

From Harpers Weekly

# SUVCW

**FORT DONELSON CAMP No. 62**  
Volume 17 Issue No. 4 Fall 2011

## Incident at Fort Granger

Late on the afternoon of June 8, 1863, two mounted men entered the gates of the Union's Fort Granger, across the Harpeth River from Franklin, and asked to see the commanding officer. Both men wore standard issue Federal army uniform trousers, civilian overcoats, and forage caps.

One of the officers dismounted and introduced himself as Col Lawrence W. Auton, special inspector general, recently sent from Washington to look over the outposts of the Dept. of the Cumberland and the Ohio. He introduced his adjutant, Major George Dunlop. The duo carried a packet of orders from Gen. Roscrans and signed by Gen. Garfield stating, "All guards and outposts will immediately pass, without delay," Col. Auton and Maj. Dunlop.

Col. John P. Baird, Fort commander, gave the visitors' orders only a cursory reading before offering them the hospitality of the post. Baird invited them to spend the night at the fort, but Auton politely refused, claiming that they needed to be in Nashville by morning.

After inspecting the fort, the two men rode off into the dusk. As they rode out of sight, Col. Baird began to question his failing to further confirm the authenticity of the men's orders and asked another officer to catch them and bring them back to the fort. Baird telegraphed Murfreesboro to see if indeed Auton and Dunlop had orders through Gen. Garfield as they claimed.

While awaiting a reply on the telegram, Baird began questioning the men further, and upon unsheathing Dunlop's sword, found the inscription, "Lt. W.G. Peter, C.S.A." The other officer finally admitted

that he was Lawrence W. Orton, a Confederate Army officer. He claimed that their purpose in coming to the fort was to win a bet with their fellow officers.

Upon learning of the deception, Col. Baird hastily telegraphed Gen. Rosecrans, expressing his frustration and hinting at the need for hanging the spies. Rosecrans replied quickly, ordering a "drumhead court," and, if the men were found guilty of spying, to be hanged at once

As the sentence was passed, Col. Baird regretted his message to Gen. Rosecrans suggesting hanging. He sent two other messages attempting to mitigate the order. But with no reply forthcoming, the gallows was constructed by an



old cherry tree, and a cart was placed under the ropes for the prisoners to stand on. The spies mounted the cart and had the ropes placed around their necks. The cart was released leaving the men hanging.

Orton's name originally had been William Orton Williams before legally changing it to Lawrence Williams Orton. He was a distant cousin to Gen. Robert E. Lee and engaged to Lee's daughter. He had been the officer who came to Mary Lee and warned her to flee from Arlington.

Excerpt from: **NORTH & SOUTH**, Sept. 2005

**FDC Upcoming Events:**  
Anniversary Battle of Franklin, 15-16 October  
Annual General Meeting, 22 November  
March to Carter House, 27 November

## COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

As Fall is upon us and we near the Annual Camp Meeting at which time the camp will elect a new camp commander, I have been thinking about the history of Fort Donelson Camp # 62 since 2008.

Fort Donelson Camp # 62 was chartered in 1995 and was a very active camp for a few years. But in the latter part of 2007, although with a good-sized membership, it had become inactive. I was asked to assume the role of Secretary/Treasurer just to keep the Camp chartered. I felt inadequate for that job and refused, but agreed to take any other post. David Eagan agreed, for one year, to serve as Secretary/Treasurer thus he, in reality, saved the Charter. When the Charter was delivered to the new command, the Camp roster showed twenty-five members, the Camp had not met in seven or eight years, and there was only \$23.50 in the treasury. With the change, several of the earlier members dropped out.

The Camp met for the organizing meeting in April 2008 at Dotson's Restaurant in Franklin. Mr. Lincoln (a.k.a. Dennis Boggs) was the speaker. For the first year the Camp held meetings at various locations. In 2009, bi-monthly meetings were held in the fellowship hall of the Millview Church of Christ in Franklin. Then, in 2010, the Camp was given the privilege of meeting at the Visitors' Center of the historic, Federal Fort Negley where we continue to meet.

In 2008, the Camp set out to meet several goals. First and foremost was to honor the Federal Civil War soldiers and sailors, particularly those buried in Middle Tennessee and the ancestral Civil War veterans of FDC brothers. The honor is to be shown by ceremonies, placing G.A.R.-type flag holders on Civil War veterans' graves, registering them in the National Graves Registry, listing them on the FDC web site, and other appropriate ways. Brother George Huttick serves as Informations Officer (webmaster) and as Graves Registry Officer. He is also the Patriotic Instructor for both the Camp and the Department of Tennessee/Alabama.

Ceremonies at the graves of Civil War soldiers best brings them the public honor that they deserve. FDC's first ceremony was a Flag Day ceremony at Franklin's Rest Haven Cemetery honoring Brig. Gen. James Brownlow and Lt. Col. George Grummond. Sometime following this ceremony, Dave

DuBrucq organized the 10<sup>th</sup> TN U.S. Infantry, Sons Veterans Reserve (SVR), the military unit of the Camp. All later ceremonies were led by the SVR. Ceremonies have been held, with placing of G.A.R markers, for the following Civil War veterans: Capt. William Rickman, Pvt. William Pyron, Pvt. Laban Hartley, Pvt. Samuel Williams, Pvt. John Dubuisson, Pvt. Jacob Molder, Pvt. Samuel Molder, Pvt. Peter Ratcliffe, Pvt Freeman Thomas, Sgt. J.H. McCulley, Capt. Nathan Wilcox, Franklin's Unknown Soldier, and, later this year, for Brig. Gen. Alvan C. Gillem.

A second goal was to attract and retain members. The Camp has grown to fifty-five brothers to become the largest camp in the Dept. of TN/AL and one of the larger camps in the country. It had the distinction of having 100% member renewals in 2009 and 2010.

A third goal was to attain local, Departmental and National recognition. Departmental recognition came quickly with the Department Commander and three other Department camp representatives attending the 2008 organizational meeting. The Camp also received 2008 Departmental Awards for the most new members and for the highest percentage of new members. National Camp recognition came with participation in Franklin's Unknown Civil War Soldier ceremony. Dave DuBrucq served as Sergeant of the Honor Guard, Roger Tenney as a Color Guard with Bill Heard in the guard. David Eagan and I were on the Burial Committee where I served as chairman and accepted the U.S. flag from the coffin. Larry Cockerham received the Confederate flag. The ceremony received nation-wide media coverage including *U.S. News* and the *Civil War Times*, as well as national television coverage. FDC, itself, received national recognition in articles in the *Civil War News* and the *SUVCW BANNER*. Dave DuBrucq and I received *Distinguished Service Medals* from the SUV Commander-in-Chief. I also received the *Meritorious Service Award* from the SUVCW Commander-in-Chief. This was one of three such awards that I have received. The latest was awarded this year. Since the Unknown Soldier ceremony, FDC has had a news item in every issue of the *BANNER*, thanks to submissions by Dave DuBrucq and Jim Swan. FDC's having become associated with the Franklin preservation organizations and with Fort Negley and the Friends of Fort Negley has assisted greatly in letting the Middle Tennessee historical

community become aware of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War. The educational programs with speakers presenting relevant Civil War topics have generated publicity and brought out quite good audiences.

In summary, Fort Donelson Camp # 62 has achieved all the goals set forth in 2008. The Camp now faces the challenge of setting new goals and maintaining what has been done in the past. In a sense, this season's newsletter shows a step backward. For the first time in the past four years the newsletter does not report a new member joining FDC.

I have appreciated the opportunity of serving as your Camp Commander for the past four years. The Camp has faced quite serious challenges at times, but as one after another has been overcome, the results have been most rewarding. It has been because of brothers like David Eagan, Dave DuBrucq, George Huttick, Roger Tenney, Jim Swan, Bill Heard, Larry Cockerham, Scott Holmes, Jim Hurst, Joe Smyth, Chip Huffman, Wayne Millen, John Mansfield, David Van Dyke, Richard Sherlock, Ray Henson, and many others that FDC has been a success. I wish even greater success to the new camp commander, and, with these men assisting him, the Camp will flourish and will become the best camp in the SUVCW.

**In Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty,  
Sam C. Gant, Camp Commander**



**Organizational Meeting, April 19, 2008**

**Back:** George Huttick, Graves Registrar - Geoffrey Hintze, Taylor Camp - John Anderson, Farragut Camp - Norma Gant - Sam Gant, CC - Mr. Lincoln (a.k.a. Dennis Boggs) - Charlie Engle, Byrd Camp - Roger Tenney, FDC - Jim Hurst, FDC (Deceased) - Ken Early, DC, Wilson Camp - **Front:** George Michael Huttick, FDC - Dave Du Brucq, JVC - Kraig McNutt - **Not Pictured:** David Eagan, Sec'ry/ Treasurer - Trent Johnson, SVC - Photo by Julie Huttick



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

Brothers, I hope you have all had a great summer! Our unit has participated in activities with Fort Negley, conducted a Flag Day Ceremony at Rest Haven Cemetery In Franklin, Tennessee, and participated recently in a program for magnet school students in Nashville. The organizers of that event have told us our program, done in cooperation with Fort Negley, was one of the most popular. On September 24, we participated in the Living History and Skirmish Event at Fort Negley, We will participate in the reenactment of the Battle of Franklin on October 15th and 16th at Harlinsdale Farm, a Veterans Day Ceremony for General A. C. Gillem, first commander of the 10th Tennessee USVI, at historic Mount Olivet Cemetery in Nashville on November 12<sup>th</sup>, and the Battle of Franklin Anniversary March from Fort Granger to the Carter House in late November. Additional activities are in the planning stages with Fort Negley. We are also excited about the upcoming reenactment of the Battle of Shiloh in April of 2012 and events to commemorate the 150th anniversary of our Camp 62 name-sake, Fort Donelson, early in 2012. Come and join in the fun, be part of history and join in the Sesquicentennial! Any SUV member is eligible for membership in the unit. If you want to wear the Blue or just support the unit with your membership, contact 1st Lt Dave DuBrucq at [sockettuem@comcast.net](mailto:sockettuem@comcast.net). Dues are a nominal \$3.00 per year. All SUV members, regular, associate and junior are welcome.

**David M. DuBrucq, 1<sup>st</sup> Lt**  
10<sup>th</sup> TN US Inf SVR,  
Commanding

## 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:

**Sat-Sun 15-16 Oct –147th Annv. Battle of Franklin**  
Harlinsdale Farm Park, Franklin

**Sat 12 Nov, 11:00am – Veterans Day Ceremony**  
Mt. Olivet Cem., Nashville – Honoring Gen Gillem

**Tues 22 Nov, 7:00 pm – FDC Annual Meeting**  
Election of 2012 Officers and 2012 Planning

**Sun 27 Nov, 3:30 pm – March from Fort Granger** to meet SCV Sam Davis Camp at Carter House

**Sat-Sun 3-4 Dec – Mid-Tenn Civil War Show**  
W'mson County Ag Center, Franklin

## Civil War Roundtables:

**Franklin CWRT** – 3 p.m., 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday, Police Station, Community Room, 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

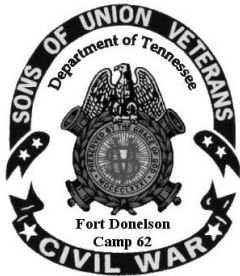
## For Upcoming Battlefield Events, contact :

**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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## **FDC Fall Events**

**Sat-Sun 15-16 Oct –147th Annv. Battle of Franklin Reenactment** - Harlinsdale Farm Park, Franklin – 10<sup>th</sup> TN participating – FDC Information Tent – Need Volunteers for staffing the Tent

**Sat 12 Nov, 11:00am – Veterans Day Ceremony** - Mt. Olivet Cemetery, Nashville – Honoring Gen. Alvan Gillem, 10<sup>th</sup> TN, Civil War Commander

**Sun 27 Nov, 3:30 pm – March from Fort Granger to meet SCV Sam Davis Camp at the Carter House** for brief ceremony – FDC brothers, family members and FDC friends are welcome to march the one mile starting from Pinkerton Park and marching to the Carter House

**Sat-Sun 3-4 Dec – Mid-Tenn Civil War Show** -- Williamson County Ag Center, Franklin – FDC Information Table – Need Volunteers for staffing the Table