

# **ESSENTIAL CIVIL WAR CURRICULUM**

---

## **The 1864 Nashville Campaign**

By **Richard H. Holloway**

### **Resources**

**If you can read only one book**

Author	<i>Title</i> . City: Publisher, Year.
Sword, Wiley	<i>The Confederacy's Last Hurrah: Spring Hill, Franklin and Nashville</i> . New York: Open Road Media, 2017.

### **Books and Articles**

Author	<i>Title</i> . City: Publisher, Year.   "Title," in <i>Journal</i> ##, no. # (Date): #.
Belcher, Dennis W.	<i>The Cavalries in the Nashville Campaign</i> . Jefferson, NC: McFarland Press, 2020.
Bergeron, Arthur W. Jr. & Paul H. Stockdale	<i>The Death of an Army: The Battle of Nashville and Hood's Retreat</i> . Madison: University of Wisconsin Press, 1992.
Bobrick, Benson	<i>The Battle of Nashville: General George H. Thomas &amp; The Most Decisive Battle of the Civil War</i> . New York: Alfred A. Knopf Books, 2010.
Carpenter, Noel, ed.	<i>Detour to Disaster: General John Bell Hood's "Slight Demonstration" at Decatur and the Unraveling of the Tennessee Campaign</i> . El Dorado Hills, CA: Savas Beatie, 2023.
Chick, Sean M.	<i>They Came Only to Die: The Battle of Nashville, December 15-16, 1864</i> . El Dorado Hills, CA: Savas Beatie, 2023.

Cooling, Benjamin F.	<i>To the Battles of Franklin, Nashville and Beyond: Stabilization and Reconstruction in Tennessee and Kentucky, 1864-1865.</i> Knoxville: University of Tennessee Press, 2011.
Groom, Winston	<i>Shrouds of Glory: From Atlanta to Nashville: The Last Great Campaign of the Civil War.</i> New York: Simon & Shuster, 1995.
Hood, Stephen M.	<i>John Bell Hood: The Rise, Fall and Resurrection of a Confederate General.</i> El Dorado Hills, CA.: Savas Beatie, 2016.
Horn, Stanley	<i>The Decisive Battle of Nashville.</i> Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1991.
McDonough, James L.	<i>Nashville, The Western Confederacy's Final Gamble.</i> Knoxville: University of Tennessee Press, 2004.
McMurray, Richard	<i>John Bell Hood and the War for Southern Independence,</i> Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1992.
Ridley, Bromfield L.	<i>Battles &amp; Sketches of the Army of Tennessee: Journal of B.L. Ridley Lieut. General A. P. Stewart's Staff.</i> Dayton, OH: Morningside Bookshop, 1978.
Thrasher, Christopher	<i>Suffering in the Army of Tennessee: A Social History of the Confederate Army of the Heartland from the Battles for Atlanta to the Retreat from Atlanta.</i> Knoxville: University of Tennessee Press, 2021.

## Organizations

Organization Name	Description, Contact information including address, email
Battle of Franklin Trust	The Battle of Franklin Trust is dedicated to a better understanding of a people forever impacted by the American Civil War. It operates as museum and historical sites associated with the Battle of Franklin. Their website is: <a href="https://boft.org/">https://boft.org/</a>

Battle of Nashville Trust	<p>The Battle of Nashville Trust is dedicated to the preservation of the land and education of the public about the Battle of Nashville.</p> <p>Their website is:  <a href="https://www.battleofnashvilletrust.org/">https://www.battleofnashvilletrust.org/</a></p>
---------------------------	--

### Web Resources

URL	Name and description
<a href="https://www.battlefields.org/learn/civil-war/battles/spring-hill">https://www.battlefields.org/learn/civil-war/battles/spring-hill</a>	American Battlefield Trust's page on the Battle of Spring Hill November 29, 1864.
<a href="https://www.battlefields.org/learn/civil-war/battles/franklin">https://www.battlefields.org/learn/civil-war/battles/franklin</a>	American Battlefield Trust's page on the Second Battle of Franklin November 30, 1864.
<a href="https://www.battlefields.org/learn/civil-war/battles/nashville">https://www.battlefields.org/learn/civil-war/battles/nashville</a>	American Battlefield Trust's page on the Battle of Nashville December 15-16, 1864.

### Other Sources

Name	Description, Contact information including address, email
Spring Hill Battlefield	<p>The Spring Hill battlefield is almost entirely lost to development but still can be visited.</p> <p>See:  <a href="https://www.battlefields.org/visit/battlefields/spring-hill-battlefield">https://www.battlefields.org/visit/battlefields/spring-hill-battlefield</a></p>
Historic Site: Franklin Battlefield	<p>The Franklin battlefield is also almost entirely lost to development.</p> <p>See:  <a href="http://middletennesseetourism.com/historic-site-franklin-battlefield/">http://middletennesseetourism.com/historic-site-franklin-battlefield/</a></p>
Nashville Battlefield	<p>The Nashville battlefield is also almost entirely lost to development but several sites have been preserved including the Peace Monument, Shy's Hill, Fort Negley and the Nashville national Cemetery.</p> <p>See:  <a href="https://www.battlefields.org/visit/battlefields/nashville-battlefield">https://www.battlefields.org/visit/battlefields/nashville-battlefield</a></p>

Fort Negley Visitor Center and Park	The Fort Negley Visitors Center and Park is located at 1100 Fort Negley Blvd. Nashville, TN 37203 Their website is: <a href="https://www.nashville.gov/departments/parks/historic-sites/fort-negley">https://www.nashville.gov/departments/parks/historic-sites/fort-negley</a>
-------------------------------------	---

**Scholars**

Name	Email
Richard H. Holloway	<a href="mailto:clangraham@aol.com">clangraham@aol.com</a>

**Topic Précis**

A Confederate plan to reinforce beleaguered Confederate forces under Lieutenant General John Bell Hood defending Atlanta fell through in August 1864. On September 1, Hood broke away from the trenches around Atlanta, he fully expected Union Major General William Tecumseh Sherman to send troops after him. Hood set his sights on recapturing Nashville, Tennessee. Once that was accomplished, the offensive minded Hood would continue his advance further north to re-occupy his native Kentucky. Hoping to recruit more soldiers for his army, Hood would then gather much needed supplies for his men further north before turning east. Hood sought to unite with General Robert E. Lee’s forces and eventually overcome the Union army then attempting to encircle Lee. It was indeed a bold plan, but first Hood had to capture Nashville. Destroying Union supply garrisons as he moved north Hood allowed Schofield’s Army of the Ohio to slip past his Army of Tennessee and the two forces clashed at Spring Hill on November 29. And on November 30 Hood attacked the entrenched Federal forces at Franklin. This debacle caused a large loss of life among Confederate leaders and their commands, including Major General Patrick Cleburne. Worse for the Confederates this maneuvering allowed Schofield’s Army of the Ohio to join forces with George Thomas’ Army of the Cumberland, the combined force of 55,000 outnumbering Hood’s 20,000. On December 2, the bloodied Army of Tennessee reached the outskirts of Nashville and proceeded to entrench in a four mile line south of the town. Thomas’ combined army also entrenched in front of Nashville and did not immediately attack the entrenched Confederates. Both Grant and Lincoln prodded Thomas to attack but Thomas Hood until December 15. The Union attack consisted of a distracting attack on the Confederate right with the main effort on their left. The Confederates were forced back, retreating two miles and setting up a new defensive line. On the 16<sup>th</sup> Thomas attacked again and this time the Hood chose to disengage, losing 2,500 men killed and wounded and 4,500 captured. Thomas pursued the Confederates hoping to provide an early Christmas present for President Lincoln. A Confederate rear guard under

Brigadier General Randall Gibson on Franklin Pike fought off advancing Federal forces allowing Hood to continue his retreat. Finally, Hood's army crossed back into Mississippi, courtesy of yet another determined Confederate rear guard action by a small force under Major General Edward Walthall which managed to cover the extraction of most of the Army of Tennessee to the south side of the river. A dejected Hood would soon turn over his command to General Richard Taylor, thus ending the disastrous 1864 Nashville Campaign.

\*\*\*\*\*