Fort Negley: Past, Present, Future

III: Fort Negley & 19th Century Black Nashville

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
Post-Emancipation

"It appears that American Citizens are instrumental in carrying in a traffic in enslaved Africans, equally in violation of the laws of humanity and in defiance of those of their own country." James Madison, 1810

Miscegnation & One Drop Rule
“Reconstruction” and Historiography

- Dunning creates a pro-Southern narrative, and trains professional historians at Columbia. Asserts that black people were to blame for failures of reconstruction.
- W.E.B. Dubois and other black thinkers counter with narratives of black-led reconstruction.
- From this, “whiteness studies” emerges as a popular field.
- “Neo-Confederates” still read Dunning & his students.
The Freedmen's Bureau Online
Records of the Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen and Abandoned Lands

Tennessee

Records Relating to Outrages

- Special Report on the late riot at Franklin, Tennessee, July 6, 1867
- Report of Outrages in Sub-District of Chattanooga from July 1867 to July 1868
- List of Murders in Counties of Maury and Marshall, Tenn. from July 1867 to July 1868
- Report of Outrages Committed by Whites on Freedmen in the Memphis Sub District, Bureau R. F. A. L. For the month of May 1867
- Affidavits related to the 1866 Memphis, Tennessee Riot
- Affidavits Related to Outrages in Tennessee
- Freedmen's Bureau Report of the 1866 Memphis, Tennessee Riot
- Freedmen's Bureau Report of the 1868 Pulaski, Tennessee Riot
- Freedmen's Bureau Report of Conditions in Trenton, Tennessee
- Freedmen's Bureau Report of Conditions in LaGrange, Tennessee
- Freedmen's Bureau Report of Conditions in Centerville, Tennessee
- Freedmen's Bureau Report of Outrages from the Chattanooga Sub-District
- Freedmen's Bureau Report of Outrages in Murfreesboro, Tennessee
- Freedmen's Bureau – Tennessee Register of Outrages Oct. 1865 – July 1866
- List of Outrages Perpetrated by the Whites Upon The Freedmen in the State of Tennessee from April 1865 to March 1866

Records Relating to Freedmen's Labor
Racist Terrorism against former enslaved

The Tennessean
06 Jul 1924

A Crazy Negro.
Bob Battle, a well-known negro, living at the foot of Fort Negley, has gone crazy. Last night he loaded a musket and started in pursuit of residents of that locality. They gave him a wide berth, however, and Policemen King and Plummer arrested him.
The Great Migration & the “Up-South”
St. Cloud Hill
Artifacts from the Bass Street Archaeological Dig
FISK UNIVERSITY, 1866