

Courtesy West Point Museum, United States Military Academy

The Civil War in Rutherford County

"I just can't see how we can live through such suffering" wrote Kate Carney, a young woman who witnessed the storms of war rage in this county.

Control of the area shifted between the Union and Confederate armies. Battles carved tales of destruction on soldiers' bodies and the land. Slaves sought their freedom in the midst of these uncertain times.

Oaklands Historic House Museum

Oaklands Historic House Museum presents the history of the Maney family home and 1500 acre plantation. General Nathan Bedford Forrest's cavalry captured a Union camp at this site in a July 1862 raid.

Oaklands Historic House Museum, 900 North Maney Avenue, Murfreesboro, TN 37130, (615) 893-0022, email: oaklandsmansion@aol.com



Courtesy Oaklands Historic House Museum

Stones River National Battlefield

This National Park Service site interprets the Battle of Stones River, a brutal conflict that raged from December 31, 1862 to January 2, 1863 and ended in Union victory. The park includes a portion of the original battlefield, Stones River National Cemetery, and Fortress Rosecrans, an earthen fort built in 1863.

Stones River National Battlefield, 3501 Old Nashville Highway, Murfreesboro, TN 37129, (615) 893-9501, email: stri_information@nps.gov, website: www.nps.gov/stri

Sam Davis Home



Courtesy Sam Davis Home

This home commemorates the life of Confederate scout Sam Davis who chose execution rather than betray his country. The site also offers visitors a portrait of nineteenth-century farm life.

Sam Davis Home, 1339 Sam Davis Road, Smyrna, TN 37167, (615) 459-2341 or (888) 750-9524, website: www.samdavishome.org

Battle of Vaught's Hill (Milton)

In March 1863, General John Hunt Morgan's cavalry fought a brief but bloody battle against Union forces at Vaught's Hill, 15 miles northeast of Murfreesboro. Reinforcements from Fortress Rosecrans helped defeat the Confederates and forced them to retreat.

Tennessee Wars Commission, 2941 Lebanon Road, Nashville, TN 37214, (615) 532-1550, website: www.tdec.org/hist/pathdivided/

Battle of Hoover's Gap

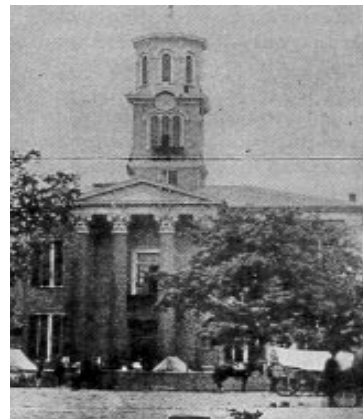
After constructing Fortress Rosecrans, Union troops marched south on the Tullahoma campaign. On June 24, 1863, the Federals defeated the Confederates at Hoover's Gap, 18 miles southeast of Murfreesboro, with the aid of their new Spencer repeating rifles.

Tennessee Wars Commission, 2941 Lebanon Road, Nashville, TN 37214, (615) 532-1550, website: www.tdec.org/hist/pathdivided/

Rutherford County Courthouse

This 1859 courthouse was a symbol of local power and civic pride. Union soldiers at Fortress Rosecrans aimed cannons at this building and threatened to shell it if the Confederate army attacked, or civilians revolted.

The Rutherford County Courthouse is located in the center of the Murfreesboro square. For more information, call (615) 895-1887.



Courtesy Library of Congress

Battle of the Cedars

On December 7, 1864, General Nathan Bedford Forrest's forces clashed with Union troops from Fortress Rosecrans on ground bloodied during the Battle of Stones River. The Union attack caused many Confederates to flee, infuriating Forrest.

Stones River National Battlefield, 3501 Old Nashville Highway, Murfreesboro, TN 37129, (615) 893-9501, email: stri_information@nps.gov, website: www.nps.gov/stri

Earnshaw School

Many former slaves worked hard to get an education. In 1865, African American minister Braxton James and Union chaplain William Earnshaw, a Stones River National Cemetery superintendent, helped to create a school for freed people. The building, constructed using materials from Fortress Rosecrans, also housed a church known as James Chapel.

The original site of this school is at 806 State Street in downtown Murfreesboro, the present location of Key United Methodist Church.

Confederate Circle, Evergreen Cemetery

In 1865, the Murfreesboro Memorial Association, a women's group, established a Confederate cemetery located one and a half miles south of town. The local United Confederate Veterans organization decided to move these graves to the Confederate Circle at Evergreen Cemetery in the 1890s.

Evergreen Cemetery, 519 Greenland Drive, Murfreesboro, TN 37130, (615) 893-5641



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