



### John Bell Hood (1831-1879)

Confederate General John Bell Hood remains one of the most enigmatic and controversial figures of the entire Civil War. Young, brave, and energetic, he was also called impetuous, rash, and reckless. He remains a polarizing figure among historians. Born in Kentucky, Hood attended West Point before serving in Texas with the U.S. Dragoons against the Comanche. When Kentucky wavered on secession in 1861, he adopted Texas as his home state.

Hood promptly joined the Confederate cause when the Civil War began. He earned an enviable reputation in the early battles around Richmond as a hard-hitting and efficient leader of the famous "Texas Brigade." His bravery, however, came with a cost. A wound at Gettysburg cost him the use of his left arm. At Chickamauga a second wound resulted in the amputation of his right leg below the hip. After his recovery, he was promoted to the rank of general and assumed command of the Army of Tennessee in time to oppose Sherman at Atlanta. He was the youngest full general appointed in the Confederate army during the war.

Sadly, Hood is most remembered for his disastrous campaign in Tennessee. Following a bloody setback at Franklin, he made his headquarters at **Travellers Rest**, the home of John and Harriet Overton, while preparing for the Battle of Nashville. The battle proved to be a crushing Confederate defeat that hastened the end of the war in Tennessee. Hood traveled south with his remaining forces.

Hood settled in New Orleans after the war and entered into the insurance business. He married, fathered eleven children, and wrote his memoirs. He died of yellow fever at the age of 48, along with his wife and one of his daughters. He is buried in Metarie Cemetery in New Orleans.

### Adelicia Acklen (1817-1887)

Word arrived in Nashville in early 1862 that the Confederate army was going to abandon Nashville to Federal forces after the fall of Fort Donelson. Adelicia Acklen's second husband Joseph Acklen, who managed her seven Louisiana cotton plantations as well as a large farm in middle Tennessee, departed immediately to oversee



the protection of the plantations and the all-important cotton crop. Adelicia and her four children remained throughout the first year of federal occupation at **Belmont**, her 20,000-square-foot summer villa just outside of the city. When Joseph Acklen died of malaria the following year, leaving several thousand bales of cotton in plantation storage, Adelicia boldly traveled to Louisiana to salvage the enterprise. She hired a private gunboat to get her cotton crop through the Federal naval blockade to England so that it could be sold. She returned to Nashville with a profit of nearly one million dollars.

After the Battle of Franklin, Union forces in Nashville prepared for Hood to attack the city from the south. Union General Thomas J. Wood established his headquarters at Belmont. Adelicia and her children left Belmont for the safety of the neutral residence of her friend Sarah Childress Polk, widow of President James K. Polk, on Union Street. Belmont itself became part of the Union fortification line. For the next two weeks, some 3000 Union troops stationed at Belmont cut down much of the estate's vegetation for firewood. The mansion and its outlying structures remained unharmed. Union scouts used the 105-foot brick water tower as a signal station and a lookout point throughout the Battle of Nashville December 15-16. Confederate forces were unable to breach Union lines south of the Acklen property.

After the Civil War, Adelicia married Nashville physician William Archer Cheatham. She eventually moved to Washington, D.C. She died in New York City in 1887 and was buried in the family mausoleum at **Mt. Olivet Cemetery**.

### William Driver (1803-1886)

When Union forces entered Nashville on February 25, 1862, Captain William Driver met the troops to present them with his flag, "Old Glory." His flag was raised above the Capitol as a demonstration of the Union occupation of the city. A native of Salem, Massachusetts, Driver, a sea captain, christened his ship's flag "Old Glory" to honor the flag made by his mother and her friends.

Driver's wife died leaving him to care for three children. He left the sea and moved to Nashville where he went into business with his brothers in 1837. He then remarried and had nine additional children. On holidays Driver displayed "Old Glory" from his home on Summer Street (present-day Fifth Avenue North). An ardent Unionist, Driver's flag became a symbol of disloyalty after Tennessee seceded in 1861. After Pro-Confederate neighbors made threats to destroy "Old Glory," Driver's family sewed the flag into the lining of a quilt. He stored



February, Driver brought "Old Glory" out of hiding and it was raised over the state Capitol by federal troops. The capture of the first Confederate state capital became a sensation throughout the North and the story of the old Union loyalist and his cherished flag was widely circulated. After the Union army established control of the city, "Old Glory" was once again stored. In 1922, Driver's daughter, Mary Jane Roland, donated her father's beloved flag to the Smithsonian Institution where it remains today.

During the city's occupation, Driver was appointed to the Nashville City Council by Governor Andrew Johnson. Driver, who opposed slavery, voiced his highly controversial ideas that slaves should be given the property of their former owners. This undoubtedly contributed to his political failure in a later bid for mayor as well as a bid for a seat in the Tennessee House of Representatives. Driver died in 1886 in Nashville and was buried in the **Nashville City Cemetery**. His monument in the cemetery acknowledges his colorful career and his flag, "with the epitaph "His Ship, His Country, and his flag "Old Glory."

### Ella Sheppard Moore (1851-1914)

Ella Sheppard, a former slave whose father purchased her freedom before the Civil War began, became one of the **Fisk School's** original Jubilee Singers and an advocate for African-American education. After Ella gained her freedom, she and her father, himself a former slave, moved to Cincinnati where she was educated. She also received vocal and piano lessons while living there and became an accomplished musician.

After the Civil War, Ella returned to Tennessee to accept a position teaching freed slaves in Gallatin. She then enrolled at Fisk in 1868. In order to support herself, she taught music lessons in Nashville. When George L. White, Fisk's treasurer, learned of her musical talent, he asked her to teach music at Fisk. Ella became its first African-American instructor. In order to raise money for the school, White organized a group of student-singers who performed concerts of the spiritual songs from the plantations. Professor White named the group the "Jubilee Singers," a reference to a Biblical passage about hope.



Ella joined the group and served as its pianist. She also became its assistant director. She toured nationally and internationally with the Fisk Jubilee Singers throughout the 1870s. During her years with the Jubilee Singers, they sang at the White House at the invitation of President Ulysses S. Grant. When the group toured Europe in 1873, they performed for England's Queen Victoria. The Queen was so taken by the beauty of the music that she commissioned a portrait to be made of the Singers. She then gave the floor-to-ceiling portrait to Fisk School as a gift from England. Today this portrait hangs in **Jubilee Hall**, the building constructed on the campus with the funds raised during the European tour. The **Fisk University** campus is located on the site of a former slave market just west of downtown Nashville.

After she returned to Nashville from her touring, Ella married George Moore, a Fisk graduate who became a preacher. The Moores moved to Washington D.C. where he pastored a church. Together they led temperance campaigns. The Moores returned to Nashville in 1892, where Ella became a noted lecturer on African-American issues related to education. She died on June 9, 1914, and is buried in the **Nashville City Cemetery**.

### Bishop Charles Quintard (1824-1898)

Episcopal Bishop Charles Quintard, Diocese of Tennessee, came to Nashville from Memphis in 1857 to support the expansion of the Episcopal work in the city. He ministered as Rector at **Holy Trinity Church** for two years and then served the Church of the Advent. When the Civil War broke out in 1861, soldiers in the Confederate 1st Regiment Tennessee Volunteer Infantry nominated Quintard to serve as their chaplain. Despite his pro-Union stance, Quintard accepted the assignment. During the war he compiled a prayer book, *The Confederate Soldier's Pocket Manual of Devotions: Including Balm for the Weary and the Wounded*. It included a number of poems, hymns, sermon excerpts, and prayers for soldiers in battle. The volume proved enormously popular and was supplied to soldiers throughout the Confederacy. While chaplain, he was also surgeon for the regiment. Prior to his ordination into the priesthood he had been both a practicing physician and professor of physiology and pathology at Memphis Medical College.

In October 1865, Quintard succeeded James Otley as the Episcopal Bishop of Tennessee, the first bishop elected in the South after the Civil War. He believed the Episcopal Church to be "a refuge for all—the lame, halt and blind as well as the rich," and encouraged active church work throughout the state. He established a number of new churches and parochial schools,



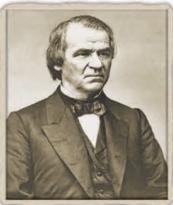
chose to remain in the United States Army after his home state seceded from the Union in 1861. Thomas received command of 6,000 troops assigned to the Department of the Cumberland when the fighting began. His troops defeated the Confederate troops at Mill Springs in Kentucky in January 1862, where he faced many Nashville Confederates including Brigadier General Felix Zollicoffer, who was killed in the battle. Promoted to Brigadier General himself following Shiloh, Thomas gained his nickname "Rock of Chickamauga" while holding his lines protecting the roads into Chattanooga, and then assumed command of the Army of the Cumberland.

After the Atlanta campaign of 1864, General Sherman ordered Thomas and his army to return to Tennessee to defend Nashville from the Army of Tennessee, led by General John Bell Hood. Thomas gathered reinforcements and improved Nashville's fortifications. When Hood's Army attacked Union forces led by General John Schofield in Franklin, just south of Nashville, the Confederates suffered massive losses. Schofield's army retreated into Nashville, where his forces provided reinforcements for Thomas's defense of the city.

Hood quickly moved his army toward Nashville for another battle. His demoralized soldiers entrenched themselves along the hills south of the city and waited for Thomas to attack. For two long weeks, Thomas awaited more reinforcements. President Lincoln and General Grant grew impatient with Thomas's delay and ordered him into action or risk removal from command. On December 15, after an additional delay due to a violent ice storm, Thomas attacked. The two-day battle resulted in more than 6,600 casualties and effectively destroyed the Army of Tennessee. Over the next ten days pursued by Union troops, the remnants of Hood's army retreated across Tennessee into the safety of Mississippi. General Thomas remained in the army after the Civil War ended, and became commander of the district encompassing Kentucky, Tennessee, Mississippi, Alabama, and Georgia. He remained in this position until 1869, moving to San Francisco to take command of the Military Division of the Pacific. He died unexpectedly there the next year, at the age of 53. He was buried in Troy, New York, his wife's hometown.

### Andrew Johnson (1808-1875)

When Tennessee voted to leave the Union in 1861, U.S. Senator Andrew Johnson, always a maverick, became the only senator from a seceding state who refused to resign his seat. President Abraham Lincoln appointed Johnson military governor of his home state when large portions of the state came under Federal control the following year. Union troops fortified the **Tennessee State Capitol** shortly after his arrival, leading locals to call the Capitol "Fort Andrew Johnson."



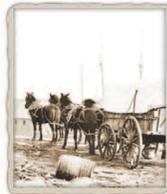
missions for the poor and day laborers in industrial centers at Chattanooga and South Pittsburgh, and a seminary on the campus of Sewanee. It was Quintard who rebuilt the University of the South at Sewanee, serving as its first Vice-Chancellor. Quintard extended the ministry of the Episcopal Church to African Americans, refusing to bar them from congregations, and founded Hoffman Hall, a seminary for African Americans, near the campus of Fisk University in Nashville. He received honorary doctorates from Columbia College and Cambridge University for his work. He died of a heart attack in Darien, Georgia in 1898, and is buried in the St. Andrew's Cemetery in Darien.

### John McCline (c. 1852-1948)

John McCline was a slave on the **Clover Bottom Plantation** in Davidson County when the Civil War began. Dr. James Hoggatt, the owner of the plantation, was considered to be one of the wealthiest men in Davidson County. Over 100 slaves lived at Clover Bottom, one of three plantations belonging to Dr. Hoggatt. Hoggatt's wife, Mary, and an overseer managed life on the plantation and controlled slaves by fear.

Young John's early life was typical of that of other slave children. He was assigned work to do at an early age. He worked with the cattle as a young boy, but soon advanced to working with mules, the chief product at Clover Bottom. He found pleasure in fishing and hunting in spite of the terrors of slavery. John Brown's raid at Harper's Ferry, Virginia was a turning point for McCline. Plantation owners held secret meetings and hired night patrollers to prevent slaves from communicating. In spite of this, John heard the news that Abraham Lincoln had been elected President. He understood that the election had something to do with slavery and realized that war was coming.

When Union forces camped near the plantation shortly after the occupation of Nashville, John found the soldiers to be kind to the slaves. The soldiers told the slaves that they were free if they were willing to go to work for the army. In late 1862, John decided to follow the army out of Nashville. He began to work for the 13th Michigan Volunteers and became a teamster because of his experience working with mules. Although he was never actively engaged in a battle, he witnessed death and devastation at numerous battles including Stones River, Chickamauga, and Lookout Mountain. When the war ended, John went with the 13th Michigan back to Michigan and held a variety of jobs throughout the remainder of his life. More than fifty years after the end of the Civil War, John McCline wrote a memoir about growing up at Clover Bottom and his years with the Union Army. He died in Santa Fe, New Mexico, in 1948 and was buried in the Fairview Cemetery there.



### John and Harriet Overton (1821-1898; 1829-1899)

When Tennessee seceded from the United States and joined the Confederacy in 1861, John and Harriet Overton were among the most prominent families in the state. Ostensibly the "wealthiest man in Tennessee," John Overton's personal fortune was estimated at \$5,000,000, and included his home, **Travellers Rest**; cotton plantations in Mississippi; railroad and turmpike stock; and a large part of the city of Memphis. Overton's father had been a political ally of Andrew Jackson, as well as a business partner with Jackson and General James Winchester, in the development of West Tennessee and the founding of Memphis.

A moderate Whig, John Overton opposed secession, but eventually put his fortune behind the Confederate cause. After Nashville was captured by Union forces early in 1862, Overton was forced to flee his home. His wife Harriet and her two sisters were left to run Travellers Rest in the face of the Union occupation. These women proved a formidable partnership, dealing with repeated crises with considerable ingenuity.

Following the Battle of Franklin, Confederate Commander John Bell Hood made Travellers Rest his headquarters until after the Battle of Nashville. Harriet later called the hosting of several generals "the proudest moment of my life." The house was damaged during the Battle of Nashville, December 15-16, 1864, but Harriet escaped injury.

John Overton returned to Travellers Rest in 1865. He was pardoned at the end of that year and set about rebuilding his property. Although the Civil War left him with a war debt of almost two million dollars, he managed to pay off this debt in twenty years.

After the war, the Overtons resumed their former status in Nashville and became part of the emerging "New South." The Maxwell House, a Nashville hotel that Overton began building prior to the war, was completed. It hosted a variety of dignitaries, including President Theodore Roosevelt. "Colonel" Overton, as he was known, died at Travellers Rest in 1898. His wife died a short time later. They are buried together at **Mt. Olivet Cemetery** in Nashville.



### Elvira J. Powers (1827-1871)

Elvira J. Powers came to Nashville in 1864 as a volunteer hospital visitor and nurse in the Union Army's military hospitals. Powers, a 35-year old widow from Massachusetts, joined the U.S. Christian Commission after the war began. The commission sent numerous volunteers to Nashville to care for the spiritual and physical needs of Union soldiers. The women volunteers set up the Special Diet Kitchen Service which supervised the preparation of meals for the sick and wounded soldiers in Nashville's 25 Union army hospitals. They also created the Lending Library Service to provide secular and religious reading materials to soldiers in nearby camps as well as the hospitals.

In her diary, Elvira described her interactions with the patients, the military personnel, and other volunteers. She provided intimate descriptions of the suffering of wounded soldiers as well as her frustrations with the male-dominated bureaucracy of the hospitals. While working in Nashville, Powers also taught former slaves at the Refugee Farm and at a school housed in a local African-American church. These experiences broadened her ideas about the abilities of former slaves to learn and have independent lives. She expressed astonishment at their progress and quickly forgot the racial differences. She also worked in the diet kitchen of Hospital # 1, located in the old gun factory on South Cherry Street near the University of Nashville. (See **Lindsley Hall**.)

Powers left Nashville in late fall 1864 for a new position at the Jefferson Hospital in Indiana. She saw soldiers who were being transferred to Nashville in early December 1864 in anticipation of the Battle of Nashville, as well as the wounded from the battle when it ended. Powers was an outspoken critic of the treatment of the wounded. She disagreed with the decision to move critically wounded soldiers from Nashville hospitals in order to make room for "Rebel prisoners." After the Civil War, Powers published *Hospital Pencilings*, the journal she kept while serving as a hospital visitor and nurse in Nashville. She published her diary because she felt that no one understood the role of women who served the Union in military hospitals during the war. She died in 1871 of consumption and was buried in the Hope Cemetery in Worcester, Massachusetts.

### Major General George H. Thomas (1816-1870)

George Henry Thomas, a West Point graduate from a slaveholding family in Virginia,



With far-reaching powers to restore civil government in Tennessee, Johnson had to balance the divergent interests of pro-unionists, southern sympathizers, abolitionists and slave owners. Asserting that he had come with an olive branch in one hand and the Constitution in the other, he tried to ease tension in the occupied city of Nashville. He shut down pro-Confederate newspapers and appointed Unionists to key political positions in the state. Johnson's vigorous measures often stiffened southern resistance, and the jailed mayor, Richard Cheatham, referred to Johnson's governorship as a "reign of terror." Johnson's stern policies kept Nashville firmly in Unionist hands, but bringing the entire state back under federal control was a more difficult task.

Slavery was one of the thorniest issues with which Johnson contended. At the time of secession, Johnson, a slave owner, had argued that preserving the Union was the best way to preserve slavery. He moderated his views, however, after President Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation. Referring to slavery as "a cancer," Johnson called for its abolition in Tennessee and freed his own slaves. He eventually helped recruit 20,000 African Americans to serve in the United States Army.

For his loyal service to the administration, President Lincoln made Johnson his running-mate in 1864. Upon Lincoln's assassination, he became president and quickly found himself at odds with Republicans over Reconstruction policy. When the House impeached Johnson in 1868, the Senate failed, by one vote, to get the two-thirds majority necessary to remove him from office. After serving as president, Johnson returned to Tennessee and was elected to the U.S. Senate. He died in 1875 and he is buried in Greeneville, Tennessee.

### John M. and Joseph H. Thompson (1852-1919) & (1854-1917)

As children, John M. and Joseph H. Thompson lived on the plantation, **Glen Leven**, with their parents, John and Mary Hamilton House Thompson. Both Union and Confederate troops camped on the Glen Leven property during the Civil War. The home was used as a Union Army field hospital following the Battle of Nashville and their mother nursed patients and assisted with surgeries in the front parlor. Their father was imprisoned as a Confederate supporter for much of the war.

John M. was only eleven years old when caught in the crossfire of a skirmish on the front lawn while hoeing onions in the kitchen garden with one of the Thompson's slaves, known as "Uncle Jack." In a letter to his grandson written in 1906, John described the incident, saying the shots flew "almost directly over our heads." John recalled that he immediately ran towards the house, praying as he ran. Many years later, when a tree fell in a



storm, John had the trunk sawed until he found a piece with a ball fragment still imbedded in it. He gave the fragment and an account of the story to his eldest grandson.

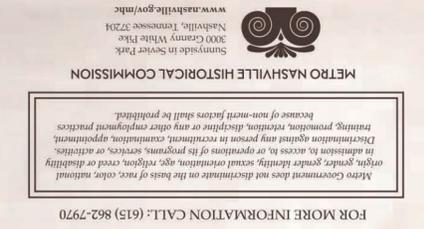
John and Joseph survived the Civil War and life in an occupied city. When their father died in 1876, John inherited his father's farm west of the rail line, including the Glen Leven home. In 1886, he married Judge John Overton's granddaughter, Mary McConnell Overton, and embraced progressive farming methods, providing fresh produce to the Maxwell House Hotel in downtown Nashville and raising Short-Horn cattle. He also served as Speaker of the State Senate near the end of the 19th century and as Tennessee Commissioner of Agriculture from 1907-1911. Joseph inherited his father's land east of the rail line where he built a house called Brightwood for himself and his family. He became a banker, serving as president of the Nashville Trust Company, and continued to farm the land. Joseph died in 1917, followed two years later by John. Both are buried at **Mt. Olivet Cemetery**.

### Elizabeth McGavock Harding (1818-1877)

During the Civil War, Elizabeth McGavock Harding, like many other women, assumed leadership for her family on the home front. A member of Nashville's prominent McGavock family, she married William Giles Harding, the son of another prominent family, and moved to the **Belle Meade Plantation**, the home of her husband's family. Her husband was arrested early in the war because he had raised five million dollars in contributions to the Confederacy. He spent the war years away from Belle Meade in a Federal prison at Fort Mackinac in Michigan. Despite immense hardships, Elizabeth looked after a household of 150 people, mostly slaves. She managed the Belle Meade Plantation, a nationally recognized horse-breeding farm, and protected her home throughout the war.

One Sunday before dawn while General Harding was still imprisoned, a contingent of Confederates gathered on the front lawn. They demanded that two Union officers stationed at Belle Meade be turned over to their control. Elizabeth hurried to the front portico, firearm in hand, and ordered the men away. The sight of one lone woman, braving the entire band of soldiers, appealed to their leader's sense of chivalry. He drew back, tipped his hat and bowed, remarking, "Mount and get away boys; we don't want to disturb no lady game as that!"

Elizabeth McGavock Harding died at Belle Meade on August 8, 1867, at the age of forty-eight. Her remains were interred in a family vault on the property. The entire Harding family was re-interred at **Mt. Olivet Cemetery**, early in the 20th century.



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This brochure tells Nashville's Civil War story through the eyes of brave Nashvillians who represent the many perspectives of the war and its effects on the lives of those in our city.



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