



**Volume 54, No 8
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Battle Cry

Founded 1961,
Newsletter of the Sacramento Civil War Round Table
P.O. BOX 254702
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President's Message

Greetings from the Wolverine State!

That's Michigan for those of you who don't have their state nicknames memorized.

We have Sherri Patton speaking this month on "An Assessment of Social, Revisionist, and Academic Civil War History." I find this topic to be perhaps one of the most necessary for those of us who have not formally studied History. In researching any of the topics I've been interested in, I'm always surprised/dismayed by the differing accounts of the same event, or character evaluations of the same person, based upon regional bias and historical era. (An English major might feel compelled to wander around like Diogenes with his lantern searching for an honest man in trying to interpret history. But that would be ancient Athens, and that would be philosophy, not history...back to the Civil War.)

Sherri Patton describes herself as a transplanted Southerner with roots in Charleston, South Carolina and Asheville, North Carolina and believes this heritage may have sparked her interest in the Civil War and History in general. She earned her Master's Degree in History from the University of California Davis, and has been teaching History at Sacramento City College for fourteen years. In addition to 19th and 20th century United States History, her areas of specialization include southern history, women's history, and African history. Impressive. But I know that she was actually born in Philadelphia Pennsylvania, and is technically a fellow Yankee.

Since I'm visiting the Grand Rapids, Michigan area this summer, I did a little research on Michigan's role in the Civil War. Michigan made a substantial contribution to the Union during the War. While the state itself was removed from the combat theaters of the War, Michigan supplied a large number of troops and several generals, including George Armstrong Custer. Here are some numbers: More than 90,000 Michigan men, nearly a quarter of the state's male population in 1860, served in the War. In addition to the approximately 600 men who joined the Union Navy, Michigan raised 34 regiments of infantry volunteers, one regiment of sharpshooters, eleven cavalry regiments, and one engineer regiment.

Among the more celebrated units was the 24th Michigan Volunteer Infantry, which as a part of the famed Iron Brigade, suffered considerable losses at the Battle of Gettysburg while defending McPherson's Ridge. Custer's Michigan Wolverines' Cavalry effectively battled J.E.B. Stuart at Gettysburg as well.

Roughly 1 of every 6 who served, 14,753 soldiers, died in service.

Today, the State of Michigan has nine Civil War Round Tables! I was looking forward to attending Grand Rapids' Round Table, but they are taking a break for the summer. Rats.

I've read about the heat back in Sacramento. Hope you are all surviving it. Excuse me while I throw on a light sweater to combat the evening breeze. See you next month.

Anne Peasley, President

MINUTES
SACRAMENTO CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE
Wednesday, July 9, 2014
HOF BRAU RESTAURANT, 2500 WATT AVENUE, SACRAMENTO

ATTENDANCE – 33

MEMBERS – 23: Anne M. Peasley, President, Donald J. Hayden, Vice President, Paul Ruud, Secretary, George W. Foxworth, Treasurer, George Beitzel, Joan Beitzel, Roy Bishop, Harvey Cain, Marsha Jutovsky Cain, John Greer, Robert E. Hanley, IPP, Scottie Hayden, Bill Jackson, Jane Jackson, James Juanitas, Rick A. Peasley, John Rice, Nicholas Scivoletto, Roxanne E. Spizzirri, Michael Werner, Bob Williams, John V. Zasso, Vivian Zasso.

GUESTS – 10: Esther Boeck, Diane Fontes, Jim Neff, Shoko Neff, Chris Osborn, Ted Savas, Larry Spizzirri, Richard Spizziri, Ray Valdez, Don Zajic

1. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by President Anne Peasley.
2. Rick Peasley led the gathering in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.
3. President Peasley displayed a book containing the New York Times Civil War articles they published during the War. The book was edited by our Conference speakers Craig Symonds and Harold Holzer.
4. President Peasley reminded members of the July 19-20th Civil War re-enactment at Duncan Mills.
5. Past SCWRT member and speaker, premier book salesman and active West Coast Conference supporter, Ted Savas, was introduced to present the evening's program. Ted would discuss the 22-day life on the Mississippi of the CSS Arkansas.
6. Confederate Navy Secretary Mallory initiated ironclad acquisitions at a January 1861 meeting and work began immediately on converting the Merrimac into the first Confederate ironclad. Ironclads were a key part of the CSA defense of the Western Theater since the rivers there are generally north-south in direction. In the Eastern Theater, Virginia in particular, the rivers are east-west in orientation and thus provided barriers for an invading army. The CSA initiated construction of two ironclads in New Orleans and two, including the Arkansas, in Memphis. A shortage of materials and craftsmen created delays in construction of the Arkansas and it was towed to the Yazoo River for a renewed effort. Lt Isaac Newton Brown took command of the Arkansas on May 29, 1862, and new 24/7 work schedules were started.
7. The Arkansas was 165 feet long, 35 feet wide with a 12 foot draft. It had twin screws with new engines and topped out at about 10 mph. Its cost was just under \$80,000.
8. When the Arkansas was completed and started moving down the Yazoo toward the Mississippi, it was met by three Union ships – the Carondelet, the Queen of the West, and the Tyler. Lt Brown and the Arkansas fought valiantly throughout its 22-day combat life as it worked its way out of the Yazoo to the Mississippi and then south toward Vicksburg. Against all odds, it arrived at the Vicksburg port and was met and feted by Generals Van Dorn and Breckenridge. Now that the bulk of the Union Navy was north of Vicksburg, the Arkansas commander saw the opportunity to go downstream and re-take New Orleans.
9. Brown's injuries had led to a new Arkansas commander, Lt Stevens. Shortly after steaming out of Vicksburg, the Arkansas ran into strong Union opposition and was badly damaged. The crew had to abandon the ship and Commander Stevens was the last to depart – it floated briefly on the Mississippi before exploding and going to the bottom of the River as a final resting place.
10. President Peasley thanked Ted with words and wine for keeping the crowd on the edges of their seats.
11. The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 PM. The next board meeting will be on Wednesday, August 13, 2014, at 10 AM at Brookfield's Restaurant. Come one, come all!

Paul Ruud, Secretary

Treasurer's Report

The cash balance following the July 9, 2014 meeting was \$4,577.82. Thanks to John Zasso, other members, and guests, the raffle brought in \$39.00.

George W. Foxworth, Treasurer

Coming Programs for 2014 and 2015		
Date	Speaker	Topic
August 13th	Sherri Patton	"An Assessment of Social, Revisionist, and Academic Civil War History"
September 10th	Dennis Kohlmann	"The Blockade"
October 8th	Tad Smith	"The Coins and Currency of the Confederacy"
November 12th	Tom Lubas	"Chicago, That Toddlin Civil War Town"
December 10th	Tim & Ginny Karlberg	"Captain John Groetsch"
January 14 th	Erin McCabe	"Women Who Fought in the Civil War"
February 11th	Nancy Samuelson	"Nathan Bedford Forrest"
March 11th	George Beitzel	"Flight To Oblivion"
April 8th	Richard Sickert	To Be Determined
May 13th	To Be Determined	To Be Determined
June 10th	To Be Determined	To Be Determined
July 8th	Joe Maxwell	George Armstrong Custer, Part II

NEWSLETTER CIVIL WAR ARTICLES

Civil War articles/book reviews are welcome. The submission deadline is the 1st of each month for that month's Battle Cry. Submit your items in Microsoft Word or regular email to:

gwfoxworth@sbcglobal.net

The Battle Cry is the monthly newsletter of the Sacramento CWRT. Submissions are subject to availability of space and size limitations. Submissions do not necessarily reflect the views of the organization or the Editor. The official address of this organization is: Sacramento Civil War Round Table, Post Office Box 254702, Sacramento, CA 95865-4702. <http://www.sacramentocwrt.org> is the web site address. Check the web for past newsletter editions and information about the group.



2014 West Coast Civil War Conference

Sponsored by Sacramento Civil War Round Table

1864

November 7 - 9, 2014, Crowne Plaza Hotel, Sacramento

Our Speakers are:

Craig L. Symonds: Joined the United States Naval Academy faculty in 1976. He served as Chairman of the History Department in 1988-1992 and was appointed Professor Emeritus on his retirement.

Harold Holzer: Is a leading national authority on Abraham Lincoln and the political culture of the Civil War. A writer, lecturer, frequent television guest, and Chairman of The Lincoln Bicentennial Foundation.

Thomas Cartwright: Is a leading authority and author on the Battle of Franklin who conducted tours of Western Theater battlefields for 20 years. Appeared on many TV shows and is a frequent CWRT speaker.

Jim Stanbery: Professor of Political Science and History at Los Angeles Harbor College, and speaker at the West Coast Civil War Conference for more than twenty years.

Theodore Savas: Is an attorney, adjunct college instructor, award-winning author, Partner and Managing Director of Savas Beatie LLC. He specializes in military history and the American Civil War.

Ron Perisho: A member of the Sacramento CWRT, Secretary-Treasurer of the Center for Civil War Photography (CCWP), and a Soils and Foundation Engineer specializing in repair of distressed structures.

The Conference cost is \$195 per person which includes Friday dinner, Saturday lunch and dinner, as well as all sessions. A full breakfast buffet is included for guests staying at the hotel.

Partial day attendance: Friday only \$50, Saturday only \$95, Saturday dinner only \$50, Sunday only \$50. There will be a no-host bar set-up Friday and Saturday evenings for your enjoyment before dinner.

For more information, contact Paul Ruud at 530-886-8806 or by contacting www.sacramentocwrt.com where information and registration forms will be available.

Room reservations are available by calling Crowne Plaza directly 877-270-1393 or www.crowneplaza.com
Crowne Plaza Hotel has rooms set aside for us at \$99 per night, plus tax. Please mention the Conference.

Please print this page, fill it out, and return the form with your check for your registration. Make checks payable to:

Sacramento CWRT and mail to: George W. Foxworth, 9463 Salishan Court, Sacramento, CA 95826-5233.

Name / Organization as you want it on your badge

Organization: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____ City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Day phone: _____ Other phone _____

Email: _____



How John Bell Hood Destroyed the Rebel Army of Tennessee Part Two Battle of Nashville

This article is the sequel to “Part One, The Battle of Franklin”, which was carried in the *Battle Cry*, 7-03, revised 6-14. In that tragic affair, the CSA army commander, Hood had ordered a series of frontal attacks against the well fortified 4th and 23rd Corps of the Union army in the City of Franklin, Tennessee. The result was the death and wounding of 6,300 of his army, about one-third of its effective fighting forces, over a five hour period on 30 November 1864. His officer corps was decimated; included in the loss were 13 of 28 general officers (six killed, one being the irreplaceable Patrick Cleburne) and 52 field-grade officers, nearly 50% of the regimental commanders.

Hood’s orders had been given in a vindictive fit of temper to punish his army for letting the federal forces “walk past them” the previous night at Spring Hill; while he slept in a drunken or drug-induced stupor unable to be fully awakened. (Why he needed to be informed was that he had so intimidated his subordinates that they would no longer take independent actions.) Hood had planned to renew the attacks the following day, but the federal forces under John Schofield had withdrawn 12 mile north to behind the Nashville fortifications, which had been their original plan as soon as the Harpeth River bridges were repaired. (Some say that the Feds should have remained at Franklin one more day, for they could have there and then fully destroyed the Rebel forces?)

Hood’s reports to his government were a deceitful sham. He declared “Victory”, and lied about the events that occurred; reason why he could not use artillery was because of women and children (real reason was because it had not come up yet), and phony reasons why a flanking movement was inappropriate, although it had been recommended by Forrest and all of the corps commanders (real reason was that he did not have the ability to conduct flanking and other complex maneuvers). At this stage in his career, John Bell Hood had become an accomplished liar, a superb backbiter, and a superior in the art of brown nosing.

On 2 December, Hood marched the remnants of the Army of Tennessee, tired ill-nourished and poorly clothed, to the outer fortified gates of Nashville and took up a position with both flanks open, right

flank completely “in the air” and left “refused”. This was insane. What he rationally proposed to do there is unexplainable. Although he may have scared the hell out of U.S Grant and Henry Halleck in Washington (which is another story), he did not much disconcert General George Thomas, who commanded the Nashville Union forces. Hood’s next blunder was to send N. B. Forrest and his cavalry to Murfreesboro to protect his rear. Good grief, it was not his rear that was in danger, it was his front and flanks!

With the exception of Washington D.C., Nashville was the most heavily fortified city in the country. It was naturally protected on the North and Northeast by the Cumberland River, with large naval Ironclad patrols and artillery; and on the Southeast, South and West by extensive field defensive works, including eleven major forts, the largest of which was Fort Negley². The Nashville defense system had been designed in 1862-3 by BG (then Capt.) James St Clair Morton, USCE, who was later killed at Petersburg; and was then being managed by BG Zealous B. Tower, USCE, later Chief of Engineers. Reason for the heavy defense system was that Nashville would become a major rail hub for the Union with massive quartermaster, commissary and ordinance depots.

Fort Negley (see Battle Map & Graphic Page) controlled the N&C and N&D Railroads plus three of the six turnpikes to the south, Murfreesboro, Nolensville, and Franklin. It consisted of very large bomb proof bastions equipped with eleven Parrot rifles that could hurl 30 pound shells 2.5 miles in any direction. (Even into the city, if necessary, in the event of a revolt.) Other Forts in the system, also named after Union officers, were Morton, Harker, Houston, McCook, Sill, Gillem, Donaldson, Garesche and Whipple. Also included was Fort Casino³. The Forts were arranged in two defense lines, the inner line being seven miles long and containing 20 artillery batteries in addition to the Forts. The outer line was some 12 miles long. Encompassing the City and all significant Federal works, the lines would be manned by a garrison of 3,000 soldiers supported by 2,000 mobile troops. Some 4,000 quartermaster employees were also available, if necessary; and, it was estimated that this elaborate defense system could repel an enemy force of from 8 to 10 times the garrison number. Compare this to the actual 70,000 Union forces in the Army of the Cumberland under Thomas at that time, and the 20,000 then under Hood in the rag tag Rebel Army of Tennessee. *And John Bell Hood really thought he could capture Nashville, and move on into Kentucky and Ohio or where ever his fancy carried him?*

The ill equipped Army of Tennessee, many shoeless and barely surviving on rations of parched corn, and suffering greatly from exposure to the severe winter weather established their positions about 3,000 to 4,000 yards south of the Union outer defense line. Hood and his staff established luxurious headquarters at Traveler's Rest⁴, the home of a wealthy Rebel supporter six miles south of Nashville. It was stated to be "a place of warmth and hospitality with the pleasure of women; an abundance of good food including beef, mutton, pork, flour and potatoes; plus barrels of whiskey for solace and inspiration". The Rebel's "attack" line, or whatever it might be called, was about four miles in length running west to east from Hillsboro Pike to the N&C RR with flanks open. Positioned from left to right were A. P. Stewart's, S. D. Lee's and B. F. Cheatham's Corps'. As previously mentioned, Forrest's cavalry was not present.

Meanwhile General Thomas was busy consolidating an assortment of troops and arguing with his Washington superiors, who wanted him to attack Hood immediately. By 14 December, Thomas was ready. A. J. Smith's Corps had arrived, Wilson's cavalry horses had been at least partially replaced and rejuvenated, and the troublesome ice storm had abated. The Union and Rebel troop deployments by Corps and Divisions are indicated on Graphic Two. The battle began the morning of 15 December. Siege guns from the federal forts opened fire, and at 8:00 a.m. J. B. Steedman's Provisional Detachment made a diversionary attack against the Rebel right flank to "pin it in place", while the main Union attack, involving J. H. Wilson's Cavalry Corps, A. J. Smith's and T. J. Wood's Infantry Corps', with some help from Schofield's Corps, was on the Rebel's left flank. Outnumbered, soon surrounded on three sides and bombarded by artillery, the Rebels cut a hasty, but still organized, retreat to their southeast and established a new shorter line.

What saved the Army of Tennessee that day was the coming of darkness at 6:00 p.m. Hood would have been well advised to have immediately headed his Army south down the Franklin and Granny White Pikes as far as he could travel that night toward the safety of the Tennessee River, 100 miles distance; but instead he drew back to the shorter east-west line 2.5 miles long, and some 4,000 yards south, where he had his dead-tired soldiers dig in again. The 16th was somewhat a repeat of the day before. Hard fighting occurred, but finally the Confederate lines broke and discipline disappeared. Panic spread like wildfire among the southerners, particularly those who

remembered the slaughter at Franklin. They would fight no more for John Bell Hood. He had ruined the Army of Tennessee. Cheatham's and Stewart's Corps' became rabble. Only Lee's Corps (which had not been deployed at Franklin, because of late arrival) retained any semblance of organization. The army remnants did succeed to retreat, but with tremendous attritions, into Alabama on 26 December and on to Tupelo, MS, arriving 12 January 1865. Credit for this withdrawal was due largely to Nathan Bedford Forrest's rear guard action. Hood submitted his resignation as commander later that month, hoping that his friend J. Davis would not accept it; but Davis, in a rare display of wisdom, approved it⁵.

During Hood's Tennessee campaign, lasting just over three months, it is estimated that he had lost 24,000 of his 38,000 men; 63%, an all time record for any "American" army. To this day there are those who extol the virtues of John Bell Hood: including distant descendants and lost cause philosophers, who cite his performance in earlier actions as a basis for their support. Yet, as one leading Civil War historian has stated, "No segment of a man's life stands alone; it must be put in the context of the whole. Hood ultimately was a tragic failure, a sad pathetic soldier whose ambitions totally outstripped his abilities. Essentially, he was an anachronism: an advocate of outmoded concepts and a person unable to adapt to new methods or technology". Moreover, in addition to his other flawed attributes mentioned above, he was prone to blame subordinates unfairly and unable to admit his own mistakes, and to the bitter end never understood his failings. More succinctly, it has been said of John Bell Hood that, "He had a heart of iron and a head of wood". Indeed, there were many reasons why the Confederacy lost the Civil War. John B. Hood was but one of them.

Notes:

¹Part One is available on the SCWRT Website:

www.sacramentocwrt.com/

² Union forts in Confederate areas were not popular. Fort Negley was no exception. It was abandoned, neglected and desecrated after the War, and for a time used as a meeting place for the KKK. In the 1930's the WPA reconstructed much of it, but those works also fell into disrepair, and the Fort was closed to the public for the past 35-40 years. Recently, the City of Nashville has spent over two million dollars in renovations and added some excellent displays. The area is now open as a City Historical Park and is a most interesting place to visit.

³Fort Casino was a massive brick blockhouse built in the shape of a "T". It was demolished in the 1890's to build an above-ground reservoir to pressurize the City's water system. The site has historical significance, is also interesting and was open to the public until 9-11; now permanently closed, but can be visited with advanced special permission.

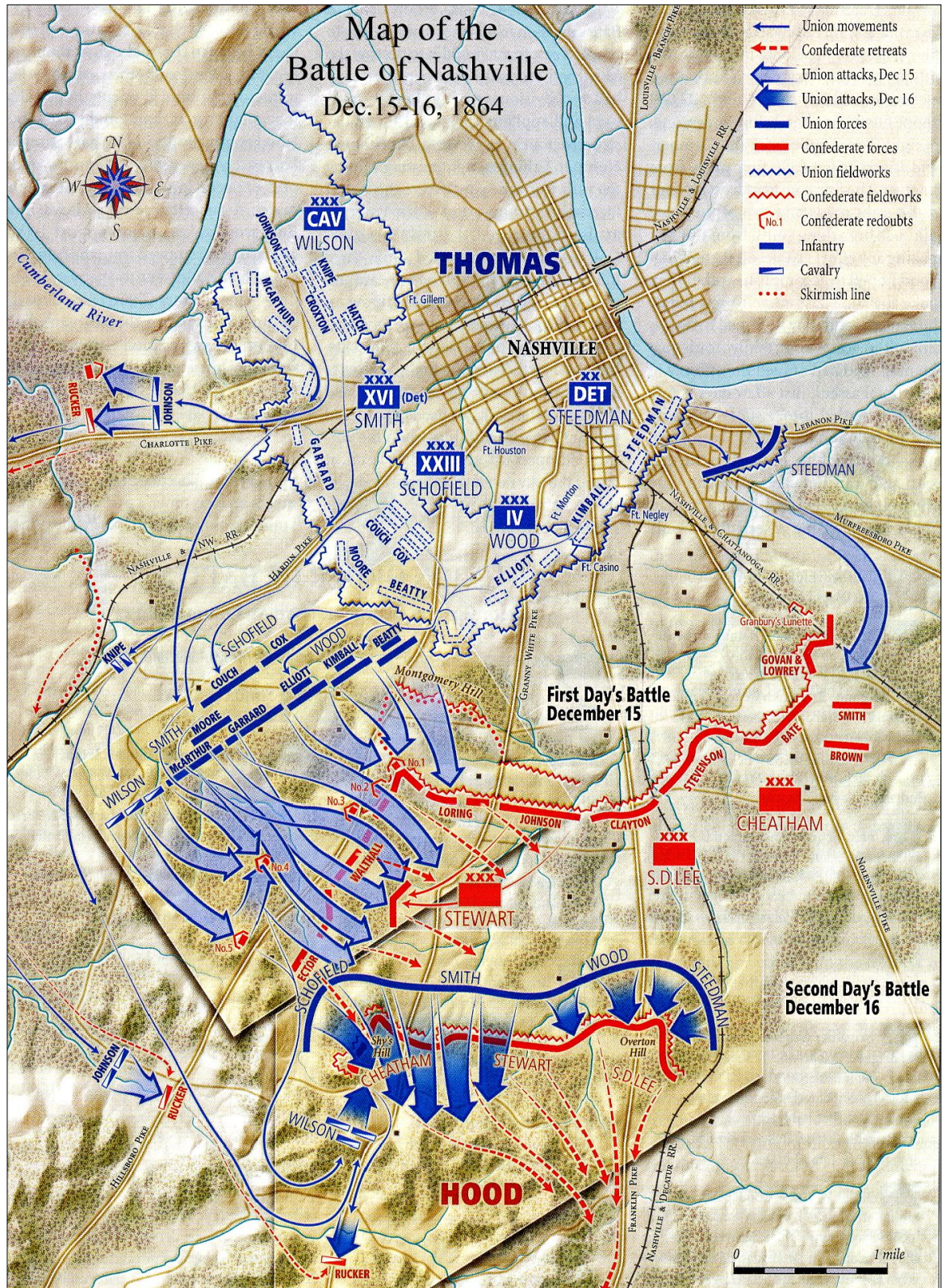
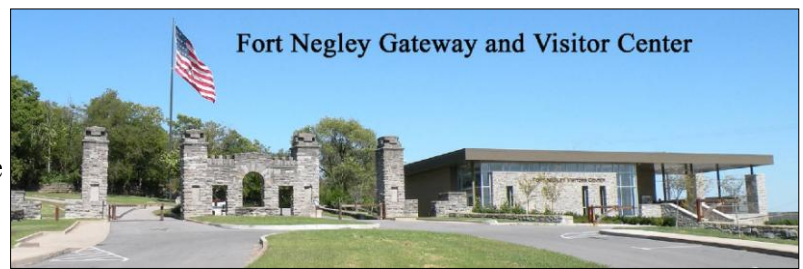
⁴Traveler's Rest is privately owned, open to the public, and has a small museum

⁵But Davis later wrote in his memoirs that he had acted solely on Hood's request, not because of his performance in Tennessee.

References:

Same as for Part One, plus "Guide to Nashville Civil War" by Mark Zimmerman, 2004

**R. A. Williams: 4-21-06;
rev. 7-05-14**

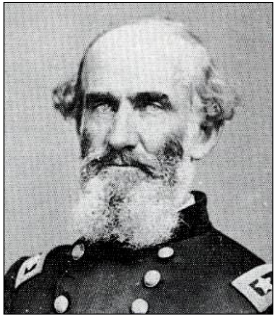


How John Bell Hood Destroyed the CSA Army of Tennessee

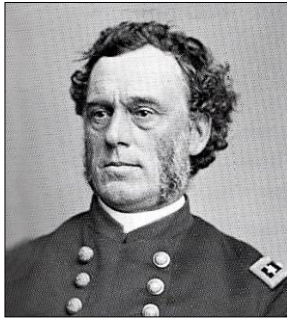
The Battle of Nashville

Graphics Page

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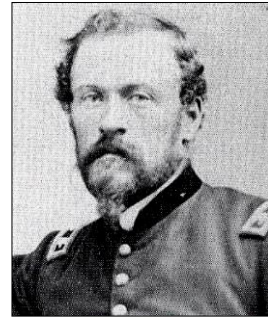
A. J. Smith, USA



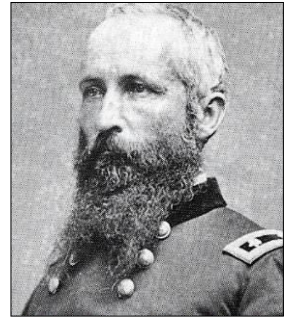
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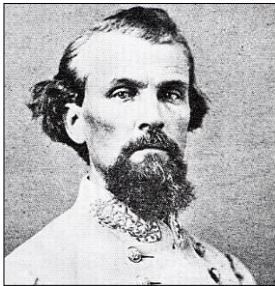
George H. Thomas, USA



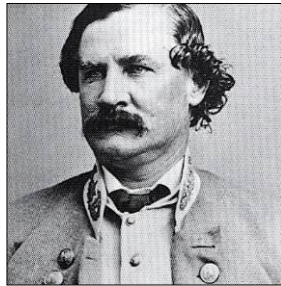
J. H. Wilson, USA



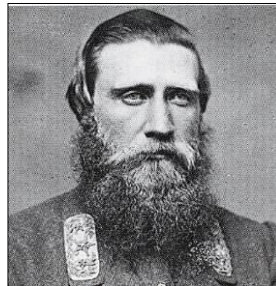
T. J. Wood, USA



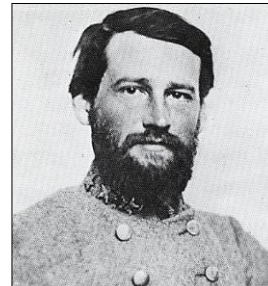
N. B. Forrest, CSA



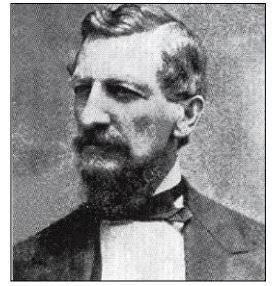
B. F. Cheatham, CSA



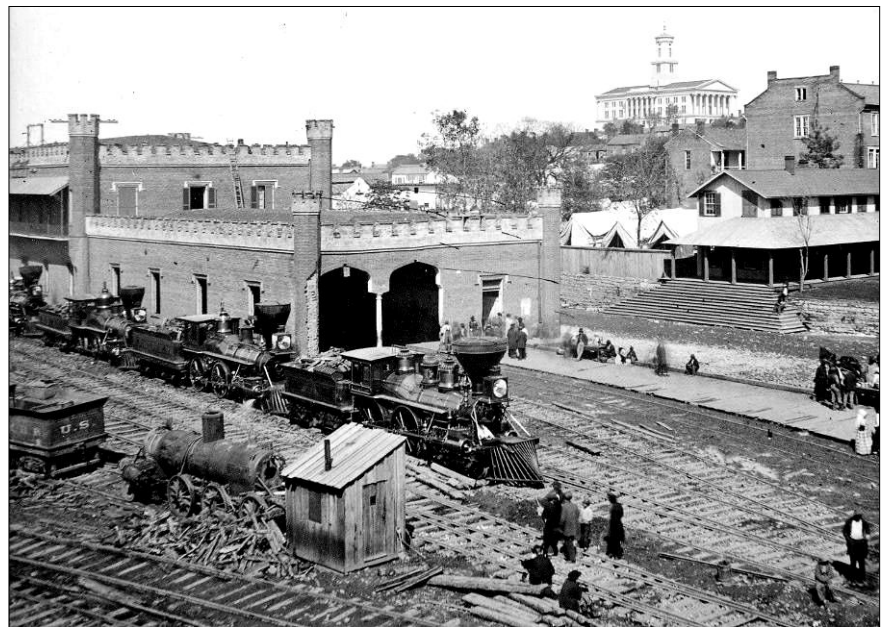
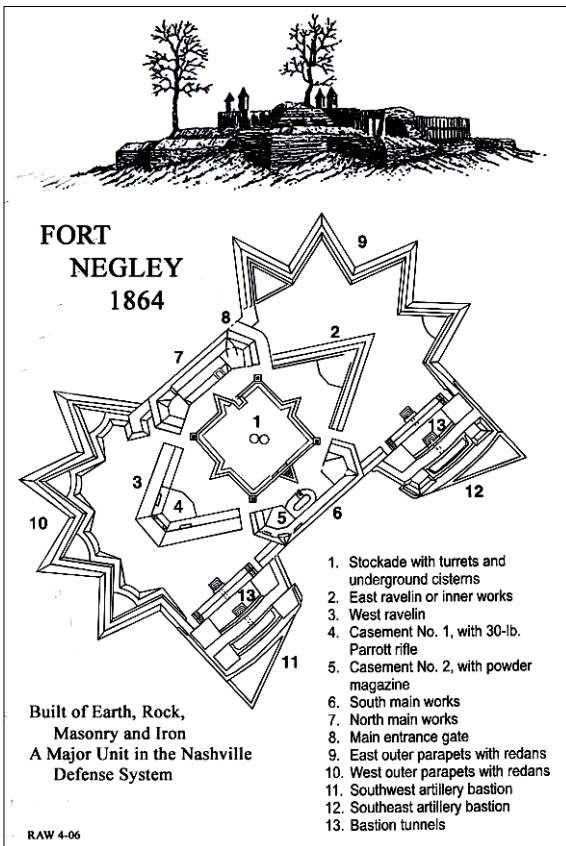
J. B. Hood, CSA



S. D. Lee, CSA



A. P. Stewart, CSA



Nashville & Chattanooga R.R. Station with State Capitol (upper right)



Drawing

of Fort Negley (Largest Inland Fort in US)

