

Nashville Civil War Roundtable

Founded April, 2009 – Nashville, Tennessee

Visit our web site: www.nashvillecivilwarroundtable.wordpress.com

October 17th, 2017 – Our 103rd meeting!! We continue our seventh year. We now meet on the THIRD TUESDAY of each month!

The next meeting of the Nashville (TN) Civil War Roundtable will be on TUESDAY, October 17th, 2017, in the visitor's center of Ft. Negley Park, a unit of Metro Parks, Nashville, TN. This is located off I-65 just south of downtown between 4th Avenue South and 8th Avenue South on Edgehill Avenue/Chestnut Avenue. Take Exit 81, Wedgewood Avenue, off I-65 and follow the signs to the Science Museum.

The meeting begins at 7:00 PM and is always open to the public. Members please bring a friend or two – new recruits are always welcomed.

Our Speaker and Topic - *“The Cumberland River: Avenue For Middle Tennessee and the Civil War”*

The river system of mid-America carried people and commerce across the nation. Flatboats and later steamboats greatly expanded America. The coming of the railroads added to this expansion as well as big increases in commerce. The Cumberland River in Tennessee was not only an avenue of commerce but also one of invasion. In 1862, the Federals would advance up this river taking forts and cities, including Nashville. Later, the river would be a vital part of the Union supply line for the fighting not only in Tennessee but also Alabama and Georgia. This program teaches the history of water commerce as well as the expansion of railroads and how both played into the Civil War in Tennessee for both sides.

Our speaker this month is Greg Biggs, an officer of the Nashville CWRT and president of the Clarksville CWRT. Greg has been a military historian for over 50 years beginning with the ancient Greeks through the modern era. He specializes in the musket era from Frederick the great through Napoleon to the Civil War as well as World War 2, armor tactics and history and 18th and 19th Century military flags.

Greg replaces the speaker originally scheduled for this month's meeting.

Last Month's meeting

We appreciate very much Allen Mesch coming to us from Dallas, Texas to teach us about little known Union general Charles F. Smith. Based on his biography of General Smith, Mr. Mesch told us about his long list of accomplishments as a professional soldier. Among them was as a commandant at West Point when a number of soon to be famous Civil War generals were under his tutelage. Smith died from a leg infection between the capture of Fort Donelson and Shiloh but a cavalcade of generals never forgot him or what they learned from him. It is always good to learn

about the lesser known, but vitally important, leaders of the Civil War and we thank Allen Mesch for coming to be with us.

FUTURE PROGRAMS:

November 2017 – David Lady, historian, Tennessee Valley CWRT – *“Kansas Burning: The Raid On Lawrence”*

December 2017 – Jim Lewis, Chief Ranger, Stones River National Battlefield – topic TBA

January 2018 – Todd Van Beck, Nashville CWRT - *“They Changed Everything: Civil War Embalming Surgeons.”*

February 2018 – Greg Biggs, author/historian – *“The Question Was One Of Supplies: Sherman’s Logistics in The Atlanta Campaign”*

March 2018 – Larry Krumenaker, author/historian – *“Walking The Line: The Civil War Defenses of Atlanta”*

MEMBERS AND DUES – The membership has decided that every May will be our fiscal year. Please plan on taking care of your membership renewals at this meeting. The annual dues structure for the Nashville CWRT is as follows:

Single membership - \$20

Family - \$30

Military – Active duty and Veterans - \$15

Military Family – Active duty and Veterans - \$25

Student - \$10

Senior (age 60 plus) - \$15

Senior couple - \$20

Your dues for the 2017-2018 fiscal year will be due at the May meeting. Please plan on paying them at that month’s meeting if you have not already. Your dues go to bringing in our speakers, donating to causes, etc.

PLEASE PLAN ON PAYING YOUR DUES THIS MONTH SO WE CAN KEEP BRINGING IN GREAT SPEAKERS AND HELP SAVE CIVIL WAR SITES.

When your dues are paid you will be issued a new name badge with the fiscal year on it. If you do not have a name badge then you are not current.

Our dues go to paying for speakers as well as donations for Civil War preservation causes especially those of a local nature. Please be sure to pay your dues so we can offer the best programs possible for you! We also utilize donated items for silent auctions each month to help add to the treasury. If you have something you would like to donate for these auctions, please bring them to the meetings. Books, art, or anything Civil War, works very well. Thanks very much to all of you who have made such donations!

CIVIL WAR NEWS AND EVENTS

Vet-Fest To be Held At Fort Negley, October 14-15, 2017

Vet Fest is an exciting and unique family oriented celebration at historic Fort Negley this October 14-15, 2017! Co-hosts [VETLINX](#) and Operation Stand Down Tennessee, both nonprofit organizations are organizing VetFest, a large, free and fun event for military veterans and their family, friends, neighbors, and supporters.

The event is happening Saturday, October 14, from 11 AM to 6 PM and Sunday, October 15, from 1 PM to 5 PM

The event is a Celebration of Service and is a family friendly festival featuring all day entertainment and activities for all ages, onsite Veteran resources, military history displays, contests, prize giveaways, and vendors. Its purpose is to recognize military Veterans service and the service of their family members and increase awareness of and access to community resources.

Admission is free and there will be food vendors on site all weekend. Parking will in the areas around Fort Negley. Come and join us as we celebrate American Veterans!

Fort Negley Preservation News

Some interesting events have taken place over the past couple weeks with regards to Fort Negley and the development threat to it.

On Friday, October 6th, Historic Nashville, who annually does their “Nashville Nine” sites needed for preservation, went all in for Fort Negley this time around. Author/preservationist Robert Hicks, made the announcement at Fort Negley. This will cast significant light on the site and shows that historic preservation is key in the minds of many Nashville residents and voters.

The article in the *Tennessean* reporting on the event contained one humorous bit when the spokesman for Mayor Barry stated that the city shares a preservationist view for the park which very much flies in the face of the fact that the same administration is supporting the development!

The *Tennessee Tribune*, “*Mystery Scoring Upheld*,” article of October 7th by Peter White on the appeal by one potential developer for Fort Negley shows well how this is not an open process, that a lot of money is at stake and that, while this developer’s plan is even worse than the one that the city awarded, the system is indeed very broken and corrupt. If you missed it do look it up online. Very sad indeed and it shows well that the current administration is NOT for saving Fort Negley at all.

Lastly, the current issue of *Civil War Times* (December 2017), has a small article on Fort Negley and the preservation threat. This adds to the national exposure that this issue is getting.

Keep up the pressure on the city council mayor, Metro parks board and anyone else that can help stop this travesty. This can be won!

NASHVILLE CWRT OFFICERS

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