



May 2026 News

Message from the President

Hello Battle of Nashville friends,

As always, thank you for your interest in and support of the BONT and the work that we are doing to preserve, honor, and interpret the memory of those that fought, served, and sacrificed here. As Spring rolls into Summer, we are excited about a similar season of change here at the BONT. By the service of our amazing Board members and supporters, we have experienced unprecedented growth over the last couple of years. Personally, this has been the most rewarding work that I have ever done, and I am grateful to the Board for allowing me to serve as President.

With terms expiring and structural changes needed to grow the organization, I am thrilled to announce that the Board has elected current Board members Brad Gericke as the new President and

Brandon Hulette as the new Vice-President. This combination of historical knowledge, leadership experience, military service, and educational background positions us to continue to increase awareness and to raise the funds we need to realize the aspirations of the BONT. In addition, I am humbled and honored to be able to continue to serve the BONT in the newly created Executive Director role. Thank you to Brad, Brandon, and the Board for allowing me to continue to do the work that needs to be done and that I feel called to do.

B.W.

BATTLE OF NASHVILLE TRUST INITIATES NEW ERA OF PRESERVATION EFFORTS WITH MAJOR INNOVATIVE ORGANIZATIONAL AND LEADERSHIP CHANGES

May 9, 2026

The Battle of Nashville Trust has announced historic organizational and leadership changes in its non-profit structure as it moves forward with plans to expand preservation of the Battle of Nashville battlefield.

For the first time in its 34-year history of preserving battlefield ground, BONT has retained the services of an Executive Director who will join the Officers and Board of Directors to drive the efforts to upgrade the acquisition and interpretation of battlefield sites.

The BONT Board voted unanimously to elevate then-BONT President Bobby Whitson to the position of Executive Director of the Trust. Vice President Brad Gericke, a retired U.S. Army Major General, was elected president, and Brandon Hulette, a Vanderbilt University professor, as vice president. The new leadership structure went into effect as of May

5, 2026.

"Our objective is to advance the operations of the Trust to meet the urgent demands of historical preservation in a growing metropolitan region where development pressures continue to press against the imperatives to preserve our history," said Gericke. "The Trust is looking for new ways to tell the story of the campaign and Battle of Nashville to today's communities that may not realize a major battle and turning point of the Civil War was literally fought across Nashville's neighborhoods."

He added, "We are looking for volunteers to help us -- all are invited and welcome. In the coming months the Trust will initiate a major fundraising campaign to preserve key properties that are at risk of being lost forever. We must act aggressively and act now!"

Bobby Whitson, who began 2026 as President of BONT and now moves into the ED position, noted that he was grateful that he will get to continue in an effective role to help move BONT forward to achieve the Board's new objectives to save more of the dwindling remnants of the battlefield.

"Over the last two years, we have accomplished unparalleled growth. With our new leadership and structure, I am more confident than ever of our ability to drive greater awareness and raise more funds to honor those that served while creating valuable green space for all Nashvillians to enjoy," said Whitson, a Nashville sports and education technology executive involved in recruiting and athletic team data management from the high school to professional levels. "I am one of the luckiest people on the planet. Every day I get to work alongside some of the best people in Nashville and engage with people about how important Nashville was to the Civil War. At the same time I get the opportunity to honor all of those who fought and sacrificed here."

All three of those in the new leadership structure emphasized the core values set forth in the Battle of Nashville Mission Statement:

"The Battle of Nashville Trust (BONT) protects the memories, land, structures, and artifacts of the Campaign and Battle of Nashville to

honor the history of all who fought and lived through the American Civil War in Tennessee by maintaining and interpreting the battlefield through world-class preservation, education, and advocacy.”

The Battle of Nashville Trust, known prior to 2020 as The Battle of Nashville Preservation Society, was begun in 1992 by local historians who recognized how quickly commercial and residential development was erasing the original Nashville battlefield. Fortunately, a developer in 1954 had recognized the non-residential value of the summit of Shy’s Hill and allowed its acquisition by the Tennessee Historical Society. Since its renaming in 2020, BONT has acquired ownership of the THS property as well as purchased an additional one acre plus of the lower slope of Shy’s Hill.

For more complete statements by Gericke and Whitson, see the May, 2026, Battle of Nashville Trust Newsletter at <https://www.battleofnashvilletrust.org/news/>

Additional Information



Nashville Civil War Roundtable

May 19th, 2026– Our 178th meeting!!

We continue our sixteenth year!

The next meeting of the Nashville (TN) Civil War Roundtable will be on **Tuesday, May 19th, 2026** - back at the Fort Negley Visitor Center. This is located at 1100 Fort Negley Blvd. There is parking by the visitors center.

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.

May's Program-

“The Scott Boys From East Tennessee”

Presented by Scott Anderson

Roane County in East Tennessee was located in an area of very large Union sympathies. County seat Kingston, once Tennessee's state capital (for a day), was an important location on the Tennessee and Clinch River confluence. While the Unionist predilection was powerful, there were still some Confederate sympathizers in the county. The Scott Brothers, six men who would fight in the war (Robert, James, Elisha, Israel, John R, Billy), were divided between those sympathies which plays into the mantra of “brother against brother.” Two joined the Confederacy and the rest the Union with one brother losing his life.

This family and their story have inspired a novel by S. Scott Anderson and his book “The Scott Boys – A Civil War Novel Inspired by Actual Events.” Our speaker this month will give us the details on this family, their exploits and their tragedies. Members of the family fought at Vicksburg, Resaca in Georgia and Franklin. Some were captured and did time at Belle Isle in Richmond, VA as well as Cahaba in Alabama with the horrific tragedy of the Sultana factoring into one of the brother's lives. Anderson has used pension records, family letters and Bibles to weave his narrative.

An inveterate reader, history student and global traveler, S. Scott Anderson relies on his real world experiences to provide substance to the characters in his works. While not a normal career path, studying journalism eventually led Anderson into a career as a construction equipment executive. A lifelong writer and photographer, he focuses on automotive history, creative fiction, and historically inspired unique stories since retiring. Anderson lives in Tennessee, where his family has been since the early 1700s; yet he remains a voyager constantly exploring new opportunities and vistas. You will likely find him at historic car gatherings, small vineyards, and history shows.

Please join us for this personal look at an East Tennessee family and how the Civil War affected their lives.

Our speaker will have copies of his book for sale at the meeting.

[Click here for Nashville CWRT Newsletter](#)

A Gruesome Execution on Granny White Pike in Nashville

By John Banks

This article by John Banks dives deep into story about Private Julius Milika of Company E, 10th Michigan Infantry who faced a public execution on modern day Granny White Pike. Private Milika was arrested for deserting his regiments twice. To learn more about the story of Private Julius Milika click the link below.

[Click Here for Link to Article](#)

Civil War News and Events

***JOIN THE CWRT
CONGRESS FOR OUR
2026
SUSTAINABILITY
CONFERENCE!***

Join the CWRT Congress for the 2026 Sustainability Conference held in Petersburg, Virginia on August 28-30th. This event

will give visitors unique first hand experiences through tours of historical sites, presentations, and key note speakers.



[Link to More Information about the Conference](#)

Article of the Month

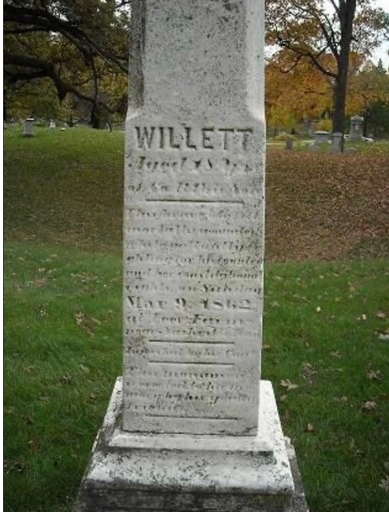
By Casey Gillespie

Director of Historic Interpretation, Belle Meade

"Belle Meade and the Battle of Nashville"

Casey Gillespie's article, "Belle Meade and the Battle of Nashville", illustrates that major role that Belle Meade played in the Battle of Nashville in December 1864. The article dives deep into the family, troop movements, and the harrowing truth of the battle itself. To learn more the article is included in this newsletter, click the link below.

[Click Here for the Article](#)



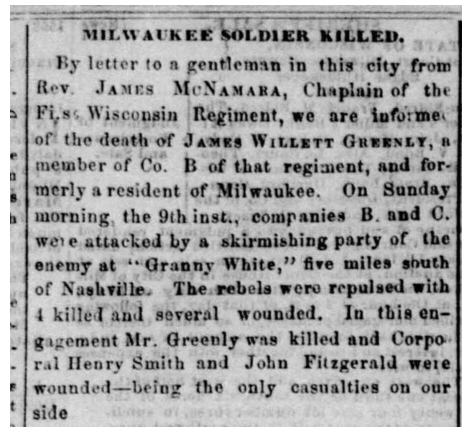
Skirmishes in Nashville

By John Banks

The photo on the left is of a young soldier named Willett Greenly who was killed in a skirmish in March 1862. Willett was only 18 years old when he was killed 5 miles outside

Nashville at Lee's Farm by Granny White Pike.

Banks reveals how there were five skirmishes outside of the Battle of Nashville in December 1864.



[Click Here for More Articles by John Banks](#)

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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