

# FORT NEGLEY WIG WAG

A Semi-monthly publication of Fort Negley Park  
Metro Parks

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## FOSSILS AT THE FORT GREAT SUCCESS

Nearly two hundred visitors enjoyed “Fossils at the Fort” on Saturday, March 30. Dr. Molly Miller, Vanderbilt Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences, led a group of students who gave “Timeline Tours” and presentations about fossils around the world. Many visitors brought in fossils, and Dr. Miller spent the entire day viewing, identifying and displaying examples of various fossil types. The student presentations were of great interest, with many people attending them. Param Jagg presented “The Mighty T-Rex: Preservation of Cellular Microstructures”; Autumn Henderson — “The Burgess Shale”; William McGee — “Exceptional Preservation: The Bog People”; Tony An — “Dinosaur Feathers and How They Relate to Evolution”; Liam Byrne — “Otzi the Iceman”; Nicole Burdakiin — “Dire Wolf, Bison, Trees and Atmospheric Carbon from the La Brea Tar Pits, CA”; Stephen Kornblum — “Coprolites”; James Burnes — “Fossil Sauropod Eggs of Auca Mahuevo”; Carson Hedburg — “Exceptional Bat Preservation in the Green River Formation”; Katherine Edwards — “Lyuba the Baby Mammoth”; Emily Rupe — “Leonardo: The Mummified Brachylophosaurus.” Meanwhile, back at the Fort, “Timeline Tours” were given on a continuous basis as new guests arrived. All went smoothly under the supervision of Shelly Donohue (TA) and Dr. Miller.



Dr. Miller identifying fossils



Katherine Edwards beginning a timeline tour

## GUIDED TOUR THROUGH FORT NEGLEY

On Saturday, May 18, David Currey, Fort Negley Park and Visitors Center Interpretive planner and exhibit designer, will lead a two hour guided tour at the fort. Mr. Currey will expertly weave together the intricate details of military operations in the West, life in Nashville and the circumstances necessitating the building of Federal fortifications. The tour is free and open to the public with reservations. The tour will go from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m. Participants are encouraged to wear comfortable shoes and bring something to drink (bottled water is on sale at the Visitors Center). For more information or to make reservations, please contact Fort Negley Visitors Center and Park at (615)-862-8470 or [fortnegley@nashville.gov](mailto:fortnegley@nashville.gov).



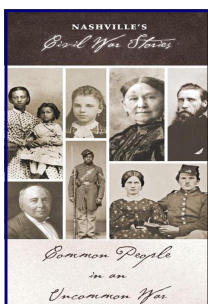
## EXPECT TO SEE A FLURRY OF ACTIVITY TAKING PLACE ALL OVER THE PARK THIS SPRING AND SUMMER

Many people assume that history is stuffy, boring and unchanging but like many historic sites, Fort Negley's story is complex and unfortunately incomplete. During the Civil War, accurate and consistent record keeping was not always a priority. Few documents describe in detail how the fort was built. Works Progress Administration documents detailing how the fort was rebuilt in the 1930s have yet to be found. These gaps in the historical record plague those working to accurately define a site's history. At times, the only remedy is to build a history, literally, from the ground up.



Beginning in May, a team led by John Milner Associates, Inc., one of the nation's leading firms providing historic preservation and cultural resource services, will conduct several studies and surveys of the Fort while preparing a Historic Structures Report. When completed, the

report, made possible by a grant through the Tennessee Civil War National Heritage Area, will serve as a comprehensive guide for future maintenance, repair and stabilization projects. In addition, Zada Law, a member of the Fort Negley Technical Advisory Committee, hopes the report will offer important insights into the Fort's construction during the Civil War and reconstruction in the 1930s. "Unlike a master plan which focuses primarily on visitor use," commented Ms. Law, "a historic structures report focuses on the structure itself; the stone walls and the ground supporting those walls. A historic structures report serves as a user's manual detailing not only how a structure was built but also how to preserve it."



In May 2012, at the request of Mayor Karl Dean, staff and volunteers at Civil War sites formed the Nashville Civil War Heritage Tourism Committee tasked with telling the city's Civil War story through key people and places. After much discussion, the committee submitted a proposal, including production of a 12-panel brochure, to the Tennessee Civil War National Heritage Area. Upon receiving the grant in late 2012, the committee identified twelve individuals and twenty four sites essential to telling Nashville's Civil War story. By mid-May, printed copies of "Nashville's Civil War Stories: Common People in an Uncommon War" will be available at tourist destinations in Middle Tennessee including Fort Negley. The grant also funded a series of six lectures covering a variety of topics to be held at various locations from May through October.

Stop by and check out all of the improvements taking place!

### JUNETEENTH AT FORT NEGLEY JUNE 22, 2013

Juneteenth is the oldest known celebration commemorating the end of slavery in the United States. On June 19, 1865 Major General Gordon Granger landed at Galveston, Texas with news of the war's end and that slavery was abolished and unlawful in the United States. This news came to Galveston, and Texas at large, two and a half years after President Lincoln published the Emancipation Proclamation. This lapse in time was due to the inability of the Union to enforce the Proclamation while still prosecuting the war. With the surrender of General Lee in April and General Granger's arrival in Texas in June of 1865, the machinery for enforcement was in place.

This year's Nashville celebration will be held at Fort Negley. At the time of this writing the details of the program are still being worked out. Dr. Tommie Morton-Young will be the keynote speaker and the Emancipation Proclamation will be read by Dennis Boggs as President Lincoln. Dr. Morton-Young has been involved with Juneteenth for many years and has coordinated programs in several states. The 13th United States Colored Troops re-enactors will be in charge of the military portions of the program including presentation of Colors. The program will begin at 10:00 a.m. and continue until 3:00 p.m.

## TRAVELING EXHIBITION CHRONICLES THE EARLY YEARS OF FREEDOM FOR FORMER SLAVES IN TENNESSEE



An exhibition created by the Tennessee Civil War National Heritage Area will open at the Visitors Center on June 1. The exhibit, entitled "Free at Last!", consists of four panels emphasizing the significance of emancipation as a result of the Civil War. The first two panels give an overview of emancipation and Reconstruction in the state. The second two focus on the fight for freedom in West Tennessee, where a groundbreaking contraband camp was established in Grand Junction in November 1862. "Free at Last!" provides an introduction to the joys and challenges shared by African Americans in Tennessee during the aftermath of slavery. The exhibition looks at the intersection of Union military action and the influx of former slaves to Union lines in West Tennessee, which provides an important case study of wartime emancipation. The Reconstruction years were crucial to the development of African American communities throughout Tennessee. Former slaves founded scores of schools and churches. "Free at Last!" highlights some of the emancipation communities that are wonderfully preserved in our state. The exhibition will be at Fort Negley during June and July, 2013.



### SECOND ANNUAL MEMORIAL DAY OBSERVANCE

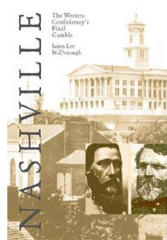
Fort Negley's Second Annual Memorial Day Observance will be held on May 25, 2013 beginning at 11:00 a.m. Dr. Carole Bucy will be the keynote speaker, and Brig. Gen. (retired) Bert Chalfant will recognize veterans and active duty service members. Area re-enactors will present a Civil War style ceremony including laying of the wreaths, taps and a traditional musket salute. Councilwoman Sandra Moore will lead the Pledge of Allegiance. Come join us in a salute to veterans of every era of our nation's history.

### MAY NASHVILLE CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE

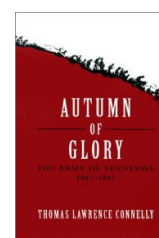
"GENERAL RONSECRAN'S SIGNAL CORPS: THE WAR WINNING SECRET WEAPON NOBODY HAS EVER HEARD OF" will be the the subject of May's CWRT presentation. Rhea Cole, historian from the Middle Tennessee Civil War Roundtable will give the group an inside look at the Civil War era Signal Corps. The story of the development of this specialized service as the war progressed is a fascinating and informative study. The meeting will be held on the third Monday, May 20, 2013 at 7:00 p.m. Weather permitting, Mr. Cole will point out Signal Corps stations located in Nashville from atop Fort Negley. If you have been considering taking in a NCWRT meeting, this might be a good one to catch. As always, the meetings are free and open to the public. If you're interested in joining the roundtable, just ask one of the members and they'll be happy to help you. See you at the fort.

### FRIENDS OF FORT NEGLEY GIFT SHOP

The Friends of Fort Negley Gift Shop has a wide variety of local and hard to find historical works available this summer. Stop by and pick up James Lee McDonough's *Nashville: The Western Confederacy's Final Gamble*, Thomas Lawrence Connelly's *Autumn of Glory: The Army of Tennessee 1862-1865*, or The Battle of Nashville Preservation Society and Mark Zimmerman's *Guide to Civil War Nashville* as well as many others. Make the Friends of Fort Negley Gift Shop the first stop toward discovering more about Tennessee and the Civil War during the Civil War's Sesquicentennial.



Battle of Nashville  
Preservation Society, Inc.



## Nashville Civil War Roundtable



Join us on the third Monday of each month at Fort Negley Visitors Center at 7 pm for an exceptional lineup of speakers and presenters.

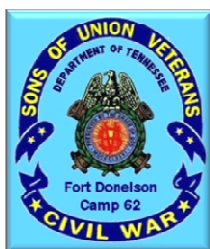
### May

Rhea Cole, historian, Middle TN CWRT, "General Rosecrans Signal Corps: The War Winning Secret Nobody Has Ever Heard Of"

### June

Dr. Carole Bucy, Volunteer State Community College, "The Secession of Tennessee"

Although all programs are free and open to the public, the group encourages membership. Annual dues and proceeds from book sales support programming and local preservation causes. For more information, please visit <http://nashvillecivilwarroundtable.wordpress.com/>. "Like" us on Facebook!



**Fort Donelson Camp No. 62, Sons of Union Veterans**, meet at Fort Negley Visitors Center on the fourth Tuesday every other month. The next meeting is scheduled for May 28, 2013. The business meeting begins at 6 p.m. followed by the program at 7 p.m. All programs are free and open to the public. For more information, check out the web site at [www.tnsuvcw.org/](http://www.tnsuvcw.org/).

## Upcoming Events In and Around Nashville

**Guided Tour Through Fort Negley's Past** with David Currey -Saturday, May 18, 9-11 a.m.

**Lecture: "Legacies of the War"**, given by Dr. Carole Bucy, Glen Leven Farm, 4000 Franklin Rd,—May 21, 4:30-6:00 p.m.

**Lecture: "African American Life During War"**, given by Dr. Bobby Lovett, Clover Bottom Mansion, 2941 Lebanon Pike—June 18, 4:30—6:00 p.m.

**Second Annual Memorial Day Observance:** Civil War style ceremony including wreath laying, remarks, taps and a traditional musket salute, The program begins at 11:00 a.m. May 25, 2013.

**Fort Donelson Campaign Tour:** Tour begins at Fort Donelson Visitors Center, June 1, 2013 at 8:30 a.m. The fee for the tour is \$20 per person for payments made before May 16th, 2013. After that the fee will be \$25 per person. If you have any questions please call Greg at: (931)-217-4265 or by email at [BiggsG@charter.net](mailto:BiggsG@charter.net).

**Tullahoma Campaign 150th Anniversary Tour:** The fee for the tour is \$68 per person if paid before June 12, 2013. After that payment will be \$83 per person. The tour will leave from Murfreesboro at 8:00 a.m. June 22, 2013. If you have any questions please call Greg Biggs at (931) 217-4265 or email at [BiggsG@charter.net](mailto:BiggsG@charter.net).

**Juneteenth Celebration** will be held at Fort Negley on June 22, 2013. Dr. Tommie Morton-Young will be the keynote speaker. Festivities will begin at 10:00 a.m. and go until 3:00 p.m. Bring a picnic lunch and enjoy a day of celebration and fellowship.

### Interested in Joining Fort Negley's Email Events List?

Please contact Fort Negley Visitors Center at 615-862-8470 or at [fortnegley@nashville.gov](mailto:fortnegley@nashville.gov).



Fort Negley 

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