



# The Battle of Nashville Preservation Society

December 10, 2007

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## FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Friends, Family and Members:

Greetings during this holiday season. We hope that you and your families are well.

The Battle of Nashville Preservation Society has had a very fine year. We are seeing first hand the fruition of many years of labor:

- Ft. Negley Visitor's Center will open December 15, 2007;
- The Shy's Hill debt was retired and the summit cleared;
- Interpretive signage has begun at Shy's Hill;
- Redoubt No. 1 now has an artillery piece and park fencing;
- A new historical marker regarding the Battle of the Barricade is being placed next month at Richland Country Club; and
- Much of the Stewart stone wall that parallels Battery Lane is about to be put into a preservation easement.
- Over \$5000.00 was raised at the Negley dinner in the fort in May

We lost our advisory board member and trusted friend, Bob Brown, this year. He was a fine man and the leading preservationist in the State. He loved our group dearly. He remembered us most generously in his will and his legacy at Shy's Hill will continue for generations.

As we go into the holiday season and into 2008, we will be focusing on a campaign that I have named "Second Assault on Redoubt No. 1". This attack is on the \$55,000.00 of debt that we owe on the property, which is the only and last remaining debt of our group. Redoubt No. 1 sits on Benham Avenue on the military crest of the hill. It was saved in 1993, mostly through the efforts of Wes Shofner, who stepped up in dire times and made the deal happen.

I hope that you will visit Redoubt No. 1 and experience the view of downtown, the history and the peace of the hill where guns once blazed. I also hope that you will be generous in helping us pay off the note and preserving this property for our children and beyond. Your investment will pay dividends for the next century-a solid investment for Nashville preservation.

We hope that you enjoy this newsletter and the photos from the 1880s which were just found by our member Jim Hoobler. The weekend calendar is attached. Come see us at Fort Negley or Shy's Hill- you will not regret it.

I will continue to stand in the trenches to protect what is left and I trust that you will stand with me in the fight. Thank you again for your support.

James D. Kay, Jr., President  
The Battle of Nashville Preservation Society, Inc.

## BONPS BOOKS



“Guide to Civil War Nashville” sales directly support us. Order here.



Virtual tour of 21 historic sites associated with the Battle of Nashville and the Union occupation of Nashville during the war, plus text of historical markers. Now with Location Maps!



## BONPS Driving Tour and Map

Send email requesting a copy to be mailed to you. Include your mailing address.

## Fort Negley Visitors Center Nears Public Opening (from *The Tennessean*)



Attending the August advanced opening of the new Fort Negley Visitors Center are, left to right, BONPS President Jim Kay, museum curator, historian and author Jim Hoobler, and Mayor Bill Purcell. The fort itself opened to the public for the first time in 60 years in November 2004.

Metro Parks offered residents a sneak peak of the new Visitors Center at Fort Negley, before its official opening. The tour offered visitors a chance to preview the 4,605-square-foot facility, which includes a small multipurpose theater, exhibit space, meeting room, staff space and outdoor plaza. The \$1 million upgrade completes phase two of the project. Metro Parks is partnering with Traveller's Rest Plantation and Museum to create educational opportunities and programs for group tours. The Fort Negley Center will feature exhibits, monthly activities, monthly events and self-guided tours. The exhibit gallery will include touch-screen displays and other interactive elements that tell the story of Fort Negley and the Civil War in Nashville. Topics addressed will include the War in the West, Armies of Invasion, Fighting for Freedom and Occupied Nashville. To commemorate the event, outgoing mayor Bill Purcell sealed a time capsule containing items such as copies of news publications, photographs of Nashville and a list of political personnel. The items in the capsule will remain encapsulated until the 200th anniversary of the Battle of Nashville, December 2064.



**BONPS loses good friend and supporter, Mr. Bob Brown, shown here with his dog Trouble.** Bob Brown, a retired banker, was also a lay historian with a particular interest in the Civil War and the roads of early frontier Tennessee. He served on the boards of the Tennessee Parks and Greenways Foundation, and the state chapter of the Nature Conservancy. Bob was also a major supporter of the Battle of Nashville Preservation Society and the Tennessee Historical Society. He designed the new trail that now leads to the top of Shy's Hill, one of his favorite places. A lifelong bachelor, Mr. Brown planned legacy gifts to the organizations to which he had already given so much. He will be missed by many devoted friends. --Ann Toplovich, Executive Director, Tennessee Historical Society and BONPS Advisory Board Member

# Weekend Calendar

## December 15

Advisory board member David Currey of Traveller's Rest will conduct a day long tour of Civil War Nashville. This is the best tour in Nashville and includes lunch at Belmont. Cost is \$60.00. For reservations call (615) 832-8197.

9:00 a.m. - Fort Negley- 13<sup>th</sup> U.S.C.T will present a full day of living history ending near dusk. This will include drills, interpretation and a memorial service.

12:00 p.m. - The new visitor center will open with a ceremony and presentation of "Two Flags over Tennessee" by the Tennessee Civil War Preservation Association.

## December 16

3:30 p.m. - Tours of Shy's Hill will begin and the "Two Flags over Tennessee" ceremony will occur on the Summit.



This 1880s photo of Shy's Hill appears to be taken from Granny White Pike looking west. It is the oldest known photograph of the hill and was recently discovered in Pennsylvania by Jim Hoobler in preparation for the reprint of his book "Cities Under the Gun".



This photo, also discovered by Hoobler, appears to have been taken just south of Stewart's position on the stonewall crossing Lealand Lane, although this is debatable. The camera looks south toward the Brentwood Hills.

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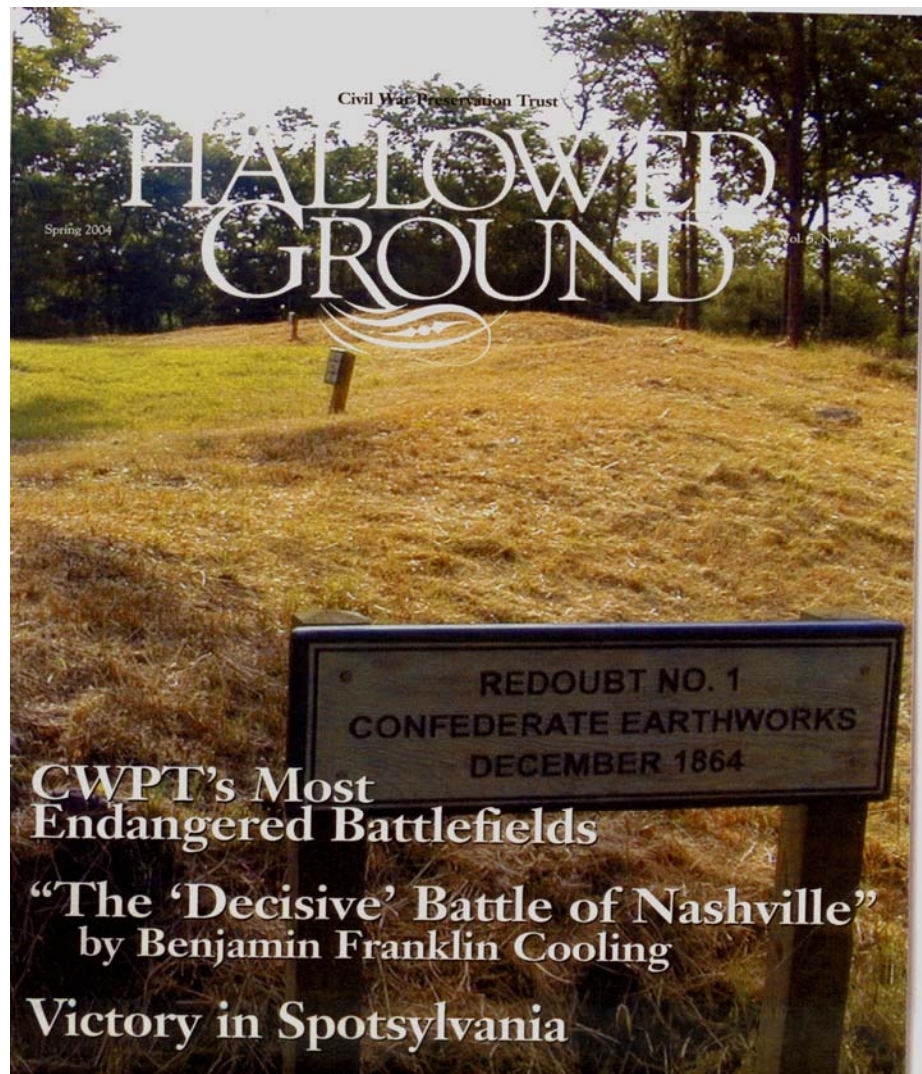
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## SECOND ASSAULT ON REDOUBT ONE



Redoubt Number 1, on Benham Avenue, was the closest artillery position of General A.P. Stewart to the Federal line. The fort was overrun late on the afternoon of December 15, 1864. For 130 years, it was abandoned and overgrown-forgotten. BONPS reclaimed it in 1993 and today it sits, perfect and pristine, overlooking downtown Nashville and withstanding the test of time. This photo is from the cover of a 2004 Civil War Preservation Trust issue.

We need to retire the \$ 55,000.00 debt and secure the absolute protection and safety of this property forever. We have a donor who has agreed to match dollar for dollar all pledges through March 1. Will you rise to the occasion? Will you join the assault? It is this generation that must save this for the future and the time is now. Your investment will pay dividends for hundreds of years. All donors of \$1000.00 or more will be honored on a marker inside the fort. For information or a private tour, call Jim Kay at 742-4800.