

Middle Tennessee Civil War Round Table

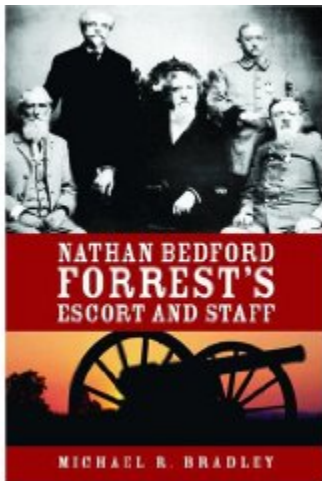


JUNE 2009 NEWSLETTER

OUR NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Middle Tennessee CWRT will be at 7 PM on Tuesday June 16, 2009. We will meet at the Heritage Center of Murfreesboro and Rutherford County (225 West College Street in Murfreesboro).

This month's featured speaker is Dr. Michael Bradley. Dr. Bradley will present a program based on his most recent book, *Nathan Bedford Forrest's Escort and Staff*.



Most staff officers and escort members of famous Civil War generals have faded into obscurity. However, the escort company and staff officers of Nathan Bedford Forrest were held in awe by men on both sides of the conflict during the war and long after, and they continue to be held in esteem as figures as legendary as Forrest himself.

Not merely guards or couriers, these men were an elite force who rode harder and fought more fiercely than any others. Dr. Bradley will discuss the symbiotic relationship between Forrest and his men, and how their unusual abilities as fighters, thinkers, and leaders made for a team of men who formed a unique brotherhood that lasted long after the war. A testament to their loyalty is the fact that the escort is the only Confederate unit whose numbers were greater when they surrendered than when the unit was organized.

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

July 21, 2009

Earl Hess – Lincoln Memorial University – *The Rifle Musket in Civil War Combat: Reality and Myth*

August 18, 2009

Derek Frisby – Middle Tennessee State University – TBD

September 15, 2009

Russell Bonds – *Stealing the General: The Great Locomotive Chase*

If you would like to do a program for the Middle Tennessee CWRT, or if you have a suggestion for a group discussion topic, please get in touch with Jim Lewis at mtcwr@comcast.net or 615-890-1926.

SILENT AUCTION ITEMS NEEDED

MTCWRT President Jim Bosse asks all members to clean out their libraries and collections and bring books and other items of Civil War interest to donate to our monthly silent auction. The proceeds from our silent auctions can raise enough funds to cover the costs of one or two speakers each year. The more money we raise with the auctions, the more money we have available to support other preservation and education efforts.

SHOW AND TELL

When the MTCWRT first began to meet, members often brought in Civil War artifacts to share with the group. It has been a while since we have had the opportunity to enjoy that part of our meetings. If you have a Civil War item and want to share it and its story with us, please bring it to a meeting.

CIVIL WAR NEWS

FRANKLIN, Tenn. — Workers uncovered a partial skeleton at a Franklin construction site as a machine operator removed dirt in a trenching operation. The recovery was made roughly 50 feet from the Columbia Pike about a mile from the town square. This corridor was traveled constantly by soldiers of both armies and was the main artery of the Confederate attack in the Nov. 30, 1864, Battle of Franklin.

Union uniform eagle buttons, a leg bone, jaw bone with teeth and several bone fragments were recovered after Franklin police were called to the site. Detective David Dixon said, "It was evident this was not a crime scene but an archeological finding." The remains were turned over to the Tennessee Division of Archeology which issued a "stop" order at the site.

"These are most likely the remains of a Union soldier who might have died during the December 1864 retreat action from Nashville," said local historian Eric Jacobson. There was some spirited fighting along this area when the remnants of Confederate Gen. John Bell Hood's army and its rear guard resisted the pursuit of Union Gen. John Wilson's cavalry forces.

State archaeologist Mike Moore will keep the remains until city leaders can locate a new burial place.