruins of which were a landmark on the Confederate advance line when the battle began. According to newspaper accounts of the battle the Montgomery house was burned about 1862. The Confederate advance was here heavily attacked by Beatty's division of the Fourth Army Corps about 1 p.m., December 15, and the hill taken. The marker stands in front of the Smith Criddle residence and is reached by the Belmont Heights carline and a walk up Cedar Lane.

MARKER NO. 6

This was the location of the Confederate advance line on Granny White turnpike prior to the battle. The markers at the mouth of the lane leading east from the terminus of Belmont boulevard. Accessible by walk from the Belmont Heights carline or the Glendale Park carline. A short distance beyond this marker the Tennessee Central belt line crosses the Granny White turnpike.

MARKER NO. 7

The Confederate works cross the Granny White turnpike at this point and vestiges of them running, at a sharp angle with the road, are still visible. Marker No. 7 is located a few paces south of the E. T. Noel home. Reached by the Glendale carline and a walk west from Clifton Station through Clifton avenue to the Granny White turnpike.

MARKER NO. 8

A Redoubt in Gen. Stephen D. Lee's line standing in a meadow just north of the James E. Caldwell residence. The mounds of earth west of the Franklin turnpike are easily visible from that highway. The marker is reached by the Nashville Interurban carline.

MARKER NO. 9

The point where the Confederate line (Lee's) crossed the Franklin turnpike on December 15. Marker No. 8 is visible from No. 9, directly to the southwest. Reached by the Nashville Interurban carline.

MARKER NO. 10

Fort Negley, the main point in the fortifications of Nashville, thrown up in the fall of 1862 under the direction of Maj. Gen. James S. Negley, of Pennsylvania, with the aid of his Chief Engineer (later Brigadier General) James St. Clair Morton. During the Civil War, Fort Negley was a large complex work, having within it two casemates, protected with railroad iron, and bomb proof. The guns of Fort Negley and its neighbor, Fort Casino, opened the battle of Nashville at daybreak December 15, 1864. Reached by the Glendale carline and a walk east on Bass street to the boulevard.

MARKER NO. 11

Fort Casino, the present (1913) site of the city reservoir. This fort was erected at the same time as Fort Negley, and the marker stands on the west side of the Glendale carline at the reservoir grounds gate. The city reservoir costing \$345,525.21, was completed August 24, 1889, its capacity being 50,000,000 gallons. On the night of November 4, 1912, the wall of the east basin gave way at midnight, releasing 25 million gallons of water which rushed like a mountain torrent down the hill side, doing \$45,000 damage to property. Not a life was lost however.

MARKER NO. 12

Fort Morton, located on a hill northwest of Fort Casino and named in honor of James St. Clair Morton, a native of Philadelphia, a West Pointer. In 1860 Morton was selected to explore the Chiriqui country in Central America and test the practicability of a railroad route across the isthmus. In building the defenses of Nashville, Morton swooped down upon barber shops, kitchens and even churches, according to a history of the Army of the Cumberland, gathering in negro laborers to shovel the earth. The works he built made Nashville during the war one of the most strongly fortified cities in the country. Morton also built the defenses of Murfreesboro. The marker is at the head of Central avenue, two blocks west from Fall School, which is on the Glendale carline.

MARKER NO. 13

The site of Fort Houston, the marker being located on the lawn bordering the residence of Maj. E. C. Lewis, 119 16th avenue, South. To make way for this fort the handsome home of Russell Houston, a strong Unionist, had to be destroyed—hence its name. The marker is reached by Belmont cars, the stop being Division street and Sixteenth avenue.

MARKER NO. 14

The site of a lunette, or a small open work, occupied by the remnants of Granbury's Confederate brigade, 300 strong, when Steedman made his attack on the Confederate right, December 15. Located in the rear of the present James S. Robinson home. It is reached by the Nolensville carline, and a walk east on the lane from Woody Crest station.

MARKER NO. 15

The point where Cheatham's line, the Confederate right on the first day of the battle, crossed the Nolensville turnpike. Reached by the Nolensville carline, the stop being about 100 yards south of Melrose avenue, the street leading to the crest of Rains' hill (Marker No. 18).

MARKER NO. 16

An angle in Cheatham's line on the first day of battle. It stands on what is now Peachtree street, a short distance east of the Nolensville carline and very near Marker No. 15.

MARKER NO. 17

One block away from No. 16, and almost due north, Cheatham's line is further marked by No. 17 (located on Valeria street). Remains of the Confederate works, much sunken, can be easily seen. Reached by the Nolensville carline.

MARKER NO. 18

Rains' hill, a commanding eminence in the Confederate line on December 15. It overlooks the Nolensville turnpike, is a couple of hundred yards west of the road and three and a half miles from the city. Reached by the Nolensville carline and a walk west on Melrose avenue and thence on Cline avenue.

MARKER NO. 19

A famous place in the suburbs of Nashville is Melrose, the old home of Aaron V. Brown, Governor of Tennessee, 1845 to 1847, and Postmaster General in Buchanan's Cabinet. On the morning of December 15 the Confederate works ran about 200 yards south of the historic residence. Melrose continues to be one of the show places about Nashville, and is now the property of W. S. Bransford. It is reached by the Nashville Interurban carline, the stop being at the Tennessee Central crossing, and a walk east through what is known as Berry's lane. The marker is located within the Melrose grounds.

MARKER NO. 20

Fort Gillem, a Federal work in the interior defenses in 1864, named for Gen. Alvin C. Gillem. Gen. Gillem was a native of Jackson county, Tennessee, and a West Pointer. For a period in 1863 he was Provost Marshal of Nashville, and from June, 1863, to August, 1864, was charged with guarding the Nashville & Northwestern Railroad, now a division of the N., C. & St. L. Ry., leading to Memphis. Gen. Gillem's son and namesake entered the Spanish-American War as a captain in the First Tennessee Regiment, U. S. V., which saw service in the Philippines, where he rose to the rank of Major. Later he entered the U. S. Army. **Jubilee Hall of Fisk University**, one of the country's notable negro schools, now occupies the site of Fort Gillem. The Hall was built from the proceeds of tours made by the Jubilee Singers of the University over the world, singing old plantation melodies. They were heard and remembered by many of the crowned heads of Europe. Reached by the Jefferson street carline, the marker being adjacent to the handsome hall.