

# FORT NEGLEY WIG WAG

A Bi-monthly publication of Fort Negley Visitors Center & Park  
Metro Parks

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## Newsletter

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## THE YEAR THAT WAS

By Ron Crabtree

**D**uring the fifth year operation, staff and volunteers provided 452 school field trips, group tours and public programs to more than five thousand participants.

On Sep. 29th Vacant Chair Photography was on hand to take tintype images of several models, and to give demonstrations and instructions on the wet plate method of photo development. It was an interesting and informative day.

Garrison Days, the anniversary of the first garrisoning of the fort by the 110th Illinois Volunteer Infantry, was held Nov. 3rd and 4th. Living History exhibits, artillery and small arms demonstrations, and a candle light tour of the fort were highlights of the weekend.

Eagle Scout Candidates, Houston Harris of Troop 243 and Benton Moore of Troop 219 completed their Community Service Projects at the fort. Harris installed a bench below the east bastion and Moore built new and replacement wooden barricades for fort tours. If an Eagle Candidate is interested in completing their Service Project at the fort, contact Krista Castillo.

On Dec. 15, the Visitors Center celebrated its fifth birthday. Dignitaries in attendance included, Mayor Karl Dean; Councilwoman Sandra Moore; historian and author, James Lee McDonough; and historian Dr. Tommie Morton-Young, the first African-American to be accepted and to graduate from Peabody College and founder of the African-American Genealogical and Historical Society of Tennessee. The 13th United States Colored Troops Living History Association put on a living history display as a part of their annual commemoration of the Battle of Nashville. The 13th USCT and the African American Cultural Alliance presented a program highlighting African American contributions to the war effort. Councilwoman Sandra Moore presented a resolution acknowledging the occasion.

The staff, Friends, and volunteers at Fort Negley would like to thank each of you for your support over the past five years and, looking forward to 2013, want to ask for your continued support as

## TRIBUTE TO A PATRIOT

**C**aptain Jim Page, historian for the 101st Airborne Division at Fort Campbell and member of the Clarksville and Nashville Civil War Roundtables, passed away on Monday, January 21, 2013. In June 2011, Jim spoke to us regarding his efforts to bring eleven Tennessee soldiers killed in the Mexican-American War, unearthed in 1996, back to the US.

On Monday (1/21/13), the NCWRT voted to partner with the Clarksville roundtable in purchasing and installing a picnic table in Jim's memory at Fort Defiance in Clarksville. The total cost of the project will be around \$800. Funds will be collected at roundtable meetings held on the third Monday of each month



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at Fort Negley Visitors Center at 7:00 pm. Checks made payable to the Nashville Civil War Roundtable can also be mailed to the visitors center at 1100 Fort Negley Blvd. Nashville, TN 37203.

Captain Page was the epitome of a patriot and immersed himself in the effort to preserve our history, and in the service of his country. Our nation and our community are poorer as a result of his passing.



**On February 28, Sandy Bivens and Bob Parrish embarked on their next great adventure: retirement!**

During professional careers spanning more than three decades, Sandy and Bob devoted countless hours preserving, protecting and interpreting Nashville's natural resources and natural areas. Instrumental in developing, growing and enhancing Metro Park's nature centers and nature-based programs, Sandy and Bob introduced a new world of exploration to the community and beyond.

Beginning in 1976, Sandy held several positions at Warner Parks and the nature center steadily working her way up and becoming intimately involved with every aspect of the nature center program. In 2006, Sandy received a promotion to superintendent of nature centers providing leadership and vision for the design, construction and administration of three new nature centers located at Shelby Bottoms, Beaman and Bells Bend parks. In 2009, Fort Negley Visitors Center and Park joined the nature center program introducing Sandy to Nashville's Civil War past.

During her tenure at Metro Parks, Sandy's professional and caring demeanor inspired those around her. Her dedication to preserving natural resources and natural areas while offering the public safe and welcoming environments to learn and discover, gained her several awards and accolades including the "Fellow Award" for lifetime achievement in the field of parks and recreation from Tennessee State Parks and the "Environmental Educator of the Year" award from the TN Environmental Education Association. In 2012, Sandy received the "Nature Center Leadership Award" the highest award given by the Association of Nature Center Administrators. In January, Metro Government presented Sandy with "NashVitality Leadership Award" recognizing her contributions to Healthy Community Design in Nashville.

As Superintendent of the Natural Resources Program, Bob Parrish directed and advised on protecting, sustaining and limiting impact on Metro Parks' diverse natural environments. Bob's participation on the Fort Negley Technical Advisory Committee offered invaluable insights into invasive plant removal and control, appropriate volunteer projects and conservation. While serving as the president of the Tennessee Recreation and Parks Association, he advocated for natural areas and parks across the state. This dedication to Metro Parks and Tennessee's treasured natural resources earned Bob "The Fellow Award" and the "Resource Management Award for Excellence."

When asked what they plan to do with all of this "free time," Sandy and Bob did not hesitate to respond with a long list of endeavors including spending more time with family and friends, travelling and volunteering. Sandy expressed that their devotion will certainly not end upon retirement, "We will continue to be active and supportive advocates for Metro Parks." We wish Sandy and Bob the best and look forward to their continued involvement.



## FOSSILS AT THE FORT?

Although it is hard to image, 450 million years ago a vast ocean teeming with life covered most of the eastern United States including Tennessee. Today, reminders of this ancient past remain in Nashville's rocky landscape. Limestone forms in warm shallow seas as calcium carbonate shells and debris accumulate over millions of years. As the limestone forms, the remains of dead creatures become trapped between layers of sediment. Over time, minerals replace the decaying body or shell leaving a copy or a fossil. Fossils may remain hidden for centuries. During the 1930s, Works Progress Administration Workers revealed huge coral fossils at Fort Negley while quarrying new stone from the hillside. These fossils remain exposed offering insight into the geologic past. Interested in learning more about Nashville's former life as a tropical sea?: Visit Fort Negley! For more information on related programs, see page 4.



Though typical of those found here, fossils depicted in this picture were not found at Fort Negley

## TENNESSEE WOMEN PROGRESSIVES LECTURE SERIES

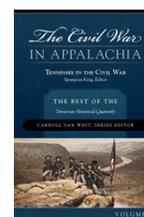
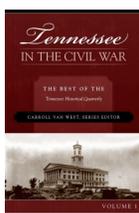
### Beyond the Nineteenth Amendment

#### Three Lecture Series

Lectures on "Tennessee Women Progressives" will be presented at Fort Negley Visitors Center during March and April. The first lecture, "Progressive Women's Public Roles in Society" will take place on Mar. 13 and will feature Dr. Mary A. Evins, History Dept. MTSU and Dr. Minoa B. Uffelman, History Dept. APSU. Next, on Apr 3, Dr. Carol Stanford Bucy, History Dept., Volunteer State Univ. and Dr. Mary Ellen Pethel, Dept. of History, Harpath Hall, will present "Progressive Women in the Church and in Athletics." The final installment will be on Apr 24 and will deal with "Religious Values, Social Responsibilities, and the Public Work of Progressive Women." All sessions for this interesting and informative series will last from 5:30 to 7:00 pm. For more information, call the Tennessee Historical Society at (615) 741-8934.

## FRIEND'S OF FORT NEGLEY GIFT SHOP

Coming to the gift shop in March from the Tennessee Historical Society in cooperation with the Tennessee Civil War Sesquicentennial Commission, is a twelve volume series entitled "Tennessee in the Civil" drawn from the best of 400 articles from the Tennessee Historical Quarterly, 1942 – 2010. The first five titles will be available soon and the other volumes will be available as they are published, The books will sell at the gift shop for \$25.00. For more information on the series go to [www.tennesseehistory.org/TennesseeintheCivilWar.htm](http://www.tennesseehistory.org/TennesseeintheCivilWar.htm).



## FORT NEGLEY TO HOST "VOICES OF THE BATTLEFIELD" EXHIBIT

A multi-panel exhibit, curated by Brian Allison on loan from Travellers Rest, will be on display at the Fort Negley Visitors Center beginning on Wednesday, March, 13th. The panels deal with various aspects of the battle as well as preservation of local historical sites. The panels will remain at Fort Negley until mid-September. This exhibit will be enjoyable for the serious student or anyone just wanting a quick overview. It is perfect for history classes or groups looking for an enjoyable and educational outing.

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.

**MARCH 18**

Jerry Wooten, New Johnsonville State Park, TN.  
"Johnsonville, TN: The End of The Line, November 4, 1864"

**APRIL 15**

David Bastian author/historian  
"Grant's Canal in the Vicksburg Campaign"

Although all programs are free and open to the public, the group encourages membership. Annual membership dues along with proceeds from the silent auction support programming and local preservation causes. For more information, please visit <http://nashvillecivilwarroundtable.wordpress.com/> or call Fort Negley Visitors Center at 615-862-8470. "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 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

**First Tuesday at the Archives** - Mar. 5th at 2:30 - 3:30, "Fort Negley : Symbol of Occupied Nashville" presented by Krista Castillo. Contact Metro Archives at 862-5880 or [Ken.fieth@nashville.gov](mailto:Ken.fieth@nashville.gov) for more information.

**Lunch & Learn** - Mar. 13 at noon. Dr. Molly Miller of Vanderbilt Univ., in partnership with Metro Historical Commission, will present, "Nashville's Bahamas-Like Past: Controls of Present and Future Environmental Issues." The program will be presented at Fort Negley Visitors Center. Bring a lunch to enjoy during the program.

**Tennessee Historical Society "Tennessee Women During the Progressive Era" Lecture Series** - Mar. 13, Apr. 3, Apr. 24, 5:30 - 7:00 pm at Fort Negley.

**The Battle of Fort Donelson 151st Anniversary Reenactment** - Mar. 15 - 17 at Steward Houston Industrial Park, 3330 Hwy 149, Erin, TN 37061. For more information go to [www.portersbattery.com](http://www.portersbattery.com).

**"Fossils at the Fort"** presented by Metro Parks and Vanderbilt University, led by Dr. Molly Miller and students from the Vanderbilt Earth and Environmental Science Dept., Mar. 30, 10:00 am - 2:00 pm

**Nashville Civil War Sesquicentennial Program** - Apr. 13, 2013 at 8:30 am at the Holy Trinity Episcopal Church, 615 6th Ave. S. Nashville. Speakers will be Dr. Bobby Lovett and Dr. Susan O'Donovan. Music provided by The 1861 Project.

**The Bellevue History and Genealogy Group** provides free weekly history and genealogy programs at the Bellevue YMCA - FiftyForward Turner Center located at 8101 Hwy 100. For more information, contact Bob Allen at 615-218-4580 or Kristin Blackburn at 615-646-9622.

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).



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

