

FORT NEGLEY WIG WAG

A Semi-monthly publication of Fort Negley Park
Metro Parks

Volume 2, Issue 1
January/February 2014

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Eagle Scout Projects

By: Ron Crabtree

There seems to be an endless amount of work that needs to be done around the fort—building, repairing, clearing and a hundred other things that help to make our visitors' experience enjoyable. Many of these jobs have to be done on a volunteer basis because they're not provided for in the budget. Over the years we've had great improvements made in the park by Boy Scouts doing their Community Service Projects on their way to earning the Eagle Scout badge. The boys chose what they wanted to accomplish, submitted their idea, and when it was approved, went to work.



Eagle Scout Candidate Kendall Bird (far left) and a group of dedicated scouts completed a section of nature trail

There is hardly a place on the grounds where some improvement has not been made by Eagle Scout candidates. As a result of a BSA Community Service Project benches were added for a more comfortable park experience. Many of the wooden barricades that help protect the fragile walls and keep visitors safe were built as the result of an Eagle candidate Community Service Project. The much needed and wanted hiking trail between the fort and City Cemetery is well on its way to completion thanks again to Eagle Project work. We here at the fort are thankful to the Boy Scouts for sponsoring these projects, but most especially to the young men who first of all earned their way to the Eagle rank and then completed all the requirements to receive the badge. Their help has been invaluable.

If you are an Eagle candidate, or you know someone who is, we'd count it an honor to work with you on your Community Project. If you have an idea about what you'd like to do, we'd love to hear it. If not, perhaps we can come up with one together to help Fort Negley and help you take one step closer to your Eagle Award. Check it out by calling Krista Castillo at (615) 862-8470.

Hey Kids! Celebrate Presidents' Day at Fort Negley!



Celebrate Presidents' Day at Fort Negley on Saturday, February 15 from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm. Bring your parents and grandparents to share in the fun! Space is limited so register in advance.

Call 615-862-8470 or email fortnegley@nashville.gov to register.

New Home for the Nashville Sounds

As you probably know, Greer Stadium, home of the Nashville Sounds baseball team, sits on Fort Negley property. On December 10, 2013, the Metro Council authorized the building of a new Sounds stadium at the old Sulphur Dell location. The question of what to do with the Greer site is now on the table. Metro Parks Director, Tommy Lynch said, "It would be nice to have a top-notch amateur baseball facility," speaking of the Greer site. Lynch went on to share another idea, "to create a field for Civil War re-enactors...It would allow an expansion of the entire experience based on Fort Negley itself." Construction on the Sulphur Dell site is expected to begin as early as February, 2014 and the Sounds plan to play the 2015 season at the new facility.

No doubt many more suggestions will be submitted for the use of the Greer site. Perhaps it will remain pretty much as it is. Perhaps it will become an exciting addition to the Fort Negley experience. Whatever is decided for the use of the property, it will be appropriate if it serves our community. Approximately 7000 Union soldiers were buried in the proximity of the stadium before they were removed to other cemeteries. Black workers, forced to labor in the building of the fort, lived and died on this ground. Men who would give their lives in combat in December 1864 walked this ground. It is fitting in honor of those who sacrificed on and for this ground to make our city safe from attack, that it is dedicated to the enjoyment of all our citizens.



The Significance of the Battle of Nashville Lives on at Fort Negley

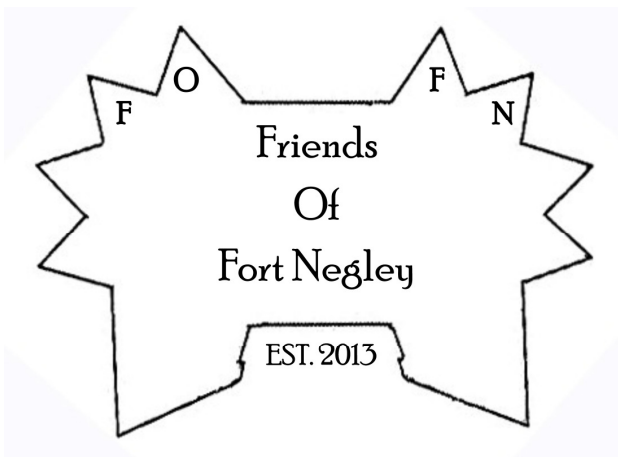


Dennis Boggs, Corrinne Castillo, Seth Breon, Bill Radcliffe

Over the last 149 years, the Battle of Nashville has inspired books, works of art, discussions, and debates. Scores of descendants have travelled to Nashville hoping for a glimpse of where their ancestor might have held the line or manned the gun. Others come with the aftermath of the battle in mind searching for the hospital where their ancestor found relief through healing or death. While the battlefield disappeared long ago, a few sacred vestiges remain today. Each December, people across Nashville remember the battle in different ways.

On Saturday, December 14, 2013, the 13th United States Colored Troops Living History Association, supporters and friends commemorated the anniversary of the Battle of Nashville through ceremony, living history and fireside story telling. Bill Radcliffe's A-frame tent sheltered participants from the misty rain and the cold. In the visitors center, participants and guests warmed up with donuts and hot coffee while watching "Battle for Nashville" a 60-minute documentary by David Currey. At 1:00 pm, President Abraham Lincoln, as portrayed by Dennis Boggs, spoke at a wreath-laying ceremony honoring those who participated in the battle. Over the years, this tribute has grown and evolved from a quiet tradition held by a few dedicated individuals into an opportunity to share the impact of this critical battle with many.

On December 13 and 14, 2014, Fort Negley will be one of a nearly a dozen sites participating in the City Wide Battle of Nashville Signature Event. In an attempt to accurately depict the city's atmosphere during the battle, reenactors will portray the military units and civilians present at each site 150 years ago. Fort Negley will feature Union infantry, artillery, Colored Troops, and signal corps while Travellers Rest Plantation will serve as General John Bell Hood's headquarters. Other participating sites include Belle Meade Plantation, Belmont Mansion, Bicentennial Mall, Glen Leven Farm, and the State Capitol. This free event organized by the Nashville Civil War Sesquicentennial Committee under the direction of Metro Historical Commission will serve as the climactic finale to a year full of exciting programming and events. For more information on the City-wide Battle of Nashville Signature Event and other events planned for 2014, please contact Fort Negley at 615-862-8470 or fortnegley@nashville.gov.



Support Fort Negley Park!

By: Clay Bailey
President, Friends of Fort Negley

Once cut off and isolated by the railroad, the interstate, and neglect of the past, Fort Negley is becoming a crossroads and a link. Fort Negley is a connecting point, and the Friends of Fort Negley group seeks to highlight, build, and strengthen those connections between:

- past and present
- different cultural and academic interests
- generations and families
- groups who identify with the site
- neighborhoods
- regions

And we are doing so at a pivotal time, as Nashville is in the national spotlight and locally and nationally we are commemorating the sesquicentennial of the Civil War. The objective of the Friends of Fort Negley is, in a sense, to help foster and make stronger many of these connections, so that locals and visitors alike will feel tied to Fort Negley by becoming aware of its relevance to them. For more information on getting involved, please see the final page of the *Wig Wag*.

PLEASE JOIN FRIENDS OF FORT NEGLEY TODAY!



The Really Exciting Stuff is Still to Come



Over the past two years we have seen a lot of great Civil War events relating to the 150 Anniversary. Some might have the idea that the best part is behind us, but they'd be what I call, WRONG. Although Nashville was occupied in 1862 and was used through the war as a supply base and shipping hub, the really big events in and around Nashville during the war happened that final year. The Battle of Franklin, the Battle of Nashville and all the circumstances brought about by those events are what is most remembered about Nashville during those perilous days. As we begin 2014 we're looking forward to several events and celebrations to be held during the year. Last year Fort Negley hosted its first Juneteenth Celebration to a great success. Having a year's experience we're anxiously looking forward to this year's Juneteenth. It's gonna be great. This year we've decided to hold a President's Day especially for kids. The idea is to get kids involved in history while having fun playing games and earning prizes. Several organizations have already signed up for group tours this year and we're looking forward to the school, scout, church, and retirement groups who'll visit this spring. All groups are welcome. Just give us a call and let us know when you want to come so we can be ready. The biggest celebration of the year will be the 150th Anniversary of the Battle of Nashville. This year the city wide celebration will be held at Fort Negley and other historic Civil War sites. Several groups are banding together to bring about the biggest Civil War Memorial ever in Nashville. We'll be giving you "heads ups" on all these events so don't miss an issue of the *Wig Wag*. Looking forward to seeing you all year as we pay proper respect to those who labored and fought here 150 years ago.

Nashville Civil War Roundtable



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.

January

Linda Barnickel, historian/author, "The Battle of Milliken's Bend"
(Based on her new book)

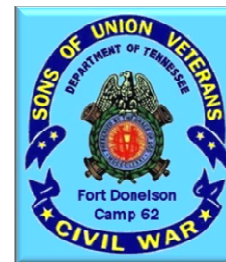
February

Dr. Steven Hoskins, Trevecca Nazarene University, "Music of the Civil War"

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 **January 28, 2014**. The business meeting begins at 6:00 pm followed by "Fort Negley: A Symbol of Union Occupation" presented by Krista Castillo at 7:00 pm. 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

2014 Civil War Ball, Benefitting the Friends of Fort Defiance, Madison Street United Methodist Church, 319 Madison Street, Clarksville, Saturday, January 11, 2014, 6:00 pm, \$35 per person. For reservations, email ball@ftdefianceclarksville.com. Tickets available online at <http://ftdefianceclarksville.com/>.

Lunch-and-Learn with Dr. Mark Cheatham, "Andrew Jackson, Southerner," Tuesday, January 14, 2014, Noon, Fort Negley Visitors Center, Free, Bring a lunch to enjoy during the program, Seating is limited, Please RSVP to Fort Negley at 615-862-8470 or at fortnegley@nashville.gov.

Nashville Conference on African-American History and Culture, Sponsored by Tennessee State University's College of Arts and Sciences and the Metropolitan Historical Commission, Friday, February 14. Pre-registration is recommended. For more information, contact Metro Historical Commission at 615-862-7970 or visit <http://www.nashville.gov/Historical-Commission/Events-and-Programs/Conference-on-African-American-History-and-Culture.aspx>. Find updates on [Facebook!](#)

Kids Presidents Day Celebration, Saturday, February 15, 2014, 10:00 am to 1:00 pm, Fort Negley Visitors Center, Dress up like your favorite President, games, contests and more! For more information, contact Fort Negley at 615-862-8470 or at fortnegley@nashville.gov.

Save the Dates

9th KY Infantry US School of Instruction, Saturday, March 8 and Sunday, March 9, 2014, Times TBA, Fort Negley Park, Living history encampment, demonstrations and more!

City-Wide Battle of Nashville Signature Event, Saturday, December 13 and Sunday, December 14, 2014, Times TBA, Fort Negley Park, Travellers Rest and other participating sites, Living history encampments, demonstrations and more!

Interested in Joining Fort Negley's Email Events List?

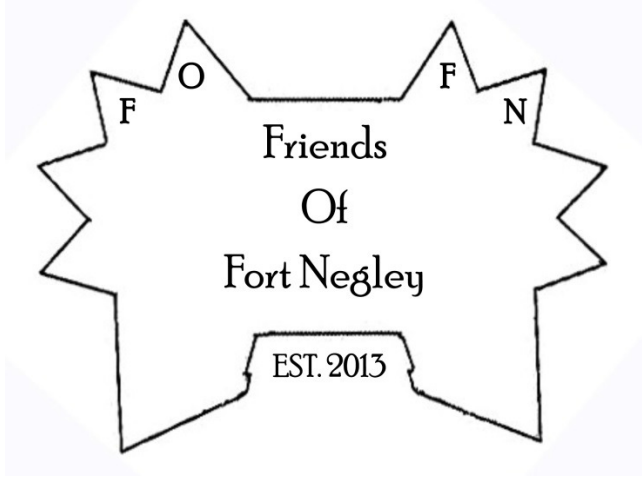
Please contact Fort Negley Visitors Center at 615-862-8470 or at fortnegley@nashville.gov.



Fort Negley 

1100 Fort Negley Blvd. * Nashville, TN 37203 * 615-862-8470
<http://www.nashville.gov/Parks-and-Recreation/Historic-Sites/Fort-Negley.aspx>





2014 Annual Membership Application

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Annual Membership Dues are:

____ Individual \$20

____ Family \$30
(Family includes you, spouse, and children)

____ Active Military or Veteran \$15

____ Military Family \$25

____ Senior (age 60+) \$15

Make check payable to: Friends of Fort Negley (or FOFN).

Mail to: Fort Negley Park, 1100 Fort Negley Blvd., Nashville, TN 37203

Additional donations are welcome.

Friends of Fort Negley is a 501(c)(3) organization

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FOFN. For your records

Date: _____

Donation Amount: _____