

March 15, 2026



## CASEMATE MUSEUM FOUNDATION NEWS

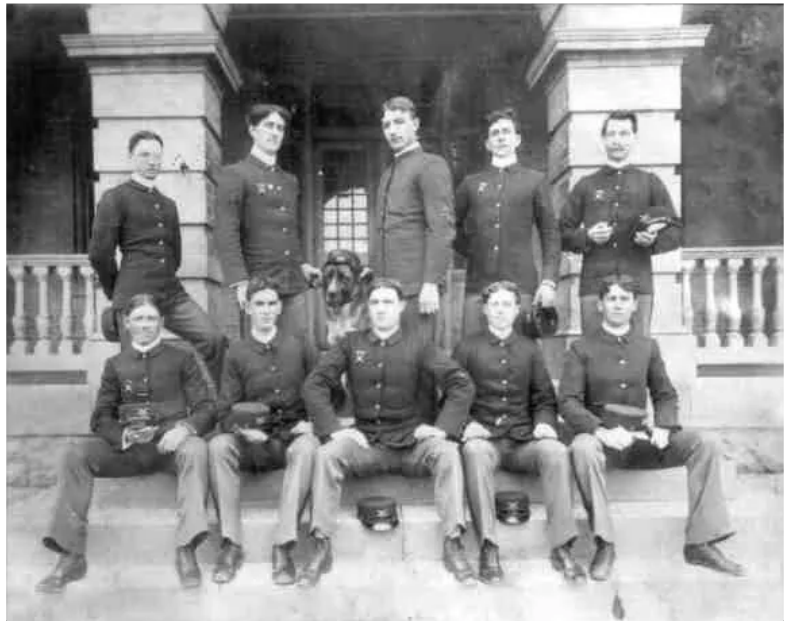


### A MOVIE STAR STATIONED AT FORT MONROE?

Most silent film actors are now long forgotten, but cowboy star Tom Mix is one of the rare exceptions. Even people who have never seen any of his films recognize the name, but how many of them know that Mix spent part of his Army enlistment at Fort Monroe?

Thomas Hezikiah Mix was born on January 6, 1880, in Mix Run, Pennsylvania, a considerable distance from the Wild West. However, his love of horses developed from an early age, so his riding and roping skills (unlike most “facts” in his official studio biography) were genuine.

In April 1898 Mix enlisted in the U.S. Army, no doubt anxious to fight in the War with Spain. That conflict ended rather abruptly and, contrary to some accounts, the young soldier was never involved in any combat situations overseas. On April 13, 1899, 1st Sergeant Tom Mix arrived at Fort Monroe to join the newly created Battery O, 4th Artillery Regiment. On June 24, 1900, he and his unit were transferred to Fort Hancock, New Jersey. Tom reenlisted in April 1901 with the 48th Company, Coast Artillery Corps (see group photo, 1st Sgt. Mix front and center).



Tom found himself back at Fort Monroe in 1902 for summer training with the 48th Company. During that stay, he began a whirlwind courtship with a Norfolk girl, Grace Allin, and married her on July 18, 1902. For reasons unknown, Grace remained in Norfolk after Tom returned to Fort Hancock but let him know that long-distance marriage did not suit her. On October 20, 1902, Tom left his duty station on a five-day furlough and never returned. What happened? (To be continued)

## FORT MONROE - MARCH 2026 FREE PROGRAMS & TOURS

<b>FRIDAYS</b> 12:00 pm	<b>Shoulder to Shoulder: Women's History Month Tour</b> 1-hour guided walking tour. Starts inside the Visitor & Education Center.
<b>SAT MAR 7</b> 10:00 am - 4:00 pm	<b>Living History Program, The Battle of Hampton Roads</b> Enjoy a chance to engage with living historians who portray a company of Union soldiers who were stationed at Fort Monroe during the Civil War. Located outside the Casemate Museum.
<b>FRI MAR 20</b> 7:30 pm - 10:30 pm	<b>Night Skies: Galaxies and Star Clusters</b> Stargazing program, no experience or equipment needed. Event is weather dependent. Takes place at the North End of Walker Airfield.
<b>SAT MAR 21</b> 11:00 am	<b>Tree Tour of Fort Monroe-Whirligigs and Cauliflory: Eccentric Spring Flowers</b> 45 minute walk exploring the variety of trees inside the fort. The tour will start at the entrance to the Casemate Museum.
<b>FRI MAR 27</b> 8:00 am - 10:00 am	<b>Fort Monroe Bird Walk</b> Fort Monroe is at a convergence of the Atlantic Flyways allowing for some excellent birding year round. Begins at the Visitor & Education Center
<b>SAT MAR 28</b> 9:00 am - 5:00 pm	<b>Garrison Life</b> Living History program including Black Powder Firing, Infantry and Cavalry demonstrations. Located on Fort Monroe Parade Ground.
<b>SUN MAR 29</b> 9:00 am - 3:00 pm	

### Monthly Reoccurring Programs

<b>FRIDAYS IN MARCH</b> 12:30 pm - 4:00 pm	<b>Living History + the Fort Monroe Canoe Project</b> Join Living History interpreters Fallon Burner and Russell Reed to learn about tribal life in the eastern woodlands and see the progress on a dugout canoe. Located outside the Casemate Museum.
<b>WED MARCH 25 &amp; THURS MARCH 26</b> 11:00 am	<b>Gibraltar of the Chesapeake and the Building of a Nation</b> 45-minute guided walking tour. Learn about the role of the "Gibraltar of the Chesapeake" in local and national defense. Starts outside the Casemate Museum.
<b>THURS MARCH 26</b> 1:00 pm	<b>Finding "Freedom's Fortress"</b> 1-hr guided walking tour. Learn why Fort Monroe is called "Freedom's Fortress." Starts outside the Casemate Museum.
<b>WED MARCH 25</b> 1:00 pm	<b>From the Ground Up</b> 1-hr guided walking tour. Learn about some of the individually listed buildings on the National Register. Starts outside the Casemate Museum.

**For More Information on Events and Tours check out the website Events Calendar!**



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