

Best regards,

Fred M. Prouty  
Director of Programs  
Tennessee Wars Commission  
2941 Lebanon Road  
Nashville, TN 37214  
615-532-1550  
[Fred.Prouty@tn.gov](mailto:Fred.Prouty@tn.gov)  
fax 615-532-1549  
<http://www.tnhistoricalcommission.org>

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**From:** norm hill [normhill1@msn.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 17, 2013 12:32 PM  
**To:** Patrick McIntyre; Fred Prouty  
**Subject:** FW: Fort Pillow Commemoration for 2014 Inquiry

Pat and Fred FYI  
Norm

---

From: yulandab@msn.com  
To: decherd2@hotmail.com  
CC: normhill1@msn.com; hsojr@bellsouth.net; moverton@mtemc.com; escaped886@yahoo.com; hiwinston@aol.com; 4shirley@bellsouth.net; ggrandall@bellsouth.net; nh5242@aol.com; jabez1950@gmail.com; indhistorian@yahoo.com  
Subject: RE: Fort Pillow Commemoration for 2014 Inquiry  
Date: Tue, 17 Sep 2013 10:54:13 -0400

Hello Dr. George,

I am attaching the SAVE THE DATE flyer to your cc's.

Be assured that the day will be observed at Fort Pillow, officially or unofficially. We will plough ahead full steam. Our hold is the University of Memphis and the extent of their involvement. The loud voices of a few can be heard on the ears of many. We need to set the record straight that these men fought gallantly from morning until 4 p.m. We need to set the record straight that the men and women who were at Fort Pillow from 4 p.m. well into the next day faced outrageous inflictions of inhumanity just because they were black and because they were Unionist and because many were former slaves who dared to bear arms to fight for their freedom. Many white unionist suffered outrageous treatment just by their mere association. Nathan Bedford Forrest issued the killing orders but his biggest mistake was that, despite the massive slaughter, the will to survive existed in the bodies of a handfull of men and women and children. The survivors told their stories and the atrocities were recorded. Yet, these men, women and children continued to suffer injustice because their accounts were disbelieved or distorted by the ensuing generations in order to give the Confederate forces clean gloves and to glorify Forrest. The resting places of those massacred at Fort Pillow also were desecrated by prejudice and injustice. From heaven they cry, remember me.... So, let us gather on April 12, 2014, and continue to tell their story and remember them. The story is monumental because, despite the possibilities of further Fort Pillows, black men continued to fight

with "Remember Fort Pillow" on their lips.

Peace, Joy, and the Comfort of Jesus,  
Yulanda Burgess

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From: decherd2@hotmail.com  
To: yulandab@msn.com; fred.prouty@tn.gov  
CC: normhill1@msn.com; hsojr@bellsouth.net; moverton@mtmc.com; escaped886@yahoo.com;  
hiwinston@aol.com; 4shirley@bellsouth.net; gstrandall@bellsouth.net; nh5242@aol.com;  
jabez1950@gmail.com; indhistorian@yahoo.com  
Subject: RE: Fort Pillow Commemoration for 2014 Inquiry  
Date: Tue, 17 Sep 2013 01:39:59 +0000

Yulanda

Thank you for keeping the dream alive to do something special at Fort Pillow as we approach the 150th year of this historical event. It is just difficult to believe that this major event in the history of the war should go unnoticed.

We must observe this significant moment as a tribute to the important role that individuals of African Descent played in making this country the land of the free.

George Smith, Corporal  
13th USCT  
Living historian

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**RE: Fort Pillow Commemoration for 2014 Inquiry**

Yulanda Burgess

Fri 12/6/2013, 10:03 AM

To: Jeff Wells <jeff.wells@tn.gov>

Bcc: George Smith <decherd2@hotmail.com>

Dear Mr. Wells,

I was in Memphis during the Thanksgiving holiday and met with Dr. Sadler (Instructor, African and African American Studies) and Michael Cherry (student) of the University of Memphis regarding Fort Pillow. Dr. Sadler is coordinating a seminar focused on Fort Pillow and the USCTs tentatively scheduled for April 10, 2013, on the UofM campus. Based on my conversation with Dr. Sadler and Mr. Cherry, there appears to be much interest in commemorating the 150th anniversary of Fort Pillow. There has also been interest expressed across the living history community and those involved in preserving the USCT legacy. However, these interests seem scattered and I am trying to grasp exactly what is and can be practically planned. I don't want to witness a nightmare of bus loads of people arriving at the park unexpectedly on April 12, 2014, and clusters of people doing their own commemoration. I consider you the go-to person and would like to discuss with you all these variant interests. My objective is to finalize a comprehensive agenda for the various USCT units and USCT descendants to participate in any activities that will take place on April 12, 2014. Although there are about thirty USCI units, there are only two artillery units. As I mentioned before, a Save the Date has been communicated, but people need to be presented with some final plans so they can plan accordingly. Again, I offer to assist you in this endeavor.

I can be contacted by email or limited by cell phone during the daytime at 313/910-0410.

Best Regards,  
Yulanda Burgess

## Fort Pillow Commemoration: April 12, 2014

Yulanda Burgess

Fri 10/25/2013, 11:32 AM

To: Susan.Whitaker@tn.gov <susan.whitaker@tn.gov>; michaelbradley@lighttube.net <michaelbradley@lighttube.net>; Norman Hill <normhill1@msn.com>; atop@tennesseehistory.org <atop@tennesseehistory.org>; cwest@mtsu.edu <cwest@mtsu.edu>; Wayne.Moore@tn.gov <wayne.moore@tn.gov>; rmitchel@fisk.edu <rmitchel@fisk.edu>; Fred.Prouty@tn.gov <fred.prouty@tn.gov>; heritagetours@bellsouth.net <heritagetours@bellsouth.net>; oakley@eastTNhistory.org <oakley@easttnhistory.org>; Lee.Curtis@tn.gov <lee.curtis@tn.gov>; lholder@mtsu.edu <lholder@mtsu.edu>; jeremy.harrell@tn.gov <jeremy.harrell@tn.gov>; mapeckham@aol.com <mapeckham@aol.com>; Lois.Riggins-Ezzell@tn.gov <lois.riggins-ezzell@tn.gov>; friendsofchch@gmail.com <friendsofchch@gmail.com>; mjgrainger@cox.net <mjgrainger@cox.net>; stevemcdanielrep@bellsouth.net <stevemcdanielrep@bellsouth.net>; Patrick.McIntyre@tn.gov <patrick.mcintyre@tn.gov>; robthicks@aol.com <robthicks@aol.com>  
Cc: Patricia.Gray@tn.gov <patricia.gray@tn.gov>; jeff.wells@tn.gov <jeff.wells@tn.gov>  
Bcc: george.smith <decherd2@hotmail.com>

October 25, 2013

Tennessee Civil War Sesquicentennial Commission

Dear Commissioners,

April 12, 2014, will mark the 150th anniversary of the Fort Pillow massacre. To date, I am unaware of any firm plans to commemorate this incident. In the past few months I have been in contact with Jeff Wells (Director of Interpretative Programming and Education) and TCWS Commissioners Norman Hill, and Fred Prouty. Although each have expressed an interest in observing Fort Pillow, none can provide detailed confirmation that there will be a commemoration. In the midst of the sesquicentennial grandeur, the omission of an official commemoration by the Tennessee Civil War Sesquicentennial Commission would be monumentally unfortunate. Despite this, the descendants of two soldiers garrisoned at Fort Pillow have committed to being at Fort Pillow on April 12, 2014. I am one of those people.

I am the great granddaughter of Private Armstead Burgess, a Union soldier who was wounded but survived the slaughter and resided in Tennessee and Arkansas after the war. Another soldier, Private Peter Williams, survived also his wounds and resided in western Tennessee throughout his life. Both men were members of the 6th US Colored Heavy Artillery. Both families hope to ensure that the Fort Pillow incident and their compatriots who perished on that tragic day are not forgotten.

There have been much discussion on how to commemorate the actions that took place at the fort on the banks of the Mississippi River on April 12, 1864, . The opinions vary from having an encampment, battle scenario, and public displays. These are the things to contemplate as we quickly approach the 150th Anniversary. As descendants of Fort Pillow survivors, we ask for a day of commemoration, reflection, prayer, and tribute to the men, women and children garrisoned at Fort Pillow under the Union forces. We will be the honorary family of those people who were killed. We hope others will join us as we give testimony that their deaths were not taken in vain and reflect on our own liberties and freedom born out of the American Civil War. Most importantly, we hope the

Tennessee Civil War Sesquicentennial Commission will officially recognize the history of Fort Pillow. Please let us know.

We look forward to supporting each other in this endeavor.

Sincerely,

Yulanda Burgess  
10857 Lakepointe  
Detroit, Mi 48224-1701  
313/910-0410  
[yulandab@msn.com](mailto:yulandab@msn.com)

## Fort Pillow in 2014

Yulanda Burgess

Wed 1/30/2013, 12:58 PM

To:george smith <decherd2@hotmail.com>;Norman Hill <normhill1@msn.com>

Cc:Bob <robertlb502@aol.com>

George and Norm,

I inquiry whether you've heard anything about commemorating the 150th anniversary of the Fort Pillow Massacre. If yes, what have you heard and could you provide me with any communications you've received. If you've heard nothing, I would like to work with you to have the State of Tenn acknowledge this event. It requires planning and forethought.

My great grandfather (Pvt. Armstead Burgess) survived Fort Pillow (6th USCHA, Co. B) and I am planning for my family to commemorate the occasion on the actual anniversary date on April 12, 2014. Armstead's descendants are scattered throughout the country and advance planning is necessary to make this possible for them. There are about 300 direct descendant's of Armstead Burgess. Armstead belonged to the Christian (fka Colored) Methodist Episcopal Church and I would like to approach the Bishop of the First Episcopal District which governs Tennessee to participate in any commemoration.

My last visit to the site highlighted all the accessibility issues the historic site has faced. The bridge is out/impassable, the trails are poorly marked and the site doesn't offer transportation to the artillery area. We would need to work with the state to correct these problems.

Robert Bell also has told me that he knows of another descendant who saw action at Fort Pillow. Therefore, it's a possibility that there would be families of two descendants who would attend. I have cc'd him anticipating that he would provide me with that contact.

I have been in communication with Andrew Ward (author of the *River Ran Red*) and he would be a good speaker for this commemorative occasion.

Just putting that out there hoping to make something of it....

-Yulanda

**RE: Fort Pillow Commemoration: April 12, 2014**

Fred Prouty <Fred.Prouty@tn.gov>

Fri 11/8/2013, 3:27 PM

To: Yulanda Burgess <yulandab@msn.com>

Cc: Jeff Wells <Jeff.Wells@tn.gov>; Patrick McIntyre <Patrick.McIntyre@tn.gov>;

bllovet1936@gmail.com <bllovet1936@gmail.com>; normhill1@msn.com <normhill1@msn.com>;

selllott@gplce.com <selllott@gplce.com>; stevemcdanielrep@bellsouth.net <stevemcdanielrep@bellsouth.net>

Ms. Burgess,

Thank you for copying me on your greatly appreciated letter. Well said!

Your comments reflect my own personal goal of commemorating and placing this important history in the hands of your school children and general public. To that end the Tennessee Wars Commission has worked for several years to completed and publish a book dedicated to Tennessee and our nations USCT. That publication, *Ready to Die for Liberty; Tennessee's United States Colored Troops in the Civil War*, is now in hand at our office. I will send you two complementary copies and please advise if you would like additional booklets. Over 2,000 of these books are to be sent to all Tennessee libraries and hopefully they will be available for purchase from the Tennessee Historical Commission and possibly other outlets as well.

I plan to discussed with Mr. Jeff Wells our desire to hopefully premier this publication during the Fort Pillow 150th Commemoration Ceremony in April 2014. I would also like to pursue discussions with Tennessee State Parks as to the feasibility of placing a USCT memorial (similar to the one at the Nashville National Cemetery) on the grounds of Fort Pillow.

If I can be of further assistance please advise and thank you for your support of this project.

Fred M. Prouty  
Director of Programs  
Tennessee Wars Commission  
2941 Lebanon Road  
Nashville, TN 37214  
615-532-1550  
[Fred.Prouty@tn.gov](mailto:Fred.Prouty@tn.gov)  
fax 615-532-1549  
<http://www.tnhistoricalcommission.org>

---

**From:** Yulanda Burgess [yulandab@msn.com]

**Sent:** Friday, November 08, 2013 11:33 AM

**To:** Carroll.West@mtsu.edu

**Cc:** Susan Whitaker; michaelrbradley@lighttube.net; Norman Hill; atop@tennesseehistory.org; Wayne Moore; rmitchel@fisk.edu; Fred Prouty; heritagetours@bellsouth.net; oakley@easttnhistory.org; Lee Curtis; Laura.Holder@mtsu.edu; jeremy.harrell@tn.gov; mapeckham@aol.com; Lois Riggins-Ezzell; friendsofchch@gmail.com; mjgrainger@cox.net; stevemcdanielrep@bellsouth.net; Patrick McIntyre; robthicks@aol.com; rep.joe.armstrong@capitol.tn.gov; sen.bill.ketron@capitol.tn.gov; Patricia Gray; Jeff Wells

**Subject:** RE: Fort Pillow Commemoration: April 12, 2014

November 8, 2013

Carroll Van West, PhD  
Director, MTSU Center for Historic Preservation  
Tennessee State Historian

Co-chair, Tennessee Civil War Sesquicentennial Commission

Dear Dr. Van West,

Thank you for your insight on a Civil War 150th Anniversary Commemoration at Fort Pillow on April 12, 2014. I apologize for this delayed acknowledgment.

I can envision everyone working together and pulling our resources to educate the public about this historic incident as well as acknowledge those men, women and children who lost their lives on that tragic day. Although Fort Pillow is a Tennessee State Park it is part of our nation's history. When Fort Pillow enters into a conversation among historians there is a pause followed by much discussion. The general public, however, has little knowledge of Fort Pillow and what took place. This omission exemplifies how selective remembrance of our historical past can hinder an appreciation of how history overall affects our lives. Therefore, a healing needs to begin so that We, as a nation, can face the tragic moments in our history and begin discussion and preservation of those events.

I have been a victim of selective remembrance as my family didn't often talk about the past. "Don't want to talk about it" or "You don't want to know about that" were phrases often given when I explored my Tennessee and Arkansas family roots. It took a lot of poking and pulling to discover that my great grandfather, Armstead Burgess, was a Civil War soldier. As I travel throughout the country and speak to the public I include him and Fort Pillow in my presentations whenever possible. The responses have been overwhelming. There is sadness that they didn't know about the incident and further sadness that there has been no ongoing effort to remember the soldiers who fought there. What has happened in the insuring one hundred fifty years has become almost as important as what happened on April 12, 1864. These are my experiences....

I have extended my assistance to Jeff Wells as I have been involved in historical interpretation for thirty years and participated in several ceremonies commemorating USCT soldiers. In fact, this past weekend I had the honor of attending and participating in a ceremony for Private Lewis Martin of the 29th USCI in Springfield, Illinois. Pvt. Martin lost an arm and leg in the Battle of the Crater. It took one hundred twenty years for him to receive a headstone. Those who attended the ceremony acknowledged that "It is never too late to right a wrong." Pvt. Martin is symbolic of many native sons of the south who fought for the Union who never received a military burial or tribute. I hope that on April 12, 2014, at Fort Pillow we will pause and acknowledge those native sons and daughters. Let that date begin the movement to establish a monument at Fort Pillow so future generation can see, pause and reflect on the scarifies of those who secured their freedom and liberty.

Very truly yours,

Yulanda Burgess  
10857 Lakepointe  
Detroit, MI 48224-1701



**RE: Fort Pillow Commemoration: April 12, 2014**

Fred Prouty <Fred.Prouty@tn.gov>

Fri 11/8/2013, 3:27 PM

To: Yulanda Burgess <yulandab@msn.com>

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Fred M. Prouty  
Director of Programs  
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**Sent:** Friday, November 08, 2013 11:33 AM

**To:** Carroll.West@mtsu.edu

**Cc:** Susan Whitaker; michaelbradley@lighttube.net; Norman Hill; atop@tennesseehistory.org; Wayne Moore; rmitchel@fisk.edu; Fred Prouty; heritagetours@bellsouth.net; oakley@easttnhistory.org; Lee Curtis; Laura.Holder@mtsu.edu; jeremy.harrell@tn.gov; mapeckham@aol.com; Lois Riggins-Ezzell; friendsofchch@gmail.com; mjgrainger@cox.net; stevemcdanielrep@bellsouth.net; Patrick McIntyre; robthicks@aol.com; rep.joe.armstrong@capitol.tn.gov; sen.bill.ketron@capitol.tn.gov; Patricia Gray; Jeff Wells

**Subject:** RE: Fort Pillow Commemoration: April 12, 2014

November 8, 2013

Carroll Van West, PhD  
Director, MTSU Center for Historic Preservation  
Tennessee State Historian

Co-chair, Tennessee Civil War Sesquicentennial Commission

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Very truly yours,

Yulanda Burgess  
10857 Lakepointe  
Detroit, MI 48224-1701

**FW: Fort Pillow Commemoration: April 12, 2014**

Yulanda Burgess

Tue 10/29/2013, 8:50 AM

To:george smith <decherd2@hotmail.com>

Dr. George,

Here is a response.

I am moving forward. I don't have any funding to make this possible but it will be possible due to others commitment. It's a pay your own way and be there type of occasion. I need to establish a TN address to handle snail mail. My mother is going to be in Detroit for about two months. That will be a critical time that mail can't be forwarded from our Memphis address to here in Detroit.

More later,

-Yulanda

> From: Carroll.West@mtsu.edu

> To: yulandab@msn.com; susan.whitaker@tn.gov; michaelrbradley@lighttube.net; normhill1@msn.com; atop@tennesseehistory.org; wayne.moore@tn.gov; rmitchel@fisk.edu; fred.prouty@tn.gov; heritagetours@bellsouth.net; oakley@easttnhistory.org; lee.curtis@tn.gov; Laura.Holder@mtsu.edu; jeremy.harrell@tn.gov; mapeckham@aol.com; lois.riggins-ezell@tn.gov; friendsofchch@gmail.com; mjgrainger@cox.net; stevemcdanielrep@bellsouth.net; patrick.mcintyre@tn.gov; robthicks@aol.com; rep.joe.armstrong@capitol.tn.gov; sen.bill.ketron@capitol.tn.gov

> CC: patricia.gray@tn.gov; jeff.wells@tn.gov

> Subject: RE: Fort Pillow Commemoration: April 12, 2014

> Date: Sat, 26 Oct 2013 01:17:10 +0000

>

> Dear Yulanda Burgess,

>

> Thank you for the thoughtful communication; I appreciate it. The Tennessee Civil War Sesquicentennial Commission's signature event schedule has been announced on the commission's website since 2010. Our first event took place in Nashville in 2010, Cookeville in 2011, Shiloh in 2012, Chattanooga in 2013, Franklin in 2014, and Knoxville in 2015. Our whole story approach to commemorating the state's entire Civil War experience is a constant theme in all of these events.

>

> In developing our statewide plans, and understanding the limits of budgets and funding, we felt these major events would reach the largest number of Tennesseans, especially school children. And thousands of students have been able to attend the events, much to our satisfaction.

>

> We also recognized that many individual battle sites would be carrying out their own commemorative activities throughout 2011-2015. Just recently the Battle of Fort Sanders in Knoxville was commemorated appropriately by local groups. Fort Negley in Nashville had a very good event last winter; it will again this year and especially in 2014, no doubt. On Oct. 4-6, I spoke at a three-day event in Collierville which focused on its local battle as well as other West Tennessee battles, including Fort Pillow. Tennessee State Parks have been especially effective in supporting programs at its facilities; for example there is a new center at Fort Johnson (Johnsonville) where another appropriate event took place earlier this year. And, most importantly, Commissioner Susan Whitaker and the Tennessee Department of Tourist Development have marketed and publicized all of these events across Tennessee. The commission itself can only do so much but with our partners in tourism we can promote and get the story out about the many events taking place across Tennessee.

>

> No doubt, Tennessee State Parks will have an appropriate event at Fort Pillow on April 12, 2014, and the commission, through Tennessee Tourism, will publicize the event statewide. I do not know the details--having been focused on the Chattanooga event earlier this month--but I have the upmost confidence that Jeff Wells and the staff at Pillow will have a solid program. I met at the park with Jeff a year ago where we discussed enhancing the exhibits at the park's visitor center. I know that the staff there understands the full story and wants it to be a museum and site that all Tennesseans will be proud of. Indeed, I plan as State Historian to be there at Pillow next April and if the state parks wishes, I will speak as State Historian as to importance of what happened there, both for the Civil War in 1864 and for the years afterward.

>

> Nor should you doubt the commission's commitment to the Fort Pillow story. You will find it in the commission website, on its Tennessee Civil War App (free download for both Apple and Android) and in the sites interpreted for the Tennessee Welcome Center at I-155 Dyersburg (the closest welcome center to the Fort Pillow park). We have been staging and promoting events as their anniversaries approach, and soon it will be time to bring forth Fort Pillow. I look forward to meeting you next April.

>

> Thanks for your commitment to the state's history. Citizens such as yourself make me proud to be a Tennessean.

>

> Carroll Van West, PhD  
> Director, MTSU Center for Historic Preservation  
> Tennessee State Historian  
> Co-chair, Tennessee Civil War Sesquicentennial Commission  
> 615-898-2947

## Fort Pillow Descendant's rally for commemoration next year

Yulanda Burgess

Wed 5/22/2013, 12:27 PM

To:jridley@nashvillescene.com <jridley@nashvillescene.com>

To Whom It May Concern,

In Betsy Phillip's January 4, 2011 editorial, "Tennessee, It's Time to Let Nathan Bedford Forrest Rest" she states:

*Regardless of what you think the reasons for the Civil War were, there were black Memphians at Fort Pillow. Nearly all of them were killed. But you know what? They had families. Their communities suffered from their loss. What would a Nathan Bedford Forrest exhibit at the Civil Rights Museum do but reinforce the idea that Tennessee puts more stock into redeeming him than mourning them?*

I am the great daughter of one of the few black Union soldiers who survived the slaughter: Pvt. Armstead Burgess. Many of his descendants live in Memphis and Nashville. Another survivor, Pvt. Peter Williams, has descendant's also residing in Memphis. Both families are in the process of ensuring that the 150th Anniversary of Fort Pillow is not forgotten in the midst of all the hoopla. We are asking a day of commemoration, prayer, and tribute to the men, women and children who garrisoned at Fort Pillow under the Union forces. Pvt Burgess and Pvt Williams were survivor but many, many of their patriots perished under direct orders by the Confederate commanders to systematically kill. We want a focus on the Unionist who were garrisoned at that fort instead of all the modern day myths about the Confederate commanders who ordered their deaths. Let us celebrate THEIR LIVES and acknowledge that their deaths were not in vain.

Please find attached our advocacy flyer promoting an official observation of Fort Pillow for next year.

Please contact me should you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Yulanda Burgess

Great Granddaughter of Pvt. Armstead Burgess

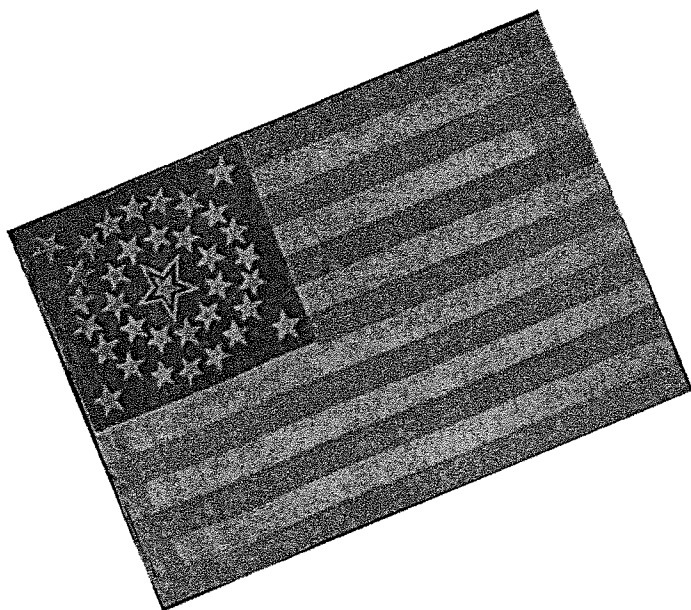
*1st Alabama Special Siege Light Artillery (org. Corinth, MS)*

*1st Tennessee US Colored Heavy Artillery*

*6th US Colored Heavy Artillery (Fort Pillow)*

*POW (MS and VA)*

*7th US Colored Heavy Artillery (MIA/KIA)*  
*11th US Colored Infantry (New) (Fort Pickering, Memphis, TN)*



## *A Plea To Remember Fort Pillow*

**150th Anniversary  
Commemorating and Honoring  
The Men, Women and Children  
Garrisoned at Fort Pillow on April 12, 1864**

**An Invitation to  
SAVE THE DATES  
April 11-12, 2014**

**Fort Pillow State Historic Park  
3122 Park Road  
Henning, Tennessee 38041**

The State of Tennessee Historical Commission and its agency, the Tennessee Wars Commission, have not publicly announced any plans to officially observe the 150th Anniversary of Fort Pillow. However, there is a possibility for some type of observation based on a recent a conversation between a USCT descendant and the director of the agency. Therefore, this is a personal invitation -- *with no connection nor speaking on behalf of the Tennessee Historical Commission, its agencies, or the Fort Pillow State Historic Park* -- to join descendants on April 11-12, 2014, to remember their ancestors who were garrisoned at Fort Pillow on April 12, 1864.

If you would like to encourage the Tennessee Historical Commission to officially "Remember Fort Pillow" please write them directly at:

Tennessee Historical Commission  
and Tennessee Wars Commission  
2941 Lebanon Road, Nashville, TN 37243-0442  
email: Ask.TDEC@tn.gov

If you are a Tennessee resident, you are encouraged to write your Tennessee legislature to ensure that this date is not forgotten by this generation. Also, many of the men with the USCT artillery were from Alabama, Mississippi, and Arkansas, therefore you should approach your congress person to have their native sons remembered.

Tentative plans being organized by the descendants of Fort Pillow include a reception on Friday, April 11, 2014, and a prayer and liturgical service on April 12, 2014. Accommodations are being explored for either in Ripley or Covington, Tennessee. The reception target is in Henning, Tennessee. If and when the State of Tennessee officially makes plans to observe this date, the descendants will fall in line with those official plans.

More information will be forthcoming. If you would like to keep informed, please email:  
RememberFortPillow1864@yahoo.com

Information will also be posted on the USCTLHA Yahoo Discussion Board at  
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/usctbrigade/>

**Please don't let April 12, 2014, pass with a whisper and lack of forethought.**

**RE: Fort Pillow Commemoration for 2014 Inquiry**

Yulanda Burgess

Mon 9/23/2013, 12:46 PM

To: Jeff Wells <jeff.wells@tn.gov>

Cc: Norman Hill <normhill1@msn.com>; Patrick McIntyre <patrick.mcintyre@tn.gov>;

George Smith <decherd2@hotmail.com>; Ward Weems <ward.weems@tn.gov>; Fred Prouty <fred.prouty@tn.gov>

Bcc: Jeanette.bouknight@thecmechurch.com <jeanette.bouknight@thecmechurch.com>

Dear Mr. Wells,

Thank you for contacting me. I had made other attempts to contact people at Fort Pillow without success. I am happy that the loop has been closed.

A Save the Date request has been communicated to the USCT and living history community. Additionally, two descendant families of USCT survivors have rallied to gather together for a meet and greet on Friday, April 11, 2014, and to attend commemoration services of Saturday, April 12, 2014. It is, of course, an ultimate goal to locate descendants of Union soldiers who were killed in action at Fort Pillow.

My great grandfather, Pvt. Armstead, was a member of the Christian (Colored) Methodist Episcopal Church. The CME Church's origin is deeply rooted in the Civil War and the State of Tennessee's history. It was established in the Jacksonville, Tennessee by former slaves during reconstruction and the denomination's anthem reflects the struggles and conquest for freedom. Therefore, part of my family's objective is to have the Bishop of the 1st Episcopal District of the Christian Methodist Episcopal Church, Bishop Lawrence Reddick, III, participate in the commemorative ceremony. The national headquarters is located in Memphis, Tennessee. See <http://www.thecmechurch.org/>

I have been involved in historical interpretation for thirty years. I am currently a member of the commemorative 5th USCI, Co. C, and on the Board of Directors of the USCT Living History Association. In the course of those years, I have participated in many ceremonies honoring men and women who fought in the armed forces. This includes planning and organizing a ceremony honoring Medal of Honor recipient Milton Holland in Arlington Cemetery. There are certain traditions associated with honoring USCTs, such as singing or reciting the "Valiant Soldier" and the placement of rosemary. If you need any assistance with planning the ceremony or contacting the various USCT units and organizations (approximately 34) please let me know. There has been much discussion on how to commemorate the actions that took place on April 12, 1864. The opinions vary from having an encampment, battle scenario, public displays, and a day of prayer, reflection and homage to the men and civilians whose lives were cut short on that day. These are the things to contemplate as we quickly approach the 150th Anniversary.

Again, thank you for contacting me. I look forward hearing more from you soon.



-Yulanda Burgess

**RE: Fort Pillow Commemoration for 2014 Inquiry**

Yulanda Burgess

Tue 9/17/2013, 4:31 PM

To: Fred Prouty <fred.prouty@tn.gov>

Mr. Prouty,

Thank you for your thorough and thoughtful response. I will contact the individuals you have provided.

I look forward to meeting you in the near future.

Best Regards,

-Yulanda Burgess

**RE: Fort Pillow Commemoration for 2014 Inquiry**

Fred Prouty <Fred.Prouty@tn.gov>

Wed 9/18/2013, 9:25 AM

To: Yulanda Burgess <yulandab@msn.com>

Ms. Burgess,

Fort Pillow should be thought of as the "Pearl Harbor" and the "Alamo" for African Americans and as you say a place to reflect and to heal.

I your letter of September 16, 2013 you mentioned the photograph of Pvt. Peter Williams of the 6th USCHA who were at Fort Pillow during the battle. I would suggest that the Tennessee State Library and Archives (TSLA) would be very interested in seeing and, if possible, scanning the photo to be recorded in their Civil War archives. If you approve I will be glad to forward this information to Dr. Wayne Moore at TSLA, as I am sure he would very much like to contact you and possibly the State Archives conservationist could give you some pointers on the preservation of the photo.

Please advise and I will send Dr. Moore your email address if that is alright with you.

Regards,

Fred M. Prouty

Director of Programs

Tennessee Wars Commission

2941 Lebanon Road

Nashville, TN 37214

615-532-1550

[Fred.Prouty@tn.gov](mailto:Fred.Prouty@tn.gov)

fax 615-532-1549

<http://www.tnhistoricalcommission.org>

---

**From:** Yulanda Burgess [yulandab@msn.com]

**Sent:** Tuesday, September 17, 2013 5:06 PM

**To:** Fred Prouty

**Subject:** RE: Fort Pillow Commemoration for 2014 Inquiry

Fred,

That would be absolutely wonderful. It would be a much needed spot of reflection and contemplation about what all the fighting was about. I hope that it will become a place for people to heal the wounds.

-Y

**RE: Fort Pillow Commemoration for 2014 Inquiry**

Fred Prouty <Fred.Prouty@tn.gov>

Tue 9/17/2013, 4:59 PM

To: Yulanda Burgess <yulandab@msn.com>

Yulanda,

At some point I would like to talk with you about possibilities of placing a bronze USCT monument (like the one at the Nashville Nat. Cemetery) at Ft. Pillow. I would recommend that we make a conference call in the near future with all concerned parties.

Sincerely,

Fred M. Prouty  
Director of Programs  
Tennessee Wars Commission  
2941 Lebanon Road  
Nashville, TN 37214  
615-532-1550  
[Fred.Prouty@tn.gov](mailto:Fred.Prouty@tn.gov)  
fax 615-532-1549  
<http://www.tnhistoricalcommission.org>

---

**From:** Yulanda Burgess [yulandab@msn.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 17, 2013 4:31 PM  
**To:** Fred Prouty  
**Subject:** RE: Fort Pillow Commemoration for 2014 Inquiry

Mr. Prouty,

Thank you for your thorough and thoughtful response. I will contact the individuals you have provided.

I look forward to meeting you in the near future.

Best Regards,  
-Yulanda Burgess

## RE: Fort Pillow Commemoration for 2014 Inquiry

Jeff Wells <Jeff.Wells@tn.gov>

Thu 9/19/2013, 1:49 PM

To:yulandab@msn.com <yulandab@msn.com>

Cc:normhill1@msn.com <normhill1@msn.com>;Patrick McIntyre <Patrick.McIntyre@tn.gov>;

decherd2@hotmail.com <decherd2@hotmail.com>;Ward Weems <Ward.Weems@tn.gov>;

Fred Prouty <Fred.Prouty@tn.gov>

Good afternoon Ms. Burgess,

My dear friend, Fred Prouty, shared with me your earlier correspondence so I thought I would jump in and introduce myself. As Director of Interpretive Programming and Education for Tennessee State Parks I'm deeply involved with the event planning at Fort Pillow State Historic Park. Please be assured we share your desire to properly commemorate the sacrifices of the United States Colored Troops. Although planning is in its early stages, I would be pleased to share what we have so far. We are working to improve many of the exhibits in the museum and produce a panel or plaque with the names of those killed at Fort Pillow for permanent display in the museum space. In the reconstructed fortifications we are making improvements to better illustrate what the site may have looked like in the spring of 1864.

Over the weekend of April 12-13, 2014 we are planning a commemorative event that will include living historians (although I was under the impression, perhaps mistakenly, that the 13th USCT would be engaged in Charleston SC that weekend), lectures, tours and a service for those killed. We have been contacted by the Reverends Cliff Bahlinger and Andre Johnson out of Memphis who have expressed a desire to be involved with the service which will include a reading of the names of those killed in action.

As additional details are developed I will be sure to share them with you and look forward to the opportunity to meet and talk.

With kindest regards,

Jeff Wells

Director of Interpretive Programming and Education

Tennessee State Parks

615.532.0031

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**From:** Fred Prouty

**Sent:** Tuesday, September 17, 2013 5:21 PM

**To:** yulandab@msn.com

**Cc:** Jeff Wells; normhill1@msn.com; Patrick McIntyre

**Subject:** FW: Fort Pillow Commemoration for 2014 Inquiry

Dear Ms. Burgess,

Mr. Norm Hill has shared with me your questions about the participation of the Tennessee Wars Commission and the Tennessee Historical Commission's involvement with the 150th remembrance of the Battle of Fort Pillow, Tennessee.

First of all Tennessee's official Civil War 150th State Sesquicentennial Commission is in charge of creating "signature events" for each year of our states 150th observance of the Civil War years. I would suggest that you contact Ms. Patricia Gray at Tennessee Department of Tourism Development who is Tennessee's key contact person for the Tennessee Sesquicentennial Commission at: [Patricia.Gray@tn.gov](mailto:Patricia.Gray@tn.gov) or her office at: 615-741-9004 and/or cell: 615-310-7539. You might also want to contact Ms. Lee Curtis, Director of Program Development at Tennessee Tourism who also works with the State Sesquicentennial Commission at: [Lee.Curtis@tn.gov](mailto:Lee.Curtis@tn.gov) or 615-741-9045.

As to the Wars Commission involvement in the Fort Pillow Commutation I have personally been in talks with Mr. Jeff Wells, Tennessee State Parks Director of Interpretation Programs and Education, about the

importance of the 2014 Sesquicentennial remembrance ceremony at Fort Pillow State Historic Site, operated by Tennessee State Parks. Mr. Wells and State Parks will be in charge of the event planning. I have personally spoken with Mr. Norm Hill, Bill Radcliff and Dr. Smith in hopes of involving the USCT living history regiment as possible color bearers for the event. I have also spoken with Ms. Linda Wynn of the Tennessee Historical Commission and historian and professor Dr. Bobbie Lovette about the need to honor those fallen heroes at Fort Pillow on the 150th anniversary on April 12, 2014. I personally alerted T.D.E.C. Commissioner Robert Martineau and Deputy Commissioner Brock Hill (during their May 2013 staff meeting) as to the state and national importance of planning a fitting tribute for the 150th Commemoration of the Battle at Fort Pillow as a remembrance for those honored USCT troops who died for liberty. Mr. Jeff Wells is in charge of the event planning and will no doubt create a fitting remembrance ceremony (Mr. Wells contact information is below).

The Tennessee Wars Commission has spent the last three years in creating the book, *Ready To Die For Liberty, Tennessee United States Colored Troops in the Civil War*. I have today received the first draft copy of the booklet and have made a few corrections for the printers. When those corrections are addressed the Wars Commission will begin the printing of 5,000 copies for distribution to all Tennessee Schools and libraries. I am hopeful that the booklets will be printed in the next few weeks and I would suggest, as I have for several years, that it be included and premiered at the Fort Pillow Tennessee Sesquicentennial event on 2014. The Wars Commission is funding research at the National Archives in Washington for the names of the USCT who were involved (killed and/or missing) in the Fort Pillow engagement and hopefully we will have those names by the 150th memorial event.

All questions on the Tennessee State Park commemorative ceremonies and plans for the Fort Pillow event should be addressed to Mr. Jeff Wells at: [Jeff.Wells@tn.gov](mailto:Jeff.Wells@tn.gov) or call his office at 615: 532-0031.

As Director of Programs for the Tennessee Wars Commission I would be honored to attend the Fort Pillow Commemoration event now in the planning stages and Tennessee Historical Commission Director Patrick McIntyre is also very interested in participating.

I have also attached an earlier version DRAFT COPY of our USCT booklet. This is not the current version being printed and I will be glad to send you a copy when they are ready.

If I can be of further assistance please advise.

Best regards,

Fred M. Prouty  
 Director of Programs  
 Tennessee Wars Commission  
 2941 Lebanon Road  
 Nashville, TN 37214  
 615-532-1550  
[Fred.Prouty@tn.gov](mailto:Fred.Prouty@tn.gov)  
 fax 615-532-1549  
<http://www.tnhistoricalcommission.org>

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**From:** norm hill [normhill1@msn.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 17, 2013 12:32 PM  
**To:** Patrick McIntyre; Fred Prouty  
**Subject:** FW: Fort Pillow Commemoration for 2014 Inquiry

Pat and Fred FYI  
 Norm

From: yulandab@msn.com  
To: decherd2@hotmail.com  
CC: normhill1@msn.com; hsojr@bellsouth.net; moverton@mtmc.com; escaped886@yahoo.com; hiwinston@aol.com; 4shirley@bellsouth.net; gstrandall@bellsouth.net; nh5242@aol.com; jabez1950@gmail.com; indhistorian@yahoo.com  
Subject: RE: Fort Pillow Commemoration for 2014 Inquiry  
Date: Tue, 17 Sep 2013 10:54:13 -0400

Hello Dr. George,

I am attaching the SAVE THE DATE flyer to your cc's.

Be assured that the day will be observed at Fort Pillow, officially or unofficially. We will plough ahead full steam. Our hold is the University of Memphis and the extent of their involvement. The loud voices of a few can be heard on the ears of many. We need to set the record straight that these men fought gallantly from morning until 4 p.m. We need to set the record straight that the men and women who were at Fort Pillow from 4 p.m. well into the next day faced outrageous inflictions of inhumanity just because they were black and because they were Unionist and because many were former slaves who dared to bear arms to fight for their freedom. Many white unionist suffered outrageous treatment just by their mere association. Nathan Bedford Forrest issued the killing orders but his biggest mistake was that, despite the massive slaughter, the will to survive existed in the bodies of a handfull of men and women and children. The survivors told their stories and the atrocities were recorded. Yet, these men, women and children continued to suffer injustice because their accounts were disbelieved or distorted by the ensuing generations in order to give the Confederate forces clean gloves and to glorify Forrest. The resting places of those massacred at Fort Pillow also were desecrated by prejudice and injustice. From heaven they cry, remember me.... So, let us gather on April 12, 2014, and continue to tell their story and remember them. The story is monumental because, despite the possibilities of further Fort Pillows, black men continued to fight with "Remember Fort Pillow" on their lips.

Peace, Joy, and the Comfort of Jesus,  
Yulanda Burgess

---

From: decherd2@hotmail.com  
To: yulandab@msn.com; fred.prouty@tn.gov  
CC: normhill1@msn.com; hsojr@bellsouth.net; moverton@mtmc.com; escaped886@yahoo.com; hiwinston@aol.com; 4shirley@bellsouth.net; gstrandall@bellsouth.net; nh5242@aol.com; jabez1950@gmail.com; indhistorian@yahoo.com  
Subject: RE: Fort Pillow Commemoration for 2014 Inquiry  
Date: Tue, 17 Sep 2013 01:39:59 +0000

Yulanda

Thank you for keeping the dream alive to do something special at Fort Pillow as we approach the 150th year of this historical event. It is just difficult to believe that this major event in the history of the war should go unnoticed.

We must observe this significant moment as a tribute to the important role that individuals of African Descent played in making this country the land of the free.

George Smith, Corporal

13th USCT  
Living historian

---



**RE: Fort Pillow Commemoration for 2014 Inquiry**

Yulanda Burgess

Tue 9/17/2013, 9:54 AM

To: george smith <decherd2@hotmail.com>

Cc: Norman Hill <normhill1@msn.com>; Huston Overton <hsojr@bellsouth.net>; Mary Overton <moverton@mtemc.com>;

gary burke <escaped886@yahoo.com>; Winston Wiley <hiwinston@aol.com>; Shirley Gaines <4shirley@bellsouth.net>;

gail Randall <gsrandall@bellsouth.net>; Helen Hill <nh5242@aol.com>; jimmy smith <jabez1950@gmail.com>;

sharon heist <indhistorian@yahoo.com>

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Yulanda Burgess

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From: decherd2@hotmail.com

To: yulandab@msn.com; fred.prouty@tn.gov

CC: normhill1@msn.com; hsojr@bellsouth.net; moverton@mtemc.com;

escaped886@yahoo.com; hiwinston@aol.com; 4shirley@bellsouth.net;

gsrandall@bellsouth.net; nh5242@aol.com; jabez1950@gmail.com; indhistorian@yahoo.com

Subject: RE: Fort Pillow Commemoration for 2014 Inquiry

Date: Tue, 17 Sep 2013 01:39:59 +0000

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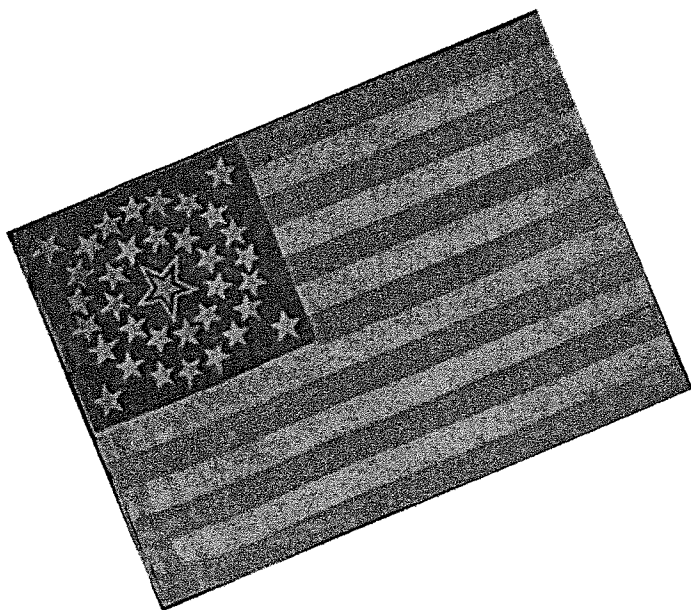
We must observe this significant moment as a tribute to the important role that individuals of African Descent played in making this country the land of the free.

George Smith, Corporal

13th USCT

Living historian

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## *A Plea To Remember Fort Pillow*

**150th Anniversary  
Commemorating and Honoring  
The Men, Women and Children  
Garrisoned at Fort Pillow on April 12, 1864**

**An Invitation to  
SAVE THE DATES  
April 11-12, 2014**

**Fort Pillow State Historic Park  
3122 Park Road  
Henning, Tennessee 38041**

The State of Tennessee Historical Commission and its agency, the Tennessee Wars Commission, have not publicly announced any plans to officially observe the 150th Anniversary of Fort Pillow. However, there is a possibility for some type of observation based on a recent a conversation between a USCT descendant and the director of the agency. Therefore, this is a personal invitation -- *with no connection nor speaking on behalf of the Tennessee Historical Commission, its agencies, or the Fort Pillow State Historic Park* -- to join descendants on April 11-12, 2014, to remember their ancestors who were garrisoned at Fort Pillow on April 12, 1864.

If you would like to encourage the Tennessee Historical Commission to officially "Remember Fort Pillow" please write them directly at:

Tennessee Historical Commission  
and Tennessee Wars Commission  
2941 Lebanon Road, Nashville, TN 37243-0442  
email: Ask.TDEC@tn.gov

If you are a Tennessee resident, you are encouraged to write your Tennessee legislature to ensure that this date is not forgotten by this generation. Also, many of the men with the USCT artillery were from Alabama, Mississippi, and Arkansas, therefore you should approach your congress person to have their native sons remembered.

Tentative plans being organized by the descendants of Fort Pillow include a reception on Friday, April 11, 2014, and a prayer and liturgical service on April 12, 2014. Accommodations are being explored for either in Ripley or Covington, Tennessee. The reception target is in Henning, Tennessee. If and when the State of Tennessee officially makes plans to observe this date, the descendants will fall in line with those official plans.

More information will be forthcoming. If you would like to keep informed, please email:  
RememberFortPillow1864@yahoo.com  
Information will also be posted on the USCTLHA Yahoo Discussion Board at  
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/usctbrigade/>

**Please don't let April 12, 2014, pass with a whisper and lack of forethought.**

**RE: Fort Pillow Commemoration for 2014 Inquiry**

Fred Prouty <Fred.Prouty@tn.gov>  
Tue 9/17/2013, 2:34 PM  
To: Yulanda Burgess <yulandab@msn.com>

Fred M. Prouty  
Director of Programs  
Tennessee Wars Commission  
2941 Lebanon Road  
Nashville, TN 37214  
615-532-1550  
[Fred.Prouty@tn.gov](mailto:Fred.Prouty@tn.gov)  
fax 615-532-1549  
<http://www.tnhistoricalcommission.org>

---

**From:** Yulanda Burgess [yulandab@msn.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, September 16, 2013 1:02 PM  
**To:** Fred Prouty  
**Subject:** RE: Fort Pillow Commemoration for 2014 Inquiry

Yulanda Burgess  
10857 Lakepointe  
Detroit, MI 48224-  
1701  
313/910-0410  
[yulandab@msn.com](mailto:yulandab@msn.com)

September 16, 2013

Via Email, Only: [Fred.Prouty@tn.gov](mailto:Fred.Prouty@tn.gov)

Mr. Fred Prouty, Military Sites Preservation Specialist  
[Tennessee Historical Commission](http://www.tnhistoricalcommission.org)  
Tennessee Wars Commission  
2941 Lebanon Pike, Nashville, TN 37214

RE: Fort Pillow Commemoration – April 2013

Dear Mr. Prouty,

I write to inquiry if there has been progress on commemorating the incidents of Fort Pillow as part of Tennessee's 150th Civil War observations on April 12, 2014. I write on behalf of two families. Since we last spoke, I had the pleasure to meet another descendant of the Fort Piliow massacre.

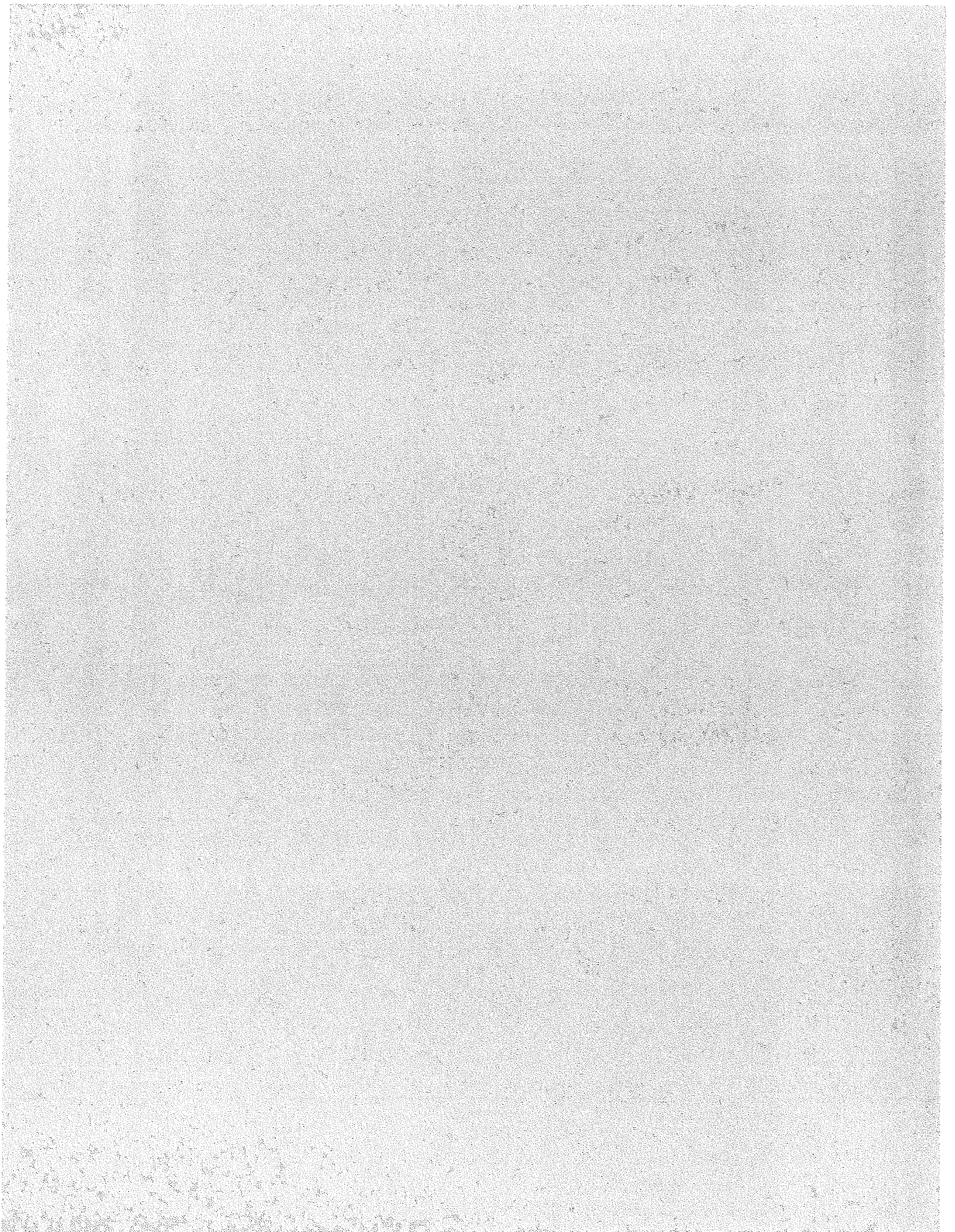
Joe Williams is the great grandson of Peter Williams who, like my great grandfather sustained injuries but suvived Fort Pillow. Pvt. Williams was a native of Tennessee and continued to reside in Tennessee after the war. Joe has done extensive research and can provide information on the 6th USCHA who were taken prisoner. Additionally, Joe has a photograph of Pvt. Peter Williams -- probably the only known photograph of a member of the 6th USCHA. The photograph is in poor condition and in need of restoration. Joe Williams can be contacted at 1270 Mulberry Road, Radcliff, Kentucky, 40160, tele: 270-312-9912.

Therefore, on behalf of the descendant's of Pvts. Peter Williams and Armstead Burgess, please provide an update on any information regarding commemorating the 150th anniversary of Fort Pillow. We are also interested in any preservation efforts being made for Fort Pillow.

I look forward to hearing from you soon. Please fell free to contact me by telephone or responsive email.

Sincerely yours,

/s/  
Yulanda Burgess



# **Attachment G**



# Tennessee Senate

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CLERK

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 178

By Tate

## A RESOLUTION

to honor the memory of the African-American soldiers who died at Fort Pillow on April 12, 1864.

WHEREAS, from the founding of the United States of America, African Americans have bravely served their country in combat, despite often having to endure racism, discrimination, segregation, and inhumane conditions; and

WHEREAS, some 154 years ago during the Civil War, a shameful episode in our nation's history occurred when African-American Union soldiers were slaughtered while attempting to surrender during The Battle of Fort Pillow; and

WHEREAS, on April 12, 1864, Major General Nathan Bedford Forrest's Confederate cavalrymen attacked the isolated Union garrison at Fort Pillow in West Tennessee, which overlooked the Mississippi River; and

WHEREAS, of the 500-600-strong Union garrison defending Fort Pillow, more than one-half of the soldiers were African American; and

WHEREAS, after an initial bombardment, General Forrest asked for the badly outmanned garrison to surrender; the Union commander hesitated, hoping for support from Union ships approaching Fort Pillow via the Mississippi River; General Forrest, suspicious of the delay, then ordered the Confederate troops to attack; and

WHEREAS, the 1,500-2,500 Confederate cavalry troopers easily stormed and captured Fort Pillow; as the battle raged inside the fort walls, the situation degenerated into chaos, and command and control on both sides vanished; and

WHEREAS, the Confederate Army's conduct after the battle was quickly called into question; between 277 and 295 Union troops, most of whom were African American, were killed in total, and another 100-plus seriously wounded, while Confederate losses numbered only fourteen soldiers; and

WHEREAS, statistics reported by Encyclopaedia Britannica indicate that twice as many Union soldiers were killed during the battle than were wounded, an inverse ratio for Civil War battles, and only twenty percent of the black soldiers present were taken prisoner, while sixty percent of the white soldiers were captured; and

WHEREAS, both Union and Confederate eyewitnesses reported that an unknown number of African-American soldiers were gunned down while attempting to surrender; many were shot as they fled, while others drowned in the Mississippi River; and

WHEREAS, Confederate sympathizers averred that the incident never occurred, and the report of the Congressional committee investigating this brutal episode had a decidedly pro-Union propagandist slant; still, the vast majority of historians are convinced that a massacre did indeed take place; and

WHEREAS, like the Alamo a generation earlier, the Fort Pillow massacre became a rallying cry for African Americans as they fought for their independence via the abolition of slavery; and

WHEREAS, the incident served to harden the resolve of African-American soldiers, and "Remember Fort Pillow!" became their battle cry; and

WHEREAS, the Fort Pillow massacre should be commemorated to remind us of man's inhumanity to man and the horrific aftermath of war and to encourage us to seek peace, understanding, and equality among all people, regardless of race, creed, or religion; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED TENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we solemnly honor the memory of the African-American soldiers who died at Fort Pillow on April 12, 1864, reflecting upon the courage and resolve they displayed while serving their country.

Adopted: April 17, 2018

  
Senator Reginald Tate

  
Speaker of the Senate



SENATE RESOLUTION 178

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WHEREAS, the Fort Pillow massacre should be commemorated to remind us of man's inhumanity to man and the horrific aftermath of war and to encourage us to seek peace, understanding, and equality among all people, regardless of race, creed, or religion; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED TENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we solemnly honor the memory of the African-American soldiers who died at Fort Pillow on April 12, 1864, reflecting upon the courage and resolve they displayed while serving their country.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.