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Also by Mark Zimmerman:

God, Guns, Guitars & Whiskey: An Illustrated Guide to Historic Nashville, Tennessee-2nd Edition

Gone Under: Historic Cemeteries of Nashville, Tennessee-2nd Edition



Gunboats and Transports

Cumberland River provided route of invasion, supply line

The Cumberland River played an important role in Nashville history during the Civil War, just as it had Christmas Day 1799, when settlers from North Carolina walked across the frozen river and established Fort Nashborough on the bluffs overlooking the ice. Since then, the river, which flows northward to the Ohio, has been the city's main water thoroughfare.

The fall of Nashville to U.S. troops was precipitated by the Union capture of Fort Donelson downstream on the Cumberland. Confederate Fort Defiance in Clarksville and Fort Zollicoffer near Nashville never saw action, abandoned by their crews before the boats arrived. The U.S. troops which first occupied Nashville arrived on steam transports, escorted by ironclad gunboats.

At that time, there were two bridges across the river, linking Nashville with the small town of Edgefield. The evening of Wed., Feb. 19, the 700-foot-long suspension bridge over the Cumberland was set ablaze by the Confederates and the cables were cut. At the same time, the wooden platform of the railroad bridge, a swing-span structure, was set ablaze. The two burning bridges produced a “strikingly beautiful scene,” according to one spectator. Two nights before, the Confederates had burned two steamboats tied at the Broad Street landing near the main wharf. Many in the city at first feared it was the soldiers burning the city before it fell into enemy hands.

On Feb. 25, the mayor took a steamer across the river to Edgefield to surrender the city to the Union troops.

By March 24, 1862, there were 110 steamboats on the Cumberland River hauling provisions to Nashville.

“The street next to the river is piled with accoutrements of the army, with guns, wagons, ammunition, etc., at the extent of which the rebels stare in astonishment,” wrote a correspondent of a Columbus, Ohio newspaper.

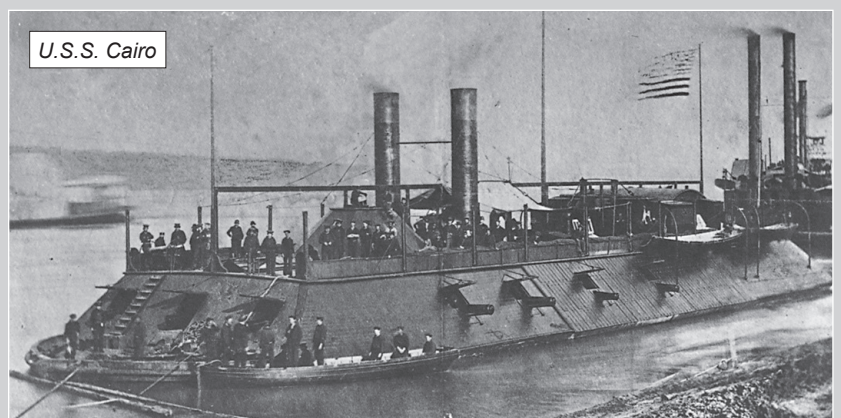
Major Gen. Henry Halleck reinstated the right of Nashvillians to trade with Northern states in order to put steamboats on the Cumberland to transport troops without disclosing that purpose.

By May, permits had been issued to ship 3,000 bales of cotton to the North.

On June 11, 1862, the railroad bridge over the Cumberland had been rebuilt and opened for use again. It was fortified against attackers.

A pontoon bridge was built across the river by using ice barges to support a roadway for wagons and pedestrians. The bridge rose and fell with the river.

By mid-1863 Nashville was the supply center for



Ironclad gunboats ruled the riverways

One of the most feared weapons of the Union invasion was the ironclad gunboat. The gunboats, in joint operations with the U.S. Army, defeated the Confederate river defenses, escorted convoys of supply-laden steam transports, and prowled the Cumberland River for bands of partisans and guerillas.

The first convoy of transports filled with blueclad soldiers which reached Nashville on Feb. 25, 1862 was led by the *U.S.S. Cairo*, one of the seven custom-built ironclad gunboats (City Class) named after cities along the upper Mississippi and Ohio rivers. The others were *Carondelet*, *Cincinnati*, *Louisville*, *Mound City*, *Pittsburg* and *St. Louis*.

The City Class ironclads were identified by colored bands on the smokestacks. The ironclads were known as “Pook’s turtles,” after Samuel Pook, who designed the boats to be massive, flat-bottomed paddlewheelers which could cruise upstream on the narrow rivers, drawing only six feet of water.

The boats were built under contract by river engineer James B. Eads at Mound City, Ill. and commissioned on Jan. 15, 1862. (Eads later built the first bridge over the Mississippi River at St. Louis.)

The gunboat’s above-water structure was sloped at 35 degrees to deflect cannon shells and was constructed of 2.5 inches of charcoal plate iron backed by two feet of white oak timbers.

The vessel’s five fire-tube boilers operated at 140 psi steam pressure and consumed nearly a ton of coal per hour. The ironclad could make way at six knots.

Each ironclad was armed with 13 big guns—four on each side, three in the bow, and two in the stern. These consisted of:

- Three 42-pound army rifles
- Three 64-pound navy smoothbores
- Six 32-pound navy smoothbores
- One 32-pound Parrott gun

The *U.S.S. Cairo* was manned by 17 officers and 158 enlisted men. The captain was Lt. Commander Thomas O. Selfridge, Jr.

On Dec. 12, 1862 on the Yazoo River in Mississippi, the *U.S.S. Cairo* became the first ship to be sunk by an electrically detonated torpedo (mine).

The sunken ship was discovered in 1956, and the pilothouse, cannon, and other artifacts were recovered in 1960. Much, but not all, of the structure was raised in 1964, and the restored ship was put on permanent display in 1977 at Vicksburg National Military Park, where it can be seen today.

Beans and Bullets

U.S. Military Railroads supplied advancing Union armies

If the initial invasion of the South was led by gunboats plying the rivers, it was the railroad that sustained the territorial gains of the U.S. Army and provided the main mode of transportation.

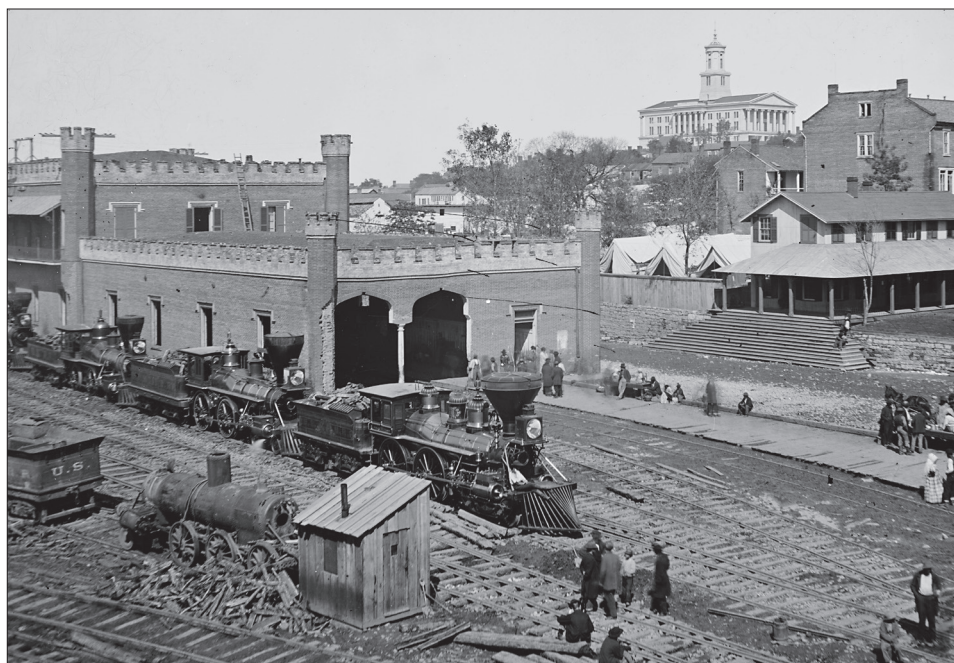
At the time of occupation, Nashville was served by five railroad companies:

- **Louisville & Nashville R.R.**—The main line of supply between Nashville and the North. The station in Nashville was the city's largest and busiest. Two vital sections were the bridge over the Cumberland at Nashville and the South Tunnel near Gallatin in Sumner County.
- **Nashville & Clarksville R.R.**: Known antebellum as the Edgefield & Kentucky. This short line linked Nashville at the Edgefield Junction with Clarksville via a connection to the Memphis, Clarksville & Louisville at the Kentucky state line.
- **Nashville & Chattanooga R.R.**—Main line of supply for the Union advances against Chattanooga and Atlanta. The railway ran southeasterly to Stevenson, Ala., where it joined the Memphis & Charleston and ran east to Chattanooga, a total of 151 miles. The tunnel at Cowan was 2,228 feet long, bored through Cumberland Mountain in 1849–53 by crews of English and Irish immigrants and black slaves using only black-powder blasting and hand tools.
- **Nashville & Decatur R.R.**—Also known as the Tennessee & Alabama. This line ran due south 119 miles to Decatur, Ala., where it connected with the Memphis & Charleston.
- **Nashville & Northwestern R.R.**—Incomplete and running only 28 miles to Kingston Springs at the beginning of the war, this railway in 1864 was extended the full 78 miles westward to the Tennessee River, where Union forces built a huge supply depot.

Federal forces were authorized by an Act of Congress (Jan. 31, 1862) to seize any railroad necessary to support military operations. Eventually, all railroads in and out of Nashville were commandeered by the U.S. military for their exclusive use.

Supplying the armies

Massive quantities of war materiel, food-



(Library of Congress)

The first railroad locomotive, Tennessee No. 1, was delivered to Nashville on Dec. 13, 1850 on the steamboat *Beauty* from Cincinnati. Teams of mules were used to haul the steam engine one mile on improvised tracks from the wharf to South Cherry Street. A trial run of one mile was made from that point on Dec. 27. A historical marker can be viewed on 4th Ave. South and Hart Street, just south of the City Cemetery.

Nearly 1,200 miles of railway were built in Tennessee during the decade of the 1850s.

stuffs, and forage passed through Nashville on the railroads as the Union armies moved farther south. Supplies came from Louisville over the rails or on steam transports and barges moving downstream on the Ohio River and then upstream on the Cumberland to the Nashville wharf or upstream on the Tennessee River to the depot at Johnsonville.

By mid-1863, Nashville was the supply center for all of the armies in the Western Theater.

When named by the War Department as general manager of all the railroads in the Nashville sector, L&N R.R. engineer John

The Nashville & Chattanooga railyard in Nashville, west of the State Capitol (visible in upper right).

B. Anderson promised Gen. Grant that he would send 80 to 100 carloads of supplies to Chattanooga each day.

During the 1864 Atlanta campaign, Gen. William T. Sherman's armies constituted 98,000 men and 35,000 horses and mules. Supplies were needed 20 days ahead of requirements.

From November 1863 through August 1864, the following supplies passed through Nashville headed to the Atlanta campaign:

- 41,122 horses and 38,724 mules
- 3,795 wagons
- 445,355 pairs of shoes
- 290,000 blankets
- 529,000 tents
- millions of bushels of corn and oats, and tens of thousands of tons of hay

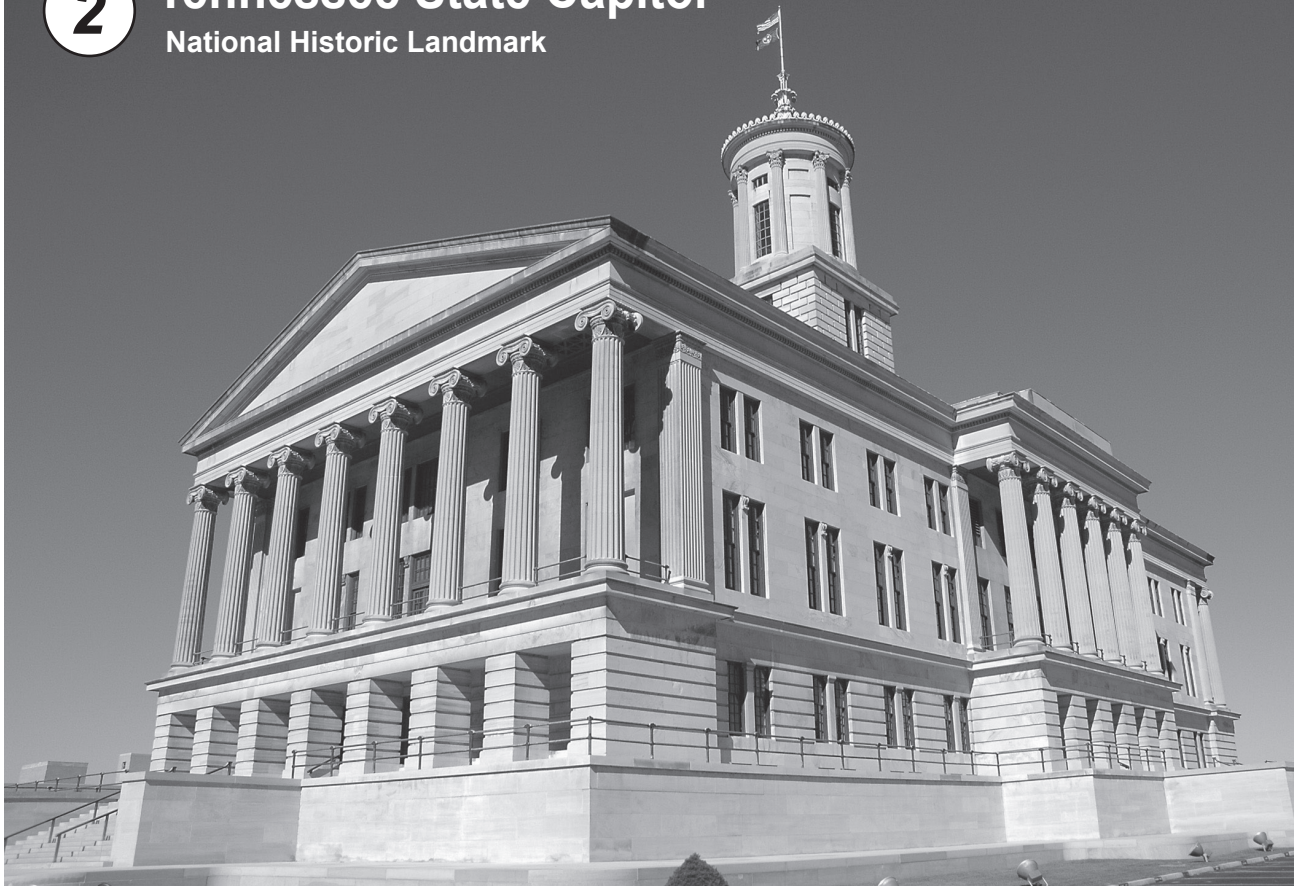
Gen. Robert Allen, chief quartermaster in the Western Theater said, "No army in the world was ever better provided than Sherman's."

Often the rails became doubly important as low water on the Cumberland River would temporarily prevent steam transports from reaching Nashville.

Sometimes the heavy use of the railroads by the military resulted in deprivations on the part of civilians. In February 1863, 60

2 Tennessee State Capitol

National Historic Landmark



The Tennessee State Capitol appears today much as it did during the Civil War. Begun in 1845 and completed in 1859, the Capitol was regarded as the most magnificent stone building in the United States outside Washington, D.C. Built on Campbell's Hill (or Cedar Knob), the unique 205-foot-tall tower of the Greek Revival building could be seen for miles in every direction. Today the only view unobstructed by modern skyscrapers is from the north.

During the war, the State Capitol was used by Andrew Johnson, the military governor during the Union occupation. The Capitol was transformed into Fort Andrew Johnson. Earthworks, cotton bales, and palisades with loopholes were constructed around the perimeter of the building, and large, seige-type cannons were stationed at its base, trained on the city below it. The cannons were never fired in anger, only for tributes or demonstrations, but the threat remained. Union troops pitched tents and camped out on Capitol Hill.

The Capitol follows the plan of an Ionic temple, with porticoes on all four facades and a total of 28 Greek columns, four feet in diameter and 33 feet high. The building was designed by noted architect William Strickland, apprentice to the architect of the U.S. Capitol.

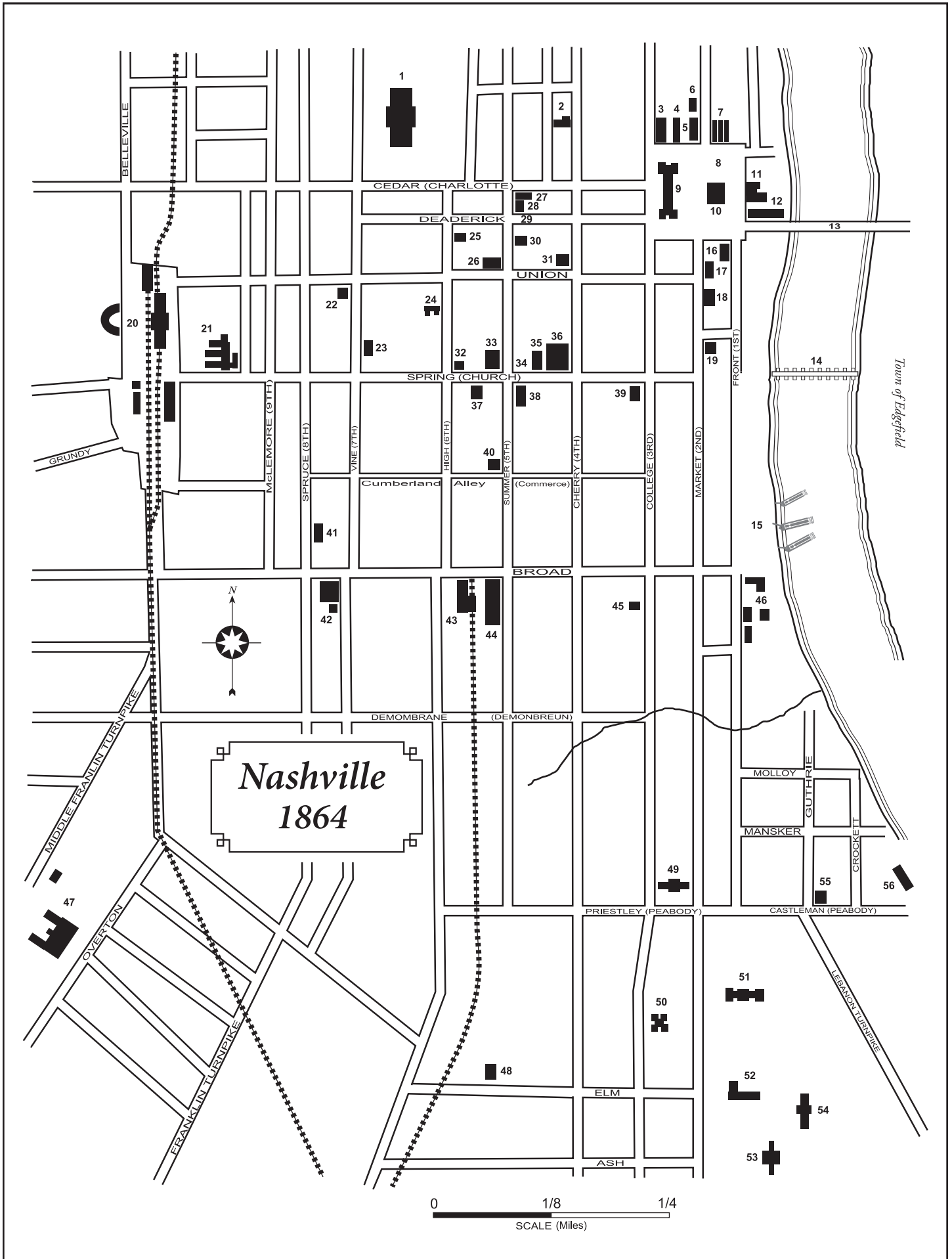
Touring Information

The State Capitol is located in downtown Nashville on Charlotte Avenue between 6th and 7th avenues. The Capitol is open Mon.-Fri., 8-4, with free guided tours at 9, 10, and 11 a.m. and at 1, 2, and 3 p.m. Use west entrance across from State Library (handicapped entrance at 6th and Union). Reservations required for groups of ten or more. All adults need photo ID. Cameras are allowed. For information, contact the State Museum at (615) 741-0830.

Nashville in 1864

1. **State Capitol. Built 1845-59. Designed by William Strickland in Greek Revival design. Occupied by military Governor Andrew Johnson, the building was fortified with palisades, parapets, and heavy field artillery. Also known as Fort Johnson. National Historic Landmark.**
2. Adelphi Theatre. Built in 1850 by noted local architect Adolphus Heiman with second largest stage in America.
3. Hicks Building (1857), No. 46 Public Square. Italianate building of Harvey Akeroyd design occupied by dry goods and readymade clothing companies. Used by Federals to store ordnance.
4. Morgan Building, No. 49 Public Square. Dry goods and clothing company. Used by Federals to store ordnance.
5. Douglas Building, No. 53 Public Square. Four-story building of Douglas & Co., dry goods and readymade clothing merchant. Used to store ordnance.
6. Union Hotel.
7. Inn Block. Site of old Nashville Inn which burned in 1856. Clothing merchants, druggists, grocer, liquor store and book bindery located here. Federals used buildings as medical storage and commissary storage.
8. Public Square. Center of public life in Nashville.
9. City Hall and Market. Redesigned by Adolphus Heiman in 1855.
10. Courthouse (1857). Designed by Francis Strickland, it was similar in design to State Capitol except it did not have a tower. Located in Public Square it was site of many mass gatherings.
11. Southern Methodist Publishing House. Established 1854 when church split over slavery into northern and southern factions. Taken over by Federals and used to print army forms and reports.
12. City Hotel
13. Suspension Bridge. Span of 700 feet connected Nashville with Edgefield across the Cumberland. Wood flooring burned by fleeing Confederates in Feb. 1862. Site of Woodland St. bridge. Pillars of bridge can still be seen.
14. Pontoon Bridge. Built in Oct. 1862 on empty ice barges at middle ferry landing. Another bridge was built in Dec. 1864 in severe winter weather over which Wilson's cavalry rode from Edgefield camps.
15. Steamboat Landing.
16. Ensley Building. Five-story Italianate building used by Federals as part of Hospital No. 3, with 200 beds.
17. Watson House hotel. Used in connection with Hospital No. 19.
18. Morris Stratton & Co. Four-story brick building housing wholesale grocers. Used by Federals as part of Hospital No. 19, containing 300 beds.
19. French & Co. Three-story brick building used as part of Hospital No. 19.
20. Nashville & Chattanooga Railroad Depot. Included castellated passenger depot, roundhouse, repair shop, brass shop, copper shop, supply houses, print shop and coal yard capable of holding four million bushels.
21. Nashville Female Academy. Used in conjunction with Hospital No. 14.
22. Polk Place (1818-20) at Union and Vine was home of the widow of President James K. Polk and site of the President's tomb, designed by William Strickland. The tomb is now located on the State Capitol grounds.
23. Felix DeMerville House. Built in 1857, two-story brick house with hipped roof served as Gen. Rousseau's headquarters in 1864.
24. George W. Cunningham House on High St. Elegant Renaissance-Revival. Used by Federal commanding generals as their headquarters, including Grant, Sherman, Thomas, Buell, and Rosecrans.
25. New Theatre. Located in the Odd Fellows Grand Lodge.
26. Zollicoffer House. Townhouse on High Street used as Provost Marshal's Office. Located at current TPAC site. Owner Felix Zollicoffer was a Nashville Whig newspaper editor. At Logan's Crossroads in 1862 he was the first Confederate general killed in the western theater. He is buried at City Cemetery.
27. **St. Mary's Catholic Church. Extant. Built 1844-47 by Heiman or Strickland. The oldest standing church in Nashville.**
28. Architect Adolphus Heiman's townhouse (1850).
29. Planter's Hotel. Federals used it as Officers' Hospital No. 17 and as the Soldiers' Home by the U.S. Sanitary Commission.
30. First Baptist Church. Built 1841 by Heiman, it featured tall, slender twin spires. Used by Federals as military hospital, containing 150 beds.
31. Bank of Tennessee. Built 1853 by Francis Strickland, modeled after father's Second Bank of the U.S. in Philadelphia. Used by Federals as paymaster's department building. Exact location uncertain; corner of Cherry and Union.
32. Christ Episcopal Church. Built 1829-31 by Hugh Roland.
33. St. Cloud Hotel. One of the city's finest hotels and temporary quarters of several Union generals.
34. James Stevenson's stoneyard (gravestones).
35. Masonic Hall. Four-story brick building built 1860 by Heiman. Second-story auditorium used for theatrical events. Used by Federals as part of Hospital No. 8, it had 368 beds.
36. Maxwell House Hotel. Begun in 1859 by John Overton, Jr. Used by Confederates as Zollicoffer Barracks and later by Federals as a prison for captured Confederates.
37. McKendree Methodist Church. Site of famous 1850 convention on Southern secession. Used by Federals as part of Hospital No. 21.
38. **First Presbyterian Church. Completed 1851 by William Stickland, the brick church features two square towers. Now known as Downtown Presbyterian Church. One of the nation's finest examples of Egyptian Revival architecture. Used by Federals as part of Hospital No. 8, containing 206 beds. Extant. National Historic Landmark.**
39. E.H. Ewing & Co. Approximate location. Wholesale grocers used as carpenter's shop by Federal army.
40. Cumberland Presbyterian Church. Part of Hospital No. 8, it had 41 beds.
41. Hume School (1855). City's first public school building. Built by Heiman in castellated Gothic style. Federals quartered railroad employees in it.
42. Dr. John Shelby's Medical College opened 1858 with 85 students but closed during the war and never reopened. An indigent hospital adjoined the structure, which included a teaching hospital.
43. Nashville & Decatur Railroad Depot.
44. Taylor Depot. Commissary warehouse on Nashville & Decatur RR. Burned down in June 1865.
45. Broad Street Fire Company No. 2. Approximate location. Firehall and engine house featuring a bell tower topped by statue of fireman.
46. Brennan Foundry. Cannon tubes were cast here for the Confederacy before the Federals shut down the facility. Ironwork on the tower of the State Capitol was cast here.
47. City Hospital. Destroyed by fire in February 1863. Later site of huge Federal underground gunpowder magazine.
48. **Elm Street Methodist Church. At Summer Street. Brick with tall steeple and spire. Extant, now office building.**
49. University Medical Department. Classes were held here throughout the war. Used in conjunction with Hospital No. 10.
50. Howard School. Built 1860 by Harvey Akeroyd. Three-story brick with Italianate clock tower. Located northwest of current building with same name.
51. Rutledge House. Also known as Rose Hill, home of Henry and Septima Rutledge. Burned near end of war.
52. University of Nashville Faculty Housing. Used as part of U.S. military hospital No. 2.
53. **Western Military Academy. Built 1853-54 as Literary Building for University of Nashville, limestone building was used as military institute, then used as part of Hospital No. 2, with 300 beds.**
54. Lindsley Hall. Built 1855 by Adolphus Heiman as university dormitory, used by both sides as military hospital. Three-story, castellated brick building. Its two hundred beds were reserved for Federal officers.
55. Factory (teamsters' quarters). Three-story brick building with wooden shingle roof and openable skylights.
56. City Water Works.

Boldface indicates structures still standing.



5

Downtown Presbyterian Church

National Historic Landmark

Known as First Presbyterian Church until 1955, this brick, twin-towered National Historic Landmark at Fifth Avenue North and Church Street is perhaps the world's finest example of Egyptian Revival architecture.

Built in 1849-51 by William Strickland, who also designed the State Capitol, the building was confiscated by the U.S. Army and used as Hospital No. 8, housing 206 beds. The Union army occupied the church from January to August 1863 and again from October 1863 to 1865. After the war, the Federal government paid \$7,500 to the church for restorations. Among the church members were Mrs. James K. Polk and Adelia Acklen.

The interior, lavishly decorated in the 1880s, features Egyptian columns, symbols, and paintings in bright, vivid colors, unusual for a Christian church. Extensive renovations costing \$2 million were completed in time for the church's 150th anniversary on April 29, 2001.

Located at 154 Fifth Avenue North, Nashville, TN 37219. Church office open Mon.-Fri., 8-4. Guided tours are available for groups of five or more if arranged in advance by calling church office at (615) 254-7584.



Detail of Egyptian Revival features.

First Presbyterian Church as it appeared in 1864. James Stevenson's stoneyard is across the street.



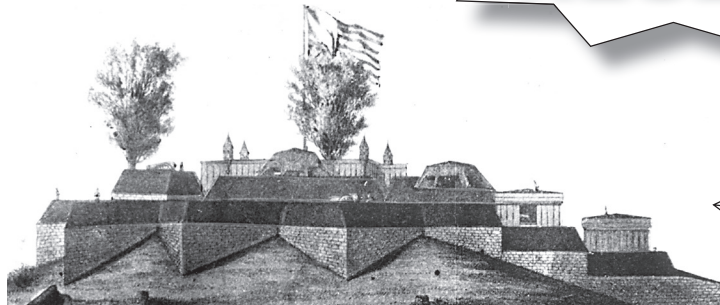
(Courtesy of Tennessee State Library and Archives)



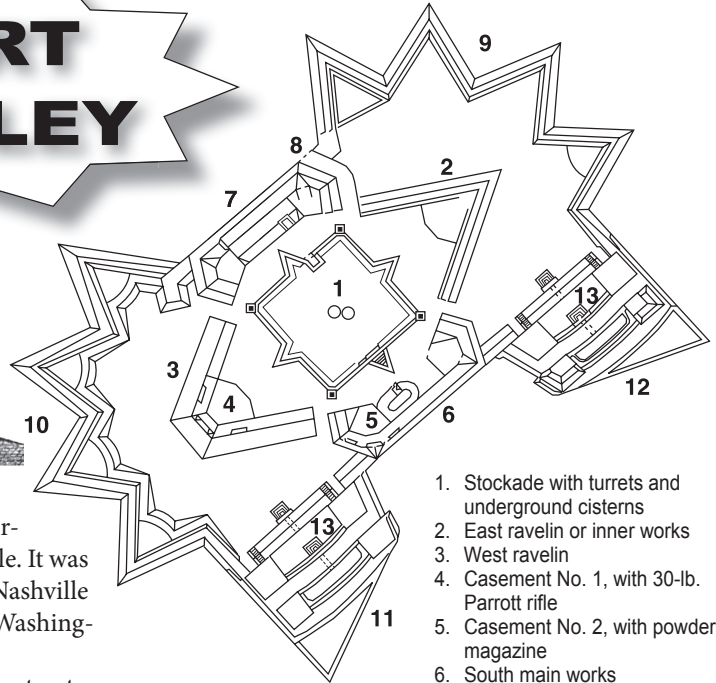
Southeastern bastion of Fort Negley.



FORT NEGLEY



(Courtesy of Tennessee State Library and Archives)



1. Stockade with turrets and underground cisterns
2. East ravelin or inner works
3. West ravelin
4. Casement No. 1, with 30-lb. Parrott rifle
5. Casement No. 2, with powder magazine
6. South main works
7. North main works
8. Main entrance gate
9. East outer parapets with redans
10. West outer parapets with redans
11. Southwest artillery bastion
12. Southeast artillery bastion
13. Bastion tunnels

Fort Negley on St. Cloud Hill was the most prominent of the fortifications built by the occupying Federal army around Nashville. It was the largest inland stone fortification built during the Civil War. Nashville became the most fortified city in North America, second only to Washington, D.C.

The design by U.S. engineer Gen. James St. Clair Morton is elaborate, star-shaped, and European in origin. The fort was named for U.S. Gen. James S. Negley, provost marshal and commander of Federal forces in Nashville.

The fort was built largely by black laborers from October to December 1862. Contrabands (runaway slaves) and free blacks were impressed by the army to build the 23 fortifications around the city.

Fort Negley is 600 feet long, 300 feet wide, and covers four acres. It used 62,500 cubic feet of stone and 18,000 cubic feet of earth. At the southern end of the fort, where attack was most likely, were two massive, bombproof bastions equipped with guns which could be aimed in several directions. Each bastion had tunnels which protected men moving through the works.

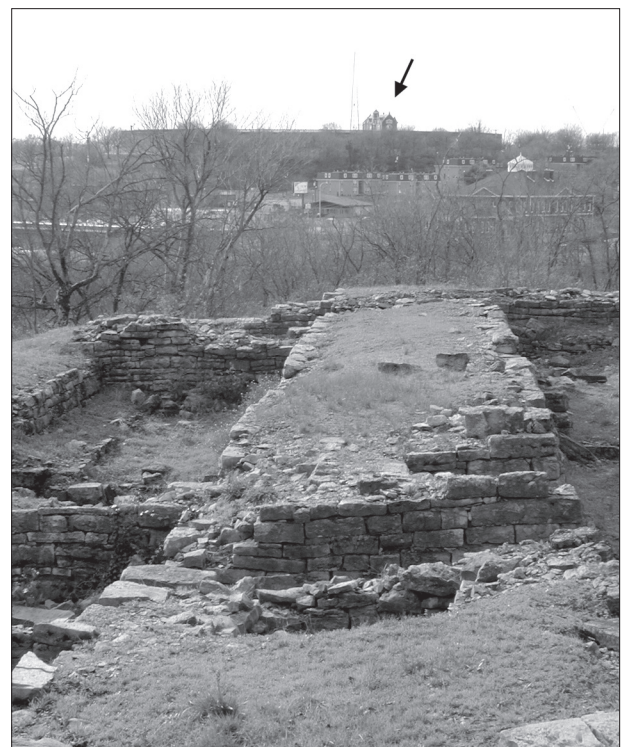
Casement No. 1 protected a 30-pound Parrot rifle, a cannon which could hurl a 29-pound shell 2.5 miles. There were 11 guns in the fort, operated by 75 artillerymen.

The opening shots of the Battle of Nashville on Dec. 15, 1864, were fired from Fort Negley, although the fort itself was never directly attacked at any time during the war.

After the war, the fort was abandoned and allowed to deteriorate. During the 1930s, WPA work crews reconstructed the remains, but those works also fell into disrepair.

Fort Negley Park is located on St. Cloud Hill at the southeast corner of the intersection of I-65 and I-40 near Adventure Science Center. Following improvements by City of Nashville Parks, the fort opened to the public in 2004 for the first time in 60 years. Extensive interpretive signage and elevated walkways allow self-guided tours during daylight hours. There is no admission fee.

Looking southwest from Fort Negley, the City Reservoir (arrow points to pumphouse) can be seen on the horizon. The wartime site of Union Blockhouse Casino would have been to the left of the reservoir.





The overlapping of the wartime defensive lines of Nashville onto a modern road map shows the approximate locations of these features, some of which remain today. The U.S. troops which fought in the Battle of Nashville were positioned between the inner and outer lines of defense and then moved into position to the west and south of the lines.

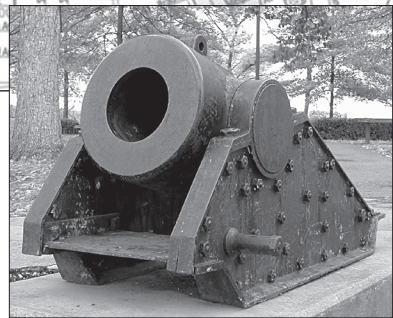
Continued from Page 45

blockhouse.

A mile north of Fort Gillem was **Fort Garesche**, built by the 2nd Ohio Volunteers and housing 14 guns and three magazines. It was located at the present intersection of Buchanan St. and 26th Ave. Between Fort Gillem and Fort Garesche was **Battery Donaldson** (aka Fort W.D. Whipple), a small battery with an octagonal bomb-proof blockhouse.

Beginning at Blockhouse Casino and diverting from the inner lines was the outer line of defense, also running west to the bend in the Cumberland River. The distance between the inner and outer lines ranged from half-a-mile to a mile.

The outer line ran south along Granny White Pike to the hilly



One of two Union mortars on Tip Top Hill in the northwestern portion of Centennial Park on West End Avenue.

main salient south of the Acklen estate. This was the pivot point around which the Union armies marched against the Confederate left flank on Dec. 15, 1864.

The outer line then ran northwest to Bald Hill (currently Love Circle) where a strong battery was located. The line then turned north, with a short offset along the railroad, and then north to the river where Tennessee State University is now located.

Belmont Mansion

Belmont Mansion, an ornate Italianate villa built in 1850 outside the city limits of Nashville, was the home of Joseph and Adelia Acklen.

Belmont was built on one of the highest hills in Nashville. Originally, the estate was known as Bellemonte, Italian for “beautiful mountain.”

The mansion today is furnished in Victorian opulence with original and period pieces, gilded mirrors, marble statues from Europe, and oil paintings. During your guided tour you will learn about Belmont’s mistress, Adelia Acklen, who prevailed throughout the Civil War, three marriages, ten children, and the management of one of the largest fortunes in America.

An extraordinary character, Adelia Acklen was one of the wealthiest women in the United States, with land holdings in Tennessee, Louisiana, and Texas.

At the time of the Civil War, the 180-acre estate included formal gardens with statuary and gazebos, a bear house, zoo, deer park, bowling alley, and art gallery. Many lavish formal balls were held in the mansion, usually on moonlit nights.

Joseph Acklen, who was Adelia’s second husband, was forced to flee to Louisiana when Union troops occupied Nashville in February 1862 and he never returned to Belmont.

During the war, Adelia’s husband died at their Louisiana plantation, and she was forced to travel there to preserve her property holdings. By plying the Union and Confederate authorities against each other, she was able to sell 2,000 bales of cotton to buyers in London. She traveled abroad after the war to collect her money and spent it on a shopping spree across Europe.

Although the mansion was located at the Union fortification line, it was not damaged during the Battle of Nashville in 1864. Union scouts used the 105-foot-tall brick water tower, which still exists, as a lookout point and to relay signals. The mansion served as the headquarters for Union Gen. T.J. Wood during the battle.



The mansion, the second largest antebellum house still standing, features the Grand Salon, the most elaborate domestic room in prewar Tennessee. It is furnished with Corinthian columns, chandeliers, and fine paintings and statuary. A lavish reception for 2,000 guests was conducted there following Adelia’s marriage to her third husband in 1867.

The mansion also features a grand staircase, the lavishly furnished tete-a-tete room, upstairs bedrooms, parlors, pantries with original china, the library, and the front hall with the marble statues of “Ruth Gleaning” and “Sleeping Children.”

Belmont Mansion was named a National Historic Place in 1971 and opened to the public in 1976.

Belmont Mansion is located on the campus of Belmont University at 1900 Belmont Boulevard. The phone number is (615) 460-5459. Guided tours are available. Admission is charged; group rates are available. The website is belmontmansion.com.



The Battle of Nashville

The Battle of Nashville, fought Thursday and Friday, Dec. 15-16, 1864, was one of the most decisive—some say *the* most decisive—battles of the Civil War. The Union victory by Major General George H. Thomas virtually destroyed the Confederate Army of Tennessee, led by the bold and reckless Gen. John Bell Hood. The battle marked the end of major military action in the Western Theater. Four months later Lee surrendered to Grant in Virginia, and for all practical purposes the war was over.

The soldiers at Nashville hailed from 22 of the 34 states at the time. Missouri and Tennessee had soldiers in both armies.

Fighting for the Union were men from Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Michigan, Minnesota, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Wisconsin.

Fighting for the South were men from Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Texas.

Hood's Tennessee invasion of 1864

Following the fall of Atlanta, Ga. to Sherman in Sept. 1864, Hood moved northward to attack Sherman's supply lines. Sherman moved in pursuit but then decided to begin his famous March to the Sea, leaving Thomas behind at Nashville to protect his rear. Sherman left Atlanta on Nov. 15 and arrived in Savannah on the coast on Dec. 21.

Hood, meanwhile, formulated a bold—some might say desperate—plan to move north into Tennessee, attack and reclaim Nashville, and then perhaps deploy north of the Ohio River, capturing Chicago or Cincinnati. Another option was that he could march into Virginia to reinforce Gen. Robert E. Lee against Grant.

After waiting three long weeks in northern Alabama for supplies, Hood moved north into Tennessee on Nov. 22. His army comprised three corps under Lt. Gen. Alexander P. Stewart, Lt. Gen. Stephen D. Lee, and Major Gen. Benjamin F. Cheatham, with the cavalry commanded by Major Gen. Nathan Bedford Forrest.

At Columbia, Tenn., Hood outflanked Union Gen. John M. Schofield, who was racing north to the safety of the Nashville fortifications. The anticipated envelopment



Detail, Confederate Circle Monument, Mount Olivet Cemetery

of Schofield's army at Spring Hill did not materialize, and on Nov. 30 Hood attacked Schofield, who had entrenched at Franklin, in one of the bloodiest battles of the war. Six thousand Confederates were killed or wounded during the frontal assault, including 52 field-grade officers. Thirteen of the army's 28 general officers were killed, wounded, or missing. The next day, Schofield retreated to Nashville, leaving many of the soldiers in the weakened Army of Tennessee demoralized from the senseless slaughter.

Hood's army reaches Nashville

Hood reached the southern outskirts of Nashville on Dec. 2 and deployed an east-west line four miles long, much shorter than the seven miles of the Federal outer defenses around the city. Hood placed Stewart on the left flank, Lee in the center, and Cheatham on the right flank. On a north-south line on his left flank along the Hillsborough Pike, Hood began building five redoubts (small forts) to protect that flank. Both Union and Confederate lines

were anchored on bends in the Cumberland River.

From Dec. 2 until the battle itself, a regiment of 300 Southerners under Lt. Col. David C. Kelley, armed with four artillery pieces and stationed at Bell's Mills, six miles west of Nashville on the Cumberland River, fought six separate engagements with Union gunboats under Lt. Commander Leroy Fitch. River traffic was blocked by the Confederate gunners.

For the next two weeks, Hood's men waited for the inevitable Union attack, suffering greatly from exposure to the severe winter weather which began on Dec. 9. Many were shoeless and barely surviving on rations of parched corn. Hood made his headquarters at the home of John Overton, known as Travellers Rest.

Thomas prepares for battle

Meanwhile, Gen. Thomas was busy consolidating an assortment of troops and arguing with his superiors, who wanted him to attack Hood immediately. Back in Washington, U.S. Commander-in-Chief U.S. Grant noted, "There is no better man to repel an attack than Thomas but I fear he is too cautious to ever take the initiative."

Schofield's XXIII Corps (10,207 men) arrived in Nashville on Dec. 1 following the battle at Franklin. Also arriving was the IV Corps (14,171 men), now under command of Brig. Gen. Thomas J. Wood.

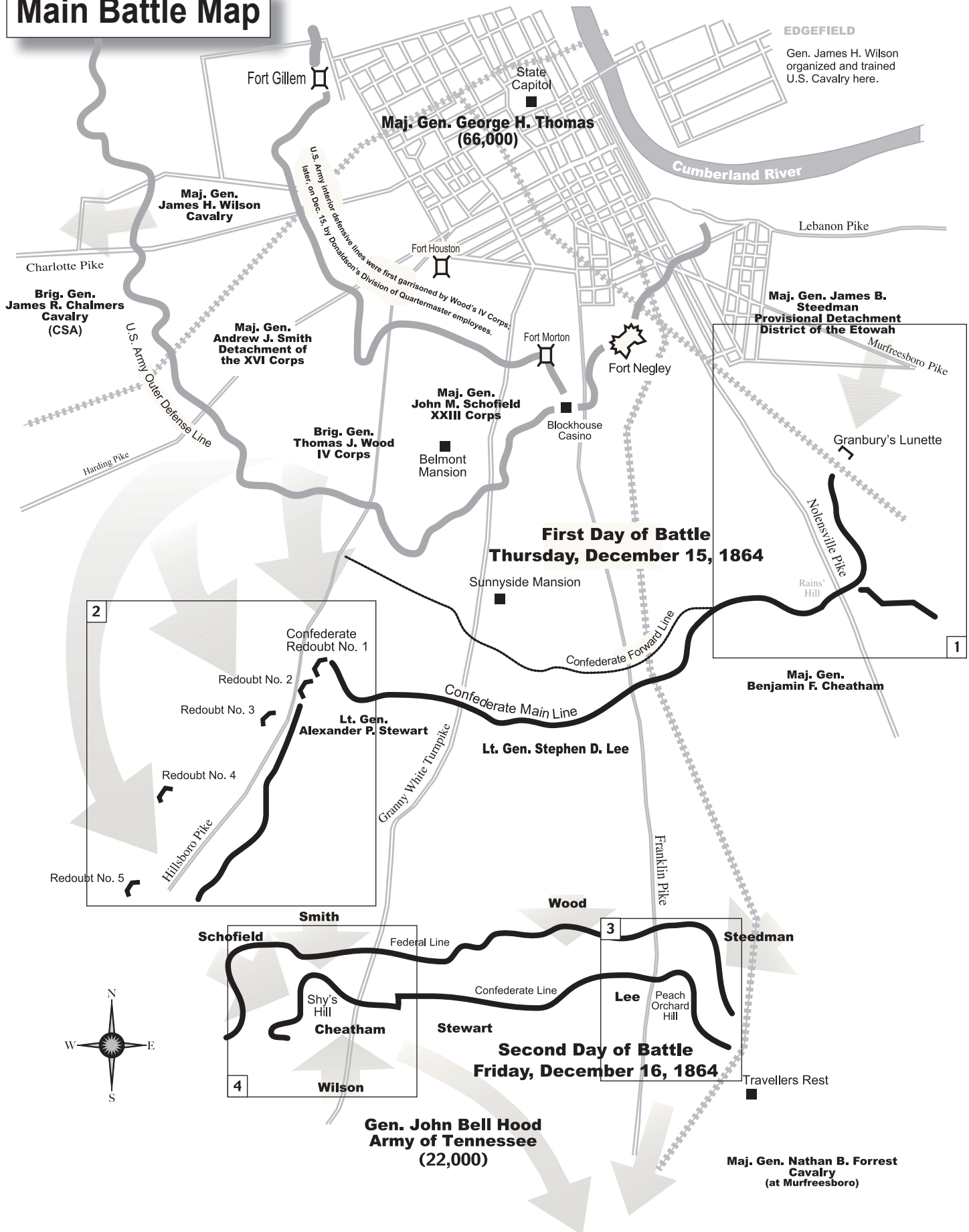
Major Gen. James B. Steedman's assortment of troops—convalescents, unattached units, and eight regiments of U.S. Colored Troops totaling 7,541 men—arrived by rail from Chattanooga. His corps was

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U.S. Regulars confront U.S. Volunteers in Smoky Row

A miniature Battle of Nashville erupted late in the evening of Nov. 25, 1864 in Smoky Row, a squalid part of town notorious for prostitution and hard drinking. Members of the 13th U.S. Infantry Regulars and volunteers of the 9th Pennsylvania and the 4th Michigan regiments argued over the relative merits of regular versus volunteer service. The altercation escalated into gunfire. The Regulars retreated to a house which was then attacked and taken over by the volunteers. At a second house, the Provost Marshal's men arrived in numbers sufficient to take everyone into custody, including 20 civilians who were kept in the guardhouse overnight. More than a hundred shots were fired during the melee. No one was injured, but one woman had her shoe shot off.

Main Battle Map





(Library of Congress)

The Union inner defensive works around Nashville were quiet during the battle.

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called the Provisional Detachment of the District of the Etowah. Commanding the 7th Indiana was Col. Benjamin Harrison, who would later become the nation's 23rd President (1889-93).

On Dec. 1, the XVI Corps, frontier troops under Major Gen. Andrew J. Smith totaling 10,461 men, arrived from Missouri in a 59-boat convoy. The normally restrained Thomas was so glad to see Smith he gave him a hearty bear hug.

In addition to waiting for the troops to arrive, Thomas also had to bolster his cavalry and wait out the inclement winter weather. Major Gen. James H. Wilson was put in charge of the cavalry and managed to assemble a formidable force of 12,000 troopers, all armed with the new seven-shot Spencer repeating rifle. The sleet

and ice storm of Dec. 9 made operations untenable for several days, infuriating the anxious Grant. Federal authorities were so nervous about Hood's threat against Nashville that Grant threatened to replace Thomas with Schofield, then changed his mind, then prepared to travel by rail to Nashville himself. On Dec. 14th the cold weather lifted, and Thomas issued his Special Field Order 342—plans for the attack on the 15th.

The defenders would attack

Steedman would strike the Confederate right flank in the eastern sector as a feint, or secondary attack, forcing Hood to send reinforcements from his left flank. Wood would hold the center while Smith and Wilson would swing around in a giant pivoting movement and attack Hood's

Forrest and Bate deployed to Murfreesboro

Upon his arrival at Nashville, Gen. Hood deployed the division of Major Gen. William B. Bate and 1,600 men to attack the garrison at Murfreesboro, 28 miles to the southeast.

Bate wisely did not attack the garrison at Fortress Rosecrans, which numbered 8,000 Union troops under Major Gen. Lovell Rousseau. Gen. Nathan B. Forrest's cavalry was also dispatched to Murfreesboro, destroying railroad tracks along the way. Forrest took overall command and managed to entice a column of Union infantry out of the fort, commanded by Major Gen. Robert H. Milroy. On Dec. 7, in what was called the Battle of the Cedars, Milroy routed the Confederates and returned to the fort the next day. Bate returned to Nashville on Dec. 9 and Forrest continued to destroy the railroad, not returning to the Army of Tennessee until after the Battle of Nashville. Historians consider Hood's deployment of Forrest, the South's best cavalry commander, to Murfreesboro as a major tactical blunder.

left flank in force. Initially assigned as a reserve, Schofield asked for and received approval to participate in the attack.

The defenses around Nashville would be held by Post Commander Gen. John F. Miller's men and by the employees of Quartermaster James L. Donaldson.

All in all, Hood with 22,000 men was outnumbered three-to-one by Thomas with about 66,000. In addition, thousands of Nashvillians watched the two-day battle from hilltops and rooftops. "No army on the continent ever played on any field to so large and so sullen an audience," according to one Union officer.

The first day of battle begins

On the morning of Thurs., Dec. 15, a heavy ground-hugging fog delayed the movement of U.S. troops and screened them from Confederate eyes. The big seige guns of Fort Negley and the other Union batteries opened fire against the Confederate lines.

At 8:00 a.m. Steedman's troops advanced against the Confederate right flank held

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Forrest's destructive raid on Johnsonville depot too late

After the fall of Atlanta, Ga. in Sept. 1864, Hood ordered Confederate Gen. Nathan Bedford Forrest to attack Sherman's supply lines in Tennessee in an attempt to force Sherman to retreat. On Nov. 4, cavalry under Forrest deployed 12 pieces of artillery on the west bank of the Tennessee River opposite the huge Union supply depot at Johnsonville. During 1864, supplies from the North had been transported to the depot by river, offloaded and stored at Johnsonville, and then hauled 78 miles east to Nashville on the Nashville and Northwestern Railroad.

At 2 p.m., the Confederate guns fired upon the transports, barges, and gunboats at the depot and then bombarded the depot itself. The Union commander, Col. C.R. Thompson, erroneously thinking Forrest would cross the river and capture the garrison, ordered the rest of the Union supplies destroyed. The raid destroyed four gunboats, 14 transports, 17 barges, 33 pieces of artillery, and approximately 100,000 tons of quartermaster stores. One hundred and fifty Union men were captured. Forrest suffered two men killed and nine wounded. The loss of Federal property was estimated at \$2 million to \$6 million. The raid, however, had little consequence as Sherman had already received enough supplies for his March to the Sea.

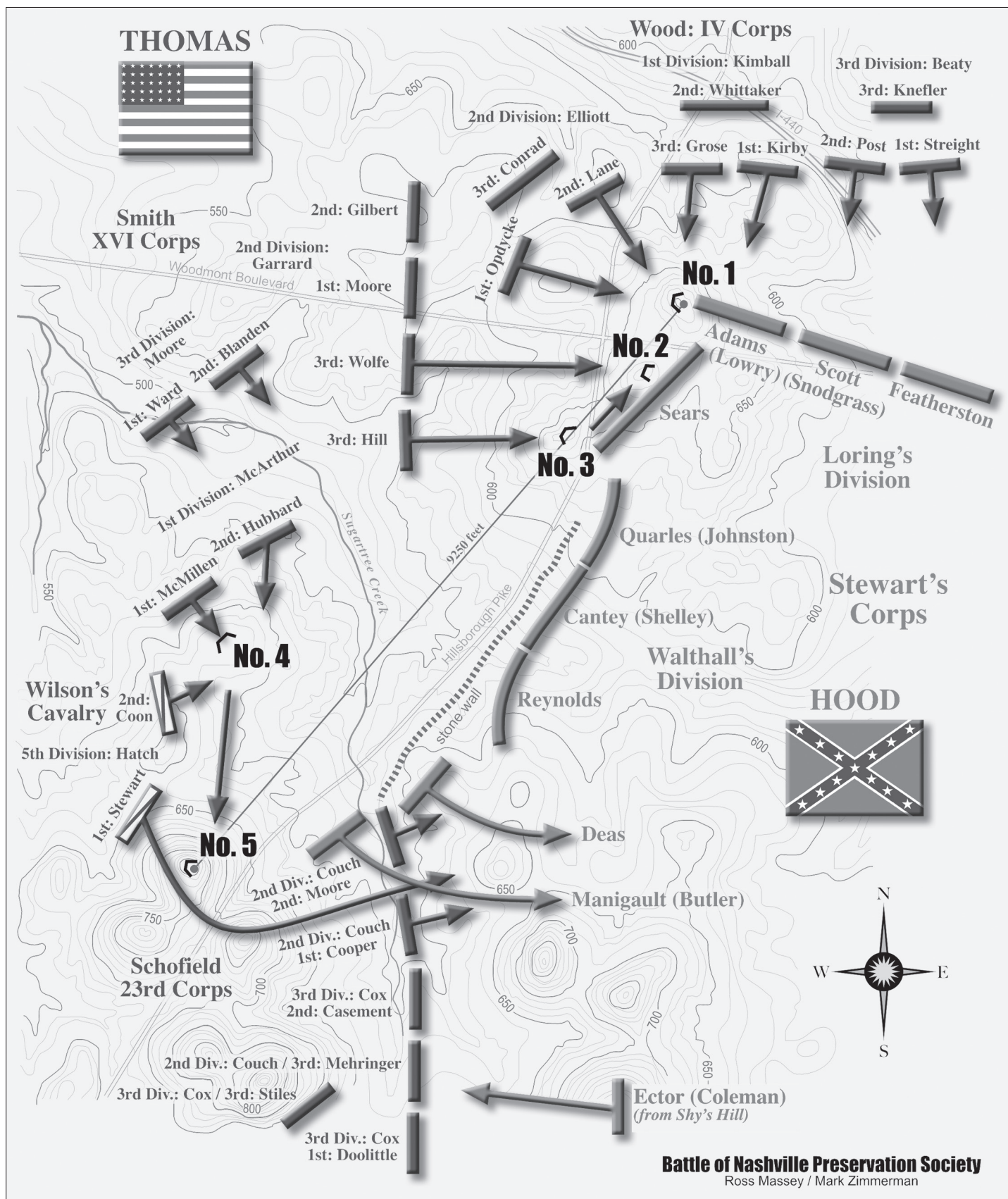
On Nov. 18, Forrest reported to Hood in northern Alabama, and four days later Hood moved north into Tennessee.

BATTLE OF NASHVILLE BATTLE MAP

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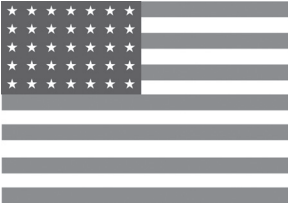
First Day - Dec. 15th, 1864 - West Sector

Main Attack Against CSA Redoubts on Left Flank



Battle of Nashville Order of Battle • U.S. Army

Maj. Gen. George H. Thomas, Commanding



Major General George Henry Thomas (1816-70)

A native Virginian, he was disowned by his family for remaining loyal to the Union. He graduated West Point in 1840, ranked 12th in the class. He served in the artillery during the Seminole and Mexican wars. He served in the 2nd Cavalry under Albert Sidney Johnston and Robert E. Lee. In the Civil War, he commanded troops defeating Confederates under Zollicoffer at Fishing Creek, Ky. in Jan. 1862. He was known as the “Rock of Chickamauga” for standing firm at that battle in Sept. 1863 while the rest of Rosecrans’ Union army was routed. His men from the Army of the Cumberland stormed Missionary Ridge without orders and broke the siege of Chattanooga in Nov. 1863. His army was the central force in Sherman’s campaign against Atlanta, May-Sept. 1864. Following the victory at Nashville, Thomas was promoted to Major General, U.S. Army, and received the “Thanks of Congress.” He served in the Army until his death in California. He is buried at Oakwood Cemetery, Troy, NY.

XVI Corps or Detachment Army of the Tennessee: Maj. Gen. Andrew J. Smith

Major Gen. Andrew Jackson Smith (1815-97)

Born in Pennsylvania, he graduated from West Point in 1838 and served with the Dragoons (cavalry) in the West for 23 years. His troops served with Sherman at Chickasaw Bluffs and Vicksburg, Miss., and in the Red River campaigns. He defeated Forrest at Tupelo on July 14, 1864. His rugged troops were assigned to so many different locales that they became known as the “lost tribes of Israel” and “Smith’s guerillas.” After the war he served as postmaster and city auditor of St. Louis, Mo. He is buried at Bellefontaine Cemetery, St. Louis.



First Division: Brig. Gen. John McArthur

1st Brigade: Col. William L. McMillen
114th Illinois; 93rd Indiana; 10th Minnesota

2nd Brigade: Col. Lucius F. Hubbard
5th, 9th Minnesota; 11th Missouri; 8th Wisconsin;
2nd Battery Iowa Light Artillery (Reed)

3rd Brigade: Col. Sylvester G. Hill (k), Col. William R. Marshall
12th, 35th Iowa; 7th Minnesota; 33rd Missouri;
Battery I 2nd Missouri Light Artillery (Julian)

Second Division: Brig. Gen. Kenner Garrard

1st Brigade: Col. David Moore
119th, 122nd Illinois; 89th Indiana; 21st Missouri;
9th Battery Indiana Light Artillery (Calfee)

2nd Brigade: Col. James L. Gilbert
58th Illinois; 27th, 32nd Iowa; 10th Kansas;
3rd Battery Indiana Light Artillery (Ginn)

3rd Brigade: Col. Edward H. Wolfe
49th, 117th Illinois; 52nd Indiana; 178th New York;
Battery G, 2nd Illinois Light Artillery (Lowell)

Third Division: Col. Jonathan B. Moore

1st Brigade: Col. Lyman M. Ward
72nd Illinois; 40th Missouri; 14th, 33rd Wisconsin

2nd Brigade: Col. Leander Blanden
81st, 95th Illinois; 44th Missouri Artillery;
11th Battery Indiana Light Artillery (Morse);
Battery A, 2nd Missouri Light Artillery (Zepp)

IV Army Corps: Brig. Gen. Thomas J. Wood

Brig. Gen. Thomas John Wood (1823-1906)

Born in Kentucky, he graduated West Point in 1845 and won honors in the Mexican War. He saw action at Shiloh under Buell; at Perryville, Ky.; and at Murfreesboro, TN, where he was wounded. In a controversial incident at Chickamauga in Sept. 1863 he moved his division under orders and opened a gap in the Union lines which allowed Longstreet to rout the Union right wing. His men were first to crest Missionary Ridge at Chattanooga in Nov. 1863. He was again wounded at Lovejoy Station, Sept. 1864. In 1865 he was promoted to Major General and retired in 1868. He died in Dayton, Ohio. He is buried at West Point, NY.



First Division: Brig. Gen. Nathan Kimball

1st Brigade: Col. Isaac M. Kirby
21st, 38th Illinois; 31st, 81st Indiana; 90th Ohio

2nd Brigade: Brig. Gen. Walter C. Whittaker
96th, 115th Illinois; 35th Indiana; 21st, 23rd Kentucky; 45th, 51st Ohio

3rd Brigade: Brig. Gen. William Grose
75th, 80th, 84th Illinois; 9th, 30th, 36th, 84th Indiana; 77th Pennsylvania

Second Division: Brig. Gen. Washington L. Elliott

1st Brigade: Col. Emerson Opdycke
36th, 44th, 73rd, 74th, 88th Illinois; 125th Ohio; 24th Wisconsin

2nd Brigade: Col. John Q. Lane
100th Illinois; 40th, 57th Indiana; 28th Kentucky; 26th, 97th Ohio

3rd Brigade: Col. Joseph Conrad
42nd, 51st, 79th Illinois; 15th Missouri; 64th, 65th Ohio

Third Division: Brig. Gen. Samuel Beatty

1st Brigade: Col. Abel D. Streight
89th Illinois; 51st Indiana; 8th Kansas; 15th, 49th Ohio

2nd Brigade: Col. P. Sidney Post (w)
59th Illinois; 41st, 71st, 93rd, 124th Ohio

3rd Brigade: Col. Frederick Knefler
79th, 86th Indiana; 13th, 19th Ohio

Artillery: Maj. Wilbur F. Goodspeed
Light Batteries: 25th Indiana (Sturm); 1st Kentucky (Thomason);
1st Michigan (De Vries); 1st Ohio G (Marshall); 6th Ohio (Baldwin);
Battery B, Pennsylvania Light Artillery (Ziegler);
Battery M, 4th U.S. (Canby)