



BATTLE OF  
NASHVILLE  
TRUST

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# March 2026 News

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## Message from the President

As the temperature is starting to rise and in hopes that the snow and ice are behind us, we are looking forward to a productive Spring season here at the BONT! As you are aware, the trees on Shy's Hill suffered some damage from the ice storm. I am happy to report that we partnered with Casey Pope and his team to address the downed trees and limbs. Like most of that area of town, there are many branches down by the road to be hauled away by Metro; therefore, please continue to exercise caution if you plan to visit the hill.

If you live in a neighborhood in Green Hills, Oak Hill, West Meade, Brentwood, or Belle Meade and would like for one or two of us from the Trust to provide your group a history session on what occurred in and around where you live, reach out to me directly. We would love to spend more time with you and others that want to know more about what the events in their area. Reach

out to me directly (bobby@bigboardsports.com), and we'll plan an evening together.

As you probably saw from our social media posts, we lost a friend, board member, and Nashville history icon with the passing of Bob Henderson in February. In addition to being a good friend and always bringing a good time with him, Bob had two history passions: Nashville Civil War and all things Nashville Aeronautic history. Without Bob's help and direction, Kelly's Point would have been lost to time and development, and his work at the archives with digitizing the 1930s aerial photographs of Nashville would not be known to us; that work has helped us analyze multiple Civil War sites prior to modern suburban development. Thank you, Bob Henderson, for loving history, Nashville, and us, and thank you for being a good person that impacted many of our lives; you will be missed greatly!

My best to you,  
BW

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## **Important Trust News**

### ***Support our Mission for Preservation***

The Trust's mission is to preserve and protect the battlefields of Nashville. Join our efforts to protect our history by contacting Governor Bill Lee and your local legislators. Attached here is a letter which is ready for you to send to our legislators for support. The Tennessee Civil War Sites Preservation Fund is vital to our efforts, so your help is greatly appreciated.

[Click Here For Support Letter](#)



## **Nashville Civil War Roundtable**

***March 17th, 2026– Our 176th meeting!!***

***We continue our sixteenth year!***

The next meeting of the Nashville (TN) Civil War Roundtable will be on **Tuesday, March 17th, 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 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 as they are welcome.

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## **March's Program- "Thaddeus Lowe, Civil War Balloonism"**

***Presented by Cheryl McAuley***

Born in August 1832, in New Hampshire, Thaddeus Lowe would emerge as one of America's best scientists and inventors. By the time of the Civil War, Lowe worked deeply in meteorology but

retained a growing interest in aeronautics or ballooning. Derided by many, Lowe foresaw the use of balloons in aerial reconnaissance thus allowing for viewing Confederate troop positions without needed high hills or even mountains to do the same. Ballons could be moved around and Lowe offered his services in July 1861 when he was given the title of Chief Aeronaut of the Union Army Baloon Corps by President Lincoln. Lowe had experimented with balloons before the war and thus was the perfect choice to run this new command. He included in these the concepts of trans-Atlantic flight using the high altitude winds that had been discovered (now called the Trade Winds).

Most famous for doing recon for George McClellan's Army of the Potomac during the Peninsula Campaign of 1862, Lowe soon left the service in 1863 in a dispute over how his unit was to operate as well as pay issues. He returned to civilian life and invented a number of patented items that would make him a millionaire and find him relocating to California where he passed away in January 1913.

This month's presentation highlights Lowe's unique inventions during and after the Civil War. His vision for a Balloon Corps in the Union Army was received enthusiastically by some and rejected by others. His creativity and perseverance were admirable traits, and an inspiration to many.

Cheryl McAuley is the past president of the Tennessee Valley Civil War Round Table in Huntsville, Alabama. Cheryl holds an undergraduate degree in piano performance from West Chester University (1975), a Master of Public Administration with a concentration in public management from George Mason University (1996), a Master of Strategic Studies from the U.S. Army War College (2005), and a Doctorate of Management in Organizational Leadership from University of Phoenix (2016).

In her civilian career, she served as an intelligence analyst and later led civilians and military members assigned to the Department of Defense (War) at the Pentagon and Washington Navy Yard. As an Army National Guard soldier and Army

Reservist of 30 yrs, Cheryl served in the enlisted, commissioned and warrant ranks, retiring as a Lieutenant Colonel, Military Intelligence Branch. After 9-11, she was deployed to the Horn of Africa (2004) and later volunteered for a one-year tour in Baghdad, Iraq (2009-2010). She retired from government and military in 2010.

Cheryl is a published author who chronicled her 2017 journey of climbing Mt. Kilimanjaro in Tanzania, Africa with her husband, John of 40 years. She also wrote two books which contain her memoirs and lessons learned (2019, 2025). All three of them are on Amazon and available in paperback and Kindle. The royalties from each book go to three different charities. During COVID, she developed a program about Professor Thaddeus Lowe, an Aeronaut in the American Civil War. She enjoys presenting the information to adult continuing education groups, history groups, and Civil War Round Tables.

She was honored to be invited to join the Board of Directors of the Civil War Round Table Congress, a nationwide nonprofit of volunteers who are focused on helping CWRTs grow, while achieving and maintaining sustainability.

Please make plans to join us for this fascinating program.

[Click here for Nashville CWRT Newsletter](#)

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## Howard Mann's Column

*"The Provost Marshals of Nashville – February*

*1862 through 1865"*

[Click Here for the Column](#)

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# Help us preserve the Battle of Nashville Battlefields

As Nashville is growing, more and more of the battlefields are being taken and built upon. Help us preserve our nation's history through your efforts. This would not be possible without your help.

Please renew your dues and donate to help our preservation efforts at <https://www.battleofnashvilletrust.org/>.

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## Renew Your Membership

Just a reminder to make sure that you renew your Battle of Nashville Trust membership when it expires. Dues are \$50 per family, \$25 for veterans, and free for students, and with the membership comes 2 tickets for a tour of Travellers Rest and a minié ball. This membership also covers your attendance at the Nashville Civil War Roundtable. If you are not sure when it expires send an email to [bobby@bigboardsports.com](mailto:bobby@bigboardsports.com) and we will check for you. You can also renew on our website at [battleofnashvilletrust.org](http://battleofnashvilletrust.org).

[www.battleofnashvilletrust.org](http://www.battleofnashvilletrust.org)

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