



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

August 19th, 2025 – Our 170th meeting!! We continue our sixteenth year!

The next meeting of the Nashville (TN) Civil War Roundtable will be on Tuesday, August 19th, 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 – *“Nashville and the Opening of Middle Tennessee 1862”*

The capture of Fort Donelson on February 16, 1862 opened up the Cumberland River route to the state capital in Nashville. Clarksville fell on February 19th and Nashville on the 25th. This caused a panic in that city and opened up the heart of Middle Tennessee to Union occupation and several battles designed to contest the city's loss.

Our speaker this month is Casey Gillespie and his program will have an in-depth discussion on the fall of Forts Henry and Donelson, the capture of Nashville, and the subsequent fortification and occupation of one of the South's most strategically vital cities. He'll explore the military and civilian leadership at each site and bring the story to life through period photography and civilian accounts that reveal what Nashville looked like during this pivotal time. The program will also highlight the often-overlooked contributions of enslaved laborers in constructing the

city's extensive fortification network, as well as the lasting legacies of their work in the postwar era.

Casey Gillespie is the Director of Interpretation at Belle Meade Historic Site and Winery in Nashville Tennessee. Casey has played a leading role in shaping how Belle Meade tells its story, most recently earning recognition from the Tennessee Association of Museums for his award-winning tour, *The Battle at Belle Meade: Civil War Tour*. A United States Army veteran and seventh-generation Tennessean, Casey has dedicated over four years to serving the public at Belle Meade, where he brings a deep passion for historical accuracy and public engagement. He is a graduate of Cumberland University and currently resides in Robertson County with his wife, Kayla.

We hope you will join us for this program which has significant local importance.

July Program

Former NPS Chief Ranger Mike Manning gave a very informative program on the First Battle of Newtonia in southwest Missouri fought in September 1862. An authority on the Civil War in the Indian Territory, now Oklahoma, Newtonia, being so close to the former territory, had influence on what happened there. Using 21st Century photographs and detailed maps to illustrate the program, Manning filled us all in on how the battle developed, was fought and why it happened. The battle was unique in that, like Pea Ridge in nearby Arkansas, Confederate Indian units were also involved in their victory. The outcome for the Confederates was short-lived, however, as Union reinforcements flooded the region forcing a Confederate withdrawal. We appreciate Mike Manning and his knowledge of a lesser-known battle.

FUTURE PROGRAMS:

September 2025 – Howard Mann, Nashville CWRT – *The 12th United States Colored Troops*

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*

February 2026 – Ross Massey, historian/author – *“McFadden’s Bend in the Stones River Campaign”*

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 – *“Nashville Under Law and Order: the Provost Marshals of Nashville, February 1862 through 1865”*

From the submission to Union control in February 1862 to the end of the war, Nashville as a city was closely managed under the rule of military law through the assigned Provost Marshals.

Both the Provost Marshal and the Provost Guard were tasked with enforcing military law within the city. In addition to guarding certain locations and acting as police, the provost marshal and guard were assigned the following wartime duties:

1. Arresting deserters, spies and disloyal citizens.
2. Managing records related to paroles and oaths of allegiance.
3. Controlling civilian movement within military zones and on government transportation.
4. Investigating the theft of government property.

The topic of detailing every Provost Marshal will take more than one article so I will divide them up in spans of time. The first group is Colonel Stanley Matthews, and Colonel Lewis Campbell, 69th Ohio Infantry.

Colonel Stanley Matthews, 51st Ohio Infantry, first Provost Marshal, was appointed upon the occupation of Nashville in February 1862. His duties focused on establishing the role of Provost Marshal and applying military law to the community. He appears to have been very sociable, open to the community's concerns at the outset of his tenure.

On June 14, 1862, Colonel Stanley Matthews, at Nashville, reported there were no troops in Nashville except the Provost Guard and the “unorganized First Tennessee Regiment (Governor’s Guards).”



Transcriptions in the Nashville Daily Union seem to bear Colonel Stanley Matthews' forbearance.

Nashville Daily Union, April-July 1862 – NASHVILLE DAILY UNION, April 23, 1862, p. 3, c. 2.

From our own observation, we cordially endorse the following communication from one of the best and most intelligent citizens of Nashville. The Provost Marshal. We know of no more difficult, delicate and arduous post than that filled by Col. Stanley Matthews. It requires tireless industry, imperturbable patience, united to great business capacity, the qualities and discipline of a soldier as well as the intelligence of an accomplished lawyer. The word leisure, must be erased from his vocabulary, and work made the meaning title of its every page. Yet, all the duties incident to such a situation have been discharged by Col. Matthews with universal satisfaction and admiration. His ceaseless energy, only equalled [sic] by his uniform kindness and gentlemanly deportment, have endeared him to every one. He can be firm while polite, and generous while severe. If, in the discharge of his duty, he wounds, you regret the occasion but never censure the man. He is, in a word, both a gentleman, a soldier and a scholar; and both the citizen and the soldier esteem Nashville fortunate in the possession of her Provost Marshal.

NASHVILLE DAILY UNION, May 16, 1862, p. 3, c. 2

Female Aspect of the Rebellion. A ludicrous incident took place a few days ago at the Provost Marshal's Headquarters. Four rebel ladies called to see Col. Matthews. Across the walk and between the outer gate and the house a large national flag is suspended. Two of the ladies passed under it but the other two vowed in animated tones that they would not bow their heads

to that "filthy Lincoln rag." When the party was about to leave, the two who had gone into the Provost's room passed out of the gate, but the other two were stopped by the guard. "What do you mean, Sir! Let us out instantly!" exclaimed one of the stiff-necked rebels sharply. "Not a step," said the guard, "you wantonly insulted that flag which we are here to defend, and you can't leave this place without permission of the Provost." The ladies whirled around in a furious rage, making a brilliant exhibition of garters and other unmentionable things to the eyes of the guard, and went back under the flag to see Col. Matthews. Ladies have a peculiarly nervous twitchibility to their gait when much excited, and so one of the fair ones caught her heel in her hoops, and in extricating herself got the other foot into the same trap and whirled head foremost and feet flying upwards, into the soft blue grass which waves in the shady yard like the sea-green plumage of a Bird of Paradise. The goddess of Modesty who suckled us at her soft bosom in tender infancy and whose foster child we have ever been, here bids us draw a thick veil "impenetrable to mortal eyes," over what poor Peeping Tom of Coventry sought to behold when the noble Lady Godiva rode through the streets of that ancient city on her milk-white steed. We obey her sacred command and content ourselves with quoting the well known lines of Tom Moore, which tell how poor Hebe while walking one night across the sky stumbled against a star— "And all Heaven's host of eyes Saw those luxuriant beauties sink In lapse of loveliness along the azure skies. The wanton wind Which had pursued the flying fair And sweetly twined Its spirit with the breathing wings Of her ambrosial hair, Soared as she fell, and on its folding [?] wings— Oh wanton wind! Wafted the robe whose sacred flow Shadowed her kindling charms of snow, The brow of Juno flushed— Love blessed the breeze! The Muses blushed, And every cheek was hid behind a lyre; While every eye was glancing through the strings! As Mark Anthony said: What a fall was there my countryman!" We will notice the next case that turns up.

NASHVILLE DAILY UNION, June 8, 1862, p. 3, c. 1

Arrest for Smuggling. Some days ago a Mr. Morris Lusky got a permit from Provost Marshal, Col. Matthews, to take \$500 worth of Dry Goods to DeKalb county on taking the oath and giving bond. His teams were so heavily loaded that it excited the suspicions of the picket, who overhauled the load and found double the quantity of goods for which the permit was granted, together with a considerable quantity of drugs, amounting perhaps to \$800 or more. The contraband dealer will suffer for his conduct.

NASHVILLE DAILY UNION, June 10, 1862, p. 1, c. 3

Notice to Retailers of Spirits. Headquarters Provost Guard, } Nashville, Tenn., June 8, 1862.} Notice is hereby given to all persons interested, that the retail of ardent spirits or other intoxicating drinks, is strictly prohibited, and that henceforth, this prohibition will be rigidly and impartially enforced. Offenders against this order will be summarily punished by fine and imprisonment. By command of Brig. Gen. E. Dumont, Stanley Matthews. Col. and Provost Marshal.

Betts, Vicki, "Nashville Daily Union, April-July 1862" (2016). By Title. Paper 101.
<http://hdl.handle.net/10950/738>

Colonel Matthews was replaced by Colonel Lewis Davis Campbell, 69th Ohio Infantry.



NASHVILLE DAILY UNION, July 4, 1862, p. 2, c. 2

Col. L. D. Campbell, of the 69th Ohio Volunteers, whose removal to this place we noticed some two weeks since, has succeeded Col. Matthews as Provost Marshal of the city. He will fill the office admirably, we are confident and will pursue such a policy as will encourage and strengthen the hearts and hands of our loyal citizens, and repress the insolence of blatant rebels. The tender-footed policy has proved a signal failure wherever it has been tried, and it has been tried in hundreds of places, by officers who treated fanatical and enraged rebels as if they were conscientious and rational beings.

The relationships between the Nashville citizenry weren't always cordial. One of the soldiers of the 69th regiment Ohio, now in Nashville, writes to a fellow citizen that the Secesh are still rife and rabid among the rich and purse-proud in that city and in the State of Tennessee. The laboring classes and the poor are devoted to the Union and greet our troops wherever they go. The correspondent gives an amusing incident which occurred between him and two ladies (?) of the rebel corps in Nashville: "I happened to stop to look in a window, where there were some engravings, two finely dressed ladies standing by at the same place; one of them slightly turned her head and looked at me disdainfully, and curling up her lips, remarked to her companion, 'Another Lincoln hireling.' I stood on my dignity, and replied, 'that my daddy was wealthier than hers.' 'Who is he, pray, sir, said she scornfully. 'Uncle Sam's my daddy,' said I, 'and Jonathan's my brother.' She caved."

This wasn't an unusual confrontation. The 69th Ohio arrived in Nashville in February 1862 and their tenure sent them to Franklin, Tennessee soon afterward. The 69th Ohio's history revealed that Colonel Campell's role as Provost Marshal wasn't lengthy.

On the 1st of May it went to Franklin, where it acted as the guard for forty miles of the Tennessee and Alabama Railroad. The rebel women of Franklin were especially bitter, and on one occasion evinced their venom against the national dead buried in the cemetery by dancing

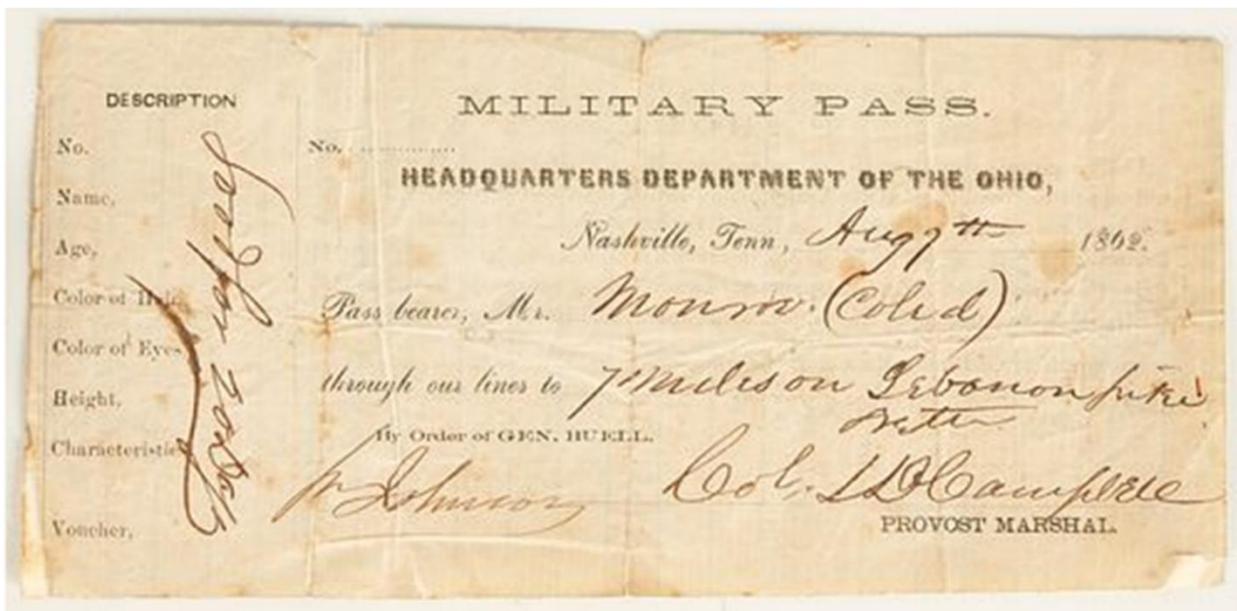
on their graves. Colonel CAMPBELL issued an order commenting in severe terms upon this indignity and warning the people of Franklin against a repetition of such dastardly insults.

The regiment returned to Nashville on the 8th of June, going from that place by rail to Murfreesboro, and joining an expedition across the Cumberland Mountains. It returned to Murfreesboro at its close, having given a good illustration of its powers of marching. The troops suffered severely, and the rations proved to be in very short supply.

On the 20th of June they again entered Nashville, where it remained, doing provost duty until the last of July, Colonel CAMPBELL acting as provost marshal. General MORGAN, the rebel cavalry officer, made a descent upon Gallatin while the Sixty-ninth was in Nashville, and that regiment, with the Eleventh Michigan, went out to meet them, which they did with success, driving the enemy away, but losing one man, Isaas REPP, of Dayton. This was the first loss of the Sixty-ninth in battle.

Colonel CAMPBELL resigned on the 9th of August and was succeeded by Lieutenant-colonel William B. CASSILLY.

An artifact sold online showed that writing passes occupied some of Colonel Campbell's time.



Military pass issued in Union-occupied Nashville allowing an African American man to pass through the military lines. Partially printed document reads "Pass bearer, Mr. Monroe (Colr d [sic]) through our lines to 71 miles on Lebanon Pike [illegible]" by order of Major General Don Carlos Buell and is "good for 20 days." Signed by Provost Marshal Colonel Lewis D. Campbell and also bears the signature "[Illegible] Johnson." 3 3/4" x 7 3/4".

With Colonel Campbell's resignation, a more seasoned Colonel Alvin C. Gillem, 10th Tennessee, would succeed to the Provost Marshal role.

CIVIL WAR NEWS AND EVENTS

Noted Civil War Historian Eric Wittenberg Passes Away From Cancer – A Personal Note From Your Newsletter Editor



Eric Wittenberg, a noted Civil War historian who specialized in cavalry operations, passed away from cancer on Saturday, August 2nd in Columbus, Ohio. He spoke to the Nashville CWRT some years ago and those who were there heard from a master historian and award-winning author. My wife and I have known Eric and his wife Susan for many years starting after we moved to western Ohio from Los Angeles in 1992. Getting to know both of them and their many Golden Retrievers of the years has been a joy and a privilege. Two finer people would be very hard to find. Eric taught me and many other historians a lot about Civil War history as an author of many books and articles as well as on tours. Not long before Covid, I took Eric, Dave Powell and Ohio Civil War historian Phil Spaugy on a three-day deep-dive tour of the Tullahoma Campaign in Middle Tennessee which Eric and Dave were working on at the time. It was some of the best three days of my life and we all had a great time!

Eric was funny, super intelligent and a wonderful friend and my wife and I will miss him deeply. They have incurred some significant financial issues due to the medical bills so if you would like to contribute to help pay for those, please consider donating to the GoFundMe page that Phil Spaugy has set up to help. The goal is \$125,000 and as of today they are about \$13,000 short. Your editor has made two donations today and is going with a third this week.

https://www.gofundme.com/f/please-consider-helping-eric-and-susan-wittenberg?lid=z5oalihmbosg&utm_medium=email&utm_source=product&utm_campaign=t_email-campaign-update&

Ride easy Cav Dude and thank you for so much over the many years. Please keep Susan in your prayers as she is going to need all the help she can get as we all do when losing a spouse or other family member..

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