

Nashville Civil War Roundtable

Founded April, 2009 – Nashville, Tennessee

Visit our web site: www.nashvillecivilwarroundtable.wordpress.com

January 17th, 2023 – Our 143rd meeting!! We continue our thirteenth year.

The next meeting of the Nashville (TN) Civil War Roundtable will be on Tuesday, January 17th, 2023, 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 4th Avenue South and 8th 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.

July is our fiscal year so please plan on paying your membership dues at this meeting if you missed that. Without dues we cannot get speakers and programs so please support the Nashville CWRT.

Our Speaker and Topic – *“Fortress Nashville: How the Heavily Fortified Logistics and Transportation Hub Became the Key to Victory in the Western Theater”*

Commented [KB1]:

This slideshow presentation emphasizes the critical role that Nashville — developed by occupying Federal forces during the Civil War into a major logistics center — played in the subsequent successful prosecution of the war in the Western Theater.

Astounding was the effort and the resources that the Federal military expended in developing an extensive network of supply depots, riverports, rail infrastructure, and fortifications — permanent, defensive, and field — to ensure that the blueclad armies were adequately supplied with beans and bullets. This network eventually ran from Louisville to Atlanta. The unsung heroes of these campaigns were the Quartermaster Corps and the Federal engineers, both West Pointers and volunteers, who designed the fortifications around Nashville and who later became combat engineers, often exchanging shovels for muskets.

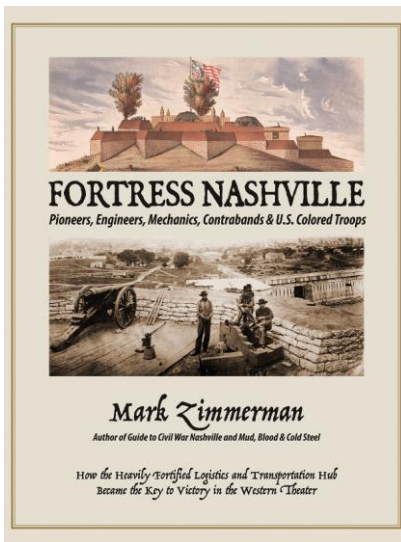
One of the most fascinating stories is that of the liberated slave who was impressed into manual labor building forts for the Federals. Hundreds died building Fort Negley, the masterpiece of Capt. James St. Clair Morton's genius. Those contrabands who survived were recruited into the fledgling U.S. Colored Troops. At first, USCT were assigned garrison duty, but then proved their mettle fighting at the Battle of Nashville. Today, the ruins of Fort Negley, owned by the City of Nashville, stand as testament not only to the Civil War but to Civil Rights. Nashville was second only to Washington, D.C. in the enormity of fortifications. Although Fort Negley was built in record time, construction of the other forts around Nashville, however, lagged due to the rocky terrain, overcomplicated designs, lack of labor, and other more urgent priorities. Much of the defense line was not near completion until late 1864. Morton

championed the building of earthen fortifications, but he built Fort Negley of limestone due to the rocky terrain. He was able to design his other masterpiece — the massive Fortress Rosecrans in Murfreesboro — out of earth. The two forts were so formidable, neither was attacked during the war.

Also covered are the futile attempts by Confederate authorities to build and defend fortifications on the Tennessee and Cumberland rivers in 1861-62.

A longtime member of the Nashville Civil War Round Table and the Battle of Nashville Trust, Mark Zimmerman has authored and published eight local history books, including four on the Civil War—*Guide to Civil War Nashville*, *Iron Maidens and the Devil's Daughters* (the gunboat boat), *Mud, Blood & Cold Steel: The 1864 Retreat from Nashville*, and *Fortress Nashville*. He has presented at Fort Negley, Fort Defiance, Shiloh National Military Park, and Johnsonville State Historic Park. A former newspaperman and publications manager, he is now retired and owner/operator of Zimco Publications LLC (www.zimcopubs.com).

We hope you will join us for this month's program.



November 2022 meeting

Dr. James Byrd of Vanderbilt University gave us a wonderful program on how both sides viewed the Bible during the Civil War. America was a very religious country back then and with the Bible being the foundational book for that, it was easy for that book to remain highly important to both sides when the shooting started especially in a society where death was quite common even without war.

This was a terrific program and we hope to have Dr. Byrd back soon to speak to us on Tennessee's William "Parson" Brownlow.

FUTURE PROGRAMS:

February 2023 – Howard Mann, historian/ Nashville CWRT – "*The Battle of Pilot Knob, Missouri*"

March 2023 – Jamie Gillum, historian/author - "*Understanding the Battle of Perryville*"

April 2023 – Richard White, Tennessee State Museum curator – "*Confederate Collections in the State Museum*"

May 2023 – Curt Fields/U.S. Grant historian – topic TBA

June 2023 - Col. Ed Lowe (ret.) – "*James Longstreet's East Tennessee Campaign*" – based on his forthcoming book

July 2023 – Walter Green, historian/author – "*The Nashville & Decatur Railroad in the Civil War*" – based on his recent book

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

MEMBERS AND DUES – Due to Covid our fiscal year needed to change to the month when we first started back to regular meetings – so our fiscal year is now July. 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 2022-2022 fiscal year will be due at this meeting if you have not paid as yet! Please plan on paying them at that month's meeting if you have not already.

PLEASE PLAN ON PAYING YOUR DUES THIS MONTH SO WE CAN KEEP BRINGING IN GREAT SPEAKERS AND HELP SAVE CIVIL WAR SITES. If you cannot make a meeting then please drop off your check at Fort Negley. BOTTOM LINE FOLKS – without your dues we do not have programs so please support the efforts of the Nashville CWRT.

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 sales 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

Fort Donelson National Battlefield Anniversary Events – February 2023

What a wonderful series of programs and events we have in store for you during the observance of the 161st anniversary of the Campaign and Battles for Forts Henry, Heiman, and Donelson!

The events will kick off with a program at the Fort Heiman unit in New Concord, KY on February 4th and start with a real bang on February 11th in Dover, TN at Fort Donelson National Battlefield. There will be a civil war encampment, artillery and small arms demonstrations, interpretive programs on the historic events of February 1862, book signings, and guest speakers.

Our younger visitors should not forget about the special Junior Ranger badge that will be available over the weekend of the 11th and 12th of February. The Junior Ranger booklets will be available at the park visitor center and the encampment sites. Once completed, bring them back to the visitor center for the special badge.

Also, new this year, Fort Donelson National Battlefield will be partnering with the Fort Donelson Civil War Roundtable in presenting a series of speakers on February 11th at the Stewart County Visitor Center. The center is located at 117 Visitor Center Lane in Dover, TN. Several Distinguished speakers will present programs on the Second Battle of Dover in February of 1863. Below is a list of their schedule and programs:

CIVIL WAR SYMPOSIUM

117 Visitors Center Lane
Dover, TN 37058

Saturday - February 11th, 2023

Lectures:

9:00am	John Walsh	"1863 Battle of Dover"
11:00am	Dr. Brian Wills	"Lessons in Leadership: Forrest at Donelson & Dover"
1:00pm	Myers Brown	"Arms & Equipage of Forrest & Wheeler's Cavalry"
2:00pm	Ken Gott	"Logistic Operations of the FODO Campaign"
6:30pm	Kevin Sugg	"Career of Colonel Cyrus Sugg, 50 th TN Infantry"

Civil War Artifact Displays Interpretive Displays Local Historians On Hand

Along with these events, Fort Donelson National Battlefield will be hosting Living History Camps, Black Powder Demonstrations, Battlefield Tours, and Presentations throughout the day – Please Check Their Schedule

This symposium is being presented in coordination with
Fort Donelson National Battlefield & The Fort Henry & Donelson Campaign Group
For More Information – Ski: 931-561-5031 / John: 931-801-4530
Times Subject To Change Due To Weather – Please Watch for Updates

Book Signing Meet & Greet Saturday February 11th

Stewart Co. Visitors Center
117 Visitors Center Lane
Dover, Tn



Dr. Brian Wills is a noted historian & author of numerous civil war books. He has been featured on CSPAN and lectures nationally.



Ken Gott is the former Sr. Historian at the US Combat Study Institute and author of several books, most notably, *"Where The South Lost The War – An Analysis of the Fort Henry – Donelson Campaign Feb 1862"*



Myers Brown serves as the Exec Director of Belmont Mansion and has served as the Chief Historian at the TN State Library. Author of several works on the Civil War.

Times Subject to Change
9:00am – 3:00pm



Dewey Edwards is an author of several works. His latest historical work, *"A Ridge Too Far"* focuses on the life of Col. Cyruss Sugg, 50th TN.

*Brought to you by Stewart County Arts & Heritage Council & Fort Donelson Relics
More Information: Ski 931-561-5031 – John 931-801-4530*

Fort Heiman and Henry programming

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 4TH
2:00pm

Location: Education Pavilion, 682 Fort Heiman Road, New Concord, KY
161st Anniversary Programming for the Battles for Fort Henry and Heiman

February marks the 161st anniversary of the advance by the Union Army, under the Command of Brigadier General Ulysses Grant, and the partnered Mississippi River Squadron of gunboats, commanded by Flag Officer Andrew Foote, of the February 5 approach upon and February 6 battle for Confederate Forts Henry and Heiman. Fort Donelson will be hosting a program in observance of the engagement that was not only the first victory of the Forts Henry, Heiman, and Donelson Campaign, but also opened the vital Tennessee River deep into the Confederate heartland.

Gather at the remote Fort Heiman Unit for a hike to the little known, but impressive Confederate fortifications that were constructed high above the Tennessee River to protect flood-prone Fort Henry and learn why they failed.

The program will include a short hike of approximately eight-tenths of a mile on mostly gravel and rough surfaces. All participants are encouraged to wear appropriate clothing and footwear for the adventure.

161st Anniversary Programming for the Battle of Fort Donelson

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 11th

10:00 AM, 12:00, 1:00 PM, and 2:00 PM

“Rumble On the River”—Infantry and Artillery Drill and Demonstrations

Location: Fort Donelson NB Visitor Center

120 Fort Donelson Park Road, Dover, TN

Step back to early 1862 and experience the sights and sounds of Confederate infantry as they alternate demonstrating Civil War infantry and artillery drill and the firing of both period rifle and cannon. An encampment of the period and interpretation by rangers will also be on-site.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 11th

4:30 pm

“The Enemy is trying to escape.” The Union Counterattack on Confederate forces at Fort Donelson, February 15th, 1862.

Location: Fort Donelson National Battlefield visitor center, 120 Fort Donelson Park Road.

One of the oft-told stories from the Battle at Fort Donelson is the tale of the Confederate Army’s daybreak attack on the unsuspecting Union soldiers. Once Brigadier General U.S. Grant realized what the Confederate forces were trying to accomplish, he gave the command to seize the initiative and ordered a counterattack on the lightly defended Confederate right flank.

Join us this anniversary for a unique program offered by the National Park Service staff and park volunteers as they share the story of the hard-fought day of combat, using the very words and expressed emotions of the officers and enlisted men on that cold, wintry Saturday in February 1862.

For this walking tour, visitors should meet at the Fort Donelson National Battlefield visitor center parking lot. Total walking distance is approximately a half-mile. Dress warmly and bring a flashlight.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 12th

11:00 AM, 1:00 PM, and 3:00 PM

“Rumble On the River”—Infantry and Artillery Drill and Demonstrations

Location: Fort Donelson National Battlefield Visitor Center

120 Fort Donelson Park Road, Dover, TN

Step back to early 1862 and experience the sights and sounds of the Confederate infantry as they alternate demonstrating Civil War infantry and artillery drill and the firing of both period rifle and cannon. An encampment of the period and interpretation by rangers will also be on-site.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 12TH

2:00 pm

Location: Fort Donelson NB visitor center
120 Fort Donelson Park Road, Dover, TN

Join noted author and historian Ken Gott for a book signing at the visitor center.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 13TH

11:00 am and 1:00 pm

Location: Fort Donelson National Battlefield Visitor Center
120 Fort Donelson Park Road, Dover, TN

Join noted historian and author Ken Gott for two programs on the complicated logistics of supplying Brigadier General Grant's troops throughout the battles of Fort Heiman, Henry and Donelson.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 14TH

12:00pm, 1:00pm, 2:00 pm, 3:00 pm

Exchanging "Iron Valentines"—The Naval Battles of Forts Henry and Donelson
Location: Lower River Battery, Tour Stop #4

Join long-time Park Historian (retired) and author Jim Jobe for programs at 12:00 pm and 1:00pm and park staff at 2:00 pm and 3:00pm. Sharing the same strategic perspective as the Confederate artillery 160 years before, visitors will hear the story of the iron-clad vs land battery engagements of Fort Donelson and their significance.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 15TH

11:00am

"You came here to die"— Brigadier General Smith and the Taking of Fort Donelson
Location: Tour Stop # 5 Smith's Attack, Fort Donelson National Battlefield

Join historian and author Greg Biggs (and a special guest) as he shares the challenges faced by Union regiments tasked with scaling, while under fire, this steep, snow-covered ridge, and taking possession of the entrenched line of Confederates above them.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 15TH

1:00 PM

Confederate Breakout Attempt of February 15th Ranger-Led Auto Caravan Tour

(RESERVATIONS REQUIRED)

Location to start: Stewart County Library parking lot, 102 Natcor Drive, Drive, Dover, TN. This program will follow the Confederate "Breakout" attempt of February 15, 1862, via a caravan tour led by Fort Donelson National Battlefield volunteer and historian Jim Vaughn. Was this a lost opportunity for Confederate escape or one of the great "blunders" of military leadership?

Participation is limited and requires reservations by calling 931-232-5706 ext. 0.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 16th

11:00 AM and 1:00pm

"Recollections of the Battle – The Approach of Victory," an Interview with General Grant

Location: Tour Stop # 10, Dover Hotel / "Surrender House," 101 Petty Street, Dover, TN

Join us at the historic Surrender House for a program with Brigadier General Grant. The General will be interviewed by historian John Walsh and share of his recollections of the battle and of his actions leading to victory at the battle of Fort Donelson.

All events and event times are subject to change or cancellation without advance notice. For current event information and updates, please check out the park facebook page at [Fort Donelson National Battlefield | Dover TN \(facebook.com\)](https://www.facebook.com/FortDonelsonNationalBattlefield)

Union General Ulysses S. Grant Gets Promoted

Cincinnati Enquirer, December 25, 2002

Southwest Ohio native Ulysses S. Grant to get posthumous promotion Story by Erin Glynn

Clermont County native Ulysses S. Grant would receive a posthumous promotion, thanks to a defense bill passed by Congress and now awaiting President Biden's signature.

The 2023 National Defense Authorization Act included a measure promoting Grant to General of the Armies of the United States, the highest rank in the U.S. Army. John Pershing also received the honor after World War I, as did George Washington for the country's bicentennial in 1976.

The measure was introduced by Ohio Senator Sherrod Brown and two Missouri Republican legislators, Senator Roy Blunt and U.S. Rep. Amy Wagner. "President Ulysses S. Grant, a son of Ohio, served his nation with honor and distinction," Brown said in a release for the 200th anniversary of Grant's birth earlier this year. "Grant's exemplary leadership on the battlefield could only be overshadowed by his commitment to a more just nation for all Americans during the Reconstruction Era.

Grant was born in Clermont County's Point Pleasant, Ohio on April 27, 1822. This past April

would have been Grant's 200th birthday. He died in 1885.

Grant's family moved to Georgetown, Ohio when he was one year old. Grant lived in Georgetown until he left to attend West Point at 17 years old and returned often on his school breaks. The family then moved to Bethel, Ohio in Clermont County.

"We think it's very well deserved," Stan Purdy, president of the U.S. Grant Homestead Association told The Enquirer. "In the late 1800s, there was a medallion established that featured Washington as founder, Lincoln as martyr and Grant as savior so I think it's very appropriate for the general to receive this elevation in his rank that would be equal to that of Washington."



Grant's birthplace in Point Pleasant, Ohio

Tour Opportunity from Myers Brown, director of Belmont Mansion in Nashville

Myers would like to offer an exclusive tour of Belmont Mansion, which was the headquarters of Union Gen. Thomas Wood during the Battle of Nashville. From Myers: *"I would conduct the tour and it would focus on all of the Civil War connections to the mansion. Obviously, the biggest part of that would be the Battle of Nashville but we have other connections as well. The tour would include entrance to the Mansion but would also include some touring on the*

grounds and possibly access to the water tower (now the university bell tower). I was thinking of doing this on a Saturday in the spring. Do you think this would be something your members would be interested in doing? We would charge for the tour but I would only open it up to CWRT members. When I offered the Civil War Tour in December we charged \$35 per person. That cost includes what we charge for the curator's tour plus a copy of our publication *Fourteen Days of Waiting: Belmont Mansion Before the Battle of Nashville* which is provided to all participants. This tour is unique in that we not only show folks around the house but we also cover the grounds, bring out recovered relics found on the grounds AND, as long as I can work it out, a trip up the water tower.

We would need to limit the tour to no more than 25 people or so. We could offer different Saturdays for each CWRT group. Here are the Saturdays I can offer up as possibilities March 18, April 1 and April 15, 2023"

Let's discuss this at the meeting this month! Thanks Myers!

BOOKS BOOKS BOOKS!!!! A Large Selection of Books Still Available at the Nashville CWRT This Month!

We appreciate those of you who bought from this great book selection last month! The CWRT needs funds to keep getting in speakers and the book sales go towards that so thank you! The prices for these great books are 50 per cent off or more off retail prices so there's some great deals here for your library! Please keep buying and supporting your CWRT! We sold a good number of books last month - thank you to those that supported our CWRT!

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