



January 2026 News

Message from the President:

Happy New Year! As 2026 is upon us, we are excited about the changes that lie ahead for us as we seek to fulfill our mission to an even higher degree. This year, the Battle of Nashville Trust will adopt a more appropriate nonprofit structure that will enable us to focus our priorities on fundraising, education, interpretation, and, as always, preservation. I am truly thankful for our dedicated board members and supporters who volunteer time, effort, and financial resources to make sure that we accomplish our mission. 2026 will see us continue to get more active in the local community with neighborhoods on the battlefield, other historic properties in Nashville, and with schools.

I would like to encourage you to make sure that you are taking advantage of the opportunity to attend our Nashville Civil War Roundtable events that are held monthly here in town. This year, we are taking a new approach and rotating locations among several local historic properties including Belmont, Belle Meade, Longview, and Fort Negley. We are greatly appreciative of our partners that help make this

happen as well as our dedicated NCWRT that plans and manages these wonderful events; they provide a great opportunity to learn about the Civil War in Middle Tennessee. Please note the dates and locations below.

The addition of the Shy's Hill Summit property was, obviously, the highlight of 2025. While we may not be able to "top" that one in 2026, we are certainly on the lookout for new properties. Please make sure that we are aware of any significant properties that may become available within the battlefield footprint.

We hope that 2026 is a great year for you and yours!

My best to you,
Bobby Whitson



Nashville Civil War Roundtable

January 20th, 2026– Our 174th meeting!! We continue our sixteenth year!

The next meeting of the Nashville Civil War Roundtable will be on **Tuesday, January 20, 2026**, at Belmont Mansion. This is located at Belmont Blvd. at Acklen Avenue and faces Wedgewood Avenue, less than a mile west of I-65; just east of 16th and 17th Avenues South. There is parking by the mansion.



The meeting begins at **6:00 PM** and is always open to the public. Please bring your friends.

Please note the new meeting location for January and the earlier starting time!

This month's NCWRT program – “Maggie Vaulx and the Great Panic in Nashville”

This Month's Speaker: Ross Hudgins

Margaret Nichols Vaulx (pronounced Voss) was only 16 years old when the war began in 1861. She came from an affluent family growing up in what is now the Berry Hill area of Nashville off Franklin Pike. She attended some of the best schools Nashville had to offer and was thus quite literate and a fine writer. Our speaker this month discovered her diaries in an old barn which before then came from a building in Nashville that was being torn down in the late 1940s. Thankfully these four volumes from the Civil War era were saved for posterity and Civil War fans everywhere as they add to our knowledge of Civil War Nashville from the female perspective.

This month's program will examine the Great Panic in Nashville through Maggie's eyes. This began after the news of the fall of Fort Donelson on February 16, 1862 and the capture of Clarksville three days later. The abandonment of Bowling Green, KY by the Confederates began after the fall of Fort Henry on February 6th, and

this too added to the confusion. Nashville had depended on those places for protection along with the small Fort Zollicoffer just to the west of the city in the first bend of the river. When it became apparent that Nashville was to be captured by Federal forces, the citizens panicked and thronged into the streets as Confederate troops were busy loading up the city's war making machinery and supplies to ship south to Atlanta by rail. When Col. Nathan Bedford Forrest arrived after escaping from Fort Donelson, he was ordered to take charge and threw open the food storage warehouses for the citizens of the town before, he too, left.

These books were edited into a new version of her diary by Ross Hudgins and published in 2011. Ross spoke to us that year about Maggie and her diaries. Ross was born in Nashville in 1950 and lived for several years in the Separation Center just across the Franklin Pike in today's 100 Oaks. Maggie's home, Mt. Alban, known today as Breeze Hill, was in the area. In 1958 we moved to Fairview, Tennessee. There while helping my grandfather clean out his barn, Ross discovered four volumes of Civil War journals. They were penned by Maggie who began recording her journals on April 26, 1861 and ended on August 17, 1865. He is an Agent Orange Vietnam veteran having served 6 years in the Army. Working and retiring from the Tennessee Valley Authority in 2016, he has been married to his childhood sweetheart for 55 years.

[Click here for Nashville CWRT Newsletter](#)

Other Civil War News: Howard Mann's Column

*The Battle That Was or Wasn't; White Oak Creek, August 18, 1862 or
November 11, 1861*

[Link To Article](#)

Aerial View of the Battle of Nashville

Lost Battlefields

Lealand Lane

This is where the home of Major Walter Williams was on Lealand Lane and Noelton Avenue in 1936. This is just south of present-day Sevier Park and Interstate 440. Through these open fields, U.S. forces advanced against the Confederate line on December 15, 1864.



Circa. 1936

In this photo, note the city street-car line that proceeded to Glendale Park.



Present Day

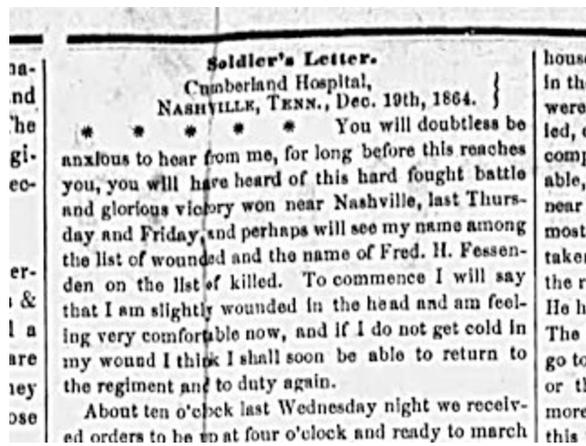


Present Day

Article of the Month

Blog by John Banks

This blog reflects on a letter written by a soldier named Edward who wrote from the Cumberland Hospital after the Battle of Nashville. John Banks dives into the complexities of this letter to find the author of this letter and gain a better understanding of the Battle of Nashville through Edward's words.



Edward's Letter Posted in Vermont Phoenix of Brattleboro

[Link To Article](#)

Americana Corner

Follow our friends at Americana Corner to learn more about how they seek to educate and preserve American History. Founder Tom Hand saw

the need for a revitalization for people to understand their roots as Americans. Therefore, he created Americana Corner to ignite a love of the unique history of America. Their efforts promote the history of America through educational outlets, content, and a variety of exciting programs.

To learn more, [click the link](#) below to their website.

[Link to Website](#)

Reminders for the New Year

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 January 2026. Our new dues schedule is:

\$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.

All members get:

- Membership in The Nashville Civil War Round Table
- Subscription to The Quarterly Newsletter
- Invitations to special events
- Membership card

For joining BONT, new members also receive:

- 1 free Minié ball

- 2 free passes to visit Historic Travellers Rest

For those of you who will attend the January meeting of Nashville Civil War Roundtable, dues are due at the January meeting, and your membership will be with the Battle of Nashville Trust, so please plan on paying them then.

When your dues are paid, you will be mailed a membership card for the calendar year. If you do not have a membership card, then you are not current.

Our dues go to paying for speakers as well as donations for Civil War preservation causes locally. 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!

www.battleofnashvilletrust.org

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