

From Harpers Weekly

# SUVCW

**FORT DONELSON CAMP No. 62**  
Volume 17 Issue No. 1 Winter 2011

## How the U.S. Navy Won the American Civil War

Received wisdom suggests that the American Civil War was an almost all-army affair, with the navies reduced to something of a sideshow—occasionally spectacular but ultimately moot. Certainly the vast majority of participants North and South fought their battles on land. Soldiers' experiences comprised the bulk of diaries, letters, and official correspondence as well as being the basis for later research. As later generations focused on the massive base of soldiers' writings, the idea that the Navy had played a minor role became this "received wisdom." The dedication, heroism, and sacrifice of the men in the armies is beyond question, but the U.S. Navy played a more critical role in winning the war for the Union than is generally acknowledged.



Because the operations of the Confederate Navy did not much impact those of the Union Army it is easy to overlook the roles played by the Union Navy. These included blockading the ports of the South, pursuing Confederate commerce raiders, patrolling the rivers behind the front, and directly engaging the Confederate Army—usually in conjunction with the Federal army, but often independently. The Federal blockade was a success—not in the number of ships

intercepted or contraband taken, but in its effect on the Southern economy. This severely impacted the South's ability to supply its armies and feed its people, contributing to lost opportunities on the battlefield, dissatisfaction at home, and massive desertion. The fact that this was a bloodless campaign does not mean it was irrelevant. In addition to waging this economic war, the U.S. Navy directly engaged Confederate armies. Twice in 1862 Union gunboats saved major Northern armies from destruction and denied the South victories that would have ended the war. At Shiloh and Malvern Hill, small numbers of Navy gunboats played a crucial part in saving important Union armies from annihilation; such episodes of naval support were replayed dozens of times on a lesser scale throughout the war. The independent Navy victory at New Orleans marked the beginning of the end for the Confederacy; much hard fighting remained, but the tide was turned by Farragut's squadron.

No conflict in our history arouses passions among modern Americans as can the Civil War. And yet many of the perceptions we hold as truths developed after the fact and would appear foreign to the people of the time. Salient among these is the idea that the U.S. Navy played a secondary role in deciding the issue. The testimony of history is at odds with this perception. While the Navy alone could not have won the war, the Union Army alone would almost surely have lost it.

from **Chuck Veit**,  
*How the U.S. Navy Won the American Civil War*  
[president@navyandmarine.org](mailto:president@navyandmarine.org)

## CAMP COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

2010 is fast drawing to its close as we prepare this first newsletter of 2011. When the brothers of Fort Donelson Camp # 62 reflect on the past year, they can look at it with a sense of a job well done. For the second year in a row, the camp began with 100% membership renewals. This gave a strong base for the events of 2010. Then with the addition of eleven more brothers, FDC became one of the larger SUVCW camps in the country. We now face the challenge of maintaining this strength, once again, with every brother **"re-upping"** for **100%** for **2011**.

Meeting at the Civil War Fort Negley has been a great asset to FDC. The opportunity to meet in this excellent facility on these historic grounds in the center of the state provides a nearly ideal meeting place. Our thanks go to Krista Castillo, Fort Negley Director, and the Metropolitan Nashville Parks Department.

Meeting at Fort Negley also has given us the opportunity to offer presentations for those in the community who have an interest in the Civil War. In 2011, FDC will offer some outstanding speakers, beginning in January with Pres. Abraham Lincoln (a.k.a. John Mansfield).

Dedication ceremonies, in a very real way, define the purpose of FDC. As the Camp honored Sgt. McCulley, Pvts. Samuel and Jacob Molder, and Capt. Wilcox and, in other ceremonies, portrayed Pvt. Buchanan and Pvt. Jones, all the Boys in Blue were honored. The culmination of the year's activities was the Fort Granger to The Carter House March honoring the 2,500 Union casualties and the 18,000 Union soldiers in the Battle of Franklin.

In 2011, the key to an even more successful year lies with the membership. **100% membership renewal would be a great kickoff!** As with any organization, the more that brothers become involved in FDC, the greater success can be achieved, but simply being a member is essential to the very existence of the Camp. Starting with the financial and moral support of your renewal, plan for your level of involvement for 2011: further donations – attending meetings and events– recruiting new members – joining SVR – participating in Dedications – marching in events – staffing FDC booths.

I wish for each brother and each family in Fort Donelson Camp # 62 a happy, healthy and prosperous year throughout 2011.

In Fraternity, Charity, & Loyalty,

*Sam C. Gant*

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS !

Dr. Michael D. Hill  
330 Village at Vanderbilt  
Nashville, Tennessee 37212  
G-G-G-Grandfather, Samuel L. Hays, Sgt, Co C, 2<sup>nd</sup>  
West Tennessee Cav, 28 Aug 1862 – 7 Aug 1865

Charles L. "Les" Johnson  
218 Brett Dr.  
Madison, AL 35758  
G-G-Granduncle, Cyrus Dillon,  
Pvt., Co. E, 173<sup>rd</sup> OH Infantry  
—26 Aug 1864 – 26 Jun 1865



### **7<sup>th</sup> TENNESSEE CAVALRY, U.S.**

#### **Also called 2<sup>nd</sup> West Tennessee Cavalry**

Organized at Jackson, Grand Junction and Trenton, TN., Aug 28, 1862. Duty in District of Jackson, TN, until Jan. 1863. Operations in Northwest MS June 15-25. Skirmishes at and near Union City, TN, Sept 2. At Union City and Colliersville, TN, until Jan 1864. Operations against Forrest in West Tennessee Mar 16-Apr 14. Attack on Union City Mar 24 (most of Regiment captured). Duty at Paducah, KY, until Jun 1865. Ordered to Rockville, on TN River, Jun 27, and duty **there** until Aug. Mustered out Aug **9, 1865**. Regiment lost during service 9 killed and mortally wounded and 328 by disease. Total 337

### **173<sup>rd</sup> OHIO REGIMENT INFANTRY**

The 173<sup>rd</sup> Ohio Infantry was organized in Gallipolis, OH, and mustered in for one year service on September 18, 1864, under the command of Col. John H. Hurd. Left for Nashville, TN., September 18, arriving there October 1. Assigned to guard duty at Nashville, TN, until February, 1865. Occupation of Nashville during Hood's investment December 1-15, 1864. Battle of Nashville December 15-16. Guarding prisoners at Nashville until February, 1865. Moved to Columbia, TN, February 15. Duty there and at Johnsonville until June 20. Moved to Nashville June 20, and there mustered out June 26. Disbanded at Camp Dennison, OH, July 5, 1865. Lost during service 108 enlisted men by disease.

Invite your family and friends to hear  
a **presentation by Pres. Abraham Lincoln**  
(a.k.a. John Mansfield) at  
**Fort Donelson Camp # 62 Meeting**  
7:00 pm, Tuesday, 25 January 2011  
Fort Negley Visitors' Center  
1011 Fort Negley Blvd.



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

**Events** - The 10th Tennessee participated in two events since our last meeting. The 10th Tennessee, along with Brothers from the 49th Iowa of Grenville Dodge Camp 75, of Des Moines, Iowa, presented the federal colors at the opening of the 146th Anniversary reenactment of the Battle of Franklin. In addition, 1st Sgt Dave DuBrucq and Cpl Bill Heard participated in the reenactment. Brothers Sam Gant and Joe Smyth manned the SUVCW recruiting booth at the event.

Members of the 10th Tennessee also participated in the Memorial "walk" and assembly at the invitation of the Sam Davis Camp of the Sons of Confederate Veterans. The Federal contingent marched from the Fort Grainger site to the Carter House and met the Confederate contingent marching from Winstead Hill. A brief ceremony included comments by Professor Thomas Flagel.

**Continuing Membership Drive** - We are always interested in new members who wish to participate in living history events. Any member of the SUVCW, Regular, Associate or Junior is eligible to join. We can only succeed and grow with **your** participation and we very much need your support! Help honor the memory of our ancestors who fought and sacrificed to preserve our great republic by joining and participating with the SVR. For those interested in uniform items, sutler information is available from any uniformed member, as well as its being listed in the SVR section of the FDC website along with an exhibit of the basic 10th TN uniform.

**Membership** - Membership currently stands at 14. Brothers who are hereditary, associate or junior Members or who are current affiliates of any SUV Camp are eligible for membership. We encourage all Camp 62 brothers to support the 10th by joining its ranks. First year dues are \$4.00 and \$3.00 per year thereafter. Contact 1st Sgt Du Brucq for membership information and application.

*1st Sgt Dave DuBrucq*

**"Sad anniversary celebrates RECONCILIATION"**

**The Tennessean: Williamson A.M. Dec. 6, 2010**



"Under late-afternoon sunlight, re-enactors and descendants of Confederate and Union veterans of the Civil War made the annual march to the Carter House on Nov. 28 to commemorate the Battle of Franklin. Although the Confederate side outnumbered the Union side, both expressed the belief it is important to remember our history. The Confederate representatives marched from Winstead Hill while their Union counterparts marched from Fort Granger through Pinkerton Park. They met at the Carter House as they did in the 1864 battle. Contrary to their ancestors, they shook hands and embraced one another upon that meeting."

**2011 Membership Drive**

FDC has now launched the 2011 Membership Drive for both the Camp and for the 10<sup>th</sup> TN US. Inf SVR. Because of the increase mandated by National, **2011 FDC dues are \$35.00**. Current SVR members' dues are \$3.00 for a total of \$38.00. If you are not yet an SVR member and wish simply to support or to become an active member of the military arm of FDC, the initial SVR fee is \$4.00 for a total of \$39.00.

For the third year in a row, FDC has the opportunity to have 100% renewals.

**\$35.00 (Camp Dues only)**

\$38.00 (Camp Dues + SVR Renewal)

\$39.00 (Camp Dues + new enrollment in SVR)

Please make your 2011 FDC dues check payable to Fort Donelson Camp and mail to:

Scott Holmes  
 1037 Whitehall Dr.  
 Franklin, TN 37069

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!**

## 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

**Department of Tennessee/Alabama  
Annual Departmental Encampment  
Fort Negley, Saturday, January 29, 2011**

## Upcoming Events (Subject to Change):

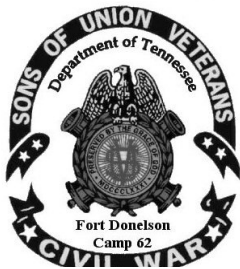
**Tues 25 Jan.- FDC Gen Meeting.** 7pm, Fort Negley Visitors' Center, 1100 Fort Negley Blvd., Nashville, Speaker: Pres Lincoln (a.k.a. John Mansfield)  
**Sat 29 Jan – Dept of TN/AL Annual Encampment** 9 am, Fort Negley Visitors' Center,  
**Tues 22 Mar – FDC Gen Meeting** Fort Negley Visitors' Center – Speaker: Gen Geo, Thomas (a.k.a. Dan Hughes) “  
**Sat 11 Apr –Flag Ceremony**—Honoring J.H. McCulley Co. K 13<sup>th</sup> TN US, Cookeville City Cemetery

## Civil War Roundtables:

**Franklin CWRT** – 3 p.m., 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday, Williamson County Library, Columbia Ave., Franklin  
**Nashville CWRT** – 7 p.m., 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday, Fort Negley Visitors' Center, 1100 Fort Negley Blvd., Nashville  
**Clarksville CWRT** – 7p.m., 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday, Borders, Governor's Sq., Exit 4, Clarksville

## 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)



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

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Scott Holmes  
1037 Whitehall Dr.  
Franklin, TN 37069

(For the convenience of those who have not yet paid the 2011 Fort Donelson Camp # 62 Dues, the Newsletter is also being sent via U.S. Mail with a self-addressed envelope enclosed.)