



LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

We are on the threshold of a new era for the Battle of Nashville Trust! We have always had only limited financial resources and we recently received a large gift from the Bill Dorris Estate. Mr. Dorris was not affiliated with the Trust. This donation will give us the resources that will enable us to look at the preservation of the battlefield locations we currently have in a new light and possibly look at opportunities to acquire new sites as they might become available. We have also added many new members.

On April 14, Jim Kay made a presentation on the battle and its sites in Belle Meade and Green Hills to approximately 150 members of Belle Meade Country Club at its monthly Belle Meade University event. Jim did his usual great job and at the conclusion, we made a pitch to the audience to join the organization. We have already received several new additions and many more indicated their intent to join. The Metro Nashville Historical Commission is working on adding recorded descriptions of significant sites on the battlefield through the use of QR codes. They already have several in operation in the downtown area. We will keep you informed as new developments occur.

- Bill Ozier

Nashville Civil War Roundtable

Battle of Nashville Trust Board Member John Banks to Speak

July 10, 2022 at the Visitor's Center of Ft. Nelson Park 7:00 p.m.

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“The People of the Battle of Antietam”

The Battle of Antietam was the culmination of the Confederate invasion of Maryland in August/September 1862. With a goal of helping push the state more into the Confederate camp, Robert E. Lee’s Army of Northern Virginia, flush from its victory at Second Manassas, sought to carry forward Confederate momentum in the East. A set of orders to a subordinate were found by a Union patrol giving Gen. George McClellan the plans for the invasion. This set into motion the Union response leading to the several battles on South Mountain before Lee fell back towards the Potomac River as his final position.

Longtime journalist John Banks will profile soldiers and others whose lives were rocked by the Battle of Antietam, the bloodiest single day of the Civil War. He'll also profile some of those connected to the battlefield today, including a legendary relic hunter. Banks, a board member of the Save Historic Antietam Foundation, has a deep knowledge of the battlefield. As a young journalist, he got to know the family who farmed the Bloody Cornfield before it became National Park Service property.

John Banks is author of Connecticut Yankees at Antietam and Hidden History of Connecticut Union Soldiers, which feature profiles of soldiers and others. His work has been featured in such notable publications as The New York Times, Civil War Times, Civil War Monitor, Civil War News, America's Civil War and Military Images. Banks, who attended Mount Lebanon (Pa.) High School, graduated from West Virginia University (B.A. in journalism). A longtime journalist (The Dallas Morning News and ESPN), he is secretary-treasurer of The Center for Civil War Photography and a board member of the Save Historic Antietam Foundation and Battle of Nashville Trust. John also has periodic articles in both Civil War Times and America’s Civil War magazines including a fine article in the current issue of the latter.



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Peach Orchard Hill view from Franklin Road circa 1890

New CWT Marker for Peach Orchard Hill Attack Site

The Battle of Nashville Trust continues to work with property owners for sites for Civil War Trails historical markers to commemorate U.S. Colored Troops who fought in the December 15-16, 1864, battle. Last year, BONT was awarded a grant from the Tennessee Wars Commission for the signage. The proposed sites are on Foster Avenue, near the Day 1 USCT attack, and Sidco Drive, off Interstate 65, where the USCT advanced at Peach Orchard Hill on Day 2.

Although they suffered significant losses, the USCT made history at Nashville.

“Colored soldiers had fought side by side with white troops,” Union Colonel Thomas Morgan wrote. “They had assisted each other from the field when wounded, and they lay side by side in death...The day that we had longed to see had come and gone, and the Sun went down upon a record of coolness, bravery, manliness, never to be unmade. A new chapter in the history of liberty had been written.”

Help Improve the Nashville Battlefield Experience

Article by Ken Flies

Past President Twin Cities Civil War Roundtable

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

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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.



New Cannon Wheels Ordered

At the last Board meeting , we approved the ordering of new wheels for the cannons on Shy's Hill. The existing wheels have deteriorated and are unsightly as well as a risk to visitors. The new wheels will be of aluminum construction and should last many years. As

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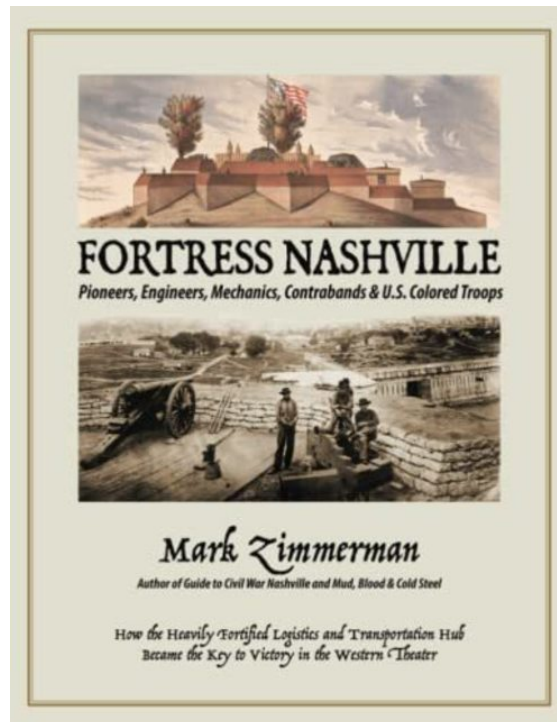
soon as we receive the money from the Dorris estate , we plan to order an entire carriage for the cannon tube that was donated to the Trust last year.

Property Search Committee

At the March Board meeting, we approved the establishment of a committee to be on the lookout for possible opportunities to acquire additional sites on the battlefield as they might become available. Unfortunately as we well know, the Battlefield is comprised of some of the most valuable residential and commercial property in Nashville so any purchases would most likely be small parcels or smaller residential properties.

Happenings / News

March 1, 2022 - New book, *Fortress Nashville: Pioneers, Engineers, Mechanics, Contrabands & U.S. Colored Troops*, describes the massive fortification of Nashville during the civil war and how this set the stage for Federal victory in the western theater.



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Civil War.

Zimmerman, a longtime member and supporter of the Battle of Nashville Trust, is a former newspaper journalist and publications manager who has now written eight books on the general history of Middle Tennessee, four of them focusing on the Civil War, including the Battle of Nashville. *Fortress Nashville* follows the highly-praised *Mud, Blood & Cold Steel: the Retreat from Nashville December 1684*, published in 2020. He is also the author of *Guide to Civil War Nashville* (2nd ed., 2019), a must-have overview of all aspects of the Battle of Nashville.

Fortress Nashville is the first major work in which a historian's research has so comprehensively described the massive fortification of the city, but which also has so clearly explained why this extraordinary task was critical to the war strategy of the U.S. Army.

Zimmerman's book is a significant undertaking. Consisting of 344 pages, it not only pulls together in-depth research about Nashville's infrastructure during the War, but also supports its analysis with 80 Illustrations, charts and graphs, 204 photos, 76 maps, and numerous original artworks, including those of Philip Duer, former president and current board member of the Battle of Nashville Trust. Other topics explored include the Pioneer Brigade, the First Michigan Engineers, U.S Military railroads, fortification technology and design, military hospitals, army depots and garrison towns, the Confederate river forts, fortifications associated with the epic Battle of Nashville and antebellum pioneer forts.

The author has provided Battle of Nashville Trust with a link - *Fortress Nashville At-a-Glance* - showing a representative sampler of 56 pages of content, text, maps, photos, and illustrations, to give readers an idea of both the depth and range of the book. *Fortress Nashville* is available now on Amazon. For more information about Mark Zimmerman, *Fortress Nashville* and his other publications, visit his website at www.zimcopubs.com.

On Giving

The cost of maintaining the grounds, displays, interpretive signage, trails, and all other aspects of battlefield preservation, are expensive, and BONT has an ongoing "GOFUNDME" fundraiser which is critical to our never-ending work of maintaining portions of the battlefield in the midst of urban growth. See link at <https://www.battleofnashvilletrust.org/>

The Trust is manned by volunteers who give their important time at no cost. We have virtually no overhead and devote all donations to the protection and improvement of our sites. All contributions are deductible and we are so grateful to all of those that contribute. Please consider a gift.

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Renew Your Membership

Just a reminder to make sure that you renew your BONT membership when it expires. If you are not sure when it expires send an email to wnozier@bellsouth.net and I will check for you. You can also renew on our website at Battleofnashvilletrust.org.

www.battleofnashvilletrust.org

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