



September 2026 Bulletin

Message from the President

In recent notes I have cited our Vision, our Mission and mentioned our Campaign Order. The latter is the blueprint we as leaders of the Trust have set for ourselves in terms of our goals for the next two years. I want to describe several of our key preservation objectives in a bit more detail.

The Trust is the owner and steward for two main properties, Redoubt #1 and portions of Shy's Hill. We are seeking greater oversight and development for a third, Battle of Nashville Monument (also known as the Peace Monument) and Park, and hope to obtain pull-aside locations and pocket parks across the battlefield as well as along the route of the Confederate retreat and Union pursuit that followed the battle, all the way down to the Tennessee River in northern Alabama.

Each of these sites is unique, with both differing opportunities and challenges in terms of preservation and memorialization. Collectively, they represent the core properties that are ready for modern interpretation and proper maintenance to physically tell the story of the Battle of Nashville.

We are very excited about the growing interest in the Battle of Nashville Monument and park, a property that already enjoys visits by local neighbors and tourists alike. The Monument itself is a classic. It symbolizes the restoration of the Union and the sacrifices made by Confederate and Union Soldiers alike in the war. Dedicated in 1927, the monument was located near where I-65 now runs. A tornado toppled the monument and with the construction of the interstate several years later, a new home was required. Thus, after much fundraising and work by preservation groups, a reconstructed monument was dedicated in 1999, located at the corner of Granny White Pike and Clifton Lane. Appropriately, this new location was also near the Confederate defensive line on the

first day of the battle. Today the park suffers from lack of care and outdated interpretative displays. We are building a new site plan and seeking partners to both maintain and interpret the battle and provide better information about the monument.

Redboubt #1, a small earthen fort constructed by Confederate forces in the first two weeks of December preceding the battle, is a property owned by the Trust that is in need of re-interpretation, better upkeep, and restoration to return it to its 1864 appearance. At the time of the battle it was larger than the approximately half-acre remnant that remains, but it is historically significant. Host to several hundred troops and a battery of cannons, the fort saw key action on the first day of the fight. Its preservation and the opportunity to make this property on Benham Avenue a more appealing pocket park deserves our resources.

Shy's Hill, known as Compton's Hill at the time of the battle, is perhaps the most prominent site that is ready for fresh restoration. Located along Benton Smith Road, the Trust has been able to make several key purchases in recent years as we continue to seek to create a modern battlefield historical park. Now in possession of more than five acres, the Trust will build a site plan that sees reclamation and memorialization in at least two phases. In addition to the removal of invasive weeds and brush, we will install new signage, seek regimental and state monuments, acquire artillery pieces, and erect signage about the battle, connected by all-weather trails. This prominent position anchored the Confederate battle line on the second day of the fight, and here the Southerners held until outflanked, exhausted, and with darkness falling, Union combined arms took their toll to finish the main contest and precipitate several weeks of rough fighting all the way to the Tennessee River. It is the ambition of the Trust to identify, survey and acquire sites along this route, which will create new additions to our historical memory of the Nashville Campaign.

These are big plans. Accomplishing these preservation objectives requires a modern, rejuvenated Trust. And we will need help of friends, neighbors, benefactors and all who care about the preservation of our shared history as Americans.

We will share more details in the coming months. We are attacking! Join us. Volunteer. Donate. Let's serve together.

Regards,
Maj Gen (ret) Brad Gericke, PhD



Nashville Civil War Roundtable

September 15th, 2026– Our 182nd meeting!!

We continue our sixteenth year!

The next meeting of the Nashville (TN) Civil War Roundtable will be on **Tuesday, September 15th, 2026** - at the Longview Historic Mansion. Located at *811 Caldwell Ln, Nashville, TN 37204*. There is parking by the mansion.

The meeting begins at **6:00 PM** and meetings are always open to the public. Members, please bring a friend or two as they are welcome!

September's Program

“From the Blockhouses to the Cedars”

Presented by Executive Director Bobby Whitson

Join us **Tuesday September 15th** to hear from Battle of Nashville Trust Executive Director, Bobby Whitson in his discussion following the fighting from the railroads from Nashville to Murfreesboro. *"From the Blockhouses to the Cedars"* will retrace the history behind the battles lasting from December 2nd to the Battle of the Cedars on December 7th, 1864.

[Click Here for Nashville CWRT Newsletter](#)

Article of the Month

"A Heart-Rending Letter"

By Howard Mann

This article captures the pains of war are heard through the letter written by Second Lieutenant Luther Parks who spent the last few moments of his life writing to his wife, Della. Second Lieutenant Luther Parks was part of Company C, 13th United States Colored Troops during the Battle of Nashville. His letter reveals the deep emotions and honesty of a soldier during wartime.

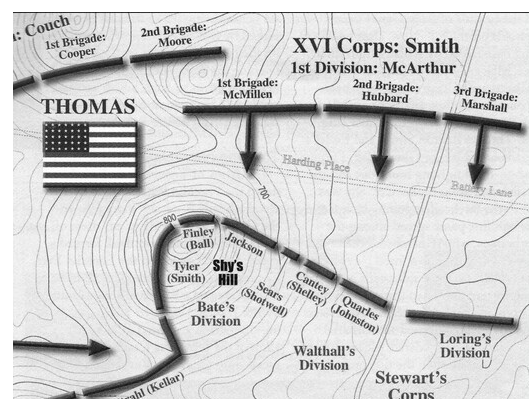
Howard Mann retraces this letter collected by Former CNN journalist J. Mark Powell, to reveal Parks' history through his letter that has transcended time.

[Click Here for the Article](#)

Civil War News & Events

Saturday at Shy's is Back

BONT launched “Saturday on Shy’s” in July as a way to bring people directly onto the battlefield, answer questions and encourage a deeper understanding of the historic ground the Trust owns and maintains.



NOTICE — The September 5 “Saturday on Shy’s” filled up quickly and no more reservations are available as of August 24. Please stay tuned to BONT social media for an announcement for a repeat of the program in October.

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

www.battleofnashvilletrust.org

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