

From Harpers Weekly

SUVCW

FORT DONELSON CAMP No. 62

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Invention of the Spencer Rifle in Mr. Spencer's Words

"The first repeating rifle I ever heard of was made by a man named Henry. That was in the (eighteen-) fifties. He depended on a depression in the base of the bullet for the powder chamber and sold his invention to Winchester of New Haven. In 1857, when I began to work on my repeating rifle, I was convinced that it would be necessary to have a shell to hold the charge and I made a few out of steel. One day while rummaging in Newton's gun shop in Hartford, on Kingsley Street, where the police station now stands, I found a few brass shells which were made in France and provided for rim fire. Newton did not know where they came from. He gave them to me and as soon as I had perfected the matter of ejecting the empty shell while the loaded one was slipping into its place the Spencer repeating rifle was ready for use.

"My patent was granted March 4, 1860, just one year before President Lincoln was inaugurated, and as I did not have the means to manufacture the weapon, I placed it in the hands of Cheney Bros. to finance. After the civil war started, in 1861, Charles Cheney made an appointment with Gideon Wells, who was a resident of Hartford and at that time secretary of the navy, for a trial of the rifle. It proved so satisfactory that he ordered a thousand.

"With this order, a factory was started in Boston and continued until after the war, when we sold out to Winchester. During that time the company manufactured and sold over one hundred and fifty thousand rifles to the government. For some time it experienced considerable difficulty in getting orders from the war department,

but this objection was overcome by James G. Blaine as soon as he was convinced that the ordered rifle was not only a reliable weapon, but would kill a horse at a mile.



"I was superintendent of the Boston factory and as soon as everything was in running order, I devoted the most of my time to showing soldiers and sailors in the service how to use the rifle. When Grant was investing Vicksburg, I had dinner with him on a dispatch boat at the mouth of the Yazoo river. At that time he was considering the advisability of diverting the course of the Mississippi river and leaving Vicksburg without a water front. He decided, however, that it was too much of an undertaking and sent his boats down the river under cover of darkness two days after I left for the North.

AT MURFREESBORO.

"I also arrived at Stone river three days after the battle of Murfreesboro. All of the men slain had been buried by that time, but there were plenty of dead horses and mules in sight. The Spencer rifle was used in that battle and on Wilder's recommendation, Gen. Rosencranz issued an order for more of them. These were the guns that were used in the battle of Lookout Mountain in front of Chattanooga and they were also used to clear the way for Sherman when he made his march to the sea."

Nashville **Banner**, Sunday, Aug. 11, 1918
from the files of Rick Warwick

CAMP COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

I trust that each member has had a good summer and that many have had the opportunity for a restful vacation.

For the Camp, the summer signature event was the Flag Day/Moulder Reunion event in June. Some eighty Moulder family members were present at the FDC/10th TN SVR ceremony honoring Union Civil War Privates Samuel and Jacob Molder, 10th TN Inf. U.S., ancestors of FDC's Tim and Wayne Moulder.

The second ceremony of the summer was held while I was at the SUVCW national Encampment and while most of the SVR members were on vacation. The marker ceremony for Union Capt. Nathan Wilcox, MO Engineers, U.S. was conducted by new FDC member, Nelson Hughes, with the assistance of Chad Gray, bugler, and Jim Swan and Kraig McNutt in attendance.

This latter ceremony points up both the opportunities presented to FDC and the dilemma that the Camp faces. Possibly for the first time, the SUVCW is receiving recognition throughout Middle Tennessee. With recognition, come the opportunities to honor the Men in Blue who fought to preserve the Union. This fall, FDC will be represented with information tables at three important functions: Friends of Fort Negley Military Demonstration, 25 Sept, Buchanan House-Walk with Pioneers, 2 Oct, and Franklin Civil War Days, 16-17 Oct. Fort Negley and Franklin will be annual events.

We also have under consideration getting a table at the Middle Tennessee Civil War Show, the largest Civil War show in the country. But unless we can adequately staff it, there is little need for having the booth.

Especially on the all-day events, **we need volunteers** to work 4-hour shifts. At Fort Negley and at Franklin, several of those upon whom we can always depend will have other duties. This is a time for others in the Camp to step up to show support for FDC and honor their Civil War ancestors. Surely, there are but few brothers in the camp who could not set aside a couple of four-hour shifts during the course of a year—**This is your 2010 chance!**

In Fraternity, Charity, & Loyalty,
Sam C. Sant, CC

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Todd E. Coombs
20 Strawberry Dr.
Winchester, TN 37398
G-G-Grandfather, William H.
Coombs, Pvt, Co H,
42nd MO Vol Inf, US.



Tom C. Lloyd
400 Chelsea Cove
Franklin, TN 37064
G-G-Grandfather, James W. Johnson, Pvt.,
Co. K, 26th IN Inf

Nelson Hughes
1018 Aenon Circle
Spring Hill, TN 37174
G-G-Grandfather, Joseph T. Donnelly, Pvt.,
Co. G, 3rd Reg. TN Cav



**Molder Ceremony: Presenting Colors
Honoring Pvts. Samuel and Jacob Molder
10th Tennessee Infantry, U.S.**



**Grave Marker Dedication
Capt. Nathan Wilcox
Engineering Regiment
of the West**



**The Governor's Guard
10th Tennessee US Volunteer Infantry
Sons of Veterans Reserve**

Another summer is nearing an end and our busy season is once again upon us. The 10th Tennessee is in need of volunteers for several upcoming events, the first being at Fort Negley on the 25th of September from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM. A small re-enactment of Forest's raid will be held and members of the Camp have been invited to set up a table for FDC 62 and to participate as otherwise needed. We could also use some help on October 2nd for an event at the Buchanan Log House in Donelson, where a Tennessee GAR veteran will be portrayed and we will also have an information table. This event is in the late afternoon, from 4 – 8 p.m..

We have been invited to take the salute at the Pass in Review On October 16th prior to the reenactment of the Battle of Franklin We'll need six uniformed people to pull this off properly and of course, your help. Calling all uniformed volunteers for this event! There are also tentative plans for a Veterans Day ceremony on the 6th of November, A march from Fort Granger on November 28th of November and the Winstead Hill Event on November 30th. Details of these events will be announced by e-mail to each member.

Any SUCVW regular, associate or junior member is eligible to join the ranks of the 10th Tennessee, SVR regardless of Camp affiliation. Right now we have the only active SVR Unit in the state of Tennessee and only your participation will keep us active! It would be great to have every member of the Camp sign up for the Unit. At a bargain basement fee of three bucks a year (with a whopping one dollar induction fee the first year) it's a deal at thrice the price! Heck, that's less than the cost of the tip you leave for dinner at a restaurant. Get that blue blood pumping through your veins and join up with the SVR. Then suit up and fall in with your brothers. Everyone is welcome. Contact **1stSgt Dave DuBrucq** for more information and an application(sockettuem@comcast.net)

Fort Donelson Camp Flag



Kraig McNutt donated the flag staff set for the Fort Donelson Camp # 62 camp flag dedi-cated to Brigadier General Morris Cooper Foote. The dedicating plaque reads: *In Honor of Brig. Gen. Morris Cooper Foote, In Service to His Country, 1862-1903*

As a young officer in the 44th New York Infantry, then Lt. Morris C. Foote was captured and was transferred among six Confederate prisons.

\$5.00 Membership Dues Increase

At the SUCVW national Encampment, the members present voted a \$5.00 increase in the annual membership dues. After reviewing the 2011 Budget which included a projected deficit to be made up from an already depleted reserve fund, the group voted for the dues increase.

The increase in National dues necessitates a 2011 FDC dues increase to \$35.00. It is through the FDC dues that the Camp has had the funds to purchase new flag poles and flags, the flag carriers, the GAR flag holders and flags, and miscellaneous items such as stamps, etc. Some generous contributions have also helped.

With 2011 not far away, the Camp needs to begin plans for the coming year. Foremost in the plans must be membership in 2011:

2011 Membership Drive begins 30 November!

As the Camp looks forward to a great year in 2011, it has a enviable record. For the past two years, FDC has had 100% renewals and has more than doubled in membership. By the first day of the 2010 Membership Drive, 25% of the FDC members had submitted their renewals. Let's sustain our momentum for 2011 and reach that 100% reenrollment early! Then let us add to the 100% by each brother recruiting one more! Make it **100% & 1 + 1 for 2011**

Invite your family and friends to hear the
"Battle of Fort Donelson and the Aftermath"
Fort Donelson Camp # 62 Camp Meeting
7:00 pm, Tuesday 28 September 2010
Fort Neglev Visitors' Center

CIVIL WAR ACTION

5 Oct 1862 — Fighting at Fort Riley, Nashville
7 Oct 1862 — Federals rout CS near LaVergne
8 Oct 1863 — Battle of Farmington, TN
25 Oct 1862 — Grant takes command Dept of TN
4 Nov 1864 — Forrest destroys US gunboats at Johnsonville
23 Nov 1863 — Battle of Lookout Mountain
25 Nov 1863 — Battle of Missionary Ridge
29 Nov 1864 — Battle of Spring Hill
30 Nov 1864 — Battle of Franklin
5 Dec 1864 — Forrest attacks and occupies Murfreesboro for 3 days
7 Dec 1864 — "Battle of the Cedars," Murfreesboro
12 Dec 1862 — Federal attack in Franklin
15 Dec 1864 — Battle of Nashville begins
16 Dec 1864 — CS lines break and begin Retreat
17-25 1864 — Hood's Retreat to Tenn. River
30 Dec 1860 — SC troops seize Federal arsenal at Charleston, SC
31 Dec 1862– 2 Jan 1863 — Battle of Stones River

Upcoming Events (Subject to Change):

Tues 28 Sep, 7 pm – FDC Gen Meeting, Fort Negley Visitors' Center – Speaker: Richard Sherlock, "Metal Detecting of Civil War Relics"

Sat 25 Sept, 9-5 – Fort Negley Military Demonstration

Sat 2 Oct, 10:30 – Buchanan Reunion, Elm Hill Pike, Nashville, TN

Fri-Sun 15-17 Oct – Franklin Civil War Days

Sat 6 Nov, 10:30am – Veterans Day Ceremony TBA

Sun 28 Nov, 3:30 pm – March from Fort Granger to meet SCV Sam Davis Camp at Carter House

Civil War Roundtables:

Franklin CWRT – 3 p.m., 3rd Sunday, Williamson County Library, Columbia Ave., Franklin

Nashville CWRT – 7 p.m., 3rd Monday, Fort Negley Visitors' Center, 1100 Fort Negley Blvd., Nashville

Clarksville CWRT – 7p.m., 3rd Wednesday, Borders, Governor's Sq., Exit 4, Clarksville

For Upcoming Battlefield Events, contact :

Fort Donelson National Battlefield (931-232-5706)

www.nps.gov/fodo

Stones River National Battlefield (615-893-950)

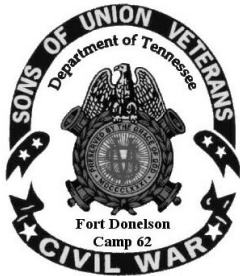
www.nps.gov/stri

Shiloh National Military Park (731-689-5696)

www.nps.gov/shil

Parkers Crossroads Battlefield (731-986-5572)

www.nps.gov/hps/abpp/battles/tn011.htm



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

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**Join the
March from Fort Granger,
Franklin, Tennessee,
4 pm, 28 November 2010,
to commemorate the
146th Anniversary of the
Battle of Franklin**

From Fort Granger, Fort Donelson Camp # 62 members and friends will be led by the 10th TN SVR to the Carter House to meet SCV Sam Davis Camp from their March from Winstead Hill