## **Battle Sites**

Brookmeade Park at Kelley's Point
 For two weeks prior to the battle, six artillery pieces under the
 command of Confederate Lt. Col. D.C. Kelley effectively
 blockaded the Cumberland River against seven heavily armed
 U.S. Navy gunboats. The Confederate cavalry and Federala
 gunboats dashed in six separate engagements. Brookmeade Park

2. Granbury's Lunette
This small infantry and artillery fortification was the anchor of the
Confederate right flank on December 15th. Named for General
Hiram Granbury, who was killed at Franklin, the lunete was the
first position assauthed in a diversionary attack just after 8 a.m. by
several regiments of United States Colored Troops under
Steedman. The US
The Colored to the Col





4. Shy's Hill
This hill, known at the time of the battle as Compton's Hill, was the main point of attack on the left by the Federal Army on the afternoon of December 16th. Throughout the day, the entrenched position was pounded by Federal artillery. Finally, Minnesota regiments under Division Commander John McArthur charged up the steep slope of the hill just after four in the afternoon. This assault began the route of the Army of Tennessee, sending the Southern troops in full retreat across the Granny White Pike toward Franklin Pike. The hill was renamed after the war in honor of Confederate Colonel William Shy, killed defending the hill on the 16th. At Battery Lane & Benton Smith Road.

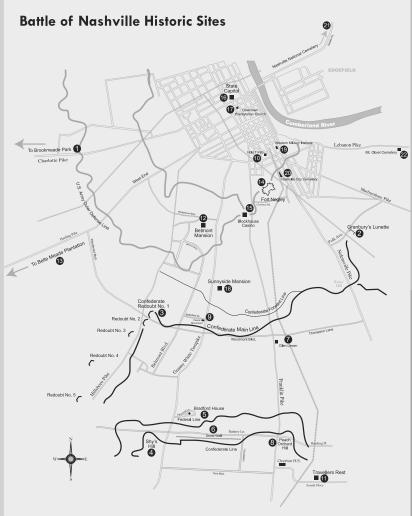
5. Bradford House
Though the house has gone through two reconstructions due to fire since the 1860s, the home's occupant, Mary Bradford, was one of two women (Selene Harding) who tried to rally retreating Confederate troops on December 16th. The house sat between the battle lines. Today, the stone springhouse remains as a testament to the battle. Lipscomb Dr.



Stewart's Stone Wall is stone fence originally served as the northern and western undaries of the 1200-acre Lea plantation. On December this, the stacked stone was used as a fortification by It. General P. Stewart's Corps to hold back the Federal advance. To the units of "Remember Franklin" by Stewart's men, elements of oods IV Corps were held in check throughout most of the day. In Lealand Lane just south of Battery Lane.



8. Peach Orchard Hill
Entrenched on this hill, It. Gen. S.D. Lee's Corps was the far right
flank of Hood's Confederate Army. All day on the 16th, Lee's men
held this position against attacks by Steedman's Division and
Wood's Corps. Six regiments of United States Colored Troops
made the attack, the largest use of Black troops at any bottle
during the war. During the afternoon, USCTs repeatedly
attempted to disloade Lee. One regiment took over 800
casualties in less than an hour. Lee was finally forced to pull back
late in the afternoon where the protected the Confederate rear as
they refrected toward Franklin. Corner of Franklin Road &
Harding Place.



Map by Battle of Nashville Preservation Society (www.bonps.org)

Sites may be visited in any order. Please be aware of any sites on private property and obey all property owner warnings

## Monuments and Magazines -



9. Batile of Nashville
Peace Monument
Originally dedicated in
Original original original
Volume of the Confederate forward
line. This is the only
monument on the
battlefield that recognizes
both Northern and
Southern soldiers.

At corner of Granny White Pike & Battlefield Drive.



10. Holy Trinity Episcopal Church
This Gothic Revival church, built in
1852, was used by the Federal army
during occupation as a powder
magazine. Reportedly, solders
chopped mect on the alter and used
the baptismal font as a wash basin.
After the war, the Federal government
compensated the congregation for the
damages. 615 6th Ave. South.

Images courtesy of Tara Mielnik, Metro Historical Commission, David Currey

## Headquarters

11. Travellers Rest
Bull in 1799 by Judge John Overton, the antebellum plantation
home was Confederate General John Bell Hood's army
headquarters for the two weeks leading up to the bartle. Hood
retired from the house and moved across Franklin Pike to Lealand
to be closer to the front on December 15th. During the battle on the
second day the family hid in the cellar. The Overtons were
Confederate supporters, but Federal officers were allowed to stay
in the house following the battle to protect the family. 636 Forrell
Parkway.



12. Belmont Mansion
Home of Adelicia Acklen, one of
the South's wealthliest women, the
1853 Italianate structure was used
by Union Brig. General T. J. Wood
as his command post during the
battle. From here, Wood's men
moved south over Montgomery Hill
before turning southeast to engage
Confederate redoubt No. 1 along Hillsboro Pike. Family art
treasures were removed before fighting broke out, and were taken
downtown to the home of former President James K. Palk's widow
for safe-keeping. The water tower just south of the mansion was
used as an observation post. 1900 Belmont Blvd.

13. Belle Meade Plantation

13. Belle Meade Plantation
Built in 1853 by wealthy planter William Giles Harding, the mansion
served as headquarters for Confederate Brig. General James
Chalmers, a commander in Nathan Bedford Forrest's cavalry, for
two weeks prior to the battle. On the morning of December 15th, a
skirmish took place between Federal and Confederate troops in the
front yard. Selene Harding, the 19-year-old daughter of Colonel
Harding, ran out of the house during the flighting in an attempt to
rally the retreating Confederates. 5025 Harding Road.

## **Fortifications**

Anchoring the Union line, the fort was the largest inland masons to the fort was the largest inland masons to the fort was the largest inland masons to the fortification constructed during the war, and one of a series of fort installations that surrounded the city. Supporting forts on the hills to the southwest, Cosino and Morton, made Nasvhille an impregnable city. All were constructed by impressed Black refugees and slaves from surrounding plantations. The entire field of fire in front of the fort was cleared of trees leaving the landscape bare. On December 1.5, the guns from these fortifications signaled the Federal assouth with an opening salvo. Today, Negley is an historical park with a state-of-the-art Visitor's Center. Ft Negley Blvd. off 8th Ave. South.

15. Blockhouse Casino
Blockhouse Casino built in 1862 as part of the fortification
system surrounding the city to the south and the west of town.
Made of wood, the blockhouse guarded the Franklin Turnpike.
Today, the till is the site of the city reservoir, built between 1887
and 1889. 8th Ave. South at the city reservoir.



16. Tennessee State Capital
Occupied after February 1862 by
Federal forces, Nashville was the
main supply and transportation hub
for the Union armies in the west. The
capital building was completed just
prior to the war (1859) and artillery
implacements and coton bale
brandlary governor during occupation. Johnson eventually became
Lincoln's running mate in 1864 and then president offer his
assassination several months later. Johnson was present in
Nashville during the battle. The building is a National Historic
Landmark. Located on Capital Hill.

## Hospitals -







19. Western Military Institute
In the 1850s, this building was the central half for the University of Nashville, and was later used to hause the school's military institute. Such notable Confederate generols as Bushrod Johnson (buried in the Nashville City Cemetery), Kirby Smith, and A.P.

Stewart taught there before the war. Regiments in Steedman's Provisional Division, including two United States Colored Troob brigades, began their march down the Murfreesbore Pike at 6:30 a.m. to make a diversionary attack against the Confederate right at Granbury's Lumette. Today the structure houses several of the city's government agencies. 800 2nd Ave South.

## Cemeteries -



20. Nashville City Cemetery
Opened in 1822, the cemetery is the city's oldest public buried ground. Originally four acres, the site grew to 27 acres in the decade before the war. During the occupation, the Federal army used the cemetery to bury Federal Confederates were buried there as well. Among the officers who rest in the cemetery are Confederate Generals Richard Evell, Felix Zollicoffer, the first Confederate Generals killed in the western theatre, and "Bushrod" Johnson. Corner of 4th Ave South and Oak Street.

21. Nashville National Cemetery
The Nashville National Cemetery was established in 1867 by order of Federal Commander George H. Thomas as a final resting place for Union soldiers killed in and around Nashville during the war. Over 16,000 Civil Var soldiers are interred in the cemetery, induding 3,600 unknown and members of the United States Colored Regiments who were killed at the Battle of Nashville. 1420 Gallatin Rd.



22. Mt. Olivet Cemetery
Established in 1855, Mt. Olivet Cemetery
become the finol resting place for almost
1,500 Confederate soldiers who were
reinterred from various beatlefield locations
in middle Tennessee. Veterans who survived
the war were also buried in Mt. Olivet at an
area designated as Confederate Circle.
Seven Southern generals are interred at the
cemetery: William B. B. Bate, William N. R.
Beall, Benjamin F. Cheatham, William H.
Jackson, George Maney, James E. Rains, and
Thomas Benton Smith. Located at 1101 Lebanon Rd.

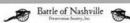
## BATTLE OF NASHVILLE

"So thoroughly was the destruction of Hood's army accomplished that it was deemed unnecessary longer to retain a large force in Tennessee, or indeed anywhere in that section."

Henry Stone, Asst. Adi. Gen.(US)



ers watch the battle from the slopes of Capitol Hill







DISCOVER NASHVILLE

# BATTLE OF NASHVILLE



A Driving Tour of the 1864 Battlefield



## **BATTLE OF NASHVILLE**

Thre Battle of Nashville is considered the last major engagement in the Western Theater during the Civil War. Fought over two days, December 15 and 16, 1864, Federal Major General George H. Thomas engaged the Confederate Army of Tennessee, commanded by General John Bell Hood, in the hills just south of town. In all, Thomas suffered over 2,600 casualties, Hood more than 2,300 killed and wounded, along with 4,500 captured. The overwhelming Union victory sealed the fate of Confederate hopes in the west.

This driving tour includes sites associated with the Federal defenses of Nashville and the first and second days of the battle. All the stops can be reached using public streets. It is easy, especially in the suburban surroundings, to forget the horrors of war. To get the most from this tour, try to imagine the area the way it was in December, 1864—a barren landscape with few trees, ruined farms and plantations, and the bitter cold of winter. The war and Federal occupation by tens of thousands of soldiers left deep scars in the landscape.



When the Confederate Army of Tennessee arrived in Nashville the troops were exhausted. They had been on the march from Atlanta since September, fighting all along the way, including the devastating battle at Franklin on November 30th. Food and firewood were scarce, and Hood's men were poorly outfitted. While the Federal soldiers were better fed and clothed, life in occupied Nashville was not especially pleasant either. With the influx of and clambed, the in occupied rossimile was not especially pleasant either. With me limits of occupation soldiers and slaves from the countryside, the small town had grown almost overnight into a grossly overcrowded city, now waiting out the dreary years of war. Combat was flerce and personal — often hand-to-hand — and medical care was crude at best. The tour map is accompanied by written directions about the significance of the site. There are also a number of historical markers along the route or nearby. Stopping to read them will

## Federal soldiers below Ft. Morton

### Occupied Nashville

In mid-February of 1862, Ft. Donelson, located ninety miles northwest of Nashville on the Cumberland River, was captured by the Federal army. The fall of Donelson led directly to the surrender of Nashville on February 25th. Occupation by Federal troops lasted until 1867. During that time, the city was fortified by a series of defensive installations, making Nashville a major supply base of Federal operations in the West. Both men and materials were transported into and through the city to supply the various campaigns to capture the Deep South, including Stones River, Tullahama, Chattanooga, Alfanta, and Sherman's "March to the Sea." Federal troops also requisitioned numerous churches and hotels to use as hospitals—over twenty in all. With tens of thousands of soldiers garrisoned in Nastville during the war, the areas ral and agricultural resources were depleted, leaving a ravaged landscape for decades after the fighting ended.

### Prelude to the Battle

Freduce to the Barne
Following a two-month compaign from north Georgia into middle Tennessee and the bloody Battle of Franklin on November 30, 1864,
Confederate commander John Bell Hood finally moved his battered Army of Tennessee to the outskirts of Nashville on December 2nd. Hood
took up headquarters at Travellers Rest, the home of Col. John Overton. As part of his overall plan, he deployed cavalry units to the west
and three infantry corps under Major General Benjamin F. Cheatham, Major General A. P. Stewart, and Lleut. Gen. Stephen D. Lee in a four

mile are that ran from the Nashville & Chattanooga railroad on the right to a series of redoubts along the Hillsboro Pite on the left.

Hood also ordered two cavalry divisions under Maj. Gen. Nathan Bedford Forrest and Lieut. Gen. William Bate's infantry division thirty miles southeast to destroy parts of the Nashville & Chattanooga railroad and ensure Thomas could not be reinforced by the 8000-man Federal garrison at Fortress Rosecrans in nearby Murfreesboro.

garrison at Fortress Kosecrans in nearby Murtreesboro.
From behind the massive Federal fortilications that ringed the outer limits of the city, including Ft. Negley, the largest inland masonry fort built during the war, Major Gen. Thomas devised a battle plan to make a demonstration against the Confederate right with Maj. Gen. James Steedman's Provisional Division before unleashing a full flank attack against the Confederate left units Maj. Gen. James Wilson's Cavalry Corps, Maj. Gen. A. J. Smith's XVI Infantry Corps, and Brig. Gen. Thomas Wood's IV Infantry Corps. In all, Thomas would send over half of his

Corps, Maj. Gen. A. J. Smiths xVI intributive Corps, and ang. Gen. Inomas Wood's IV intrainty Corps. In all, Inomas would send over hair of his 58,000-man army crashing against the Confederate redoubts in an attempt to collapse Hood's entire line.

For two weeks, from December 2nd to December 14th, the armies peered at one another across the area between their lines commonly called "no-man's land". At the end of the first week a winter storm produced frigid temperatures near 10 degrees and dropped freezing rain that remained for several days. The weather was so intense that Wilson's 12,000-man cavalry corps was stranded on the east side of the Cumberland River unable to cross the suspension due to ice.



Maj. Cen. George H. Thomas

George H. Thomas, nickna the "Reck of Chicakmauga George H. Thomas, nicknamed the 'Rick of Chicakmauga,' was ordered to Nashville from Atlanta in midOctober of 1864 to defend the city from a possible Confecerate campaign to recaptre the capitol. One of the Union Nrmy's best field commanders, he was instruential in Union victories at Shiloh, Stones River, Yullahoma, Chattavooga, and Atlanta. A Virgnian, Thomas was discowed by his sisters for not joining the Confederate cause. They een asked him to change his nane.



General John Bell Hood
John Bell Hood, a Kentuckian,
was a brigade and division
was a brigade and division
Northern Virginia till he was
wounded at Cettysburg and lost
the use of his left arm. After
recovering he went west when
James Longstreet's Corps was
detached and sent to Georgia. At
Chickamauga he lost his right leg
when he was shot just below the
hip. He returned to service in
Tennessee to defend against
Sherman's march on Atlanta.
President Jefferson Davis
replaced Army of Tennessee
commander joseph E. Johnston
with Hood in mid-July of 1864.



## The Battle

December 15, 1864
With the ice quickly melting, Thomas finalized his plan and issued orders to his commanders to attack at first light.

As the sun rose on the 15th, the city and the battlefield was covered by a dense fog produced by the melting snow.

At 8 a.m., Steedman's Division, using four United Suries Colored Infantry brigades, made several unsuccessful attacks against a lunette defended by Granbury's frigade of Cheatham's Corp on the Confederate right. The regiments took hundreds of casualties.

At 10 a.m. Wilson's Cavalry and Smith's 12,500-man XVI Infantry Corps began their sweep across the Ha At 10 a.m. Wilson's Cavalry and Smith's 12,500-man N1 intentry Corps began meri sweep across me narraing rewest, south, and then east to engage Stewart's Corps entrenched behind the five redoubts along and near the Hillsboro Pike. They were followed just after noon by Wood's IV Infantry Corps. Smith and Wilson's men captured the heavily outnumbered Redoubt #4, then Redoubt #5. By early afternoon Redoubt #3 El. Division commanders in Stewart's Corps, realizing they were being flankee, ordered their men to retreat, abandoning Redoubt #2 and #1. Hood moved his entire army back two miles as ne sun set on the first day of battle.

December 16, 1864

On the morning of the 16th, fog again covered the battlefield as the Confederates took up a two mile defensive position; anchored on the left by Cheatham's Corps at Compton's Hill (renamed after the war as Shy's Hill in honor of Col. William Shy), and on the right by Lee's Corps at Peach Orchard Hill. In the middle behind a stone wall was Stewart's Corps. Thomas initiated a battle plan tha mirrored the first day. With a light rain falling, units from Steedman's Division and Wood's IV Corps began assaulting the Confederate right, taking heavy casualties in the process. One United States Colored Regiment lost five color bearers.

After a delay of several hours due to confusion on the part of Federal commanders, Lt. Gen. John MacArthur of Smith's XVI Corps began an attack from the Federal right against Compton's Hill (Shy's Hill). His Minnesota regiments stormed up the incline around 4 in the afternoon. The Confederates at the top were overwhelmed and began to fall back. Seeing the confusion of troops retrecting, Stewart's Corps withdrew hostily in a panic that quickly befell the rest of the army. From atop Peach Orchard Hill, Lieut. Gen. Stephen D. Lee witnessed the debacle and he ordered his men to retreat, acting as the rest guard as the Army of Tennessee moved hastily down the Franklin Pike. As darkness covered the battlefield, Thomas wired Washington on his victory.

Wilson's Cavalry followed the Confederates into northern Alabama. On the day after Christmas, Hood re-crossed Wilson's Cavalry followed the Contederates into normern Alabama. On the day after unsimas, moor re-crossed the Tennessee River. The Federal victory of Nashville and Sherman's capture of Savannah, Georgia, didlified the Federal hold on the West. The Army of Tennessee arived in Tupelo, Mississippi with barely 15,000 men, less than half of the number they entered Tennessee with in November. As Asst. Add. General Henry Stone of Thomas's staff noted, "By the time of Lee's surrender at Appomatus (April 1865) there remained in Tennessee only the post garrisons and railroad guards needed to protect the property of the United States."

