



Nashville Civil War Roundtable

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

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 again at Belmont Mansion, 1700 Acklen Avenue. This is located at Belmont Blvd. and Acklen Avenue by Wedgewood Avenue, less than a mile west of I-65; just east of 16th and 17th Avenues South. There is parking by the mansion.

This meeting begins at 6 PM! Please make note of the earlier time.

The meeting is always open to the public. Members, please bring a friend or two – new recruits are always welcomed.

This month's program – *“Feeding Civil War Armies”*

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.

February Program

Cheryl McAuley of the Tennessee Valley Civil War Roundtable and a retired Army military intelligence officer presented a terrific program of balloonist Thaddeus Lowe. One of the Civil War era's most interesting people, Lowe was a renowned scientist who was an avid balloonist before the war. Presenting his planning to the Federal government with regards to using balloons as a reconnaissance element helping to note Confederate Army movements, he was approved for this use as the Chief Aeronaut. President Abraham Lincoln, a man very much into technology of the time. Soon his balloons could be seen over battle lines in the Eastern Theater from the 1862 Peninsula Campaign onward until he fell out with some in the government. Lowe then returned to his scientific life, creating new patents and more before passing away in 1913.

One of the most entertaining stories that was mention in this program was how Lowe took one of his balloons out attempting to cross the Atlantic Ocean and, instead, landed in South Carolina, a state that had recently seceded from the Union! Locals thought he was a Federal spy!

We very much appreciate Cheryl and husband John, coming up to be with us and giving us one of the most fascinating programs the Nashville CWRT has ever had.

Future Programs:

May 2026 – Scott Anderson – author/historian – *“The Scott Boys from East Tennessee”*

June 2026 – Dr. Larry Krunemaker, historian/author – *“Walking the Line: The Siege of Atlanta Through Existing Sites”*

July 2026 – Steven Currie – *“Civil War Spies”*

August 2026 – David Stewart, historian/author/Shiloh Battlefield Guide – *"The Controversial Confederate Attack Plan at Shiloh and Its Effect on the First Day's Battle."*
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 – Colonel John Martin, Provost Marshal, Nashville December 19, 1862 – June 1863

December 19, 1862, the Eight Kansas received orders to advance to Nashville and begin provost duty in that city. The same orders appointed Colonel Martin Provost Marshal of Nashville, relieving Colonel Gillem. In December 1862 the city of Nashville was a town with divided loyalties.

Gen. Mitchell having command of the post of Nashville, the Eighth was ordered on the 19th to report to him in that city. On its arrival, it was assigned to provost duty, with quarters near the State House, Col. Martin being appointed Provost Marshal of the city. The regiment remained in Nashville for six months, faithfully and conscientiously performing the difficult duties that daily devolved upon it, and doing its full part in restoring to the semi-rebellious city the wholesome restraints of law and order. In February 1863, Companies A, C, D, F, and, in March, Company G, rejoined the regiment. These companies had been stationed at different posts in Kansas, chiefly employed in repelling the incursions of rebel bands from Missouri and guarding the frontier of their own state.



Colonel John A. Martin
8th Kansas Infantry

Adjutant General's report:

The new duties to which the Eighth was assigned in Nashville were delicate and important, requiring in their performance sound judgement, untiring zeal, increasing vigilance, and the strictest discipline. The whole army was encamped around the city, and although the greater portion of it soon moved to the front, a garrison of several brigades remained. But in addition to the troops stationed at the post, there was an army of civilians employed in the quartermaster's commissary and ordnance departments, Nashville being the main depot of supplies for the army; dozens of hospitals and camps for convalescents were located here; troops were constantly arriving and departing; the city was swarming with rebel spies; fully three-fourths of the whole population sympathized with the rebellion, and thousands of desperate and degraded characters, following in the wake of the army, made this city their temporary

home. Rows were an everyday occurrence, and hardly a night passed that was not stained by murder or blackened by outrage. (1)

An excellent article by our own Phil Duer highlighted the daily duties of the Eighth Kansas Infantry Provost Guard:

The city was divided into districts. Provost headquarters were in the State House. A patrol went out every two hours, made its rounds, visiting every portion of the district to which it was assigned and remained out until it was relieved by another. It then returned, and had a rest of four hours, there being three reliefs of the guard for every district. The men at the Capitol were considered on duty at all times, and must be ready for any emergency at a moment's warning. (2)ii

The responsibilities of the Provost Marshal included all of the military prisons in Nashville including the Capitol, military headquarters and the penitentiary were all used for both Confederates along with Union soldiers such as deserters and thieves. (3)

The new duties to which the Eighth was assigned in Nashville were delicate and important, requiring in their performance sound judgment, untiring zeal, unceasing vigilance, and the strictest discipline. The whole army was then encamped around the city, and although the greater portion of it soon moved to the front, a garrison of several brigades remained. But in addition to the troops stationed at the post, there was an army of civilians employed in the quartermaster's commissary and ordinance departments. Nashville being the main depot of supplies for the army; dozens of hospitals and camps of convalescents were located here; troops were constantly arriving and departing; the city was swarming with rebel spies; fully three-fourths of the whole population sympathized with the rebellion, and thousands of desperate and degraded characters, following in the wake of the army, made this city their temporary home. Rows were an everyday occurrence, and hardly a night passed that was not stained by murder or blackened by outrage.

Into this chaos of anarchy and confusion, of lawlessness and crime, of treason and rebellion, the Eighth came like an avenging angel. It had to deal with vices and abuses deeply rooted, and almost impossible to eradicate or reform. It met the emergency with daring and decision, and combining freedom with order, kept down the turbulent without unnecessarily disturbing the well affected. Subject to temptations calculated to test severely the best organized and most thoroughly trained troops, its splendid Colonel John Martin, Provost Marshal, Nashville December 19 , 1862 – June 1863 discipline was never more conspicuous than during its sojourn in this demoralized city. The martial pride of its name rose superior to the allurements and contaminations that surrounded them; they gloried in maintaining their unspotted reputation as dutiful, trustworthy, orderly soldiers, and proved themselves equal to the highest duties by winning at once the respect of all good citizens and the warm approval of the Generals commanding. The streets, into which, before, it had been dangerous to venture after nightfall were kept as quiet and peaceful as those of a New England village. The theaters, which had for a long time been closed on account of the disturbances which

broke out in them nightly, were permitted to re-open, and the guards of the Eighth maintained in them perfect order and decorum. The humblest of its non-commissioned officers knew no rank when in the discharge of their duty enforcing the provost regulations, its bayonets gleamed in every street and alley and flashed on every corner, and its patrols, constantly on the alert, allowed no disturbance to escape their vigilance. (4)

Duties intensified on December 28, 1862, when, during the battle at Stone's River, when Confederate cavalry struck the Union rear and several Union divisions were pushed back in disorder towards Nashville. For the next several days, the Provost Marshal's patrols arrested most of the men and sent them back to the front to rejoin their regiments. (5) After the battle's conclusion, over two thousand five hundred Confederate prisoners flooded the city to be guarded by the Eighth Kansas, including transfers to Northern prisons, reports filled out and guarding the prison hospital for sick and wounded prisoners. (6)

The regiment furnished, in addition to the provost patrols, the stationery guards at the Capitol, military headquarters, the penitentiary, the jail, the market house and the workhouse. The Provost Marshal had charge of all the military prisons of the city, and the last four places named were all used for the confinement of military offenders and prisoners of war. Some three hundred men from other regiments also reported to Col. Martin daily, for duty as guards at the commissary and quartermaster depots, the ordinance department and the prison hospital, all interior guards being under his control and directions. Captain Henry C. Austin, company I, was appointed Assistant Provost Marshal and Inspector of Military Prisons; Captain John F. Isom, Twenty-fifth Illinois, was detailed as Provost Quartermaster, and sometime later Captain John Conover, Eighth Kansas, as Chief of Police. (7)



The Eighth Kansas was relieved when four companies, A, C, D, and F, under Lt Col Abernathy arrived in Nashville on February 22, 1863, followed by company G on March 29, 1863. (8)

On the 13th of April, by order of General Rosecrans, the Provost Marshall arrested and confined in prison about one hundred of the most prominent citizens of Nashville.

Some were afterwards sent north of the Ohio, some south into the rebel lines, and others of them were transferred to northern prisons for confinement during the war. This action created great excitement, as the arrests were made at different times

during the day, and no one knew whose turn would come next. Consequently, all of the rebel sympathizers were alarmed. The arrests were made as quietly as possible, but the order was firmly and faithfully executed.

On the 22nd of April General Mitchell issued an order that within ten days every citizen of Nashville over the age of 18, male and female, should take the oath of allegiance or non-combatants parole, and give bonds for its observance, or go south of the lines. The execution of this order was entrusted to Colonel Martin. The next day a rush to the provost police commenced. Several prominent Union citizens of the city were invited to assist in fixing the amount of bonds, and cheerfully gave their aid and advice. A large force of clerks was detailed to make out the papers, but it was found impossible to get through within the time prescribed, and it was extended ten days. During that period over fifteen thousand persons took the oath or parole, giving bonds in amounts ranging from \$500 to \$20,000 for its faithful observance. Some two hundred, refusing to do either, reported to go south, and Captain Conover was detailed to escort them outside our military lines. During the twenty days occupied by this work, over fifty clerks were constantly employed, and hundreds of people thronged through the Capitol from morning until night. (9)

NASHVILLE DISPATCH, February 24, 1863, p. 2, c. 3 Special Orders No. 46.
Headquarters United States Forces,} Nashville, Feb. 17th, 1863.} * * * * *

VI. Col. Martin, Provost marshal, will arrest and confine in the Penitentiary, William H. Calhoun and G. W. Donnegan, rebel inhabitants of this city. They will be kept in said confinement till John A. Goltz and T. T. T. Tabbs, peaceable citizens of Nashville, now imprisoned by the Confederate authorities, are released, and arrive safely within the Federal lines. By order of Brig.-Gen. Robert B. Mitchell, Comd'g, J.W. Pratt, A.A. Genl (10)

Out of respect for Colonel Martin and Major E. R. Schneider, the men of the Eighth raised money to purchase two swords for each. Orderly Sergeant William Richardson conducted the presentation. (11)

The Eighth remained as Provost Guard until June 9, 1863 and was transferred to Murfreesboro to participate in the Tullahoma Campaign. June 8, orders were received at Nashville requiring the Eighth to rejoin the division at Murfreesboro. Colonel Martin disagreed with the new order. However, his protest of its commanding officer and the Mayor of the city, the order was not remanded, and on the next morning the regiment left for 'the front;' the demonstrations of respect and approval that greeted its march through the streets on its departure, attesting to the good and loyal work it had performed during its stay.

Lieutenant Colonel George Spaulding, 18th Michigan would follow Colonel Martin in July 1863 when Martin became a brigade commander.

Footnotes:

- (1) Adjutant General's Report, Kansas, 1861-1865, pg 114
- (2) The Not So Civil War in Tennessee, (A Different Prism), Phil Duer
- (3) Report, 1861-1865
- (4) Ibid
- (5) Lloyd's Battle History, p. 737
- (6) Freedom's Champion, Kansas, April 25, 1863, p. 2
- (7) The Not So Civil War in Tennessee, Duer
- (8) Report, 1861-1865, p. 115
- (9) Ibid
- (10) Ibid
- (11) Freedom's Champion, May 23, 1863, p

**Guest Article From Melissa Winn, National Museum of Civil War Medicine –
Wonderful Artifact from a Nashville Civil War Hospital**

A Gift of Gratitude: Anna Ford and Nashville's Hospital No. 3

By Melissa A. Winn

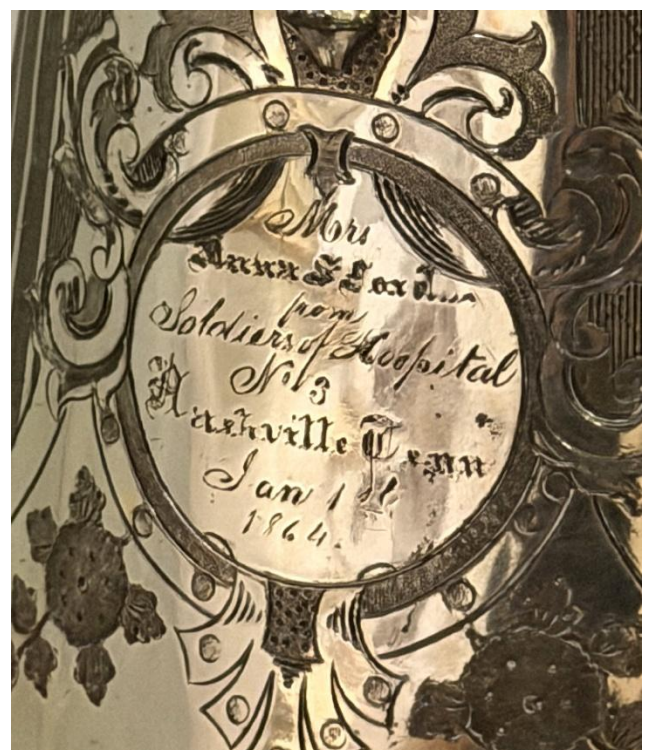
In the collection of the National Museum of Civil War Medicine in Frederick, Maryland, is a striking silver cold water set that tells a deeply personal story of care and gratitude, with ties to Nashville, Tennessee. This ornate, three-piece service, comprised of a pitcher and two goblets, was presented to Anna S. Ford by Civil War soldiers of Hospital No. 3 in Nashville in recognition of her service as a nurse.

Hospital No. 3, located in the Ensley Building on the southeast corner of the Public Square, was a 200-bed facility overseen by J. R. Ludlow. Known for its many stairs and reportedly poor ventilation, the hospital reflected both the scale and the challenges of wartime medicine in a city that became a crucial Union medical center.

Anna's husband, Dr. John P. Ford, was a prominent Nashville physician and former president of the Tennessee Medical Association from 1857 to 1858. During the war, however, he was also involved in the Confederate underground, secretly aiding the Southern cause by transporting weapons and medical supplies.

Today, Anna and Dr. Ford are buried in Nashville City Cemetery, and their likenesses survive in portraits held by the Tennessee State Museum. The silver cold water set, on loan from the Gordon and Karen Dammann Collection, stands as a powerful symbol of gratitude, resilience, and the deeply human stories that shaped Civil War medicine.

From Brandon Hulette, Vanderbilt University and BONT Board member: That artifact is neat even though we don't know a whole lot about it, but Dr. Ford was apparently in the Confederate underground here in Nashville and there are some references for him moving guns and medicines into the city.



Nashville CWRT 2026 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:

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

June 16th – Belle Meade, 7 PM (cocktails at 5:30) – Dr. Larry Krunemaker

July 14th – Belle Meade, 7 PM (cocktails at 5:30) – David Stewart

August 18th – Belle Meade, 7 PM (cocktails at 5:30) – Steven Currie

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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