

**March 26, 1863 - Pressing slaves to work on Fort Negley; an excerpt from the diary of John Hill Fergusson, 10th Illinois Volunteer Infantry**



Nashville Tennessee March 26th 1863

The morning cold the day pleasant. . . . had dress puraid and battalion drill at 1/2 past 4 P. M . . . part of our company and company F volunteered to go out with the sergeant Major of the contraband camp to gather up a squad of negros they went up town had some brandy pressed some city stage cotches road out some 3 miles pressed an Irish man[.] the Irish man was mad struck at the Sergt Major the Sergt Major hit him a few times with the but of his whip cutting his head up pritty badly 3 or fore of the boys leveled there guns and would a shot him only for the Sergt they had to use the baynet to force the negros along the fortifications Sergt Magor treated the boys to the amount of 7 dollars in some thing to drink tobacco Secegars & c and gave them a 5 dollar green back to treet them selves at another time they brought into camp about 30 darkies to work on our fortifications & c.



John Hill Fergusson Diary, Book 3.