

# SUVCW

**FORT DONELSON CAMP No. 62**  
**Volume 14 Issue No. 1 Winter 2008**

## Battle of Fort Donelson

In February 1862, General Ulysses S. Grant, a native Ohioan, led a Union force that captured Fort Donelson from the Confederacy. Located in Tennessee, Fort Donelson guarded the Cumberland River.

Following his victory at Fort Henry on the Tennessee River, Grant marched his troops to Fort Donelson. The Northerners arrived on February 12, 1862. The next day, a Union gunboat opened fire on the fort but did minimal damage to the structure. That evening additional ships and soldiers arrived, giving Grant almost a three to one advantage in the number of men available for a fight. The Union ships bombarded the Confederate position on February 14, but the ships again failed to achieve any major progress.

On February 15, Confederate soldiers attacked the Northern infantrymen. Although the Southerners had some initial success, Grant's men regrouped and occupied part of Fort Donelson's outer defenses along the Confederate right flank. That night, many of the Confederate soldiers fled from the fort, leaving a small number of men under Brigadier-General Simon Buckner's command. On the morning of February 16, Buckner sent a message to Grant, requesting surrender terms. Grant replied with, "No terms except an unconditional and immediate surrender can be accepted." Grant's response earned him the nickname "Unconditional Surrender Grant" and helped make him a hero in the North. Vastly outnumbered, the Confederates immediately surrendered

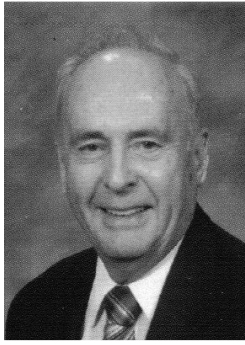
and gave the Union control of much of the Cumberland River.

On the afternoon of February 16, Grant and Buckner met to formalize the surrender. These two men had attended the United States Military Academy at West Point together and were good friends. Grant even paid Buckner some money to settle an old debt that he owed the Southerner at this meeting. Despite the Northerner's victory, Buckner and Grant stayed friends for the rest of their lives. Buckner served as a pallbearer at Grant's funeral.



Portrait of Lieutenant General Ulysses S. Grant  
 ca. 1864-1865.

From *Ohio History Central*  
<http://www.ohiohistorycentral.org/entry.php>



**Camp Commander  
&  
Newsletter Editor**

**Sam C. Gant**

**Civil War Lineage:**

Grandfather: Pvt. Samuel C. Gant, 161<sup>st</sup> O.V.I.  
Fifteen other ancestral family members served  
in the Union Army

**SUVCW Service:**

Member, Fort Donelson Camp -since Jan 2005  
Patriotic Instructor, Dept of TN – 2005  
Junior Vice Commander, Dept of TN – 2006-07  
Recipient: SUVCW Meritorious Service Award  
(Gen. Order #14) – 2007

**Other Volunteer Service:**

Concord Road church of Christ – Elder  
Save The Franklin Battlefield, Inc. – Secretary  
Heritage Foundation – Editing & proofreading  
Williamson County Historical Society – Marker  
Committee

**Speaker:**

D.A.R., U.D.C., STFB, Brentwood Historical  
Seniors, Franklin Senior Citizens, & others

**Professional:**

Retired – Professor of History, *emeritus*  
Nashville State Community College

**SUVCW NATIONAL GRAVE REGISTRATION**

**Pvt. Samuel C. Gant**

Grandfather of Brother Sam Gant



Samuel Campbell Gant, b. 28 April 1833, d. 12  
July 1915. Private, Co. C, 161<sup>st</sup> Ohio Inf.  
Enlisted: 2 May 1864; Discharged: 2 Sept.  
1864. Buried: Limestone Hill Cemetery,  
Rockport, Wood County, West Virginia

**Camp Commander's Message**

Thank you for entrusting me with the command  
of SUVCW Fort Donelson Camp No. 62.  
Although coming to the command through  
default, I will take the charge seriously. Since I  
am a novice at this post, there is much that I  
do not know about the responsibilities and  
protocol, but I hope to be able to call upon  
many of you for help and advice.

The success of the Camp over the next few  
months will depend on each brother and our  
desire to bring honor to our Civil War ancestors  
who suffered untold hardships, sacrificed their  
health, shed their blood, and laid down their  
lives that we may have the unity and freedom  
of today.

In 2008, Camp No. 62 will concentrate on  
honoring the Civil War service of ancestral  
family members of the brothers of the Camp  
and on promoting awareness of the battles and  
battle sites within the areas of Tennessee  
where members of the Camp reside

Ways in which we may honor our Civil War  
ancestors include sharing information about  
their service and by registering their service  
information and burial sites in the SUVCW  
Grave Registration. We will place in the  
Newsletter the information on those Civil War  
ancestors registered. JVC Andrew Duffel will  
coordinate this registration process. A second  
way to honor these ancestors is by publishing  
brief sketches of their Civil War service.

For Middle Tennessee, as space permits, we  
will focus on the battles and battle sites from  
the Battles of Fort Donelson, Shiloh,  
Murfreesboro, Thompson's Station, Parker's  
Crossroads, Spring Hill, Franklin, and  
Nashville, with occasional references to  
skirmishes or other incidents in these areas.  
We also will include information from battles in  
West Tennessee as our brothers from that  
area supply us with information.

Plans are in progress for a spring meeting for  
the Fort Donelson Camp No. 62. If the plans  
materialize as projected, the meeting and  
program should be well worth the drive for  
those brothers in more distant areas.

In Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty,

Sam Gant, Camp Commander

## News in Review

**Preservation March to Benefit Battlefields — HALLOWED GROUND — Winter 2007 — WASHINGTON** — From November 1-2, 2008, authentic-minded reenactors will march across the Virginia countryside for endangered battlefields. All funds raised will benefit battlefield acquisition at Fredericksburg, Va., Franklin, Tenn., and Wilson's Creek, Mo. Forty percent will go to Fredericksburg's Slaughter Pen Farm, 30 percent will go to Franklin, 20 percent will go to Wilson's Creek, and the remaining 10 percent will help protect Loudoun County's Civil War sites.

**Carter House gets grant for new center — Franklin Review Appeal — 12/12/07 — FRANKLIN** — Carter House officials announced the plans for a \$4.5 million interpretative center — and a \$1.2 million state grant to jump-start the project — at the house museum on Nov. 30, the 143<sup>rd</sup> anniversary of the Battle of Franklin. A new visitors center will be created inside the old Optimist Club gymnasium, which was part of the original Franklin High School. Also, an up-to-date interpretive center that immerses visitors in what life in Franklin in 1864 was like, and specifically what the fighting was like.



13<sup>th</sup> U.S.C.T. at Fort Negley Visitor Center Dedication

**Center tells Fort Negley's story — The Tennessean — 12/14/07 — NASHVILLE** — A new visitors center opened Saturday, December 14, at Fort Negley, where Union troops fired some of the first shots of the Battle of Nashville. The battle on Dec. 15-16, 1864, helped decide the Civil War in the Union's favor, as Northern soldiers routed their Confederate opponents. The fort was closed to the public for about 60 years before reopening in 2004 with a \$1 million interpretive trail and boardwalk, which leads to the top of a hill. Now, the \$1 million, taxpayer-funded visitors center at the base of the hill, with touch-screen displays and war photos, will give visitors more opportunities to learn about the war — and Nashville's central role in it.

## Civil War Service

**Col. (Brev. Brig. Gen.) James P. Brownlow, 1<sup>st</sup> Tenn. Cav., U.S.**

Col. Brownlow commanded the 1<sup>st</sup> Tenn. Cav., U.S., in a Sept. 1864 skirmish against a division of Wheeler's cavalry commanded by Brig. Gen. John H. Kelly. In this cavalry clash, about 5 miles south of Franklin, Tennessee, Gen. Kelly was mortally wounded and Col. Brownlow was "shot through the body," but he recovered. Brownlow received his brevet Brigadier General commission in April 1865 and served as Adjutant General, State of Tennessee, under his father, Gov. "Parson" W.G. Brownlow.

Following the War, Gen. Brownlow lived in Franklin, Tennessee, where he was held in high regard by the community. At his death, a proclamation stated, in part, "He came to us during the war a stranger and an enemy, holding the rank of Colonel in the Federal army. Even while occupying this relation he won the admiration of our soldiers for his valor, and the kindness and justice to non-combatants. He was thoroughly imbued with the courage and chivalry of the Tennessean. He lived long enough with us after the war to change our esteem and respect into affection."

Prominent members of the Franklin community, all Confederate veterans, served as pallbearers escorting Gen. Brownlow's body from the depot. He is buried in Rest Haven Cemetery, Franklin, Tennessee.

**Lieut. Col. George W. Grummond, 14<sup>th</sup> Regiment, Michigan Infantry. 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieut., 18<sup>th</sup> Regiment, U.S. Infantry**

Lieut. Col. Grummond served as Provost Marshal during the Union occupation of Franklin, Tennessee. Later he commanded the 14<sup>th</sup> MI in the Campaign of the Carolinas. Following his discharge from the 14<sup>th</sup> MI, he was commissioned a 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant in the 18<sup>th</sup> Reg., U.S. Infantry. He was assigned to Fort Phil Kearny, WY. On Dec. 21, 1866, under the command of Capt. Fetterman, Grummond led a cavalry attack against the warriors of White Cloud. The entire detachment was killed in what became known as the "Fetterman Massacre." Grummond's widow, Frances Courtney Grummond had her husband's frozen body shipped back to her hometown, Franklin, to be buried in Rest Haven Cemetery.

### Civil War Action

31 Dec 1862 - 2 Jan 1863 — Battle of Stones River  
1 Jan 1863 — Lincoln signs *Emancipation Proclamation*  
8 Jan 1863 — CSA captures US gunboat, *Hastings*, at the Harpeth Shoals on the Cumberland River  
12 Jan 1863 — CSA captures and burns US gunboat, *Charter*, on the Cumberland River near Ashland City  
22 Jan 1862 — *USS Lexington* bombards Fort Henry  
2 Feb 1863 — CSA cavalry attacks Fort Donelson  
2 Feb 1863 — Federals occupy Franklin  
6 Feb 1862 — Fort Henry falls to Grant's Union Army  
13 Feb 1865 — John Bell Hood resigns as commander of the Army of Tennessee  
13-16 Feb 1862 — Battle of Fort Donelson  
19 Feb 1862 — Federal forces occupy Clarksville  
20 Feb 1862 — Tenn. State Capitol relocated to Memphis  
23 Feb 1862 — Lincoln names Andrew Johnson Military Governor of Tennessee  
25 Feb 1862 — Union forces occupy Nashville  
4-5 Mar 1863 — Battle of Thompson's Station  
5 Mar 1863 — Construction begun on Triune earthworks  
6 Mar 1863 — US Gen. Granger, commanding at Franklin, begins building fortifications  
17 Mar 1864 — Gen. Grant, while in Nashville, assumes command of the Armies of the United States  
25 Mar 1863 — Battle of Brentwood

### Upcoming Events

#### **The Department of Tennessee SUVCW**

13<sup>th</sup> Annual Department Encampment,  
Montgomery, Alabama  
Saturday, January 26<sup>th</sup> 2008

#### **Fort Donelson National Battlefield:**

Feb. 16, 10:00 a.m. & 2:00 p.m.—Generals Grant & Buckner re-enact the surrender scene aboard the *USS New Uncle Sam*

Feb. 16, 10 a.m. until 4 p.m.— 50<sup>th</sup> TN Inf. (CSA) portray camp & soldier life during 1862 Battle  
Feb. 17, 1:30—Re-creation of Fort Donelson surrender at the Dover Hotel

Mar. 1 & 2, 10 a.m. until 4 p.m.—9<sup>th</sup> KY Inf. (USA) portray camp & soldier life during 1862 Battle  
Musket firing demonstrations at 1:00 & 2:00

**2008 dues have been received from one-half the Fort Donelson Camp # 62 membership and trust that the remainder will be received soon. Checks payable to: David L. Eagan**



*Fort Donelson Camp # 62  
Sons of Union Veterans  
of the Civil War*

### CAMP OFFICERS

#### **Sam C. Gant**

Camp Commander  
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#### **Ronald C. Powell, Sr.**

Senior Vice Commander  
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#### **Andrew J. Duffel, PCC**

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#### **Edward J. Duffel, PDC**

Camp Council, Historian  
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Franklin, TN 37067**

**Return Service Requested**