The Fight Here 100 Years Ago Covered Many Square Miles

* * *

THE BATTLEFIELD at Nashville, except for a small plot on the peak of Shy's Hill, is private property now covered by homes and business houses. The scene of the first day's fighting is on the edge of the business section, while the second day's lines are in such suburban areas as Belle Meade, Green Hills and Oak Hill.

This guide for the use of battlefield tourists was first prepared by historian Stanley F. Horn to aid visitors to the city. It has recently been brought up to date by Paul Beasley, a Nashville teacher who lives on the battlefield. The guide follows.

Start at Negley

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

Fort Negley served as a key point in the defenses of Nash-ville. The city's fortifications extended from this fort eastward to the Cumberland River and westward to Fort Casino and westward to Fort Casino (site of the present reservoir), 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 shalls in the general direction. 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.

View of Field

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 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 Fed eral 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. Location of battle lines for both the first and and 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.

Main Salient

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 ment 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

Proceed west on Linden to Hillsboro Pike (Twenty-first Avenue) then north to Fairfax Avenue, turn left and proceed on Fairfax 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 bypassing Federal infantry forced further withdrawal to Hillsboro Pike late in the afternoon.

Out Charlotte

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 15, when the Federal right wing, including infantry and caval-ry, 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.

Cavalry Action

The Belle Meade lawn was the scene of a spirited but brief cavalry action between a small force of Chalmer's 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

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 Montgorery Hill

Montgomery Hill.

This hill was the strong point of the original Confederate line, but after December 10 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.

Breastwork Here

tery Lane, then right on Battery Lane to Franklin Pike. Breastworks of the main Confederate line may be seen

Confederate line may be seen in the yard 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 15 may be seen. This redoubt withstood repeated frontal assaults during the day and was saults during the day and was evacuated late in the afternoon only after Smith's infantry and Wilson's Cavalry has turned the Confederte left,

taking this salient in reverse.
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 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 com-memoration marker.

memoration 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 on a few yards west of the a few yards west of the

Up Shy's Hill

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 16. Defended by Bate's division, it was subjected to 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 calvalry from the south. The fate of Hood's campaign was sealed with the collapse of these defenses.

these defenses.

The view to the southeast shows the route the 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 for ming a

the top of this hill the line ran east and west forming a fishook shape. The Conferates 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 to Sewanee Road, turn left on Sewanee and proceed to Stonewall Drive.

Turn left on Stonewall to

Yanks Had More Generals

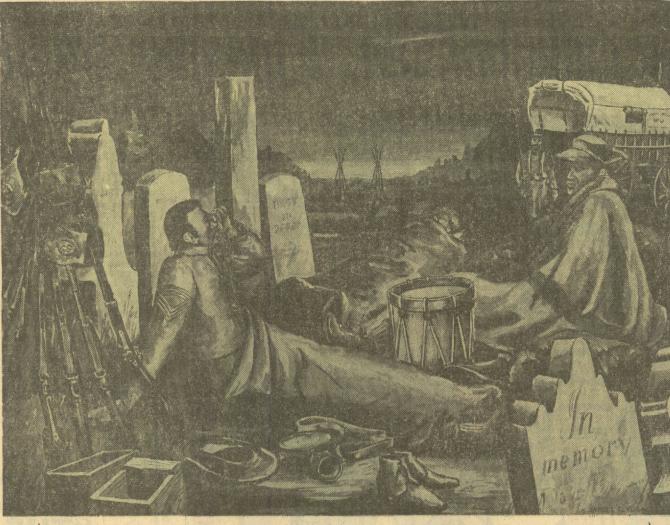
Authoritative sources have placed the number of generals in the Federal army at 1,991. The Confederates had

or died of wounds. The number of Federal generals who were killed or died of wounds was 46.

In terms of percentage Federal losses of general officers was 2.3 per cent. Confederate losses were 16.2 per

A total of 76 Confederate generals were killed in battle

The only army commander killed during the war was Confederate Gen. Albert Sidney Johnston, at the Battle of



-Staff drawing by Jim Young

A Miserable Night in the Rain

Sam Hankins, whose "Simple Story of a Soldier" appeared in the Confederate Veteran magazine, was a young fellow who had a strange introduction to army life. After a 30-mile march Sam was halted in the pouring

rain. There were no lights and no fires.

Lealand Lane Turn left on Lealand Lane and proceed to

tone wall.
The Confederate center un-

der General Stewart was en-trenched behind this wall on

Dec. 16. 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

Proceed on Lealand to Bat-

moved in from the west.

"I found some drifted leaves near," he wrote, "and unrolling my wet blanket I spread it out and got on it in my full length in a sunken grave."

soaked condition, covering my head and ears and using my cartridge box for a pillow. Notwithstanding that the rain still poured, I was soon asleep and did not wake until the bugle sounded for roll call next morning.

"When I got up I found, to my horror, that our company had occupied an old abandoned graveyard, and I had slept

turn right and proceed toward The long ridge on the right of Franklin Pike is Peach Orchard or Overton's Hill. It was occupied on Dec. 16 by Stephen D. Lee's Corps. The line stretched across the pike at the point where the Ten 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 Dec. 16.

Return to Franklin 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. Repeated attacks from the north and east were repulsed throughout the day, but the

line was evacuated late in the afternoon following the col-lapse of the Confederate left and center. Lee fell back a short distance to a position across the pike and protected the Confederate retreat until

son's Lane.

nightfall. Proceed north to Thomp-The monument on the left at the intersection marks the position where the Confederate main line crossed the pike on Dec. 15. Return to Fort Negley, where the tour ends.

MEAR THE SCENE of the Gen. William B. Hazen, who had been made the commandant at Murfreesboro in the Federal army of occupation, and together they visited the battlefield. Travbridge and the commandation of t third Battle of Murfreesboro, fought by Forrest and Bate just before the Battle of Nashville, stands the beautiful battlefield. Trowbridge copied lines now too faded to read: and little known cemetery of

THE NASHVILLE TENNESSEAN, Sunday, Da. 6, 1964 21-6

Hazen's brigade, near the bat-

100 feet, contains the graves

of 31 men of the brigade and

their officers who fell on the

first day of the battle. Its only

flag is a gnarled cedar tree,

growing beside and over the

This is one of the oldest

simple monument.

tlefield on Stone's river. This little plot, just 40 by

Oldest Cemetery

HAZEN'S BRIGADE

THE MEMORY OF ITS SOLDIERS WHO FELL AT STONE'S RIVER

"Their faces toward heaven, their feet to the foe.

On the western face of the monument we were barely able to make out the tribute to the brigade: The blood of one-third of its

the South. It was built by the men of the brigade during the war, and had been completed soldiers for some time when John T. Trowbridge, a northern re-porter, visited Murfreesboro in Twice spilled in Tennessee Crimsons the Battle Flag of the brigade Trowbridge was a guest of And inspires to greater deeds.





Turn right on Franklin Pike and go to Farrell Parkway. Turn left on Farrell Park-

way and proceed to Traveler's

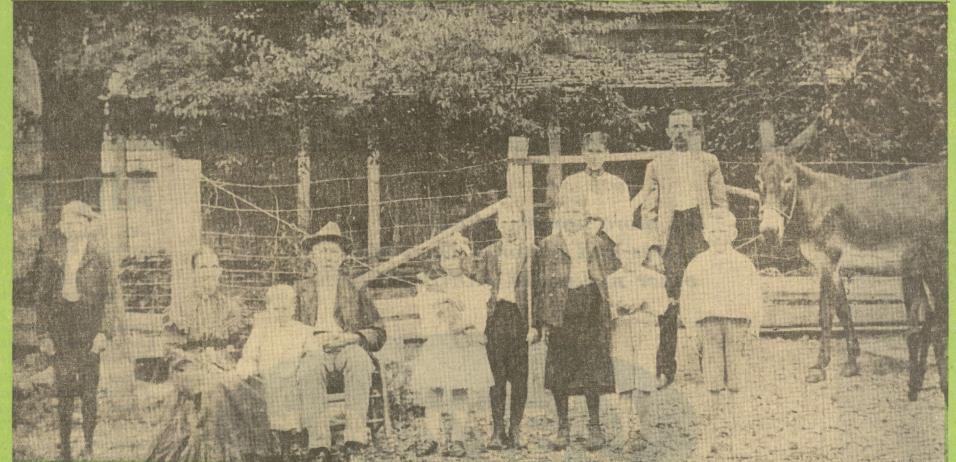
Return to Franklin Pike,

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Through his appraising and real estate counseling service he has had an active part in Nashville's great development of business and manufacturing industries and urban renewal developments.



Pictured are Colonel and Mrs. Joseph Blackburn, Maternal Grandparents of Biscoe Griffith.

Colonel Blackburn served in the 4th Regiment in the Federal Army under Wm. G. Brownlow, Governor and Commanderin-chief of State Forces . . . also under James P. Brownlow, Brig. and Adj. General.

This family group was made on the farm of Mr. and Mrs. U. S. Blackburn on Indian Creek in DeKalb County, Tennessee—near the Caney Fork River, where Colonel and Mrs. Blackburn maintained a summer camp. Reading from left to right: Robert Blackburn, Mrs. Joseph H. Blackburn,

Joe T. Blackburn, Colonel Blackburn, Lucile and Biscoe Griffith, Frank C., Brownlow and Barger Blackburn, Mrs. U. S. Blackburn and Mr. Blackburn . . . and a product of the farm, a well-bred jennet and excellent offspring, a young "jack-ass" which sold well in those days.

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