



## 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](http://www.nashvillecivilwarroundtable.wordpress.com)

February 10th, 2026 – Our 175th meeting!! We continue our sixteenth year!

The next meeting of the Nashville (TN) Civil War Roundtable will be on Tuesday, February 10th, 2026 - back at Fort Negley Visitors Center, a unit of Metro Parks Nashville. This is located at 1100 Fort Negley Blvd. off I-65 just south of downtown between 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue South and 8<sup>th</sup> 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.

**Please note the meeting location for February, the earlier date due to Fort Negley's schedule and a holiday on the 17th and the starting time!!!!**

**This month's program** – *“What's in the Ground Does Not Lie: How Metal Detecting Helps Us Validate What We Think We know”*

Civil War relic hunters can be reviled and praised for what they do. The worst violate private property without asking, don't fill in dug holes, etc. while the best are driven by the love of what historical artifacts they can find and what those artifacts do to begin, tell or complete a story. As a professional archaeologist will state, ground evidence never lies. Indeed, artifacts in the ground can confirm what types of shells were used by certain batteries, what infantry unit and from what state fought or camped there based on buttons, belt plates and dropped rounds. Stories and legends get passed down from

generation to generation, soldier's accounts of a battle site sometimes are inaccurate with the passage of time; what's in the ground either validates the stories we thought we knew or creates a new story that should be told.

Our speaker this month, Bobby Whitson, loves finding relics. He documents everything that he finds, does research why he found it there, and then either validates what he thought he knew or identifies a new page of history which leads to more research. His relic room pales in comparison to those that have been doing this for decades, but he has been fortunate to find some excellent artifacts and, more importantly, confirm certain "known" facts while identifying previously unknown and valuable historic information. We'll discuss items found on the field at Nashville as well as on fields and campsites in other middle Tennessee areas.



Our speaker this month is Bobby Whitson, president of the Battle of Nashville Trust. Whitson is a graduate of Montgomery Bell Academy in Nashville and Furman University in South Carolina. He is an 8<sup>th</sup> generation Tennessean belonging to a First Family of Tennessee. Husband to Danielle Neil of Brentwood for 31 years, father to three amazing daughters, Morgan, McLean, and Meredith, and grandfather to Tyler and Emory, Whitson is most at home on an athletic field or a battlefield. A lifelong historian, Whitson is consumed with trying to understand the past in order to provide clarity on the present that leads to solid direction for the future.

Bobby Whitson is a 25-year Sports and Entertainment technology veteran/entrepreneur helping teams, leagues, and athletic departments manage their data more efficiently and effectively.

Please make plans to join us for this fascinating and sure to be fun program.

### **January Program**

Our original speaker had to cancel but fortunately our president Howard Mann stepped up with another fine program. As I could not attend, I cannot offer a synopsis but we know that Howard's programs are always very well-researched and presented. Thanks very much for jumping in at the last minute.

### **Future Programs:**

**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 Anderson – author/historian – “*The Scott Boys From East Tennessee*”  
**June 2026** –David Stewart, historian/author/Shiloh Battlefield Guide – “*The Controversial Confederate Attack Plan at Shiloh and Its Effect on the First Day's Battle.*”  
**July or August 2026** – Dr. Larry Krunemaker, historian/author – “*Walking the Line: The Siege of Atlanta Through Existing Sites*”  
**September 2026** – Kraig McNutt, author/historian – “*Nashville’s Civil War Hospitals*”  
**October 2026** - Brian McCutchen, Superintendent, Fort Donelson National Battlefield – “*How Modern Technology Helps Map A Civil War Battlefield.*”  
**November 2026** – Scott Mingus, historian/author  
**December 2026** – Battle of Nashville Trust Dinner and Speaker

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 1<sup>st</sup> through December 31<sup>st</sup>. Thus, we will begin collecting dues for the 2026 campaign year starting in January 2026. 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.

**DUES ARE DUE AT THE JANUARY MEETING SO PLEASE PLAN ON PAYING THEM THEN.**

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!*

### **CIVIL WAR NEWS AND EVENTS**

The Nashville CWRT Will Be Meeting at Several New and Old Locations in 2026. Please note each location below and the starting times. Here’s the details with dates, locations and speakers:

**February 10** – Fort Negley, 7 PM – Bobby Whitson

**March 17** – Fort Negley, 7 PM – Cheryl McAuley

**April 21** – Belmont Mansion, 6 PM – William Parker  
**May 19<sup>th</sup>** – Fort Negley, 7 PM – Scott Anderson  
**June 16<sup>th</sup>** – Belle Meade, 7 PM (cocktails at 5:30) – David Stewart  
**July 14<sup>th</sup>** – Belle Meade, 7 PM (cocktails at 5:30) – Dr. Larry Krunemaker, possibly  
**August 18<sup>th</sup>** – Belle Meade, 7 PM (cocktails at 5:30) – Dr. Larry Krunemaker, possibly  
**September 15<sup>th</sup>** – Longview, 6 PM – Kraig McNutt  
**October 20<sup>th</sup>** – Longview, 6 PM – Brian McCutchen, Fort Donelson National Battlefield  
**November 17<sup>th</sup>** – Longview, 6 PM – Scott Mingus  
**December** – Traveler’s Rest – time TBA – Battle of Nashville Trust dinner and speaker

**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.

**Belmont Mansion Black Civil War Surgeons Program – Sunday, February 15<sup>th</sup>, 2026**

**Forgotten Stories of Black Civil War Surgeons**

The Civil War saw the first wide-spread enlistment of Black soldiers in the U.S. Army, however the amazing story of these fourteen Black Civil War surgeons has been relatively unknown until recently. Jill Newmark is now bringing their story to light with her book, *Without Concealment, Without Compromise: The Courageous Lives of Black Civil War Surgeons*.

Thanks to a grant from the Tennessee Civil War National Heritage Area, Belmont Mansion will host Jill Newmark for a lecture and book signing on February 15, 2026. Newmark will discuss how these men managed to get medical degrees and army commissions in an era of racial bias and bigotry that largely prohibited both. Newmark is the former Curator of the National Medical Library, Institutes for Health. This is the first time she has lectured in Nashville. Do not miss this opportunity to learn more about this inspirational story of Black Civil War surgeons.

This is a free event but reservations are required so please contact:

Danielle Ullrich  
Director of Education and Collections Manager  
Belmont Mansion, # 12350  
1900 Belmont Blvd.  
Nashville, TN 37212  
615-460-5459  
[www.belmontmansion.com](http://www.belmontmansion.com)



## Forgotten Stories of Black Civil War Surgeons

from Jill L. Newmark's book, *Without Concealment, Without Compromise*

**Sunday, Feb. 15 at 4:30 pm at Belmont Mansion**

The author will discuss how these men challenged racial stereotypes of the era and the crucial role they played in redefining freedom and patriotism.



Event is free, advanced registration required  
Visit: [belmontmansion.com/events](http://belmontmansion.com/events)

Event sponsored by



### **Fort Donelson National Battlefield Anniversary 164<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Events Schedule**

DOVER, Tenn. — From Feb. 7 to 16, the National Park Service will host special events at Fort Donelson National Battlefield to mark the 164<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the 1862 Campaign for Forts Henry, Heiman and Donelson. The campaign opened the Cumberland and Tennessee rivers to Union control and elevated Brig. Gen. Ulysses S. Grant to national prominence. Anniversary programming includes guided hikes, artillery demonstrations, living history programs, interpretive talks and an auto caravan tour of the battlefield. All programs are free and open to the public.

With often changing weather conditions in February, visitors should dress for conditions of the day and wear appropriate footwear. Weather related program adjustments or cancelations will post at [nps.gov/fodo](http://nps.gov/fodo) and on the park's Facebook page. Event status information is also available by calling the visitor center at 931-232-5706.

#### **Saturday, Feb. 7 - Rediscovering the Fort Donelson Landscape of 1862 — 9 a.m.**

Location: Fort Donelson National Cemetery, 174 National Cemetery Dr., Dover.

Join in this program to see how historic maps and accounts, combined with archeological survey and technology, identify the "what was where" 1862 landscape of the Fort Donelson battlefield.

**Protecting the Tennessee River/Fort Henry — 2 p.m.**

Location: Land Between the Lakes National Recreation Area, Fort Henry Trailhead (parking at gravel parking off Boswell Landing Road, .4 miles north of intersection with Service Road 232. Watch for Park Ranger directing parking). Join park rangers for a guided hike to an overlook of the flooded remains of Fort Henry. From this vantage point, rangers will discuss the Feb. 6, 1862, battle for control of the Tennessee River and the heart of the Confederacy. The trail is uneven in places; sturdy footwear is recommended.

**Saturday, Feb. 14 - From Arrogance to Tragedy: The Failed Attempt for Maney's Battery — 10 a.m.**

Location: Battery Trail parking circle, 229 Sandy Road, Dover, Tennessee.

This 0.6-mile, round-trip ranger-led hike examines one of the more ill-planned and deadly Union actions of the battle. An attack ordered by Union Brig. Gen. John A. McClernand failed and left the commander with several battered regiments. The route includes steep and uneven terrain; appropriate footwear is recommended.

**Rumble on the River: Artillery and Infantry Drill and Firing Demonstrations — 11 a.m., noon, 2 p.m. and 3 p.m.**

Location: 120 Fort Donelson Park Road. Rangers and living history volunteers will demonstrate Civil War artillery firing procedures and illustrate how cannons were used during the campaign. Ear protection is recommended.

**Exchanging "Iron Valentines": The Naval Battles of Forts Henry and Donelson — 1 p.m. and 3 p.m.**

Location: Lower River Battery, Tour Stop 4. Historian and author Jim Jobe will discuss the intense engagements between Federal ironclads and Confederate shore batteries. These actions transformed riverine warfare during the Civil War.

**A Surgeon's Dilemma: Life, Limb and Loss — 2:30 p.m.**

Location: Dover Hotel, 101 Petty Street, Dover, Tour Stop 10. Join in discussion about the field hospitals that arose across the battlefield that arose across the battlefield before and after the surrender, learning of the logistics, period medical procedures, and individuals who went above and beyond in their care of the wounded.

**Recollections of the Battle: An Interview with Brig. Gen. Ulysses S. Grant — 4 p.m.**

Location: Dover Hotel (Surrender House), Tour Stop 10, 101 Petty St., Dover. Step inside the historic Surrender House and observe Brig. Gen. Ulysses S. Grant tells a

correspondent about the campaign and the events that led to Union victory, national fame and eight years in the White House.

**Sunday, Feb. 15 - You Came Here to Die”: Brig. Gen. Charles F. Smith and the Taking of Fort Donelson — 11 a.m.**

Location: Smith’s Attack, Tour Stop 5. Rangers and historians will recount the determined Union assault up a snow-covered ridge and explain how the attack sealed Union success and a Confederate defeat.

**Following the Breakout: Auto Caravan Tour of the Confederate “Breakout” (reservations required) — 1 p.m.**

Starting location: Stewart County Public Library parking lot, 102 Natcor Drive, Dover. This guided driving tour follows the events of the Confederate breakout attempt of Feb. 15, 1862. Participants will follow park rangers and historians in their own vehicles to key sites across the battlefield. Space is limited; reservations are required. Call 931-232-5706 or stop at the visitor center during regular operating hours.

**A Surgeon’s Dilemma: Life, Limb and Loss — 1:30 p.m. and 2:30 p.m.**

Location: Dover Hotel, 101 Petty Street, Dover, Tour Stop 10  
Join in discussion about the field hospitals that arose across the battlefield that arose across the battlefield before and after the surrender, learning of the logistics, period medical procedures, and individuals who went above and beyond in their care of the wounded.

**Monday, Feb. 16 - An Unprecedented Victory: The Surrender at Fort Donelson — 11 a.m.**

Location: Dover Hotel (“Surrender House”), Tour Stop 10, 101 Petty St., Dover.  
Join rangers to learn about the historic surrender that took place at the Dover Hotel and about the meeting of Confederate commanders to decide the fate of their army. The decision to surrender changed the course of the Civil War, and the landing below the hotel witnessed thousands of prisoners of war boarding boats for prison camps.

**Pillow and Buckner: Command Decisions and Consequences — 1 p.m.**

Location: 418 Cedar St., Dover

This program explores the Confederate attacks near Wynn’s Ferry Road and how the strained relationship between Brig. Gens. Gideon Pillow and Simon Buckner affected the Confederate surrender.

**“...for us to be dedicated...”: Fort Donelson National Cemetery — 2:30 p.m.**

Location: Fort Donelson National Cemetery, Tour Stop 11, 174 National Cemetery Drive, Dover

Learn about the history of Fort Donelson National Cemetery and how it was part of a new national effort to memorialize Union Civil War dead.

### **Annual Fort Donelson Civil War Symposium, Dover, TN – February 28, 2026**

The annual Fort Donelson Civil War Symposium returns on Saturday, February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2026. This rapidly growing event which draws over 100 attendees from Tennessee, Iowa, Illinois, Kentucky and elsewhere features the following programs:

The event is at its new home, the First Baptist Church Family Life Center located at 208 Church Street in Dover, TN. Head into town across the Cumberland River on Hwy 79 and turn right at the old Taco John's and follow the street as it curves to the left. The center will be on the left side. This is about 35 minutes from Clarksville – add an hour from Nashville area. The event starts at 9 AM and is free to attend. Speakers include:



The flyer features a wood-grain background with a central yellow banner. The banner contains the text: "4th Annual CIVIL WAR SYMPOSIUM". Below the banner, the location is listed as "Family Life Center, First Baptist Church, 208 Church Street, Dover Tn". The date "Saturday - February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2026" is prominently displayed. A table lists the schedule with columns for Time, Speakers, and Topics. At the bottom, a yellow box highlights "Civil War Artifact Displays", "Interpretive Displays", and "Local Historians On Hand". Contact information and the note "Admission is Free" are at the very bottom.

Time:	Speakers:	Topics:
9:00am	John Walsh	"Artillery at Fort Donelson"
10:00am	Darryl Smith	"The Story of the War Department Tablets at Fort Donelson"
11:00am	Michael Huston	"Iowan Faces at Fort Donelson"
1:00pm	Dr. Timothy Smith	"Fort Donelson in a Larger Context"
2:00pm	Jim Long	"Jack Hinson: The Man, The Myth, The Records"

**Civil War Artifact Displays    Interpretive Displays    Local Historians On Hand**

This symposium is being presented by  
The Fort Henry & Donelson Campaign Group  
For More Information – Ski: 931-561-5031 / John: 931-801-4530    Admission is Free

### **NASHVILLE CWRT OFFICERS**

President – Howard Mann - [hgmann2930@gmail.com](mailto:hgmann2930@gmail.com)

Philip Duer – Treasurer and Preservation Liason – [pwduer@gmail.com](mailto:pwduer@gmail.com)

Greg Biggs - Program Chair – [Biggsq@charter.net](mailto:Biggsq@charter.net)

Krista Castillo – President Emeritus