Fort Negley: Past, Present, Future

II: Defense, USCT, Battle of Nashville, Emancipation

OLLI WINTER 2020

DR. ANGELA SUTTON, VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY
The Plan

- Jan 17: Enslavement & Building the Fort
- Jan 24: Defense, the US Colored Troops, Battle of Nashville, Emancipation
- Jan 31: Fort Negley & 19th Century Black Nashville
- Feb 7: Fort Negley as a Historic Site Under Threat
- Feb 14: Fort Negley & UNESCO
- Feb 21: The Future of Fort Negley
Last Time…
Largest inland fort constructed in the United States
September 22, 1862 – A Slave Revolt Supported by the North
Segregated Regiments of the US Military: The USCT Confiscation Act 1862, Militia Act of 1862

*175 Regiments of the USCT

*178,000 free blacks

*Made up 10% of Union Forces

*Fort Negley was defended by 8 regiments: 6 infantry, 1 heavy artillery, 1 light artillery
**Local USCT Regiments**


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.


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**Fort Negley Visitors Center**

**United States Colored Troops**

1100 Fort Negley Blvd. ~ Nashville, TN 37203  
615.322.0470  
[www.nashville.gov/Parks-and-Recreation/ Historic-Sites/FortNegley.aspx](http://www.nashville.gov/Parks-and-Recreation/Historic-Sites/FortNegley.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

**Nashville Metro Parks**

**Camp of the Tennessee Colored Battery**

Johnsonville, TN
TO COLORED MEN!

FREEDOM,
Protection, Pay, and a Call to Military Duty!

On the 1st day of January, 1863, the President of the United States proclaimed freedom to over Thirty Million of Slaves. This decree is to be enforced by all the power of the Nation. On the 21st of July last he issued the following order:

PROTECTION OF COLORED TROOPS.

"General Orders, No. 282.

"The following order of the President is published in the interest of the government and security of all concerned.


"In the city of every Government to give protection to its citizens, and to ensure the safety of all persons, and especially to those who are required to serve in the public service. The laws of justice, and the legal rights and duties of every citizen are to be respected and protected as in the case of every other person.

"The Governor of the United States will give the same protection to all persons, and to the property of all persons which is to be respected and enforced. The officers shall be selected for the office, and the duties of the office shall be performed by the officers appointed to fill the same. The Governor of the United States will give the same protection to all persons who are to be respected and enforced.

"By order of the Secretary of War:

"E. D. Townsend, Assistant Adjutant General.

"That the President in earnest the rebels soon begin to find out, as witness the following order from his Secretary of War:

"WAR DEPARTMENT, Washington City, August 2, 1863.

"Sec. War. These letters of the 21st, giving the attention of the Department for the present of your duties and the present necessity of the present. This letter has been ordered that the same shall be performed by the officers who are to be selected and the duties of the officers shall be performed by them. The letter shall be read and the duties of the officers shall be performed by the officers.

"Very respectfully,

"E. D. Townsend, Secretary of War.

"The Hon. Edwin M. Stanton, Secretary of War.

And retaliation will be our practice now—man for man—to the bitter end.

LETTER OF CHARLES SUMNER,

Written with reference to the Guaranty Bond of Wavezburgh, July 1st and 2nd, 1861, to promote colored soldiers.

BOSTON, July 7th, 1863.

I should be in these parts, my country could have expected from colored men any patriotic voice. In my turn it is the voice for protection. The voice that protection has been, the service should be done. We should act with vigor and duty and never permit any thing to interfere with justice, such as color, color, and cause no injury to others.

If my unselfishness reach such persons, I would say, this is not the time to doubt or to despise us. The time to act is now, and you will not see the time again, and I would ask you to join us. This is not the time to be inaction or to be idle. To your duty as our country, and you will see that the time is now.
The United States Colored Troops (USCT)
Battle of Nashville, December 15–16, 1864

The Franklin-Nashville Campaign (September-December 1864)
Mr. Bill Radcliffe, descendant of Serg. Maj. Edward Ratcliff
According to the revised official data, that of the slightly over two millions troops in the United States Volunteers, over 316,000 died (from all causes), or 15.2%. Of the 67,000 Regular Army (white) troops, 8.6%, or not quite 6,000, died. Of the approximately 180,000 United States Colored Troops, however, over 36,000 died, or 20.5%. In other words, the mortality rate amongst the United States Colored Troops in the Civil War was thirty-five percent greater than that among other troops, notwithstanding the fact that the former were not enrolled until some eighteen months after the fighting began.

Fort Pillow Massacre: April 12, 1864
Emancipation