

Spring
2012



Fort Donelson Camp #62, SUVCW

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Commander's Message, Spring 2012

Brothers,

This newsletter is overdue and for that I apologize to each of you!

Spring is upon the Camp and we are looking forward to the May 26th, 2012 Memorial Day Remembrance Activities at Fort Negley. The ceremony will be conducted from 11:00-1:00 pm. Those in the SVR who have uniforms are strongly encouraged

to participate in this next event. This represents our continued support of the Fort Negley facility. This represents the camp's continued commitment to support this historic locale.

On a sad note, we all mourn the loss of two of our Brothers. Brother Bill Heyd and Mike Boley. They have answered the final roll at the Final Encampment and each of them will be missed by both their Brothers and

their families. May the Great Commander continue to watch over them and their families.



Next Meeting, May 22, 2012, Fort Negley

At our next scheduled meeting, we will be conducting a Memorial and Remembrance Ceremony for Brothers Bill Heyd and Mike Boley. We hope to have their families there so they can be properly recognized.

Our business meeting will follow the ceremony and our Guest Speaker, Dr. Michael Trapasso, Western Kentucky University Michael Trapasso. His presentation is entitled "Rise and Fall of a Confederate Capitol: The

Civil War in Bowling Green, Kentucky.

Dr. Trapasso is our own Curt Fields, AKA General Grant's, Chief of Staff, John Rawlins.

Dr. Michael Trapasso is a Professor in the Department of Geography and Geology at Western Kentucky University in Bowling Green, Kentucky. For almost twenty-five years, he made Civil War more than just a hobby.



Dr. Michael Trapasso

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Upcoming Events

As noted above, our next meeting will serve as a memorial to the Late Bill Heyd and Mike Boley. Families are invited and encouraged to attend.

On May 18th, 2012 at Fort Negley, Nashville, Tennessee, we will be assisting with a school program for 150 5th grade students from Belvue school. Uniformed help is always appreciated for these events.

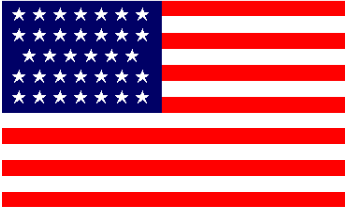
Memorial Day Observance, Saturday, May 26th, 2012

The 10th Regiment and FDC Camp 62 will be co-sponsors of the 1st Annual Memorial Day observance at Fort Negley in Nashville, Tennessee.

The event will begin promptly at 11:00AM and will honor those who constructed and those who defended the Fort.

Uniformed and non-uniformed support will be needed for this event. Bring your muskets and cartridge boxes as we will be firing a salute!

Future events are also in the planning stages and will be announced at our meetings and via e-mail.



Old Glory
1861

The Civil War in Tennessee

On the morning of April 6, 1862, 40,000 Confederate soldiers under the command of Gen. Albert Sidney Johnston poured out of the nearby woods and struck a line of Union soldiers occupying ground near Pittsburg Landing on the Tennessee River. The overpowering Confederate offensive drove the unprepared Federal forces from their camps and threatened to overwhelm Ulysses S. Grant's entire command. Some Federals made determined stands and by afternoon, they had established a battle line at the sunken road,

known as the "Hornet's Nest." Repeated Rebel attacks failed to carry the Hornet's Nest, but massed artillery helped to turn the tide as Confederates surrounded the Union troops and captured, killed, or wounded most. During the first day's attacks, Gen. Johnston was mortally wounded and was replaced by P.G.T. Beauregard. Fighting continued until after dark, but the Federals held. By the next morning, the reinforced Federal army numbered about 40,000, outnumbering

Beauregard's army of less than 30,000. Grant's April 7th counteroffensive overpowered the weakened Confederate forces and Beauregard's army retired from the field. The two day battle at Shiloh produced more than 23,000 casualties and was the bloodiest battle in American history at its time..

FORT DONELSON 150th ANNIVERSARY EVENT

February, 2012 marked the Sesquicentennial of one of the most important Battles in the western theater of operations and was in large measure responsible for the rise of General Grant to prominent status as one of the Union's most able, aggressive and successful military commanders.

General Grant invested Fort Donelson on the 12th of February, 1862, with 15,000 troops, reinforced that evening by six regiments of infantry and Flag-Officer Foote's fleet of four ironclad and two wooden gunboats--the St. Louis, Carondelet, Louisville, Pittsburg, Tyler and Conestoga.

It was on February 16th General Grant sent this famous reply to his old friend, General Simon Buckner who had requested terms for capitulation:

HEADQUARTERS ARMY IN THE FIELD Camp near Fort Donelson February 16, 1862.

General S. B. BUCKNER,
Confederate Army.

SIR: Yours of this date, proposing armistice and appointment of commissioners to settle terms of capitulation, is just received. No terms except unconditional and immediate surrender can be accepted. I propose to move immediately upon your works.

**I am, sir, very respectfully,
your obedient servant,
U.S. GRANT,
Brigadier-General,
Commanding.**

The Tenth Regiment, Tennessee U.S. Volunteer Infantry, SVR, members of the 49th Iowa U.S. Volunteers, SVR, of Des

Moines Iowa, and Co. B, 9th Regiment of Kentucky U.S. Volunteers joined together with the National Park Service and Superintendent Steve McCoy, to honor the union fallen who rest in the National Cemetery at Fort Donelson.

670 Union soldiers from the Battle of Fort Donelson are reinterred there. These soldiers (which include 512 unknowns) had been buried on the battlefield, in local cemeteries, in hospital cemeteries, and in nearby towns.

We are grateful for the support of the National Park Service, Co. B, 9th Kentucky U.S. Volunteers, the 49th Iowa U.S. Volunteers and Dr. Curt Fields who portrayed General Grant.



CIVIL WAR CASUALTIES REVISITED

Published by Guy
Gugliotta
April 2012 *Used under section
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For 110 years, the numbers stood as gospel: 618,222 men died in the Civil War, 360,222 from the North and 258,000 from the South — by far the greatest toll of any war in American history. But new research shows that the numbers were far too low.

By combing through newly digitized census data from the 19th century, J. David Hacker, a demographic historian from Binghamton University in New York, has recalculated the death toll and increased it by more than 20 percent — to 750,000.

The new figure is already winning acceptance from scholars. Civil War History, the journal that publish Dr Hacker's paper, called it "among the most consequential pieces ever to appear" in its pages.

And a pre-eminent authority on the era, Eric Foner, a historian at Columbia University, said: "It even further elevates the significance of the Civil War and makes a dramatic statement about how the war is a central moment in American history. It helps you understand, particularly in the South with a much

smaller population, what a devastating experience this was."

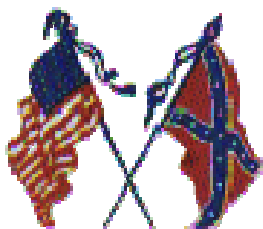
The old figure dates back well over a century, the work of two Union Army veterans who were passionate amateur historians: William F. Fox and Thomas Leonard Livermore.

Fox, who had fought at Antietam, Chancellorsville and Gettysburg, knew well the horrors of the Civil War. He did his research the hard way, reading every muster list, battlefield report and pension record he could find.

In his 1889 treatise "Regimental Losses in the American Civil War, 1861-1865," Fox presented an immense mass of information. Besides the aggregate death count, researchers could learn that the Fifth New Hampshire lost more soldiers (295 killed) than any other Union regiment; that Gettysburg and Waterloo were almost equivalent battles, with each of the four combatant armies suffering about 23,000 casualties; that the Union Army had 166 regiments of black troops; and that the average Union soldier was 5 feet 8 1/4 inches tall and weighed 143 1/2 pounds.

Fox's estimate of Confederate battlefield deaths was much rougher, however: a "round number" of 94,000, a figure compiled from after-action reports. In 1900, Livermore set out to make a more complete count. In his book, "Numbers and Losses in the Civil War in America, 1861-65," he reasoned that if the Confederates had lost proportionally the same number of soldiers to disease as the Union had, the actual number of Confederate dead should rise to 258,000. And that was that. The Fox-Livermore numbers continued to be cited well into the 21st century, even though few historians were satisfied with them. Among many others, James M. McPherson used them without citing the source in "Battle Cry of Freedom," his Pulitzer-winning 1988 history of the war. Enter Dr. Hacker, a specialist in 19th-century demographics, who was accustomed to using a system called the two-census method to calculate mortality. That method compares the number of 20-to-30-year-olds in one census with

"Dr. J David Hacker, a demographic historian from Binghamton University has recalculated the death toll and increased it by more than 20%."



with the number of 30-to-40-year-olds in the next census, 10 years later. The difference in the two figures is the number of people who died in that age group. Pretty simple — but, Dr. Hacker soon realized, too simple for counting Civil War dead. Published census data from the era did not differentiate between native-born Americans and immigrants; about 500,000 foreign-born soldiers served in the Union Army alone. “If you have a lot of immigrants age 20 moving in during one decade, it looks like negative mortality 10 years later,” Dr. Hacker said. While the Census Bureau in 1860 asked people their birthplace, the information never made it into the printed report. As for Livermore’s assumption that deaths from disease could be correlated with battlefield deaths, Dr. Hacker found that wanting too. The Union had better medical care, food and shelter, especially in the war’s final years, suggesting that Southern losses to disease were probably much higher. Also, research has shown that soldiers from rural areas were more susceptible to disease and died at a higher rate than city dwellers. The Confederate Army had a higher percentage of farm boys. Dr. Hacker said he realized in 2010 that a rigorous recalculation could finally be made if he

used newly available detailed census data presented on the Internet by the Minnesota Population Center at the University of Minnesota. The center’s Integrated Public Use Microdata Series had put representative samples of in-depth, sortable information for individuals counted in 19th-century censuses. This meant that by sorting by place of birth, Dr. Hacker could count only the native-born. Another hurdle was what Dr. Hacker called the “dreadful” 1870 census, a badly handled undercount taken when the ashes of the war were still warm. But he reasoned a way around that problem. Because the census takers would quite likely have missed as many women as men, he decided to look at the ratio of male to female deaths in 1870. Next, he examined mortality figures from the decades on either side of the war — the 1850s and 1870s — so that he could get an idea of the “normal” ratio of male to female deaths for a given decade. When he compared those ratios to that of 1860-70, he reasoned, he would see a dramatic spike in male mortality. And he did. Subtracting normal attrition from the male side of the equation left him with a rough estimate of war dead. It was a better estimate than Fox and Livermore had produced, but Dr. Hacker made it clear that his was not the final

answer. He had made several assumptions, each of which stole accuracy from the final result. Among them: that there were no war-related deaths of white women; that the expected normal mortality rate in the 1860s would be the average of the rates in the 1850s and 1870s; that foreign soldiers died at the same rate as native-born soldiers; and that the War Department figure of 36,000 black war dead had to be accepted as accurate because black women suffered so terribly both during and after the war that they could not be used as a control for male mortality. The study had two significant shortcomings. Dr. Hacker could make no estimate of civilian deaths, an enduring question among historians, “because the overall number is too small relative to the overall number of soldiers killed.” And he could not tell how many of the battlefield dead belonged to each side. “You could assume that everyone born in the Deep South fought for the Confederacy and everyone born in the North fought for the Union,” he said. “But the border states were a nightmare, and my confidence in the results broke down quickly.” With all the uncertainties, Dr. Hacker said, the data suggested that 650,000 to 850,000 men died as a result of the war; he chose the midpoint as his estimate.



Fort Donelson Camp 62, SUVCW Newsletter

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**MEETINGS
4TH TUESDAY
JAN, MAR, MAY, JULY
SEP & NOV
AT
AT FORT NEGLEY,
NASHVILLE, TN**

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PAGE!**

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www.tnsuvcw.org

He emphasized that his methodology was far from perfect. "Part of me thinks it is just a curiosity," he said of the new estimate. "But wars have profound economic, demographic and social costs," he went on. "We're seeing at least 37,000 more widows here, and 90,000 more orphans. That's a profound social impact, and it's our duty to get it right."

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10th Regt. Tennessee U.S. Vols, SVR

The 10th Regiment, Tennessee U.S. Volunteer Infantry, SVR, serves as the uniformed element of the Sons of Union Veterans. Any member in good standing of the SUVCW is eligible and are welcome to join the SVR

Unit of their choice. Our unit currently has 26 members and has participated in numerous events throughout middle Tennessee. We are always seeking new members to join the ranks of the boys in blue. Our

unit can only be a success through your participation.

Membership cost \$3.00 annually. For membership information contact Capt Dave DuBrucq at sockettuem@comcast.net

About Our Organization...

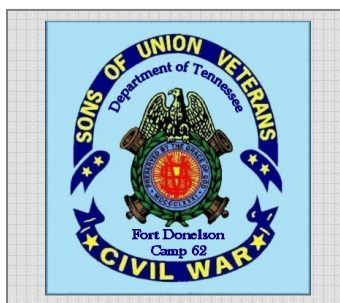
Membership is open to anyone who has a direct lineal or collateral ancestor who served in the Union Army, Navy, Marine Corps or Revenue Cutter Service During the

American Civil War. For those who do not meet the ancestry requirements, Associate Membership is also available.

The 10th Regt,

Tennessee U.S. Volunteer Infantry, Sons of Veterans Reserve is the uniformed element of the SUVCW. Any SUV member, regular or associate is eligible for membership!

**FORT DONELSON CAMP
62
SONS OF UNION
VETERANS OF THE CIVIL
WAR**



**FOR MEMBERSHIP
INFORMATION, CONTACT
ANY CAMP OFFICER**