



Nashville Civil War Roundtable

Founded April, 2009 – Nashville, Tennessee – Now Part of the Battle of Nashville Trust, April 2025

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

July 15th, 2025 – Our 169th meeting!! We continue our fifteenth year!

The next meeting of the Nashville (TN) Civil War Roundtable will be on Tuesday, July 15th, 2025, in the visitor's center of Ft. Negley Park, a unit of Metro Parks, Nashville, TN. This is located at 1100 Fort Negley Blvd. 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.

This month's program – “*The Battle of Newtonia, Missouri*”

The First Battle of Newtonia took place on September 30, 1862, near Newtonia, Missouri, during the Civil War. The engagement involved Confederate forces under the command of Colonel Douglas H. Cooper and a Union column led by Brigadier General Frederick Salomon. Cooper's troops had advanced into southwestern Missouri and established a camp near Newtonia. The Confederate contingent consisted mainly of cavalry under Colonel Joseph O. Shelby and a brigade of Native Americans. In response, a Union force commanded by Brigadier General James G. Blunt mobilized to engage Cooper's position, with Salomon leading the advance.

On September 29, Salomon's Union force approached Newtonia and initiated an attack against the Confederates on September 30. A preliminary Union assault under Colonel

Edward Lynde was repelled by Cooper's forces in the morning. Both armies received additional reinforcements, resulting in protracted and dynamic fighting throughout the afternoon. Near dusk, the Confederates launched a significant offensive that compelled Salomon to withdraw his forces from the battlefield. The retreat was covered by militia led by Colonel George Hall; however, artillery fire from the Confederate side disrupted the withdrawal, causing portions of the Union force to become disorganized. Reported Union casualties range from 245 to more than 400, while Confederate casualties numbered 78. In early October, as Blunt's full division advanced toward Newtonia, Cooper elected to withdraw his forces from Missouri.

Our speaker this month is Michael Manning who has spoken to us before about the war in the Indian Territory

Michael Manning is the retired Chief Park Ranger of Fort Donelson National Battlefield, Tennessee. He retired after a 32-year career with the National Park Service specializing in law enforcement and historic military interpretation. In addition, he has served as a Park Ranger at other NPS areas including Horseshoe Bend National Military Park, Alabama; Fort Larned National Historic Site, Kansas; and Scotts Bluff National Monument, Nebraska. He began his military historical interpretation career as a volunteer Historic Site Attendant at Fort Gibson State Historic Site, Oklahoma, while he was a student at Northeastern State University in Tahlequah, Oklahoma. He also possesses a M.A. degree in Military Studies (Land Warfare) /w Honors, from the American Military University, Charles Town, West Virginia. Mike served as an enlisted petty officer in the U.S. Navy Seabees and later as a commissioned officer of the Military Police Corps of the U.S. Army Reserves. He was also an honor graduate of the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center in Glynco, Georgia. His research focus is the Civil War in the Trans-Mississippi West with a specialization of the war in the Indian Territory (Oklahoma). Be sure to watch for his upcoming book, "They Fought Like Veterans:" The Military History of the Civil War in the Indian Territory," upcoming within the next year.

We hope you will join us for this fine program on the war in the Trans-Mississippi Theater.

June Program

The Nashville CWRT was happy to welcome back Dr. Lucas Wilder for his first person portrayal of legendary Confederate cavalry General James Ewell Brown Stuart (AKA JEB Stuart). Wilder has been enamored of Stuart since a boy and his fascination has helped him create this excellent program that covered details of his pre-war and wartime life. Included in this were personal moments of his family. The program was very well researched and presented. Wilder is the official JEB Stuart living historian for the JEB Stuart Birthplace, Laurel Hill, in Virginia. We appreciate Dr. Wilder and his excellent program and thank him for coming back to speak to us. You can keep up with his Civil War musings on his YouTube program, "*History Gone Wilder.*"

FUTURE PROGRAMS:

August 2025 - Ross Massey, author and historian – *“McFadden’s Ford at Stones River”*

September 2025 – Casey Gillespie – historian, Belle Meade – *“Nashville and the Opening of Middle Tennessee in 1862”*

October 2025 - Bob Stewart, historian/author – *“The Battle of Munford, Alabama, April 1865”*

November 2025 – Shirley Farris Jones, author/historian – *“Martha Ready Morgan: From Wife to Widow in 630 Days”*

January 2026 – Ross Hudgins, historian/author – *“Maggie Vaulx and the Great Panic in Nashville”*

NO DATE SCHEDULED – Robert Jenkins, historian/author – *“The Cassville Affairs,”* based on his new 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 – Our new dues structure is listed below. The new fiscal year is now January 1st through December 31st. Thus, we will begin collecting dues for the 2026 campaign year starting in December/January. Our new dues schedule is thus:

\$50 – individuals and families. This also gets you some nice perks too like two gifts and some discounts to events!

\$25 – military – active duty and veterans

Students are free.

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!

Lastly, if you have not been back to the Nashville CWRT in some time please come again. We would love to have you back with us!

NCWRT President Howard Mann’s Essay – *Comments of an Officer, Co. C, 12th United States Colored Troops*

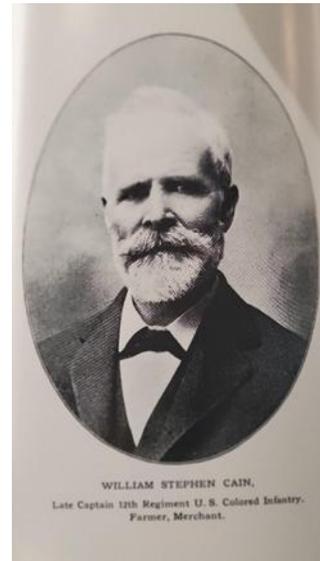
In 1908, Captain William S. Cain, Company C, 12th USCT, decided to write a brief autobiography on himself and several relatives for his family posterity. He was born on the Isle of Man, off the coast of England, and was proud of his family heritage as a Manxman. In 1852 William accompanied his father to the gold mines in Australia and, after disappointment,

returned to the Isle of Man in 1855. Still searching for a better life, William left for America in 1855 and, encouraging his family to join him, arrived in Kansas in 1856.

The advent of the Civil War drew William and his brothers on the side of the Union. He enrolled in the 8th Kansas Infantry on September 10, 1861. He was promoted as 1st Lieutenant, 1st Regiment USCT Infantry, under Colonel Charles Thompson, as Adjutant, and in 1863 was appointed Captain of Company C, 12th USCT, July 5, 1864, at Nashville.



Capt William S, Cain



Col. John Martin, 8th Kansas

The 8th Kansas Infantry was stationed at Nashville, under Colonel John Martin in May of 1863 when he tells an interesting story:

When we first started out in Company "C," 8th Kansas, there was quite a number of young men who held prayer meetings, and when they quit held these meeting I don't remember, but if religion was a tangible quantity the wreckage of it would be found all along our line of march.

In this connection I remember being in camp at Nashville, Tenn., and I was Sergeant-Major we had no Chaplain, and the duty of taking the last wishes of dying soldiers seemed to devolve on me. It was not strictly in my line of duty, and I asked the Colonel commanding to have a Chaplain appointed. He refused and I wrote to the Governor of Kansas to send us a Chaplain, saying a Methodist minister would fill the position acceptably. The Rev. John Paulson received the appointment, and reported for duty to Colonel John A. Martin, who immediately ordered me to appear before him. He was then Provost Marshal of Nashville, Tenn., at the Capitol. When I got there he was a very angry man, and told me I must pay Paulson's expenses from and back to Kansas, and that he could reduce me to the ranks for violation of army regulations. I replied that I knew that all he said was true, and that I had counted the possible cost in advance, but would appeal to the Regimental Council of Administration and the people of Kansas on the

issue. Paulson was made Chaplain, but our old prayer-meeting comrades poked all sorts of fun at Chickamauga by his fearless conduct on the battle-field in ministering to the wounded and dying soldiers, and from that date had all the regiment for his friends.

Later, as an officer of U.S. Colored troops, my association with the officers was very pleasant. They were all men of more than average culture, all had to pass a rigid examination before a board of generals in the school of the soldier, company, and battalion. Our Chaplain was a Christian churchman, and a good educator for our ignorant soldiers – all ex-slaves.



Col. Charles S. Johnson, 12th
USCT

Colonel Charles R. Thompson commanding had been an Aide on the staff of General Rosecrans, who was a devout Catholic; but Colonel Thompson, when we as not making love to some of the handsome young ladies of the country, talked like a disciple of Theodore Parker. He received some of that peculiar literature of the time. One feature always seemed strange to me, in their form of prayer: it read, "O God, our Father and our Mother."

Despite his self-introspection, Captain Cain, does reference fighting with the 12th USCT, although his brief remembrances are not in chronological order in his autobiography, I have re-ordered them.

Skirmish at Smith's Springs, Clarksville, December 2, 1864

In the affair at Smith's Springs, when the head of my company was fired upon, I halted the command and rode to the front to investigate. My orders were to avoid a fight, but to get in touch with the enemy's outposts, and try to capture some of their men and find what command

they belonged to, and report at the nearest telegraph station. Just as I got a little in front of my company, I saw three Confederate soldiers taking deliberate aim at me. In an instant I gave the command, "Forward!" and we were quickly in a callop after the fleeing outpost; but they escaped, although probably wounded, for we sent many bullets after them. My horse got a bullet intended for me, but he carried me splendidly in his rage at the smarting of his wound.

Reconnaissance south of Fort Negley, Nashville, December 1864

In a reconnaissance south of Fort Negley, in December 1864, we had to advance cautiously to discover the enemy's lines and halted the command frequently to perfect our alignment in the dense scrub-oak brush. Lieut. B. F. Cook was the first man to draw the enemy's fire. A rifle-ball passed through his shoulder, splintering the collar bone. I was with Surgeon Gustavus Stegman when he was dressing and cleaning the wound. It was very painful, and the surgeon recommended Cook to take some spirits while picking the splinters of bone out of the wound. "If it is a case of life or death I will take it, not otherwise," was Cook's reply. He took no spirits, and in a few months was well, except for the loss of the use of his arm.

Two days after Cook was wounded, another Lieutenant – who had been assigned to my command when I was sent to break up a guerrilla band near Beard's distillery, and who got so drunk on that occasion as to be worse than useless – received a flesh wound, the ball passing through the calf of the leg. Our service was so severe at that time that I remarked to another officer I would gladly give fifty dollars to have a similar wound honorably received in the line of duty, so that I could get a good rest. But we were pushed forward, after the battle of Nashville, in pursuit of Hood's army, and it was some weeks later, at the close of the campaign, when I got round to the hospital to inquire for our officers and men who were wounded. Lieut. D. was dead because of gangrene, the result of alcoholic poison.

Battle of Nashville, December 15-16, 1864

One instance at the battle of Nashville seems worthy of record. We had advanced under a heavy fire to make a charge on a six-gun battery, and while waiting for other supporting formations to get in line we were lying in a soft, muddy hollow. A shell buried itself a foot from my head. The Colonel commanding the brigade came up and lay down over the place where the shell had buried itself. I cautioned him. He replied, "The fuse is out now, and they couldn't hit the same spot again." Several shells exploded over our heads and the Major commanding our regiment was struck with a fragment, but we did not think it amounted to anything serious. Colonel Thompson looked back and saw the Major was very pale. After looking at the Major the Colonel said to me in a bantering manner, "The Major has that look of heaven upon his face that limners give the loved disciple." Just then the signal for the charge was given, and the Colonel jumped up and gave the command to the regimental commanders. As Major Amasa J. Finch got up to command our regiment a musket-ball passed through the center of his hand, shattering the bones and turning him around a little, and at the same instant another ball

passed through both the right and left gluteus maximus muscles, and the senior Captain took command. We advanced in good order. The left file of the company on my right got excited, and was shouting and pressing forward of our alignment, when I placed my saber in front of him and told him to quit making a noise, as it interfered with hearing or giving orders. In less time than it takes to tell it a round shot or unexploded shell took the upper part of his body away and we rushed into the battery. The enemy were demoralized and fleeing, but some wounded officers and men who could not get away began to yell, "G-d d-n it, boys, they are only niggers!" and all the pride of Dixie land came back on us with reinforcements, and we had to abandon the guns. As we retired, I was near Col. Hottenstein of the 13th Regiment. He had received a slight wound in the face, blood streaming from it, but apparently unconscious of it he sat his horse and swore at our men for running when it was easier to stay. We were soon re-formed, and before sunset we had the guns taken by the troops that supported our charge.

Hood's Retreat, December 16th through 29th

Our pursuit of the shattered remains of Hood's army ended at La Grange with the capture of their pontoon train, and we were ordered back to Nashville very tired and nearly exhausted. car, the other cars filled with soldiers. I unbuckled my saber-belt and revolver and lay down on the car-bottom to rest and was soon asleep. About midnight I was rudely awakened by a sudden jolt which bumped my head against the end of the car, and it seemed as if a thousand men were shouting "Surrender!" I jumped to the car-door and gave the command "Commence firing!" Having been Adjutant, all the men knew my command and began a sharp fire. Then the Confederates (it was a Kentucky Brigade) were surprised, and in the confusion the obstructions were removed, and we proceeded on our way to Nashville.

While Captain William S. Cain did not cite his feelings about his men, his writings do imply his pride in their bravery and his responsibility.

Many civilians imagine that the life of an officer in the U.S. Army is one of ease, and with very little responsibility attached to it. For the sake of any members of our family who may hereafter enter the army, I say this is a mistake. The care and management of a company of young men full of life and vigor, many of them reckless, requires constant, unceasing attention and a study of the individual characteristics of each member of the company; and a certain amount of sympathy must go with stern discipline, to enable the commander to get the best results.

Some photos of 12th US Colored Troops officers and soldiers.

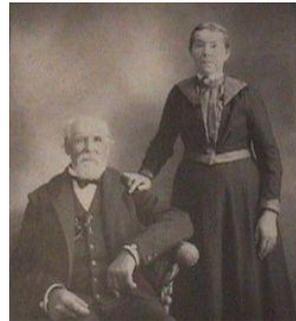
First Lieutenant William L. Clark of Co. G and Co. H, 12th U.S. Colored Troops Infantry Regiment (USCT) in uniform] / T.M. Schleier, photographer, cor. Union and Cherry Sts., and 27 Public Square, Nashville, Tennessee.



Major Amasa J. Finch, 12th
USCT



Pvt Henry Daniel, 12th
USCT



Capt Joseph D. Jagger,
12th USCT

CIVIL WAR NEWS AND EVENTS IN OUR AREA

Battle of Nashville Trust Web Site and the Clearing Of Redoubt One

Some wonderful news about turning the view of Redoubt One back into something that visitors can finally see in terms of why this redoubt was placed where it was. This was part of five redoubts that held John Bell Hood's left flank for the first day of the Battle of Nashville. All of these were eventually overrun in the massive Union assault.

From the BONT Facebook page:

June, 2025 – THE NEVER ENDING STORY OF PRESERVATION – These photos show just another week in the world of keeping parts of the Nashville Battlefield preserved and maintained. It's just a glimpse of the constant work and vigilance required for The Battle of Nashville Trust to maintain Shy's Hill and Redoubt No. 1. Shown are equipment and workers

from The Parke Company, clearing out debris and unwanted growth from the Redoubt on Benham Avenue. The hot work – the exact opposite of the cold, rainy weather on Dec. 15, 1864, when the battle raged on this ground – resulted in significantly reopening the view from the Redoubt and its field guns to the north and the skyline of Nashville. For more on this story as well as additional photos, visit the website at [Features | The Battle of Nashville Trust](#).

Or you can go via this link: <http://www.battleofnashvilletrust.org/features/>

Since the Nashville CWRT is now part of the Battle of Nashville Trust their web site link will be posted in the newsletter from now on. This is the place to go for news, upcoming events, battlefield fundraising and more. The site is easy to use and is packed with great information including aspects of the history of the battle, site that can still be seen today and how to get there, maps (current and historic) and much more.

Please visit this link - <https://www.battleofnashvilletrust.org/>

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