

# SUVCW

**FORT DONELSON CAMP No. 62**  
**Volume 15 Issue No. 3 Summer 2009**

## Franklin's Unknown Soldier



**Archeologists searching Remains**

On 14 May 2009, a construction worker unearthed human bones located in a shallow grave. The police were called, and upon their examining the bones and the buttons accompanying them, it was determined that this was the remains of a Civil War soldier.

Many questions surround this soldier. Who was he? When did he die? Why was he buried in a coffin? The soldier, who the majority of Franklin historians think was a Federal, was buried a quarter mile south of Winstead Hill, just a few yards west of Columbia Pike near the site of the McNeely house. He had been buried in a wooden coffin and was wearing a frock coat. The buttons found in the site were Union eagle and "I" buttons. These buttons were the means of identifying him as a Federal soldier. The non-regulation mix of buttons, however, causes some to contend that possibly this was a Confederate wearing a Federal coat.

Two theories are proposed on why his remains were at this location. The initial theory placed the soldier as a member of the advanced Federal forces pursuing Hood in the Retreat from Nashville. The second suggests that he was part of Conrad's or Lane's forward line which was overrun, and, in the attack, the soldier was wounded and carried as a prisoner

to this location where he died. However, unless he died some time after the battle, neither theory explains the burial in a coffin.

Immediately upon the discovery of the remains, the City of Franklin under the leadership of Alderman Mike Skinner with the support of Mayor John Schroer, set out to protect the soldier and to make arrangements for placing him in a suitable burial site. The developer on whose property the soldier was found has underwritten the cost of the archeological study, the removal of the remains, and the reinterment of the soldier. The State of Tennessee is holding the remains until all legal requirements are met and arrangements for reburial are complete.



**Eagle Button**



**"I" Button**

Preliminary plans call for the soldier to be reinterred at Franklin's historic Rest Haven Cemetery. An appropriate ceremony will be organized utilizing Civil War reenactors. The Civil War soldier will be laid to rest with the honor due: "Unknown: Battle of Franklin, November 30, 1864."

**SUVCW**  
**Fort Donelson Camp # 62 Web Site:**  
***tnsuvchw.org***

## **CAMP COMMANDER'S MESSAGE**

The first six months of 2009 have been good ones for the Camp. We had 100% membership renewals and have added eight new members thus far in the year. In January the Camp hosted the SUVCW Dept. of Tennessee/Alabama Annual Encampment. We have identified and located about 25 Union veterans' grave sites. The Flag Day ceremonies capped the events for the Spring quarter. The U.S.C.I. services at Franklin's Toussaint L'Ouverture Cemetery were quite well received by the community, and the Capley family, both locally and from a distance, appreciated the recognition given Pvt. Gabriel Capley.

JVC Dave Du Brucq restored a cannon at Stones River NBP, and, as 1<sup>st</sup>Sgt of the 10<sup>th</sup> TN SVR, he has made it possible for the Camp and the unit to be involved in many mid-Tennessee events. Signals Officer George Huttick provides the Camp with an excellent and always current web site. At a recent meeting, Secy/Treas Scott Holmes delivered an interesting account of his g-g-grandfather's service and of his incarceration at Andersonville Prison. Joe Smyth, as the Camp's public relations officer, is sending our message to the media.

Rick Warwick, historian for the Williamson County Historical Society, has been a tremendous help to us. Mindy Tate, editor of the *Williamson Herald*, has given us outstanding news coverage.

We can look forward to some exiting presentations and events through the rest of the year. Jim Swan will speak on *Chicago's Irish Legion*, and, in September, Thomas Flagel will speak on Appomattox: "The Place of Lee's Surrender and a National Resurrection." The Camp plans to hold a Veterans' Day event at Capt. Rickman's grave site. The Camp may have a part in reburial of the Franklin CW soldier. Civil War Days are another opportunity.

A challenge for the Camp is the locating of Union veterans' graves throughout Middle Tennessee. If every member of the Camp would take the responsibility to locate just one Union veteran's grave by the end of 2009, the number of located graves would more than double. The best place to start is at a county historical society with an inquiry.

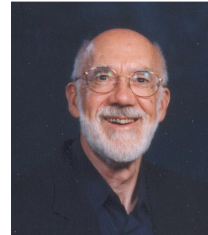
We look forward to a great summer.

In Fraternity, Charity and Loyalty,

***Sam C. Gant***

## **WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!**

Jacob Johnson, Jr. Member  
2271 Winder Lane  
Franklin, TN 37064  
Ancestor: John Crooks, Sgt,  
Co. I, 51<sup>st</sup> Ohio Vol Inf



Jim Swan  
1301 Crest  
Nashville, TN 37221  
Ancestor: Simon Swan,  
Pvt., Co. G, 90<sup>th</sup> Ill, Vol Inf

Ken Stewart  
96 Motlow Dr.  
Wartrace, TN 37183  
Ancestor: Bazel Thomas.  
Pvt., Co. E, 9<sup>th</sup> TN Cav



### **Stones River Cannon Restoration**

Brother Dave Du Brucq, JVC of Fort Donelson Camp #62, is shown with a 12-pounder Napoleon gun as he prepares to put the finishing touches on the piece he restored for the Stones River NBP in Murfreesboro, TN. Brother Du Brucq donated 126 hours to the project. CC Sam Gant and Brother Richard Sherlock contributed 3 hours each to bring the total to 132 man hours to complete the restoration. The cannon will be prominently displayed in the memorial circle of the Park's National Cemetery where thousands of Union soldiers are interred.

**The next General Meeting: 28 July**  
**Jim Swan: *Chicago's Irish Legion***





### Flag Day Ceremonies: 13 June

As part of Flag Day ceremonies across the nation, dozens gathered 13 June at Toussaint L'Ouverture Cemetery in Franklin to honor



three Civil War veterans from the U.S. Colored Infantry, Those soldiers honored were Privates John Dubuison, Co. B, 110<sup>th</sup> U.S.C.I.; Peter Ratcliffe, Co. B, 15<sup>th</sup> U. S. C. I.; and Freeman Thomas, Co. B, 12th U. S.C.I.

A separate ceremony was held for Private Gabriel Capley, Co. E, 10th Inf. U.S., at the Capley Cemetery in western Williamson County.

### Pvt. Freeman Thomas Co. B, 12<sup>th</sup> U.S.C.I

Organized in Tennessee at large, July 1863. SERVICE.-Railroad guard duty; Northwestern Railroad. Repulse of Forrest's attack on Johnsonville November 2, 4 and 5. Battle of Nashville December 15-16. Pursuit of Hood to the Tennessee River December 17-28.

### Pvt. Peter Ratcliffe Co. B, 15<sup>th</sup> U.S.C.I.

Organized at Nashville, TN., 2 December 1863, to 11 March 1864  
SERVICE.-Garrison and guard duty at Nashville, Columbia and Pulaski, TN. Post duty at Springfield, TN Mustered out April 7, 1866.

### Pvt. John Dubuison Co. C, 100<sup>th</sup> U.S.C.I

Organized in Kentucky at large May 1864, SERVICE.- Guard duty on Nashville and Northwestern Railroad in Tennessee . Action at Johnsonville November 4-5. Battle of Nashville, Tenn., December 15-16. Overton Hill December 16. Pursuit of Hood to the Tennessee River December 17-28.. Mustered out December 26, 1865.

## JOIN THE SVR!

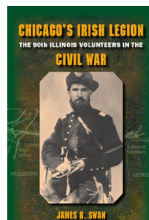
All Camp 62 Brothers are reminded they are eligible for membership in the Camp's Sons of Veterans Reserve Unit, the 10th Tennessee Infantry (US). The cost of for new members in the SVR is nominal, \$4.00 for the first year and \$3.00 for each year thereafter. Current Charter members are paid through 2010.

THE SVR is the uniformed element of the SUVCW; however, you are not required to be uniformed to belong. The uniform is optional. Support your SVR Unit by becoming a member! Contact Brother Dave Du Brucq, 1st Sgt, via e-mail at [sockettuem@earthlink.net](mailto:sockettuem@earthlink.net) for an application or see him at any Camp event for your application. Let's make the 10th Tennessee (US) the premiere SVR Unit in the Dept. of Tenn.!



### Chicago's Irish Legion by James B. Swan

Formed by a Catholic priest from companies raised in Chicago and across Northern Illinois, the 90<sup>th</sup> Illinois Infantry Volunteers fought and marched some 2600 miles across 7 southern



states, mostly as part of Gen. W. T. Sherman's XV Corps. With 7 out of 10 of the men born in Ireland, the Irish Legion was the 15<sup>th</sup>'s only Irish regiment. These Irishmen experienced long, often-difficult marches, but they also found ways to amuse themselves. In this book Swan describes the hard times, as well as the more amusing experiences, often using the words of the soldiers who described them in letters to family. The battle for Tunnel Hill claimed over a third of the regiment as casualties. During the Atlanta campaign the battles of Resaca, Dallas, Atlanta, Jonesborough, and the siege of Atlanta claimed an equal number.



Check out the  
FDC62 Web Site  
[tnsucw.org](http://tnsucw.org)

## **CIVIL WAR ACTION**

1-3 July 1863 — Battle of Gettysburg  
3 July 1863 — Federals 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 — Confederates 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 Johnston 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

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

**FDC62 General Meeting.** Millview church of Christ, 4370 Murfreesboro, Rd, Franklin, 7:00, Tues 28 July  
**FDC62 General Meeting.** Millview church of Christ, 4370 Murfreesboro, Rd, Franklin, 7:00, Tues 22 Sept  
**Veterans’Day Ceremony**—Honoring 5<sup>th</sup> TN Cav US White Cemetery, 6917 Arno Rd., College Grove, TN, 10:30 a.m., 7 Nov 2009  
**Civil War Days Ceremony**—Honoring 10,000 casualties at Battle of Franklin, 28-30 Nov 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)



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

## **CAMP OFFICERS**

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**Return Service Requested**