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# THE HOMEPLACE GAZETTE

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Vol. 1 No.11 November 2013

Land Between The Lakes | Stewart County, Tennessee | 1850s

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## The Civil War Comes to the Homeplace

*The Homeplace opens for a  
December day to the year*

### December 14, 1863

Since February 1862 when the Confederate Army surrendered Fort Donelson and Fort Henry, the Union Army controls the area between the twin rivers. Small skirmishes occur between the Union army and the regular and irregular Confederate military.

In February of 1863, the Confederate cavalry tried to gain control of the Cumberland River by attacking the Federal Union fortification in the town of Dover. They were defeated.

Dover, the second largest river port on the Cumberland River, laid in ruins from this battle. The Union army moved to a more

**December 14, 2013**  
**Saturday | 10am to 3pm**

**Citizen Soldiers**  
Confederate Encampment  
Field Crib Area

**Home Front**  
Winter Farm Work  
Farm Site  
Winter Housework  
Double Pen House

1pm  
**Civil War**  
**Between The Rivers 1863**  
Presentation by Historian,  
Susan "Ski" Witzofsky  
Homeplace Theater

defendable position in between Dover and old Fort Donelson. [Today where Fort Donelson's cemetery rests.]

Through the rest of 1863, skirmishes continued between the Union Army and regular and irregular Confederate soldiers in our area.

The Southern Calvary continued to strike against Union supply lines, attacking railroads, steamboats, and overland caravans. In retaliation the Union Army declared all-out-war on locals helping Southern soldiers.

Without supplies, Union soldiers ravaged the countryside to get needed food, supplies, and livestock for their survival. Such was the life of the farm family in 1863 between the rivers.

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*Join us for a reenactment of Confederate soldiers living on the Homeplace farm site while the farm family diligently completes their winter chores required for their survival in 1863.*



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For more information on the  
**Civil War**

Be sure to visit

**Fort Donelson**

**National Battlefield**

120 Fort Donelson Road

Dover, TN, 37058

[www.nps.gov/fodo/](http://www.nps.gov/fodo/)

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## Dateline

### December 14, 1863

As the year comes to a close, our farm family prepares for the long winter ahead reflecting on past year events. Families worry about the men — husbands, fathers, brothers, and sons — who left the farm to join the war effort. Prayers for surviving soldiers request warmth and food in these cold winter months; while families mourn the loss of soldiers who died in battle.

After the battle of Dover, family and friends fled the city to find their homes in ruin. Many came to live with our farm family for survival.

With more mouths to feed, the family worried about food supplies. No one planted crops this year. The family already consumed foods stored from bumper crop years. When the family did grow corn, tobacco, or a large garden — it would all be confiscated. The family makes due with what little they in small plots or foraged wild food. Illnesses spread rapidly from soldiers' camps into the community causing more hardships and deaths.

Farm included with admission ticket

~~Admission~~

13 years and older: \$5

5 through 12 years: \$3

4 and under enter free

## Today on the Farm

We find the family preparing a meager meal for friends and family and making clothes. Mostly they recycle older clothes into new, reknit socks into thick socks for their soldiers far away. They make due with what they have since no



extra money came from crop sales.

The farmyard sits quietly; most animals have been taken or hidden. Families secure secret locations in the forests where animals, foods, supplies, and valuables hide. Valuables include some money, jewelry, and favorite quilts. Blankets, food, clothing, bedding, live stock, harnesses, and even the wood cook stove have been confiscated by visiting soldiers.

The Union Army promises payment of the procured items, but only if all family members take an oath of allegiance to the United States. If they take the oath, chances are the partisan guerillas retaliate by burning

## Civil War Resources

To learn more about the Civil War civilian experience at land between the rivers, check out:

### Fort Donelson's Legacy: War and Society in Kentucky and Tennessee, 1862 – 1863

By Benjamin Franklin Cooling

Or visit

Fort Donelson National Battlefield  
[www.nps.gov/fodo/](http://www.nps.gov/fodo/)

The Boswell family settled along the Tennessee River in the Panther Creek area. The Confederate Army used part of their land to build Fort Henry. Helen Boswell preserved her families' memories of the Civil War years between the rivers in

### The Life and Times of Daniel C. Boswell

Kissimmee, Florida  
Cody Publications, Inc., 1976



United States Department of Agriculture  
Forest Service

[Tennessee Environmental Association](#)  
[National Association for Interpretation](#)  
[Kentucky Association for Environmental Education](#)  
[North American Association for Environmental Education](#)  
[Association of Living History, Farm and Agricultural Museums](#)

## The Homeplace Gazette

The Homeplace Gazette serves as a public journal for visitors and friends of The Homeplace living history farm in the Tennessee portion of Land Between The Lakes National Recreation Area. It is published periodically. Email comments to [lblinfo@fs.fed.us](mailto:lblinfo@fs.fed.us) with the subject of "Gazette" or drop in and tell us in person.

## Visit The Homeplace

Woodlands Trace

[National Scenic Byway](#)

4512 The Trace Dover, TN 37058  
931-232-6457 | Groups 270-924-2020  
N 36° 39' 20.07" W 87° 58' 25.17"

[www.LBL.org](http://www.LBL.org)

Land Between The Lakes

[USDA Forest Service](#)

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