

Middle Tennessee Civil War Round Table

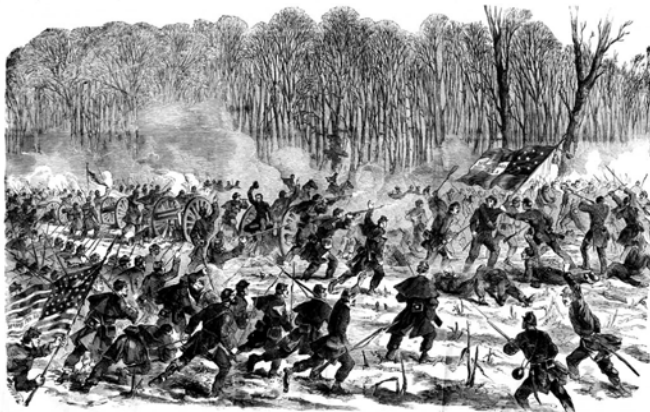


NOVEMBER 2009 NEWSLETTER

OUR NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Middle Tennessee CWRT will be at 7 PM on Tuesday November 17, 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 Greg Biggs of the Clarksville CWRT. Greg will present *Volunteer Banners: Tennessee's Civil War Flags and Flag Makers*.



Frank Leslie illustration of the capture of the Twenty-sixth Tennessee's flag at the Battle of Stones River

Flags were a central part of the military experience during the Civil War. They helped soldiers find their way around the battlefield, and they were a symbol of unit pride to be defended to the last. Flags of the enemy were coveted prizes, and many flags provided a connection to loved ones left behind since they were made for units by women from their hometowns.

Mr. Biggs, a recognized authority on Civil War flags, recently completed an exhaustive survey of Tennessee flags for the Tennessee State Museum. He will share some of the unique and compelling stories of these important symbols during his presentation.

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

January 19, 2010

Book Discussion – *Company Aytch: Or a Side Show to a Big Show* by Sam Watkins

February 16, 2010

Jim Lewis – *William Holland's Story*

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

Keep bringing in those silent auction items. Our goal for 2010 is to raise enough money through our auctions to cover the costs of one or two speakers. The more money we raise with the auctions, the more money we have available to support other preservation and education efforts so **KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK!**

BE AN EARLY BIRD

Our November 17th meeting will be the last in 2009. Annual membership dues will be due in January 2010. Treasurer Jerry Lutes would be glad to get an early start on collections, so bring your dues (\$15 for individuals - \$20 for families) to the next meeting or mail them to:

Middle Tennessee Civil War Round Table
P.O. Box 10156
Murfreesboro, TN 37129

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.

CIVIL WAR NEWS

BUDGET CUTS POSSIBLE AT FORT NEGLEY

NASHVILLE, Tenn. – Recently a proposal from the Nashville Metro Parks to layoff several employees to help balance a budget for the department was leaked to the Nashville Tennessean newspaper. One of the employees proposed to be let go is the museum specialist who runs Fort Negley Park. Fort Negley is the largest remaining Civil War fort of its kind in the nation and was to have been a centerpiece of Civil War tourism for Nashville. Museum Specialist Krista Castillo, who has been a driving force in the renaissance at the fort, may lose her position as part of the proposed cuts. If she is let go, she may be replaced by a transfer with less knowledge of or passion for Civil War heritage from another city park.



Krista has done an outstanding job trying to put Ft. Negley into the Civil War spotlight of Middle Tennessee. She has built a lot of support from the Civil War groups of Middle Tennessee. She is a member of the Clarksville CWRT and is president of the Nashville CWRT, which currently meets at Ft. Negley and would probably have to move to a new location if she loses her job.

A backlash in the local historical community is building but we can all help by letting Mayor Karl Dean know that a nationally significant site like Fort Negley deserves dedicated professionals to preserve and interpret the site.

Mayor Dean's email is: mayor@nashville.gov

CONGRESS ALLOCATES \$9 MILLION TO PRESERVE AMERICA'S ENDANGERED CIVIL WAR BATTLEFIELDS

(Washington, D.C.) - The Civil War Preservation Trust (CWPT) recently applauded members of the U.S. House and Senate for including the largest ever single-year allocation for the federal Civil War Battlefield Preservation Program in the Fiscal Year (FY) 2010 Interior Appropriations Act Conference Report (H Rept 111-316).

The conference report, scheduled for a final vote in both chambers later this week, includes \$9 million for the Civil War Battlefield Preservation Program, a mechanism that utilizes government matching grants and private funds to permanently protect historic Civil War battlefields throughout the nation.

"This is tremendous news that could not come at a more critical time," said CWPT President James Lighthizer. Each day 30 acres of hallowed Civil War battlefield ground are paved over and lost forever. This money will allow us to preserve historic land that would otherwise be lost to development and urban sprawl."

The Civil War Battlefield Preservation Program targets priority unprotected Civil War sites outside National Park Service boundaries. The program's matching grants formula encourages state and private sector investment in historic land preservation. Since its creation in 1999, the Civil War Battlefield Preservation Program has been used to protect more than 15,000 acres of hallowed ground at 60 battlefields in 14 states. Among the sites saved as a result of this program are historic properties at Antietam and South Mountain, Md.; Champion Hill, Miss.; Chancellorsville, Fredericksburg, and Manassas, Va.; Chattanooga and Fort Donelson, Tenn.; and Harpers Ferry, W.Va. The program is funded through the federal Land and Water Conservation Fund.

Although numerous members of the House and Senate have played important roles in ensuring the program's continued success, the following individuals were pivotal in securing this year's unprecedented federal commitment to battlefield preservation: Interior Appropriations Subcommittee Chairs Senator Dianne Feinstein (D-CA) and Norm Dicks (D-WA); Senators Jim Webb (D-VA), Lamar Alexander (R-TN), and Jeff Sessions (R-AL); and Congressmen, **Bart Gordon** (D-TN), Steve Israel (D-NY), Gary Miller (R-CA) and C.A. "Dutch" Ruppersberger (D-MD). In addition, 16 Senators and 29 Member of Congress signed letters of support for the program earlier this year.

"It is welcome news that our \$9 million funding request for battlefield preservation was accepted in the Interior Appropriations bill," said Senator Webb. "As America prepares for the 150th anniversary commemoration of the Civil War, it is more important than ever that we preserve these landmarks for future generations to learn about the history of our nation."

Senator Alexander concurred, saying, "The Civil War was a heartbreaking time in our history that we should never forget. Protecting our Civil War battlefields and historic sites is important both to honor the thousands who fought and to allow future generations to learn their heritage by visiting sites like Shiloh, Lookout Mountain, Fort Donelson and Parker's Crossroads. I'm glad to see that this funding was included to support this important program."

Like Senator Webb, Lighthizer also stressed that the upcoming 150th anniversary of the Civil War presents an ideal time to redouble efforts to protect this hallowed ground. "I can think of no more fitting - and lasting - tribute during this sesquicentennial commemoration than to preserve the places where these brave soldiers fought and bled."

The Civil War Battlefield Preservation Program was reauthorized in March 2009 as part of the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 (PL 111-11). The legislation, introduced in the Senate by Senators Webb and Sessions and in the House by Congressmen Miller, Israel and Gordon, reauthorized the program for \$10 million a year for five years. The popular bill enjoyed considerable bipartisan support, earning 33 cosponsors in the Senate and 108 cosponsors in the House.