

From Harpers Weekly

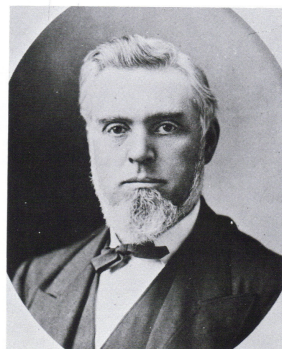
# SUVCW

**FORT DONELSON CAMP No. 62**  
Volume 14 Issue No. 3 Summer 2008

## The Battle of Hoover's Gap

For six months after the Battle of Murfreesboro, Gen. William S. Rosecrans's Union Army of the Cumberland and Gen. Braxton Bragg's Confederate Army of Tennessee were positioned within 20 miles of each other. Neither had been very aggressive. Despite urgent pleadings from Washington to move south toward Chattanooga, Rosecrans had taken his time to get everything ready for one of the most brilliantly conceived and conducted campaigns of the war. Between the two armies was a ridge that was pierced by four gaps, all defended by entrenched Rebels. Rosecrans decided to make a feint toward the western gaps and then plunge his army through the easternmost one, Hoover's Gap.

Leading the army to the 3-mile-long Hoover's Gap on the rain-soaked morning of June 24, 1863, was a brigade of 2,000 mounted infantry men, led by Col. John T. Wilder. The infantrymen



John T. Wilder. (U.S. Signal Corps Photo)

were armed with seven-shot Spencer repeating rifles. Their instructions were to enter the gap at a trot, seize the enemy pickets, and then wait for infantry reinforcements before moving on through. Instead, Wilder led his men into Hoover's Gap at gallop and swept the enemy before them. They raced the three miles through

the gap and stopped only when they came to the exit on the other side. Then Wilder's brigade dismounted and used their repeating rifles and the six cannon that had managed to keep up with them to repulse repeated determined assaults by two Confederate brigades. The assaults continued until 7:00 pm, when Union reinforcements finally caught up with Wilder's troops.



Spencer Carbine

The secret of Wilder's success was the heavy fire his men were able to lay down with their repeaters. They were the first of the western armies to be equipped with the modern weapons. A member of the brigade wrote his wife: "Our men adore them as the heathen do their idols." The Confederates, who outnumbered Wilder's men many times over, thought they were facing a "vastly superior force," so great was the volume of fire aimed at them.

**Fascinating Fact:** When corps commander Gen. George Thomas arrived at the scene, he rushed up to Wilder and grabbed his hand, saying: "You have saved the lives of a thousand men by your gallant conduct today. I didn't expect to get this gap for three days."

Battles And Campaigns – 1863  
<http://civilwar.bluegrass.net/battles-campaigns/1863/index.html>

## CAMP COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

For the success of the 19 April Camp meeting, I wish to thank the FDC62 members, the guests from other camps, other guests, and Mr. Lincoln. Several members in attendance have already put into place projects beneficial to the Camp.

David DuBurq has produced an excellent, colorful camp logo. But, even more significant for the Camp, Brother DuBurq is organizing an SVR unit. The uniformed detachment will be a great asset to FDC62. George A. Huttick, the Camp Graves Registry Officer, has launched an FDC62 web site. You may access the web site at [tnsuvcw.org](http://tnsuvcw.org). The web site will be an outstanding informational, PR, and recruiting tool. Trent Johnson has proposed an FDC62 table at the 7 Dec. Civil War Show. This will provide further PR and recruiting.

Brother Richard Sherlock's *Drifting to Glory*, a historical novel on his g-g-grandfather's Civil War service, is both enjoyable and informative. A need-to-read

SUVCW grave registration remains a priority. At this point, ten FDC62 brothers have submitted ancestors for registration or as previously registered. We urge all members to honor your ancestors' CW service by registering their resting place

In Fraternity, Charity and Loyalty,

*Sam Gant*

## Fort Donelson Camp #62 American Flag



*This is to certify that the accompanying flag was flown over the United States Capitol on April 23, 2008. At the request of the Honorable Marsha Blackburn, Member of Congress, this flag was flown in honor of the Veterans of the Battle of Fort Donelson.*

## WELCOME!

### **NEW MEMBER:**

**James R. Hurst**  
**151 Oxford Court**  
**Clarksville, TN 37043**  
**Ancestor:** Great-Grandfather,  
William Hurst, Sgt., Co. E,  
11<sup>th</sup> Reg., OH Vol. Cav.



### **NEW ASSOCIATE MEMBER:**



**Richard Strickler**  
**420 Verandah Lane**  
**Franklin, TN 37064**

## Flag Marker Dedication for Gen. Brownlow and Lt. Col. Grummond

**FORT DONELSON CAMP # 62**  
**Dedication, 21 June 2008, 2:00 p.m.**  
**Rest Haven Cemetery, Franklin, TN**  
**Fourth Avenue, North**

Members of FDC62 and guests are invited to a Dedication Ceremony at 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, 21 June at Rest Haven Cemetery, 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue N., Franklin, TN. The dedication ceremony will honor Brig. Gen. James P. Brownlow and Lt. Col. George Grummond by placing G.A.R. flag holders and American flags on their graves. Prior to the dedication, at 1:00 p.m., everyone is welcome to come to Dotson's Restaurant, 99 E. Main Street, for lunch and a brief meeting. The Dedication coincides with the *FIGHTING FOR THE HEARTLAND* Symposium. Following the Dedication, all are invited to tour the Civil War living history event on the Eastern Flank Battlefield Park near Carnton Plantation.



Check out the FDC62  
new web site!

**[tnsuvcw.org](http://tnsuvcw.org)**

**Fort Donelson  
Camp # 62**



## SUVCW NATIONAL GRAVE REGISTRATION



**Sgt. John Crooks**  
Great-Great-Grandfather  
of Trent Johnson

John Crooks, b: 26 Sept. 1835,  
21 Mar. 1904. Sergeant, Co. I  
& C, 51<sup>st</sup> OH Vol. Inf.; Enlisted:  
21 April 1861; Discharged:  
3 October 1865. Buried: Cedar  
Hill Cemetery, Newark, Ohio

### **Civil War Service**

Sgt. John Crooks enlisted at Camp Jackson, Columbus, Ohio. He was slightly wounded at the Battle of Stones River and again at the Battle of Lookout Mountain. In summer 1865 the regiment was sent to Texas. Sgt. Crooks was detached along the San Antonio River in charge of gathering confiscated corn and cotton. He was discharged at Victoria, Texas.

**Pvt. L.B. (Byron) Danforth**

Great-Grandfather of Richard D. Sherlock

L. B. Danforth, b: 26 July 1842, d. 12 July 1915. Private, Co. I, 13<sup>th</sup> PA Reserve Corps, 42<sup>nd</sup> PA Vol. Inf. Enlisted: 30 May 1861; Discharged: 11 June 1864. Buried: Ceres Cemetery, Ceres, PA

### **Civil War Service**

Pvt. Byron Danforth was mustered in at Driftwood, PA into the Kane Rifle Regiment of the PA Reserve Corps which was referred to as the "Bucktails" from the deer tails worn on their caps. At Gettysburg, the Reserves battled Gen. John Bell Hood's Texas Brigade. Other battles the Reserves were engaged in included Antietam, 2<sup>nd</sup> Bull Run, Fredericksburg, Malvern Hill, The Wilderness, and Spotsylvania.

### ***Drifting to Glory***

A historic novel about the "Bucktails" and Byron Danforth by Brother Sherlock. For information on the book, contact Richard D. Sherlock at [ussmindoro@bellsouth.net](mailto:ussmindoro@bellsouth.net)

## 19 April Fort Granger Tour



Front row: George Michael Huttick, David Duburq, Kraig McNutt. Back row: George Andrew Huttick, Geoffrey Hintze (Taylor Camp), John Anderson (Farragut Camp), Sarah Anderson (D.U.V.), Norma Gant, Sam Gant, "Mr. Lincoln"-Dennis Boggs, Charles Engle (Byrd Camp), Roger Tenney, Jim Hurst, Ken Early (Wilson Camp), Commander, SUVCW Dept. of Tennessee.

***Our thanks to "Mr. Lincoln" –  
Dennis Boggs for donating his  
time and great talent to make  
the FDC62 meeting successful.***



**Roger Tenney & Jim Hurst,  
Sons of the American Revolution**

FDC62 brothers Tenney and Hurst took part in the Memorial Day Service, at Williamson County Veterans Park on 26 May 2008. This most moving event honored the veterans and those who have lost their lives in the wars which Americans have fought.



## ***Join the SVR***

**Contact**  
**David DuBurq**  
[sockettuem@earthlink.net](mailto:sockettuem@earthlink.net)

## **CIVIL WAR ACTION**

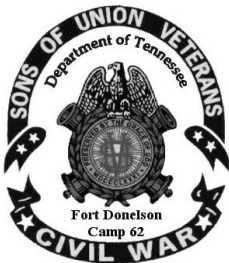
1-3 July 1863 — Battle of Gettysburg  
3 July 1863 — Federal occupy Winchester  
4 July 1863 — Besieged Vicksburg surrenders  
7 July 1863 — Bragg retreats to Chattanooga  
10 July 1862— 90 Confederates captured Gallatin  
17 July 1862 — Grant commands US Army of TN  
3-4 Aug 1864 — Skirmishing at Triune  
9 Aug 1863 — US Cavalry attacks CSA at Sparta  
16 Aug–22Sept 1863 – Chickamauga Campaign  
16 Aug–19 Oct 1863 –East Tennessee Campaign  
18 Aug 1862 — Confederate capture Clarksville  
21 Aug 1863 — Union bombards Chattanooga  
25 Aug 1862—CS Fort Donelson attack repulsed  
2 Sept 1863 — Union forces occupy Knoxville  
7 Sept 1862 — Clarksville retaken by Federals  
9 Sept 1863—Chattanooga occupied by Federals  
15 Sept 1961—Gen Albert Sidney Johnson takes command of the CS western forces  
16 Sept 1864 —Forrest begins his "Railroad War"  
20 Sept 1863 — Battle of Chickamauga  
21 Sept 1861—CS Gen. Johnston issues call for Tennessee to supply 30,000 CSA volunteers  
29 Sept 1861— US cavalry fires on CS troops at Travisville – 1<sup>st</sup> Civil War action in Tennessee  
30 Sept – Oct 17 Wheeler CS cavalry raids in Middle Tennessee

## **Upcoming Events: Fort Donelson Camp # 62**

Dedication Ceremony for Gen Brownlow and Lt Col Grummond, Franklin, TN, Rest Haven Cemetery, 2:00 p.m., 21 June — Lunch at 1:00 p.m.—Tour  
General Meeting, Stones River Battlefield Park, October 2008 – Details TBA  
Civil War Show Recruitment Table, Dec. 7  
SUVCW Department of Tennessee Annual Encampment, Spring Hill, TN, 31 January 2009  
Military Marker Dedication – Pvt. Moses Woosley (Tentative) Sadlersville, TN 16 May 2009

## **For Upcoming Battlefield Events, contact :**

**Fort Donelson National Battlefield** (931-232-5706)  
[www.nps.gov/fodo](http://www.nps.gov/fodo)  
**Stones River National Battlefield** (615-893-950)  
[www.nps.gov/stri](http://www.nps.gov/stri)  
**Shiloh National Military Park** (731-689-5696)  
[www.nps.gov/shil](http://www.nps.gov/shil)  
**Parkers Crossroads Battlefield** (731-986-5572)  
[www.nps.gov/hps/abpp/battles/tn011.htm](http://www.nps.gov/hps/abpp/battles/tn011.htm)  
**Carter House Franklin, TN:** (615-791-1861)  
[www.carter-house.org](http://www.carter-house.org)  
**Carnton Plantation, Franklin, TN** (615-794-0903)  
[www.carnton.org](http://www.carnton.org)  
*Fighting for the Heartland* Symposium, June 19-21  
Franklin, TN [www.franklinscharge.com](http://www.franklinscharge.com)



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

## **CAMP OFFICERS**

**Sam C. Gant**

Camp Commander  
Newsletter Editor  
[gant92ovi@yahoo.com](mailto:gant92ovi@yahoo.com)

**David L. Eagan**

Secretary/Treasurer  
[jede49@bellsouth.net](mailto:jede49@bellsouth.net)

**Trent D. Johnson**

Senior Vice Commander  
[tjohnson@storeopeningsolutions.com](mailto:tjohnson@storeopeningsolutions.com)

**Andrew J. Duffel, PCC**

Junior Vice Commander  
[ajduffel@aol.com](mailto:ajduffel@aol.com)

**Edward J. Duffel, PDC**

Camp Council, Historian  
[ejdtnsuvchw@aol.com](mailto:ejdtnsuvchw@aol.com)

**George A. Huttick**

Graves Registry Officer  
[GAHuttick@aol.com](mailto:GAHuttick@aol.com)

**580 Jordan Road**  
**Franklin, TN 37067**

**Return Service Requested**