

Help Improve the Nashville Battlefield Experience

The Battle of Nashville Trust is raising a modest amount of funds through [gofundme.com](https://www.gofundme.com) to enhance the current hiking trail experience on the main battle area on Shy's Hill and to place interpretive markers to provide visual reference points for the fighting that occurred there on December 16, 1864. To participate with a donation in this effort go to www.battleofnashvilletrust.org HOME page and click on HELP US IMPROVE THE BATTLEFIELD!

The Battle of Nashville Trust is a private non-profit organization has been able to acquire, preserve, and manage portions of the battlefield, one of which includes the eastern slope and top of Shy's Hill where the most decisive action occurred. The preservation of this area of the battlefield is critical and sacred to the history of Minnesota's role in the Civil War. The decisive action in this area was initiated and executed in large measure by the 5th, 7th, 9th and 10th Minnesota regiments, that lead to the destruction of the Confederate Army of Tennessee in what many historian call "*the decisive battle of the Civil War.*"

Exploits of the Minnesotans at Nashville

On December 16, 1864, 98 Minnesotans died in the fighting. This was the deadliest day of battle for Minnesota soldiers in any battle in American history. Fully one-third of the casualties at Nashville were Minnesotans, albeit only the four mentioned regiments were in the battle, while Ohio, Illinois and Indiana all had 30 or more regiments at the battle.

While these four regiments were engaged in the battle, the 8th, 11th, and a company of the 2nd were involved in supporting action around Nashville at the time of the battle. Thus, seven of Minnesota's 11 infantry regiments in the War were participants in some manner at Nashville. To see a comprehensive overview of Minnesota at Nashville go to www.battleofnashvilletrust.org and click on FEATURES and MINNESOTANS AT NASHVILLE.



Nashville Historical Significance to Minnesota

The Battle of Nashville occurred in what became a growing metropolitan area shortly after the War and thus large portions of the battlefield were not preserved like other major battlefields in more remote areas. Although considered the battle spelling the end to the Confederacy, it has largely been overlooked until recently in history. In Minnesota, however, the exploits of the four regiments of the XVI Corps did not go unnoticed in the immediate aftermath of the War by the men who actually served Minnesota in the War and by its citizenry at the time.

For example, nine counties in Minnesota were named for veterans of the Civil War. The names given to these counties were: Sibley, Scott, Pope, Lyon, Grant, Wilkins, Cook, Hubbard and Marshall. The only Minnesota men among these that saw action in the south or east: Wilkin, Hubbard, Marshall and Cook were all XVI Corps men, all but Wilkins fought at Nashville. No counties are named for any other Minnesota soldiers in the Civil War despite the well-known heroics of the men of First and Second Regiments and others.

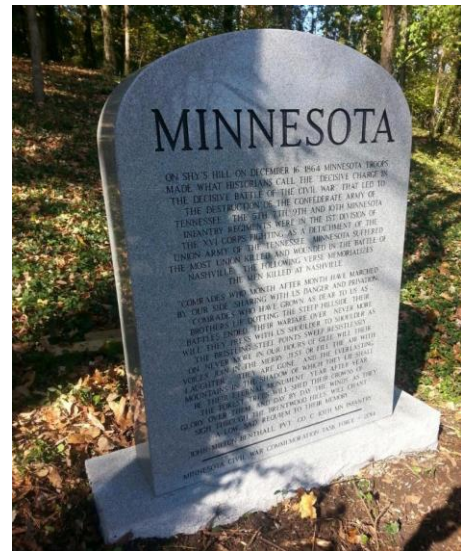
Minnesota also had four men who served in action in the Civil War that became governors in the post-Civil War period. Of those who were in Minnesota volunteer regiments, only one - John Lind - who served less than a year late in the War in the Third Minnesota Infantry, was not from one of the Nashville regiments. The Third Minnesota however for a time was in the XVI Corps with the Nashville regiments at Mobile, thus making all the Minnesota post-Civil War Governors XVI Corps men.

The three other post-Civil War governors, in addition to Lind, were Governors Lucius Hubbard, William Marshall and Andrew McGill. Hubbard was originally with the Fifth Minnesota Infantry, Marshall with the Seventh and McGill with the Ninth. Hubbard and Marshall would be Brigade Commanders at Nashville. McGill resigned due to disability in August of 1863 after only one year of service. Again, other than Lind, no other soldiers from Minnesota regiments other than the four directly engaged Nashville regiments would be elected as governors after the War.

When Minnesota veterans - whose inputs were paramount in the design of the magnificent Minnesota State Capitol - commissioned artwork for the Governor's suite at the new Capitol, it was the painting of the Battle of Nashville for which they selected Howard Pyle, the most renowned American landscape artist of the times, to paint it. This painting today is considered the finest Civil War painting ever done or for that matter possibly of any historical military action.

Nashville's recognition of the Minnesotans

While most Minnesotans today have little knowledge of the exploits of the Minnesotans at Nashville, folks in Nashville and with the Battle of Nashville Trust have not forgotten the role of the Minnesotans. There are only three flags on the battlefield put there by the Battle of Nashville Trust. These are: the American flag, the stars and bars of the Confederacy and the state flag of Minnesota. There are no other state flags, Union or Confederate, not even Tennessee are on the battlefield. The only markers or monuments at Nashville are the Minnesota Monument in the National Cemetery and the Minnesota marker on the battlefield, place there in 2014 by Governor Dayton's Civil War Sesquicentennial Commission.



Support the Nashville Battlefield Trust's Efforts

As mentioned in the introduction, the preservation and conservation work of the Battle of Nashville Trust is totally dependent upon donations and membership dues. Given Nashville's historical significance to Minnesota and the Civil War, you are encouraged to donate to the current maintenance efforts and also to become a member of BONT to preserve this most sacred ground to Minnesota military history. For an annual dues of only \$20 per individual or \$25 per family you can become a member, receive their quarterly newsletter, two free passes to historical Traveler's Rest, invitations to special events and a 20% discount on merchandise. Go to www.battleofnashvilletrust.org and click on ABOUT and DONATE OR JOIN. Help to keep this treasured piece of Minnesota history alive for generation to come.