



CASEMATE MUSEUM FOUNDATION NEWS



MEET THE NEW FOUNDATION LEADERSHIP TEAM

The Casemate Museum Foundation recently held elections of Officers for the 2026-2028 term. All of the Officers were elected unanimously by the Board of Directors. All four have extensive leadership experience and in museum oversight.



**Charles
Cureton
President**

Charlie is a museum professional and has extensive experience in leadership roles overseeing Army museums. He is a former Director of Army Museums overseeing more than 60 museums worldwide and was a key player in the design and development of the National Museum of the United States Army.



**David
Johnson
Vice President**

Dave is a museum professional who worked at the Casemate Museum for many years as an Army civilian employee. He is the co-author of the book *Fort Monroe, Images of America* and a past president of the Fort Monroe Historical Society.



**Nancy
Omalley
Treasurer**

Nancy has held the Treasurer's position for many years. She has been a Casemate museum volunteer and tour guide for many years. She has a wealth of experience leading large and small teams developing training products for the Army.



**Margaret
Seitz
Secretary**

Margaret Seitz has been the Foundation Secretary for many years. She is a volunteer at the Hampton Library, the Library gift shop and her church. She is a retired Army Lieutenant Colonel and has been a member of the Board Director for many years.

THE TOM MIX SAGA, PART 2

In October 1902, 1st Sergeant Tom Mix deserted from his post at Fort Hancock, New Jersey, to save his marriage to Grace Allin of Norfolk. However, her father objected to having a felon for a son-in-law and managed to have the union annulled. Fortunately for Tom, the U.S. Army never made any serious attempt to arrest him at that time and later forgot about his offense. Tom was free to add four more wives to his biography,

After several years of drifting around the Southwest, he finally found his true calling in Southern California. In 1909 he began working in the film industry as a stunt rider and then as an actor. By the early 1920s he was a highly paid star with the Fox Film Corporation. Unlike his Western rival William S. Hart, Tom wasn't interested in authenticity—his movies sometimes made use of airplanes and automobiles. His famous horse Tony often received equal billing.

In 1933 Tom allowed the use of his name in a children's radio program, *The Tom Mix Straight Shooters*, although he never appeared on the show. In fact, each episode ended with the announcement that “Tom Mix is impersonated.” Two years later, in his mid-fifties, he made his final film, a low-budget serial entitled *The Miracle Rider*.



On October 12, 1940, after visiting friends in Tucson, Tom drove north in his prized 1937 Cord Phaeton (see photo) at excessive speeds. Near Florence, Arizona, he made a wrong turn and came upon a bridge undergoing repairs. He hit the brakes and lost control of the convertible, which left the highway and turned over. It is believed that a heavy metal suitcase stowed

in the back seat flew forward, smashing into the back of his head and possibly breaking his neck. He was sixty years old. Ironically, the radio program that bore his name continued to be broadcast until 1951.

March 15, 2026



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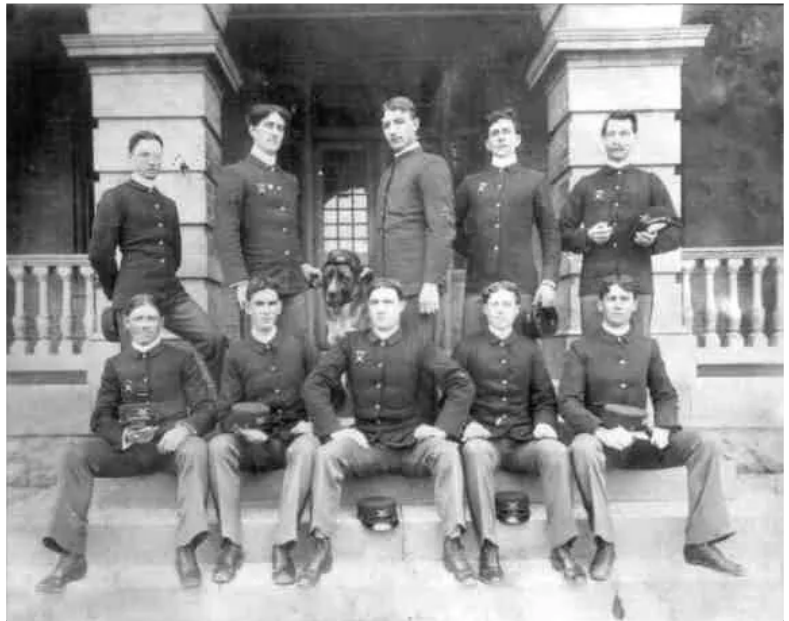


A MOVIE STAR STATIONED AT FORT MONROE?

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

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

Monthly Reoccurring Programs

FRIDAYS IN MARCH 12:30 pm - 4:00 pm	Living History + the Fort Monroe Canoe Project 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.
WED MARCH 25 & THURS MARCH 26 11:00 am	Gibraltar of the Chesapeake and the Building of a Nation 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.
THURS MARCH 26 1:00 pm	Finding "Freedom's Fortress" 1-hr guided walking tour. Learn why Fort Monroe is called "Freedom's Fortress." Starts outside the Casemate Museum.
WED MARCH 25 1:00 pm	From the Ground Up 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!



757 - 690 - 8181
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www.fortmonroe.org
www.nps.gov/fomr



February 1, 2026



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FORT MONROE TROOPS IN TEXAS??

After ruling Mexico since 1876, President Porfirio Diaz announced that he would not run for another term in 1910 but then changed his mind and imprisoned his main rival, Francisco Madero, who called for an armed insurrection to oust Diaz. When clashes occurred between his supporters and the Federales near the U.S. border, President William Howard Taft authorized sending reinforcements to Texas.

At Fort Monroe the 6th, 35th, 41st, 69th, and 73rd Companies, Coast Artillery Corps, were ordered to participate in this action. On March 11, 1911, they assembled at the Old Point Comfort wharf (see photo) and boarded the Army troop transport Kilpatrick for a voyage around the Florida Keys and across the Gulf of Mexico to Galveston. From there they moved to nearby Fort Crockett, a Coast Artillery installation, and set up a tent camp.



These companies now formed the bulk of the 2nd Provisional Regiment, which would function as an infantry unit if needed at or across the border with Mexico

(which was a considerable distance away). Therefore, these heavy artillery gunners would spend most of their time training to become foot soldiers. The weather was not always cooperative and often turned their campground into a muddy field.

Fortunately, tensions in Mexico eased dramatically after Diaz resigned and was replaced by an interim government. The Fort Monroe companies were released from this temporary duty and departed from Galveston on board the transport Sumner. They arrived at Old Point Comfort on July 10, 1911, having completed their mission without firing a shot.

FUN FACTS ABOUT THE CASEMATE MUSEUM GIFT SHOP

MANAGED BY THE CASEMATE MUSEUM FOUNDATION

STAFFED BY A VOLUNTEER MANAGER AND THREE SALES ASSOCIATES

SELLING UNIQUE ITEMS RELATED TO FORT MONROE'S HISTORY

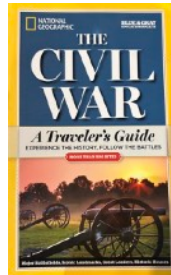
PROFITS SUPPORT THE CASEMATE MUSEUM

2025 SALES REVENUE EXCEEDED \$53,000



COME VISIT US!!

CIVIL WAR REPLICAS:
SWORDS
MODELS
UNION CURRENCY
HATS AND KEPI
BULLETS

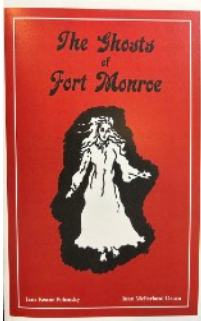


POSTCARDS:
35 DIFFERENT HISTORICAL TYPES
SOLD OVER 1,700 IN 2025

CHILDRENS:
COLORING BOOKS
COMIC BOOKS
GAMES
PUZZLES



BOOKS:
59 DIFFERENT BOOKS
CIVIL WAR BOOKS
COOKBOOKS
GHOST STORIES



JEWELRY:
CHARMS
EARRINGS
BRACELETS
ANKLETS



**PAMUNKEY INDIAN
CRAFTS**

Gift Shop Seasonal Schedule

Hours: 10:00AM-4:00PM

February: Weekends only

March: Friday-Saturday-Sunday

April-May: 4 days per week

June-September: 6 days per week

October-November: 3 days per week

December: Weekends only

January: Closed

Check Website for Up-to-Date Information



JOB OPPORTUNITY

Part Time Gift Shop Sales Associate

Join two current Sales Associates to complete the team. Work 1-4 days per week depending on the season. January off.

Know of anyone interested? Contact Bob Seger at 757-206-1674.