

FORT NEGLEY WIG WAG

A Semi-monthly publication of Fort Negley Park
Metro Parks

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THE BEST IS YET TO COME

Nashville is indeed fortunate to be so rich in Civil War history. Because of the many dedicated and knowledgeable people in this area, the various commemorations of historical events during the Sesquicentennial have been truly gratifying. That's the good news. The better news is *the best is yet to come*.

On Saturday, November 23, 2013 the Park will host an event commemorating the 150th Anniversary of the *Gettysburg Address* featuring Dennis Boggs as President Lincoln. If you haven't seen Mr. Boggs as Lincoln, you've missed a treat. He not only has the look of Lincoln, he has the bearing as well. What a thrill it will be to see and hear him give one of the most famous and inspiring speeches in American history. Admission is free and the event is open to the public. The program will run from 10 am to 3 pm.

We're looking forward with great excitement to 2014. On January 14, our Lunch and Learn series in partnership with Metro Historical Commission continues with Mark Cheatham's presentation "Andrew Jackson, Southerner." Join us in celebration of Presidents Day on February 15. On March 8 and 9 the park will host the 9th Kentucky School of Instruction. Visitors will witness life in a nineteenth century Civil War army camp including drill, firing demonstrations, sick call, and pay call. Vacant Chair Photography will be on hand to take tin-type images by appointment. Information on these events and more will appear in the next edition of the *Wig Wag*.

In May our annual Memorial Day celebration will take place and in June the 2nd annual Juneteenth celebration at the fort will be held on the 28th. Other events are being planned and we'll keep you up dated as we move forward. The big event of the year will come on December 13 and 14, 2014 with the city-wide commemoration of the Battle of Nashville. All-in-all it looks like an exciting and busy year. We hope you'll take advantage of as many of these events as you can. You'll be glad you did!

Stay tuned for a full list of 2014 events!

HOLIDAY HOURS OF OPERATION

Fort Negley Visitors Center will be closed on the following days in observance of the holidays. Fort Negley Park will remain open from dawn to dusk everyday for self-guided walking tours.



Thanksgiving
November 28, 29 and 30



Christmas
December 24 and 25



New Year's
January 1

Don't forget the Civil War Buffs on your holiday gift list! Visit the Friends of Fort Negley Gift Shop for a variety of unique Civil War related items.



1100 Fort Negley Blvd.
Nashville, TN 37203
615-862-8470





Commemorating the Battle of Nashville at Fort Negley: A Tradition Spanning More Than Two Decades



More than two decades ago, Bill Radcliffe, inspired by the service of the 13th United States Colored Troop's service during the Civil War, first sought the quiet sanctity of Fort Negley. "On the anniversary of the Battle of Nashville in 1989," Bill recalled, "I decided to reflect on the memories of those who participated in the battle. I sat there all day reading and studying." At first, Bill's appearance at the site, dressed in the uniform of a Union soldier, startled those passing by. Even a Metro helicopter pilot swooped in for a closer look. Soon, Norm Hill, a fellow USCT reenactor, began to join him on those cold December days.



2010

Over time, Bill and Norm's annual tradition of quiet reflection grew to include other members of the 13th USCT, local Union and Confederate reenactors, and Dennis Boggs, a nationally recognized President Abraham Lincoln presenter. By the opening of the Fort Negley Visitors Center in December 2007, Bill and Norm's numerous public appearances motivated a growing number of interested visitors to also make the annual trek to the site.

In 2011, Fort Negley hosted the largest commemoration of the Battle of Nashville in the site's history. Focusing on the aftermath of the battle, the event included a funeral for a fallen drummer boy and speeches by President Abraham Lincoln (Dennis Boggs), General George H. Thomas (Daniel Hughes), and General U.S. Grant (Dr. Curt Fields). The emotional program led the by the 13th USCT offered a glimpse into the tragic loss associated with battle, a topic too often ignored.

This year, the Battle of Nashville Commemoration on Saturday, December 14, will feature a small campsite and first person presentations by Bill Radcliffe and others, film screenings and more.



2011



2012

The city-wide signature event, organized by the Nashville Civil War Sesquicentennial Committee under the direction of Metro Historical Commission, will encompass most of Nashville's remaining Civil War sites. On December 13 and 14, 2014, day and evening programs, living histories and events will offer visitors a representation of the people who experienced the battle in 1864.

When asked to describe how he feels about Fort Negley's progress, Bill replied, "It's been a journey and it's been a good one. I enjoy talking to folks and listening to their stories. Federal or Confederate, it doesn't matter. What matters is knowing your history."



Don't miss the opportunity to experience Tennessee's Civil War heritage with the nation's largest non-profit Civil War preservation organization. The registration fee includes tours, tour guides, coaches, conference program, name tags, breakfast, lunch, and a Saturday banquet, and more! Discounted Internet Early Bird Registration ends on Monday, December 2. Scholarships are available. For more information, please visit <http://www.civilwar.org/aboutus/events/annual-conference/>



Battle of Nashville

Preservation Society, Inc.



TRAVELLERS REST HOSTS DINNER WITH ED BEARSS

Travellers Rest Plantation is hosting a dinner, Friday, December 6, 2013 at 6 pm. Featured speaker will be historian and author, Ed Bearss. Tickets are \$100 per person or \$175 per couple. For reservations or information email Cryssa Hulsey at rentals@travellersrestplantation.org or call 615-8328197

BATTLE OF NASHVILLE BUS TOUR

Historic Travellers Rest Plantation & Museum and The Battle of Nashville Preservation Society invite you to the Battle of Nashville Bus Tour. The tour will go from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm December 7, 2013, beginning at the Travellers Rest Plantation. Your guides along the way will be Ed Bearss, a renowned Civil War expert and author, and Battle of Nashville Preservation Society board members Jim Kay and John Allyn. Cost for the tour is \$70 per seat; a box lunch will be provided. For reservations or more information call or email Cryssa Hulsey at rentals@travellersrestplantation.org (615) 832-8197. What a great early gift for that history buff on your holiday shopping list!

CIVIL WAR TRUST ACQUIRES LAND AT CHICKAMAUGA

The Civil War Trust, an organization actively trying to save historic sites and battlefields, announced this month at their annual meeting at Chattanooga that they had purchased the Reed's Ridge area of the Chickamauga battlefield. Reed's Ridge is where the battle saw its opening actions. This addition to the battlefield tours will add tremendously to the enjoyment of an already enjoyable tour. The Trust will oversee the property until such time as it can be turned over to the National Park Service.

<http://www.civilwar.org/battlefields/chickamauga/reeds-ridge-2013/help-save-chickamauga-2013.html>

LOTZ HOUSE BATTLE OF FRANKLIN MEMORIAL

November 30th will be a special day in Franklin. From 9:30—2:30 special tours will be conducted dealing with both the Union and Confederate perspectives of the battle. There will also be a walk to the Carter House and an illumination. Plans are being made to have the best memorial of the battle to date. Come and plan to spend some time reliving the history of that epic battle. Be sure to wear comfortable shoes because you're sure to want to take one of the tours or go on the walk to the Carter House. For more information, contact the Lotz House at (615) 790-7190 or visit www.lotzhouse.com.



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.

December

Michael Bradley, historian/author
The Raiding Winter: Western Confederate Cavalry Operations in December 1862

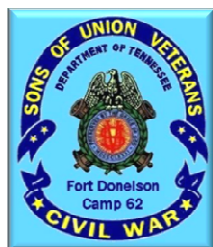
January

Linda Barnickel, historian/author
The Battle of Milliken's Bend

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 November 26, 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 <http://www.tnsuvcw.org/>.

Upcoming Events In and Around Nashville

150th Anniversary of the Gettysburg Address, Fort Negley, November 23, 2013, 10 am to 3 pm

Belle Meade Plantation Civil War Book Club, November 23, 3 to 5 pm, discussing *The Shipwreck of Their Hopes: The Battles for Chattanooga* by Peter Cozzens, for more information, contact Mr. Andy Blair at 615-356-0501 ext. 126 or at andy.blair@bellemeadplantation.com.

149th Anniversary of the Battle of Franklin, Lotz House, Franklin, November 30, 10 am to 3 pm, for more information, contact the Lotz House at (615) 790-7190 or visit www.lotzhouse.com.

Commemoration of the Battle of Nashville, Fort Negley, December 14, 10am to 3 pm

All Through the House: 1820s Christmas with the Overton Family, Travellers Rest, December 20, 6 to 10 pm, Adults \$12, Children \$6, for more information contact 615-832-8197 or visit <http://travellersrestplantation.org/calendar-of-events.html>.

Civil War Ball, Friends of Fort Defiance, Madison Street United Methodist Church, Clarksville, January 11, 2014, 6 pm. Period dress encouraged but not required. The ball is sponsored by the Friends of Fort Defiance and the Clarksville Montgomery County Sesquicentennial Committee. Tickets are \$35 per person. For more information or to make reservations email, ball@ftdefianceclarksville.com.

Interested in Joining Fort Negley's Email Events List?

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



Fort Negley 

1100 Fort Negley Blvd. * Nashville, TN 37203 * 615-862-8470

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

