

# Nashville Civil War Roundtable

Founded April, 2009 – Nashville, Tennessee

Visit our web site: [www.nashvillecivilwarroundtable.wordpress.com](http://www.nashvillecivilwarroundtable.wordpress.com)

**December 18th, 2018 – Our 115th meeting!! We continue our tenth year.**

The next meeting of the Nashville (TN) Civil War Roundtable will be on Tuesday, December 18th, 2018, 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 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue South and 8<sup>th</sup> 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** - *“Stewart County, Tennessee in the Civil War”*

Those of us in Nashville and Davidson County, TN, having the much larger county population wise, often forget that one of the biggest Civil War battles in our area was northwest of us in Stewart County – the Forts Henry and Donelson Campaign. What happened there affected Middle Tennessee for the rest of the war and directly led to the capture of Nashville by the Federals in February 1862.

But how much else do we know of Stewart County in the Civil War? What units were raised there? What other events took place there in terms of battles, raids, guerrilla activity and more? How were the locals affected by the war literally outside of their front doors? How did the small town of Dover (some 400 people at the time) deal with three battles fought within its limits in 1862?

Answering these and other questions is our own “Ski,” Susan Witzofsky, a well known expert on many things Stewart County historically. She will inform us of the hardships of the people from war time and into Reconstruction; the loss of boats on the Tennessee and Cumberland Rivers and so much more.

Local historian Susan "Ski" Witzofsky is a graduate of APSU. She retired from TVA Land between the Lakes National Recreation Area after more than twenty years. During her tenure she managed campgrounds. She is also a noted authority on Land between the Lakes National Recreation Area including Stewart County Tn. and Trigg and Lyon Counties in Ky.

Ski has served on Boards for local organizations including Friends of Fort Donelson, Friends of National Wildlife Refuge and Cross Creek Refuge, Stewart County Historical Society. Ski is an active participant in these and other organizations. Ski also conducts historical tours, local school programs and, UDC, SCV, programs. In addition to her interest in all historical aspects of the Civil War, LBL and Stewart County History she enjoys fishing, hunting, and

picking wild mushrooms. Other interest include researching local history, families, cemeteries, Iron Industry, Ft Donelson National Cemetery, and local Civil war Units. Ski is always interested speaking and sharing information.

We hope you will join us for a fun and informative program this month.

### **Last Month's meeting**

In October, Gerald Augustus taught us with the important Battle of Campbell Station (now Farragut, TN), the first battle of the Knoxville Campaign of November, 1863. Confederate General James Longstreet's Corps, with attached units from Bragg's Army of Tennessee, was in a footrace with Union General Ambrose Burnside to take or hold Knoxville which sat astride the important road and railroad network connecting Tennessee with Virginia. Sadly, while most of the period battlefield is now gone, the program used current and old images of it to show us all how the running fight took place. This is a fine program about one of the lesser known fights of the war and we were glad to have Gerald with us.

The November speaker has been rescheduled for October 2019.

### **FUTURE PROGRAMS:**

**January 2019** – Donna Lucas, historian - *"The Woman Behind the Man: Three Fascinating Confederate Couples – Mrs. John Gordon, Mrs. Sam Watkins and Betty Taylor"*

**February 2019** – Scott Sallee, author/historian/Nashville CWRT

**March 2019** – Michael Shaffer, author/historian

**May 2019** – Dr. Peter Carmichael, author/historian/director of Gettysburg College Civil War Center – topic TBA

**June 2019** – Brad Butkovich, historian/author – *"The Battle of Allatoona Pass: The First Battle of Hood's Tennessee Campaign"*

**October 2019** - Dr. David Gregg, pastor, historian – *"John Bell Hood in Muscle Shoals, Alabama, 1864"*

**Some of our speakers are authors and bring books to sell at our meetings. Please support them by buying their books.**

**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 2018-2019 fiscal year will be due at the May 2018 meeting – LAST MONTH! 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**

#### **Some Great Events Coming Up At Fort Negley in Nashville This Month**

Fort Negley is having some wonderful events this month starting on Saturday, December 15<sup>th</sup>, members of the 13<sup>th</sup> USCT will be setting up at Fort Negley along with General George Thomas and President Abraham Lincoln to help commemorate the 154<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Battle of Nashville.

The program also includes these events:

- 10:00 am The Battle For Nashville (film), 58 minutes
- 12:00 pm Near Death Experience: Civil War Nashville and the Question of Recovery presented by Dr. Thomas Flagel (this is a terrific program)
- 1:30 pm 8th Minnesota Infantry presented by John Allyn

And on Tuesday, December 18<sup>th</sup> from noon to 1 PM, historian Dr. Tim Johnson, a noted expert on the Mexican-American War, is giving a program based on his new book on Tennessee’s Mexican War experience. Using letters, documents and more, Dr. Johnson has discovered very interesting facts on how they felt about their mission in Mexico. His new book will also be on sale at Fort Negley during their Lunch and Learn series for December. Be sure to bring your lunch and be ready for a fine program.

Of course the Nashville CWRT meets later that night at 7 PM.

Please support your local Civil War sites and their programs!

#### **Battle of Nashville Preservation Society Holds Great Tennessee Campaign Seminar**

On Sunday, December 2<sup>nd</sup>, the Battle of Nashville Preservation Society held a wonderful seminar with four speakers on various aspects of the Tennessee Campaign. The event was very well attended with people from across Middle Tennessee and several from Alabama.

Let's hope that this is the first of other planned similar events by BONPS. Very well done event folks and thanks for your hard work!

### **Program Chair Greg Biggs Will Not Be At the December Meeting**

Nope – Tennessee is too warm this time of year so I will be speaking to the Twin Cities CWRT in Minneapolis that evening where it will be assuredly colder and thus cannot make the December Nashville CWRT this month. The speaker, Ski, is a good friend and really knows her stuff about Stewart County so you will enjoy her. I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year and will see everyone in January, 2019.

### **NASHVILLE CWRT OFFICERS**

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