



For Immediate Release

November 11, 2011

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Belmont Mansion hosts Civil War Symposium this November

Belmont Mansion, The Battle of Nashville Preservation Society (BONPS) and the Lotz House have teamed up to bring a significant symposium on the Civil War to Middle Tennessee November 11 and 12.

The symposium will launch with an opening night reception at the Lotz House in Franklin, Tennessee on Friday, November 11. The reception will be hosted by BONPS President Phillip Duer and Thomas Fligel, author of "The History Buff's Guide--" book series. Attendees will be able to tour the historic Lotz House Museum, meet each of the symposium speakers, and enjoy wine and hors d'oeuvres.

The formal Symposium will begin the following day at Belmont Mansion at 8:00 a.m. Five guest speakers will focus on unique perspectives regarding the fall and occupation of Nashville, and the battles at Ft. Donelson and Shiloh. The event will be moderated by Thomas Fligel, assistant professor of American History at Columbia State Community College and serves on the boards of Franklin's Charge, the Carter House Museum, the Franklin Battlefield Preservation Commission, and the Executive Committee for the Franklin Civil War Round Table. Panelists will include:

- Thomas Cartwright - Franklin-based historian, one of the nation's leading authorities on the Battle of Franklin.
- Tim Johnson, author and professor of history at David Lipscomb University, who has appeared on the History Channel, C-SPAN and NPT.
- Carole Bucy, professor of History at Vol State Community College and the newly appointed Metro Historian.
- James McDonough, noted author of Five Tragic Hours and Nashville: The Western Confederacy's Final Gamble.
- Doug Richardson, Park Ranger and Chief of Interpretation at Fort Donelson.
- Dr. Bobby Lovett, long-time professor of History at Tennessee State University and authored several books on African American history, most notably "African American History of Nashville, Tennessee, 1780-1930."

"Middle Tennessee is rich with Civil War history. Our inspiring past combined with the commemoration of the 150th anniversary of the Civil War creates an ideal opportunity to host this event," said Belmont University's Mark Brown. "We are honored to welcome these exceptional writers, speakers and historians to Belmont University."

A snack with coffee will be served in the morning and a lunch will be provided in the afternoon. Following lunch, visitors will take a guided tour of the Belmont Mansion. Guests will also be able to videotape their comments regarding the Civil War as it relates to the Nashville, Ft. Donelson and Shiloh. This video will be uploaded and available on various websites following the event. An exhibit will be set up depicting Ft. Donelson, and guest speakers will be available to sign their books during this time.

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Tickets to the event are \$75 and include the reception, the symposium, Sesquicentennial commemorative Hatch Show Print, mini ball, and BONPS *Guide to Civil War Nashville* autographed by Mark Zimmerman. This event is being sponsored by Wade and Egbert Insurance Partners and Kay, Griffin, Enkema and Kolbert. Sponsorship opportunities are still available. Contact jtt@lotzhouse.com for more information.

Belmont Mansion, an Italianate villa, was constructed between the years 1849 and 1853. Once the summer home for Nashville socialite Adelia Acklen and her family, it also served as the temporary headquarters for Thomas Wood commander of the Fourth Corp of the Union army.

Surrounded by lavish gardens, the Belmont Mansion estate originally boasted 36 rooms and 19,000 square feet of living space. It was one of the most elaborate antebellum estates in the South. Belmont Mansion was built, furnished, and landscaped by the Acklens and boasted such luxuries as an art gallery, a bowling alley, and a zoo.

A National Historic Site since 1971, Belmont Mansion currently operates as a house museum, maintained by the Belmont Mansion Association. Belmont Mansion is open daily for guided tours, Monday-Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Sunday from 1 to 4 p.m. For inquiries you may visit our website www.belmontmansion.com or call 615-460-5459.

The Battle of Nashville Preservation Society, Inc. is dedicated to the preservation of historic Civil War sites in Davidson County, Tennessee. The BONPS is a non-profit 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization with open membership. BONPS has been instrumental in helping preserve Fort Negley, Shy's Hill, Confederate Redoubt No. 1, and the Battle of Nashville Monument, among other sites. For more information visit: www.bonps.org.

The Lotz House Foundation is a 501(c) (3) organization dedicated to protecting, preserving and educating people on the history and culture of the historic Civil War Battle of Franklin, Tennessee in 1864. The foundation is committed to enriching lives through preserving the stories of the time along with the lifestyle, furnishings and fine art of the period. For more information visit: www.lotzhouse.com.

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