



Nashville Civil War Roundtable

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

July 21st, 2026 – Our 180th meeting!! We continue our sixteenth year!

The next meeting of the Nashville (TN) Civil War Roundtable will be on Tuesday, July 21st, 2026 at Historic Belle Meade Mansion, 5025 Harding Pike

This meeting begins at 7 PM! Cocktails at 5:30!

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

This month's program – “Civil War Spies”

Espionage is age-old in human history but especially in military history. Agents from one nation would be sent to an enemy nation to find out the secrets of that nation and report back to the nation the spy was working for. This included diplomatic, military and industrial espionage, all of which continues today. Spies were a large part of the Civil War. They listened while generals and other officers made plans for battle. They invented secret codes to communicate with their handlers and other spies. Several slaves were spies for both the Union and the Confederates. Some were famous and some were infamous, while others were hidden in the shadows. Some were put in prison, and some were convicted of spying and were hung. This month's program is about the varied and sometimes hair-raising stories of some of the Civil War spies.

Our speaker this month is our own Steven Currie of Clarksville. Steven Currie spent his career developing software and managing software systems. He is now retired and lives with his wife and three cats in Woodlawn, TN. He has had a lifelong interest in history, starting in grade school with Greek and Roman history. One Christmas when he was a

child, he received a Civil War board game where the players could be the general for the North or the South. That sparked an interest in the Civil War. Steven has been able to visit the battlefields at Stones River, Lookout Mountain and Chickamauga. He is a member of the Clarksville Civil War Roundtable and has been for several years.

Please make plans to join us for this fascinating program.

June Program

We thank President Howard Mann for stepping up with late notice and doing his program for us this month.

Future Programs:

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 – *"Civil War Life In Occupied Franklin"*

February 2027 – John Driver, author – *"William Driver of Nashville"*

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!

President Howard Mann's Column – The Beaus of Maggie Lindsley

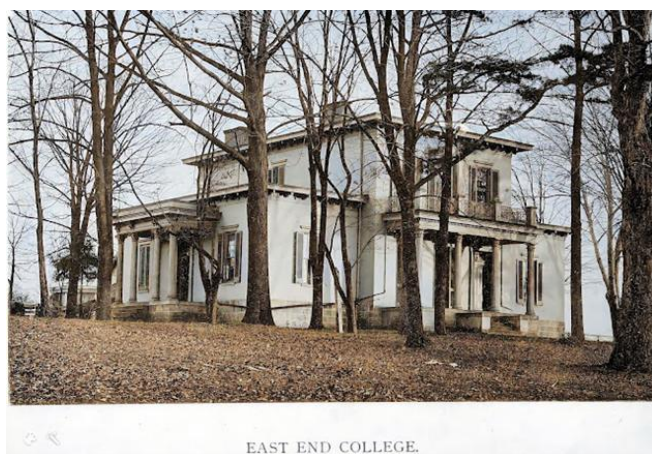


Twenty-four year old Margaret “Maggie” Lindsley is known for her Journal written in Nashville in 1864 through her visit to Washington, D.C. in 1865. The Journal is delightfully written by a vivacious, thoughtful, sometimes precocious young woman, whose background was pro-Union in mostly pro-Southern Nashville but also deeply involved in her friendships with other women in the higher strata of the Nashville social society and thus as a prospective target of young men’s hearts during the occupation and battle of Nashville and the post battle visit to her relatives in Washington, D.C. Since the Journal is worth reading, the focus of this essay will be highlights of Maggie’s most inner thoughts.

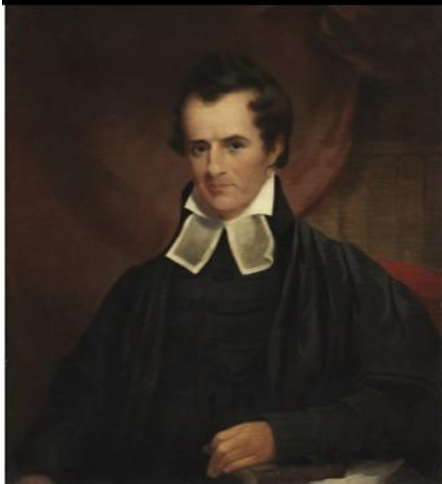
Maggie’s story begins with Adrian Van Sinderen Lindsley, who was born in New Jersey and was the son of Dr. Philip Lindsley, who was at one time president of the University of Nashville. Maggie’s father was the postmaster at Nashville, practiced law and eventually became involved in local and state politics and business development. His home, Springtide was on Woodland Road near 10th and Main. The Lindsley’s were related to family near Princeton, New Jersey and were pro-Union.



Adrian VS Lindsley



Springside

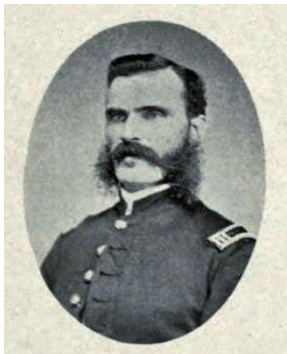


Dr. Philip Lindsley



Dr. Benjamin Silliman

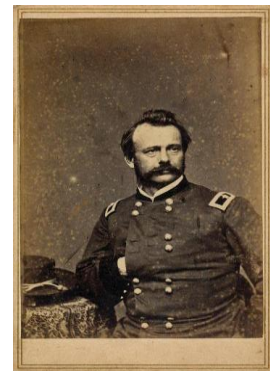
When the South seceded from the Union until the capture of Fort Donelson in 1862, Lindsley's were treated poorly by those who supported the Confederacy. When General Buell occupied Nashville in 1862, Maggie wrote a letter to her grandmother in Louisville, Kentucky which was published in Northern papers – “A Young Lady's Letter” which shouted for joy over “seeing the American flag over Nashville”. Both her exuberance and her patriotism made the letter so popular that an exchange of letters from Professor Benjamin Silliman, a lawyer from New Haven, Connecticut began. Unfortunately, any journals Maggie penned up to October 1864 have not been located.



Capt Robert Lamotte,
13th USCT



Col Reuben Mussey
100th USCT



Gent Lovell H Rousseau
Nashville Defenses



Capt James F Rusling
Quartermaster

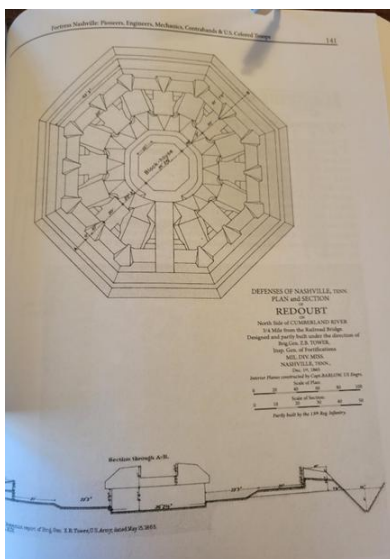
By October 1864, Maggie's journals were preserved in occupied Nashville. At that time, Union troops were flooding into Nashville as General John Bell Hood's Army was becoming a threat. The troops surrounding Springside were primarily USCT (United States Colored Troops) along with many young and aspiring officers, among them Captain Robert S. Lamotte, 13th USCT and Captain James F. Rusling, Quartermaster, both of whom were obsessed with wooing young Maggie. Colonel Mussey, 100th USCT, spent much time with Maggie but engaged in discussions on literature. Their relationship appeared fatherly rather than as an interested suitor.

In addition, there are references to USCT soldiers being stationed around Springside.

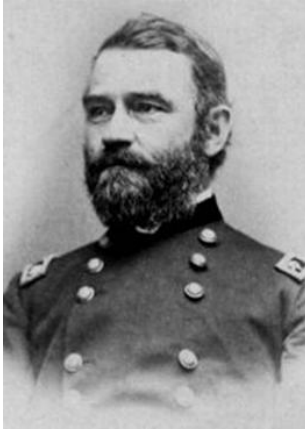
November 14, 1864 – *On coming home found Captain Osburne of the 13th installed in Van's room quite ill.*

November 30, 1864 – *Captain Lamotte is still here with the 13th.*

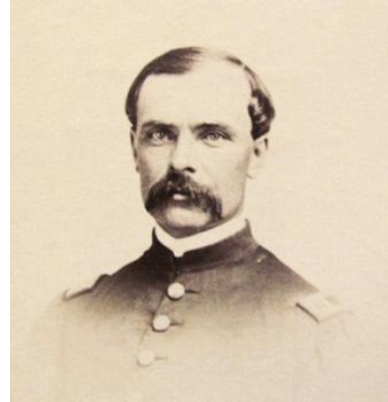
December 1st, 1864 – *Captain Lamotte came galloping up before breakfast to tell us he had received orders to move down near the bridge immediately and build a redoubt – the camp were busy making preparations to leave, and great excitement prevailed – but he would himself see that our usual number of guards should be supplied to us. He had already selected Stuart's Hill as the best position for the purpose, and the last of our dear old 13th left us this afternoon alas! Alas! How lonely and dreary it seems tonight without the white tents over at the right! How we shall miss our beautiful band, and how lost without **our** soldiers we shall be! For "our" soldiers they – I think we know every face in the regiment, and the children know each man by name, John, William, George, Dick, Tom, and Harry – even Baby Bess is never at a loss for a guard's name – 12 detailed daily to guard Springside for nearly a year now, has brought them very intimately near to all the children and servants, to whom this state of affairs has become a permanency, and the awakening to find that the 13th like all that went before is subject to marching orders too is a **tremendous shock!** **Railroad Redoubt and its location.***



General Zenus Tower wrote in 1865, *"At my request the Thirteenth U.S. Infantry, Capt. La Motte commanding, commenced an octagonal redoubt about three-quarters of a mile from the railroad bridge, at bend of track, where there is usually a large collection of cars. The work would cover approaches to the bridge. The ditch was excavated, parapet raised and revetted with openings left for embrasures. Little has been done to this work since the battles. It is not necessary to complete it."*



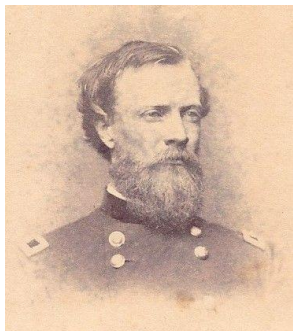
Gen. Zenus B. Tower



Capt. Robert S. Lamotte

The USCT troops left Springside and were replaced by Union cavalry, under Brigadier General John H. Hammond, who Maggie did not favor. In her Journal Maggie refers to him as Col H numerous times in light of his attention paid to Sophie Wolfe, a friend of Maggie's.

Maggie wrote, on November 9th, *"Invitations came only today to Sophie Wolfe's wedding in Louisville tomorrow! I could not have believed such ingratitude possible! I wonder what she would think if she knew the whole story of Colonel H's interest in me – of that ride through the woods the afternoon that she grew so angry, and turned back and frightened poor Colonel Johnson, by her, to him, wholly inexplicable anger? Maybe he has told her, and this is the reason of her rudeness! I wonder if he ever told her that he wrote to me of his engagement, and himself asked me to be her bridesmaid? Did ever a man before arranging matters so coolly to his own satisfaction immediately on his engagement? And yet how characteristic of Colonel H."*



Gen. John H. Hammond



Sophie Hammond in later life

Another starry-eyed, but unsuccessful love, was that of Captain Jenny and Sallie Acklen accompanied by Heloise (Eloise) Cenas, the family tutor, that Maggie comments on while visiting Union occupied Belmont Mansion. During the period before Hood's arrival at Franklin, Union troops camped around and officers occupied Belmont Mansion causing Adelia Acklen to leave with most of the family.

November 24th – *“Home again after a week at Belmont. It has been really cold, trying to snow but too cold for that! Had a delightful week – Miss Cenas is very bright and entertaining. We read “Martin Chuzzlewit” aloud in the evening when we had no callers, and had much merriment. Miss Cenas agrees with Sallie that my laugh is the most contagious she ever knew. Sallie just now is carrying on a merciless flirtation with poor Captain Jenny who is now at Belmont every day! His whole soul is in his eyes when she is by, and no wonder he admires her, for certainly there does not live a more beautiful woman, nor a more winning one – I am sure her voice and manner cannot be surpassed in sweetness the world over. The Federal Officers find her irresistible, and her being an ardent Rebel only adds to her fascinations apparently. How dreadful it would be for all those dozens of rebel lovers if, after all, she should marry a Union soldier!”*



MISS HELOISE CENAS.

While the outcome between Captain Jenny and Sallie Acklen is unknown (so far!) Heloise Cenas remained unmarried her entire life. She was born in Louisiana to a prominent Creole family in 1835. Due to her youthful display of intelligence and precocity she attended a convent school at the age of 8 and other private schools until age 17 when she dominated the New Orleans social world. However Heloise avoided marriage proposals and became a tutor to the nation's richest woman, Adelia Acklen.

The days between with the reduction of troops guarding Springside, the removal of fences, family livestock and horses, cutting down trees, and the stalemate between Hood and Thomas occupy much of Maggie's thoughts.

On December 16th she writes – *“The cannon has been thundering all day yesterday and all today. The battle evidently is raging at last, and will certainly be a furious one under the circumstances – the rebels in sight of their homes will fight with desperation.*

Jamie has not been out to us for several days, nor Pa – and we have only had the daily papers, which however are silent on this one point of course – any statement of

the actual condition of affairs being prohibited. Captain Lamotte and Lieut. Torry called this morning, but they are still on our side of the bridge – they said yesterday for the first time the rebs returned our fire. Every report shakes the whole house – but we do not mind it, but keep quiet around roaring fires, - for it is bitterly, bitterly cold – and try to read as usual, but it is rather difficult with such an accompaniment ringing in our ears. The little Mother tries to sing occasionally, but “Highland Mary”, “Bonnie Doon”, “The Ingleside” and the sweet songs of Moore which she loves don’t harmonize well with the cannon’s roar, and so she tries “Clansmen up, & March awa! March awa! March awa! Gather to the pibroch ca! For the Bruce and Scotland’s glory!” which she thinks much more appropriate; - to Captain Osburne’s intense delight & amusement, for he enjoys her clear, birdlike voice as much as he does the artless naivete for which our Mother is so noted, and which he never met before he says “to such perfection.”

But really it is wonderful how we could have become so accustomed to this state of affairs as to take it so quietly as we are doing today! I remember when two years ago the battle was raging as far off as Murfreesboro, how excited we all were, and how I started and trembled at the faint, far off sound – so indistinct as to be merely suspected in fact – and was too unnerved to do anything but think of the horrible carnage then going on: while today when the deadly work is going on within a mile of our own doors, within sight indeed! – when the artillery is deafening, we sit before the fire quietly, read, chat & laugh! And when I grow too nervous for anything else I seek relief in writing in my journal – for it does relieve me in a measure.

Captain Osburne and I are reading Thackery’s “Newcomes” today – we both know it by heart, and love it – I am sure however I shall never see it again without having a strange mixture of U.S. Captains, and roaring cannon, bitter cold weather, and frightened darkies replenishing fires with shaking hands, and dear old Colonel Newcome, and poor weak Clive in the merciless hands of the Campaigner, his Mother-in-law, and trying to be brave and loving to poor little Rosey! What an incongruous, interesting book it will ever hereafter be!

Van has just returned from town, and here’s his news. General Thomas attacked Hood yesterday morning – took his nearest works – captured 1000 prisoners, and much artillery – the battle still continues today. Hardings is now Hood’s Headquarters – Forrest is near the Lunatic Asylum, and Van heard that Trimble, Tully and Neill Brown, and Frank Reid also are all with him. Poor boys! “So near and yet so far” from home! Tully always vowed he hated the ballad “Home sweet home!” I wonder if he hates it yet!

Had a letter today from Pa’s cousin, Mrs. Dr. Mussey of Cincinnati, asking me to make her a visit either on my way to or from Washington. How kind they are, all these Washington cousins! And how I long to go away somewhere out of all this strife, and “War’s alarms” – but whether Washington is the place to go I am very dubious. But both Pa and Ma want me to go, and I can’t explain to them exactly why I shrink from the visit. Dr. Winston insists that I am breaking down from too much excitement, and a change is imperative; and dear Pa has his heart set upon consigning me to the care of the dear Aunt whom he so much honors. And since Mrs. Mussey’s letter Ma and I have

discussed the matter as coolly from one side only, as if there were no other, viz: That Hood may conquer in today's battle, and that for us there may be a very dismal tomorrow, with henceforth thought only of daily bread earning. But of that possibility we never think. Belief in this Union of ours is too strongly implanted for any doubt at this late day, and all this outside roar has for us but one possible result.

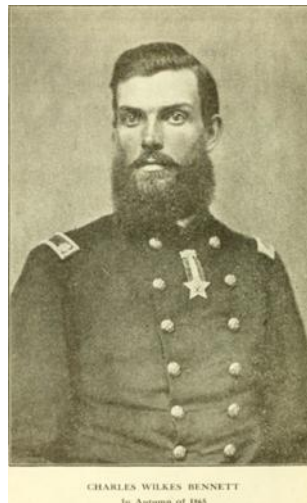
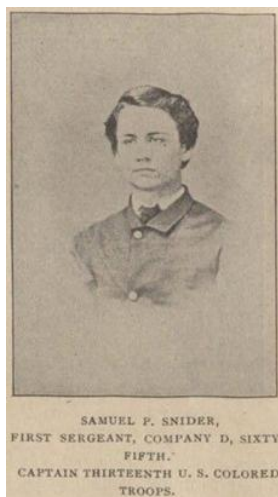
After Hood's retreat, Maggie wrote again on December 18th –

Sunday again and with it peace and quiet. The battle is over. Confederates have retreated, General Thomas pursuing. Last night our army was at Franklin. Glorious Thomas! (I cannot speak his name without tears, and from that I know I am pretty well shattered by all the recent excitement.) Countless blessings rest on his noble head.

Captain Lamotte and Dr. DeGraw spent today with us – they had visited the battle-field yesterday, and described it as they saw it, still covered with dead and dying. I don't care to write or think of what they told me of what they saw. I sicken to think of all the sad changes since I was at beautiful Belmont a few weeks ago! And now this terrible dread of who are lying dead out there on that battle-field hangs over us! Van went out to the field yesterday – but he is sick at heart – boy as he is – and will say nothing but that he is haunted by the terrible sight, and would give everything to blot it out, and have his mind as clear as it was 24 hours ago!

Of the 13th USCT Infantry regiment, that had spent some much time at Springside, the battle of Nashville decimated the regiment by 40%, four officers killed and four wounded with fifty-five soldiers killed and one-hundred and sixty-five were wounded at Peach Orchard Hill.

Some of the officers of the 13th USCT that have been identified.



Cpt. Samuel Snider, Co. A Cpt. Charles Bennet, Co. F Cpt. John Dowd, Co. H



Cpt. James Babbitt, Co. K, wounded in leg Cpt. William Besenger, Co. C

Captain William Bensinger, Company C, 13th USCT, who survived the battle, had already received a Medal of Honor as one of the men who was captured and eventually escaped during the Great Locomotive Chase. He married Sarah Harris, while stationed at Charlotte, TN, who was described as a “pretty, headstrong girl who held true to the Union despite the two brothers that served in the Confederate ranks.

By mid-January, Maggie Lindsley traveled to Washington, D.C. where she would meet and comment on President Lincoln and be courted by her cousin, Dr. Webster Lindsley and Dr. James C. McKee, both of which she turned down. Dr. Lindsley died in 1866.



Dr. James McKee, Surgeon

Sally Acklen, who occupied Belmont when Maggie visited right before the battle, did not succumb to the love smitten Captain Jenney. Instead, Sally married another officer on General Thomas’ staff, Lt. Colonel Southard V. Hoffman of New York. The couple moved to California. Sally was known as Mrs. Sarah Acklen Hoffman. Maggie had mentioned in her Journal on November 30th

Colonel Mussey was out a few afternoons since, bringing with him a “new” officer – just arrived, and one of General Thomas’s staff, I believe he said, Major Ramsey. Has been

with General T. through al the Chickamauga campaigns and laughs at the idea of there being any cause for alarm with General Thomas in command.

They married shortly after the war. Robert died in Nashville on May 31, 1876, at the young age of 38. Maggie's first child, Robert died shortly after birth in 1868. Their daughter, Ruth Ramsey Davies was born in 1869 and died in 1931. Maggie died April 15, 1922 at age 81.



Major Robert Ramsey



Maggie Lindsley 1865

CIVIL WAR NEWS AND EVENTS

Battle of Richmond, Kentucky Tour Postponed Due to Bad Weather

A large storm front moved through Kentucky on the weekend of the above planned tour. From what I have been told this tour will be rescheduled for a later date. Watch this space for that information.

9th Annual Chattanooga Antique Militaria and Americana Show and Sale – July 25-26, 2026

For those of you who are into militaria, in particular Civil War items, the upcoming Chattanooga show is right up your alley. This location is just over the Tennessee/Georgia state line and right off I-75 and a good selection of hotels/motels both here and in nearby Ringgold, GA (itself a Civil War battlefield). The flyer below has all of the details.



Join us
for this
exciting
event!

American Digger Magazine
Proudly Presents
**The 9th Annual
Chattanooga
Antique Militaria
& Americana
Show & Sale**
July 25-26, 2026
Camp Jordan Arena
323 Camp Jordan Parkway
East Ridge, TN



Something for everyone!
Sales and display tables featuring:

Civil War Relics	WWI & II Militaria	Old Newspapers
Indian Artifacts	Old Coins & Currency	Historical Books
Antique Bottles	Muskets/Swords	Antique Jewelry
Historic Art & Prints	Metal Detectors	... And much more!

Vendor setup:
Friday
1 pm - 7 pm
Saturday
7 am - 9 am

Adults \$10
Kids under 12 free!
(If accompanied by an adult)

Open to public:
Saturday, 9-5 Sunday, 9-3

Vendors and exhibitors!
Contact us now
to secure your tables!
For information:
Call (770) 362-8671
or (716) 574-0465
anita@americandigger.com

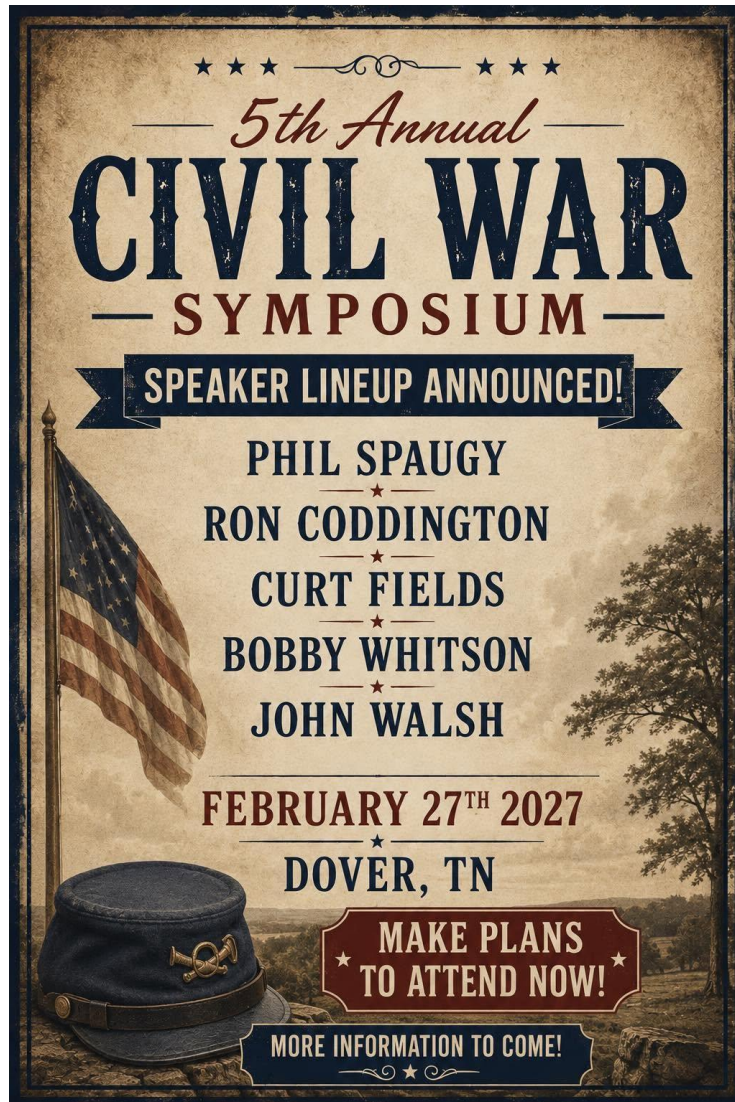
americandigger.com/american-digger-events/

**Buy!
Sell / Trade!
Free Appraisals!**

2027 Dover, TN Civil War Symposium Announces Date and Speakers

John Walsh, of Fort Donelson Relics, who promotes the above event has announced the date of the next symposium along with the speakers. Lock in Saturday, February 27, 2027 and make plans to attend as this event sells out! This past February 175 people attended and maxed out their facility! The flyer below has the speakers and other details – more news as we get it. Our own Bobby Whitson is one of the speakers and BONT will have a table at this event.

BONT is planning their debut fund raising tour for Sunday, February 28, 2027 for the Fort Donelson Campaign led by board member Greg Biggs.



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:

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

September 15th – Longview, 6 PM – Kraig McNutt

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

November 17th – Longview, 6 PM – Scott Mings

December – Traveler's Rest – time TBA – Battle of Nashville Trust dinner and speaker

January 12th, 2027 – location TBD – Walter Green, historian/author

Please make note of these locations and dates. Each newsletter starting in January will have the details for each location.

NASHVILLE CWRT OFFICERS

President – Howard Mann - hgmann2930@gmail.com

Philip Duer – Preservation Liason – pwduer@gmail.com

Greg Biggs - Program Chair – Biggsq@charter.net

Krista Castillo – President Emeritus