

Middle Tennessee Civil War Round Table



AUGUST 2009 NEWSLETTER

OUR NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Middle Tennessee CWRT will be at 7 PM on Tuesday August 18, 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 Middle Tennessee CWRT member Dr. Derek Frisby of Middle Tennessee State University. He will present *Remembering Fort Pillow: Politics, Propaganda, and Public Memory*.



On April 12, 1864, Confederate General Nathan Bedford Forrest and approximately 1,500 Confederate soldiers attacked Fort Pillow. They ultimately overwhelmed the garrison about half of which was black soldiers. From the moment the fighting ended to the present controversy has swirled around the fate of those soldiers, many of whom may have been killed after surrendering.

Dr. Frisby will discuss this much debated chapter of the Civil War and try to shed some light on not only what really happened but also on the how a relatively small engagement can grow into one of the most hotly debated topics of our Civil War heritage.

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

September 15, 2009

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

October 20, 2009

Fall Party

November 17, 2009

Greg Biggs – Clarksville CWRT - *Volunteer Banners: Tennessee's Civil War Flags and Flag Makers*

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 mtcwrtable@att.net or 615-423-6830.

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

If you have a Civil War item and want to share it and its story with us, please bring it to a meeting. We have recently rekindled this early tradition of the Middle Tennessee CWRT, and we would like to keep it as a regular part of our meetings.

SHARING YOUR STORIES

One of our most basic missions is to share our Civil War heritage. The Middle Tennessee CWRT website features a page where members can share the stories of their ancestors or individuals that interest them with everyone who visits the site.

With an influx of new members with their own unique connections to the Civil War, the time is ripe to ask that we continue to share these stories by adding them to our online collection. Please submit your written stories to Jim Lewis at one of our meetings or by e-mail at lewisjb66@att.net.

CIVIL WAR NEWS

THOMPSON'S STATION, TN — Owners of historic Homestead Manor Plantation are seeking approval from the town to create a Battle of Thompson's Station Battlefield Park. There were 1,400 casualties March 5, 1863 on the property, which already has a conservation easement through The Land Trust of Tennessee.

The home, owned by Marcia and Jay Franks, is the centerpiece of that event, where women from the town hid in the cellar and where that same day it became a hospital for battlefield casualties. "Few Civil War stories include the bravery of a 16-year-old girl," Marcia Franks said.

"Alice Thompson watched the battle along with the other women in the community from the Homestead Manor cellar window. When the Confederate flag bearer was shot down, Alice bolted from the cellar and took up the Rebel flag."



Homestead Manor

The Franks' vision is to create an interpretive experience that will include trails and signage on the battlefield, special events, Civil War seminars, Civil War day camps for children, and a video presentation of the battle. "It is the dream of Marcia and I to turn Homestead Manor Plantation into a premier historic destination over the next few years," Jay Franks said. "We want to bring this treasure alive for everyone to enjoy."

The Franks were granted rezoning by the Thompson's Station Planning Commission changing the property's current designation for "high intensity" use to "town center" use. The rezoning request now goes on to the town's Board of Mayor and Aldermen for two readings. A concept, or site plan, would then be presented to the planning commission.

Civil War Trivia

1. What Union Regiment had the highest number of officers killed in the Civil War?
2. What military command was given U. S. Grant at the start of the Civil War?
3. Which Amendment to the Constitution provided for the abolition of slavery?
4. Who was the first person to direct artillery fire for an army via aerial reconnaissance?
5. What general frequently strolled about camp handing out Sunday school leaflets?
6. Who spent his first 13 months in Confederate uniform without coming under fire or taking part in a general engagement?
7. What was the name of the play President Lincoln attended at Ford's Theater on April 14, 1865?

8. What young South Carolina sergeant took water to wounded enemies and became known as the "Angel of Marye's Heights"?

9. Who was the Union General killed leading his men into the Battle of Gettysburg?

10. Who commanded the two armies at the Battle of Nashville, Tennessee?