

From Harpers Weekly

SUVCW

FORT DONELSON CAMP No. 62

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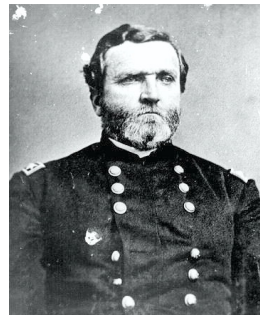
Major General George H. Thomas at Nashville

While Grant grappled with Lee in Virginia and Sherman gutted the eastern Confederacy, Gen. George Thomas was sent back to Tennessee to reorganize the stripped-down Army of the Cumberland and deal with CS Gen. John Bell Hood. The Confederate general had gotten away from Atlanta with some 40,000 troops and evaded Sherman's effort to catch him. Now he was marching north through Tennessee. Thomas' Federals under John Schofield slowed and badly damaged the Rebels in the fierce battle of Franklin, but by December Hood was dug in on the high ground facing Nashville. Thomas fortified the city while he gathered strength for a decisive blow, but to carry it out he needed more men, horses and supplies.

Grant, 500 miles away, grew impatient. He sent telegrams urging Thomas to move, then ordered him to "attack at once." Thomas said after the war that he was tempted—"grossly improper as it would have been"—to ask why Grant himself, who was entrenched around Petersburg, was not fighting. Defeat at Nashville "would have been a greater calamity than any which had befallen the Federal forces," he said. "It would have cleared the way for the triumphant march of Hood's army through Kentucky, and a successful invasion of Indiana and Illinois, in which there were no Federal troops. It was therefore of the last importance that the battle upon which so much depended should not be fought until I was ready for it." Thomas continued planning, training, stocking—equipping his horsemen with the new breech-loading Spencer carbines.

Then, just when he was ready, a sleet storm froze both armies in place for days. Grant, furious that Thomas had failed to engage the enemy, decided to relieve him from command, first with one general, then another. Finally he started to go west to fire him in person. But before he left Washington, the ice melted in middle Tennessee.

On December 15, Thomas, unaware that Grant intended to fire him, roared out of his works against Hood. In two days his troops crushed the Rebel army. His infantry, including two brigades of U.S. Colored Troops, smashed into Hood's troops while the Union cavalry, dismounted with its fast-firing Spencers, curled around and behind the Rebel left. Later, historian Bruce Catton summed up the battle in two words: "Everything worked."



Thomas "comes down in History ... as the great Defensive fighter, the man who could never be driven away but who was not much on the offensive. That may be a correct appraisal," wrote Catton, an admirer and biographer of Grant. "Yet

Gen. George Thomas It may also be worth making note that just twice in all the war was a major Confederate army driven away from a prepared position in complete rout—at Chattanooga and at Nashville. Each time the blow that finally routed it was launched by Thomas."

Nashville was the only engagement in which one army virtually annihilated another. Thomas B. Buell, a student of Civil War generalship, wrote that in Tennessee, Thomas performed the war's "unsurpassed masterpiece of theater command and control....So modern in concept, so sweeping in scope, it would become a model for strategic maneuver in 20th century warfare." After it, there was no more large-scale fighting west of the Blue Ridge.

Ernest B. Furgurson, *Smithsonian* magazine, March 2007
<http://www.smithsonianmag.com/history-archaeology/slowtrot.html?c=y&page=5>

**Gen. George Thomas (aka Dan Hughes)
 "Was Gen. Thomas Slow at Nashville?"**

**7.00 p.m., Tuesday, March 22
 Fort Nealev Visitors' Center**

CAMP COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

Fort Donelson Camp # 62 has sadly lost a most dedicated member in the death of Larry Cockerham. Larry was one of the most influential men in this area in honoring men who fought for the North or South in the Civil War.

A significant legacy for FDC from Larry is the 27 Nov. Annual Anniversary of the Battle of Franklin March from Fort Granger to the Carter House for a unity meeting with the SCV.

Fort Donelson Camp has the task and opportunity to move forward with the vision of cooperation that Larry instilled in us. In view of this, the Camp has committed to joining the Armies of Tennessee and affiliating with the Friends of Fort Negley. The 10th TN SVR will serve in military demonstrations at the Fort and I am serving as Secretary on the Friends of Fort Negley Board of Directors.

Fort Negley has become pretty much the center of operations for FDC. For the past year, FDC has held Camp meetings at the Visitors' Center. Last fall, the Camp had a booth at the Fort Negley Military Demonstration. On 29 January, FDC hosted the SUVCW Dept. of TN/AL Annual Encampment at the Fort. At the Encampment, CinC Brad Schall served as Installation Officer and installed the 2011 Dept. officers: Doug Fidler, Commander, and FDC's own Dave Du Brucq, Senior Vice Commander, Roger Tenney, Junior Vice Commander, and George A. Huttick, Patriotic Instructor. I became the Immediate Past Department Commander and member of the Department Council.

As Camp plans continue to develop for the remainder of 2011, FDC volunteers will be needed to staff the FDC information tent or booth 24 Sept. at Fort Negley, 15-16 Oct. at Franklin's Civil War Days, and 3-4 Dec. at the Middle Tennessee Civil War Show.

In conclusion, we need to highlight the importance of continuing recruitment. The Camp cannot remain static in action or in membership. The Camp has men with amazing talents who can make FDC the premier SUVCW camp in the country. Each member is a valuable asset to FDC, but he can double his value by recruiting another. If he recruits someone with special abilities, he has given the Camp an even greater opportunity of success. Let's **each one** recruit **ONE!**

In Fraternity, Charity, & Loyalty,
Sam C. Gant

Larry D. Cockerham 1947-2011



**Larry Cockerham at the FDC Booth
Fort Negley Military Demonstration
September 25, 2010**

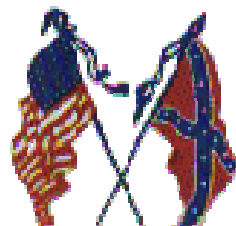
Larry Cockerham's death was a great loss to the Fort Donelson Camp. We all lost a friend and a dedicated preservationist. Larry spent his life honoring the Civil War service of both the Blue and the Gray.

As a Council member of FDC and a camp commander in the SCV, Larry strongly supported cooperative efforts of the SCV and the SUV. He worked diligently to coordinate our mutual goals in remembering and commemorating the lives of all in the Civil War who served, fought, and died for their respective cause and country.

Larry was instrumental in organizing the simultaneous marches of the SCV Sam Davis Camp from Winstead Hill and the SUV Fort Donelson Camp from Fort Granger to the Carter House for a unity meeting to commemorate the 1864 Battle of Franklin.

From the day that he joined FDC, Larry never missed a general meeting. He volunteered to help on every occasion. He helped staff the FDC booth at Fort Negley. A few days before his death, Larry helped set up for the Dept. Encampment although a schedule conflict would not allow his attending either the Encampment meeting or the dinner.

Larry Cockerham will be sadly missed by the Fort Donelson Camp and by all who honor the soldiers of the Civil War.



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Chip Huffman

930 Bluff Rd.
Brentwood, TN 37027
G-Grandfather, Arthur
Burbick, Pvt., Co. F,
104th Ohio Infantry



Carl S. Johnson

218 Brett Dr.
Madison, AL 35758
G-G-G-Granduncle,
James E. Montgomery, Capt.,
Montgomery's Co., PA Heavy
Artillery



Kraig McNutt

1225 Olympia Place
Franklin, TN 37067
G-G-G-GrandUncle
William Benton Bickett,
Sgt, Co.H, 6th KY Cavalry



John E. Mansfield, Associate
1107 Grandview Dr.
Nashville, TN 37204



16th Annual SUVCW Department of Tennessee/Alabama Encampment



CinC Brad and Patti Schall

**Richard Blanton, Shawn Atchley, Charlie Engle,
Roger Tenney, Sam Gant, Geoffrey Hintze, Doug
Fidler, George A. Huttick, David Du Brucq, and
Richard Sherlock**

2011 SUVCW Dept. of TN/AL Officers:

Commander: Douglas Fidler
Senior Vice Commander: David Du Brucq
Junior Vice Commander: Roger Tenney
Patriotic Instructor: George Andrew Huttick

**10th Regiment
Tennessee U. S. Volunteer
Infantry**



Armies of Tennessee

Fort Donelson Camp # 62 10th Tennessee Infantry (US) SVR

This has been a banner year for the 10th Tennessee. We have a record 20 SVR members. Welcome to all our new members and a sincere **thank you** for your show of support for the Unit. The 10th Tennessee is affiliating with the Armies of Tennessee/Heritage Keepers and you are encouraged to visit their website for information at <http://www.armiesoftennessee.com> They are organized in the spirit of cooperation and mutual assistance. Membership in the Armies of Tennessee is purely voluntary and is offered to those who may be interested.

On a sad note, we have lost a true friend of Civil War heritage in Middle Tennessee with the passing of Brother Larry Cockerham. He was an endearing friend, a deeply respected source of quiet wisdom, knowledge and wit and a unifier who pursued a goal of bringing people together to honor our Civil War ancestors. Our loss is profound. Larry will be greatly missed. As a special tribute a black mourning band shall be worn on the left sleeve of the uniform at all 10th Tennessee events for the remainder of 2011

A number of future events are being planned for the unit, including graveside ceremonies for Union veterans, participation in Fort Negley events, The Battle of Franklin Reenactment and the Carter House Memorial Walk & Assembly. As the Sesquicentennial of the Civil War is upon us, we are looking forward to even more opportunities to participate in these important events and hope you will join us.

Corporal Roger Tenney is promoted to the Rank of First Sergeant & Adjutant, 10th Tennessee. Corporal J. W. "Bill" Heard is reappointed to Corporal & Unit Armorer. Membership is open to any paid SUVCW member, regular, associate or junior. Dues are a nominal \$3.00 per year.

David M. DuBrucq, 2nd Lieutenant,
SVR, Commanding

CIVIL WAR ACTION

1 April 1863 — Federal expedition from Murfreesboro to Lebanon and Carthage
 5 April 1862 — Military Gov Johnson suspends authority of Nashville Mayor and council for refusing loyalty oath
 6 – 7 April 1862 — Battle of Shiloh
 10 April 1863 — First Battle of Franklin
 12 April 1864—Forrest captures Fort Pillow
 21 April 1863—Federals occupy McMinnville
 27 April 1865—Steamboat *Sultana* explodes and burns near Memphis
 6 May 1861—TN passes secession ordinance
 16 May 1861—TN admitted to the Confederacy
 4 June 1863 — Forrest's CS cavalry attempts to surround Federals at Franklin
 6 June 1862 — Battle of Memphis – War's last "fleet action" on the rivers
 7 June 1862 — Federals capture Jackson
 10 June 1865 — President Johnson declares Tennessee restored to the Union
 16 June 1863 — US cavalry drives John Hunt Morgan's cavalry toward Shop Springs
 23 June – 7 July 1863 —Tullahoma or Middle Tennessee Campaign

Franklin's Civil War Days 14-16 October

Upcoming Events (Subject to Change):

Tues 22 Mar – FDC Gen Meeting Fort Negley Visitors' Center – Speaker: Maj Gen Geo, Thomas (a.k.a. Dan Hughes) "Was Thomas Slow at the Battle of Nashville?"

Tues 24 May – FDC Gen Meeting Fort Negley Visitors' Center – Speaker: Myers Brown, "Tennessee's Union Cavalrymen"

Sat 11 Jun – (Tentative) Flag Day Ceremony Nashville's Old City Cemetery

Tues 26 July – FDC Gen Meeting Fort Negley Visitors' Center – Speaker: Dr. Bobby Lovett, "African Americans, Slavery, and Civil War in Tennessee"

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 Square, Exit 4, Clarksville

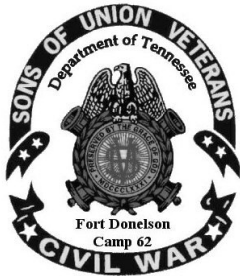
For Upcoming Battlefield Events, contact :

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/hns/abnp/battles/tn011.htm



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

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Dan Hughes

a.k.a. Maj. Gen. George Thomas

Sons of the Union Veterans
of the Civil War

Fort Donelson Camp # 62
7:00 p.m., Tuesday, March 22

Dan Hughes, Speaker
"Was General Thomas
Slow at Nashville?"