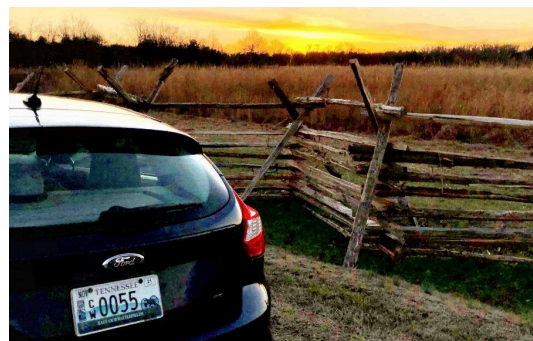




December 2020

Two Major Battles Rage in Tennessee on the afternoon of December 31, 1862: License Plate to Parkers Crossroads and Stones River

On the final day of 1862, two battles raged in Tennessee that shaped the outcome of our nation's Civil War. In West Tennessee, Confederate Gen. Nathan Bedford Forrest escaped annihilation with a daring two-way charge at **Parkers Crossroads**. That battle brought a three-week campaign to disrupt the advance of Gen. Ulysses S. Grant's Army of the Tennessee to a close. Meanwhile, in Middle Tennessee, nearly 81,000 soldiers clashed in the fields and forests near Murfreesboro, Tennessee. Three days of fighting at the **Battle of Stones River** resulted in nearly 24,000 casualties. The slim Union victory set the stage for campaigns ever deeper into the Confederate heartland and secured the success President Abraham Lincoln desperately wanted to support the Emancipation Proclamation.



*By mid-afternoon, after almost 5 hours of fierce fighting at **Parkers Crossroads** and thinking he had carried the day, General NB Forrest found he was being attacked in his rear by Col. John Fuller's Ohio Brigade and now his force was trapped between two Union brigades. This battlefield preservation supporter is parked in front of the field where Forrest attacked the Ohio Brigade with about 125 men, halting their attack, putting the Union infantry on the defensive, while most of Forrest's artillery and cavalry escaped the scene.*

*As the sun begins to set over **Stones River National Battlefield**, this preservation supporter imagines 158 years ago when these fields saw desperate fighting through the afternoon of December 31, 1862 as wave after wave of Confederates surged toward the Nashville Pike only to be broken by the Union army and their massed artillery.*

Passing from one year to the next symbolizes a chance for change. That certainly proved true on December 31, 1862. Two deadly battles in Tennessee closed out the year with a staggering loss of life. However, at midnight on January 1, 1863, with the signing of the **Emancipation Proclamation**, the nation took a big step toward experiencing, "a new birth of freedom."

As we approach the end of another trying year in our nation's history, **we wish all of you a wonderful and healthy holiday season and a joyous New Year.**



You can purchase the license plate at your County Clerk's office for \$36.00 plus your regular registration fees. Proceeds from the sale of the plate will help protect and interpret important battlefields in Tennessee.

For more information, visit: tcwpa.org/license-plate

The Tennessee Civil War Preservation Association preserves and interprets Tennessee's Civil War Battlefields and their contributing landscapes for present and future generations.

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