



FORT NEGLEY WIG WAG

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Metro Parks

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Fort Negley 

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Montgomery Bell Academy Boys Pitch In

By Clay Cavallo



My name is Clay Cavallo and I'm a junior at Montgomery Bell Academy. For the past six months or so, I have been leading a service project at Fort Negley. Once a month, I lead a small group of MBA boys to Fort Negley to help out with small tasks around the property: weeding the garden, cleaning plaques, picking up trash, organizing library donations, and sometimes even creating elementary quiz questions. While the project is very new, it is starting to build up support around the MBA campus. Our participation is gradually increasing, and we hope to start bringing out big numbers when the weather improves in the spring!

As a freshman, I applied for and received a history grant to tour various Civil War sites around Tennessee over the summer of 2012 with Dr. Clay Bailey, head of the MBA history department. Our first day trip was to Fort Negley. Though I had attended many Sounds' games as a child, I had never actually toured the Fort Negley site. This day trip was my first time actually stepping foot onto Fort Negley. Walking along the paths, I noticed that Fort Negley was in need of some help. Our tour guide, Mr. Jim Kay, even expressed his desire for a new MBA-led service project to help with cleanup and other tasks. In the spring of the following year, I approached Dr. Bailey and expressed my desire to start and lead a new service project at Fort Negley. He informed me that he had actually wanted to start a project for quite some time, but could not find a student to lead it. The timing was perfect and he put me in contact with Ms. Krista Castillo. Next thing you know, the first collaboration between MBA and Fort Negley occurred on Memorial Day, 2013. We have continued this collaboration since then and hope that this project will remain intact even after I have graduated!

From the Editor 

Since the beginning of their service project, the MBA boys have performed numerous tasks around the fort. They are great at doing those jobs that seem to get "put on the back burner" until other things are done. They have helped in events such as our Juneteenth celebration last year when they manned some of the tents being used in celebration programs, cleaned benches, interpretative panels, and walkways; weeded flower beds, picked up trash and tidied up the area in general and anything else they have been asked to do. Thanks to Dr. Bailey, Clay Cavallo and the rest of the gang, fort staff and volunteers are able to do a better job at presenting the historical message of this site. Sincere thanks go out to these civic minded young men.

*Editor's Note: Dr. Clay Bailey is the president of the newly formed Friends of Fort Negley.

DON'T FORGET TO  FORWARD!

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME BEGINS AT 2:00 AM ON SUNDAY, MARCH 9!

School of Instruction and Living History Encampment

SCHOOL OF INSTRUCTION
presented by

9th Kentucky

Volunteer Infantry Regiment, USA, Co. B

Military Encampment & Weapons Demonstrations

March
8th & 9th
9am - 3pm
Free

Also
on
Saturday:

VACANT CHAIR PHOTOGRAPHY STUDIO

Vacant Chair Photography Studio will be on hand to create one of a kind ambrotypes and tintypes. Reservations required. Spaces fill up quickly. Call today! Appointment times from 10:00 am to 12:30 pm available. Portrait prices vary. For more information or to schedule an appointment, contact Fort Negley Visitors Center at 615-862-8470.



The 9th Kentucky Volunteer Infantry, Company B, will host their School of Instruction and Living History Encampment March 8 and 9, 2014 at the fort. Various aspects of life in the U. S. Army in the 1860s will be on display. Watch soldiers having their weapons inspected and taking musket firing instruction. The encampment will illustrate how fighting men of the 1860s lived, how they prepared food, what they ate and how they spent their spare time.

The 9th Kentucky Volunteer Infantry Regiment, USA, Co. B is a well known and well respected unit. Members of this group have studied army life in the 1860s and have gone to great expense of time as well as money to create a historically accurate glimpse of a by-gone era.

There is much to learn from this group and a lot of fun to be had. Come and bring the whole family. You'll be glad you did!

Interested in learning more about the 9th Kentucky Infantry Regiment?
Visit <http://www.9thky.org/>.

The Vacant Chair Photography Studio will be on hand once again. Get a tintype or ambrotype picture of the whole family. Portrait prices vary. For more information and appointment times available, call the Visitors Center at 615-862-8470. For more information on The Vacant Photography Studio, visit <http://thevacantchairstudio.wix.com> or find them on Facebook.

**Tintype of Lauren and Sam Baud
The Vacant Chair Photography Studio, 2012**



Fossils at the Fort 2

Time for Fossils at the Fort is almost here again. The Fossil program was one of the most popular and well attended events of the year in 2013. The program, presented by Metro Parks, Vanderbilt University Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences and Vulcan Materials Company, will be held on Saturday, April 5, 2014, from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm. Join students enrolled in the EES 220: Life Through Time course for a journey into middle Tennessee's astonishing ancient past. You'll be able to plot and identify major events on a giant timeline. Bring that fossil you found in your backyard and have it identified by the students, two geologists and Dr. Molly Miller, Archaeologist of Vanderbilt University and teacher of the EES 200 class. Student led presentations will be held in the theater all day. Dr. Molly Miller, along with two guest geologists, will take the time to identify every fossil presented. New this year; participate in a dig, provided by Vulcan Materials Company, and add whatever fossils you find to your personal collection. This might be a good time to start a collection if you haven't already started one.

Fort Negley 



VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY

Vulcan
Materials Company



Find Metro Parks, Fort Negley Park, Vanderbilt University and Vulcan Materials Company on Facebook!

What Have We Here?



Last spring, while preparing for a structural report on the fort, this metal object was found by a staff member. It was found between the east and west bastions and wasn't attached to anything. The problem is, we don't know what it is. If you have any idea please let us know. Call the Visitors Center at 615-862-8470 or come by and take a look at it.



In January, the Nashville Sounds broke ground on new stadium in the Sulphur Dell area renewing the 100 year old debate over the future of Fort Negley Park. For weeks, citizens have expressed varied visions for the Greer Stadium property owned by Metro Parks. Some have advocated for commercial development and others have hoped for more green space. For decades, the historical community has promoted the building of an expansive museum and research center dedicated to the Civil War in the Western Theater. What will become of the property once the Nashville Sounds claim their new home is still unclear. As we entertain the most recent shower of brainstorm, let's revisit some of the other uses Nashvillians suggested for the park over the decades.

On May 22, 1913, the *Nashville Tennessean* published May Winston Caldwell's letter to the Parks Commissioners suggesting the conversion of Fort Negley into a city park. Mrs. Caldwell envisioned an extensive park system in South Nashville anchored by the Capitol building on one end of a grand boulevard and Fort Negley on the other.

In early 1926, John Trotwood Moore, Tennessee state librarian and archivist, was unable to interest Congress in restoring and preserving the fort. Two years later, a group of Nashville women led by Flora M. Gillentine endeavored to gain national recognition of the fort. On February 2, 1928, Congressman Joseph W. Byrns and Flora M. Gillentine presented H.R. 10291, a bill proposing a national military park honoring the Battle of Nashville at Fort Negley, to the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Military Affairs. Stressing the symbolic gesture of southern women embracing a Federal fort Mrs. Gillentine stated, "We all know there are many cleavages to-day; there are bolsheviks and communists wanting to disrupt the Government, and it seems to me this is a gesture towards solidarity that would have a great effect." Ultimately, the committee rejected the bill citing the government's inability to preserve every battlefield and fort associated with the Civil War.

Within two decades, the fort was rebuilt by the Works Progress Administration, fell into disrepair and was closed in the interest of public safety. Throughout the 1960s and early 1970s, the city considered multiple uses for the site including a zoo, a vocational school, a military academy and a quarry. In each instance, the old fort was saved from certain destruction by a broken agreement or the discovery of a more suitable location or maybe even by fate.

So what does the future hold for Fort Negley Park? If we use history as a guide, we should get ready for an interesting ride!

Nashville Civil War Roundtable



FORT NEGLEY

Join us on the **third Monday of each month** at **Fort Negley Visitors Center** at **7:00 pm** for an exceptional lineup of speakers and presenters.

March

Antoinette Van Zelm — *'Great Excitement Up': Women and Military Occupation in Murfreesboro During the Civil War*

April

John Scales, retired Brigadier General — *The Able Streight Raid*

Although all programs are free and open to the public, the group encourages membership. Annual dues along with proceeds from the silent auction 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 March 25, 2014. 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 <http://www.tnsuvcw.org/>.



Upcoming Events In and Around Nashville

- **Annual Battle of Chickamauga Seminar in the Woods**, March 7 & 8, 2014, <http://chickamaugablog.wordpress.com/>.
- **Midday History Munch**, Union Sailor portrayed by Bill Radcliffe, Fort Negley Visitors Center, March 11, Noon. Bring a lunch to enjoy during the program. For more information or to make reservations, contact Fort Negley at 615-862-8470 or fortnegley@nashville.gov.
- **Free Day in honor of Adelia's Birthday**, Belmont Mansion, March 16, 1:00 to 4:00 pm. For more information, call 615-460-5459 or visit belmontmansion.com.
- **11th Annual Kennesaw State University Civil War Symposium, "1864: The Western Theater,"** March 21 - 22, 2014. For more information, contact Greg Biggs at Biggs@charter.net.
- **Lunch and Learn**, Women's History Month topic presented by Dr. Carole Bucy, Fort Negley Visitors Center, March 25, 2014, Noon. Bring a lunch and prepare to learn. For more information or to make reservations, contact Fort Negley at 615-862-8470 or fortnegley@nashville.gov.
- **Civil War Book Club**, discussion of "The Union War" by Dr. Gary W. Gallagher, Belle Mead Plantation, March 29. Reservations required. For more information, visit www.bellemeadplantation.com or contact 615-356-0501 ext. 26.
- **152nd Battle of Shiloh Anniversary**, Shiloh Battlefield, April 5, 2014, 8:00 am. For a list of planned programs, visit www.nps.gov/shil/planyourvisit.
- **Car Caravan Tour of Shiloh Battlefield**, April 5 & 6, 2014, tours depart from Shiloh Visitors Center. For more information and to pre-register, contact 731-689-5696.
- **Civil War Book Club**, discussion of "Forged in Battle: The Civil War Alliance of Black Soldiers and White Officers" by Dr. Joseph G. Glatthaar, Belle Mead Plantation, April 26. Reservations required. For more information, visit www.bellemeadplantation.com or contact 615-356-0501 ext. 26.
- **Slaves and Slaveholders of Wessington Plantation**, Tennessee State Museum, exhibit on display through Aug 31, 2014. For more information, contact the Tennessee State Museum at 615-741-2692.

Interested in Joining Fort Negley's Email Events List?

Please contact Fort Negley Visitors Center at 615-862-8470 or at fortnegley@nashville.gov.



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<http://www.nashville.gov/Parks-and-Recreation/Historic-Sites/Fort-Negley.aspx>

