



April 2026 News

Message from the President

Spring is here, and we at the BONT are excited about the warmer weather! Please mark your calendars for **Park Day on April 25th 2026; we'll meet at Shy's Hill at 9:00am** and spend the morning clearing debris and cleaning up from the ice storm. We appreciate all of the help that we can get!

This past weekend, I was metal detecting on a permission at the site of a small battle in April of 1863 trying to validate what I thought I knew about the battle. I was fortunate enough to stumble over a small area with



Artifacts found by President Bobby Whitson

five dropped bullets and a couple of buck balls; it was obvious that a soldier had been sitting exactly where I was pouring lead into molds for the upcoming battle. The bullets were field-made and had what we call a "blob top" which is a little excess lead at the very tip of the bullet. From the location and from the type of bullets, I knew that it was a Confederate soldier who had been sitting there. Given the time of year, I knew that the weather and the view that I was experiencing at that moment was exactly what that soldier had seen 163 years ago; I took at least 30 minutes just soaking up the scene and the moment. It was a great and much needed time of reflection and appreciation.

Who was he, where was he from, what were his motivations for fighting, and did he make it home? All of those questions reaffirmed for me the reason why we do what we do at the Battle of Nashville Trust. The work that we do is not about us; it is about those that came before us, those that fought and died during America's most difficult time. This is their story, and we must do everything that we can do to make sure that we reclaim as much battlefield that we can and that we interpret what happened here accurately. Boys from states like Tennessee, Iowa, Georgia, Indiana, Mississippi, Ohio, Alabama, Missouri, Kentucky, Minnesota, Arkansas, Michigan, Florida, South Carolina, Pennsylvania, Louisiana, North Carolina, and others each had their own stories of who they were and why they were here; many of those boys did not make it home. To do this, we need support from our friends just like you; we also need more people to know about what we are doing here. Please, help us spread the message and have your friends sign up for our newsletter and join as members.

Thank you for your support!

My best to you,

BW

Save the Date

30th Annual Park Day

Saturday April 25th, 2026 | 9am

Join our efforts to clean up Shy's Hill and help preserve history.

Volunteers are needed to help care and maintain Shy's Hill, especially after the devastating winter in Nashville. Clean up will begin at **9am** at the Shy's Hill Trailhead on Benton Smith Road.

Volunteers should feel free to bring any outdoor work tools such as hedge clippers, heavy rakes, bow saws, axes and shovels. Bottled Water will be provided.

We hope you can join us!

[Click Here for More Information](#)



Nashville Civil War Roundtable

April 21st, 2026– Our 177th meeting!!

We continue our sixteenth year!

The next meeting of the Nashville (TN) Civil War Roundtable will be on **Tuesday, April 21st, 2026** - back 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. Members, please bring a friend or two as they are welcome.

IMPORTANT PARKING AND LOCATION NOTE:

Belmont Mansion is located on the Belmont University campus, corner of Acklen Avenue & Belmont Cir. in Nashville. For easy directions, set your GPS to "**Belmont Mansion Visitor Parking.**"

April's Program- **"Feeding the Civil War Armies"**

Presented by William Parker

The great Napoleon Bonaparte once stated, quite correctly, that an army marched on its stomach. Indeed, the Emperor planned march routes so that each of his Corps D'Armee marched on a separate road so as to not eat everything in sight so that, if marching in a corps column, the follow-on command would have nothing to eat. While there were some levels of rations back then, and indeed even back in ancient times, Napoleon's army lived mostly off the land which was different than the organization of their foes.

By the time of the Civil War, the US Army had developed prepared rations and had a set pattern as to how much a soldier was supposed to get in vegetables, meat and even coffee per day. Salted pork made for wonderful campaign rations which would be cooked in camps at the end of a day's march along with vegetables brought with the soldiers or found in fields, corn being prominent in that regard, but only during harvest times. Green corn caused digestive issues. Beef was kept on the hoof by both sides and slaughtered as needed. Many are the accounts of soldiers about not having enough to eat and this was often due to breakdowns in the supply chains or outrunning the lines of supply and both sides had these issues. Yet both North and South tried very hard to keep their troops fed. More and more books have come out addressing the feeding of the troops in the war.

Civil War rations will be the topic for this month, and William Parker of Clarksville, TN will be giving us that program. He will have some artifacts to display at this meeting related to the topic.

This month, our speaker is William Parker. He is the past Historical Interpreter for the Fort Defiance Park in Clarksville, TN, a unit of Clarksville Parks and Recreation department and a US Army veteran. He is also an Adjunct Professor of History at Austin Peay State University in Clarksville and an avid Civil War relic hunter.

Please make plans to join us for this fascinating program.

[Click here for Nashville CWRT Newsletter](#)

Howard Mann's Column

*"Colonel John Martin, Provost
Marshal, Nashville December 19,
1862 – June 1863"*

Read more about Colonel John Martin through Howard Mann's Column. This article engages with readers to give insight into the roles and responsibilities of the Provost Marshall during late 1862 and 1863.



*Colonel John A. Martin
8th Kansas Infantry*

[Click Here for the Column](#)

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/>.

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 and we will check for you. You can also renew on our website at battleofnashvilletrust.org.

www.battleofnashvilletrust.org

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