



Nashville Civil War Roundtable

Founded April, 2009 – Nashville, Tennessee – Now Part of the Battle of Nashville Trust, April 2025

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 – once again 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 – 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 – *"Thaddeus Lowe, Civil War Balloonist"*

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.

February Program

The president of the Battle of Nashville Trust, Bobby Whitson, presented a highly entertaining and energetic program about the importance of Civil War relic hunting. However, this was not about just digging holes and pulling up items like bullets, buckles, belt plates and more, but also about how serious hunters use this technique to prove or disprove what happened at a Civil War site. Using sites around Nashville that pertain to the two days of battle in December 1864, Whitson offered why he and friends were hunting certain sites. There is an old saying that ground evidence never lies and if you find a lot of fired Spencer rounds into a hill that might have been a Confederate defense earthwork, then this proves two things; the fired bullets came from Union cavalry who were armed with Spencer carbines, and, that the spot they were firing on was indeed held by Confederate troops. Using still images and some actual footage of digging in certain places, Whitson delved into the research needed to relic hunt on this level along with making notes about what was found and where. This is a couple levels above typical relic hunters, some of whom don't even bury their holes (your editor twisted his ankle in one on the First Kennesaw Line down in Georgia years ago) or secure permission from landowners to hunt on their property.

Adding to the program was a nice sampling of relics that Whitson had dug over the years. This was one of the best programs Nashville CWRT has ever had and we thank Bobby for come to teach us about his passion and how important that it could be for understanding what happened at certain places.

Future Programs:

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

January 2027 – Walter Green, author and historian – Topic TBA 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 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

This Month's Column From President Howard Mann – "Nashville Under Law And Order: The Provost Marshals of Nashville, February 1861-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 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 and open to the community's concerns at the outset of his tenure.

On June 14, 1862, Colonel Matthews 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 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 wasn'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.

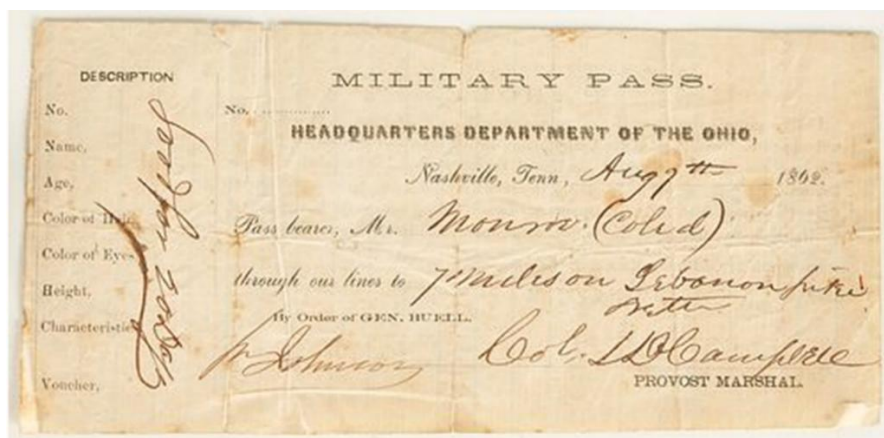
On the 1st of May it went to Franklin, where it acted as the guard for forty miles of the Tennessee and Alabama Railroad. The rebel women of Franklin were especially bitter, and on one occasion evinced their venom against the national dead buried in the cemetery by dancing on their graves. Colonel CAMPBELL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

Annual Fort Donelson Civil War Symposium, Dover, TN A Huge Success

The annual Fort Donelson Civil War Symposium held on Saturday, February 28th, 2026 in Dover, TN, drew its biggest crowd ever with 175 attendees from six states! Coupled with the symposium was a day of tours on the 27th for the Second (August 1862) and Third (February 1863) Battles of Dover where Confederate cavalry under Thomas Woodward (Second Dover) and Joseph Wheeler and Nathan Bedford Forrest (Third Dover) tried and failed to take the town and capture stockpiled Union supplies and even cut Union river traffic.

Be sure to mark your calendars for Saturday, February 27th, 2027 for the next symposium in Dover, Tennessee. Due to the huge crowd this time there may be a cap on attendees with reservations required in advance to guarantee seating. As the date gets closer and the programs announced, those details will be published here.

This event is a do not miss event folks!

Nashville CWRT Meeting Dates and Locations – Pay Attention to these folks!!!

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:

April 21 – Belmont Mansion, 6 PM – William Parker

May 19th – Fort Negley, 7 PM – Scott Anderson

June 16th – Belle Meade, 7 PM (cocktails at 5:30) – David Stewart

July 14th – Belle Meade, 7 PM (cocktails at 5:30) – Dr. Larry Krunemaker, possibly

August 18th – Belle Meade, 7 PM (cocktails at 5:30) – Dr. Larry Krunemaker, possibly

September 15th – Longview, 6 PM – Kraig McNutt

October 20th – Longview, 6 PM – Brian McCutchen, Fort Donelson National Battlefield

November 17th – 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.

NASHVILLE CWRT OFFICERS

President – Howard Mann - hgmann2930@gmail.com

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