



July 2020

Union Occupation Disrupts Nashville Economy License Plate to the Slave Market



This battlefield preservation supporter explores downtown Nashville near the intersection of 4th Avenue North and Martin Luther King Avenue. In 1860 businesses lined these blocks in one of the south's most prosperous business districts. The arrival of the Union Army ended the businesses that dominated this area: trafficking in African Americans.



After the fall of Forts Henry and Donelson in early 1862, the Federal army captured and occupied Nashville. Confederates abandoned the area and the governor and state officials moved to Memphis. The Federals set up supply depots and hospitals transforming Nashville from a lucrative slave market economy into a major Union military center.

Following the Federals' arrival African American men and women were no longer marched from the recently built "Slave Yard" at 4th and MLK and made to strip naked and roll down a hill to demonstrate their physical fitness. No longer would a nearby broker sell "Fancy Girls" (enslaved girls of mixed ancestry) into a life of concubinage to wealthy planters.



On the Public Square to the east, Morgan and Company would no longer amass large profits from the sale of items for use by enslaved African Americans. From their office on the NW corner of the Public Square, the Planters Bank no longer offered generous terms to individuals seeking to buy enslaved people on credit. Similarly, farmers would now be hard-pressed to find an agent of the Hartford, Memphis or Aetna Insurance companies who would issue them a policy insuring them against the unexpected loss of their enslaved persons' labor.


With Federal occupation the most visible and troubling aspect of the slave experience ceased to exist. Federal occupation contributed to the disintegration of slavery in Nashville and paved the way for its eventual end throughout the South.

Stay Safe and Healthy

As you travel Tennessee roads this summer please keep an eye out for Civil War sites – including battlefields and other sites that help tell the story of Tennessee in the Civil War. Then snap a photo of your tag and vehicle at the site and send the photo to info@tcwpa.org. *Note: With your license plate photos we have now “visited” 48 sites via social media. Thanks to all our travelers!*

Time to Renew - Please Do!

When you **RENEW** your “Save Our Battlefields” license plate you stay connected to nearly **1300 Tennesseans** who proudly display their license plate – who are voicing their support for saving our battlefields in their communities, their region or across the nation. Thank you.

 Following us on Facebook? We have launched a new public Facebook page. Check it out by clicking on the Facebook icon. Then LIKE and FOLLOW the new page....and don't forget to share TCWPA's posts with your friends and family.



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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