

Project Description: Telling the Story of Ft. Negley and Civil War Nashville through Storymaps

Summary:

For this project we propose to expand work on the creation of an educational storymap to tell the story of Fort Negley and Civil War Nashville. Fort Negley was the centerpiece of the occupation of Nashville during the American Civil War, serving not only as a military outpost, but also a prime location of the emancipation of enslaved people from across Middle Tennessee, and a symbol of the reestablishment of Federal Political control during that period. Unfortunately, with neglect and the passage of time, the site has fallen into disrepair. Our team is currently conducting investigations to further characterize this site, including the use of modern laser scanning and imaging tools, ground penetrating radar systems and other technologies to fully explore the site so that its unique story can continue to be preserved and told for generations to come. This study includes activities intended to locate the location of currently unmarked graves of numerous enslaved people emancipated at Ft. Negley, who lived and worked on the site after their emancipation, and ultimately died there.

This project proposes to preserve the story of Fort Negley and Civil War Nashville through the creation of a storymap, a historically and geographically accurate interactive online tool for telling the story of this important site. This storymap will include period and current images of the site, historical information about the site, including period and modern documentation, and current research taking place on this site in one product that will be made accessible on the internet for educators and students to use, as well as being part of the display at the Fort Negley Visitors Center.

This project is being managed by Faculty from the Vanderbilt Department of Military Science and the Vanderbilt Libraries, with assistance from Faculty and Staff from the Department of anthropology and is likewise being conducted in conjunction with the staff at Fort Negley, and the Battle of Nashville Trust. Matching funds for the project have been secured from the BONT as well as from the Curb Center at Vanderbilt, and CFMT funds will be used to enhance and expand existing research for the storymap, secure equipment for this research and its display at the site, and increase the webhosting capacity supporting the online interactive storymap so that it may be used by the largest number of students and educators possible.

Objectives

The primary objective of this project is the creation of an interactive, online storymap that preserves and explains the history of the Fort Negley site for use by educators and students

Action

The project will be put into action by existing research and academic staff who are currently working at the site with CFMT funding allowing the expansion and enhancement of the project

Timeframe

The Vanderbilt Team plans to have a preliminary version of the storymap complete by the anniversary of the Battle of Nashville, 15-16 December, with full deployment by the end of academic year 2021-2022

Responsible Person

The primarily responsible person is Robert B Hulette, Associate Professor in Military Science and Associate Professor of Arts and Sciences, Vanderbilt University

Use of CFMT Grant Funds

The program team plans to request \$5000 in CFMT funds which will be used to enhance and expand existing research for the storymap, secure equipment for this research and its display at the site, and increase the webhosting capacity supporting the online interactive storymap so that it may be used by the largest number of students and educators possible.

Organizational Contribution

The organization has received funding in excess of \$5000 for this project under the direction of Professor Hulette

Measures of Success

The primary measure of success will be the creation of the story map with secondary measures including the number of students and educators that make use of it and the number of web views it receives.

Outcomes

At the conclusion of this program, an interactive storymap will have been created that tells the story of this important site in this important period in Nashville and American history.