



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

November 18th, 2025 – Our 173rd meeting!! We continue our sixteenth year!

The next meeting of the Nashville (TN) Civil War Roundtable will be on Tuesday, November 18th, 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 – *“Martha Ready Morgan: From Wife to Widow in 630 Days”*

Mattie Ready was a woman ahead of her time! Having grown up just down the street from where she lived and was married, I became intrigued with her persona at a very early age. And, in a college history class, she was my subject for a term paper. As my research introduced me to this beautiful and incredible young woman, the more I came to admire her courage and respect her dignity, most of all her strength, in very difficult times and situations. She was truly a most extraordinary young woman for that day and time. The dashing, daring, celebrated General John Hunt Morgan would not have married just anybody. He was from a wealthy, aristocratic Bluegrass Kentucky background and greatly admired throughout the hard-pressed Southland as its most celebrated hero. In her own mid-nineteenth century way Mattie Ready was the bold-riding General's match in every aspect. And “The Thunderbolt of the Confederacy” was captured by her charms and fell in love for probably the first time in his life with “Murfreesboro's Own Southern Belle.” She found the kinder, gentler, and very loving

heart of this great cavalryman and the intense love they shared would change both of their lives forever.

Civil War historian, Author, and former WQJZ radio host of "Murfreesboro History 101, Ms. Jones retired from Middle Tennessee State University, where she had been a staff member for more than thirty years. She has served as President of the Rutherford County Historical Society, the Association for the Preservation of Tennessee Antiquities, Friends of Stones River National Battlefield, and the Martha Ready Morgan Chapter of the United Daughters of the Confederacy. She is one of the founding members of both the Friends of Stones River National Battlefield and the Middle Tennessee Civil War Round Table. In addition, she holds membership in Daughters of the American Colonists, Daughters of the American Revolution, Colonial Dames of the 17th Century, and U.S. Daughters of 1812.

A direct descendant of two Confederate great-grandfathers, she has had numerous Civil War related articles published over the past four decades and is the author of six books. Ms. Jones has done extensive research on Martha Ready Morgan, including work for artist John Paul Strain in 1993 for his limited-edition print, "Morgan's Wedding." The role of women of the 19th Century has always been of particular interest, and she has presented programs to various heritage groups, high school students, and teaching classes and lectures on a volunteer basis. Ms. Jones is a lifelong resident of Murfreesboro, a graduate of Knox Business College, Middle Tennessee State University, and Leadership Rutherford. She and her late husband, Jerry Jones were the parents of one son, Jeff, and one grandson, Kyle and her little dogs, Chico and Sitka

We hope you join us for this fascinating program.

October Program

Due to my work travel schedule I was not able to make the October meeting to hear our then speaker Bob Stewart. He also spoke to the Clarksville CWRT and I heard good notices from that meeting which I also had to miss. Thanks Bob for speaking to us.

FUTURE PROGRAMS:

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*

March 2026 – Cheryl McAuley, historian/author – *Thaddeus Lowe, Civil War Balloonist*

April 2026 – William Parker, historian/director Fort Defiance Interpretive Center – *Feeding Civil War Armies*

May 2026 – Scott Mingus, historian/author – topic TBA

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!

This Month's Guest Column From Patrick Young – July 31, 2023 (From the Blog The Reconstruction Era - <https://thereconstructionera.com/general-thomas-grave-troy-ny/>)

[General George Thomas Grave in Troy, NY](#)



I recently travelled to Troy, New York to visit the city's Historic Oakwood Cemetery. The graveyard is best known where Uncle Sam's grave is, but I will attend to that in another post. Many readers have heard of the exploits of General George Thomas. "The Rock of Chickamauga" was a Virginia-born West Pointer who rose to command the Union Army of the Cumberland. When the 53 year-old Thomas died on March 28, 1870 in San Francisco, his body was shipped to Troy, New York, a city near Albany. His burial was attended by President Grant, Generals Sherman, and Sheridan and many veterans. The pall bearers were Generals Meade, Schofield, Hooker, Rosecrans, Hazen, Granger, Newton and McKay. Regular army and New York State

guard companies took part in the funeral parade, along with civilian contingents. Reports say that the procession was a mile in length.

The New York Times published the announcement of Thomas's death on the front page of the paper:

GEN. THOMAS.

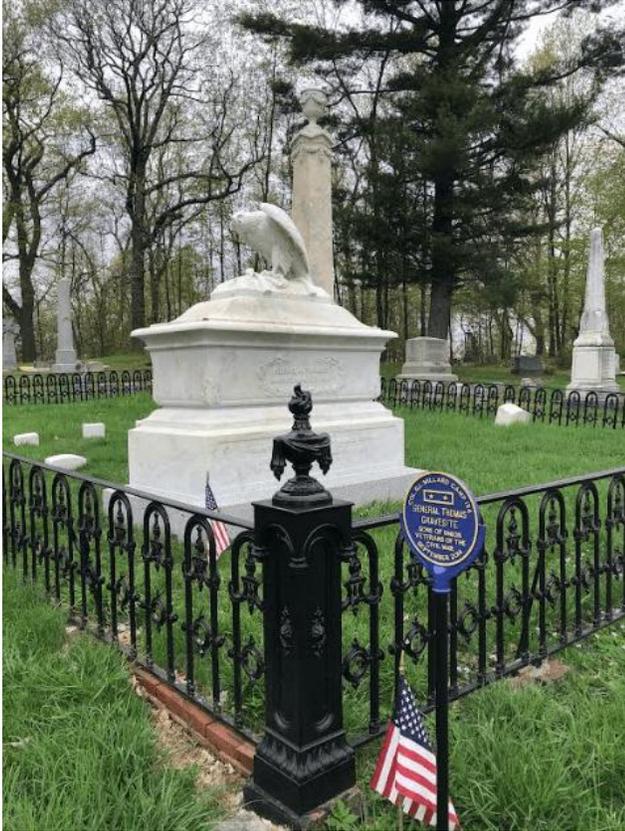
The General's Health Previous to His Death—Apoplexy the Cause—The Feeling in Washington on the Sad Event.

SAN FRANCISCO, March 28.—Gen. GEORGE H. THOMAS died at 8 o'clock last evening of apoplexy. Gen. THOMAS had enjoyed unusually good health for the past few weeks. Today, about 1½ o'clock, while attending to business in his office at the head-quarters, he was seized by a fit of apoplexy which terminated in death at 8 o'clock this evening. Gens. ORD and WHIFFLE are absent in Arizona, and the command of the Department temporarily falls upon Col. HOUGH, Assistant Adjutant-General.

March 30, 1870 New York Times recorded the sadness in the army over the passing of General Thomas:

WASHINGTON, D. C., March 29.—The news of the death of Major-Gen. THOMAS occasions intense sadness in army circles here. Gen. SHERMAN first received the intelligence upon reaching the War Department this morning, where a telegram from Col. HOUGH, of Gen. THOMAS' staff, to Adjutant-Gen. TOWNSEND, received about 1 o'clock last night, awaited Gen. SHERMAN. The President today addressed a telegram of condolence to Mrs. THOMAS, who is in San Francisco. It is understood that the remains of Gen. THOMAS will be taken to Troy, N. Y., for interment. The body will be escorted from San Francisco by the officers of the staff.

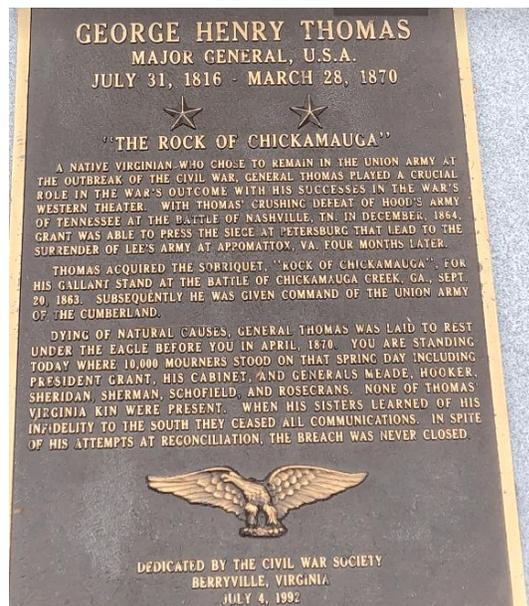
There are about fifty officers and ex-officers in this city who served under Gen. GEORGE H. THOMAS, and a meeting will be held to-morrow to take suitable action in regard to his death. Prominent among those who are expected to take part in the ceremonies are Gens. Cox, Garfield, Warren, Schurz, Slocum, Beatty, Howard, Negley, Coburn, Schoepf, Mussey and Col. Mack and Stone, of his staff.



Although raised in Virginia and died in California, Thomas was buried in Troy, New York where his wife was from. While thousands attended his procession and burial, not one of his Virginia relatives came to the ceremony. When Thomas decided to continue to serve in the army during the Civil War, his family disowned him. His wife built a monument on his grave site and enclosed it with a fence. In 2021, the restored grave was rededicated by the Sons of Union Veterans after a decade-long restoration effort. The site, which had shown significant wear and tear, is as beautiful today as it was a hundred and fifty years ago. The Sons of Union Veterans spent \$50,000 and dedicated hundreds of volunteer hours to restoring the site. The plot belonged to the Kellogg family, of which Thomas's wife sprang from, and the restoration has included all sites within the Kellogg plot. Frances Lucretia Kellogg married Thomas in 1852. In 1851, Thomas returned to West Point where he was an instructor of cavalry and artillery.

While John Schofield was a student, Thomas recommended his expulsion from the Academy for allowing students under his supervision to make offensive jokes.

Here is a plaque that was installed in 1992 from the Civil War Society of Berryville, Virginia telling the Thomas's story, including that he tried to reconcile with his family after the war but that they refused his offers.





The monument is topped by a fighting bald eagle, having just killed a snake in the grass. The monument includes Thomas's birthplace in Virginia. Thomas was born in 1816. The area where he was growing up in Virginia was the scene of Nat Turner's rebellion in 1831, which forced his family to live as refugees during the revolt. Thomas's family owned a plantation with fifteen slaves. In 1836, Thomas entered classes at West Point and he befriended his roommate William Sherman. After graduating, he began a constructive career in the army, serving with artillery, cavalry, and infantry, good preparation for a future army commander.

On the eve of the Civil War, Thomas had been serving in Texas. When in Washington, Thomas told General Winfield Scott in 1860 that Major General David Twiggs, commander in Texas, favored secession and could not be trusted. As states began seceding in 1860 and 1861, many Southern officers resigned their commissions, including David Twiggs, but Thomas stayed in the army even though

Virginia's governor had offered him a commission when his state seceded.



While after the Confederate surrender many Rebels claimed not to have been guilty of treason for their decision to back the Rebellion, many Southern whites accused Thomas of just that crime. Here is what J.E.B. Stuart said about Thomas: *"Old George H. Thomas is in command*

of the cavalry of the enemy. I would like to hang, hang him as a traitor to his native state.”
[Einolf, Christopher J. *George Thomas: Virginian for the Union* p. 99]

After service in the Bull Run Campaign in 1861, Thomas transferred to the West. In 1863, as a wing commander, Thomas organized a successful defense at Chickamauga after much of the rest of the Union army was pulling back in retreat, earning him the nickname “The Rock of Chickamauga.” Thomas did a fine job as a corps and wing commander in the West and in November of 1863 he was given command of the Army of the Cumberland. At the battles around Chattanooga in November of 1863, his army helped throw the Confederates off of their positions overlooking the city, liberating it from the Confederacy.



The lifelike bald eagle is not just majestic, it is mean. While George Thomas always showed considerable care for his men and their lives, he was always ready to deal the Confederates a defeat. His most memorable moment came when he defeated the Confederate Army of Tennessee in 1864 in Nashville under John Bell Hood. Thomas was the rare commander to have a second nickname added to his identity, being called “The Sledge of Nashville.” Although Thomas was a Virginian and a slave holder, during the war he came to appreciate the role Black troops were making in achieving Union victory.

After the war he participated in occupying the former-Confederacy where he was known for protecting the rights of Black citizens, combatting the Klan, and enforcing the right of Blacks to vote.

In 1868, he wrote about the developing Lost Cause interpretation of the war

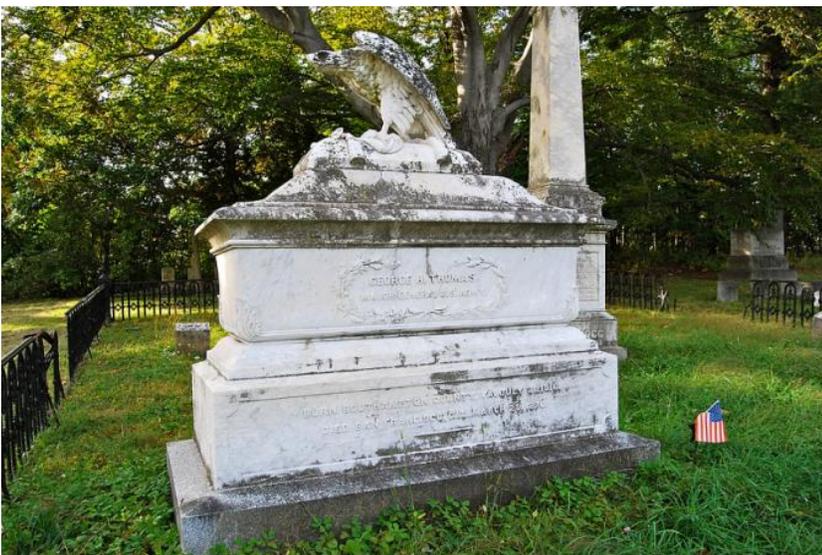
from Confederate soldiers: *“the greatest efforts made by the defeated insurgents since the close of the war have been to promulgate the idea that the cause of liberty, justice, humanity, equality, and all the calendar of the virtues of freedom, suffered violence and wrong when the effort for southern independence failed. This is, of course, intended as a species of political cant, whereby the crime of treason might be covered with a counterfeit varnish of patriotism, so that the precipitators of the rebellion might go down in history hand in hand with the defenders of the government, thus wiping out with their own hands their own stains; a species of self-*

forgiveness amazing in its effrontery, when it is considered that life and property—justly forfeited by the laws of the country, of war, and of nations, through the magnanimity of the government and people—was not exacted from them.”



This is Thomas's wife's family's monument.

During the restoration, five signs were installed directing visitors to the grave site and one was placed at the gravesite in the blue and yellow paint so often seen for New York historical markers. This is a large cemetery with hilly features, so the signs were perfect for finding the grave.



This photo from wikimedia shows what the tomb looked like in 2009.

The Oakwood Cemetery is free and there are a number of Civil War Era graves. The cemetery is located at 50 101st Street in Troy, New York. Once you are inside the entrance, you can follow the blue and yellow signs to Thomas's grave. You might also want to visit the "Uncle Sam" grave as well.

CIVIL WAR NEWS AND EVENTS

The Nashville CWRT Will Be Meeting at Several New Locations in 2026.

Date	Location	Start Time	Parking	Other	Other	Speaker
20-Jan	Belmont Mansion	6:00 PM	Open	Gift Shop open	15 Min Host	Ross Hudgins
10-Feb	Fort Negley	7:00 PM	Adequate			Ross Massey
17-Mar	Fort Negley	7:00 PM	Adequate			Cheryl McAuley
21-Apr	Belmont Mansion	6:00 PM	Open	Gift Shop open	15 Min Host	William Parker
19-May	Fort Negley	7:00 PM	Adequate		15 Min Host	Scott Mingus
16-Jun	Belle Meade	7:00 PM	Adequate	Cocktail Hr: 5:30 - 6: 45	15 Min Host	TBD
14-Jul	Belle Meade	7:00 PM	Adequate	Cocktail Hr: 5:30 - 6: 45	15 Min Host	TBD
18-Aug	Belle Meade	7:00 PM	Adequate	Cocktail Hr: 5:30 - 6: 45	15 Min Host	TBD
15-Sep	Longview	6:00 PM	Adequate		15 Min Host	TBD
20-Oct	Longview	6:00 PM	Adequate		15 Min Host	TBD
17-Nov	Longview	6:00 PM	Adequate		15 Min Host	TBD
15-Dec	Traveller's Rest	TBD	Adequate	Dinner	BONT Update	TBD

Please make note of these locations and dates. The February 2026 meeting is the second Tuesday of that month due to a holiday where Fort Negley is closed. Each newsletter starting in January will have the details for each location.

Annual Middle Tennessee Civil War Show – Saturday-Sunday, December 6-7, 2025 in Franklin, TN.

The nation's largest Civil War show will once again be held in Franklin, TN at the Williamson County Ag Expo Park, 4215 Long Lane, Franklin, TN. This is just off I-65 at Exit 61, Goose Creek Bypass/Peytonsville Road. The center is on the left side and has ample parking. Show hours on Saturday are 9 AM to 5 PM and Sunday, 9 AM to 3 PM. The 800 tables will feature relics, weapons, photographs, flags, uniforms, books and much more!

This show draws dealers and buyers from across the country so stop on by and be ready to spend the day geeking out on Civil War history – and some World War Two as well.

NASHVILLE CWRT OFFICERS

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