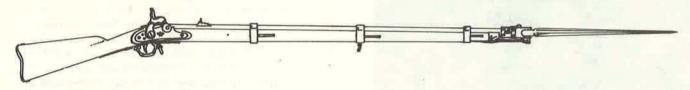
# Steering Committee Battle of Nashville Commemoration

Col. G. M. Dorland
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Chairman D.C.C.W.C.C.
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Vice Chairman
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Mr. James P. Wilson
Mr. W. W. Young



# **PROGRAM**

#### **DECEMBER 11, 1964**

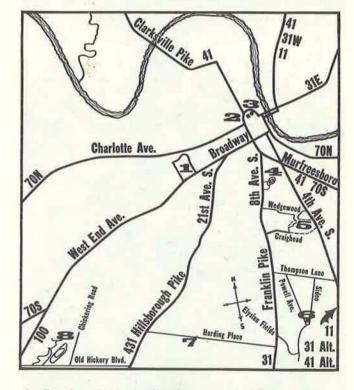
8:00 P.M. until 10:00 P.M. Civil War Concert: Municipal Auditorium Admittance Free

#### **DECEMBER 12, 1964**

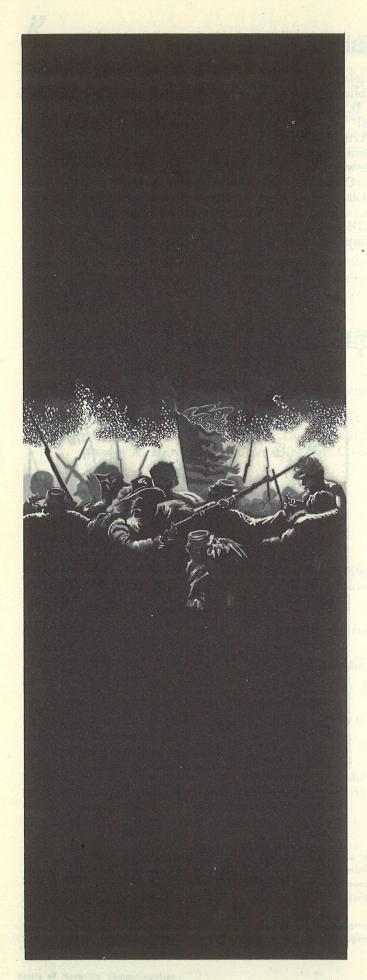
9:00 A.M. until 4:00 P.M.
Historic homes tour
Battle of Nashville tour
Display of Civil War relics at the Centennial Center,
Centennial Park
10:00 A.M. until 11:30 A.M.
Parade, Centennial Park
2:00 P.M. until 4:30 P.M.
Re-enactment, Steeple Chase Grounds, Percy Warner
Park

#### **DECEMBER 13, 1964**

9:00 A.M. until 4:00 P.M.
Historic Homes Tour • Battle Field Tour
Display of Civil War relics
2:00 P.M. until 2:30 P.M.
Re-dedication of the Battle of Nashville Monument
8th Avenue South at Thompson Lane, U.S. 70N.
3:00 P.M. until 3:30 P.M.
Memorial services to Confederate dead, Mt. Olivet
Cemetery on Lebanon Road
4:00 P.M. until 4:30 P.M.
Memorial services to Union dead, National Cemetery
on Gallatin Road, U.S. 31E.



- 1. Battle of Nashville Centennial Center. Reception, Displays, Parade.
- 2. Capital—Museum, Downtown Area, Hotels and Motels.
- 3. Municipal Auditorium.
- 4. Fort Negley and start of Battlefield Tour.
- 5. Bivouac Area (Union) State Fair Grounds Coliseum.
- 6. Bivouac Area (Confederate) National Guard Armory.
- 7. Shy's Hill.
- 8. Site of re-enactment—Steeple Chase Grounds.



# Moment of Truth At Nashville

by Reda C. Goff

A GREAT throng of Nashville's citizens had streamed out to the southern fringe of hills on December 15, 1864. In grim silence they witnessed the most dramatic performance in all the city's history—the opening scene of the two-day Battle of Nashville.

Unlike the make-believe of the theatrical stage, this spectacular display was stark reality. Many of the performers on the Southern side were sons and husbands of those who watched.

As the Federal forces under Gen. George H. Thomas launched the attack on the besieging Confederates of Gen. John B. Hood, low-clinging fog shrouded the drab fields like a gray curtain. When darkness descended on the scene it covered miles of frightful carnage.

Many years later this mighty two-day duel would be called the decisive battle of the war. Authorities would recognize this final major conflict between North and South as "a perfect exemplification of the art of war," both in planning and in near letter-perfect execution.

The stage for this desperate struggle was set in late November, 1864, when General Hood headed his gaunt, ill-clad army of 30,000 men into Southern Tennessee. His immediate goal was the Federal occupied City of Nashville. If he were successful in liberating this vital stronghold and could build up sufficient strength, he planned to continue on into Kentucky to threaten Cincinnati. There was even the shadowy possibility of attacking Grant's rear at Richmond. Perhaps Sherman's march to the sea could be halted abruptly.

From this century-removed vantage point, Hood's plan has been described as fantastic. But at that time Grant, Halleck, Stanton, and even President Lincoln were nearly hysterical with fear that the audacious campaign would be successful.



Misfortune shadowed Hood's movements from the beginning. Through a tragic bungling of orders in the placing of troops near Spring Hill, General Schofield's Federal forces, fleeing toward Nashville, slipped from his grasp. The opportunity of a lifetime was frittered away and the success of the entire campaign was jeopardized.

During the late afternoon of the following day, November 30th, Hood strove to redeem the failure. Against the advice of Gen. Nathan B. Forrest, he angrily hurled his troops across the open fields of Franklin in frontal assault on the entrenched Schofield. In this most magnificent charge of the war, 6,000 of Hood's bravest men and a large number of his best officers were slain.

General Schofield scurried on toward Nashville in the darkness leaving the Confederates to care for the wounded and to bury the dead. Even Forrest's cavalrymen could not overtake the fleet Federals. During the following three days the remainder of Hood's forces arrived and were deployed along the range of hills skirting South Nashville.

Unwittingly, Hood had chosen the strategy most favorable to his enemy. He had decided to move his army to a position on the hills, entrench and maintain himself in a defensive and threatening attitude and wait for the Federal forces to make the next move.

Thus while Hood conveniently waited nearby, the Federal commander, Gen. George H. Thomas, labored to finish the fortifications of the city and to further weld his polyglot units into a striking force.



Nashville was said to have been the most thoroughly fortified city on the American continent. Its inner defensive system, extending in a long semicircle from upper to lower river, was based upon three forts: Fort Negley, Fort Morton and Fort Houston. Other lesser forts in the chain included Fort Gillem, Fort Garesche and Fort Casino. Intermediate strong points and breastworks linked together the impregnable chain.

The exterior line was considerably in advance of the inner works. In general, this line ran from Fort Casino southwestward across the hilltops to a point near present Blair Boulevard and Twenty-First Avenue South; thence it continued roughly parallel to the inner line across Love Circle Hill and terminated at the river on the grounds of the present A. and I. University on Centennial Boulevard.

In pitiful contrast, the opposing forces of the Confederates had dug in along a partial perimeter facing these formidable barriers. Gen. Benjamin F. Cheatham's corps was placed on the Confederate right beginning at the railroad cut near Nolensville Pike at a point south of Brown's Creek. The line ran westward in the hills along Brown's Creek to the present Battle of Nashville monument. It continued generally parallel to present Woodmont Boulevard to its intersection with Hillsboro Pike. Here the line terminated with five redoubts which were strategically located on high points along Hillsboro Pike from Woodmont Boulevard to a point near the present Harding Place.

Gen. Stephen D. Lee's corps occupied the Confederate center and Gen. Alexander P. Stewart's corps was assigned to the left flank. In the wooded miles of territory remaining westward to the river, Hood had practically nothing to protect his exposed left flank. The remnant of Ector's brigade was placed on picket in the neighborhood of Belle Meade plantation and was supported by a part of the cavalry under General Chalmers to patrol the remaining territory between the Harding Pike and the Cumberland River.

Even in this weakened condition, Hood did not have all his forces in line. He had detached Bate's division

to Murfreesboro to operate along the railroad from Nashville. Jackson's and Buford's divisions of cavalry under Forrest's personal command had also been ordered on December 4th to move on Murfreesboro to destroy railroad blockhouses along the way.

While the seemingly reluctant Thomas was completing his preparations inside his stronghold, the Federal high command from Lincoln on down was frantically urging him to attack. But the capable Thomas could not be goaded into action until he was thoroughly satisfied that all was in readiness.

When at last the Federal forces were set to launch an attack the elements intervened. On the night of December 8th, after a week of mild weather, there was a sudden plunge in temperatures as a severe storm moved in. The next morning Nashville was wrapped in a crust of sleet and snow. During the next few days there were periods of intermittent sleet and freezing rain which rendered troop movements impossible on the slippery fields and slopes.

Suddenly the weather moderated on December 14th. With warm sunshine and rising temperatures the ice and snow began melting away.

In the early morning hours of Thursday, December 15th, with the land shrouded in heavy fog, General Thomas hurled his forces in attack. His plan of battle was a giant pinwheel movement by the entire right wing of 30,000 men, with Wood's corps at the hub, Smith's corps along the spoke and Wilson's cavalry on the rim.

General Steedman's troops opened the fighting with a heavy feint on the left against the right flank of the Confederates. They were repulsed with considerable losses.

The thin Confederate forces on the left, Ector's brigade and Chalmers' cavalry, were wholly inadequate to stem the great tide. Only by rapid retreat to the main line were they able to prevent capture.

As the attack gained momentum during the day the huge steamroller assault overran the redoubts, one by one, on Hood's left flank but only after furious duelling and repeated charges.



General Thomas rode back to Nashville to spend the night after having witnessed the crushing of the entire Confederate line on the left flank. Erroneously he reached the conclusion that the battle was over.

But the thought of leaving the field found little entertainment in the mind of General Hood. If he were beaten it would require still another day of pounding for him to recognize the fact.

During the restless night the Confederate engineers located a new and shorter line and began to dig in for the fight on the morrow. The new Confederate line began on the right at Peach Orchard Hill on the Overton property just east of Franklin Pike. It crossed the

(Continued on page 17)

# Points of Interest—Places to See

#### Keyed to accompanying map

by Paul H. Beasley

#### **Downtown Area**

1. Tennessee State Capitol- located on Campbell's Hill in the uptown section, bounded by Charlotte Avenue on the south, 6th Avenue on the east, 7th Avenue on the west and James Robertson Parkway on the north.

This building was designed by William Strickland, Philadelphia architect, who died before its completion and is interred in the east wall at the north entrance. Just completed at the beginning of the Civil War, it was fortified by the Union Army and named Fort Andrew Johnson. With a wooden stockade, cotton bale breastworks and heavy artillery emplacement it was thought to be impregnable. The Centennial of Tennessee's Declaration of Independence from the Union was observed in a ceremony at the east front on June 17, 1961.

2. Sam Davis Monument- located on the southwest corner of the state capitol grounds.

The memorial to Sam Davis, by the noted sculptor Zolnay, was unveiled in 1909. It was erected through contributions from citizens from every state in the Union, including that of General Grenville M. Dodge before whom Davis was courtmartialed. Sam Davis was the "boy hero of the Confederacy." Serving as a scout for Bragg's Army of Tennessee, Davis was captured near Minor Hill, Giles County, by the Kansas Jayhawkers. He was accused of spying, tried, and sentenced to be hanged. The execution occurred at Pulaski, Tennessee, November 27, 1863.

3. State Library and Archives- located on Seventh Avenue North and west of the state capitol.

The State Library has a vast collection of books and bound periodicals covering the Civil War period in Tennessee. The Archives has a valuable collection of documents and personnel records relative to the war period.

Display cases on the ground floor contain exhibits, changed from time to time, featuring documents of the Civil War period.

4. Tennessee State Museum- located on the ground floor of the War Memorial Building at Capitol Boulevard and Union Street.

The Confederate Room of the Tennessee State Museum contains relics of a wide variety relative to the War Between the States. Of special interest are some personal effects of General Pat Cleburne and Sam Davis. General Cleburne was killed charging the Union lines at the Battle of Franklin, November 30, 1864. Confederate scout Sam Davis was hanged as a spy by the Federals at Pulaski, Tennessee.

5. Memorial to the Women of the Confederacy- located in the garden south of the War Memorial Building at Union Street and Capitol Boulevard.

This memorial, by sculptress Belle Kinney, was dedicated October 10, 1926. It was erected by the State of Tennessee to commemorate the heroic devotion and self-sacrifice of the women of Tennessee during the War Between the States. The bronze plaque was placed by the Tennessee Historical Commission.

6. Brigadier-General Andrew Johnson Home Site

Marker- located on Tennessee War Memorial Building grounds at Memorial Square.

This tablet marks the site of the home of Brigadier General Andrew Johnson while serving as Military Governor of Tennessee from 1862-1865.

7. Zollicoffer Home Site Marker-located in the south wall of the Andrew Jackson Hotel on Sixth Avenue North.

The marker indicates the site of the home of General Felix Zollicoffer. General Zollicoffer, a Confederate Brigadier-General was killed at the Battle of Mill Springs, Kentucky, in January 1862. He was the first Confederate general killed in the West. The building was used as the head-quarters of the Federal Provost-Marshal during the occupation.

8. The Maxwell House Site- located at Fourth Avenue North and Church Street.

This famous landmark was destroyed by fire on the night of December 25, 1961. Construction was started by John Overton in 1859. Incomplete at the beginning of the War Between the States, the building was used by the Federal Army as a barracks, hospital, and prison. In September 1863, 45 Confederate prisoners captured at Chickamauga, were killed or mortally wounded in the collapse of a temporary stairway as they were being conducted down to breakfast from the fifth floor. It is said that meetings of the Ku Klux Klan were held in the building immediately following the close of the war. The United Daughters of the Confederacy was organized here on September 10, 1894

9. Downtown Presbyterian Church- located on the southeast corner of Church Street at Fifth Avenue North.

This building, for many years the First Presbyterian Church, was designed by architect William Strickland. It was used as a Federal hospital from 1862 until the close of the Civil War.

#### South Nashville Area of a world to the same

10. Western Military Institute (Children's Museum) - located at Second Avenue and Lindsley Avenue at the rear of Howard School.

Designed by architect Adolphus Heiman, this building served as the central hall of the University of Nashville. It was used also as the Western Military Institute, the military department of the university. Sam Davis, the boy hero of the Confederacy, attended this school for one year prior to his enlistment in the Confederate Army. After Federal occupation, the building was used as an army hospital. The building has served for educational purposes, with brief exceptions, for the full period of its existence, being used at present for the Children's Museum. Its architect served as a colonel of the Tenth Tennessee Infantry Regiment of the Confederate Army. Confederate Generals Bushrod Johnson, E. Kirby-Smith, and A. P. Stewart taught here before the war.

The Children's Museum has presented, throughout the Centennial period, special exhibits of varied nature concerning the Civil War in this area. The Museum's monthly bulletin also carries information about events during the war years.

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Battle of Nashville. Used as a field hospital during the battle, the piano served as an operating table. Soldiers of both armies trampled the flower beds and shrubs in obtaining water from the spring on the front lawn. This is a private home but may be viewed from the Franklin Road.

20. Federal Outer Entrenchments- located near the top of the hill now occupied by the WDCN-2 television tower and studio, one block west of Twelfth Avenue South and north of Ashwood Avenue.

This hill served as a strong point in the Federal outer line of defense. A part of the entrenchments are still visible. An excellent panorama of the Overton Hills and the battlefield of the second day may be seen from this point.

21. Sunnyside- located in Sevier Park on the east side of Granny White Pike at Kirkwood Avenue.

Built by Jesse Benton on the site of a French trading post, this home was in the direct line of fire on the first day of the Battle of Nashville. In the 1920's, Colonel Granville Sevier, a foster-grandson of the Bentons and the son of a Confederate colonel, bought the property and restored the home. During the restoration, cannon balls, cannister, and Minié balls were found imbedded in the framework of the building.

22. Belmont Mansion and Water Tower- located on the campus of Belmont College at 16th Avenue South and Belcourt Avenue.

Acklen Hall, built in 1850 by Colonel and Mrs. Joseph Acklen, was considered to be one of the finest private homes in the nation. It served as the headquarters of Federal General T. J. Wood during the Battle of Nashville. The Acklen art treasures were removed to the home of Mrs. James K. Polk at Union and Vine Streets before the battle. The Belmont water tower was used as a signal tower by the Federal Army during the battle.

**23. Redoubt No. 1-** located on a hill-top east of the Hillsboro Road, west of Benham Avenue and north of Woodmont Boulevard.

This position was a strong point in the Confederate line of General A. P. Stewart on December 15, 1864. It was held until Stewart's line was flanked and he was forced to withdraw southeastward toward the Granny White Pike. Other trenches may be seen on the lawns of homes in this area along Woodmont Boulevard.

24. Redoubt No. 2- located south of Woodmont Boulevard and east of Hillsboro Road.

(Redoubt No. 2 is located on private property.) An entrenched line extended from Redoubt No. 1 southward to Redoubt No. 2 and thence diagonally across the Hillsboro Pike to Redoubt No. 3.

25. Redoubt No. 3- located west of Calvary Methodist Church on Hillsboro Road.

Faint remains of trenches may be seen at the rear of the church property. This detached position of the Confederates was overwhelmed by McArthur's Division of Smith's Federal Corps on December 15, 1864. Fed. Col. Sylvester Hill was killed here as he ordered an attack on Redoubt No. 2 on the hill to east.

26. Powder Mill Wheels- located in Centennial Park near the swimming pool.

These huge cast iron wheels were used to grind powder for the Confederate Army. They were run through the blockade from Wooldich, England, to Mobile, Alabama, and then transported to Augusta, Georgia, in 1863. Later used at the Sycamore Powder Mills near Ashland City, Tennessee, they were displayed at the Tennessee Centennial Exposition of 1897.

27. Confederate Private Soldier Monument- located in Centennial Park between West End Avenue and the Parthenon.

Erected in honor of the Confederate Private Soldier by the members of one of the largest bivouacs of the United Confederate Veterans. This bivouac was named for Major-General Benjamin Franklin Cheatham of the Army of Tennessee, C.S.A. A bronze plaque includes the names of all its members.

28. Belle Meade Mansion- located on the east side of Harding Road about five miles from downtown Nashville.

Thought to have been designed by William Strickland in the Greek Revival style, this is the second building to occupy the site. The Belle Meade plantation was founded by John Harding and further developed by his son, William Giles Harding. For two weeks before the Battle of Nashville, the home served as the headquarters of General Chalmers of Forrest's Cavalry. A brief but spirited skirmish occurred on the front lawn between Federal and Confederal Cavalry as indicated by bullet marks that may be seen today on the stone columns of the mansion.

29. Redoubt No. 4- located on the hill where Hobbs Road now intersects Trimble Road about .3 mile west of Hillsboro Road.

Only slight markings indicate the position of Redoubt No. 4 since the building of a home on this site several years ago. This is the location of a determined stand by Lumsden's Alabama Battery of smoothbore Napoleons, and 100 infantrymen of the 29th Alabama. It was finally overwhelmed by a Federal assault of 12 infantry and 4 dismounted cavalry regiments supported by four Federal batteries.

**30.** Redoubt No. 5- located on a high hill west of Hillsboro Road about .5 mile from the Green Hills Shopping Center.

A detached work, this position fell before the onslaught of Couch's Federal division of the XXIII Corps. Its fall opened the way for Wilson's Cavalry to flank the Confederate defenses.

31. Shy's Hill- located two blocks west of Granny White Pike and crossed on the north side of the crest of Harding Place.

On this hill was fought the decisive encounter of the Battle of Nashville. Following violent artillery bombardment most of the day on December 16, units of Smith's Corps overwhelmed the Confederate defense at about 4:15 p.m. at an angle in the line, and initiated the rout of Hood's Army. The hill was later named for Colonel William M. Shy, 26 years of age, of the 20th Tennessee Infantry, who was killed in its desperate defense. The top of the hill is now owned by the Tennessee Historical Society. Portions of the Confederate entrenchments are still visible at the top of the hill.

32. Bradford House Site- located on Lipscomb Drive

about .4 mile east of Granny White Pike and near Burton

Mrs. Edward Bradford's house is mentioned frequently in reports of the Battle on Dec. 16. The original home built in 1850 was in position between the lines during the battle and was used by sharpshooters at the height of the battle. The present building occupies the Bradford site. The Bradford home and schoolhouse were used as a field hospital before and after the battle.

33. Stone Wall- located south of Battery Lane between Granny White Pike and Franklin Road.

This wall formed the northern and eastern boundaries of the Lealand estate. A long portion of the wall was used by the Corps of General A. P. Stewart as a fortification on the second day of the Battle of Nashville. This line held firmly against repeated attacks until flanked following the Federal breakthrough at Shy's Hill.

34. Peach Orchard Hill- located east of Franklin Road and south of Elysian Fields Road.

General Stephen D. Lee's Corps, Army of Tennessee, held the right flank of the Confederate line on December 16, 1864, connected with Stewart's Corps to the west and curved south around Peach Orchard Hill, northwest of Traveler's Rest, the John Overton Estate. Lee held this position against violent attacks by Steedman and Wood until the collapse of the Confederate left and center late in the afternoon of December 16. Lee moved out the Franklin Pike a short distance where he protected the Confederate retreat toward Brentwood.

**35. Traveler's Rest**- located about three miles from the city on the east side of Franklin Road near Farrell Parkway and the L & N Railroad.

The home of Judge John Overton was built in 1797 and added to several times by his descendants. The building was the headquarters of General John B. Hood for two weeks preceding the Battle of Nashville. In the second floor museum, General Hood's signature may be seen on the guest register signed on December 4, 1864. Near the Confederate line on Peach Orchard Hill, the building suffered some damage on the second day of the Battle of Nashville. The Overton family sought refuge in the cellar during the battle.

**36.** The Carter House- located on U. S. Highway 31 on the south side of Franklin. (Not shown on map.)

The Carter home and gin house were the focal points in the Battle of Franklin. The center of heavy fighting, the house was badly damaged by shells and Minié balls. It is maintained by the Carter House Association as a Confederate shrine. It was recently made a National Historical Landmark, one of only four thus designated in the state.

37. Oaklands- located on N. Maney Ave. off U. S. Highway 41, Murfreesboro. (Not shown on map.)

A center of social life before the Civil War, the home of the Maney family served as the command headquarters of Federal Colonel W. W. Duffield. Colonel Duffield surrendered Murfreesboro to General N. B. Forrest in July, 1862 at Oaklands. President Jefferson Davis conferred with General Braxton Bragg here before the Battle of Murfreesboro.



by Paul H. Beasley

Tour begins at Fort Negley located at Ridley Boulevard and Chestnut Street. If tour is by bus, cars may be parked here.

Fort Negley served as a key point in the defenses of Nashville. The city's fortifications extended from this fort eastward to the Cumberland River and westward to Fort Casino (site of the present reservoir), and thence westward and north to the Cumberland River. On the morning of December 15, 1864, the Battle of Nashville was opened by the firing of the big guns on Fort Negley. These guns continued to throw shells in the general direction of the battle throughout the day, although there was no actual combat in the immediate area around the fort.

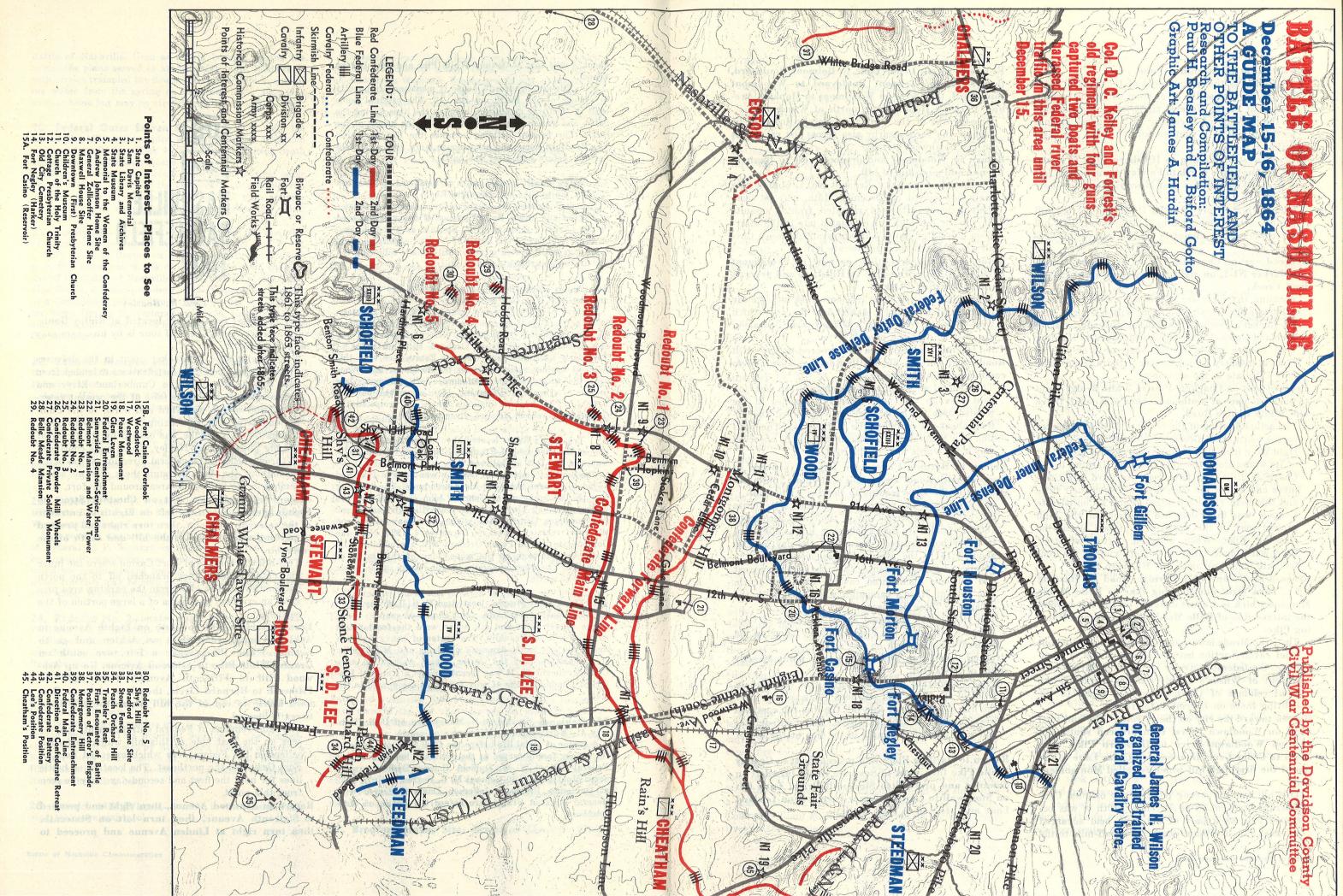
From Fort Negley go west on Chestnut Street to Eighth Avenue, then turn left on Eighth to entrance of the reservoir property, then turn right and proceed to parking area on top of the hill and south of the reservoir.

This hill was the site of Fort Casino where the inner and outer Federal lines branched off to the north and southwest. The view from the parking area provides an excellent panorama of a large portion of the battlefield.

From Reservoir Hill go south on Eighth Avenue to Acklen Avenue, turn right on Acklen and go to Granny White Pike, make a left turn south on Granny White Pike to Ashwood Avenue. Go up Ashwood Hill to Fifteenth Avenue. Turn right on Fifteenth to Bernard Circle, then turn right on Bernard Circle to top of the hill where the television tower is located.

The faint remains of Federal entrenchments may be seen on the east side of this hill which formed a salient in the Federal line which extended back to Fort Casino to the northeast. The location of battle lines for both the first and second days may be seen from this point.

Return to Ashwood Avenue, turn right and proceed to Sixteenth Avenue, then turn left on Sixteenth, then turn right at Linden Avenue and proceed to



top of hill at Eighteenth Avenue.

This hill was the main salient of the Federal outer line, and served as the pivot from which the turning movement of the Federal right wing was executed on the morning of December 15th. General Thomas used this hill as a vantage point to view the early action of the battle.

Proceed west on Linden to Hillsboro Pike (Twenty-First Avenue) then north to Fairfax Avenue, turn left and proceed on Fairfax and Murphy Road to Charlotte Pike.

Observe just before crossing Harding Pike, the hill on the north surmounted by a radio tower. This hill served as a strong point in this portion of the Federal line.

Proceed west on Charlotte Pike to Tennessee Historical Marker N1-1, on right side of road west of Richland Creek.

Forming the outer arc of the main Federal attack, Johnson's 6th. Cavalry Division, Wilson's Corps, here hit Rucker's Confederate Cavalry Brigade, west of Richland Creek. Withdrawing southward to Harding Pike, Rucker held his ground there until by-passing Federal infantry forced further withdrawal to Hillsboro Pike late in the afternoon.

Proceed west on Charlotte Pike to White Bridge Road to parking space at southeast corner of Kendall Drive and White Bridge Road.

The actual fighting of the battle of Nashville started on the morning of December 15th when the Federal right wing including infantry and cavalry moved out of its works along the hills from the Harding to the Charlotte Pike and advanced westward out these pikes and across the open fields between their lines and this road (White Bridge). Ector's Confederate Brigade was in a detached position on the high ground west of this road, with pickets across the Harding Pike. When attacked, Ector withdrew Southward immediately to the left wing of the Confederate main line along the Hillsboro Pike.

Proceed south on White Bridge Road to Harding Pike. Turn right out Harding Pike to Belle Meade Mansion which is a short distance on the left beyond the intersection of Belle Meade Boulevard and Harding Pike.

The Belle Meade lawn was the scene of a spirited but brief cavalry action between a small force of Chalmers' Confederate Cavalry and a much larger contingent of Wilson's Cavalry. Bullet marks on the front columns of the mansion still attest to the fighting there on December 15, 1864.

Return toward the city on the Harding Pike and turn right on Woodlawn Drive, then proceed south and east on Woodlawn Drive to Hillsboro Pike, then south to Cedar Lane, then east on Cedar Lane to the top of the first high hill which is called Montgomery Hill.

This hill was the strong point of the original Confederate line, but after December 10th it was occupied only as a part of a lightly held advanced skirmish line, the main line being a half-mile to the south.

Proceed east on Cedar Lane to Belmont Boulevard, then south on Belmont Boulevard to Woodmont Boulevard, then west on Woodmont to Hopkins Avenue. Park on Hopkins just north of Woodmont.

Breastworks of the main Confederate line may be seen in the yards nearby also across the vacant lot on the northwest corner.

Return to Woodmont and proceed west to Benham Avenue and go to top of hill.

On the left, the site of Redoubt No. 1, Confederate main line salient on December 15th, may be seen. This redoubt withstood repeated frontal assaults during the day and was evacuated late in the afternoon only after Smith's Infantry and Wilson's Cavalry had turned the Confederate left.

Return to Woodmont, then go west on Woodmont to Hillsboro Pike. Turn left on Hillsboro and proceed south to Harding Place.

Historical markers along Hillsboro Pike indicate the locations of Redoubts 3, 4, and 5 to the west which were detached from Hood's refused main line along the east side of the pike.

Turn left on Harding Place and proceed to Shy's Hill Road. Turn left on Shy's Hill Road and proceed to commemoration marker.

The Federal main line on December 16 ran east and west through this point. Federal trenches in the wooded area to the left are well preserved and extend about one-quarter mile to the west. The position of a Federal gun emplacement may be observed only a few yards west of the road.

Return to Harding Place, turn left and proceed to Benton Smith Road. Turn right on Benton Smith and proceed to the steps leading to the Shy's Hill trail.

Shy's Hill was the main salient of the Confederate left wing on the second day of the battle, December 16th. Defended by Bate's Division, it was subjected to heavy bombardment throughout the day, and at about 4:15 in the afternoon was over-run by the advance of Federal infantry from the north and west and Wilson's dismounted cavalry from the south. The fate of Hood's campaign was sealed with the collapse of these defenses.

The view to the southeast shows the route of Confederate retreat to the Franklin Road following the Federal breakthrough on Shy's Hill.

Proceed on Benton Smith Road to a point directly south of Shy's Hill.

The Confederate line from Shy's Hill extended in front of the stone wall still seen going directly over the hill. At the top of this hill the line ran east and west forming a fishhook shape. The Confederates had a battery at the angle in the line at the top of the hill.

Return to Harding Place and proceed east to Granny White Pike turn right to Sewanee Road, turn left on Sewanee and proceed to Stonewall Drive. Turn left on Stonewall to Lealand Lane. Turn left on Lealand Lane and proceed to rock fence.

The Confederate center under General Stewart was entrenched behind this wall on December 16th. It withstood the Federal frontal attacks through the day but was flanked by the collapse of the Shy's Hill defenses and was evacuated as the Federals moved in from the west.

Proceed on Lealand to Battery Lane, then right on Battery Lane to Franklin Pike. Turn right on Franklin Pike and go to Farrell Parkway. Turn left on Farrell Parkway and proceed to Traveler's Rest.

Traveler's Rest, the Overton family plantation house, served as General Hood's headquarters during the two weeks prior to the Battle of Nashville. Members of the Overton family took refuge in the cellar during the nearby action on Peach Orchard Hill on December 16th.

Return to Franklin Pike, turn right and proceed

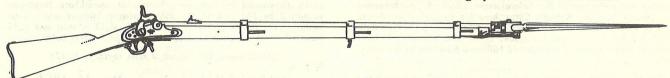
toward the city.

The long ridge on the right of the Franklin Pike is Peach Orchard or Overton's Hill. It was occupied on December 16th by Stephen D. Lee's Corps. The line stretched across the pike at the point where the Tennessee Historical Marker No. N2-4 is located. This hill served as the extreme right of Hood's line on the second day of the battle. Repeated attacks from the north and east were repulsed throughout the day, but the line was evacuated late in the afternoon following the collapse of the Confederate left and center. Lee fell back a short distance to a position across the pike and protected the Confederate retreat until nightfall.

Proceed north to Thompson's Lane.

The monument on the left at the intersection marks the position where the Confederate main line crossed the pike on December 15th.

Return to Fort Negley where the tour ends.



MOMENT OF TRUTH AT NASHVILLE
(Continued from page 3)

pike westward, ran through the Lea Place and extended beyond the Granny White Pike to the high range of hills in the present Seven Hills Subdivision. The main salient was on the northernmost peak, known today as Shy's Hill. Here the line was refused southward around the crest.

Cheatham now commanded the Confederate left with Gen. W. B. Bate's division occupying the crucial Shy's Hill, and extending eastward across the Granny White Pike. Stewart's battered corps stood at the Confederate center with General Loring's division in line behind a stone fence just south of present Battery Lane. On the right the Confederate flank was manned by Gen. Stephen D. Lee with a firm anchor on Peach Orchard Hill.

On Friday, December 16th, the day's fighting began with a thunderous artillery bombardment echoing down the deep valleys. The Confederate artillerymen replied gamely but could offer little competition. As on the previous day, Gen. Steedman's troops opened the attack with repeated charges against the Confederate right on Peach Orchard Hill. They were repulsed with frightful losses and the drab colored field was changed to blue as dead Federal soldiers covered the ground.

At Shy's Hill, General Bate and General Thomas Benton Smith clung to their precarious position. Since early morning their salient had been under heavy cross fire by the Federal artillery.

When Wilson's cavalry fought to Bate's rear, the men on Shy's Hill were caught in a three-sided box. Now the Confederate line curved around the slope like a giant fishhook. Bravely they fought to the end with Colonel William M. Shy and half his men giving their lives in the hopeless effort.

With the Confederate left again shattered there remained only quick retreat to save the beaten remnant of Hood's army. The conflict resolved to hand-to-hand mob fighting as the men in gray sought escape through tangled brush and muddy fields.

The whole Confederate army began retreating, pouring out in near panic toward Brentwood in the darkness and rain. Stephen D. Lee's men, who had held Peach Orchard Hill and kept open the exit out Franklin Pike, managed to set up a rear guard that permitted the remainder of the army to escape.

Cold, tired and hungry, Hood's beaten army fled southward toward the safety of the Tennessee River. Like a wounded animal, it left a trail of blood on the mud and snow. When the stalwart Forrest arrived from Murfreesboro to guard their flanks there was little that Wilson's cavalry could do to hinder the retreat.



In the great two-day battle, one primarily of maneuver, the losses were relatively light. Thomas reported that he had captured 4,462, and it is estimated that Hood's killed and wounded did not exceed 1,500. The Federal losses reported by Thomas were 387 killed, 2,562 wounded and 112 missing.

The total effective force of Confederates at Nashville was listed in Hood's report as 23,053. The Federal strength was given as 70,272 present for duty, of whom 55,000 took active part in the battle.

Hood had risked all in successive desperate gambles and had lost. In this last aggressive action of the Confederacy the fate of the Confederate States of America had been sealed finally and decisively.

### **Battle of Nashville**

(Dec. 15 & 16, 1864)

#### Tennessee Historical Commission Markers See Accompanying Map

NOTE: All markers in this series are titled as above, with appropriate subtitles. Subtitles only are given below. Markers are listed as they occur on streets and highways leading out of Nashville, from west to east.

(Charlotte Ave., between 33rd & 35th Avenues, near Immanuel Church of the Nazarene)

N1 2

Cavalry Action—Dec. 15, 1864

The right of the main Federal defense line crossed Charlotte Pike here. In the opening phase of the battle, mounted and dismounted cavalry of Wilson's Corps moved out of the Federal works, supporting the advance of Smith's XVI Corps in a turning movement against the extreme left flank of the Confederate positions.

(Charlotte Pike, west of Richland Creek)

N1 1

Cavalry Action—Dec. 15, 1864
Forming the outer arc of the Federal main attack, R. W. Johnson's 6th Cavalry Division, Wilson's Corps, here hit Rucker's Confederate Cavalry Brigade, west of Richland Creek. Withdrawing southward to Harding Road, Rucker held his ground there until bypassing Federal infantry forced further withdrawal to Hillsboro Pike late in the after-

(In Centennial Park, in a grass plot near parking space at Parthenon.) N 1 3

Federal Defenses

The hill to the west was a strong point in the system of permanent Federal defenses, started in 1862, which extended to the river on both sides of the town. Artillery was emplaced here from time to

(West End Avenue, at its intersection with Orleans Drive) N 1 5

XVI Corps Line of Departure—Dec. 15, 1864 Supported by a division of Wilson's cavalry, A. J. Smith's Corps moved westward astride Harding Road, displacing Ector's Confederate Brigade from positions across the pike northward to the west of Richland Creek. This brigade outposted the Confederate left flank; the main line was along the Hillsboro Pike.

(Harding Road (U S 70) at junction with White Bridge Road.) N14

Defense by Ector's Brigade—Dec. 15, 1864 In position from here northward along high ground, Ector's Brigade of French's Confederate Division, commanded by Col. Daniel Coleman, outposted the left of Hood's line. Attacked by the Federal XVI Corps, supported by artillery and part of the Cavalry Corps, it was overwhelmed. It withdrew southeast to Hillsboro Pike.

(21st Ave. S., at entrance to Vanderbilt Campus, just north of Vanderbilt Hospital.)

N 1 13

Federal Defenses—Dec. 2-15, 1864

Near here, the interior defensive lines ran southwest to cross Harding Pike; the total length of these works was about 7 miles. First garrisoned by Wood's IV Corps, it was occupied Dec. 15 by Donaldson's Division of Quartermaster employees. Part of the breastworks can be seen on Vanderbilt campus, 300 yards west.

(21st Ave. S., at intersection with Bernard Avenue.) N 1 12

Outer Federal Defenses—Dec. 2, 1864 Here the outer Federal defensive line, which stretched 7 miles around the city, crossed Hillsboro Pike. It was used at the com-mencement of the battle on Dec. 15 by Wood's IV Corps as a line of a departure for the main attack. Faint traces of the old entrenchments are visible a few yards west.

(21st Ave. S., at intersection with Linden Avenue.) N 1 11

IV Corps Jump-Off Line—Dec. 15, 1864 Using the defensive salient 500 yards east, Wood's Corps, with the XVI Corps on its right, swung southwest to envelop the left of the Confederate line, 11/2 miles south, and pushed it back in spite of determined resistance. The XXIII Corps (Schofield) followed in sup-

(21st Ave. S., at intersection with Cedar Lane.)

Assault on Montgomery Hill—Dec. 15, 1864
500 yards east of here. Mai. Gen. T. J. Wood led an assault by

tually carrying it. Attacking the main line about 600 yards south, Wood was unable to take it by direct assault, the divisions of Loring and Walthall holding fast until the XVI Corps, moving past their left, forced withdrawal.

(State Route 106, near intersection with Hampton Avenue.)

Redoubt No. 1-Dec. 15, 1864

Stewart's Confederate Corps held this salient of the left of Hood's defenses. A thin infantry line ran south behind a stone wall on the east side of the pike. After the routing of Ector's Brigade on Harding Pike and successive overrunning of Redoubts 3, 4 & 5 to the south, Stewart's position was flanked; he withdrew southeast toward Granny White Pike.

(State Route 106, about 100 yards south of intersection with Woodmont Boulevard.)

Confederate Outpost—Dec. 15, 1864 100 yards west was Redoubt No. 3 in the Confederate system of detached works beyond the main line. It was overrun by the enveloping attack of Wood's IV Corps from the northwest.

(State Route 106, at intersection with Hobbs Road.)

Lumsden's Defense—Dec. 15, 1864

0.3 mile west was Redoubt No. 4 in Hood's detached supporting works. Garrisoned by Lumsden's Battery of smoothbore Napoleons, supported by 100 men of the 29th Alabama Infantry under Capt. Foster, it was finally overrun by the assault of 12 infantry and 4 dismounted cavalry regiments, supported by four Federal batteries.

(State Route 106, about .8 mile south of N 17)

Taking of Redoubt No. 5—Dec. 15, 1864

Hood's Redoubt No. 5 was on this hill. Coach's division of the XXIII Corps, sweeping to the south of the route of Smith's XVI, captured it and the hills to the east late in the afternoon. Wilson's cavalry, crossing the highway about 2 miles south, advanced rapidly eastward, flanking the Confederate defenses.

(12th Avenue, South, south of intersection with Acklen Avenue, about opposite # 2016.)

Schofield's Jump-Off Line—Dec. 15, 1864

The Federal defensive line ran northeast and southwest through here. It was garrisoned by Schofield's Corps on arrival here after the Battle of Franklin, Dec. 2, and later became a line of departure for the advance into support positions: Cruft's Provisional Division then occupied this line in reserve.

(12th Avenue, South, about 75 yards south of its intersection with Woodmont Boulevard.)

Confederate Defenses—Dec. 15, 1864

Stewart's Corps, Army of Tennessee, held this part of Hood's original line, extending east about 1500 yards, and west and south about 1 mile to Hillsboro Pike. After the turning of his left, about 4:00 p.m., Stewart established a new position extending southward, to the west of Granny White Pike.

> (Granny White Pike, near intersection with Shackleford Road.)

Confederate Defenses—Dec. 15, 1864

After being outflanked by the advance of the Federal XVI Corps (Smith), Loring and Walthall put their divisions in a defensive line west of this road, facing westward. Here, their determined defense brought Federal advances against the Confederate left to a close for the day.

(Granny White Pike, opposite southeast corner of Burton's School grounds)

Schofield's Assault—Dec. 16, 1864

The Federal XXIII Corps attacked southeastward from positions about 3/4 mile west. Coordinating with the attack of Smith's XVI Corps, and assisted by pressure by Wilson's encircling cavalry from the south, its action brought about the final collapse of Hood's defenses.

> (Granny White Pike, about 150 yards south of Burton School.)

N22

Smith's Assault—Dec. 16, 1864

The Federal XVI Corps attacked southward along this road. After violent artillery bombardment, McArthur's Division took the hill to the west about 4:00 p.m., precipitating the rout of Hood's Army. This hill is named for Col. W. M. Shy, 20th Tenn. Inf., killed in the desperate defense which he commanded. (Granny White Pike, at intersection with Sewanee Road.)

N2 1

Confederate Position—Dec. 16, 1864

Stewart's Corps, badly mauled during the first day, withdrew at night to a line extending eastward. Lee's Corps, forming the right wing, extended the line across the Franklin Pike. Cheatham's Corps, on Stewart's left, extended the line westward, and following the hills, curved south. Chalmers' Cavalry Division covered the left flank.

(8th Avenue, South, on the south slope of hill on which sits the City Reservoir.)

N 1 18

Federal Defensive Line—Dec. 15, 1864
The Federal defensive line ran NE and SW through here. Ft. Casino was on the hill to the west, Fort Negley to the northeast. Garrisoned on Dec. 2 by Schofield's XXIII Corps, it was occupied by Cruft's Provisional Division when the battle began. The XXIII Corps moved out in support of the main effort, 5 miles southwest.

(State Route 6, near battle monument at intersection with Thompson Lane.)

N 1 17

Lee's Position—Dec. 15, 1864.
Here Stephen D. Lee's Corps, Army of Tennessee, bestrode the highway and railroad. Cheatham's Corps held the right of the line, which ran northeast about 2 miles to Rains' Hill. After the Confederate left was broken in the afternoon's fighting, Lee's Corps fell back to high ground about 1½ miles south.

(State Route 6, north of intersection with Elysian Fields Road.)

N2 4

Confederate Defenses—Dec. 16, 1864 Lee's Corps held the right flank of the line in the final stages of the battle, linking with Stewart to the west. Here it extended east, then south around Peach Orchard Hill. Violent attacks by Steedman's brigades were repulsed bloodily; Lee did not withdraw until the left and center of the Confederate line had collapsed.

(4th Avenue, South, at Peachtree Street.)

N 1 19

Cheatham's Line—Dec. 15, 1864.
Holding a line running N.E. and S.W. and with its right on the N. C. & St. L. R. R. at Rains' Cut, Cheatham's Confederate Corps stood off the attacks of Steedman's brigades. Part of Cheatham's Corps was moved to the support of Stewart's left late in the afternoon; collapse of the left wing forced Cheatham's withdrawal southward during the night.

(Hermitage Avenue, near entrance to City Hospital) N 1 21

Steedman's Line of Departure—Dec. 15, 1864
The left of the Federal main defensive line rested on the Cumberland
River north of here, extending southeast to the Murfreesboro Pike.
From this line, Steedman's Provisional Detachment of six brigades
made the secondary attack against the Confederate right. Thomas'
main attack was delivered against the Confederate left.

(Lafayette Street, at intersection with Claiborne Street.)
N 1 20

Steedman's Position—Dec. 15, 1864
From a line of departure running N.E.-S.W. through here, Maj. Gen. Steedman's Provisional Detachment of 6 brigades at 6:00 a.m. launched a holding attack southwestward against the Confederate right, on high ground about 2 miles south. The main attack, about 5 miles west, enveloped the Confederate left after an all-day fight.

# Program



## CIVIL WAR CONCERT

Municipal Auditorium Admission .50 cents James Robertson Parkway 8:00 P.M. until 10:00 P.M. Friday, December 11, 1964

Sponsored by the Davidson County Civil War Centennial Committee. Program chairman Jack DeWitt, assistant Robert Evans Cooper.

- 1. Invocation
- 2. Advance of National Colors Reactivated Memorial unit
- 3. The National Anthem
- 4. Advance of the Confederate Colors Reactivated Memorial unit
- 5. Dixie
- 6. Musical program by the United States Continental Air Command Band, Commanded by Captain Loren Johnson. Also featuring Win Stracke, nationally known television and recording folk singer. The program will be composed of patriotic songs, marching tunes and campfire songs of the 1860-1865 period.
- 7. Dramatic monologue—speeches of Lincoln.
- 8. Dramatic monologue—words of Lee.
- 9. Retreat of the Colors.

THE BATTLEFIELD and OLD HOMES tours are open Saturday, December 12 and Sunday, December 13, 1964
Saturday 9:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M.
Sunday 1:00 P.M. to 4:00 P.M.
See inclosed map



## **RELICS DISPLAY**

Saturday, Dec. 12 and Sunday, Dec. 13, 1964
THE PARTHENON
Centennial Park

West End Ave. at Twenty Fourth Ave. Saturday 9:00 A.M. to 4:45 P.M. Sunday 1:00 P.M. to 4:45 P.M.

M. Hume Parks

Director of Relics Display
This collection of firearms, edged weapons, ammunition and accouterments has been brought together from far and wide so that
the collector and the casual visitor may both have the opportunity
to view the items handled by the participants in the Battle of
Nashville, 100 years ago.

In addition to the weapons of war, household articles, letters, diaries and books are attractively displayed.

Maps, reproductions of uniforms and clothing, and miniature cannon, soldiers and horses have been prepared by the school children of the area for your information and enjoyment.

ADMISSION .... FREE

