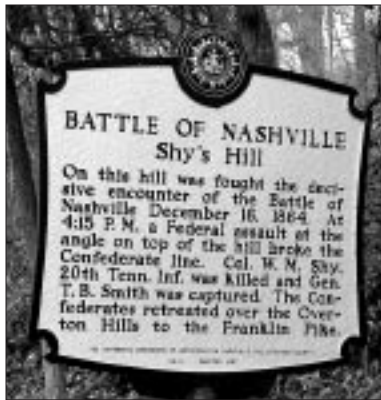




Stewart's Stone Wall

A Metro Historical Commission marker at 4616 Lealand Lane marks the stone wall behind which fought Major Gen. William Loring's division of Stewart's Corps, on Dec. 16, 1864. All Federal attacks were beaten back until the Confederate line was broken a mile to the west. The division retreated south through the hills toward Brentwood.

23 Shy's Hill



On the second day of battle, Shy's Hill (known as Compton Hill at the time) was a formidable position occupied by Gen. William Bate's division of Cheatham's Corps on the extreme left flank. Although positioned 600 yards from the hill, the Federals of the XXIII Corps and XVI Corps remained mostly dormant until 4:15 p.m. when Gen. John McArthur ordered McMillen's Brigade to "take that hill." The subsequent charge up the hill resulted in the rout of the entire Confederate army in one of the most decisive battles of the war. Col. William Shy of the 20th Tennessee defended the hill to the last, shot in the forehead at point-blank range. Gen. Thomas Benton Smith was captured here.

At the top of the hill visitors can see traces of the Confederate earthworks, which were erroneously positioned higher than the military crest. At the time of the battle, the hill, like much of the countryside, had been cleared of trees.

