


15th Regiment Infantry: Organized at Nashville, Tenn., Dec. 2, 1863 to March 11, 1864. SERVICE.--Garrison and guard duty at Nashville, Columbia and Pulaski, Tenn., until June, 1864. Post duty at Springfield, Tenn., and District of Middle Tenn. until mustered out April, 1866.


9th Regiment Heavy Artillery: Organized at Clarksville and Nashville, Tenn., Oct. 8 to Nov. 1, 1864.


1100 Fort Negley Blvd. ~ Nashville, TN 37203
615.862.8470
www.nashville.gov/Parks-and-Recreation/Historic-Sites/Fort-Negley.aspx

Winter Hours (September - May)
Tuesday-Friday: Noon - 4:00 p.m.
Saturday: 9 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
And by Appointment

Summer Hours (June - August)
Tuesday-Thursday: Noon - 4:00 p.m.
Friday and Saturday: 9 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
And by Appointment

Free and Open to the Public
Fort Negley Park is open daily dawn to dusk for self-guided walking tours
Slavery existed in America long before the start of the Civil War. Beginning in 1619, slave traders sold African slaves to wealthy farmers. Although slaves were expensive the investment lasted many lifetimes. The children of slaves were born into slavery.

As dependence on slavery grew in the South, opposition to the “peculiar institution” grew in the North. As early as 1724, the Quakers and other religious groups opposed slavery on moral grounds.

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By 1863, with manpower waning, the Federal government passed a national conscription act authorizing the recruitment of black soldiers and established the Bureau of Colored Troops. The Bureau oversaw the organization of United States Colored Troops (USCT).

The USCT consisted of more than 140 regiments with almost 180,000 enlisted men and 7,000 officers by the end of the war.

Southern free blacks and freedmen accounted for the majority of the enlisted men. White men served as commissioned officers. Only around 100 literate black soldiers received commissions, serving as liaisons between white officers and generally illiterate troops.

In 1863, the Supervisory Committee for Recruiting Colored Regiments published this lithograph encouraging enlistment.

The USCTs participated in over 400 battles, including 39 major engagements and lost nearly 38,000 men throughout the War.

After the War, two infantry and two cavalry regiments became regular army units stationed on the frontier fighting in the Indian wars.

The military service of USCT regiments established a precedent in America that ultimately led to gains in civil rights.

Following the Revolutionary War, the Founding Fathers did not ban but stipulated a gradual end to slavery. However, the introduction of the cotton gin in 1794, made cotton “king” further cementing slavery in the agricultural South.

Over the next 65 years, the States quarreled over the issue of slavery. Southern states argued for states’ rights and resented Federal involvement in their affairs.

With the 1860 election of Abraham Lincoln radicals advocated secession. On December 20, 1860, South Carolina left the Union followed by ten other states including Tennessee. In April 1861, Confederate batteries fired the first shots of the Civil War on Fort Sumter.

Some USCTs faced prejudice from superiors based on stereotypes receiving simpler training manuals, lower pay and inferior weapons than their white comrades.

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